

# The Spring Migration

## March 1 – May 31, 1983

### Abbreviations frequently used in Regional Reports

ad.: adult, Am.: American, c.: central, C: Celsius, CBC: Christmas Bird Count, Cr.: Creek, Com.: Common, Co.: County, Cos.: Counties, *et al.*: and others, E.: Eastern (bird name), Eur.: European, Eurasian, F: Fahrenheit, *fide*: reported by, F.&W.S.: Fish & Wildlife Service, Ft.: Fort, imm.: immature, I.: Island, Is.: Islands, Isles, Jct.: Junction, juv.: juvenile, L.: Lake, m.ob.: many observers, Mt.: Mountain, Mts.: Mountains, N.F.: National Forest, N.M.: National Monument, N.P.: National Park, N.W.R.: Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, N.: Northern (bird name), Par.: Parish, Pen.: Peninsula, P.P.: Provincial Park, Pt.: Point, not Port, Ref.: Refuge, Res.:

Reservoir, not Reservation, R.: River, S.P.: State Park, sp.: species, spp.: species plural, ssp.: subspecies, Twp.: Township, W.: Western (bird name), W.M.A.: Wildlife Management Area, v.o.: various observers, N,S,W,E.: direction of motion, n., s., w., e.: direction of location, >: more than, <: fewer than, ±: approximately, or estimated number, ♂: male, ♀: female, ø: imm. or female, \*: specimen, ph.: photographed, †: documented, ft: feet, mi: miles, m: meters, km: kilometers, date with a + (*e.g.*, Mar. 4+): recorded beyond that date. Editors may also abbreviate often-cited locations or organizations.

### NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

/Blair Nikula

The avifaunal diversity inherent in this Region always makes any generalizations difficult to formulate and often highly suspect, a fact which is the source of continual perturbation for this Regional Editor. However, it can be safely stated that, from a birder's viewpoint (which, for better or worse, is the bottom line in these pages) this spring was at worst, quite acceptable and at best, spectacular. The season featured a very erratic, but at times superb passerine migration, an unparalleled abundance of storm-driven April "overshoots," a surprising number of early arrivals in what was otherwise a tardy season, and a rich and varied assortment of vagrants, including first and third North American records. Although the season got off to an agonizingly slow start, the variety of avian events during the last half of the period more than compensated for any early shortcomings.

March was warm, wet and characteristically windy, but despite temperatures that averaged 2.2° F above normal (in Boston), both residents and early migrants were very tardy in arriving, averaging 10-15 days late in most cases. April continued very wet with near normal temperatures yet the migration remained much behind schedule until the last few days of the month. A series of southerly storms moved through the Region April 3, 9-10, 14-16, 19 and finally, and most notably April 23-25, this latter storm producing an unsurpassed fallout of April overshoots (see below). A surge of very warm, tropical air April 28-May 1 resulted in an impressive push of both early and late migrants. Surprising numbers of early arrivals were found during the last few days of April, either immediately following the last storm or during the warm spell shortly thereafter. Included among these were nighthawks, hummingbirds, cuckoos, kingbirds, thrushes and a variety of warblers. No fewer than 22 species of warblers were recorded across the Region during late April! May continued very soggy with precipitation recorded in Boston on 24 of the 31 days. The generally unfavorable weather apparently had a considerable damping effect and on the occasions that it broke some excellent waves were detected, most significantly May 24-26 (see below). Precipitation fell on 12 of the 13 weekends during the period, dampening the celebrated "weekend effect."

APRIL 23-25 — The passage of low pressure systems to the w. of our Region in the spring generates a flow of warm, moist air originating from the Gulf coast or farther s., which, when it coincides with a

movement of passerines over the Gulf of Mexico, often results in a number of those migrants overshooting their original destinations. Presumably, some of these birds are drifted E, out over the Atlantic and then continue to ride the airflow until they reach land, which in most instances will be the s. New England coast or the s. coast of the Canadian maritimes. Such conditions, particularly in the last half of April, can precipitate the appearance in our Region of a number of unseasonably early resident species as well as some more southerly species blown N of their normal range. Indigo Buntings are invariably the most common representatives of the former group with Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Scarlet Tanagers and N. Orioles frequently appearing as well, while Blue Grosbeaks and Summer Tanagers are the most often encountered among the latter category.

Just such conditions occurred Apr. 23-25 and the avian fallout resulting far exceeded any previously recorded in the Region. As usual, Indigo Buntings led the charge and were far too numerous to total accurately, but there were probably close to 200 reported with some



feeders playing host to as many as eight individuals! Rose-breasted Grosbeaks came in a close second with some 140+, and again as many as eight were at some feeders. Blue Grosbeaks also rewrote the record books as no fewer than the two-thirds of the seasonal total of 70+ (!) were found shortly after the storm. Cattle Egrets were also widely distributed and smaller, although significant numbers of N. Orioles appeared as well. Also found immediately after the storm (Apr. 25-27) were two Yellow-billed Cuckoos, 4-5 Com. Nighthawks, two Swainson's and one Gray-checked Thrush, four Veeries, one Red-eyed Vireo and one each of Prothonotary, Tennessee and Magnolia warblers. The vast majority of these birds were in coastal locations and are undoubtedly but a small fraction of the total involved—it seems inevitable that many, perhaps most, of the birds caught up in these weather systems never make it to land and perish at sea.

MAY 24-26 — Late on May 23 a weak low pressure system which had been stalled over the Region began to weaken and move out to sea, resulting in a very gradual clearing from SW to NE over the next 2 days. On May 24 Connecticut and w. Massachusetts experienced large numbers of migrants with the volume so great at the Birdcrafts Museum's banding station in Norwalk, Conn., that the nets had to be closed. On May 25, with clearing skies developing in e. sections, observers along the coastal plain from Nantucket I. to s.w. Maine, where little activity had been noted the previous day, found some stunning concentrations. On Monhegan I., Maine Stu Tingley arrived at mid-day to find "every tree and bush literally alive with warblers and lawns alive with thrushes" Some of his more striking totals (covering less than 5% of the island) were: 30 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, 200+ Swainson's Thrushes, 70+ Tennessee Warblers, 225 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and 40 Lincoln's Sparrows.

Meanwhile, farther n. on Seal I., N.S., Eric Mills and others found very few birds on the 25th, but at dawn on the 26th, following clearing there late the previous day, a fallout of Texas-sized proportions was in evidence. On the s. end of the island "tens of thousands of migrants" were present and here too "every tree and bush appeared to be alive with birds" and "every clearing . . . full of thrushes." Some of their incredible estimates were: 35 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, 300 Gray Catbirds, 400+ Swainson's Thrushes, 150 Red-eyed Vireos, 500 Black-and-white Warblers, 350 Yellow, 150 Magnolia and 400 Blackpoll warblers, 500 Com. Yellowthroats, 150 Wilson's and 150 Canada warblers and 50 Lincoln's Sparrows. These totals, as stunning as they are, were said to represent only a "reasonable estimate of the birds seen and identified" and "only a small fraction of the birds present!"

Although one's initial impression might be that the same surge of migrants advanced slowly NE on the trail of the retreating storm system, the rather radically different species compositions each day suggests otherwise. The large concentrations of *Empidonaces*, catbirds, Black-and-white Warblers, Yellow Warblers and Com. Yellowthroats on Seal I., May 26 were not present farther S on the preceding days. Rather, it would appear that the initial wave May 24 was augmented on the nights of the 24th and 25th by new arrivals from s. of the Region.

Reverse migration is a frequent and often observed phenomenon during the fall but is seldom detected in the spring. This year at Napatree Pt., R.I., on several days in May (4, 9, 13, 16 & 24) when winds were out of the NW, Chris Raithel observed numbers of swifts, swallows, flycatchers, Blue Jays and robins flying W along the Rhode Island shore. Such flights are undoubtedly of more-or-less regular occurrence at this season, particularly along s. coastal locations.

Abbreviations frequently used: A.P.B.S. = Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary, Nova Scotia; M.B.O. = Manomet Bird Observatory, Mass.; M.V. = Martha's Vineyard, Mass.; Nbpt. = Newburyport, Mass.; P.I. = Plum Island, Mass.

LOONS, GREBES — A total of 408 Com. Loons passing Pt. Judith, R I., May 15 (RLF) is less than half of the tally on a comparable date last year, but may simply reflect less favorable weather conditions as the migration of that species elsewhere in Rhode Island was said to have been heavy during May (DLE). It is now apparent that last year's impressive numbers were no fluke and that many thousands of loons pass this vantage point each spring. Clearly, a more comprehensive census would be highly informative and desirable, but the chances of enticing observers to sit and count waterfowl during the peak warbler season seem remote at best! Red-throated Loons on the other hand, seem to just slip away during April.

The wintering W Grebe at Scituate, Mass., was last seen May 8 and it, or another, was found farther n. at Nahant, Mass., May 15 (RHS *et al.*). Red-necked Grebe numbers were down considerably at their traditional spring staging areas. At Sachuest Pt., R.I., a max. of 44 was noted Apr. 2 (*vide* DLE), a max. of 130+ was at Dennis, Mass., Mar 27 (DA) and up to 25 were noted at various locations in Nova Scotia (*vide* CRKA). Did the ice-free conditions on the Great Lakes this year permit an early exodus from our area? In New Brunswick a flock of 20 courting Red-neckeds on First Eel L., May 6 raised speculation of possible breeding, but courtship behavior in this species, as in most waterfowl, frequently occurs during spring migration. Horned Grebes continue scarce, 140 at Moonstone Beach, R.I., Mar. 4 (*vide* DLE) being the only count of any significance.

TUBENOSES THROUGH CORMORANTS — Very few pelagic reports were received this season. Small numbers (3-5) of N. Fulmars were noted from both Cox's Ledge (*vide* DLE) and Stellwagon Bank (v.ob.). One to two Manx Shearwaters were again present off Pt. Judith, R.I., with the first seen on the early date of Mar. 20 (DLK). A single bird was also on the N. Grand Banks Apr. 30 (BM). Sooty Shearwaters were also found early, some perhaps overwinterers: one was photographed at Cox's Ledge Mar. 27 (DF), three were on George's Bank Apr. 12 (RSD'E) and singles were on the N. Grand Banks May 2 & 4 (BM). On a cruise between Cape Sable and Sable I., Apr. 7, 75 Leach's Storm-Petrels were recorded (*vide* RGG) and they were "common" on the N. Grand Banks Apr. 27-May 10 (BM).

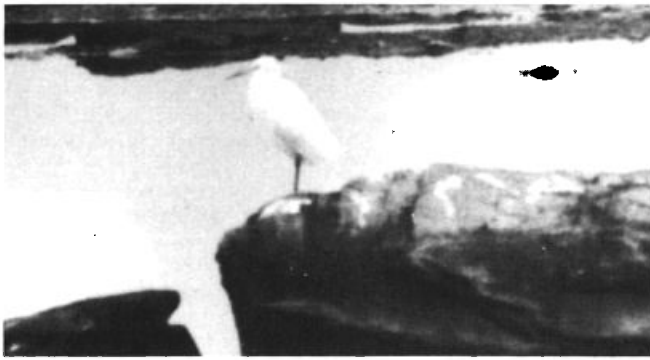
Single **White Pelicans** were found in Brunswick, Me., May 15 (PDV) and flying over E. Boston, Mass., on the same date (S. Zende *et al.*). Large numbers of Gannets, of all ages, were present in Cape Cod Bay in early May, including a flock of 1000 off Truro, Mass., May 7 (BN *et al.*). Elsewhere, 600+ were at Nantucket I., May 10 (JB) and the species was widely reported in Nova Scotia, with counts ranging up to 230 (*vide* RGG).

A Great Cormorant at Lakeville, Mass., May 30 (WRP) was both late and provided a rare inland occurrence. No exceptional flights of Double-crested Cormorants were reported this season, although the species continues widespread and abundant throughout most of the Region. Disturbing is the news of a controversial program being conducted by the state of Maine, which involves shooting cormorants in an attempt to eliminate predation on released Atlantic Salmon. The effort, evidently now in its third year, resulted in 84± birds being killed Apr. 29-30 (*vide* WCT). One would like to believe that such archaic and simplistic approaches, reminiscent of the days when certain night heron colonies were branded nuisances and dynamited into oblivion, had become obsolete, yet this sort of "shotgun management" is still being practiced elsewhere in the Region as well, at both state and federal levels.

HERONS — Herons, two individuals in particular, were very much in the news this season. "Southern" herons staged a pronounced incursion into the Maritimes, where record or near-record numbers were found. Combined totals for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were 11+ Great Egrets, 32+ Snowy Egrets, 27+ Cattle Egrets, one Little Blue Heron, two Louisiana Herons, and six plus Glossy Ibises (*vide* PRD & DSC). In Newfoundland, a Cattle Egret Apr. 30, a Little Blue Heron May 22, and a Glossy Ibis May 23-24 represented 15th, 13th and 7th provincial records, respectively (BM).

Cattle Egrets, apparently blown in by the late-April storm, were particularly widespread and numerous from late April into May. Otherwise, heron numbers in the s. seemed about normal, although Glossy Ibises may have been down a bit. Notable inland herons were single Great and Snowy egrets, a Little Blue Heron and perhaps as many as four Cattle Egrets, all in w. Massachusetts (*vide* SK). American Bitterns were reported in somewhat better numbers this spring, perhaps reflecting decreased mortality over the mild winter.

Without question the two most extraordinary birds of the season were vagrant herons. A **Little Egret** (*Egretta garzetta*) of Europe, discovered at Bay Roberts, Conception, Nfld., May 29 and still present June 1, was identified on the basis of its dark (not yellow) lores and two single, narrow crown plumes (J. Wells, BM *et al.*). Detailed notes and photographs documented the record, only the third from North America. Previous records are of a specimen from nearby Flat Rock, Conception Bay, Nfld., May 8, 1954 and a May 14-Sept. 6, 1980 sight and photographic record from various locations in Quebec.



Little Egret, Bay Roberts, Conception, Nfld., May 29, 1983. Photo/B. Mactavish.

#### S.A.

Eclipsing the Newfoundland bird was a dark blue heron with white throat and lores, and yellow feet found on Nantucket I., Mass., Apr. 26 and seen almost daily through the end of the period (EFA). Initially thought to be an aberrant Little Blue Heron, not until early July, after the bird had been photographed by Rob Cardillo of the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences and the photos subsequently examined by Robert Ridgely, was the bird correctly identified as a **Western Reef Heron** (*Egretta fularis*) from Africa! The bird, a first in North America<sup>1</sup>, remained very dependable and obliging and its identification was amply confirmed by hundreds of observers from all over the country. Although speculation on the bird's origin and means of travel will likely remain just that, it is relevant to note that it was first seen immediately following the now-infamous April storm, concurrent with the major influx of Cattle Egrets.

<sup>1</sup>But see this issue, p. 827.



Western Reef Heron, Nantucket, Mass., Apr. 26 to end of period. First North American record. Photo/B. Nikula.

**WATERFOWL** — The three wintering Whistling Swans on M.V., were last noted Mar. 4 (VL) and a very late individual was seen flying over Seal I., N.S., May 12 (*fide* CRKA). Several observers felt that Brant were in good numbers this spring. An ad. White-fronted Goose with Snow Geese at W. Hartford Apr. 9 (v.ob., *fide* PJD) furnished a third record for Connecticut, and, although its racial origins were unspecified, seems likely a legitimate wanderer. With the exception of a report of "hundreds" over Goshen, Mass., Apr. 6 (*fide* SK), Snow Geese were very scarce, in light of which a single "Blue" Goose in Wellfleet, Mass., Mar. 18 (DR *et al.*) and two in Scarborough, Me., Mar. 21 (*fide* WCT) were unusual.

A count of 120 Gadwall in Newport, R.I., Mar. 26 (*fide* DLE) was indicative of that species continued increase. Eurasian Wigeon totaled 6-7 individuals, while Eurasian Teal reports numbered 6 Regionwide, both about average. Although the origins of vagrant waterfowl are always suspect, a ♂ **Cinnamon Teal** on M.V., May 12 (VL) arrived at a time when that species is on the move and seems likely a genuine stray. A ♂ Tufted Duck was in Westport, Mass., Mar. 1-13 (S. Garrett *et al.*) and another (?) was in Chatham, Mass., Mar. 27-Apr. 3 (A. Tait *et al.*). Two observers commented on low numbers of Ring-necked Ducks in s.e. New England where large concentrations are generally found (DLE, WRP). Inland Barrow's Goldeneyes were at Great Meadows N.W.R., Mass., Mar. 28-31 (R. Walton *et al.*) and Belgrade, Me., Apr. 2 (*fide*

PAC), while a Com. Eider at the latter location Mar. 21 & 27 (*fide* PAC) was noteworthy. An aerial census of Harlequin Ducks around Isle au Haut, Me., Mar. 17 produced a total of 250 birds (PDV).

This year's seabird watch at Pt. Judith, R.I., Apr. 30-May 1 and May 15 failed to yield the impressive numbers of scoters noted last year, although on the first weekend 2300 Surf and 456 White-winged, mostly flying E, were tallied (RLF). A scoter watch conducted on 12 late afternoons Apr. 23-May 7 at Greenwich, Conn., recorded a total of 2155 birds, all flying W, and all but three of which were White-winged (DB, TB, JZ). Other scoter concentrations across the Region included a huge flock of 4450 Blacks at Salisbury Bay, N.B., Apr. 20 (RJW), 500 Blacks at E. Orleans, Mass., Apr. 10 (AW), 2000 White-wingeds in Nantucket Sound Mar. 19-20 (*fide* RHS) with 450 there May 9 (JB), and 200+ Surfs in the same location May 11 (JB).

**RAPTORS** — Turkey Vultures continue to expand and a possible nesting was suspected near Turner, Me. (*fide* PAC). The only Black Vulture reported was in Provincetown, Mass., May 21 (WB *et al.*). Cape Cod also hosted the season's only kites, with an ad. Mississippi Kite in Chatham May 6 (D. Folger *et al.*) and presumably the same bird



Mississippi Kite, Pilgrim Heights, Truro, Mass., May 7, 1983. Photo/R. Everett.

20 mi farther n. in Truro the following day (BN *et al.*), and a **Swallow-tailed Kite** also in Chatham May 8 (J. Barabe, *fide* BN). The Sharp-shinned Hawk flight was termed excellent in w. Massachusetts, with seasonal totals of 129 in Southwick and 116 at Mt. Tom (*fide* SK). Unprecedented numbers were on Cape Cod May 6-8, when 100+ were in Chatham May 6 (D. Holt *et al.*) and 125+/day were in Truro May 7 & 8 (BN *et al.*). This flight, which may have involved considerable duplication, was comprised almost entirely of immatures, as is usually the case in that area.

A Red-shouldered Hawk at Spring Haven, N.S. (CRKA) was unusual in that province. Very few reports were received from inland hawk watches, but it appears that the Broad-winged Hawk flight was rather poor. Late coastal concentrations included 20+ at Brier I., N.S., May 19 (*fide* IAM) and a kettle of 85 immatures at Provincetown, Mass., May 26 (M. Mello). Single Golden Eagles were reported from Newfoundland, Maine and 2 locations in Massachusetts, and in the same state no fewer than 12 Bald Eagles, mostly immatures, was encouraging. Ospreys were also reported in excellent numbers both inland and along the coast. Seasonal totals in w. Massachusetts were 78 at Mt. Tom and 65 at Southwick (*fide* SK), and at the thriving colony in Westport, Mass., 30 nests were active this year (*fide* RHS).

During the aerial survey of Isle au Haut, Me., Mar. 17, a dark Gyrfalcon was spotted (PDV) and a white individual at Riverside, N.B., May 24 was astonishingly late (M. Majka, *fide* DSC). No fewer than 25 Peregrine Falcons Regionwide was yet another good seasonal total and bodes well for the species in our area. Similarly, and perhaps more than coincidentally, Merlins were widely reported and numbered an above-average 40.

Fall reports should be sent to Richard Forster, Natural History Services, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, MA, 01773 no later than Dec. 10.

RAILS, SHOREBIRDS — A road-killed Sora at Card's Pond, R.I., Mar. 20 (*fide* DLE) was probably a successful (almost!) winterer as were a single Clapper Rail at Succotash Marsh, R.I., Mar. 1 (GL) and two at Greenwich Pt., Conn., Mar. 7 (*fide* TB). A Purple Gallinule was in Canton, Mass., May 17-18 (D. Brown *et al.*) and another was seen in Wolfville, N.S., May 4 (*fide* IAM) tiptoeing through a tulip garden! Surely this species' primary purpose on earth is to surprise and amuse disbelieving birdwatchers.

An **American Oystercatcher** photographed at Mathews L., N.S., Apr. 28 (R. Turner) provided the first confirmation of the species in that Province. An Am. Avocet in Duxbury, Mass., May 13-14 (C. Wood *et al.*) was unique this season, but even rarer was a **Black-necked Stilt** in Ipswich, Mass., May 24-29 (R. Meyer *et al.*). Single Lesser Golden Plovers were in Milford, Conn., "March to mid-May" (*fide* DV), W. Bridgewater, Mass., Apr. 2-3 (WRP), Plymouth, Mass., May 3-21 (WRP *et al.*), and Truston Pond, R.I., May 15 (*fide* DLE). At Nbpt., Mass., 2000 Black-bellied Plovers were counted May 29 (*fide* GWG) while 1300 were on Monomoy I., Mass., the previous day (WRP *et al.*). An early Semipalmated Plover was at Napatree Pt., R.I., Apr. 2 (CR) and a total of approx. 21 in s.w. Nova Scotia, Apr. 17 (*fide* FS) was a surprising number on that early date. Inland, a total of 42 in w. Massachusetts, May 8-31 was termed "probably the most ever" (SK). The season's only Wilson's Plover was found on Plymouth Beach, Mass., May 3 (B. Harrington).

Nine Whimbrel were reported from Rhode Island and two from Massachusetts in April and singles were in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in May. Two Hudsonian Godwits, always rare in spring, must have been a startling sight flying N over Stellwagon Bank May 29 (C. Leahy). A Bar-tailed Godwit, nearly annual now, was present briefly in Squantum, Mass., May 23 (T. deBoor, H. D'Entremont). Solitary Sandpipers were found in good numbers with a seasonal total of 120 in w. Massachusetts, considered "spectacular" (SK). A Willet at Chance Cove, Nfld., May 28 (BM) added to the handful of records for the species in that Province.

Birders in w. Massachusetts enjoyed one of their best shorebird seasons ever, in addition to the previously mentioned species, exceptional numbers of both Greater (54) and Lesser (19) yellowlegs, Short-billed Dowitchers (20) and Least Sandpipers (217) were found. Ruffs were reported only from Massachusetts, where there were at least 5-6 individuals, and no Curlew Sandpipers were seen. A White-rumped Sandpiper 30 mi inland at Godaleich Pond, Nfld., May 25 (P. Linegar, *fide* BM) provided a first spring record for that Province. At Harvey, N.B., 3000 Semipalmated Sandpipers May 28-29 (RJV) was a notable count, though but a fraction reported from nearby Wood Pt., during the same period 2 years ago. Wilson's Phalaropes were once again widely reported beginning with an early individual at Nbpt., Mass., Apr. 30, the first of at least six in that state (*fide* GWG) while other May reports included three in Rhode Island, and two each in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Maine. Despite prime conditions, Com. Snipe were apparently scarce.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — As usual, a few Parasitic Jaegers were reported in the last half of May, all ones and two except for five at Shark Ledge off R.I., May 29 (DLK). An individual at Yarmouth, N.S., Apr. 18 (RSD'E) was very early. Bruce Mactavish furnished a most interesting account of a cruise on the N. Grand Banks (approx. latitude 48° 00'N) Apr. 28-May 10 during which he recorded a total of 144 Pomarine Jaegers. All the birds were adults, light-phase predominated by a 6:1 ratio and no other jaeger species were seen.

Two photographically documented Thayer's Gulls, present since late winter at Galilee, R.I., were last seen Mar. 13 & 27 and were the only ones reported for that species. Lesser Black-backed Gulls numbered at least nine individuals scattered throughout the Region, a record spring total, and included an adult in Newfoundland Apr. 12 which was thought to be *L.f. fuscus* (BM), a race yet to be documented in North America. Two ad. **Franklin's Gulls** at McGowan's Corner, N.B., May 6-7 (Forster *et al.*, *fide* DSC) and an impeccably described adult on Monomoy I., May 28 (WRP *et al.*) add to the increasingly regular spring sightings of that species. New Brunswick had the only Sabine's Gulls with singles at Castalia May 19-24 and Grand Manan May 24 (*fide* DSC). Little Gulls were reported only from Massachusetts, where there were at least eight, but Black-headed Gulls were in excellent numbers with over 70 regionwide including up to 18 at Stephenville Crossing,

Nfld (BM), site of their suspected nesting a few years ago, and up to 20 at St John's, Nfld (BM)

At the s. edge of the Region, an ad. Black-headed Gull vigorously defended a territory in the Laughing Gull colony on Monomoy I., from late April into the early summer (D. Holt *et al.*). Unfortunately, a suitable mate failed to materialize and after 2 months of loudly (and successfully) repelling all intruders, his amorous intentions, as well as the possibility of a first confirmed United States breeding record, went unfulfilled and by early July he was resigned to loafing on the flats, a sullen, molting shadow of the once belligerent, raucous pioneer. Maybe next year!

An extremely early Gull-billed Tern at Galilee, R.I., Apr. 19-20 (CR *et al.*) eclipsed last year's record date from Nantucket I., by 11 days. Somewhat more seasonal were a Sandwich Tern at Plymouth, Mass., May 22 (*fide* GWG) and two Royal Terns in Rhode Island in late May (*fide* DLE). The usual scattering of Caspian Terns consisted of four in Rhode Island, three in Massachusetts, and three in New Brunswick. Black Terns made an excellent showing with a count of 150 in the Jemsey-Maugerville area of New Brunswick May 25 (BED) while in Massachusetts, a total of 29 included eight in w. Massachusetts and 10 on Monomoy I., May 28 (WRP *et al.*). The season's token Black Skimmer was on M.V., May 30 (*fide* GWG).

Twenty-six Razorbills on Cox's Ledge Mar. 27 (DF) was a good count for those waters, while 70 Black Guillemots in Provincetown, Mass., Mar. 20 (BN *et al.*) was an unprecedented count in s. New England and suggests a further increase of the species at the s. edge of its range.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A **White-winged Dove** was found in Falmouth, Me., May 1-7 (S. Heald, PDV *et al.*). Early and presumably storm-driven Yellow-billed Cuckoos were noted Apr. 27 in S. Peabody, Mass. (RSH) and W. Southport, Me. (*fide* WCT) and Apr. 29 on Brier I., N.S. (ELM *et al.*), and a dead one in New Brunswick May 12 (*fide* DSC) was a rare find in that province.

In Kings County, N.S., B. Forsythe has established a nest box "program" for Barred Owls which this year played host to 7 breeding pairs! Meanwhile, in Hebron, N.S., a pair took up residence in an unused chimney. A Chuck-will's-widow at Mt. Auburn, Mass., May 4 (GWG) was the only one reported. Early Com. Nighthawks were a single on M.V., Mass., Apr. 24 (VL), three on Monomoy I., Apr. 27 (D. Folger *et al.*) and one at Sandy Pt., N.S., Apr. 28 (BED). Later, 106 were counted migrating in Concord, Mass., May 31 (R. Walton). A spectacular roost of Chimney Swifts in Haverhill, Mass., was estimated to contain 3500+ birds May 26 (RHS *et al.*). Residents report that the birds, which are using a small chimney in a church, have been there for years and increase in number later in the summer! Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, hopefully carefully identified, were early in Marblehead, Mass., Apr. 22 (JPS) and Fairfield, Conn., Apr. 23 (DV) and were present in good numbers later on, with an above-average total of 31 netted at M.B.O. (TL-E).

At least six Red-bellied Woodpeckers in w. Massachusetts (SK) indicated an increase along that border of the species range, but elsewhere they drew little comment. Fifteen Red-headed Woodpeckers from Rhode Island to Nova Scotia was about average. A wintering Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Mt. Auburn, Mass., was present through March (*fide* GWG). Both extralimital and unseasonable were two different, carefully identified Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers on Cape Cod: a male in Wellfleet May 8 (S. McNair) and a female in Eastham May 16 (P. Goodrich).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES — An E. Kingbird, closely and carefully identified in Chatham, Mass., Apr. 4, was precariously early, and no fewer than 17 were recorded across the Region Apr. 22-30. Acadian Flycatchers were said to be "still spreading" in w. Massachusetts (SK) and elsewhere four were in Rhode Island, eight in e. Massachusetts (including six banded at M.B.O. through June 16), one banded on Appeldore I., Me. (DWH) and two in w. Maine (*fide* PAC). Olive-sided Flycatchers were evidently in good numbers, since many observers commented on their relative abundance. A Barn Swallow on M.V., Mar. 22 (VL) was early and 500 were flying W at Napatree, R.I., May 16 (CR), part of the reverse migration noted there this spring. Tree Swallow numbers were thought to be down in Rhode Island (DLE) but a

count of 2500 at A P B S , N S , May 12 (BED) suggested no cause for concern in that Province. An early Purple Martin was in Chatham, Mass., Mar. 11 (P. Bailey *et al.*) and Newfoundland's ninth provincial record was in St. John's May 20 (BM).

Common Ravens continue to expand S: one in W. Hartford May 17 (PJD) was approx. the seventh for Connecticut, one in Chatham Apr. 29-May 2 (R. Clem *et al.*) was only Cape Cod's second, up to 3/day were seen at Mt. Wachusett in e.c. Massachusetts, throughout April (*vide* LET) and the first nesting for Massachusetts was confirmed at Quabbin Res. (*vide* SK). Good numbers were also reported from w. Maine (PAC). Nantucket's Jackdaw was last seen in early April (EFA), its possible origin still hotly debated. As is usually the case in such disputes, those who saw the bird generally argued forcefully in favor of its legitimacy, while those who did not branded it as an obvious charlatan! As many as 4-5 Fish Crows in w. Massachusetts, was termed "unprecedented" (SK). Numbers of both Black-capped Chickadees and Tufted Titmice banded at M.B.O., were surprisingly low this spring (TL-E), reversing a recent trend there. Winter Wrens remain scarce while a Carolina Wren at Cambridge Narrows, N.B., Mar. 2 (RJW) provided only a sixth provincial record.

In New Brunswick, "a spectacular migration" of robins "along the Bay of Fundy shore from mid-March to early May" was reported which "must have involved many hundreds of thousands of birds" (RJW)! Single **Wheatears** were found at St. John's, Nfld., May 13-14 (J. Pratt, BM *et al.*) and on Seal I., N.S., May 23-25 (ELM *et al.*). Forty Hermit Thrushes at Marblehead, Mass., Apr. 23 was the best spring count reported in at least several years and is indicative of that species' continued recovery following declines in the 1970s. Many early thrushes were recorded during the period Apr. 25-30 including at least five Swainson's, 16 Veeries and a carefully identified Gray-cheeked at Marblehead, Mass., Apr. 27 (RSH) and two on Brier I., N.S., Apr. 29 (ELM, IAM). In addition to the extraordinary numbers of May 25-26, Swainson's Thrushes were numerous and a seasonal total of 83 banded at M.B.O., was well above average (TL-E).

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were apparently down throughout much of the Region while n. of their range, two were in New Brunswick and only one in Nova Scotia. Widely divergent comments were received regarding Ruby-crowned Kinglets, ranging from "scarce" in w. Massachusetts (SK) to "many" in w. Maine (PAC). Water Pipits evidently overwintered at Hartlans Pt. Farm, N.S., where one was seen Feb. 27, three Mar. 7 and two Apr. 9 (*vide* SC). Loggerhead Shrikes continue to hang on by a thread in the Region, this season's individuals noted at Belgrade Lakes, Me., May 5 (J. Smith), Melbourne, N.S., May 7 (*vide* SC) and W. Dennis, Mass., May 24 (J. Bryant).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — An early Red-eyed Vireo was at Mt. Auburn, Mass., Apr. 27-29 (RHS *et al.*). Among the many early warblers were: Prothonotary in Chatham Mar. 22 (WB) and M.V., Mar. 22-23 (VL), Golden-winged at Mt. Auburn Apr. 30 (W. Drummond) and Providence May 1 (DF), Tennessee at Napatree Pt., R.I., Apr. 25 (CR *et al.*) Provincetown Apr. 29 (BN) and Mt. Auburn Apr. 30 (*vide* LET), Magnolia in Falmouth, Me., Apr. 26 (*vide* WCT), Blackpoll at Glace Bay, N.S., May 1 (*vide* PRD) and Windsor, Conn., May 3 (PJD), and Com. Yellowthroat in N.S., Apr. 25 (*vide* PRD). Regional totals for the "southern" warblers were: 10 Prothonotaries, one of which was as far n as Nova Scotia Apr. 26 (*vide* PRD), seven Yellow-throateds, including one on Brier I., Apr. 30 (ELM, IAM) which was identified as the w. race *albiflora*, although there seems considerable doubt as to whether this race can be adequately identified in the field, 21+ Hooded, 17 Kentucky Warblers and four Yellow-breasted Chats.

Two "semi-southern" warblers, Worm-eating and Cerulean were both well reported across the s. half of the Region and appear to be continuing their N expansion. Golden-winged Warblers, on the other hand, were in low numbers in w. Massachusetts, and are "disappearing from the Berkshires" (SK). A Golden-winged on Seal I., May 26 was notably far n. (ELM *et al.*). No fewer than 13 Orange-crowned Warblers Regionwide was an unparalleled total for this normally rare spring migrant.

Ninety-six Magnolia Warblers banded on Appeldore I., May 26-June 3 (DWH) seemed an excellent number, particularly when compared with a seasonal total of 67 at M.B.O. (TL-E). Cape May Warblers were plentiful in w. Massachusetts (SK) but were scarce along the coast,

notably so during the May 25-26 blitz. Most areas reported above-average numbers of Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll (3 times as many as last year at M.B.O.), Wilson's and Canada warblers. A total of 97 Com. Yellowthroats banded on Appeldore I., May 26-June 3 (DWH) seemed high for so late in the season, but corresponds with the amazing 500 on Seal I., May 26.

Finally, the Am. Redstart situation, as perceived by various contributors, typifies the diverse, often-conflicting impressions confronting your Regional Editors. Very few comments were registered about the species, which might suggest near "average" numbers. However, banding totals from 3 banding stations differed sharply. At Fairfield, Conn., redstarts were numerous, particularly May 24 when 41 were banded (DV), yet at M.B.O., they were described as "startlingly low" (presumably no pun intended!) with a total for the entire season of only 48 (TL-E). Based only on this information, one might conclude that the species was common inland but scarce along the coast, a simple but apparently flawed deduction as an ample 71 were banded on Appeldore I., in the rather short (though peak) period May 26-June 3 (DWH). Whatever the actual situation with redstarts, it serves as yet another reminder that we woefully ill-equipped birders (and banders) are witness to only a tantalizingly small, often-misrepresentative portion of a bewildering, massively complex migration phenomenon and that any attempts to accurately portray (or better, interpret—Ed.) any of the events therein are doomed to a futile inadequacy.

**BOBOLINK THROUGH SPARROWS** — Bobolinks made premature appearances at a W. Lawrencetown, N.S., feeder Apr. 20 (L. Conrad, ph.), at Cudder Bay, N.S., Apr. 30 (R. Chiasson) and in Eastham, Mass., Apr. 30 (H. Stabins *et al.*). Five Yellow-headed Blackbirds were distributed among Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts (two) and Maine, and spanned the period Mar. 6-May 16. Extralimital Orchard Orioles consisted of seven plus in Nova Scotia and one in New Brunswick and an imm. ♂ "Bullock's" Oriole was described from Pubnico, N.S., May 26 (J. McLaren, M. Crowell). "Close to 3 dozen" Scarlet Tanagers in Nova Scotia was considered a record number and two Summer Tanagers in the same Province were the northernmost of 21 reported Regionwide. A ♀ Black-headed Grosbeak in Uxbridge, Mass., had set up housekeeping with a ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak by the end of the period (m.ob., *vide* RHS). Following their incursions in late April, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Blue Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings were all present in well above average numbers through most of May. Seven **Painted Buntings** in the Region was an exceptional total and consisted of one at Seal Cove, N.B., May 7 (*vide* DSC), for only a second provincial record, four individuals in Maine, at Long I., Apr. 29, Monhegan I., in early May, Stonington May 13-17 and in Manset May 27 (all *vide* WCT), one at Mt. Auburn, Mass., May 12 (J. Barton, *vide* RHS) and one in Providence May 22 (*vide* DLE).

House Finches continued to expand in Maine, but a single bird in Nova Scotia was the only one reported outside of their current range. Good numbers of Pine Siskins were present in Newfoundland (BM), but elsewhere they were scarce to absent. A ♂ **Eurasian Siskin** banded at Rockport, Mass., May 5 (RTN, ph.) was in fresh plumage and exhibited no signs of prior captivity. A Dickcissel was in Marshfield, Mass., Apr. 2-23 (D. Clapp) and two were found in a field in Bethel, Me., May 15-16 (*vide* PAC). A **Brambling** was photographed at a feeder in Lake Echo, N.S., May 18 (D. Lightbody *et al.*).

Nine Savannah Sparrows banded at M.B.O., was the highest total there since 1975 (TL-E). Spring migrant Grasshopper Sparrows are seldom detected, the species generally just appearing in its few remaining nesting locales, so one at Marblehead, Mass., Apr. 29 (RSH) was a noteworthy find. Tree Sparrows normally depart early, but in this tardy season several reports were received of birds lingering well into the third week of April. A Clay-colored Sparrow was photographed on Seal I., May 15-16 (S. Manuel, J. McLaren), one was banded and present on Appeldore I., May 31-June 2 (DWH) and a singing bird was in Canton, Mass., May 21-29 (R. Vernon *et al.*). Also on Appeldore I., was a Lark Sparrow May 26 & 29 (*vide* DWH). White-crowned Sparrows were very scarce, but Lincoln's Sparrows were in well above normal numbers.

**UNCONFIRMED REPORTS** — A single observer report of an imm. Sabine's Gull at Pt. Judith, R.I., Mar. 2, although carefully described and possibly correct, is so astonishingly early, fully 10 weeks before the

species can reasonably be expected in the Region (or anywhere else on the Atlantic coast) that additional documentation, at the very least corroboration by other observers would be required for acceptance of the record. A well-described Black-throated Sparrow on Monhegan I., Me., also lacked corroboration or other documentation and must remain hypothetical.

Lacking any details, but possibly correct, were reports of a W. Sandpiper in Connecticut May 21-23, one or two Mew Gulls in Massachusetts in April, a very early Acadian Flycatcher in Massachusetts May 2, two House Wrens in Rhode Island Mar. 15, a Black-headed Grosbeak in Maine May 11, and Henslow's Sparrows in Connecticut Apr. 28 and Massachusetts Apr. 30.

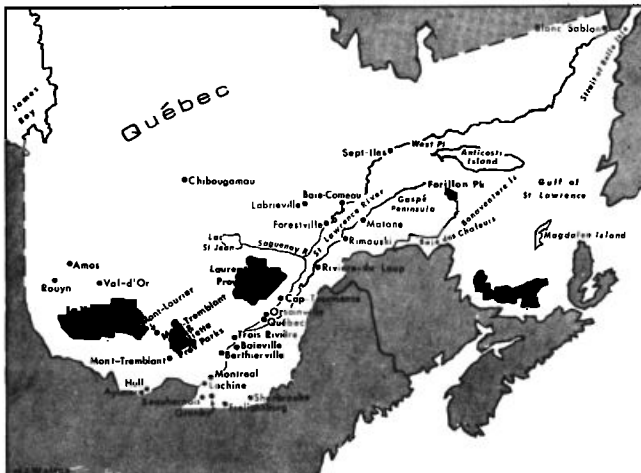
Fall reports should be sent to Richard Forster, Natural History Services, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, MA, 01773 no later than Dec. 10.

## QUEBEC REGION

/Michel Gosselin

Temperature became relatively colder in southern Quebec as spring progressed; it was above average in March, nearly average in April, and below average in May. Except in March, precipitation was above the mean in southern Quebec. The migration of passerines, in May, thus occurred under continually cloudy skies, heavy rain and cold weather.

**GANNET THROUGH IBISES** — There was a noticeable movement of Gannets up the St. Lawrence R. this spring: one was at Baieville May 1 (PLe), two at Lauzon May 11 (PBr), and one found injured at Quebec City May 17 (*vide* PHO). Despite their annual showing, egrets always stir interest. The Great Egret was reported from Saint-Fulgence (*vide* NB), Baieville (YA), Sabrevois (*vide* PS), Dundee (JS) and Pointe-au-Père (JRP); the two birds seen in Dundee were especially significant because the same observer has recorded Great Egrets from this area in the last 3 years, including six last fall. A similar case of regular summer occurrences was noted at nearby LesCèdres 1954-1961. The Snowy Egret was sighted in Gaspé (DG), Rimouski (chased by a Gyrfalcon—GG, LH), Dundee (PBr), Henryville (FH), Saint-Paul de l'Île-aux-Noix (MT), Rivière-au-Renard (BCo), Chandler (*vide* RB) and Carillon (RY), while the Little Blue Heron was reported from Cacouna May 29 (JPO) and the Louisiana Heron from Gaspé Apr. 30 (BCo *et al.*). At least two Cattle Egrets turned up in the Upper Richelieu Valley in May (*vide* PS), two at Boileau (*vide* NB), for a first record in the Saguenay area, one at Saint-Roch des Aulnaies (CM) and one at Grande-Rivière (*vide* RB). The Glossy Ibis appeared at Cap-d'Espoir (*vide* RB), Nouvelle (PF), Bic (JG), Bonaventure (SA), Saint-Raymond (CP), Saint-Paul de l'Île-aux-Noix (DS), Baieville (JR), and Trois-Pistoles (AG).



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**SWANS THROUGH CRANES** — Three Whistling Swans at Gallichan Apr. 27 and up to four at Roquemaure in May (SG) suggested the possibility of regular migration through this area (see AB 36:831). The White-fronted Goose was reported from Baieville (YA), Maskinongé (*vide* DP), and Saint-Fulgence (NB *et al.*); the latter, belonging to the Greenland subspecies *flavirostris*, was a first in the Saguenay. In addition to five Ross' Geese in the Quebec City area (CM), single birds were noted in Rimouski May 7 and LaPocatière May 10 (JC *et al.*), which denotes an increasing population in the e. A Pintail at Baie Sainte-Catherine Feb. 26 (MG *et al.*) indicated a successful wintering on the North Shore. The first Garganey of the Province, a bright male, was found at Bergeronnes May 2 (EB, AB) and at Trois-Pistoles May 4-6 (GG, m.ob., ph. Nat'l Mus. Nat. Sc.); this Eurasian teal had so far been reported in 7 states and 5 provinces. A pair of Gadwalls in Rouyn May 14-16 (JL) perhaps forecasts a range extension. A Canvasback was at Beauport Apr. 8 (SM), six Redheads at Cacouna Apr. 30 (RLd), and a ♀ Harlequin Duck at Lauzon Apr. 25-26 (FG). Five Com. Eiders at Saint-Joseph, Beauce Co., May 9 (LM) were along the overland migration flyway of the species (see AB 33:847). In s. Quebec the Sandhill Crane turned up at Saint-Aubert May 19 (GB) and Berthierville May 28 (SGi).

**SHOREBIRDS** — A stray Piping Plover was at Quebec City May 13-14 (CS), while an American Avocet at Noranda May 29 (JL) represented a first occurrence in the Abitibi. Willets made a good showing in late May with birds in Quebec City (JPO), Baieville (FG), Saint-Sébastien (RY), Rimouski (GG) and Cacouna (JPO). Six Whimbrels at Portneuf May 20 (CM) and 35 at Baieville May 23 (YM) provided noteworthy spring records. The first provincial Black-tailed Godwit, and the first Canadian record outside Newfoundland, was reported from Saint-Fulgence May 22-23 (MB, YB, NB *et al.*); the observers noted the underwings as being "white as in a Black Duck". The presence of a Hudsonian Godwit, itself a rarity in spring, at the same place May 23 (MG, YB *et al.*), created momentary confusion. In addition, a Marbled Godwit was found at Saint-Sébastien May 25-26 (GD). Rare in spring, a Baird's Sandpiper was at Quebec City May 26 (JPO). Dunlins were unprecedentedly early this year: two at Saint-Paul de l'Île-aux-Noix Apr. 14 (JH), one at Rimouski Apr. 16 (YG), five at Baieville Apr. 19 (YA), and one at Saint-Fulgence Apr. 21 (YB). The species was also noted in May at Rouyn and Roquemaure (JL, SG). A record-early Stilt Sandpiper visited Rimouski Apr. 30 (JPO *et al.*). This bird is extremely rare in spring migration. A ♂ Ruff at Pointe-au-Père Apr. 16 (YG) was also record-early; others were seen in May at Saint-Blaise (MT), Saint-Sébastien (GS) and Pointe-au-Père (YG).

**JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS** — Seven Parasitic Jaegers were observed at Rivière-Ouelle May 12, and a Pomarine Jaeger the following day (CM). An additional inland record of Long-tailed Jaeger came from the Opinaca R., on the James Bay road May 23 (YA); there is a similarity between a presumed overland migration of this bird and that

of the Arctic Tern. Both Laughing and Black-headed gulls were at LaPocatière (YM, CM) and Rimouski (*vide* YG), and Franklin's Gulls at Baieville (YA), Saint-Blaise (DJ), and Rimouski (*vide* YG). A nest of **Bonaparte's Gull** found in Rouyn May 31 (SG) appears to be the first in the Abitibi and the third one in Quebec. Single ad. Lesser Black-backed Gulls visited Lauzon Apr. 10 (FG) and Rivière-Ouelle May 17 (JC *et al.*), while a Caspian Tern at Saint-Gédéon May 22-23 (DGd) was a first for the L. Saint-Jean area. Arctic Terns stopped at LaSalle (PBa), Aylmer (BD), Thurso (RF), and Quebec City (CV *et al.*) May 24-28. The earliest-ever Forster's Tern was at Baieville Apr. 29 (YA). Completely unexpected at this season was the discovery of a Razorbill on a road at Lakefield, Argenteuil Co., May 27 (DR, *vide* RT); the bird was brought to the Montreal Aquarium.

**OWLS THROUGH RAVENS** — The Barn Owl, a most elusive bird, visited Lévis May 10 (DM, *vide* FG). A Screech Owl was found at Saint-Joseph, Beauce Co., Apr. 28 (CMu), while a Great Gray Owl in Aiguebelle P.P., May 14 (SG) suggested breeding in the Abitibi. A calling Boreal Owl on Mt. Albert Apr. 6-9 (CM *et al.*) was an additional indication of the presence of the species in the Gaspésie (see AB 30:931). A ♀ **Chuck-will's-widow**, the first ever recorded in this Region, was photographed in Westmount May 3 (ND *et al.*). Last winter's Red-bellied Woodpecker was still at Saint-Joseph de la Rive May 7 (HM); belated winter records of the Com. Flicker came from L. Saint-Joseph Feb. 4 (LC) and Neuville Feb. 26 (MD). A Rough-winged Swallow near Fabre May 21 (MG, GS) was the first in the Témiscamingue. A pair of Com. Ravens seen carrying nesting material on Mt. Saint-Hilaire in March (RG) was noteworthy because the species has never been found breeding on the Monteregian Hills.



*Chuck-will's-widow, Westmount, Que., May 3, 1983. Photo/N. David.*

**GNATCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS** — The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, regular in the Montreal area, now seems to have pushed farther N, as attested by a report from LaPocatière May 19 (AC). A ♀ bluebird at Saint-Nicolas May 20 was identified as a **Mountain Bluebird**, a first Regional occurrence (JLD, details in *Bull. Ornith.*). A **Varied Thrush**, especially rare in spring, was recorded at Westmount May 4-6 (KT, m.ob.). The Mockingbird reported from Rimouski last season wintered successfully (*vide* YG). The fifth **White-eyed Vireo** in Quebec was seen at Trois-Rivières May 24 (AG). In spring, warblers are always the main attraction. The w. form of the Yellow-rumped Warbler (*auduboni*) was at Westmount May 15 (GS, see AB 36:832; 30:816); a record-early Blackburnian Warbler was at Montreal Apr. 27 (PD), a Pine Warbler at L. Saint-Joseph Apr. 2 (PBc), and four at LaPocatière May 19 (JC *et al.*), the latter, added to those of last August (unpubl.), suggested a range extension. A **Prairie Warbler** was at Aylmer May 1 (SB) and a **Prothonotary Warbler** at Sainte-Pétronille May 21 (PP).



*Hooded Warbler, Otterburn Park, Que., May 5-6, 1983. Photo/G. Duquette.*

Hooded Warblers were relatively numerous, with a male in Otterburn-Park May 5-6 (AS), another on Mt. Royal May 8 (PBa), a female at I. des Soeurs May 9-11 (RC, m.ob.) and a male in Westmount May 27 (BCI).

**GROSBEAKS THROUGH CROSSBILLS** — In Quebec City, a ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen Mar. 12 exactly where one had been seen in November (DB); although the species has been seen in winter in this Region, recent second-hand reports of multiple occurrences (Ville Saint-Laurent, Murdochville) lack sufficient documentation. A sighting of Le Conte's Sparrow at L. Routhier May 30 (JL) adds Rouyn to the list of localities visited by this species. A ♀ **Orchard Oriole** was reported from Outremont May 7 (PLn) and a male from Oka May 28 (PBa *et al.*). Farther n., a ♀ N. Oriole was at Bergeronnes May 15 (AB), and a pair at Noranda May 30 (JL). The first House Finch nest in Quebec was discovered at Pointe-Claire; unfortunately, an examination of the contents May 21 revealed a dead chick, 2 addled eggs and a young Brown-headed Cowbird (MM, BB). In addition to the birds usually present in Sherbrooke (PBo) and Philipsburg (*vide* PS), the species was recorded in Nicolet (WG) and Aylmer (SB). A very young Red Crossbill found dead 35 km n. of Témiscaming May 21 (GS) provided one of the very few breeding records of this finch in Quebec.

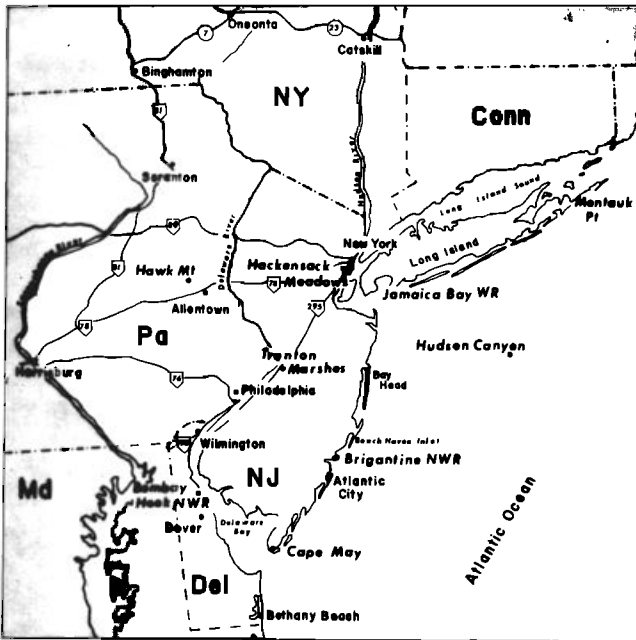
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## HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

/William J. Boyle, Jr., Robert O. Paxton and David A. Cutler

The spring season for the Hudson-Delaware Region, as for most of eastern North America, was the wettest on record. Rain fell on the New York City area on one or both of the days of each of the thirteen weekends of the season. The cumulative total for the three months was over 29 inches, almost half of which fell in April, and was 2.5 times the normal allotment. In addition to the wetness, it was also a chilly season. After a mild March, the last half of April and all of May had below-average temperatures, with record lows accompanying the major snow-storm of April 19-20.

In spite of (or perhaps because of) the weather and the restrictions it imposed on birding, most observers considered this the most exciting spring season in many years. The combination of strong southwesterly flows encountering equally strong northwesterly cold fronts produced many early records of passerine migrants, numerous rarities and generally exceptional birding from the last few days of April through much of May. Migration in the Delaware Valley was especially heavy, but observers in New York east of the Hudson River and on Long Island felt it was a below-average spring.



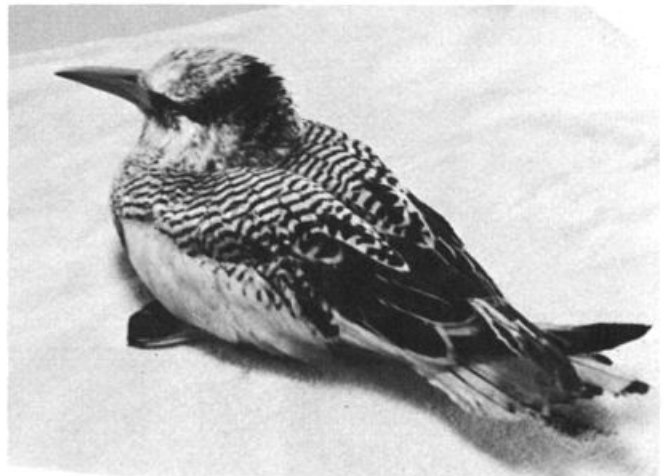
Frequently used abbreviations are: Bombay Hook, Bombay Hook N.W.R., near Smyrna, Del.; Brig., Brigantine N.W.R., Atlantic Co., N.J.; J.B.W.R., Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York City.

**LOONS THROUGH HERONS** — Loons staged a heavy and protracted migration during April and May, both coastal and inland; most unusual was a Red-throated Loon at Little Buffalo S.P., Perry Co., Pa., June 1 (OKS). There was a good flight of Red-necked Grebes, but they were all inland. Only one each was reported from New Jersey and Delaware, but Pennsylvania had up to seven at Harvey's L., near Dallas, Lucerne Co., Apr. 17-May 7 (JHo, KMG, MBI), while New York also had as many as seven at the Bashkill, Sullivan Co., Apr. 20 (DN, MBo). Horned Grebe continues to be scarce, and Eared Grebe went unreported.

The annual Delaware Valley Ornithological Club/Urner Club pelagic trip out of Barnegat Light, N.J., May 28 was the best in many years. Most of the birds were at or near the Hudson Canyon, ca. 85 mi offshore, and included the largest concentrations of N. Fulmars, 100+, seen there since 1978. Three Cory's, 25 Greater, 60 Sooty and two Manx shearwaters gave observers excellent views of all of the regularly occurring shearwaters, but the most spectacular show was the uncountable swarms of Wilson's Storm-Petrels that were constantly in sight during the 6 hours that the boat was near the canyon. Various estimates at 50,000-75,000, it was surely the largest concentration ever encountered in this Region. Surprisingly, not a single Leach's Storm-Petrel was detected among them, although one did come aboard a ship 90 mi e. of Atlantic City Apr. 8 (TK).

The rarity of the season in New Jersey was not seen in the wild by any birder. It was the imm. **Red-billed Tropicbird** picked up on the beach slightly oiled at Seaside Heights May 23 or 24 by an unknown person, and eventually delivered to rehabilitators in Surf City (B. & J. Jones, ph. AB). The first state and second regional record for this species, it was last reported recovering nicely and awaiting transport to Puerto Rico for release.

Other members of the pelicaniformes family were also well represented this season. The two **White Pelicans** wintering at Brig., were last noted Mar. 20, but what was possibly the same pair flew S over Cape May Mar. 30. A single bird was found at Brig., Apr. 9 (JDa), but disappeared later in the month. Yet another White Pelican was seen soaring over J.B.W.R., May 19 (C. Pinnock). Three **Brown Pelicans** at Bethany Beach, Del., May 5 were harbingers of the impending summer invasion (H. Cutler). Great Cormorants lingered at J.B.W.R. (RKe, PL) and Cape May (RRu) to the end of the period, but the most unusual record was of one at Floodgates, Gloucester Co., N.J., on the Delaware R., near Philadelphia Mar. 5 (BM).



*Red-billed Tropicbird, first state record, Seaside Park, N.J., May 27, 1983. Photo/A. Brady.*

Encouraging numbers of Great Blue Herons, a locally threatened species, were noted from many New Jersey locations, including 3 new breeding colonies. Cattle Egret arrived early at both Cape May (WJB) and Montauk (RKe) Mar. 20, and were widely reported from s.e. New York and Long Island where they are still not common. A Green Heron was an early migrant at Prospect Park, Brooklyn Co., Mar. 20 (*vide* J. Yrizzary).

**WATERFOWL** — The waterfowl migration was generally good, but was over early. The mild weather of winter and early spring encouraged geese and ducks to move on, and by the end of March there were few left in the Region. Massive inland flights of Canada Geese were noted along the Susquehanna R., Mar. 4 (RMS) and along the Delaware R., Mar. 13 (DDR). A few Brant lingered as usual, but one at Peace Valley P., Bucks Co., Pa., May 31 was extraordinary (A & JM). Four White-fronted Geese were all in s.e. New York: one at Millerton, Dutchess Co., Mar. 9 (HM, MY) and two at nearby Round Pond, Sharon Station Mar. 13-14 (DF, MY); another bird, identified as belonging to the Greenland race, was at Pocantico Hills, Westchester Co., Mar. 29 (PS).

The exciting find at Round Pond, Dutchess Co., was not the two White-fronteds mentioned above, but New York's first **Ross' Goose**. Discovered swimming with two Snow Geese, the two White-fronteds and many Canadas on the afternoon of Mar. 13 by Fleury and Yegella, it was seen by numerous observers the next day, but not thereafter (DF, MY). This sighting follows closely upon the 3 recent records in Delaware and New Jersey, and suggests that more than just increased observer awareness is involved.

Only four ♂ Eur. Wigeon records were submitted, two on Long Island and two in New Jersey, but we suspect that some go unreported since the species has been easy to find in recent years. There were excellent numbers of dabbling ducks at places like Brig., in March, but most diving ducks had departed by the beginning of the season. Three Harlequin Ducks lingered at Montauk to Mar. 20 (m.ob.), and five flew across Delaware Bay to Cape May Mar. 21 (P. Kosten), but two at Henlopen S.P., Del., May 17 were really tardy (ER, WC).

A ♂ Com. Eider at Henlopen S.P., Apr. 9-May 8 was the only one reported (WWF). The ad. ♂ King Eider first noted at Cape May Sept. 12 ended a 6-month stay by departing on or about Mar. 19 (JDa), and a sub-ad. male was at Montauk Mar. 20 (RKe). A Hooded Merganser at Marsh Creek S.P., Chester Co., Pa., May 19 was in a potential breeding location (B & FH), as were a pair on the Delaware R., near Trenton May 14-17 (S. Hait) and a female at Washington Boro on the Susquehanna R., May 19 (B & FH). The latter location has had summering birds in several years without any evidence of nesting, however. Positive evidence of breeding in New Jersey was the presence of a brood on the Big Flatbrook, Sussex Co., in mid-May (TK); other adults were also along the nearby Delaware R. in May.

**VULTURES THROUGH RAILS** — Black Vultures continue to spread N through New Jersey and e. Pennsylvania. They are apparently



breeding in Morris County in n. New Jersey and, in the s. part of the state, have moved E from their Salem County stronghold into neighboring Cumberland County. Although birders in much of the Region have grown blasé about them, their arrival in s. New York is anxiously awaited.

The Waterman Bird Club struck again Mar. 26, when a **White-tailed Kite** was discovered at Hopewell Jct., Dutchess Co., N.Y. (C. Roda, J & MK, ph. KMD). The bird, apparently a sub-adult, was found again the next morning and photographed, but soon flew off and was never seen again. This provided the first state and regional record and only the second ever in the Northeast, the previous one being at Martha's Vineyard in 1910. The species is increasing, however, and has recently appeared in Indiana and South Carolina. The other kites were less in evidence than usual. A Swallow-tailed Kite passed the Sandy Hook, N.J., hawk watch Apr. 29 (HL), and another spent 3 days in May roosting in the backyard of a pigeon fancier near Cape May, although its occurrence was only revealed after the fact (*vide* K. Seager). A Swallow-tailed Kite on the Delaware side of Delaware Bay near the Mispillion R. furnished one of the few records for that state (BFI). Two Mississippi Kites at Forest P., Queens Co., May 3 represented only the second record for New York (L. Schore, J.P. & J. Latil). At Cape May, where they have become regular in late spring, only about five individuals were noted, and none stayed in the area for more than a brief visit, in contrast to past experience (*vide* PD).

Four hawk watches were manned on a fairly regular basis, 3 in Pennsylvania and one in New Jersey, and produced some interesting results. The Sandy Hook count, in its fifth year, recorded the highest numbers as expected, but 80% of the 7818 birds were Sharp-shinned Hawks and Am. Kestrels. That migrant raptors follow the ridges much less in the spring is well known. Hawk Mt. had only 1484 birds in 57 days of observation (SB), while Baer Rocks, just a few mi to the n.e. along Blue Mountain, had 3733 raptors in just 18 days of coverage (KK). At Morgan's Hill, just s. of Easton, Pa., 47 days of watching produced 2197 birds (DDR).

The biggest flights at the inland hawk watches occurred primarily during the last 4 days of April, as a warm front with a strong SW flow held sway over a cold front stalled along the Mississippi Valley for nearly a week. The heavy hawk flight was echoed by a huge influx of passerine migrants, many of whom arrived in the Region on record or near-record early dates (*vide infra*). The Osprey flight was especially impressive, as Baer Rocks recorded an all-time record 142 on Apr. 30, easily surpassing even the highest single-day fall count for this species in Pennsylvania; the season's total was 503. Away from the regular hawk watches, the most noteworthy concentration was a kettle of 75 Red-shouldered Hawks at Moonbeams Sanctuary, Orange Co., N.Y., Mar. 6 (Orange Co. Audubon).

Only a few Golden Eagles were reported for the season, but Bald Eagles were well represented with several dozen reports, including many immatures. New Jersey's only nesting pair produced fertile eggs for the first time in 7 years. Although the eggs were incubated and hatched at the Patuxent Research Laboratory, the two chicks were returned to the nest in April. Delaware again had 4 active nests, with the Bombay Hook pair producing young for the first time in several years. The white Gyrfalcon at New Holland, Pa., was last seen Apr. 9 (TA), while the one at Linwood, N.J., lingered to about Apr. 15 (JDa, ph. MD).

An interesting phenomenon was observed Mar. 29, when R. Magnan, driving along the ocean highway in coastal Delaware, noted many Am. Kestrels flying N along the dunes into the teeth of a strong NW wind. Heading for Cape Henlopen S.P., he found hundreds of kestrels flying around and perched on every available object, apparently unwilling to cross Delaware Bay against such a strong wind. Such a spectacle, which rivals Cape May in the fall, has not been previously noted from this location.

A Sandhill Crane at Tivoli Bay, Dutchess Co., N.Y., May 4 furnished the first spring record in several years (E. Kiviat). A Black Rail was heard calling from the Oak Beach Marsh, Long Island, May 14 & 21 after an absence of 2 years (ROP, B. Spencer). Only five males were heard at the colony in the Tuckahoe R. marshes near Marmora, N.J., during May compared to ten last year, but the habitat is so extensive that the birds may only have moved to a different area (RM). Several Black Rails were at Bombay Hook and Port Mahon in mid-May; the species is

still fairly regular in the marshes on the Delaware side of Delaware Bay. Purple Gallinule is an annual spring vagrant to the Region; this season one was seen in Prospect P., Brooklyn, May 5-9, when it was found with a broken leg (m.ob.). Another appeared in a Union Beach, N.J., backyard in late May, and stayed into June (*vide* W. Sanford).

**SHOREBIRDS** — The shorebird flight was late and light, as revealed by Davis' comprehensive data from J.B.W.R. (10 dates, Apr. 23-May 29). Similar conclusions can be drawn from reports from Bombay Hook (JA) and Brig. (JDa). The cool spring weather delayed the egg-laying of the horseshoe crabs in Delaware Bay, so the concentration of shorebirds feeding there was much reduced from recent years. Three aerial survey flights of the bayshore conducted May 24, 31 and June 6 by the Cape May Bird Observatory found a cumulative total of only 170,000 shorebirds, compared to last year's totals of 421,000 on May 21 and 874,000 for 3 flights. In contrast to past years, most of the birds, which are mainly Semipalmated Sandpipers, Ruddy Turnstones, Red Knots and Sanderlings, were on the Delaware side of the bay (PD).



*Wilson's Plover, Great Egg Harbor, N.J., Apr. 24, 1983. Photo/M. Danzenbaker.*

For the first time in 4 years, **Wilson's Plover** appeared in the Region; this time there were three apparently different birds (based on plumage descriptions by several observers who saw more than one of them). One was at S. Cape May, May 16-21 (JDa, PD, m.ob.), another at Stone Harbor Pt., Apr. 15 (DW), and the last at the Longport sod banks Apr. 23-24 (JDa, MD, RM). American Golden Plover was scarce compared to recent springs, with a peak of six at Pedricktown, N.J., Apr. 17 (RKa).

Upland Sandpipers were reported from 7 breeding sites in New Jersey, one near Eckville, Pa. (SB), three on Long Island, and one at Ward Pound Ridge Res., Westchester Co., N.Y. (TWB). A Whimbrel of the Eurasian race returned as usual to Linwood, N.J., Apr. 28-May 8 (JDa). An unusually heavy flight of Solitary Sandpipers during the first 2 weeks of May was noted by observers from all parts of the Region. Cutler found 150+ in various locations in s. Delaware May 7 and considers this his best season ever for the species. Other concentrations included 40 at Black River W.M.A., N.J., May 7 (DHa) and 40 at Great Swamp N.W.R., N.J., May 4 & 8 (RKa, WJB). Most of the Solitaries had departed by the middle of May.

A White-rumped Sandpiper was at J.B.W.R., on the record-early date of Apr. 23 (THD, K. Ray) and an exceptional spring concentration of 100+ was at Slaughter Beach, Del., May 23 (WJW). A Curlew Sandpiper was at Henlopen S.P., May 14 (JCM, DAC) and another at Brig., the same day (WJB, DS *et al.*) A different bird was at Brig., May 16 (JDa, RM), and a final one was there May 25 (JDa). The only godwit was a Marbled flying over Forest P., Queens Co., May 22 (J. Ash).

Ten Ruffs for the season was an average total; Pedricktown led the way as usual with four, including two on the early date of Mar. 12 (RKa, m.ob.). Bombay Hook had one Apr. 23 (P. O'Brien), and a full-plumaged male was at Orient, L.I., May 22 (J. & C. Hastings), but most noteworthy was a female at a flooded field near Allentown, Pa., May

14-15 (BLM, SS). An Am. Avocet at Brig., May 12 16 (JDa, m.ob) provided an unusual spring record n. of Bombay Hook, where numbers appeared to be down (DAC).

Some good concentrations of Red Phalarope were noted, with 100 seen from a ship 180 mi e. of New Jersey Apr. 13 (TK). A storm with strong E winds the next few days brought 25 to the New Jersey coast at Avon Apr. 15 (R. Ditch) and 60+ to Jones Beach, L.I., Apr. 18 (m.ob.), plus scattered singles elsewhere. Only seven Wilson's Phalaropes were reported, the most noteworthy being one in Dutchess County, N.Y., May 14 (J & MK). Five N. Phalaropes were at Jones Beach Apr. 18 (AJL), while singles were inland at Holmdel, N.J., Apr. 18-20, with a Red Phalarope (BFfe) and at Nazareth, Pa., May 15 (BSi).



Wilson's Phalarope, Beach Haven, N.J., May 7, 1983. Photo/M. Kalbach.

**JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS** — The pelagic trip to the Hudson Canyon on May 28 produced five Pomarine and one ad. Long-tailed jaegers, plus two S. Polar Skuas and one skua that was probably also S. Polar (m.ob.). A late Glaucous Gull was at Henlopen S. P. in mid-April (WWF), and another was seen off and on at Cape May throughout the period. Lingering Iceland Gulls included one each at Rehoboth, Del., in mid-April, Henlopen to May 10 (WWF) and Cape May, May 27 (JDa). Lesser Black-backed Gulls were well represented with two in Westchester County, N.Y. in March (TWB, C. Leff) and six in New Jersey, the latest being one at N. Arlington May 3 (JDo) and another at Cape May May 13 (PD, B. Clark).

Five Black-headed Gulls and three Little Gulls were a slight improvement over last year. One ad. Black-headed was at J.B.W.R., May 28 (PL, TWB) and another was at Brig., May 8 (AB, KB); the other three were in Brooklyn and Jersey City in March. Two ad. Little Gulls were at Kitts Hammock, Del., May 8 (DAC), and an immature was at the traditional S. Amboy, N.J., location May 17 (JDo); these numbers are still far short of the concentrations of the previous decade.

The gull of the season was the **Sabine's Gull**, still in adult winter plumage, blown into Henlopen S. P. by strong E winds May 16. Discovered feeding on the beach by Frech and photographed later that day by Fintel, this first for Delaware could not be found after that date (WWF, BFi).

The D.V.O.C./Umer Club pelagic trip encountered at least two Arctic Terns (1 adult, 1 immature) May 28, plus a Royal Tern 60 mi from shore. A Roseate Tern was spotted among a flock of 800 Com. Terns at Holgate, N.J., May 6 (DHa), and another was at Indian R. Inlet, Del., May 13 (M. Rusch); this species is seldom encountered away from its Long Island breeding colonies. Rivaling the pelagic Royal Tern for dislocation was one 10 mi from the sea at Lakehurst, N.J., Apr. 20 (B. Conn). An ad. Sandwich Tern at S. Cape May May 30 was consolation for some of those who search in vain for kites.

Black Terns were in somewhat better numbers this year than in the recent past, but the prize of the season was New Jersey's first **White-winged Black Tern**, an adult in breeding plumage at S. Cape May May 10 for a brief visit (DS). What was surely the same bird was seen at Sandy Hook exactly one week later May 17 (JDo), but was not detected anywhere in between nor could it be found thereafter. A pelagic trip out of Cape May Mar. 5 located two Razorbills about 15 mi out. Reports of cuckoos were much reduced from those of the past few years, perhaps in response to the sharp decline in gypsy moth populations. A Black-billed Cuckoo at Gladstone, N.J., Apr. 17 was very early, however (RC). Snowy Owls lingered past the winter season at Jersey City, N.J., Mar. 5-7 (RKa *et al.*) and at Broad Channel, near J. B. W. R., Mar. 20 (D. Riepe). Three Long-eared Owls at Peace Valley P., Bucks Co., Pa., in mid-April represent potential breeders (A & JM).

Short-eared Owls were reported in May from Muddy Run, Lancaster

Co Pa (RMS) and from the Philadelphia Airport (B & FH) the latter a known breeding location. A tape recording of a calling Saw-whet Owl in Sullivan County, N.Y. in May provided positive evidence of their presence in that area during the breeding season.

A Chuck-will's-widow at the Schuylkill Valley Nature Center in Philadelphia Apr. 28, furnished a rare local record (D. James). On Long Island, this increasing species was at 5 sites from Oak Beach to Manorville (ROP, GSR *et al.*). Common Nighthawks came N very early on the s.w. surge of late April: one was at Great Swamp N. W. R., N. J., Apr. 29 (WJB) and another at Wilkes-Barre, Pa., May 1 (WR). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Gladstone, N.J., Apr. 17 was also unseasonably early (RC).

A Pileated Woodpecker at Garvie's Pt., Nassau Co., Long Island May 14 was well out of range (R. Cioffi). Red-headed Woodpecker, a regionally threatened species, was reported from a number of new locations. Three pairs near Lewes, Del., apparently represent an increased breeding population in an area where human activities have created suitable habitat (WWF, BFi). A ♂ **Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker** was at an estate in Princeton, N.J., Apr. 5 (M. A. Mathers). After a 3-day absence, it reappeared and entertained a hastily assembled mob of birders for 3 hours (RJB, ph. T. Southerland); despite much searching, it was not seen again.



Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Princeton, N.J., Apr. 9, 1983. Photo/T. Southerland.

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES** — An E. Kingbird arrived at Montauk Pt., on the incredibly early date of Mar. 28. Completely exhausted from fighting strong winds, the bird could be approached to within a few feet (K. Ward). Continuing the recent pattern of spring records, there were two **Scissor-tailed Flycatchers**. One flew by the Sandy Hook hawk watch Apr. 30 (HL) and another was a fly-by at Gilgo, Long Island May 31 (ROP). The late April warm front brought a record early E. Wood Pewee to Tallman Mt., Piermont, N.Y., Apr. 29 (RFD); another was farther n. at Tamarack, Dutchess Co., May 1 (J & MK). The species was common in New Jersey by about May 10, more than a week ahead of schedule. Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported in above-average numbers, and several were quite early: one at Bombay Hook May 7 (*vide* DAC), one near Hawk Mt., May 8 (SB, B. Andres), and a third at Cape May May 8 (M. Gustafson).

A tremendous flight of swallows was widely noted May 10-12, including hundreds of the normally uncommon Cliff Swallow. Common Raven reports continue to increase; the species is expanding into the lowlands in n.e. Pennsylvania (WR), and four were noted in migration at Baer Rocks (KK). Fish Crows appear to be spreading into many inland locations away from the major rivers, especially in New Jersey. They were found at 2 Sullivan County, N.Y., locations, including six at Summitville May 14, more than 20 mi from the Delaware R. (B. Belanger, V. Freer).

The traditional pair of Brown-headed Nuthatches at Henlopen Acres, Del., was displaced from the boat dock piling nest when the old piling was replaced with a new one. Fortunately, they relocated to a nearby piling and were busy feeding young May 27 (WWF). An exciting find was the presence of four more birds May 17 at Redden State Forest, just 15 mi w., in suitable breeding habitat (ER, WC). Also present in

Redden State Forest May 7, were three Brown Creepers, also potential nesters (R R West) Although this species has expanded its breeding range S during the past 20 years to include all of New Jersey and s.e. Pennsylvania, it is not known to nest in Delaware (*vide* DAC).

Winter Wren went almost unreported; although a few were reported on nesting territories late in the season from the n. part of the Region, this species has become a very uncommon migrant. Even birders who are in the field every weekend are likely to miss it in the spring. Carolina Wren, on the other hand, is recovering nicely from the devastating winters of the late 1970s and 1980-81. A migrant Short-billed Marsh Wren at a meadow in the Catskills Mts. was the only one reported (DN).

The ♂ Varied Thrush reported from Hamilton Square, Mercer Co., N.J., during the winter was last seen Apr. 12 (T. Bentley). The late April warm front produced many Veeries, an early Swainson's Thrush at Cape May Apr. 26 (PD), and a Gray-cheeked Thrush at Palisades, Rockland Co., N.Y., Apr. 27 (VS), possibly a record early date for the latter species New York. Three Loggerhead Shrikes were noted for the season; the wintering bird at Rosedale Park, Mercer Co., N.J., stayed until Mar. 26 (RJB), one was seen near Paulsboro, N.J., Mar. 16 (J. Stasz), another was at Beach Haven, Luzerne Co., Pa., Apr. 21-23 (DG).

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — A record early Red-eyed Vireo was at Forest P., Queens Co., Apr. 15 (PB). Philadelphia Vireo reports were well above average for this rare spring migrant. A singing bird was studied for one-half hour at Blauvelt, Rockland Co., N.Y., on the early date of Apr. 30 (DD), another fallout of the late April warm front. Another bird was at nearby S. Nyack May 19 (RFD); these two sightings are only the second and third spring records known to Deed in his 48 years of covering the local area. Reid had single Philadelphia Vireos at Wilkes-Barre, Pa., on May 14 & 27, and received reports without details of 3 other sightings in n.e. Pennsylvania. New Jersey's only record was of a bird at Sandy Hook May 22-23 (JDo).

The spring warbler migration was exceptional, especially in the central part of the Region and along the New Jersey coast; it was at best only average in the n. part, on Long Island and in s. Delaware. The oft-cited warm front of late April brought a big wave of migrant warblers, many of them very early; in May, a series of cold fronts produced much precipitation, but also grounded many birds, for one of the best shows in years. A ♂ Prothonotary Warbler was found dead at Manahawkin, N.J., on the extremely early date of Mar. 22 (*vide* PD). Equally surprising was another, very much alive, at Babylon, N.Y., Mar. 27-Apr. 2 (P & BH). Thirteen other individuals were reported from Long Island and Westchester County Apr. 29 through May. A ♂ and ♀ Prothonotary were at Wilkes-Barre Apr. 30-May 10, but could not seem to get together (MBI, WR). The increasing number of reports from n.e. Pennsylvania lead local observers to hope for an unprecedented breeding record.

Among the many species of warblers that appeared during the last few days of April or May 1, were: Worm-eating, Blue-winged, Tennessee (early), Orange-crowned, Nashville, N. Parula, Yellow, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Cerulean, Blackburnian, Blackpoll (very early), Prairie, Ovenbird, N. Waterthrush, Com. Yellowthroat, and Am. Redstart. Orange-crowned Warblers continue to put in a good spring showing with six this year, five in New Jersey and one in Central P., New York City. A N. Parula was carrying nesting material at Bull's I., Hunterdon Co., N.J., Apr. 30 (RKA). Although this species has been noted here and at a variety of other locations in New Jersey in recent summers, it has not been proven to nest since the 1950s, following the disappearance of *Usnea* lichen.

Yellow-throated Warblers returned to their Bull's I. breeding grounds Apr. 23 (WJB, JB, BL), and six were reported from the New York City area Apr. 23-May 28 (*vide* THD). Two Kentucky Warblers at Wapwallopen, Luzerne Co., Pa., in May were far from any known nesting areas (DG); one lingered into July. Good numbers of Mourning Warblers were reported, with 20+ in New Jersey in late May; the one-day prize was five at Princeton May 30 (EB, GW).

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS** — Bobolinks were even more abundant than last year, but E. Meadowlarks continue to be scarce or absent from some former breeding areas. A singing **Western Meadowlark** at Stewart Airport, Newburgh, N.Y., May 31 (BSe) was found at the same place and date as last year (not previously reported in AB).

For the first spring in many years, not a single Yellow-headed Blackbird report was received. Two ♂ Boat-tailed Grackles at J B W R, Apr. 30-May 28, were seen to fly on occasion to nearby Ruffle Bar, where they may have been nesting (THD).

During the past decade, Summer Tanagers have pushed the n. limit of their breeding range from Delaware to c. New Jersey, and appear to be expanding farther N. In addition to numerous reports from n. New Jersey this spring, there was one from Dingman's Ferry in n.e. Pennsylvania (D. Dister), and at least 30 sightings from the New York City area (*vide* THD, JAD). A similar story holds for Blue Grosbeak, which is gradually spreading N through s.e. Pennsylvania and c. New Jersey, and has bred once on Staten I. and for a number of years at N. Arlington, Hudson Co., N.J. Two birds in Warren County, N.J., in May were well away from any known breeding areas (D. Blakeslee, T. Smolko). Eleven in the New York City-Long Island area Apr. 23-May 8 were more than usual (*vide* THD).

It was a very good spring for Painted Buntings, with a male at a Staten I. feeder May 2 (W. & N. Siebenheller, m.ob.), another at Cape May May 11 (KB *et al.*), and a female in a Marlboro, N.J., backyard May 22 (*vide* RKA). Five Dickcissels were a bit more than last year: three were in New York at Clinton Corners, Dutchess Co., Apr. 16-24 (J. & C. Daley), at Gilgo Beach Apr. 27 (B & PH) and at Jones Beach May 8 (A. Wollin); two were in New Jersey at Linwood Mar. 19 (JDa), and at Lawrence Harbor Apr. 27 (JDo). A **European Goldfinch** at a Berwyn, Pennsylvania feeder, Mar. 25-June 24, provided only the second record for that state (R. McQuiston). The **European Siskin** reported from Bloomfield, N.J., during February, appeared at a feeder in nearby Verona in early March, but stayed only a few days (E. Schneider). The origins of both of these exotic finches remain uncertain.

Grasshopper Sparrows were reported in good numbers from all areas where they nest; most impressive was a population of 40+ at the FAA Tech Center near Atlantic City, N.J. (JDa). Henslow's Sparrows were back at the Galesville, N.Y., airport in May (JPT) and at the Dallas, Pa., breeding site Apr. 30-mid-May, but they did not stay at the latter location (WR). A new site was discovered near Huntsville, Luzerne Co., Pa., in early May, where birds were still present during the summer (WR).

The Lark Sparrow that wintered at Cinnaminson, N.J., was last noted Mar. 19 (J. Taylor), while the imm. **Golden-crowned Sparrow** at a Warren County, N.J. feeder lingered to Apr. 23 (M. & C. Read). Up to eight Snow Buntings stayed at Cape May through most of March, and gradually assumed breeding plumage (PD, JDa).

**CORRIGENDUM** — Several errors appeared in the Autumn, 1982 report: The proportion of adults to immature Goshawks at Bake Oven Knob should read 67% adults, not 67% immatures. The number of Golden Eagles at Bake Oven Knob was 39, not 36 (data from American Hawkwatcher, December, 1982). The 300 plovers at Jenkins Sound, Cape May Co., N.J., Nov. 14 were Black-bellied Plovers not Am Golden Plovers.

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## MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

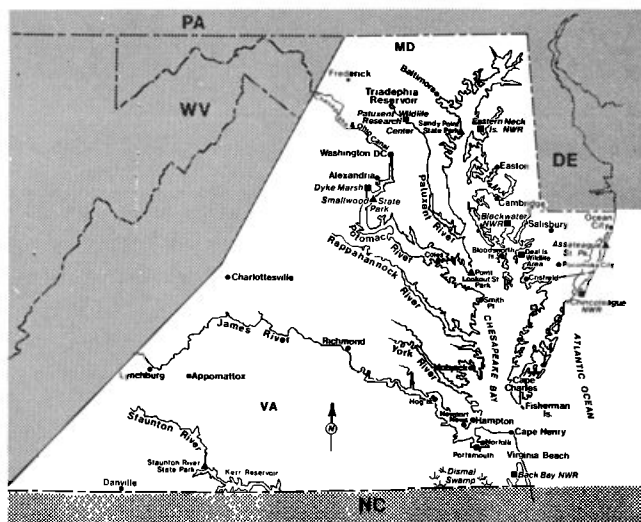
/Henry T. Armistead

Migration got off to an early start in the first half of March but in late March and most of April unseasonably cool weather returned which, combined with frequent and heavy rains put a damper on birding for many. Consequently, although there were some hearteningly early arrivals in March, many warm weather birds that appear in late April, such as Great Crested Flycatcher, Wood Thrush and Red-eyed Vireo, were late and few. Much of the precipitation happened on weekends, resulting in sparse reporting. For the second straight year swallows and flycatchers seemed down but there were some record pelagic and raptor totals, good gulls and a warbler migration that for many was the best in years. Deviation from normal of temperature: March +2.5°F, April -2.7°, May -1.4°; precipitation: March +1.7 inches, April +3.1 inches, May +0.1 inches. There were more than the usual number of lingering birds in May such as Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Hermit Thrushes, Water Pipits, Cedar Waxwings, and other species often hard to find in this month.

Abbreviations: Adventure, Adventure Sanctuary near Potomac, Montgomery Co., Md.; Balt., Baltimore; the Bay, Chesapeake Bay; Chinc., Chincoteague N.W.R., Va.; Craney, Craney Island Disposal Area, Portsmouth, Va.; D.C., Washington, D.C.; F.S.P., Ft. Smallwood Park, Anne Arundel Co., Md.; + (with initials), *et al.*; italicized data indicates birds were banded.

**LOONS THROUGH IBISES** — The best count of Com. Loons was 175 at Kent I., Md., Apr. 28 (JG). Also of interest were 31 in migration over the Piedmont at Cockeysville n. of Balt., Apr. 23 (RFR) and three late ones at Hart and Miller Is., e. of Balt., May 30 (RFR+). More late Red-throated Loons were seen than usual with singles at Ocean City May 14 (RFR), York R., Va., May 15 (BW), Craney May 27 (TRW) and Lewisetta, Va., May 28 (FRS). Always scarce, single Red-necked Grebes only were present Mar. 26 at Swift Creek Res., w. of Richmond (FRS) and Ocean City (LB, *fide* CPW). Horned Grebe continues to be the subject of concern in spite of a count of 544 near Bellevue, Md., Apr. 17 (HTA, MEA) but this is a prime staging area for them and this total reflects a strenuous effort using a telescope with the Bay like glass at the peak of their migration. Maryland's sixth and seventh Eared Grebes were at F.S.P., Apr. 28 in company with 65 Horned Grebes (HLW, WK) and N. Beach, Calvert Co., Apr. 23-30 in company with a locally uncommon Red-throated Loon and numerous Horneds (WKS, JAG+). Pied-billed Grebe also seems low with a regional high of but 22 at Chinc., Apr. 10-16 (REW). Naveen's navy made 6 pelagic trips out of Ocean City Apr. 23-May 21, a fine concentration of sea birding for such a short period. Highlights included a fine count of 38 N. Fulmars May 14 plus two late ones May 21 and an early Cory's Shearwater. Sooty Shearwaters were seen on 5 of the trips with a high of 31 on Apr. 30. A Manx Shearwater was seen Apr. 23. Wilson's Storm-Petrels first appeared Apr. 28 (43) and 5741 were estimated May 14, a record regional count. This species is difficult to count but this figure is nevertheless considered reasonable. From the numbers reported in the Region Leach's Storm-Petrel seems almost as rare as Manx Shearwater but six were found May 14 and three May 21.

Two White Pelicans frequented Chinc., Mar. 25-Apr. 21 (JW, CPW,



REW+), marking the 19th consecutive reporting period during which they have been seen. As recently as 1978 there were only 11 regional records, 7 of these in the 19th Century. At Yorktown, Va. "several" Brown Pelicans were reported Mar. 23 (E & NK, *fide* BW) and two were at Ocean City May 5 (H & BC). Off Ocean City Gannets peaked at 346 Apr. 23 but petered off to eight by May 14 (RN+). An unprecedented number penetrated the Maryland part of the Bay in late March with 20 e. of Smith I., Mar. 20 (JH, *fide* HLW), five at the Annapolis Bay bridge Mar. 27 (WK), 12 between Deal and Tilghman Is., Mar. 28 (WGK), and 22 at Pt. Lookout, 29 at Cove Pt., and 18 at Holland Pt., Mar. 27 (HLW, DM), some of the birds at the last 3 locations undoubtedly involving duplicates. Double-crested Cormorant continues to do fine with a maximum of 5000 at Yorktown Apr. 11 (BT, *fide* BW) and good local counts of 168 at Hopewell May 19 (FRS, HCO), 119 in Dorchester County, Md., May 7 (HTA) and 25 in D.C., Apr. 22 (DC). Maryland's sixth and seventh Anhinga records were of singles at Berlin, Md., May 7-8 (MH, FB, ph., *fide* CRV) and Sandy Point S. P., May 24 (WK). Prior to 1978 the only state records were of two undated specimens from the 1800s. Herons were underreported, especially from their coastal strongholds although Buckalew estimated 2000 pairs in colonies near the Chinc. causeway. On the lower Susquehanna R., below Conowingo Dam 33 Great Blue Herons and 52 Black-crowned Night Herons were counted May 27 (RMS), interesting totals for what is essentially a Piedmont locality. The first Cattle Egrets were in Caroline County, Md. (SW, *fide* AJF) and Richmond (FRS), both Mar. 19, and at Hopewell 45 nests with eggs were discovered May 19, the earliest nesting record for Virginia (FRS, HCO). A Louisiana Heron, scarce that far up the Bay, was in Black Marsh e. of Balt., May 30 (RFR+). At the National Zoo in D.C., 13 wild Black-crowned Night Herons, with 3 nests, were seen directly outside of an enclosure with captive ones Apr. 27 (DC, ph.). At Elliott I., Md., five Am. Bitterns were calling Mar. 26 (HTA) and late (breeding?) ones were detected at Fairfax County, Va., May 29 (JMA) and Greensboro, Caroline Co., Md., May 13 (MWH, *fide* AJF). The first Glossy Ibis was at Lower Machodoc Cr., Westmoreland Co., Va., Mar. 17 (JEJ, SJ).

**WATERFOWL** — At Chinc, 20 young Mute Swans and 19 young Canada Geese were seen May 1-7 (REW) and a White-fronted Goose, present since winter, lingered in company with a Snow Goose until May 2 (CPW). Notable highs here included 385 N. Shovelers Feb. 27-Mar. 5, 1300 Black Ducks Mar. 13-19, 1273 Gadwalls and 757 Am. Wigeon Mar. 20-26, 14 Blue Geese Mar. 27-Apr. 2 and 1050 Green-winged Teal Apr. 3-9 (REW). Inland foraging Snow Geese numbered 4000 on Apr. 4 at Hobbs, Caroline Co., Md. (RBF, *vide* AJF) and n. of there at Galena, Kent Co., 50 Blue Geese Apr. 7 was a notably high total for the upper Eastern Shore (JMA), 375 Blues were at Blackwater Ref., Mar. 13 (HTA). At Remington Farms, Kent Co., Md., 63 N. Shovelers was an excellent count Apr. 10 and 70 were there Apr. 15 (JG). Ring-necked Ducks numbered 175 at Piney Run P., Carroll Co., Md., Mar. 13 (RFR) and four extremely late ones were at Denton, Md., May 29 (MWH, *vide* AJF). Notable diver highs included 1250 Canvasbacks at Rt. 301 Potomac R. bridge, Md., Mar. 21 (WSP), 4500 Lesser Scaup, Monroe Bay, Westmoreland Co., Va., Mar. 4 (JEJ, SJ), 1500 Oldsquaws, Love Pt., Md., Apr. 5 (JAG) and 1100 Ruddy Ducks at Craney Mar. 30 (TRW). Interesting inland or "up river" records were of 15 Greater Scaup at Nokesville, Va., on the Piedmont Apr. 12 (KB), a late single Oldsquaw and Red-breasted Merganser at Hart and Miller Is., May 30 (RFR +), four Black Scoters at Ft. Hunt, Va., s. of D.C., May 3 (JMA) and at Mt. Vernon, Va., 150 Com. Mergansers Mar. 30 and 89 Red-breasteds Apr. 26 (JMA). Jetty ducks were almost missed except for a Com. Eider on Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Va., Mar. 4 (KHW, DP) and two King Eiders at Ocean City Mar. 20 (BY, *vide* CPW).

**VULTURES THROUGH RAILS** — Wierenga continues monitoring the hawk flights at Ft. Smallwood where 4989 raptors were counted on 29 days in only 121 hours or > 41 birds/hour. More observers are needed at this small, semi-urban park on the edge of the Bay s. of Balt. Unusually high season/day totals included 1003 Turkey Vultures (194 in < 2 hours Mar. 21, WK), 1210 Sharp-shinned Hawks (below average), 263 Cooper's Hawks (41 on Apr. 11), 231 Red-tailed Hawks, 224 Red-shouldered Hawks (81 on Apr. 14), 149 Marsh Hawks (59 on Apr. 11), 466 Ospreys (158 on Apr. 11), 61 Merlin (including an extremely early one Mar. 20, WK; 51 on Apr. 26, a record Maryland count) and 854 Am. Kestrels (334 on Apr. 11). Northwest winds seem to produce the best spring flights here (HLW). A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was reported from Trappe, Talbot Co., Md., May 3 (AWW, *vide* CPW). In the Patuxent R. area, Md., Martin found nesting Red-shouldered Hawks to have the second worst breeding success since 1971, when he began studying them, with < one young fledged/nest. A dark-phase Rough-legged Hawk at Greensboro, Caroline Co., Md., May 7 provided a record late state date (MWH, *vide* AJF).

In Dorchester County, Md., Mar. 26 a Golden Eagle, 25 Bald Eagles and 40 Marsh Hawks were seen (HTA). The eagle roost e. of Hopewell, Va., had six imm. Balds Mar. 12 but by May 19 eight adults and 21 immatures were in the area (FRS, HCO). Production of Balds in the Bay area continues on the upswing: "In 1983 there were 107 active nests in Virginia and Maryland, 6 more than in 1982. Of these, 61 nests hatched 114 young, four of which died before fledging and 93 were banded." (JMA) This is the 4th year in a row of significant increases in production of Bald Eagles. An active Osprey nest was found at the Kerr Res., on the North Carolina/Virginia border, the first breeding record for the Virginia Piedmont (MAB, *vide* FRS, no date). On the lower Susquehanna R., Schutsky noted 35 in migration Apr. 13 and 40 on Apr. 20. A pair of "Cornell" Peregrine Falcons materialized at the Annapolis Bay bridge and attempted (unsuccessfully) to breed there, apparently attracted by the many hundreds of Rock Doves living in the bridge (HLW, RFR). King Rail maintains a furtive presence on the Virginia Piedmont with singles at Dulles airport w. of D.C., May 14 (DFA) and Nokesville May 30 (KB). A single Virginia Rail at Harford Glen, Harford Co., Md., May 13 was odd for this inland site (RFR). In Dorchester County 103 were heard May 7 and 105 on May 14 along with seven King, seven Clapper, and 15 Black rails plus two Com. Gallinules, the product of a 190 mi., 21-hour route with 244 stops (HTA, FLP, CP, JJM). Two Com. Gallinules were in D.C., May 26 (DC) and single late Am. Coots were at Ocean City May 14 (RFR) and Jug Bay, upper Patuxent R., Md., May 17 (JAG).

**SHOREBIRDS** — As usual Chinc dominates the shorebird lineup not just by virtue of its being the superior regional wader locality but also because it continues to be the only such place regularly censused. Wilds conducted 9 counts here Mar. 24-May 27, all but one of these being, as usual, 2-day efforts. Her description states: "Chincoteague had a relatively normal spring despite all the rain." Exceptionally low numbers of Lesser Yellowlegs, White-rumped Sandpipers and Short-billed Dowitchers were seen. No Wilson's Plovers, Am. Golden Plovers, Com. Snipe, Pectoral Sandpipers, Long-billed Dowitchers, W. Sandpipers or Wilson's Phalaropes were noted, hardly surprising for most of these. Highs were: Am. Oystercatcher 42, Mar. 24; Killdeer 2 (!) Apr. 7-8; Greater Yellowlegs 16 (!), Apr. 21-22; Piping Plover 30, Solitary Sandpiper 2, Lesser Yellowlegs 6 (!), May 5-6; Semipalmated Plover 1191, Whimbrel 120, White-rumped Sandpiper 11, Least Sandpiper 597, Short-billed Dowitcher 879, May 13-14; Marbled Godwit 1, Curlew Sandpiper 1, May 18; Ruddy Turnstone 4472, Spotted Sandpiper 6, Red Knot 4089, Dunlin 2492, Stilt Sandpiper 3, Sanderling 5063 May 19-20; Black-bellied Plover 134, Willet 95, Semipalmated Sandpiper 8152, Black-necked Stilt one May 26-27 (CPW). The aforementioned Curlew Sandpiper was present May 16-18 (JPM, CPW) and the Black-necked Stilt May 24-June 2 (KHW, DP, CPW). Wilds mentions that species especially dependent on horseshoe crabs, which concentrate along Tom's Cove, as difficult to census accurately because they are so often disturbed by people. Also because of the late full moon May 26, which coincides with the peak of egg laying by crabs, the peak of some shorebirds was somewhat late. Shorebirds attracted to the crab eggs are turnstones, knots, Dunlin, Semipalmated Sandpipers, and Sanderlings. This crab-shorebird tie happens on a much grander scale farther n. on Delaware Bay. In Dorchester County, Md., 70 Semipalmated Plovers was a record county count May 14 (HTA +). Up the Bay a Piping Plover at Poquoson R., Va., May 10 was notable (WSP). Much farther up 20 Ruddy Turnstones, a Whimbrel, a White-rumped Sandpiper, 15 Dunlin and a Sanderling at Hart and Miller Is., e. of Balt., were exciting finds May 30 at this nearly inland spot, primarily created by dredge spoils (RFR, HLW +). At Presquille N.W.R., near Hopewell, Va., a total of 200 Com. Snipe provided nearly a record state count Mar. 28 (WSP).

Three Whimbrel at Blackwater May 29 were the first for this refuge (MEA, HTA) and a white-rumped curlew at Hog I. on the Virginia Eastern Shore Apr. 17 was probably a European race of the Whimbrel rather than a Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)—also European (BTt). Two Upland Sandpipers were at Nokesville May 13 where they are said to nest sparingly (KB) and two others were at Dulles airport the next day (DFA). A very early Solitary Sandpiper was at St. Jerome's Neck, St. Mary's Co., Md., Mar. 30 (EMW). First Pectoral Sandpipers were at Jug Bay Mar. 16 (JAG) and Lilypons, Md., Mar. 26 (DHW). An early Least Sandpiper was at Hopewell Mar. 20 (LGR, MA, *vide* FRS). Rare Piedmont Dunlin included one at Nokesville Apr. 19 (KB) and 12 at Lilypons May 17-20 (DHW) and 500 on May 7 & 14 in Dorchester County were high for the Bay (HTA +). Just received is the record of two Buff-breasted Sandpipers and a late Sandwich Tern on N. Assateague I., Md., Sept. 11, 1982 (FH +). The most remarkable shorebird species sighting of the season was of an **Hudsonian Godwit** at Elliott I., May 15 (RPR, PV), only the fourth regional spring record. The famous Craney Am. Avocet flock consisted of 300 birds Apr. 13 (TRW) but only 147 were there Apr. 28 (RC). At Deal I., four Black-necked Stilts May 15 provided a record Maryland count (CRV +). The only Wilson's Phalarope was one at St. George's Farm, James City Co., Va., May 9-12 (BW). At sea off Ocean City 38 Red and 8 N. phalaropes were observed May 14 but a count of **1001** Reds Apr. 28 (RN +) eclipsed the previous regional high count, 494 on Apr. 27, 1974 (RAR), also off Ocean City.

**JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS** — A Pomarine Jaeger Apr. 30 was unique but two Parasitic Jaegers were seen the same day plus two on May 7 and another May 14 out from Ocean City (RN +). First year Glaucous Gull singles were at Back R. Sewage Treatment Plant, Balt., Mar. 6 (RFR, HTA), in D.C., Mar. 22 (DC) and at F.S.P., Apr. 18 (HLW). Single imm. Iceland Gulls were seen at Kingsmill, Williamsburg, Va., Apr. 19+ (TA, BW, ph.) and Ocean City Mar. 20 (BY, *vide* CPW). But the landfill at Laytonsville, Montgomery Co., Md., stole the gull honors with these present in the late winter-early spring period three Lesser Black-backed, three Iceland and one Glaucous gulls plus a well-described imm. Thayer's Gull (first-year) Apr. 13 (HLW). Great

Black-backed Gull continues to be seen in numbers that are almost threatening with 400 in a small stretch of the lower Susquehanna R., Mar 6 (MEA, HTA) and 1000 along a 6.6 mi stretch here the next day in league with 2750 Herring Gulls (RMS). These Black-backed declined until only four remained May 23 and in this same area 13,500 Ring-billed Gulls were seen Mar. 3 and 32 Bonaparte's Gulls Apr. 26 (RMS). On the interior Piedmont 27 Great Black-backed were counted at Laytonsville Feb. 24 (HLW) and at inland Denton, Md., ten were seen Mar. 7 (MWH, *vide* AJF). Lesser Black-backed Gulls were sighted at fewer places than in recent seasons but up to two wintered at Nokesville, one until Mar. 22 (KB+), and adult was at Chinc., Apr. 2 (JLW, ph) and one at Hooper's I., Mar. 26 was new for Dorchester Co., Md. (HTA). The Chinc. imm. Black-headed Gull that wintered in the parking lot was last seen May 18 (CPW+, "had to throw the crackers away from the car or you couldn't see the bird." RFR). Other singles were reported at sea off Ocean City Mar. 5 (GR), at Back R., e. of Balt., Apr. 10 (BY, *vide* CPW) and in D.C., Apr. 11 (DC), a better than average showing. An imm. Little Gull at Hart and Miller Is., May 30 was unique (RFR+) but honors for fanciest gull go to a first-summer Sabine's Gull 47 mi off Ocean City Apr. 28, only the fifth record for Maryland (RN+). An Arctic Tern was seen at sea e. of Ocean City May 21 (RN+). Eleven Least Tern nests were found at Hart and Miller Is., May 30 (RFR+), undoubtedly the northernmost Bay colony, and 700 birds were present at the big Grandview Beach, Hampton, Va., colony in late May (BW), the Region's largest. The first Royal Terns were seen Mar. 19 at Hampton Roads (RC) and by Mar. 30 there were 85 at Craney (TRW). Scott *et al.*, had 44 Caspian Terns at Hopewell Apr. 23 and 20 were at Hart and Miller Is., May 30 (RFR+). Two Black Terns were on the lower Susquehanna R., May 13 & 27 (RMS) the only other reports being of singles at several coastal and Maryland Piedmont localities (v.o.)

**OWLS THROUGH SHRIKES** — Four Long-eared Owls lingered into the first week of April at Nokesville (KB) and one was reported at Trappe, Md., May 7 (DMt). Six Short-eared Owls were at Elliott I., Mar 26 (HTA) and two in migration with hawks at F.S.P., Apr. 11 (HLW). The sole Saw-whet Owl was at Hampton Mar. 21 (TA, TK, BW, m.ob., ph.). An early Whip-poor-will was in Dismal Swamp N.W.R., Mar. 29 (RC+) and 39 were reported from Loudoun County, Va., May 14 (DFA). Earlyish were a Chimney Swift at Richmond Mar. 31 (PB, *vide* FRS) and Ruby-throated Hummingbird in Queen Anne's County, Md., Apr. 10 (WR, *vide* AJF). Migrating woodpeckers at F.S.P. included a Pileated Apr. 5 and four Red-headed's Apr. 28 (HLW). Red-headed's seem to be enjoying a slight boom (v.o.). More than the usual number of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers lingered into the first week in May (v.o.). Most flycatchers seemed to be both late and in low numbers as in 1982 (FRS, HTA, RFR). Ten Willow Flycatchers were in the Dulles airport area May 19 where they are common breeders (MWB). Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen at 4 Piedmont localities May 14-25, a typical showing by this scarce species (v.o.). As in 1982 swallows were late and in poor supply (v.o.) although these early ones were noted: Rough-winged Swallow at Richmond Mar. 21 (PB, *vide* FRS), a Barn Swallow at Blackwater Mar. 26 (HTA) and Purple Martin Mar 16 at Jug Bay (JAG). At St. Mary's County Watershed, Md., 1000 Tree Swallows Mar. 30 was a high spring count (EMW). Several recent Com Raven reports, all unconfirmed, from localities near the edge of the Piedmont/coastal plain have been omitted in the interests of discretion but one seen Mar. 24-Apr. 3 in a quarry in n.e. Goochland County, Va., only 11 mi n.w. of Richmond is without blemish (RD, FRS). Two others were reported near Dumfries, Va., close to the Potomac R., s. of D.C., Mar. 14 (MCy, *vide* CPW). Ravens are increasing in the e. United States and attempts should be made to confirm sightings on or near the coastal plain.

After a second straight winter of near absence small numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches materialized, mostly in early May (v.o.). The only Short-billed Marsh Wren report was one at Elliott I., May 14 (HTA+). At Adventure 207 Gray Catbirds were banded, the second highest spring total here in 11 years, with a peak of 19 on May 12 (MD). The thrush migration was good with more than the usual number of Hermit Thrushes lingering into May including an extremely late individual at Adventure May 24 (MD), where record numbers of both Swainson's Thrushes (129) and Veeries (64) were also banded with Swainson's peaking May

24 and Veeries May 13 Eastern Bluebirds continue to increase with preliminary results indicating a good breeding season (DK, RFR, JM, EP, JAG). The first Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was at Richmond Mar. 21 (RHP, *vide* FRS). Two hundred Water Pipits were at New Design Rd., Montgomery Co., Md., Mar. 26 (EMW). The erratic Cedar Waxwing was abundant with flocks still wandering around Piedmont areas in early June (RFR, PN, FH) and counts such as 100 in D.C., May 18 (DC) and 56 in lower Dorchester County on the s. Eastern Shore May 14 (FLP+) were representative. A nest of the declining Loggerhead Shrike was found at Lilypons Apr. 17+ (DHW).

**VIREOS AND WARBLERS** — Just received is a record of a Solitary Vireo in Dismal Swamp Jan. 16, 1983 (MC, *vide* RC). The only Philadelphia Vireo was in Kent County, Md., May 7 (FLP). Most observers found the warbler flight better than usual. One of the best gauges of this is the banding operation at Adventure where netting was continuous Apr. 16-May 31 (except Apr. 24 & May 16). Here 1997 birds of 88 species were captured in 14,645 net hours including 26 warbler species with record numbers of Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler and Com. Yellowthroat (MD). Thirteen Mourning Warblers were caught on 7 dates beginning May 17 with three each May 24 & 31. One hundred five N. Waterthrushes were banded with a peak of 15 on May 15. Most unusual was a Swainson's Warbler at St. Timothy's School, Stevenson, Md., n. of Balt., May 24-27+ (BR, RFR, EB, HK+), perhaps the first Maryland record away from its Pocomoke Swamp breeding grounds. Meanley found 21 in Dismal Swamp Apr. 28 and a Golden-winged Warbler there Apr. 26. Tennessee Warblers had a good spring with counts such as 50 in D.C., May 18 (DC). Two Orange-crowned Warblers were at Norfolk Mar. 15 (RC). Good Richmond warbler totals were 31 N. Parulas May 4, 59 Blackpolls May 18 and ten N. Waterthrushes May 11 (FRS). Late birds were a ♀ Nashville Warbler at Sandy Spring, Md., May 28 (SM, *vide* JSW), a Magnolia at Back Bay N.W.R., May 28 (TRW) and a Mourning at Arnold, Md., June 6 (WK). Extremely rare here in spring, a ♂ Connecticut Warbler was at Sandy Spring May 21 (SM, SS, *vide* JSW). The majority of other Maryland spring records are prior to 1910.

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS** — Bobolinks drew much commentary owing to their abundance, the highest count being 504 at Startford, Va., May 14 (JEL, SJ). There was an excellent flight of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (RFR, JMA), Scott reporting 21 in Richmond May 4. Early Indigo Buntings were at Jug Bay Apr. 4 (JAG) and Tolchester Beach, Kent Co., Md., Apr. 8 (JG). A ♀ Painted Bunting was at Yorktown Mar. 28-Apr. 6 (TA, BW, m.ob., ph.), for about the 12th Virginia record since 1951. Along New Design Rd., s. of Frederick, Md., a small colony of Dickcissels continues to persist with five or more singing males present in fields shared with Grasshopper, Vesper and two Henslow's sparrows and Bobolinks during most of May (DHW, FH, DC, m.ob.) and five singing Dickcissels were near Nokesville May 29+ (KB+). Northern finches continued to be almost entirely absent except for Purple Finches which were in good numbers (v.o.). A very late Savannah Sparrow was in D.C., May 22 (DC). In a pasture 2 mi s. of Blackstone, Nottoway Co., in the central Virginia Piedmont a Le Conte's Sparrow was photographed at a distance of 5 feet Apr. 30 (JFR, *vide* FRS), for the 10th state record. Five Henslow's Sparrows were at Dulles airport May 19 (MWB, BC) and seven at Elliott I., May 14 (CP+). The Montross, Va., Lark Sparrow was present Feb. 4-Apr. 27 (JEL, SJ). Extremely late were a Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco May 26 and a White-throated Sparrow May 27 at Adventure and 15 Lincoln's Sparrows were here May 5-28 with three banded May 25 (MD). Wolfe found a very tardy White-crowned Sparrow at Back Bay N.W.R., May 28.

**OBSERVERS**—D.F. Abbott, J.M. Abbott, M. Arginteanu, M.E. Armistead, Tom Armour, Ken Bass, Paul Bedell, C.R. Blem, Eirik Blom, Larry Bonham, M.W. Britten, Francis Brueckmann, J.H. Buckalew, M.A. Byrd, Mark Causey (MCy), Michelle Chandler, Ray Chandler, William Clark, Lester Coble, Herbert & Betty Cutler, David Czaplak, Richard Daub, J.W. Dillard, Bob Dixon, Margaret Donnal, H.-J. Feddern, A.J. Fletcher, R.B. Fletcher, R. Fountain, J.A. Greigore, James Gruber, Floyd Hayes, M.W. Hewitt, Robert Hilton, John Hoffman, Mary Humphreys, J.E. Johnson, Sylvia Johnson, Hank Kaestner, Teta Kain, Ed & Norma Katz, Dennis Kirkwood, Wayne

Klockner, Walter Kraus (WKs), W.G. Kucera, Stuart MacClintock, Elwood Martin, J.J. McCann, Kathy McDonough, Brooke Meanley, Don Meritt (DMt), Debbie Mignogno, Mike & Dorothy Mitchell, Jack Mzingo, J.P. Meyers, Ron Naveen, Paul Nistico, Marianna Nuttle, H.C. Olson, F.L. Parks, Elizabeth Peacock, R.H. Peake, Carl Perry, Don Peterson, W.S. Portlock, George Reiger, R.F. Ringler, Wilbur Rittenhouse, L.G. Robinson, Barbara Ross, R.A. Rowlett, R.P. Rus-

sell, Kurt Savoie, R.M. Schutsky, F.R. Scott, Ted Scott, Steve Smith, Byron Swift, Brian Taber, Barry Truitt (BTt), Craig Tufts, Peter Vankevich, C.R. Vaughn, J.L. Walck, D.H. Wallace, K.H. Weber, J.S. Weske, Steve Westre, A.W. White, H.L. Wierenga, C.P. Wilds, Bill Williams, E.M. Wilson, R.E. Wilson, T.R. Wolfe, Jack Wright, Benjamin Yokel.—HENRY T. ARMISTEAD, 28 E. Springfield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19118.

## SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

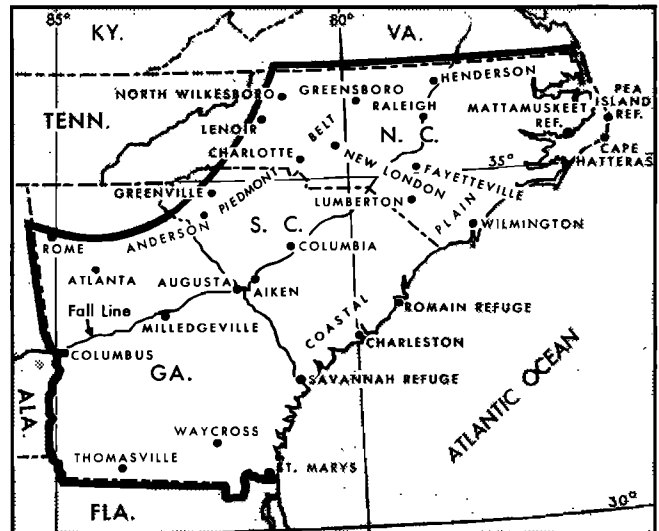
/Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

Spring 1983 was one of the wettest on record in much of the Region, with the heavy rains of February continuing until late April. March and April were unusually cool; so cool, in fact, that as much as 8 inches of snow fell in some areas on March 24, and even more snow occurred on the unheard-of dates of April 18-19! Fortunately, the weather beginning in late April moderated, so that May was rather dry and near normal in temperature. One notable highlight of the weather was a fairly steady flow of SW winds into the Region from approximately April 28 to May 6.

This was one of the better spring migrations in the last 10 years, much more exciting than either of the previous two. Passerine migrants, particularly warblers and thrushes, were more common than usual, although this diversity was due mainly to species variety and not to large waves. Not surprisingly, the overall migration was slightly delayed in March and April, but not by more than several days for most species. The best period for migrants was May 1 to 7, but the migration quickly fizzled a few days later. Shorebirding was rather poor inland owing to high water at most reservoirs, although the unsettled weather did seem to bring more waterbirds (such as waders, gulls, and terns) inland than usual. A large number of exciting birds was found and, as is often the case, a good percentage of these rarities were pelagic species.

**LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS** — Truly remarkable for inland parts of the Region were as many as 1000+ Com. Loons on several dates in late April at L. Lanier in n. Georgia (DP, JP), and a good find on that lake was a Red-throated Loon Mar. 2-8 (JP). Continuing the recent spring sightings of N. Fulmars along the North Carolina coast were a dead individual Mar. 18 at Pine Knoll Shores (JF; \*, N.C.S.M.) and two or three 15 mi e. of Ocracoke in mid-March (LD). Where do these birds winter? Haney spent much of the period Apr. 20-May 15 off the Georgia coast, often as far as 180 mi from land. He noted 30 Audubon's Shearwaters in May; in addition, he had 97 **Black-capped Petrels** May 1-7 and 20 May 13-15, a species almost previously unknown (but certainly expected) in Georgia waters. Haney had a **Leach's Storm-Petrel** 100 mi e. of St. Catherine's I., Ga., May 3, a first for the state, and another was very rare and early off Charleston, S.C., Apr. 17 (DF *et al.*). As many as two White Pelicans, presumably wintering birds, were noted at Charleston most of April (DF, EB). North Carolina's first convincingly described **Brown Booby** was an immature perched on a dune and on the beach at Ocracoke Apr. 25 (MWB). Haney observed two more firsts for Georgia: a **Brown Booby** 75 mi e. of Wassaw I., May 14 and a **Blue-faced Booby** May 3, 150 mi e. of St. Catherine's I. Needless to say, much remains to be learned about pelagic distribution off our coast, especially beyond 50 mi from shore. Migrating **Double-crested Cormorants** are now being seen on practically every sizable inland lake, and the 182 tallied on the Jordan L., N.C., spring count May 8 (*fide* BR) were remarkable; 85 were still present on the lake May 29 (SC, PR). Rather early was a ♀ **Magnificent Frigatebird** May 4 at Kiawah I., S.C. (PL).

**WADERS** — A white-phase Great Blue Heron was rare and early Mar. 5 at Jekyll I., Ga. (TM *et al.*). Other notable waders for inland Georgia were a peak of 829 Cattle Egrets Apr. 22 in a non-breeding roost at Augusta (AW), 12 Cattles in Douglas County Apr. 24 (*fide* TM), and a Louisiana Heron at Commerce Apr. 30-May 1 (JP, JC). Good inland North Carolina totals were nine Great Egrets near Vass May 1 (TH) and a stunning 26 Am. Bitterns at Falls L., on the Durham



count Apr. 24 (*fide* MS). A normal-phase Reddish Egret May 24 at Mt. Pleasant, S.C. (CP, JH) was quite noteworthy, particularly in spring. The nesting colony of Wood Storks in Jenkins County, Ga., is still thriving—150 pairs with eggs were noted Apr. 17 (BH). Infrequently seen inland, single Glossy Ibises were near Whispering Pines, N.C., May 1 (TH, SV, AM) and Augusta Apr. 16-23 (AW); 8-10 were seen in flight near Raleigh, N.C., Apr. 2 (GH). Although regular in the Piedmont July to September, a White Ibis was quite out of season at L. Lanier May 29 (JP). The rarest wader, and exceptionally early Mar. 17, was an ad. Roseate Spoonbill on Cat I., near Georgetown, S.C. (ME).

**WATERFOWL** — A Whistling Swan was very late at Jordan L., Apr. 30 (AC *et al.*), and seldom seen in spring were five Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at Cedar I., N.C., Apr. 26 (JF, TB). The cool weather in April may have been responsible for allowing waterfowl to linger later than usual—a Gadwall at Raleigh May 7 (*fide* RJH), N. Shovelers at Falls L., near Durham, N.C., Apr. 24 (MS) and at Pendergrass, Ga., May 1 (JP), and nine Ring-necked Ducks at 2 places in the Atlanta area May 30 (PB, TM, RM). A pair of Com. Eiders was quite late, resting on the beach at Ocracoke, N.C., Apr. 26 (MWB); also late was a White-winged Scoter May 1 along Bogue Banks, N.C. (LC, JF). The only inland scoter was a ♀ Surf at Sweetwater Creek S.P., Ga., Mar. 19-Apr. 12 (D & PM *et al.*), for a first record for the Atlanta area. April and May sightings of Com. Mergansers in the Region often create editorial headaches, as this rarity has generally departed by mid-March. Of the several reports during this time span, three at Falls L., Apr. 24 might be correct, but no descriptions were provided. Good inland Red-breasted Merganser tallies were 18 males at Sweetwater Creek S.P., Mar. 27 and 15 females plus two males there Apr. 23 (D & PM), and 19 near Durham Apr. 24 (*fide* MS).

**KITES THROUGH GALLINULES** — This was one of the best springs ever for the Swallow-tailed Kite. In addition to a slight increase in sightings from within the breeding range in Georgia and South Carolina, single "overshoot" migrants appeared in the following North Carolina counties: Craven (Apr. 9—CM), Duplin (Apr. 13—MB), Carteret

(May 5—JT and May 6—SP), Dare (May 30—JR), and Currituck (June 5—CK). Similarly, more Mississippi Kites than usual appeared away from the breeding grounds: *four* at Cedar I., N.C., May 15 (JF), two w. of Cheraw, S.C., May 14 (JHC), and singles at Raleigh May 1 (JM) and near the mouth of the Roanoke R. in Bertie Co., N.C., May 10 (ML). Absurdly early were a Broad-winged Hawk at Atlanta Mar. 2 (TJ) and two more at nearby Alpharetta Mar. 4 (VJ). As rare for the North Carolina coast were two at Calabash Apr. 10 (MO) and seven near Buxton Apr. 27 (MWB). As usual, migrant Bald Eagles were seen at scattered inland sites, mainly in North Carolina, the best count being two adults and two immatures on the Chapel Hill spring count May 1 (BW *et al.*). Ospreys show definite signs of a population increase, with a number of observers reporting many more migrants than usual, highlighted by an outstanding single party count of 27 at Jordan L., Apr. 17 (AB, RD). Peregrine Falcons were noted at 3 coastal sites, all in April; one was quite rare inland in s. Halifax County, N.C., Mar. 27 (ML). The usual handful of Merlins was also reported coastally, and inland migrants were detected near Fayetteville, N.C., Apr. 6 (PJC) and at Falls L., Apr. 24 (AT).

Belatedly reported were three Sandhill Cranes Dec. 15-Jan. 23 at the Santee N.W.R., in c. South Carolina (PN *et al.*). T. Moore and other Atlanta birders noted an excellent Sandhill flight past that city Mar. 4-5, based on 15 reports of at least 1100 birds; 600 of them were over Conyers Mar. 4 (FM). Near Canton, Ga., one observer had 7 flocks flying over Mar. 4-5 totalling several hundred birds (LEF). Unusual and late was a dazed Virginia Rail found on a skyscraper roof in Winston-Salem, N.C., May 26 (CF, BWi); it was released at a nearby marsh.

#### S.A.

One of the major "tragedies" in recent years occurred at Cedar Island N.W.R., May 30. Fussell and W. Irvin were on their way to the ferry terminal at 0730, when they noticed the marsh was afire. They remained until 1700, watching birds fly up in front of the flames. Birds observed were two Am. Bitterns, five ad. Virginia Rails, ten Black Rails, one King/Clapper Rail, 20+ Long-billed Marsh Wrens, and 150+ Seaside Sparrows. A brood of young rails (Virginias or Blacks) was seen at the edge of a canal; one of the chicks swam into the canal and was plucked up and eaten by a Laughing Gull. The effect of the fire, certainly not a prescribed refuge burn, was disastrous. Fussell estimated that more than half of the marsh burned, perhaps 3500-4000 acres in all.

Out-of-range Purple Gallinules appeared in Banks County, Ga., Apr. 16-23 (JP *et al.*), L. Hartwell, Ga., May 2-7 (SCx), and c. Carteret County, N.C., Apr. 30 (BH); whereas the more numerous Com. Gallinule visited 4 Piedmont locales — Winston-Salem (BWi, ToM, RS), Jordan L. (BW, MW), Falls L. (AB *et al.*), and Banks County, Ga. (JP).

**SHOREBIRDS** — A good Am. Avocet count for Georgia was 93 along the Jekyll I. causeway Mar. 6 (JD). The 5 reports of Am. Golden Plovers were about average, but no flocks were seen; the most notable was one very early Mar. 13-14 on Shackleford Banks, N.C. (JF). Inland shorebirding was disappointing at most sites, but the recently-filled Falls L. did attract a good variety to e. Durham County. Of interest there May 15 were three Black-bellied Plovers (AB, RD, JA), three Short-billed Dowitchers (AB, RD), and a very rare Long-billed Dowitcher (RD). On May 10 at Falls L., were two Dunlins (RD) and two late Pectoral Sandpipers (RD), the latter species being uncharacteristically scarce in the Region this spring. Counts of 200+ Marbled Godwits at Moore's Landing, n.e. of Charleston Apr. 10 (PN *et al.*) and 140 at Portsmouth I., N.C., Mar. 2 (JF) were excellent, although both likely were wintering flocks, as very few Marbleds seem to migrate N along the Atlantic Coast in spring. An outstanding inland find was a Whimbrel at Pendergrass, Ga., May 29 (JP), and two undoubtedly wintering Long-billed Curlews were at Portsmouth I., Mar. 2-3 (JF). A Spotted Sandpiper Mar. 5 at Augusta (AW) was very early, and notable counts of Upland Sandpipers, all in Georgia, were 13 near Atlanta Apr. 27 (PB), 10 near Dublin Apr. 16 (TKP), and eight at Gainesville Apr. 9-30 (JP). Red and N. phalaropes were each noted off the coasts of South Carolina and Georgia, with 100+ Reds off Charleston Apr. 17 (DF) of interest.

Two N Phalaropes in w Forsyth County, N C , May 18-23 (ED, JS, RS) were very rare inland The Clayton County, Ga., Water Treatment Plant was the site of several good shorebirds: a Short-billed Dowitcher Apr. 25 (PB), a late Greater Yellowlegs May 26 (PB), 20 White-rumped Sandpipers May 17 (PB), and an apparent Baird's Sandpiper May 30 (PB, TM, RM). The Baird's was convincingly described; however, the species is essentially hypothetical everywhere in the Atlantic coastal states in spring, and practically all spring records for the Region have had flaws in the descriptions. Thus, it is best that the report be mentioned here, but not be boldfaced.

**JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS** — Pomarine Jaegers were reported from the coasts (or offshore) of all 3 states this season, and Parasitics were seen in Georgia and North Carolina waters. One of each noted off Jekyll I., Mar. 5 (TM *et al.*) were so early that they perhaps were wintering birds. Haney counted 13 Pomarines off the Georgia coast May 1-5, in addition to five Parasitics Apr. 20-May 15. Very rare and early was a Long-tailed Jaeger off Cape Lookout, N.C., Apr. 18 (WI). Fussell had single Glaucous, Iceland, and Lesser Black-backed gulls in Carteret County, N.C., in March, but in each case the birds were also seen in winter. Unusually late for the Region were imm. Iceland Gulls on Masonboro I., near Wrightsville Beach, N.C., Apr. 21 (MG, JHa) and well inland on the Chowan R., N.C., near the US 158 bridge Apr. 4 (BWi). Single Laughing Gulls were detected inland at 4 sites: Gainesville, Ga., Apr. 9 (JP, JC), L. Lanier May 2 (JP), Commerce, Ga., May 7 (JP), and Falls L., May 18 (RD). A winter-plumaged ad. Little Gull was a good find Apr. 9 at Atlantic Beach, N.C. (JF, BH), as was an immature at nearby Morehead City Apr. 18 (WI). Apparently the same immature was observed May 2-21 at Ft. Macon S.P. (JF *et al.*). North Carolina's fifth **Sabine's Gull** was observed on the extraordinarily early date of Mar. 10 on the White Oak R., opposite Swansboro (HH); it was in breeding plumage and was described in detail. A Black-legged Kittiwake 18 mi off Jekyll I., Mar. 5 (TM *et al.*) provided one of the very few records for Georgia, but as there are many Florida records, it was not unexpected. Forster's Terns were sighted inland 4 times, but the only report of more than one was of nine at Sweetwater Creek S.P., Ga., Apr. 23 (D & PM). Eleven **Arctic Terns** seen far off the coast comprised Georgia's third record Apr. 21-May 13 (CH), and three were noted off Hatteras, N.C., May 29 (RA party). A complete surprise were the 415 Sooty Terns seen by Haney 160 mi + off Ossabaw I., Ga., May 3-7, and rare onshore was a Sooty resting on a road with Black Skimmers at Ocracoke I., May 25 (RJI, JFP). Haney also had five Bridled Terns off the Georgia coast May 1-13, and Atlanta's first Least Tern was found in Clayton County May 13 (PB, JG, RM). Caspian Terns were somewhat more numerous inland than usual, especially at lakes in c. North Carolina (Jordan, Falls, Wheeler, Woodlake), and Atlanta got its long overdue first at Sweetwater Creek S.P., Apr. 23 (D & PM). Black Terns, quite rare inland in spring, were found in Clayton County, Ga., and at Falls L.

**CUCKOOS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS** — Most of the Black-billed Cuckoos were seen by Atlanta birders, and one observer (MAV) had 9 sightings instead of the usual zero or one. A belated, but highly significant, report was of two **Smooth-billed Anis** near Jacksonboro, S.C., Dec. 5, 1981 (JHD) for the second state record (*Chat* 47:23). Very early for the Atlanta area was a Great Crested Flycatcher Mar. 15 (VJ). Several Least Flycatchers were observed by Knapp *et al.*, May 7-8 at Raleigh and Jordan L., but otherwise, migrant *Empidonax* flycatchers essentially avoided detection (or identification). Other notable flycatchers were restricted to the Atlanta area, where an E. Wood Pewee was early Apr. 3 (PaR) and the only Olive-sided Flycatcher of the season visited the Moores' backyard May 27 (TM, PMo).

**SWALLOWS THROUGH VIREOS** — The only notable count of Bank Swallows was 100 at Falls L., May 10 (RD), whereas 10 at Cedar I., N.C., May 14 (JF) was good for the coast. Presumably late migrants May 29 were a Bank Swallow at Pendergrass (JP) and a Cliff Swallow near Rocky Mount, N.C. (RD). Rare for the upper Piedmont was a Com. Raven seen and heard Apr. 10 at Granite Falls, N.C. (DC), at least 20 mi from montane habitat. Extraordinarily late were a Red-breasted Nuthatch May 27 in s.e. Martin County, N.C. (ML) and a Brown Creeper seen on several dates in May through the 12th at Augusta (AW),



where it was observed climbing on a wooden light pole and entering a vacant woodpecker hole! One of the Region's rarest migrants, the Bewick's Wren, was seen at Beaverdam Res., n. of Raleigh Apr. 24 (RD). A Hermit Thrush was over a week late at Atlanta May 11 (DP), as was a Veery at Augusta May 21 (CB, AW). There were many more reports of Swainson's and Gray-cheeked thrushes than normal, with the most interesting sightings being nine Gray-cheekeds on the Winston-Salem spring count (RS—no date) and three Gray-cheeked reports on the coast in Carteret County, N.C., where usually very rare in spring (JF *et al.*). For some unknown reason, large numbers of Cedar Waxwings remained until the end of May over much of the Region, highlighted by a flock of 160 near Raleigh May 26 (JM).

A remarkable 7 species of vireos were observed this spring, thanks to a **Black-whiskered Vireo** noted near Masonboro Sound, New Hanover Co., N.C., May 8 (MG), for a second Regional record. The other record closely parallels this one: a bird found dead at nearby Wrightsville Beach Apr. 1, 1960. A Solitary Vireo nest was found at Weymouth Woods preserve near Southern Pines, N.C., May 1 (DT), the first nest in 10 years there, and Potter had a pair building a nest in her yard near Zebulon, N.C.; both sites are at the edge of the breeding range. Exceptionally early was a Red-eyed Vireo Mar. 20 on Bogue Banks, N.C. (WI, JF), and the rare-in-spring Philadelphia and Warbling vireos were each found once—the former seen and heard singing at Raleigh May 7 (DTa, DH) and the latter at Gainesville Apr. 30 (JP).

**WARBLERS** — A singing Swainson's Warbler was rather early Apr. 9 in Hertford County, N.C. (BWI), and several May 15 were noted in a part of s.w. Atlanta where they used to breed, and may obviously still do so (JE, RG). A few of the scarce Golden-winged Warblers were reported, as usual, but truly rare was a ♂ Brewster's hybrid along the Chattahoochee R., near Atlanta May 3 (PaR). Tennessee Warblers, usually uncommon along the w. edge of the Region and rare over most of the Piedmont, were noticeably more common this spring. The best count was of four on the Raleigh spring count May 7 (LDe, JW). Orange-crowned Warblers were reported at least 5 times, with two at Clemson, S.C., Apr. 16 (AA, JHay) being the only multiple sighting. At nearby Newry, a singing Black-throated Blue Warbler Apr. 12 was early and appeared to be on territory (PBH). Obviously, later sightings of the bird are needed before territoriality is confirmed at this very low elevation (800 ft). On territory to the w. of its range was a Black-throated Green Warbler near Fayetteville, N.C., Apr. 6-May 12 (PJC). Among late warblers were a Black-throated Green at Cape Lookout, N.C., May 27 (SP) and three Bay-breasteds at the Raleigh-Durham Airport May 25 (HL). In Francis Marion N.F., near Charleston May 1, two Blackburnian Warblers were rare for the coast (PN party), and a possible Mourning Warbler was noted. However, the Mourning is a very late migrant, is extremely rare in the Piedmont and practically unknown from the Coastal Plain in spring; the fairly good details were nonetheless not exhaustively conclusive. Louisiana Waterthrushes were early in the Atlanta area Mar. 12 (PMo, TM) and Mar. 13 (MO), and nearly all the Connecticut Warblers were also reported from this city, with two Apr. 17 (JG, JC) being extremely early. A Connecticut at Augusta May 12 (AW) was a good find there, even though the city lies within the narrow migration route of the species.

**ORIOLES THROUGH SPARROWS** — Fussell had a very early ad. ♂ Orchard Oriole at his Morehead City feeder Mar. 20, and a ♂ **North-ern (Bullock's) Oriole** was convincingly described from a Fayetteville yard Mar. 19-early May (PJC, RC, HR), for apparently the fifth record of the race for North Carolina. Western Tanager, which was quite a rarity a few years ago, was seen 4 times this season—at feeders in Fayetteville from the winter to early May (RC, PJC, HR), in Pine Knoll Shores, N.C., winter to Mar. 9 (KKi), and in Sumter, S.C., winter to Apr. 28 (JMa, *vide* EDa), and away from a feeder at Bat Cave, N.C., May 31 (RW). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were rather early at Bodie and Pea Is., N.C., Apr. 16-17 (RaC), whereas the McClures had as many as 26 at their Atlanta feeder May 6. Another noteworthy feeder bird was a ♂ Painted Bunting far inland at Raleigh Feb. 25-Apr. 25 (D & SR, FI), and a possibly wintering Dickcissel was found at Guilford College, N.C., Mar. 7-Apr. 11 (JB, *vide* CD). Although much suitable habitat for Dickcissels is present in the w. Piedmont of North Carolina, breeding birds have avoided detection for many years. Gratifyingly, two singing

males were found near the town of Kings Mountain May 26 & 31 (PH, HW). There were no reports of Evening Grosbeaks and only several for the Pine Siskin. A week late were two Savannah Sparrows at Falls L., May 22 (RD, HL), and there were three sightings of the elusive Henslow's Sparrow—possibly wintering birds near Folkston, Ga., Apr. 23 (PB, TM *et al.*) and at Sandhills Game Land, n. Scotland Co., N.C., Apr. 2 (two birds—DRé, SK), and a migrant near Atlanta Apr. 4 (PaR). The equally difficult-to-find Le Conte's Sparrow was seen at Raleigh Apr. 9-10 (WI); counting one in the mountains this spring, four have been found in North Carolina since December. A Bachman's Sparrow was notable on the Chapel Hill spring count May 1 (AT, TS), and despite being on the Blue List, excellent counts of breeding birds were 27 in the s. portion of Francis Marion forest near Charleston May 1 (PN, TFH) and 10-15 in n.e. Ft. Bragg, N.C., Mar. 15+ (PJC). A White-throated Sparrow, blind in one eye, lingered at Raleigh to May 30 (GW), but a real disappointment was the single report of Lincoln's Sparrow—a wintering feeder bird at Harkers I., N.C., last seen Apr. 26 (SP).

**OBSERVERS** — Robert Ake, John Alderman, Alan Avakian, John Beeler, Clarence Belger, Ted Best, Ed Blitch, Patrick Brisse, M W Britten, Micou Browne, Allen Bryan, Sue Campbell, Derek Carrigan, J.H. Carter III, Jack Carusos, Ray Chandler (RaC), Ruth Chesnut, Anson Cooke, Steve Cox (SCx), Larry Crawford, P.J. Crutchfield, Evelyn Dabbs (EDa), Lloyd Davidson, Ricky Davis, Charlotte Dawley, Leigh DeNeef (LDe), J.H. Dick, Eleanor Dodson, Jack Dozier, Jim Enterkin, Mark Epstein, L.E. Foote, Dennis Forsythe, Charles Frost, John Fussell, Mark Galizio, Roger Green, Joe Greenberg, Henry Haberman, R.J. Hader, P.B. Hamel, Derrick Hamrick, Chris Haney, John Hardwick (JHa), Paul Hart, T.F. Hassell, John Hay (JHay), George Hervey, Julia Hill, Bob Holmes, Tom Howard, Bob Humphries (BHu), Fran Irvin, Wayne Irvin, Trina Jackson, Vince Jackson, Chris Kieffer, Kathy Kirkman (KKi), Steve Klause, Ken Knapp, Harry LeGrand, Pat Leonard, Merrill Lynch, Al Macdonald, Mrs. Jim Mallard (JMa), Robert Manns, Charles Manooch, Dennie & Pam McClure (D & PM), Francis Michael, Peggy Moore (PMo), Terry Moore, Tom Mowbray (ToM), Jim Mulholland, North Carolina State Museum, Perry Nugent, Mark Oberle, John Paget, Dick Parks, J.F. Parnell, T.K. Patterson, Cheryl Phillips, Eloise Potter, Skip Prange, P. Rainey, Paul Raney (PaR), Henry Rankin, Jack Reinhoehl, Dick Repasky (DRé), David & Susan Roberts, Barbara Roth, Mike Schultz, Jackie Shelton, Tony Shrimpton, Ramona Snavely, Don Tarbet (DTa), Dick Thomas, John Thompson, Andy Towle, Mary Ann Vernocy, Skip Vetter, Bill Wagner, Margaret Wagner, Heathy Walker, Jeff Walters, Ron Warner, Anne Waters, Gail Whitehurst, Bill Williams (BWI), Bob Witherington (BWi).—**HARRY E. LeGRAND, JR., 331 Yadkin Dr., Raleigh, NC 27609.**

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## FLORIDA REGION /Herbert W. Kale II

Spring 1983 in the Florida Region (Florida east of the Apalachicola River) was characterized by frequent cold fronts, most of which were accompanied by rain, that swept down the peninsula every few days throughout March, April and early May. This of course, meant ideal conditions for observing fallouts of migrants, and few birders were disappointed, especially those who visited the Gulf coast migration hotspots of St. George Island (hereafter, S.G.I.), Ft. Desoto Park at Mullet Key (hereafter, Ft. DeSoto), and the Dry Tortugas (hereafter, D.T.). Northwest winds brought numerous trans-Gulf migrants to Florida's west coast, unlike last spring when winds mostly were easterly. Single day observations of over 20 species of warblers became almost commonplace—B. Muschlitz had 25 species at Cedar Key April 24, P. Fellers and B. Cooper matched that at Mullet Key April 26, and L. and J. Hopkins counted a record 29 species in Pinellas County (26 at Ft. DeSoto alone) April 25. Even Saddle Creek Park well inland near Lakeland and famous for its numerous fall migrants, but not spring, had

10 species of warblers April 20 (PF). Unfortunately, these northwest fronts, welcomed by birders, may have played havoc with birds migrating off the Atlantic coast, especially the front of April 24–26. Johnny Johnson reported nine different instances of passerines landing on his boat 20–25 miles east of Cape Canaveral (hereafter, C.C.), and H. Langridge noted a large fallout of “tired warblers and Bobolinks” in the afternoon of April 24 in Palm Beach County. Interestingly enough, no major kills of migrants occurred at any TV towers or other structures. This statement may not apply to the huge Vehicle Assembly Building (hereafter, V.A.B.) at Kennedy Space Center. The V.A.B. in the past has been notorious for spring kills, but NASA refuses to cooperate with the Merritt Island N.W.R. in notifying them of kills, hence a lot of scientific knowledge is being lost, needlessly.

After one of the wettest and mildest winters on record (see Hoffman’s Winter Report) this spring was one of the coolest, and with a few exceptions, most of Florida’s resident breeders did not begin nesting until two to three weeks later than usual. Not too surprising, zookeepers noted this same delay in breeding by their captive animals (*vide* J. Ellis). The late spring was probably responsible for the extraordinary number of latest-ever migration dates.

Notable birds for the period were Florida’s second record of the Bar-tailed Godwit, three Stripe-headed Tanagers, three or four Lesser Night-hawks, and Florida’s fifth record (fourth for the Region) of the Ash-throated Flycatcher.

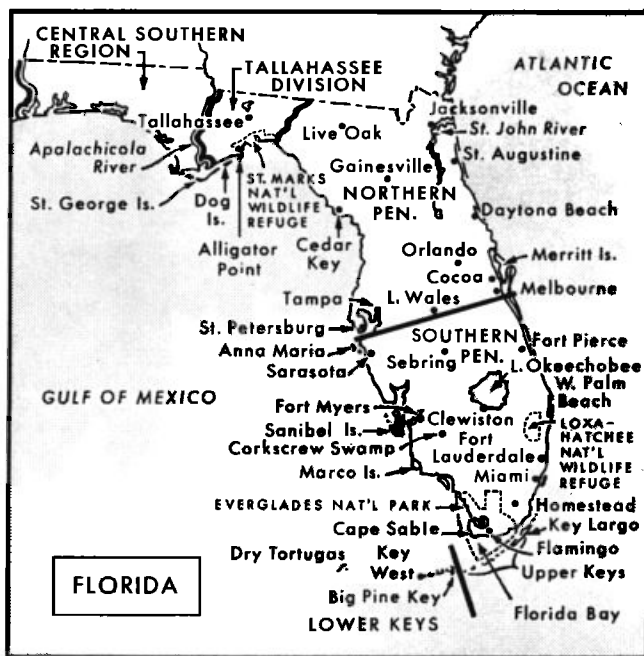
ABBREVIATIONS: A.B.S.—Archbold Biological Station; E.N.P.—Everglades National Park; F.S.U.—Florida State University; N. Pen.—Northern Peninsula; S. Pen.—Southern Peninsula; Tally Div.—Tallahassee Division; U.S.F.—University of South Florida.

#### LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS —

##### S.A.

Each winter a few Com. Loons occur dead or moribund along the coast, in some years localized dieoffs have involved several dozen loons. As Wayne Hoffman hinted in his winter period report, a dieoff of major proportions was beginning in February. By mid-April an estimated 2000 loons had died along the upper Gulf coast between Pensacola and Apalachee Bay (*vide* TE), and an additional 2000+ s. to Naples (*vide* WH). We will probably never know the exact number lost because only a fraction of these ended up in wildlife hospitals, the Univ. of Florida Veterinary College, or the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Unit. Most of those examined showed a characteristic gastro-enteritis, but the underlying cause as of this writing remains a mystery. This dieoff was probably responsible for several later-than-usual observations of loons in breeding plumage. One off No Name Key May 2 (MB & HD) and two in Key West May 3 (PL) were the latest for the Lower Keys. Undoubtedly some recovering loons too weak to migrate will remain for the summer. One at S.G.I., June 2 (HMS) may have been one of these.

Eared Grebes in breeding plumage at L. Jackson, Leon Co., Apr. 8 (GEM) and St. Marks N.W.R., Apr. 19 (JEC) were late. Two rare Sooty Shearwaters were 25 mi e. of Cape C., May 22 (JJ) while 12 Audubon’s were seen between Key West and D.T., Apr. 30, and another 12 off Islamorada May 4 (PL). A **Black-capped Petrel** 25 mi e. of Cape C., May 14 (JJ) was nearer to shore than usual. Wilson’s Storm-Petrels were common e. of Cape C., Apr. 21–May 22 (JJ), with the first date being the earliest for the N. Pen. Up to six **White-tailed Tropicbirds** were seen almost daily mid-March through mid-May at D.T. (m.ob.). They would appear at Ft. Jefferson anywhere between 8–10 a.m., remain about an hour or so flying in and around the fort investigating openings in the brick walls, then fly off for the remainder of the day. Masked Boobies were scarce, with one at Middle Key, D.T., May 1 (PL) and one at Rebecca Shoals May 6 (HWK). Up to six Brown Boobies were at Rebecca Shoals all spring (m.ob.). Three were seen along the e. boundary of Biscayne N.P. in April (RSt). An imm. Gannet at Alligator Pt., Franklin Co., June 6 (HMS) was the latest for the Tally Div. A Great Cormorant in Barnes Sound, s. Biscayne Bay Mar. 16



(CK) furnished probably the southernmost record for this species. One was found dead at Mayport, Duval Co., Mar. 30 (RWL, \*U.S.F.). Four Magnificent Frigatebirds at Seahorse Key, Levy Co., Apr. 15 (WRL) and one at S.G.I., Apr. 23 (JMS, L&BP) were early so far n.

HERONS THROUGH DUCKS — Nine Great Blue Herons seen flying S 12 mi e. of Cape C., Apr. 29 (JJ) must have been disoriented. Rarities in the Panhandle were a Reddish Egret (dark-phase) on S.G.I., Mar. 4 (JEC) and a Glossy Ibis at L. Jackson Apr. 2 (GEM). A brilliant Scarlet Ibis feeding with 34 White Ibises and 98 Glossies at Wellington, 9 mi e. of W. Palm Beach Mar. 18 (HPL) could have been an escapee. Two Glossy Ibises at Stock I., near Key West May 3 (PL) were unusual in the lower Keys. The ♂ Eur. Wigeon that wintered at Ding Darling N.W.R., on Sanibel I., was last seen there Mar. 4 (LSA). A ♂ Com. Merganser at St. Marks N.W.R., May 8 (JMS & PS) was the latest for this uncommon species in the Tally Div.

RAPTORS — Over 100 Turkey Vultures migrating over s. Jacksonville Mar. 16 (JPC) were too late for the Hinkley Festival, but were nevertheless an impressive sight. Swallow-tailed Kite reports were widespread from the Lower Keys to Osceola N.F. Coupled with the number of sightings of this species and the Mississippi Kite in states n. of Florida we may well be seeing a population explosion taking place. A Mississippi Kite at Medart, Franklin Co., Mar. 27 (JEC) and two on the nearby Sopchoppy R., Apr. 3 (BSt) were the earliest for the Tally Div. Two adults s. of Ocala May 22 & 28 (with an immature on the latter date) suggest a possible S range extension (JRS). Sharp-shinned Hawks were, as usual, widespread following migrating passerines. This is most obvious on the D.T., where one never becomes inured to the shock of seeing a warbler you have been watching for several minutes suddenly snatched before your eyes by a hungry Sharpie. Feather puddles abound in the woods on Loggerhead Key. Imagine being a small passerine, tired from a 500 mi overwater flight, arriving on Loggerhead May 1, 1983, then having to dodge the 59 Sharp-shinned Hawks Malcolm Simons saw there between 8–10 a.m.!

It is difficult to characterize Cooper’s Hawks reports in Florida—are these migrants or residents? Nesting has been suspected near Archbold Biological Station (hereafter, A.B.S.) Highlands Co., since 1967, but only this spring was this confirmed by the finding of 2 nests, both on A.B.S. (CEW & KM). Four Cooper’s in Brevard County Apr. 21–May 16 (DD, MM, DS, AF, & RCS) and one with a Purple Martin in its grasp in Apalachicola N.F. May 22 (TAM) suggests it is time for someone to conduct an intensive study of this species in Florida. A Broad-winged Hawk at S.G.I., May 17 (HMS & JMS) was the latest in migration for the Tally Div. Several immatures were still at Loggerhead Key in mid-

May (WH & DSM) Nothing in the birdwatcher's experience surpasses the thrill of seeing a Peregrine Falcon flying free and wild. Seven sightings were widespread: L. Harney Mar. 5 (GB, DF, & BSM), Cudjoe Key Mar. 11 (BSm), the Bayway, St. Petersburg Apr. 2 (LS) & 10 (LH & JM), D.T., Apr. 28–May 8 (m.ob.), and S.G.I., May 4 (CHW & JMS). Sixteen records of Merlin throughout the Region Mar. 26–May 8 (m.ob.) were also encouraging.

**TURKEYS THROUGH TERNS** — One of the joys of visiting the beautiful Tosohatchee State Reserve on the St. Johns R., near Christmas, Fla., is because chances are good one will see wild Turkeys. Five were there Mar. 27 (DF *et al.*), and seven Apr. 9 (DF, MK, BSu). A pair of Com. Gallinules with five newly hatched young at Summerland Key May 9, were thought to be the same pair that had six young Dec. 4, 1982 (MB). American Oystercatchers are rare on the lower e. coast, hence one at John Pennekamp S.P., May 12 (R & RD) was unusual. American Golden Plovers were widespread this spring, possibly a result of the frequent NW winds. One was at Alligator Pt., Mar. 12 (HMS). Up to 25 frequented S.G.I., Mar. 20–Apr. 16 (SC, JMS, PS). Between Mar. 12 and Apr. 2 a total of 215 were seen at 6 different sites in Pinellas County, with flocks ranging in size from 1–20 birds (LH *et al.*). At the same time, numerous sightings of from one to 60 birds ranged from Dade County, the Keys, and D.T. (m.ob.). One bird with a lame foot remained near the coaling dock at Ft. Jefferson well into May (m.ob.), latest for the Lower Keys. A Long-billed Curlew at Caxamas Pass near Naples Mar. 4 (THB) was a rarity there, but two at Ft. DeSoto Apr. 24 (PF *et al.*) were not unexpected.

Pectoral Sandpiper sightings included 75 w. of Delray Beach Mar. 19 (RB), one at D.T., Mar. 25 (JVL), and three along S.R. 721, n. of Brighton Mar. 30 (PH). Up to 20 visited the Speedway, St. Petersburg Mar. 13–Apr. 3 (LH *et al.*). The rare Baird's Sandpiper was at Flamingo, E.N.P., Mar. 15 (RGo). A Stilt Sandpiper near Lantana Mar. 25 (HPL) tied the earliest date for the S. Pen. (although some occasionally winter in Florida), and 39 were at Clear Spring Mine Apr. 30 (PF). Eight Marbled Godwits over Brown's Farm Rd., near Belle Glade marked the fourth sighting in the past 25 years for Palm Beach Co. (HPL & GH). The most exciting find of the period was a **Bar-Tailed Godwit** at the F.S.U. Marine Laboratory near St. James, Franklin Co., Apr. 23 (GG & RMC) & 25 (HMS & JMS). This represented Florida's second record (details to be published), the first being a bird that wintered at Port Canaveral in the early 1970s. Two Ruffs (Reeves) were reported, one on the n. edge of L. Okeechobee Mar. 30 (PH) and one at D.T., Apr. 5, the first record for the Tortugas (WH & WBR). A Black-necked Stilt at St. Marks N.W.R., Mar. 24 (JEC & SJ) was the earliest for the Tally Div. The only phalarope reported was a lone Northern between D.T., and Key West May 2 (PL). A Long-tailed Jaeger 3 mi e. of Daytona Beach May 14 (TR, CT) was the latest for the state. The only other jaeger seen was a Pomarine 25 mi e. of Cape C., May 22 (JJ).

A Glaucous Gull in second-year plumage was at St. Augustine Mar. 6 (MCD). Late Great Black-backed Gulls were at Ponce Inlet Mar. 17 (G & AS), Ft. Pierce Inlet Mar. 28 (PH—two birds), and Sanibel I. causeway Apr. 4 (LSA). A Roseate Tern 20 mi e. of Cape C., Apr. 17 (JJ *et al.*) was either a straggler from the Keys population or a late New Englander and was the latest for the N. Pen. Up to 100 were in the Gulf between Key West and D.T., Apr. 30 (PL). Two Sooty Terns 18 mi e. of Cape C., Apr. 29 (JJ) were the earliest for the N. Pen., and three more were in the Gulf Stream e. of Biscayne N.P., May 24 (RSt). Up to ten Bridled Terns were e. of Cape C., Apr. 26–May 14 (JJ), 40 were in the Gulf e. of D.T., Apr. 30 (PL), 30 off Islamorada May 4 (PL), and one was observed at leisure sitting on Bush Key amidst Sooty Terns May 11 (LSA & BHA). Most visitors to the D.T. in early May missed the lone **Black Noddy** that was there May 1–13 (SP, m.ob.) because it only appeared in late afternoon between 4 and 6 p.m. at one perch site on Bush Key, inaccessible to most visitors.

**DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Up to eight White-crowned Pigeons were being seen regularly in the Chokoloskee area this spring (FBA). A Ringed Turtle Dove, possibly from the St. Petersburg population, made a first appearance at Ft. DeSoto May 15 (RH). Numerous pairs are now breeding in Homestead, and at least 5 sightings came from the Orlando area, and one in Apopka. One male in Orlando was seen courting ♀ Mourning Doves in early April (HWK). Two

Monk Parakeets at Ft. DeSoto May 7 (JM) and scattered reports elsewhere in the state suggested a population expansion about to begin, helped possibly by cessation of colony destruction by the federal government. A Mangrove Cuckoo on Hypoluxo I., W. Palm Beach Apr. 16 (HPL & GH) was the third spring out of the last 5 that one has appeared there. Black-billed Cuckoos, relatively rare migrants in Florida, were at Garden Key, D.T., May 5 (LSA *et al.*) and Devil's Millhopper, Alachua Co., May 12 (BPM).

The elusive Groove-billed Ani that wintered on Paynes Prairie was last seen there Mar. 8 (MWC), while one of the three in E.N.P., this past winter was last seen along Anhinga Trail May 1 (CM). Migrating Chuck-will's-widows were seen over the Atlantic—one circled and attempted to land on a small boat 8–10 mi e. of Palm Beach Mar. 20 (HPL, WM, TT), and two were 25 mi e. of Cape C., Apr. 21 (JJ). Two **Lesser Nighthawks** were on Anhinga Trail, E.N.P., Mar. 4–16 (HPL, TT, OLB), and two (?) more were on S.G.I., Apr. 26 (JEC, SC, TY) and May 4 (JMS) where they have occurred 4 of the last 7 years. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were especially abundant with almost unbelievable numbers being reported. One person claimed over 100 in her yard in Charlotte County in April (*fide* MS), which even if an exaggeration suggests a lot of hummers. Several dozen were on Garden Key in early May (m.ob.), an estimated 30 were on S.G.I., Apr. 9 (TAM) a "dozen or so" fed on a bottlebrush on Sugarloaf Key (LK) and another 15 on Duck Key (HD) Apr. 19. Nearly 200 were recorded at Ft. DeSoto Mar. 12–May 7 (m.ob.), with a high of 30 on Apr. 16 (JM *et al.*). The **Black-chinned Hummingbird**—Florida's fifth record—that wintered in a Tallahassee yard was last seen Apr. 7 (H & HW). Possibly the first Red-headed Woodpecker in the Miami area since 1966 was photographed in a south Miami backyard May 6 (JS).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS** — Seven Gray Kingbirds at a bee hive in Key West Apr. 3 (SN *et al.*) were taking advantage of a concentrated food source. Late W. Kingbirds in s. Florida were three in Homestead Apr. 12 (OLD & CM), one each on Lido Key, Sarasota Apr. 26 (MD), W. Palm Beach Apr. 26 (ME), Ft. DeSoto Apr. 24–26 (LH *et al.*), and D.T., May 11 (DSM *et al.*). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were widespread! Two (with seven W. Kingbirds) s.w. of Delray Beach Mar. 21–25 (HPL & BH), one at S.G.I., Apr. 24 (WM), Cape A.F. Sta., Apr. 29 (AF, DD, DS), Cedar Key May 5 (BPM), and 10 sightings at Ft. DeSoto Mar. 28–May 10 (m.ob.). Florida's fifth record of the **Ash-throated Flycatcher** occurred on S.G.I., Apr. 12 (JEC). A Great Crested Flycatcher with an all black bill (\*Tall Timbers) should give pause to anyone who might use this bill character alone to distinguish Wied's (Brown-crested) and Ash-throated from the Great Crested (*fide* HMS). An E. Phoebe at Dunedin Apr. 24 tied the latest date for the N. Pen. One of the rarest flycatchers in Florida is the Olive-sided, one of which was seen and its call recorded by Oliver Hewitt in s.w. DeSoto County Apr. 21. On Mar. 19 four of the wintering Least Flycatchers in Palm Beach Co., were still at Wellington (BH) and two were near Belle Glade (HPL & GH). Three Least Apr. 23 (JMS) were rarities on S.G.I., as was one calling at Ft. DeSoto Apr. 24 (JM).

Rough-winged Swallows are usually seen only in small numbers, hence 55 reported at S.G.I., Apr. 23 (JMS *et al.*) were most unusual. A Cave Swallow over the Tallahassee Sewage Ponds May 21 (GEM) was a first for Leon County, while on visiting Garden Key, D.T., May 6 (LSA *et al.*) was not so unexpected. The Fish Crow is probably the most numerous crow in most of Florida, but s. of Miami they rarely occur, hence the numerous crows seen and heard in the Homestead and E N P area during May were noteworthy (WBR, CM, KL). Thrushes were abundant and widespread from early April through mid-May. An Am Robin at Hickory Mound L., Taylor Co., May 24 (JEC) was the latest migrating robin by over a month for the Tally Div. A Wood Thrush singing *sotto voce* at A. B. S., Apr. 11–12 (GEW *et al.*) provided a first spring record there. The earliest Swainson's Thrush in the state was at Ft. DeSoto Apr. 4 (AM), while one at Alligator Pt., Apr. 10 (HMS & JMS) was the earliest for the Tally Div. Veeries at Ft. DeSoto Apr. 16–18 (JM & CB) were the earliest for the N. Pen. Rare Philadelphia Vireos were at Ft. DeSoto May 5 (LH *et al.*) and Loggerhead Key May 7 (HWK, MCB *et al.*).

**WARBLERS** — In the space allotted for this report it is impossible to adequately summarize the number and variety of warbler sightings from

throughout the Region. Only a few highlights follow. A Black-and-white Warbler on S.G.I., May 17 (HMS) was the latest for the Tally Div., as was a Swainson's there May 4 (JMS & CHW). The rare Golden-winged was at Cedar Key Apr. 24 (BPM *et al.*), Ft. DeSoto Apr. 24-28 (LH *et al.*), Loggerhead Key, D.T., May 1-2 (FS, LSA *et al.*), and Hypoluxo I., May 5 (HPL & GH). Blue-winged Warblers were equally widespread. One at Sanibel I., Mar. 25 (LSA) was the earliest for the S. Pen. A total of 200 Tennessee Warblers was recorded at Ft. DeSoto Mar. 26-May 5 (m.ob.), with 61 on Apr. 26 alone (PF & BC). Two rare Nashville Warblers were on Sanibel Mar. 30 & Apr. 22 (LSA), and one was singing in s. Jacksonville Apr. 11-12 (JPC). Northern Parulas at Ft. DeSoto May 14-15 (LH, KT, MH) were the latest in migration for the N. Pen., and a Magnolia there May 15 (MH) also furnished a late record. Reports of other trans-Gulf warblers—Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Cerulean, Chestnut-sided, and Bay-breasted were also numerous and widespread. A Cerulean banded by the Stedmans Apr. 18 was the 35th warbler species to be banded at their station on Casey Key, Sarasota County. A Sycamore Warbler, the race of the Yellow-throated with pure white lores (*Dendroica dominica albiflora*) was closely observed on Loggerhead Key May 1 (PL). One was seen on Garden Key in 1981 (AB 35: 816).

The N. Waterthrush winters in small numbers in s. Florida, but one in San Falasco State Preserve near Gainesville Mar. 12 (BPM) was probably a migrant—the earliest for the N. Pen. A close second was one at Ft. DeSoto Mar. 26 (PF). A total of 57 Kentucky Warblers were at Ft. DeSoto Apr. 1-May 5 (m.ob.), the last date marking the latest for the N. Pen. Unlike most of the other warblers, only the Connecticut seemed to be scarce this spring, with one at Ft. DeSoto May 7 (JB *et al.*) and one on Casey Key May 12 (S & AS). The first spring record of the rare Mourning Warbler at Ft. DeSoto was a male seen May 5 (LH *et al.*) and May 7 (PF *et al.*). Late Yellow-Breasted Chats were heard calling at Merritt I., May 16 (RCS), and at Oldsmar, Pinellas Co., May 22 (JM). A Hooded Warbler at Ft. DeSoto May 15 (MH) was the latest for the N. Pen., and tied the old state record, but one at Tarpon Springs May 28 (DH) far surpassed these records for late migration in this species. A Wilson's Warbler at S.G.I., May 4 (JMS & CHW) was the latest for the Tally Div. One that wintered for the second consecutive year (same bird?) in s. Jacksonville was last seen Apr. 10 (JPC). A lone Canada Warbler at Ft. DeSoto May 15 (MH), the first spring record since 1972, was also the latest for the Region and the State, and may have been the only Canada reported this spring.

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS** — Surprisingly, Bobolinks were relatively scarce — only seven were reported at Ft. DeSoto Apr. 17-May 14 (LH *et al.*), a "small" flock was on the Key West golf course May 13 (FTH *et al.*), and several were on S.G.I., Apr. 23-May 5, while one there June 2 was considered "normally late" (HMS). Most wintering Yellow-headed Blackbirds have departed Florida by late March or early April, so one on S.G.I., Apr. 24 was unusually late.

This was the spring of the Orchard Oriole along Florida's w. coast. From Key West to St. George I., the chatter and occasional song of this bird dominated the air. Over 500 were recorded at Ft. DeSoto Apr. 23-May 5 (m.ob.), the latter date (BC *et al.*) being the latest date for migration in the N. Pen. On Apr. 16 alone 200 orioles were counted (LH *et al.*) Over 100 were on S.G.I., Apr. 23 (JMS, L & BP). In contrast, on the Atlantic coast, two Orchard Orioles Apr. 11 (GH) & 13 (TM) furnished only the second and third spring records for Palm Beach County (*fide* HPL). Northern Orioles did not trail far behind with 246 at Ft. DeSoto Apr. 12-May 7 (m.ob.), including 79 Apr. 26 (BC & PF.) One in Seminole, n. of St. Petersburg Mar. 27 (JF), if not a wintering bird, was the earliest in migration for the N. Pen. A late W. Tanager was on the Ringling Museum grounds Apr. 21 (LT.) Both Summer and Scarlet tanagers were abundant along the Gulf coast, but a single Scarlet at Delray Beach May 4 (BH) was considered a good find for the e. coast (HPL). A Summer Tanager at Ft. DeSoto May 15 (MH) was the latest migrant for the N. Pen. A **Stripe-headed Tanager** appeared at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Rec. Area near Miami Apr. 29 (BN), and a singing male with either a female or immature stopped briefly in Brian Hope's backyard in Delray Beach May 17.

Grosbeaks added their brilliant colors to this spring's pageant. The last Rose-breasted Grosbeak of the season at Ft. DeSoto May 5 (MH) was the latest for the N. Pen. Blue Grosbeaks at Ft. DeSoto Apr. 26 (PF

& BC) and May 14 (JH) were the earliest and latest, respectively, for the N. Pen. A high of 350 Indigo Buntings were counted at Ft. DeSoto Apr. 16 (JH *et al.*). Two there Mar. 28 (LSA & BHA) were the earliest migrants for the N. Pen. Over 25 reports of Dickcissels ranged from D.T., to S.G.I. (m.ob.). Late Pine Siskins were in Gainesville Apr. 11 (BPM) and Tallahassee Apr. 26 (DPY), and the last Am. Goldfinch was in Tallahassee May 26 (DPY). Other late birds were a Lark Sparrow near Palmdale Mar. 26 (LEW), Chipping Sparrows in Orlando Apr. 23 (DF) and on Garden Key Apr. 29 (LSA), two White-throated Sparrows at Jonathan Dickinson S.P., Mar. 9-15 (MM & GH), and a White-throated singing in Tallahassee May 15 (HMS). A Lincoln's Sparrow banded on Casey Key Apr. 27 (S & AS) tied the latest date in the S. Pen., while one or two, possibly more, were on D.T., Apr. 28-May 1 (HPL, LSA, PL).

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## ONTARIO REGION

/Ron D. Weir

Winter's unusually mild conditions prevailed into early March nearly everywhere. Late in the month, cold, wet weather set the pattern for the rest of spring, interrupted only by an hiatus of warm conditions in the last half of April. Widespread waves of migrants were noted April 15-18, which took early warblers to Marathon and North Bay, April 27-30, May 7-8, 13-15, 21-22 and 24-26. By the end of May, flycatchers, vireos and other insectivores had not peaked, leading to speculation of a heavy migration due in June. Species like Purple Martin and Eastern Bluebird were reported hard hit by the adverse weather. Observers frequently noted insect eaters appearing exhausted and unusually tame

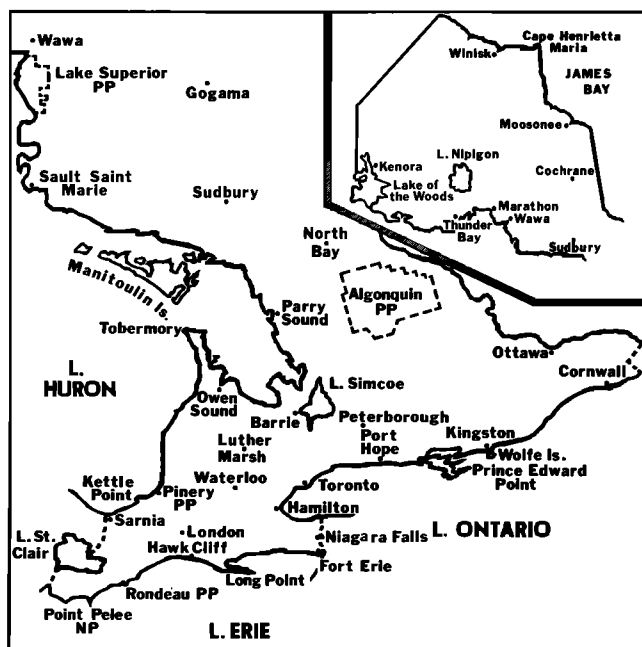
as they searched for food on the ground. A Scarlet Tanager was even seen to feed on smelt at Pelee. In the following account, there are described two species new to the province, numerous rarities and range overshoots as well as impressive concentrations. Place names in italics denote counties.

ABBREVIATIONS — M.I. (Manitoulin I.), P.E.Pt. (Prince Edward Point), Georgian Bay Islands, Pt. Pelee and Pukaskwa are National Parks. Algonquin, Presqu'île and Rondeau are Provincial Parks.

**LOONS THROUGH GANNET** — Weather conditions over the Great Lakes apparently led to lower numbers of migrant Com. Loons. Loonwatcher high counts were respectively 199 and 209 at Cobourg May 5 & 7 (ERM), 87 and 105 at P.E.Pt., Apr. 27 & May 7 (K.F.N.) and 117 and 100 at Mississagi Light, M.I., Apr. 30 & May 14 (JCN). An Arctic Loon, rare in any season in the s., was reported at Pelee about May 11 (*vide* DFR). For the second consecutive spring, unusually large numbers of Red-throats were counted. Six were at Whitby May 20 and singles were there May 22 & 27 (D.R.F.N.). Seven others Apr. 18-May 28 were at Inverhuron, Pukaskwa, Cobourg, Rondeau, Bronte and Presqu'île. A mated pair was at Neys P.P., May 28, the site of an old breeding record for L. Superior (THi). Red-necked Grebes were numerous and widespread from Apr. 1 at Guelph (SRK) to May 27 at Bronte (DHa). Peak numbers of 250 and 520 respectively passed Mississagi Light Apr. 23-24 (JCN). Horneds continued scarce, except at P.E.Pt., where their strong passage was led respectively by 95 and 257 Apr. 16 & 23 (K.F.N.). An Eared was in breeding plumage at Port Stanley Apr. 25 (PR, A & CG). Singles were at Pelee May 9, Brights Grove May 15 (DFR) and two remained at Burlington May 11-13 (DGa). Pelee's fourth W. Grebe was seen May 3 and 11 (DW, PWh *et al.*). The 350 White Pelicans at Rainy R., May 27 was a good number (SFP). Sightings away from their breeding areas included singles at Kettle Pt., May 2 (MCa) and the tip of Long Pt., May 4 (L. P. B. O.). The breeding plumaged **Gannet** at P.E.Pt., May 13 represented the first spring record in s. Ontario since prior to 1950 (RKE, MCE).

**HERONS** — The Green Heron at Kingston Apr. 12 was the earliest ever there by 10 days (EG, WG) and another at Thunder Bay May 5 and 14 was noteworthy (*vide* MJM). "Southern" herons put on a strong showing! Single Little Blues included an immature Apr. 10 at Cranberry Marsh (DSc *et al.*), an adult May 2 at Dundas Marsh (RFi) and another May 21 at Tiny Marsh, Barrie (*vide* CJM). The 20+ records of Cattle Egret reverse their post-1977 downward trend. Birds were reported from *Essex* including Pelee, Kent, Elgin, Dundas, Presqu'île and Kingston. Great Egret numbers continued to strengthen in the far southwest (CEG, AHK) and 13 sightings Apr. 18-May 21 were away from L. Erie. Birds were at Cobourg, Guelph, Oshawa, Wiarton, Hamilton, Kingston and Barrie. Record numbers of Snowy Egrets were noted. The five from areas along L. Erie included two at Pelee May 7 (JBM, FD), singles at Port Maitland, Wheatley, Long Pt., May 8 (BMDu, DFR, L.P.B.O.) and near Port Colborne May 10-13 (*vide* RWK). The remaining eight were singles at Almonte May 5-14 (AWi, BMDi *et al.*) for Ottawa's fifth ever. Pickering & Brighton May 19 (JMS, SMcG, J & HM), e. Headland, Toronto May 27 (HK) and Clavering in *Grey-Bruce* (J & RY) along with two at Brighton May 20 (J & JT) and Hamilton Beach May 24 (KMcl). The only Louisiana heron reported was an adult at Pukaskwa May 19 for n. Ontario's first (THi).

**SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS** — Very few Whistling Swans were reported away from the southwest where their main flight passed Mar. 1-16 led by 10,000 at Pinery P.P., Mar. 6 (*vide* AHK). Late were singles at Long Pt. and Presqu'île May 6 & 7 respectively (L.P.B.O., J & JT). The main Canada Goose flight was noted Apr. 22-May 9 over areas from Thunder Bay s.e. to Ottawa. The 3187 at the Long Pt. causeway Mar. 24 were attributed to unusual ice conditions (L.P.B.O.). Heavy Brant movement occurred e. from Cobourg Apr. 19-23 and May 9-28. Over 10,000 were at Presqu'île and Kingston in the second period. Sight records n. of these usual staging areas are scarce so the 500 and 400 at Ottawa May 15 and 26 (SG), the 1000 at Pembroke, which were following the Ottawa R., May 14 (JB), 10 at Virginiatown May 31 (PWR), and 33 near Cochrane May 29 (TA) suggested movement to James Bay. Virtually all the Snow Goose sightings were accounted for by the 100 at



Lake-of-the-Woods Apr. 23 (MCEI, SFP) and 70 at Ottawa May 7 (RBr).

Algonquin's first-ever Mallard nest contained 11 eggs May 11 (TR). The only significant concentration of dabblers reported was the 3000 Pintail at Angus, Simcoe Apr. 22 (CJM). A ♂ Green-winged Teal in the Dundas Marsh was of the Eurasian race (RFi). A pair of Cinnamon Teal at Amherstberg May 28 - early June was thought to be wild (BE *et al.*). Four ♂ Eur. Wigeon were above-average numbers. That in the Corner Marsh, Pickering Mar. 6-7 (*vide* SMcG) was thought to have moved to Cranberry Marsh Mar. 26-May 4 (D.R.F.N.) and the others were at Port Stanley Apr. 24 (RKH), Brights Grove Apr. 24-26 (DFR) and Pukaskwa May 20 (THi). A Wood Duck was n. of L. Abitibi in late May (TA). The wintering ♂ Tufted Duck was still in Hamilton Bay Apr. 24 (DGa, KMcl). Two ♀ Barrow's Goldeneyes were in Ottawa Mar. 12-Apr. 20 (BMDi *et al.*) and another was at Kettle Pt., Mar. 21 (AHR). Farther n. at Pukaskwa, a male was seen May 2 & 9 (THi). At Winona Apr. 2, a ♀ Harlequin Duck appeared (KMcl). The ad. ♂ King Eider at e. Headland, Toronto May 26 (HGC) was likely the same bird found dead on the beach in Whitby harbour May 31 (JRN).

**VULTURES, HAWKS** — An early Turkey Vulture was on Amherst I., Mar. 10 (MB, RR) and at Wiarton Mar. 13 (DF). Their maxima of 130 and 64 at the Grimsby hawkwatch occurred Apr. 8 & 10 respectively (MCI, DGa *et al.*) while at Kenora peak numbers passed Apr. 18-22 (SMcl). The Mississippi Kite at Pelee May 9 (MG) will be the fifth for Ontario since 1971 if approved by the Ontario Bird Records Committee. Goshawks were in high numbers following last autumn's flight. The 70+ at Grimsby, including nine Apr. 2, surpassed the record 54 set in 1982 (*vide* KMcl). At Marathon, eight were migrating Apr. 9 (THi). Two Red-shouldered Hawks at Pelee May 21 were unusual for that area (KB, DFR) and the largest group of Broad-winged reported consisted of 190 at the Mississagi Light Apr. 30, having apparently crossed from the Michigan peninsula (JCN). Ontario's third spring **Swainson's Hawk** was at Rainy R., May 19 (RDM, PS). Concentrations of Rough-leggeds were led by 72 w. of Paisley Apr. 16 (MP), 35 on Wolfe I., Apr. 17 (AEB, RWo) and 20 migrating n. of L. Temiskaming (PWR). Seven Golden and 40 Bald eagles were sighted. An imm. Bald at the e. tip of Long Pt., Apr. 27 wore a yellow tag in the left wing (L.P.B.O.), probably one of the 64 young eagles released in s.e. New York since 1976. Single Gyrfalcons were in Sudbury Mar. 27 (CGB) and on M.I., Apr. 17 (JCN). Farther s., the nicely documented Gyrfalcon on Wolfe I., was late (SMu, DMo). Peregrines totaled 11 s. of M.I., and two were at Rainy R., May 21 (RDM, PS). Two adults returned to a release site in Ottawa (*vide* BMDi) as did one in Toronto (*vide* ALD). There were 31 Merlin reports excluding five pairs at breeding sites.

**GROUSE THROUGH GALLINULES** — The 15 Spruce Grouse at Gogama Mar 1-2 were a surprise to local birders (KMa). Two Bobwhites at Melbourne in late May were the only ones reported from the s.w. (DMu). The two on Wolfe I., Mar. 11 wintered successfully (PS, RDM) and another was just n. of Kingston May 22 (FA *et al.*). Sandhill Cranes were seen in Rainy R., Thunder Bay and M.I., Apr. 22-May 27 as well as 25 at Dryden in late May (LAH). Reports from the s. included six at Vinemount Apr. 21 (BMDu), *Prince Edward* in early May (NQ), perhaps the same two at P.E.Pt., May 18 (MCE, RKE), two at Pelee Apr. 25 (*fide* DFR) and singles at Rondeau Apr. 10, Ottawa May 1 (BMDi). The crane visiting N. Gower from May 4, 1982 finally departed in the second week of April (*fide* BMDi). Up to ten Yellow Rails were 'ticking' in the Richmond swamp May 21-31 (*fide* BMDi). Peterborough's earliest ever Com. Gallinule was found Apr. 17 (FH).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Water levels were high through most of the period and observers in several areas noted a poor flight prior to mid-May. The hard pressed Piping Plover was reported at Pelee with one and two birds May 5-7 (DFR, RB) and Rainy R., May 21 (RDM, PS). Early Killdeer were at Warton Mar. 5 (JWJ) and Ottawa Mar. 6 (BMDi, WC) along with Am Woodcock at Kettle Pt., and Kingston Mar. 7 (AHR, A. Scott) and Warton Mar. 8 (JWJ). The 32 Am. Golden Plover at Melbourne Apr. 30 were unprecedented for *Middlesex* (WRM) in spite of a poor flight year. Tremendous numbers of Whimbrel were seen May 20-26 along the axis from the e. L. Ontario shore to Georgian Bay and M.I. Some spilled over to Ottawa and Long Pt. Near Warton, 2000 passed in ½ hour May 25 (JWJ), a remarkable total for a species not often seen in *Grey-Bruce*. Greater Yellowlegs arrived at Sandy L. Indian Reserve (53°N, 93°W) Apr. 24 (GH) and were scarce everywhere except for the 200 on M.I., May 8 with 300 Lessers (JCN). Willets were numerous for the second consecutive spring led by up to 41 in the Pelee area Apr. 30-May 2 (*fide* DFR). Singles were at Presqu'île May 3-15 (J & JT *et al.*), Hamilton May 8 (BMDu), Long Pt., May 5, 6, 15 (L.P.B.O.) and Toronto May 24 (PWu). A lone Purple Sandpiper, rare in spring, visited the Long Pt. breakwater Apr. 15-16 (L.P.B.O.). Pectorals were scarce throughout the southwest. The White-rumped flight was average with about 30 sightings and one in the Waterloo area May 1 was early (SRK, LFJ). A Baird's, also rare in spring, was at Port Hope May 26 (BO). Dunlin were impressive in large numbers as their main flight arrived May 24. Presqu'île hosted 10,000 May 24 which were reduced to 2500 by May 26 (AGC, J & JT). Unlike the Whimbrel, the Dunlin's flight was not noted on M.I. (JCN). Four W. Sandpiper sightings, all without details, were reported May 18-30 at Presqu'île, Hamilton, Port Hope and Lakefield. The only documented Long-billed Dowitchers were two at Brights Grove Apr. 5-6 (AHR, DFR). Twelve Stilt Sandpipers were about average numbers for recent springs of which four were at St. Catharines May 20-29 (JBI, RWK) and three at Stoney Pt., May 21 (DFR).

Single Marbled Godwits were at Marathon Apr. 26-May 4 (THi, KT, MJ), Pelee May 9 (*fide* DFR) and Long Pt., May 24 (L.P.B.O.), which were average spring numbers. The six Hudsonians were more than usual at Bath May 19 (RDW), M.I., May 21 (JGL), Toronto's e. Headland May 23-June 1 (HGC, ALD), Rainy R., May 24 (DVW), Lakefield and Sudbury May 26 (AGC *et al.*, CTB). The seven Ruffs exceeded the record four set in 1977, 1981 and 1982. Since the early 1970s, it has become an increasingly regular, but rare, spring migrant in s. Ontario. A female was at Presqu'île Apr. 13 (RDM) and in the Toronto area, a male was in Vaughan Township Apr. 29 (ALD, GBe *et al.*) and 2 males at Holland Landing sewage lagoon May 18 (HGC). The others were a female at Melbourne Apr. 30, the fifth for *Middlesex* (*fide* WRJ), a male at Richmond May 2-5, Ottawa's ninth record (BMDi, PD *et al.*) and a male near Cornwall May 17 (MRWB). The showy 25 Am. Avocets were remarkable! Led by ten at Pelee May 1 (RS, JF *et al.*), they were followed by seven each at Winona May 2 (BMack) and Eagle, w. *Elgin* May 5 (J & EM, PP) and one in Dryden in early May (LAH). The 320 Wilson's Phalaropes at the Rainy R. sewage lagoon May 22 (RDM, PS) decreased to 60 on May 24 (DVW) and two May 27 (SFP). The only N. Phalarope report was at Richmond May 23 (BMDi).

**GULLS, TERNS** — Latest records from a heavy March-April flight of white-winged gulls were single Glaucous at Nepean May 28 (BMDi)

and Iceland at Hamilton May 29 (RCu, KMCL). Seven Lesser Black-backed were a spring record Pickering area Mar. 4-8, 24 (SMcG, DAS), Cobourg Mar. 12 (BO, BG), Morpeth, *Kent* Apr. 4 (DMA, RS), Turkey Pt., Apr. 15-16 (BJ, GP), Ottawa May 3-12 (ad.) & 21 (imm.) (*fide* BMDi) and Sauble R. mouth, *Bruce* May 6-20 (PM). Six Thayer's at Sarnia Apr. 1 accounted for half their migrant total (DFR). An ad **Mew Gull** at Wheatley Apr. 29-May 1 (m.ob.) furnished Ontario's only fifth record. Single Black-headed were at Whitby Apr. 9 and 18 (KB, AWo) and Long Pt., May 20 & 22 (L.P.B.O.). The ad. Laughing at the Nepean dump May 5 (BMDi, RMP) was Ottawa's first in spring. Others included single adults in the Long Pt. area Apr. 14, 27, May 29 (L.P.B.O.), Pelee May 11 (DFR, WCl) and Whitby May 26-27 (MMcE *et al.*). Little Gulls numbered 56 at Rondeau Mar. 26, 30 at Pelee Apr. 9-10 (KB, AWo) and 16 at Oshawa's Second Marsh Apr. 27 (GAS, MMcE). The only Black-legged Kittiwake reported was an immature at Kettle Pt., Apr. 16 (AHR). Moosonee hosted Ontario's first ever **Ross' Gull**. An adult was present May 14-23 (KFA *et al.*, ph). Seven Forster's Terns were noted away from their usual L. Erie sites: three at Fanshawe L., London Apr. 28 (AMcT), singles at Cranberry Marsh and at Barcovan near Presqu'île May 3 (MJB, RDM *et al.*), Rainy R., May 19 (RDM, PS) and Ottawa May 24 (MG, IJ). Arctic Tern numbers at Ottawa were the highest since that regular route was discovered in 1972. About 70-80 birds were tallied May 21-31 with peaks of 22 each at Shirley's Bay May 23 & 26 (*fide* BMDi).

**OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — An exodus of Snowy Owls from the s. occurred Mar. 27-29 and the latest were individuals near Paisley Apr. 23 (JWJ) and Burlington Apr. 27 (MJe). The Hawk Owl on M.I., Mar. 3 was likely a recent arrival from farther s. (JCN). One hit by a slingshot at Moosonee Mar. 21 was admitted to the Owl Rehabilitation and Research Foundation with crippling injuries (KMCK). Five Boreals were calling in Pukaskwa during April (THi, MJ) as was the one at Sandy L. Indian Reserve Apr. 5 (GH). Five Chuck-will's-widows were calling in Rondeau May 12 (HGC) and another was at Long Point P.P., May 8 (L.P.B.O.). Early for the cool spring were a Com. Nighthawk Apr. 16 and Chimney Swift Apr. 11, both in the Whitby area (DVR), and a Ruby-throated Hummingbird in London Apr. 25, their earliest ever (WGG). The Red-bellied Woodpecker at Presqu'île May 25 & 28 was their second ever (J & JT) and an amorous pair at a tree hole at P.E.Pt., May 13-21 led to hopes of a first nesting there (K.F.N.). Virginiatown's first ever Red-headed was seen May 15-18 (PWR). Vestiges of winter's Black-backed Three-toed irruption included singles at Presqu'île to May 9 (J & JT), Collingwood May 14 (DB) and five at Ottawa in May (BMDi). Two N. Three-toeds at Ottawa May 22 were late (BMDi) and other extralimitals were singles at Kingston Apr. 13 (RR), Green Pt., *Prince Edward* Apr. 16 (*fide* RTS) and Georgian Bay Is., Apr. 17 (*fide* GB).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS** — A W. Kingbird was at Pelee May 21 (HGC, KB, HHA) and another at Rainy R., May 27 (SFP). An observant ploughman identified a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher May 18 near Port Dover as it perched on corn stalks in the field being worked up for corn planting (MN, WR). Another was seen at Pelee around May 19 (KB, DW *et al.*). Early were an E. Phoebe at Carleton Place Mar. 9 (AS), Least Flycatcher near Paisley Apr. 23 (S.F.N.), Tree and Barn swallows at Pelee Mar. 10 & 11 respectively (RDM) and Purple Martin at the Mississagi Light Apr. 16 (JCN). An active Black-billed Magpie's nest was found at Rainy R., May 21 (RDM, PS). Canada's first ever **Carolina Chickadee** was netted at the e. tip of Long Pt., May 18 and the specimen is destined for the Royal Ontario Museum (L.P.B.O.). The Tufted Titmouse wintering at Kingston was last seen Mar. 24 (KFE *et al.*). The return flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches was very light, which was expected after so many overwintered. Single Carolina Wrens were at Pelee, Long Pt., Ajax, Oakville and Etobicoke Mar. 6-late May (m.ob.) and a pair nested at St. Catharines (MEF).

**MIMIDS THROUGH VIREOS** — Mockingbirds wandering N were seen in Marathon Apr. 17 & May 22 (THi, WMcA), Virginiatown May 10 (JN) and Wabigoon in May (LAH). The last date for the overwintering Varied Thrush in Oakville was Mar. 22 (DRG). An ad. Townsend's Solitaire at Marathon Mar. 29 (THi, ph) was a nice find. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers continue to increase as migrants through Long Pt.

(L.P.B.O.) and as breeders along L. Ontario's shore from Whitby to Kingston. A record seven were in Ottawa Apr. 28-May 24 (*vide* BMDi) and one was at the Mississagi Light May 14 (JCN). Two Bohemian Waxwings were late in Ottawa May 10 (BGa) and the only other report was of 28 birds at Ft. Frances Mar. 4 (DHE). Fewer than usual White-eyed Vireos were in the southwest (JPK) and three were banded at Long Pt. (L.P.B.O.). Singles were in Toronto May 2 (ADo), P.E.Pt., Presqu'île & Springford, *Oxford* May 7 (m. ob.), Peterborough May 8 (RDM, AGC) for a second county record and Bronte May 23 (MJe). The Warbling Vireo at Pelee Apr. 12 (JEF) was early and another at the Mississagi Light May 14 was taken by a Sharp-shinned Hawk (JCN).

**WARBLERS** — Several very early arrivals included a Black-and-white at North Bay and Kingston Apr. 16 (GFC, AMacP), a Magnolia, Yellow-rumped and Chestnut-sided at North Bay Apr. 29, 12 & 29 respectively (GFC), a Yellow-rumped and Blackburnian at Marathon Apr. 15 & 27 (THi, MJ, KT) and a Blackpoll at Peterborough May 8 (FH, CV *et al.*). Up to five Prothonotary Warblers were at Pelee (*vide* AHK) and the only other reported was at Bronte May 7 (IR, AJ, MJe). Worm-eatings were in good numbers. Several were at Pelee from May 8 (*vide* DFR). Three were banded and three others seen in the Long Pt. area Apr. 30-May 13 (L.P.B.O.) while six were at Whitby May 4 (DJM, LR), Bronte May 7 & 10 (two—MJe, IR), Kingston May 10 (PMack) and P.E.Pt., May 12 (MCE). Unprecedented numbers of Blue-winged were the 39 sightings! Singles were n. to Ottawa May 14, their third (RG), and Gravenhurst May 19 (RLB). Six Brewster's hybrids were at Bronte May 8 (MJe). Presqu'île May 24 & 28 (CEG, J & JT), Deep R., Orillia and M.I., May 21 (WW, RLB, JCN). Ontario's eighth Black-throated Gray was in Toronto May 8 (A & SN, GG).

A Yellow-throated at Pelee Apr. 30-May 4 was joined by a second May 4 (*vide* DFR) and the only other was at Kettle Pt., May 22 (AHR, TCR). Early Prairies were at Ottawa May 3-4 (RK *et al.*), Ingersoll May 6 (RS), very rare at both locations, and in Georgian Bay Is., May 7-8 (GB), earliest ever for *Muskoka*. The usual numbers of Louisiana Waterthrushes were at Pelee, Long Pt., and Kingston, but unusual singles were at Collingwood May 1 (DB) and near Cambridge May 12-20 (TCh). Four Kentucky Warblers were at Pelee May 8 where one or two were seen daily (DFR) and four was the season's total at Long Pt. (L.P.B.O.). Seven others were reported at Port Glasgow, P.E.Pt., Whitby, London, Mud L., near Welland, Kettle Pt., and Komoka May 7-28 (m.ob.). One Yellow-breasted Chat was found dead at London Apr. 26 (JRC) and 19 were in the Long Pt. area May 4-27 of which 10 were banded (L.P.B.O.). Two were at Whitby May 7-11 (D.R.F.N.), singles at Ingersoll May 8 (DB), Bronte May 9 (MJe) and P.E.Pt., May 19 & 22 (K.F.N.). It was a banner year for Hooded Warblers. Away from Pelee where up to five/day were seen (DFR) and Long Pt., where five were banded and three more sighted (L.P.B.O.), there were singles at London and Port Glasgow, three in *Niagara*, singles at Hamilton, Toronto, Cobourg, Whitby, Presqu'île, Kingston and two at P.E.Pt., May 7-20 (m.ob.).

**BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS** — Away from the nesting areas in *Lambton* and the *Bruce* pen., the one W. Meadowlark was reported near Lindsay Apr. 16 & 22 (FH, AGC). Ten pairs of Yellow-headed Blackbirds were in the marshes of Stoney Pt. lagoon from May 15 (HGC, DFR). Stray birds were at Kingston May 9 (BAW) and Long Pt., May 28 (L.P.B.O.). The 70 and 55 at Rainy R., May 21 (RDM, PS) & May 27 (SFP) respectively were high counts. Ten Orchard Orioles at Long Pt., May 7-24 were more than the usual (L.P.B.O.) as were the five at P.E.Pt., and three at Presqu'île May 7-18 (K.F.N., CEG *et al.*). An adult reached M.I., May 22 (JGL). A ♂ Brewer's Blackbird was e. to P.E.Pt., May 4 (RDW) and two each were at Kettle Pt., Apr. 26 (AHR) and Toronto May 21 (D.Love *et al.*). A possible ♀ W. Tanager was reported at Pelee (AGC *et al.*) and has yet to be considered by the Ontario Bird Records Committee. Two Summer Tanagers were picked up dead at Pelee in early May and an imm. male was there May 12 (DFR). Single males were at Burlington May 10 (DGa) and St. Catharines May 10-11 (LG, JBl).

**FINCHES, SPARROWS** — The wintering ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Ottawa spent March at the feeder (BMDi) and another appeared at an Oshawa feeder Mar. 26 (DJM), presumably having wintered

nearby. The eight undocumented reports of Blue Grosbeak are difficult to assess. A female at the Long Pt. breakwater May 18 was nicely described (L.P.B.O.). Indigo Buntings were unusually numerous in Georgian Bay Islands from May 21 (GB). A ♂ Dickcissel was in Pelee May 14 & 22 (CV, HGC *et al.*) after another appeared at a St. Catharines' feeder May 8 (MEF *et al.*). One was also in Kingsville May 10-15 (RLB, TM). The late February influx of Evening Grosbeaks carried over into March and some 5000 were estimated to be at Kingston feeders late in the month. Two pairs of House Finches spent the period in Pembroke (JB) and a nest was found in Peterborough May 21 (RDM *et al.*) Pine Grosbeaks were numerous around Pukaskwa in March (THi), scarce through to Quetico P.P., and absent s. of Gogama. The Eur. Goldfinch at Sioux Lookout in May had observers wondering about its origins (*vide* LAH).

The earliest of five Le Conte's Sparrows in the Marathon area was seen May 2 (THi). One was at Pelee May 7 (KG *et al.*), and Amherst 1, May 22 (N & RBS), for only the second spring record for Kingston. At Pelee, there was a Lark Sparrow May 11-12 (DFR *et al.*). About 1200 Dark-eyed Juncos were at P.E.Pt., Apr. 10 and Presqu'île Apr. 14 (RDW, RDM) and 750 at Marathon Apr. 16, where three of the *oregonus* race were present Apr. 15 & 28 (THi, MJ). Another *oregonus* was at P.E.Pt., Apr. 16 (JE, RDW). An early Chipping Sparrow was in Marathon Apr. 17 (THi). The 28 sightings of Clay-colored s. of M I include newly discovered sites in the Harwood and Kingston areas (ERM, K.F.N.). Two March reports of Field Sparrow at Whitby and Port Rowan were likely wintering birds, and that at a Marathon feeder Apr. 17 was rare (THi). The hardy Harris' at Harwood overwintered to May 13 (ERM). Individuals were near Port Hope Apr. 22-May 8 (ERM) and Wiarton May 11-19 (*vide* JWJ). None was seen at Atikokan which is unusual (SFP). Lapland Longspurs were numerous after Apr. 17 and the largest flock contained 300 and 200 respectively May 2 & 6 at Linwood and Iroquois Falls (SRK, PWR). A documented **Smith's Longspur** was reported at Marathon Apr. 24 (THi), very rare e. of Thunder Bay.

**CORRIGENDA** — AB 37:175. The Whimbrel at Barrie Sept. 9 should be credited to J. Thompson. The Red Phalarope reported at the Dundas marsh Aug. 29 was actually a Northern.

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## NIAGARA-CHAMPLAIN REGION

/Douglas P. Kibbe

This spring was one of the most productive in memory, judging from the number of rarities and record high counts reported by observers throughout the Region. Ironically this plethora is, in part at least, a result of austere weather which delayed many arrivals and stressed early-arriving species. It rained or snowed on virtually every weekend (15 straight) during the season, inducing major "groundings" on many of them including May 22 when one party of Rochester area birders was able to amass a list of 183 species. Snowfall, which was scant the past winter, blanketed parts of the Region with 2-3 feet April 16-21, much to the distress of many early-arriving species. The last snowfall came the second week of May. Overall it was one of the wettest springs in history. Gypsy moths remained locally abundant in central New York although infestations have abated farther east. Staggering counts of non-raptors on the Ontario lakeplains hawk watches will, hopefully, underscore the importance of lakefront natural areas as staging sites for migrants before shoreline developments all but eliminate them.

**LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL** — As usual Rochester enjoyed the best concentrations of loons and Red-necked Grebes. Numerous counts exceeded 100 in April despite an armada of fishing boats in resting and flocking waters. Horned and Pied-billed grebes, however, continued to show evidence of declines. Virtually unprecedented at this season was a **Gannet** seen at Hamburg Apr. 16(RA). Most fall strays presumably perish as had the immature found dead Mar. 2 at Oswego (GM, *fide* PD). Two White Pelicans at Pt. Gratiot May 22 (AS *et al.*, *fide* B.O.S.) continued this species' series of annual appearances. Double-crested Cormorants, nesting for the first time last year on L. Champlain, occupied 15 nests on Vermont's Young I. this year. Cattle Egrets, although widely reported, have failed to establish Regional breeding colonies away from the L. Champlain islands despite scattered breeding attempts in the past. Whether this represents a lull in the species' previously explosive expansion or the reaching of a true geographic or climatic constraint to their spread remains to be seen. Two Great Egrets were found at Rutland, Vt., while the usual handful (max. 3) was found at a scattering of c. and w. New York localities. Two Snowy Egrets appeared at Kendall and another continued a pattern of appearances at Herrick's Cove, now perhaps the most likely locality in the Region to regularly find this southern stray in spring. Only a few Least Bitterns were noted and Am. Bitterns were scarcely better reported by most observers although an extensive survey of n. New York marshes found them regularly. An influx of Glossy Ibises yielded sightings at Iroquois N.W.R., Braddock Bay and, in Vermont at Shelburne Farms.

Five cygnets seen with three ad. Mute Swans at Perch River W.M.A. in mid-May were evidence of at least sporadic breeding in the Region. A good Whistling Swan migration was upstaged by the massing of 140,000 Canada Geese at Montezuma N.W.R., and 77,000 at Iroquois N.W.R. in mid-March. Snow Geese were also exceptionally abundant, peaking at 30,000 at Montezuma N.W.R., in mid-April. All these tallies are unprecedented. Rarities included a Barnacle Goose, of unknown origin, at Iroquois (RA *et al.*), White-fronted Geese at Iroquois (m.ob.) and Biddlecum Marsh (FS) and a pair of Barrow's Goldeneye (JM) at Winooski in March; a Eur. Green-winged Teal at Clay Marsh (FS, m.ob.), Eur. Wigeon at Buffalo (RA, RB) and Rochester (F + RD); and a ♂ **Common Eider** at Montezuma (VD, *fide* WB) in April.

**HAWKS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS** — Vermonters owe a debt of appreciation to the Canadian rock climber who found their first Turkey Vulture nest May 11 just s. of Philipsburg, Quebec (RG, *fide* MG). A



Black Vulture at Cold Spring, N.Y., May 9 (Elderkins, *fide* B.O.S.) was unexpected but pales by comparison with Vermont's first **Swallow-tailed Kite** in 70 years watched and followed by car through the outskirts of Middlebury May 26 (BR, MPD). While the species is not unprecedented, its appearance was, to say the least, unexpected. While space prevents a full discussion of the intriguing results from the Region's 2 best manned hawk watches, Derby Hill and Braddock Bay, some comparisons warrant special attention. Both watches enjoyed spectacular Broad-winged flights in late April, the "Bay" hosting 11,172 Apr. 27 while the "Hill" peak 13,321 came 2 days later. Other species showed fairly close correlation of peak flight dates and species tallies between sites (with the "Hill" usually slightly higher, as expected). On Apr. 14, however, the "Bay" enjoyed an Am. Kestrel migration of unprecedented proportions as 1166 streamed past. This one-day tally exceeded the entire season's count at the "Hill" and constituted 66% of the seasonal "Bay" count. Apparently most of these falcons crossed L. Ontario somewhere between the 2 watches, but the real mystery is what induced them to amass at the "Bay" in the first place. Other significant or record(\*) tallies from the "Bay" and "Hill" respectively include Turkey Vulture 2133 and 1437, Goshawk 141\* and 162, Sharp-shinned 10,573\* and 6142, Red-tailed Hawk 3008 and 8166\*, Broad-winged 30,037\* and 40,108, Golden Eagle 9 and 15, Bald Eagle 36 and 15, Marsh Hawk 641 and 1077\*, Merlin 13\* and 11 and totals 49,989 and 60,305. Elsewhere, Osprey have returned to Montezuma to nest for the third year while in Vermont a Golden Eagle in Addison County (PT) and a light-phase Gyrfalcon at Newark Apr. 19 (CA) rounded out the notables.

Wild Turkeys, locally introduced throughout the Region over the past several decades, have continued to expand on all fronts while Bobwhite rarely manage to survive the winter, singles at Webster, N.Y., and Woodstock, Vt., being this year's sole exceptions. This spring's Sandhill Crane report comes from Derby Hill May 5 (GS). The series of storms which traversed the Region produced many shorebird fallouts, the more notable of which include: 300 Semipalmated Plovers May 26 at Iroquois (G.O.S.), 200 Black-bellied Plovers Apr. 29 at Montezuma (VD), 125 Lesser Yellowlegs May 3 at Hamlin (G.O.S.), a Willet at Eldorado May 5 (RW), up to six Whimbrel May 20-26 at Iroquois (JM), 95 Pectoral Sandpipers May 7 at Bergen (RGS), 1600 Dunlin at Hamlin and another 1500+ at Iroquois May 26 (R.B.A.), 100+ Short-billed Dowitchers May 15 w. of Rochester (WS), Stilt Sandpipers at Six Mile Creek and Hamlin, 2000 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Hamlin and another 2500 at Oak Orchard W.M.A., May 26 (R.B.A., G.O.S.), four W. Sandpipers May 30 w. of Rochester (MD), a Hudsonian Godwit May 11 at Iroquois (B.O.S.), up to four Wilson's Phalaropes at 4 w. New York locations and an **American Avocet** which spent most of the latter half of May at Iroquois (m.ob.). The preponderance of records from Iroquois was due in part to the timely draining of Cayuga Pool to control marsh vegetation.



**GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Apparently realizing that the Vermont Breeding Bird Atlas was finished, a pair of Great Black-backed Gulls nested on Young I. (R&DL) for the first time in history. Rarities included a Lesser Black-backed at Iroquois Mar. 10 (PH), an ad Laughing at Fair Haven May 21 (*fide*, PD), a Little Gull at Geneva during April and May (JC), a possible imm. Thayer's Gull at Burlington (WE, NM) and Vermont's second **Ivory Gull** found Mar. 3 at the Chittenden County dump (PT). A belated report of a Black-headed Gull pairing with a Ring-billed on Little Galoo I., last spring was also received (*fide* HC). Forster's Terns, reports of which have declined dramatically in the past several years, were virtually unreported this spring.

Both pairs of Barn Owls reported were in the L. Champlain valley, an area which apparently harbors the northernmost regularly breeding population in e. North America. Owl enthusiasts banded 33 Saw-whet Owls in Noyes Sanctuary on e. Lake Ontario this spring but were unsuccessful in netting or observing a possible Boreal heard calling there Apr. 1 (RSS *et al.*, *fide* OAS). As usual Whip-poor-will records were sparse although six were found around the marshes of Black L., in n. New York in late May. Chimney Swifts arrived at several locations mid-April just days prior to the storm that dumped 2-3 feet of snow on portions of the Region. Kestrel wasn't the only species to be seen in abundance at Braddock Bay Apr. 14, as 280 Belted Kingfishers (20 times the Regional high count) and 263 Com. Flickers (RD *et al.*) also streamed by on that date. Localities reporting Red-headed Woodpeckers increased, with at least a half-dozen sightings in Vermont.

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES** — A new high count of 21 Great Crested Flycatchers was established at Letchworth S.P., May 22 (D Ba) and flocks of 5000 Tree Apr. 14, and 500 Rough-winged swallows on L. Ontario were notable although not unprecedented. Although reportedly "well documented" (MW, *fide* WB) it is somewhat mystifying how a Violet-green Swallow at Big Flats could be identified as an immature May 18. The dynamics of Blue Jay migration and breeding remain an excellent subject for some enterprising investigator. More than 3600 passed Pinehurst May 25, 2 days after a pair was found feeding young at Belmont. Can the migratory segment of the population, which is obvious along the lakeplains well into June, be comprised exclusively of nonbreeding subadults, if such a cohort exists? Extralimital Com. Ravens were more evident than ever with up to three in Allegany County, four past Derby Hill Apr. 14-May 19, plus sightings at Hamlin and Connecticut Hill. At 10,000 strong Am. Robin was by far the most abundant species at Braddock Bay Apr. 14 (RD *et al.*). The **Varied Thrush** reappeared Mar. 14 after a snowstorm (DCa *et al.*). Two Bohemian Waxwings Mar. 7 & 8 at Londonderry (SA) concluded the lackluster appearance of this species this winter. A Cedar Waxwing banded at Alfred Station sported bright orange-tipped tail feathers (*fide* EB). At least two N. Shrikes lingered into the first week of April, while the earliest of a dozen Loggerheads appeared Mar. 27.

**VIREOS AND WARBLERS** — At least a half-dozen White-eyed Vireos were found in w. and c. New York Apr. 25+. A Philadelphia Vireo arrived shortly afterwards, May 1 (MR, *fide* PD) extremely early for this species and more remarkable considering the generally inclement weather. Prothonotary Warblers, presumably overshooting their breeding grounds at Iroquois and Montezuma, occur as rare but fairly regular spring migrants on the lake plains. This year was no exception although one of the 3 extralimital reports came from the Adirondacks (*fide* H.P.A.S.). About a dozen Worm-eating Warblers were identified in the best influx experienced by c. New York in recent years. A half-dozen Orange-crowned Warbler records, all in c. and w. New York, is also well above normal for spring. At least nine Yellow-breasted Chats, three Kentucky Warblers and two Connecticut Warblers, the latter very rare in spring, were spotted in New York. This listing of rarities in no way does justice to the unusual congregations of usual migrants noted by many observers, particularly along L. Ontario. General observations and mist netting by banders indicated shrub and forest habitats support hordes of passerines staging for the flight across this Great Lake. At peak times concentrations may number in the thousands of birds/100 acres. Observers can provide a valuable conservation service by identifying those areas harboring the greatest concentrations, estimating their numbers, and lending support in preserving these areas for the future generations of birds and birders.

**BLACKBIRDS AND SPARROWS** — Three W Meadowlarks were located in c. New York, at least two on territory. Other w. visitors included a Yellow-headed Blackbird at Tonawanda W.M.A., in March (JM) and Fillmore in May (Young *et al.*) and up to 15 Brewer's Blackbirds at Hamlin (G.O.S.). The latter species may well be added to the Region's breeding bird list in the near future. Sixteen locations reported Orchard Orioles including 3 in Vermont's Champlain Valley. Two Summer Tanagers were found near Rochester in mid-May. An unbelievably early Indigo Bunting was found Mar. 31 at Livonia (HM, *fide* G.O.S.). Although normally late migrants, many others appeared at feeders following light snowfalls in early May. At Pine City, N.Y., they were outclassed by a **Painted Bunting** May 6-7 (DC *et al.*, *fide* WB) Dickcissels appeared briefly at Greece and Ithaca but gave little indication that they might breed. Winter finches remained scarce except for the usual surge of Am. Goldfinches. Grasshopper and Henslow's sparrows continue to elude most observers. Rarities included an "Oregon" Junco at Brighton (CC *et al.*, *fide* G.O.S.), a **Le Conte's Sparrow** May 14 at Carlton (RO, RD, *fide* R.B.A.), a **Clay-colored Sparrow** again at Pomfret, N.Y., May 29-30 (FR *et al.*) and Vermont's second record at an Addison County feeder May 5 (K&JA) plus the Harris' Sparrow which continued at a Fredonia, N.Y. feeder until Mar. 5 (Goetz)

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## APPALACHIAN REGION

/George A. Hall

It was a crazy season, one which taxes the ingenuity of a Regional Editor to sum up in a few words. The winter had been mild and dry, and early March continued this trend with temperatures reaching near the 80°s F. In mid-March things suddenly changed and we had our winter. From then on the season was colder than normal and much wetter than normal. At Pittsburgh, April had a temperature deficiency of -112 day-degrees and a precipitation excess of +0.63 inch, while in May the temperature deficiency was only -78 day-degrees and the precipitation excess was 1.88 inches. Similar conditions prevailed throughout the Region. There were several light snowfalls in April including 2-3 inches in Knoxville, and 5 inches in Elizabethton, Tennessee, on April 18. At Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, it rained on 13 consecutive weekends, and other locations were almost as drenched.

The waterfowl migration started in February and most individuals had left by early March. However the passerines due to arrive in March, such as the blackbirds, were slightly late. Numbers of these migrants were not especially high. Throughout the cold, delayed winter of April most species were in low numbers and arrived late. In many cases "first seen" dates were about normal, but in general arrivals were late. The April migration could best be described as "dull." Species due to arrive in the last week of April failed to appear at that time. Plants had been leafing out and flowering since early March, and this continued despite moderately heavy frosts as late as early May.



Things began to change for the better about May 1 with a big influx of birds in the north, and a very heavy movement in the south (*i.e.*, Knoxville). Despite the cool, wet weather the May migration proceeded with several good influxes. The last of these was about May 14-15, but during the last two weeks in May large numbers of many species came through. This movement continued through the end of the period and indeed such birds as Swainson's Thrushes and some warblers were still moving through in numbers during the first week in June. In the Cheat Mountains of West Virginia two censuses taken on May 30 and June 11 showed that while all species were present on the earlier date the full numbers had not arrived by that time (GAH).

As usual there was disagreement between areas in evaluating the migration, but more places found it to be a good one than did not. The wet weekends perhaps discouraged the birders, but the birds did move through.

For the first year in many, there were essentially no "northern invaders" to add spice to the early part of the period. On the other hand, the account that follows probably has more bold faced "goodies" than is usual for this Region, and several species which are often scarce in the spring made very good showings.

In the following account names in *italics* are counties. There are no duplicate place names. Places are located by state once or twice only.

**LOONS TO CORMORANTS** — The flight of Com. Loons was somewhat late but generally heavy, as for example 100 at Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., in early May (CS) and a flock of 70 at Lock Haven, Pa., May 8 (CH). There were numerous reports of loons still present at the end of May and into early June even as far s. as Chattanooga (BCo). The only report of a Red-throated Loon was at Presque Isle S.P. (hereafter, P.I.S.P.), Pa., Apr. 2 & 4 (JM, TK). A Red-necked Grebe was at Bald Eagle S.P., from late March to late April (KJ). Horned Grebes were more commonly reported than they have been in recent years. A **White Pelican** was at P.I.S.P., May 4 (RR). Double-crested Cormorants were unusually abundant. One at Warren, Pa., May 2 (HJ) was the first there since 1957. One was still present at Chattanooga May 26 (RS).

**HERONS** — Great Blue and Green herons were more commonly seen than usual. From 50 to 77 Great Blue Herons were present at P.I.S.P. in April (JM). The Great Egret continued to be more numerous in spring than formerly with reports coming from Jefferson, Pa. (RB), w. Pennsylvania (PH), *Rockingham*, Va. (R.B.C.), and Chattanooga (PHa). Snowy Egrets and Little Blue Herons are usually unreported in spring but Snowies were found at Roanoke, Va., May 1 (BA & MP); State College, Pa., May 3 (HH); P.I.S.P., May 4-28 (SS, BG); and *Clarion*, Pa., May 20 (C & LSp). Little Blue Herons were found at Roanoke Apr. 5 (MD); Chattanooga May 5 (RS); Shenandoah L., Va., May 14 (R.B.C.); and Powdermill Nature Reserve, Pa. (hereafter, P.N.R.),

May 21 (RCL & RM). Cattle Egrets staged a real invasion and were reported from P.I.S.P. (SS); State College, Pa. (HH); Carnifex Ferry S.P., W.Va. (RRi); Roanoke (BK & LK); New Hope, Va. (LT, RSn); Asheville, N.C. (RW), and 32 in *Meigs*, Tenn. (CC). Yellow-crowned Night Herons were nesting in *Bradley*, Tenn. (K & LD) and near Roanoke (MD & BH), and one was seen at Little Beaver S.P., *Raleigh*, W.Va., Apr. 30 (JR). A Glossy Ibis was present at *Waterford*, Pa., Apr. 29-May 9 (SS), and a **Wood Stork** was in *Rowan*, Ky., Apr. 30 (FB).

**WATERFOWL** — As reported in the last account many ducks apparently wintered n. of this Region, and so the spring flight was not very heavy. Most of the birds left the Region by mid-March, 2-3 weeks earlier than normal. At P.I.S.P., only about 13,000 diving ducks were present at the peak which is about 30% below the 1982 number. There were some good concentrations, as for example the heavy Ring-necked Duck flight and the good Redhead and Canvasback flight near the P.N.R., in s. Pennsylvania (RCL), the 3000+ scaup at Chickamauga L., Tenn., Apr. 2 (LD & PR), and the remarkable number of 250 Blue-winged Teal in *Rockingham*, Va. (R.B.C.).

Mute Swans were seen at *Crawford*, Pa., Mar. 26-Apr. 8 (BG, JM), in *Greene*, Pa., Mar. 28-May 1 (RB), and at Morgantown, W.Va., in late April (GAH). The Whistling Swan flight was not spectacular and the only records out of the usual flight line came from Shenandoah L., Va., with 27 seen Mar. 21 (R.B.C.). At Pymatuning L., Pa., the number of breeding Canada Geese was about normal but at nearby Erie N.W.R., they continue to increase (RFL). Various introductions have resulted in Canada Geese nesting at many places throughout the Region. This certainly has been a successful series of experiments and one wonders if the goose will become a pest in some areas as it has elsewhere. The only report of Snow Goose was of one at L. Arthur, Pa., Apr. 8-10 (m.ob.) and possibly the same bird at a nearby location Apr. 17 (JH).

The more unusual records included Eur. Wigeon at L. Somerset, Pa., Mar. 24-27 (RM) and at Mosquito L., O., Apr. 4-10 (CB). Several species more common on the Atlantic coast or the Great Lakes than inland were reported in unusual numbers. Oldsquaws staged a good flight and were found at Tidioute, Pa., Apr. 4 (JK); Woodcock L., Pa., Apr. 1 (RFL); L. Somerset, Pa., Apr. 1 and Donegal, Pa., Apr. 4 (RCL); 52 near Lower Burrell, Pa., Apr. 6 (RBa & RP); and Shenandoah L., Va. (R.B.C). Greater Scaup are not often reported inland but up to 40 were present at Shenandoah L. in early March (R.B.C.) and most of the 3000 scaup at Chickamauga L., Tenn., Apr. 2 were Greater (LD & PR). White-winged Scoters were reported from 5 Pennsylvania locations, Bald Eagle S.P. (CH), Conneaut L. (RFL), P.I.S.P. (m.ob., BG, SS); Edinboro, Pa. (JH, KW), and L. Somerset May 14 (RCL, RM, KP). This last bird was possibly paired with a ♀ Redhead. A Surf Scoter was at P.I.S.P., at the late date of May 1 (SS) and a pair near Davis, W.Va., Apr. 25 (YL) provided the seventh record for the state.

**RAPTORS** — The only attempt to monitor the N raptor flights came from *Washington*, Md., where 1800 birds of 12 species were observed in 34 days of observation. The leading species were 238 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 438 Broad-winged (166 on Apr. 27—L & TDo). On Apr. 2, 184 birds of 9 species were observed on the s. shore of L. Erie, but no other good flights were observed there (*vide* JM). Goshawks were nesting near Warren, Pa. (DO), and were regularly seen on Laurel Hill near P.N.R. (RCL). They were also reported from locations throughout w. Pennsylvania. Both Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks seemed to be doing well. A Mississippi Kite was at Chattanooga May 3, providing the second spring record (RS).

Ospreys were more common than usual and the *Washington* spring count listed 193 with 60 sighted Apr. 27 (L & TDo). A regrettable occurrence was the shooting of three Ospreys near Waynesboro, Va. (*vide* RSn). Golden Eagles were reported from *Highland*, Va., where they wintered (R.B.C., MHe). Two were found at Great Smoky Mountains N.P., Apr. 23 (RS), *Buncombe*, N.C., May 5 (RRu), very late birds at P.I.S.P., May 20 (RFL) and Canaan Valley, W.Va., May 23 (CSt). It is very probable that an undiscovered nesting site was near this last location (GAH). There were reports of Bald Eagles from 14 different locations with 4 nestings in the *Crawford*, Pa. area. Again this year a young bird was transplanted into one of these nests (RFL).

There were several reports of Merlins in *Erie* (m.ob.) and 3 reports

from State College, Pa. (*vide* KJ). They were also sighted at Pymatuning L., Apr. 2 (RFL) and in *Somerset*, Pa., Apr. 17 (RT) and May 13 (G & RSa). Peregrines were reported from Jones Mill, Pa., Mar. 4 (MM), in Erie Apr. 2 (SS & JM) and State College Mar. 24-Apr. 13 (MW). The Gyrfalcon in Crawford, Pa., reported in the Winter Season account remained there until Mar. 25 (RFL).

**CRANES AND RAILS** — As usual the only reports of Sandhill Cranes came from the s. At Dalton, Ga., small flocks flew over from mid-February through March (AH) and at Waleska, Ga., numerous small flocks of up to 60 birds were seen Mar. 4-5 (LF). At Chattanooga 1000+ were seen Mar. 4-21 (*vide* RS). A **Black Rail** was seen at Knoxville May 1 (JT). There were more reports of both Virginia Rails and Soras than usual.

**SHOREBIRDS** — The two shorebird "hotspots" reported mixed results. At P.I.S.P., the migration was below normal, and the only big day was May 26 when 750 birds of 8 species were logged (DS), while at the Kingston Steam Plant, Kingston, Tenn., the flight was average with a high day of 5-600 birds May 21 (CN). In general there were more than the usual number of reports of Dunlins, Ruddy Turnstones, and Pectoral Sandpipers. The most unusual records were: Am. Golden Plovers in *Knox*, Tenn., Apr. 13 (m.ob.) and at Kingston May 13 (K & LD); Short-billed Dowitcher at Bald Eagle S.P., Pa. (CS), *Rockingham* Apr. 29 (R.B.C.), Blacksburg May 14-15 (*vide* JMu), Kingston, May 21 (K & LD); Sanderling, Roanoke May 29-31 (MP & MD), and Kingston May 17 (DH); Baird's Sandpiper, Elizabethton Apr. 24 (GE); Willet, Austin Springs, Tenn., Apr. 22 (HD & MDi); Hudsonian Godwit, P.I.S.P., May 15 & 17 (SS), second county record; Whimbrel, P.I.S.P., May 29 (SS); and N. Phalarope near Rural Retreat, Va. (*vide* JMu).

**GULLS AND TERNS** — As usual P.I.S.P. reported in with a number of interesting gull records. Until the end of May some 30,000 Ring-billed Gulls were present there and some 15-20 nests were attempted, although none succeeded (JHi). Other gull records there included Glaucous, Mar. 5, 12 and (late) Apr. 16 (JM, SS, DS); Franklin's, May 8 & 15 (JM, SS); Little, Mar. 12-May 7 (JM, SS, JB); Iceland (*kumlieni*), Mar. 5 (JM). One all-white gull which matched neither the Iceland nor the Glaucous was seen there May 14. Laughing Gulls were seen at P.I.S.P., May 8, 15 & 17 (JM, SS, DS); at Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., Apr. 14-27 (HH), and at *Knox*, Tenn., May 1 (JT) and Kingston, May 14 (K & LD). Bonaparte's Gulls were reported throughout the Region in more than the usual numbers.

Caspian Terns are not usually reported in this Region but there was a remarkable influx this year, reported from 6 localities: P.I.S.P. (RFL), *Butler*, Pa (MG), Shenandoah L., Va. (county record) (R.B.C.), Roanoke (NM & TF), Blacksburg (*vide* JMu), and Kingston (K.T.O.S.). Forster's Terns were at P.I.S.P. (m.ob.), Bald Eagle S.P. (CS), Shenandoah L. (R.B.C.), Roanoke (sev. obs., *vide* BK), *Westmoreland*, Pa. (LC), *Indiana*, Pa. (R & MH), and L. Somerset, Pa. (RCL). The best tern record of the season was of an **Arctic Tern** carefully observed at P.I.S.P., May 17-28 (JM & DS) providing the first Pennsylvania record since 1890.

**CUCKOOS AND OWLS** — Several localities in the s. reported more records for the Black-billed Cuckoo than usual, but generally neither species was very common. Gradually observers are looking for, and finding Barn Owls, an almost forgotten species in the recent past. This year records came from *Rockingham*, (R.B.C.) and Elizabethton, one nest (GE), areas that have been reporting them, and new areas were Lyndhurst, Va. (JHn), Chattanooga (juvenile) Mar. 30 (PHa), and P.I.S.P., Apr. 23 (DS). Long-eared Owls were reported from P.I.S.P., May 1 (SS, JM), and Yellow-creek S.P., Pa., to Mar. 30 (R & MH), while Short-eared Owls were at P.I.S.P., Apr. 16 (SS) and *Augusta*, Va. until Mar. 27 (R.B.C.). The owl record of this or any season was of a **Burrowing Owl**, photographed in *Garrett*, Md., May 18 (FP). This provided the first record for the state, but the possibility of it being an escape cannot be ruled out. An interesting observation was of a Great Horned Owl capturing a 10" trout at a Fish Hatchery in *Erie*. A few days later this bird was found floating in the pond (JM).

**GOATSUCKERS, HUMMINGBIRDS AND WOODPECKERS** — Whip-poor-wills were mentioned in a few more reports than usual, but the species is still declining in this Region. On the other hand, the



*Burrowing Owl, Garrett Co., Md., May 18, 1983. First state record. Photo/F. Pope.*

Chuck-will's-widow is booming. They were reported from 3 locations near Stuart's Draft, Va. (YL), *Roanoke* Apr. 28 (BI); Carnifex Ferry S.P., May 20 (RRi), and most surprisingly, P.I.S.P., May 6 (JM).

At P.N.R., the flight of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds was excellent and 74 were banded—174% above average (RCL), while numbers were good elsewhere. Hummingbirds which arrived in Knoxville Apr. 14-15 were feeding among flowers in the snow of Apr. 18 (CN).

Most encouraging was the increased number of reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers, although the species remains rare at most places. There were relatively few reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers.

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS AND CORVIDS** — Eastern Kingbirds were still in low numbers throughout. Willow Flycatchers continue to increase in the n., with a total of 14 counted on a 25-mile Breeding Bird Survey Route in s.w. Pennsylvania (RB), and to expand their range into the s. Conversely Alder Flycatchers were essentially not reported. Least Flycatchers were felt to be in low numbers at most places, but four were singing on the summit of Black Mt., Ky., in late May (BP *et al.*). The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, often very uncommon in this Region in spring, was widely reported this year in good numbers with 35 banded at P.N.R. (RCL), but only one at P.I.S.P. (*vide* JM). This movement was still going on at the end of the period. Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported from Pymatuning L., Pa., May 12 (RFL), Mosquito L., O., May 21 & 28 (CB), Knoxville May 12 (JHo, J & BC), and three banded at P.N.R. (RCL). A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was in *Butler*, Pa., May 13 (AE).

Tree Swallows were found nesting at the McClintic Wildlife Station, *Mason*, W. Va., far down the Ohio R., from known sites (GB), and were occupying bluebird nest boxes in the Shenandoah Valley (RSn, R.B.C.). At Warren, Pa., about 40% of the bluebird boxes were occupied by Tree Swallows (WH) and at Lock Haven, Pa., about 30% (CH).

Fish Crows are not uncommon in the Shenandoah Valley, but the reports from there of "kettles" of 30-50 birds apparently migrating N were unusual (R.B.C.). Fish Crows were also reported from *Botetourt*, Va., Apr. 1 (BH) and from Lewisburg, W. Va., May 7 (CHa), W of the high mountains. As has been noted in the past the Com. Raven is expanding its range, and this year three were seen in *Letcher*, Ky., May 29, and three more on the summit of Black Mt., *Harlan*, Ky., May 30 (BP *et al.*). They were also found at low elevations in Great Smoky Mountains N.P., Apr. 23 (RS). Raven nests in *Forest*, Pa., and *McKean*, Pa. (new location) were successful but one in *Warren* was not (WH).

**NUTHATCHES, WRENS AND THRUSHES** — Red-breasted Nuthatches were essentially unreported except in the high elevation breeding grounds. A Brown-headed Nuthatch was seen in Asheville, N.C., May 1 & 5 (BD).

House Wrens, scarce in the North Carolina mountains were found at 3 locations in *Buncombe* during May (RRu). The Carolina Wren is making a good recovery and is nearly back to normal in the n., with 4 records from *Warren*, Pa., well n. of its normal range (WH, HJ, JSt). They remain uncommon near Asheville, N.C. (RRu), but a count of 60 in

Marion, Tenn (RS) was impressive Long-billed Marsh Wrens were reported from *Knox* May 1 (K.T.O.S.) while Short-billed Marsh Wrens were at Chattanooga Apr. 14 (K & LD), and P.N.R., May 12-13 (RC).

Mockingbirds were in *Warren* in the early spring, but a single male in early May was noteworthy for that area (WH). The migration of Swainson's Thrushes was very good at most places, 152 banded at P.N.R., up 370% (RCL), and this species was still moving through after June 1. Correspondingly the migration of Veerys and Gray-cheeked Thrushes was also good. Eastern Bluebirds seemed very widespread in n. West Virginia than in recent years (GAH).

**KINGLETS, SHRIKES AND VIREOS** — Both kinglet species staged a very heavy migration with Golden-crowned Kinglets nesting on Laurel Hill near P.N.R. (RCL). There were reports of about 10 Loggerhead Shrikes during the period in *Rockingham* (R.B.C.), but only one record from nearby *Augusta* (RSn). Shrikes nested in *Botetourt* (BK) and on the Skyline Drive near Luray, Va. (BM). Northern Shrikes were reported from Fairview, Pa., Mar. 28 and P.I.S.P., Apr. 8 (SS).

The White-eyed Vireo continues to move N and was reported from P I S.P., May 7 & 16 (RFL), Irvine, Pa., May 9 (HJ), and Bald Eagle S P (CH). A very early date was Mar. 5 in *Allegheny*, Pa. (DF). The Philadelphia Vireo is another species which is usually quite rare during the spring, but this year reports of many came from throughout the Region. In comparison the Yellow-throated Vireo appears to be continuing its slow decline.

**WARBLERS** — The warbler flight brought the usual mixed reactions, but more locations thought it was a good, or even great, flight than thought it a poor one. At P.N.R., 17 species were banded in significantly greater numbers than average, 9 in below average, and only 4 in average numbers (RCL). The wet May weather brought many of the tree-top species down low enough to be netted. This was most notable with Tennessees and Bay-breasteds at both P.N.R. (RCL) and Morgantown (GAH).

The first notable flight was the weekend of May 1 with a general influx. At *Knox*, 34 species were listed that day, and great numbers were present (*vide* CN). Another good wave came about May 15, but the migration remained heavy throughout the last 2 weeks in May.

The warbler of the season was the usually unreported Orange-crowned which was found in almost every reporting area, including one that wintered at Elizabethton, and was last seen Apr. 12 (GE). Blackpoll Warblers were missing at most places, but were numerous where they occurred. A Swainson's Warbler was at Knoxville May 1 (J & BC, CN). "Brewster's" Warblers were reported from Wytheville, Va. (TF), P I S.P., two banded May 7 (*vide* JM), P.N.R., one banded and one seen May 15 (RCL), and *Allegheny* May 7 (D & JHr). A **Kirtland's Warbler** was seen near Boaz, W. Va., May 17 (W & PC).

**BLACKBIRDS AND TANAGERS** — A Brewer's Blackbird was at Edinboro, Pa., Mar. 22 providing the second *Erie* record (DS). The Summer Tanager continues to move N. One was seen at Edinboro May 25-29 (DS). Other w. Pennsylvania records came from *Allegheny* May 7 (RT), *Indiana* May 8-10 (R & MH), *Butler* May 28 (MG), and *Greene* May 22 (RB). A **Western Tanager** was found at Bat Cave, N.C., May 31 (RW).

**FRINGILLIDS** — Two Blue Grosbeaks at State College May 3 (RBI) were well out of range, but more expected records of this species came from *Augusta*, where five were counted on a Big Day Count May 14 (YL). A juvenile was photographed in Asheville May 7 and at nearby Camp Rocky Mount May 26 (RRu); and two at Boaz, W. Va., May 8 (W & PC). Dickcissels were reported from Upper Strasburg, Pa., May 22 (CG), *Augusta*, Va., three individuals (MHe); *Clarke*, Va., May 7-10 (R & JSi); *Botetourt* Apr. 30-May 4 (BK *et al.*); Marietta, O., May 17 (RP), and *Knox* May 7 (PHr).

There were a few reports of small numbers of Evening Grosbeaks, mostly from n. c. Pennsylvania, but one bird was found as far s. as Johnson City, Tenn. (SG). Pine Siskins were reported only from Sheffield, Pa., in May (NS) and Colyer, Pa., in late April. Red Crossbills were present as usual through the season on Shenandoah Mt., *Rockingham*, Va. (R.B.C.) and imm. birds were seen in the Jefferson N.F., near

Blacksburg in May (*vide* JM)

Savannah Sparrows were apparently nesting near Blacksburg, a modest S extension (CK). Both White-throated Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos remained very late, and there were 3 reports of at least two "Oregon" Juncos in *Erie* in late March and early April (*vide* JM). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was seen at P.I.S.P., May 4 (RR).

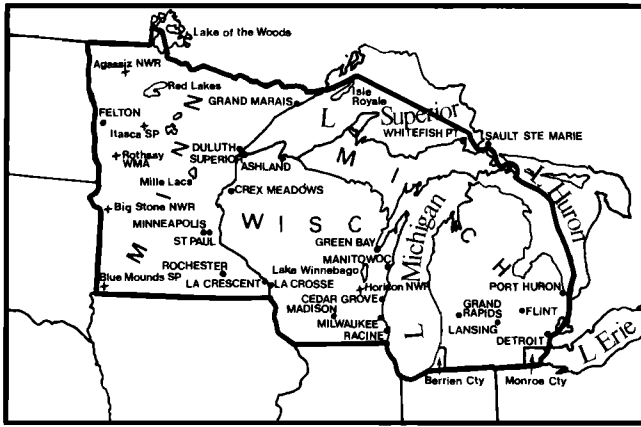
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## WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

/David J. Powell

Winter came to the Western Great Lakes Region in spring this year. After a warm spell the first ten days of March, accompanied by many migrant ducks and blackbirds, winter arrived. The entire Region was hit with snow and cold, windy weather through the last part of March and the first half of April. Michigan got its only real storm of the winter March 21, the first day of spring. (Considering the amazingly warm winter weather, this seems somehow appropriate.) In Minnesota, storms during this period dumped up to 12 inches of snow, including a storm April 13-14 which was the biggest of the winter and set record April snowfalls in several locations. After a break in late April, the weather continued cold, windy and wet through May with both Michigan and Wisconsin setting record lows on several days in May.

The migration picture was mixed. The entire Region reported good movement in early March, but thereafter it varied from state to state. Wisconsin reported no waves but had an outstanding list of rarities. Michigan and Minnesota reported few waves, with May 6-7 being the most notable in Michigan. The general impression of the migration was poor in Minnesota, fair in Wisconsin (except for the rarities) and good in Michigan. (RA recorded 20+ species of warblers in *Kalamazoo* for 14 consecutive days.)



In the following text, place names in *italics* are counties. Abbreviations—M.W.S.: Muskegon Wastewater System, Mich.; W.P.B.O.: Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, Mich.

**LOONS THROUGH IBISES** — A total of 3388 Com. Loons migrated past W.P.B.O., down almost 35% from last year (Staff). **Arctic Loons** made a strong showing with reports from both Michigan and Wisconsin. In Michigan, breeding-plumaged individuals were noted migrating past W.P.B.O., May 12 & 18 (KD); if the sightings are accepted by the Michigan Ornithological Records Committee, they will be the first state records. In Wisconsin, two birds were initially discovered Apr. 16 at Loon Bluff, *Ozaukee* (DT) and one was seen again Apr. 21 (DG) & 22 (MD, RSu). Red-throated Loons were reported from 2 Michigan and 2 Wisconsin locations. Red-necked Grebes were seen in lower-than-normal numbers in Michigan, but were seen in good numbers in Wisconsin with 53 reported Apr. 27 at Superior (RJo) particularly impressive. A flock of 1000+ Horned Grebes on Sunday L., *Gogebic*, Mich., Apr. 29 (JM) was one of the highest totals ever for Michigan. Eared Grebes were seen at Medford, Wis., May 13 (SR *et al.*), Horicon N.W.R., May 23 (Staff) and M.W.S., Mich., May 10 (GW). Wisconsin had three W. Grebe sightings: two Apr. 23 at Superior (DF *et al.*), one May 24 at Crex Meadows (JH) and one in *Polk* May 19 (AG). Pelicans made good showings in the Region with White Pelicans reported from all 3 states and a **Brown Pelican** seen May 14 at Caryville, *Dunn*, Wis. (ED, BBa). Double-crested Cormorants continue to increase and spread throughout the Region. The maximum reported was 200 Apr. 26 at Duluth (KE). Wisconsin's fifth **Anhinga** was found in the early afternoon May 22 at Babcock (DF). Probably the same bird was seen that evening at Mead W.M.A. (K & JL), about 50 mi from the first sighting. Little Blue Herons and Snowy Egrets were found in all 3 states, but Cattle Egrets were found only in Michigan and Wisconsin. The only Louisiana Heron of the period was one seen at the Erie Gun Club, *Monroe*, Mich., May 15-22 (m.ob.). Wisconsin had one Yellow-crowned Night Heron and Minnesota had three including one for the third successive year at Aitkin, where it is thought to be nesting (WN). A **White-faced Ibis** in *Barron*, Wis., Apr. 28-29 (AG) provided only the second sighting for Wisconsin. An ibis at Crookston, Minn., May 21 (KE, TS, HK) was probably of this species.

**WATERFOWL** — Two Mute Swans were at Duluth Mar. 24-26 (KE), where the species is only casual. In Michigan and Wisconsin this species continues to spread. Two flocks of Whistling Swans comprising 8000+ individuals were in Wisconsin Apr. 3, at Green Bay and *Outagamie*. Geese and ducks migrated into the Region in large numbers in late February and early March. Unusual species of geese were in Michigan and Minnesota with a Brant at Fish Pt., *Tuscola*, Mich., Apr. 6 (MW), a **Barnacle Goose** at M.W.S., Mar. 7 (BR) for the seventh Michigan record and two Ross' Geese in Minnesota, one at Rochester Mar. 24-Apr. 1 (JBo *et al.*) and one at Hastings (same bird as during the winter) all period (m.ob.), for the fifth and sixth Minnesota records. Greater White-fronted Geese were unusually scarce in Wisconsin. A Mallard nest with eggs Mar. 14 in *Oakland*, Mich. (JM) was perhaps the earliest-ever for the state. Cinnamon Teal were found at 2 Minnesota locations: one Apr. 1 at Talcott Lake W.M.A. (KL) and one in *Nicollet*

Apr 15-18 (JF *et al.*) The scoter migration varied from essentially absent in Minnesota to below-average in Wisconsin to good at W.P.B.O., in Michigan. White-winged Scoters migrated past W.P.B.O., May 6 into June with 1351 for the period and a peak of 260 May 28 (Staff). The high number in Wisconsin was 42 at Bayfield May 27 (ARo). Surf Scoters were present at 2 Michigan and 2 Wisconsin locations with six May 28 at W.P.B.O. (DP, BB *et al.*), the highest single report. The only reports of Black Scoters came from 3 locations in Wisconsin.

**HAWKS** — Turkey Vultures continue to be surprisingly common at W.P.B.O., with 41 during the period (Staff). Also impressive was a total of 150 in *Leelanau*, Mich., Apr. 12 (SH). While still rare in Wisconsin, Mississippi Kites now are being seen almost annually. This spring's bird was seen at Spencer, *Marathon*, May 7 (SR). Goshawks made an impressive showing at W.P.B.O., with 332 during the spring, a record high (Staff). Red-shouldered Hawks were seen in much higher than usual numbers in Michigan, hopefully an indication that this increasingly rare species is making a comeback. A Swainson's Hawk was in Minnesota's *Winona* Mar. 23 (AM), a record early date. Singles were found in Wisconsin at *Wood* Apr. 23 (JB, SB) and *Fond du Lac* May 1 (DT). Rough-legged Hawks were reported late from all 3 states probably a result of the cold spring weather. Despite their scarcity this winter, 1127 Rough-leggeds were seen at W.P.B.O., with a high of 302 Apr. 25. Single Golden Eagles were reported from 2 Wisconsin locations and 11 were seen at W.P.B.O. One—three Gyrfalcons were seen intermittently at Buena Vista Marsh, mainly *Portage*, Wis., until early April (DF *et al.*). One also was at W.P.B.O., May 14 (BB, DS). Prairie Falcons are now considered regular in Minnesota and this spring was no exception with one in *Clay* Apr. 20 (S & DM) and one in *Lyon* May 3 (HK). Peregrine Falcons made an excellent showing Regionwide, but their numbers were particularly impressive in Michigan with 20 individuals reported (14 at W.P.B.O.) all along L. Michigan or L. Superior. Merlins also were reported in good numbers from Michigan and Minnesota.

**GROUSE THROUGH GALLINULES** — Spruce Grouse were seen at 3 Michigan locations, all in the Upper Pen. Ruffed Grouse appear to be at the bottom end of their cycle Regionwide. Gray Partridge were seen in lower-than-normal numbers in Minnesota, probably a delayed result of the severe winter of 1981-82. Sandhill Cranes returned early to both Michigan and Minnesota with the individual(s) at *Mower*, Minn., Mar. 19 (RJ), the earliest ever for the state. King Rails were seen at 3 Wisconsin locations, the only reports from the Region for this increasingly scarce species. Both Virginia Rails and Soras were quite scarce in Michigan and Wisconsin. Yellow Rails were at Wisconsin's Crex Meadows W.A., May 28-29 (DT). **Purple Gallinules** made a strong showing with one in Michigan's *Mackinac* Apr. 17 (J & GT) and one at West Allis, Wis., May 9 (*vide* JF). Both birds were caught—the Michigan bird died and the Wisconsin bird was released at Horicon N.W.R., May 14. A good concentration (10,000) of Am. Coots was in *Pope*, Minn., Apr. 23 (RJ).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Piping Plovers were reported from 3 Michigan and 3 Wisconsin locations. Both Michigan and Wisconsin had a poor flight of Am. Golden Plovers, but 120 at Grand Marais, Minn., May 25 (KL) was unusual for n.e. Minnesota. American Woodcocks arrived in 3 Minnesota counties at record early dates: *Washington* Mar. 3 (T & BB), *New Ulm* Mar. 5 (JS) and *Houston* Mar. 6 (E & MF). Whimbrels were fairly scarce throughout the Region with reports from 4 Michigan, 4 Wisconsin and 3 Minnesota locations. However, the flock of 300 at Grand Marais, Minn., during the last week of May was outstanding (DG). Willets were reported from 5 Michigan and 4 Wisconsin locations, with up to 15 in the Milwaukee area in early May (m.ob.) Red Knots were in average numbers in Michigan, with reports from 4 locations and above average numbers in Wisconsin, with reports from 7 locations comprising at least 25 individuals. Minnesota had a probable all-time state high of 20 at Warroad on Lake of the Woods May 21 (KE, TS, HK). This sighting is particularly impressive because Red Knots are almost unknown away from Duluth (KE).

Michigan recorded only its second spring sighting of Purple Sandpiper when one was found Apr. 23 at Muskegon S.P. (JP, GW). A **Curlew**

**Sandpiper** in *Dodge, Wis.*, May 21 (RH) provided only the fourth Wisconsin sighting. A rare spring sighting of a Buff-breasted Sandpiper was made in *Dodge, Wis.*, May 8 (MD). Marbled Godwits appeared at 2 Michigan and 5 Wisconsin locations (12 different sightings). A flock of 44 at Duluth May 22 (TL) was unprecedented. Although the Ruff has become an annual occurrence in the Region, this spring's number of sightings was totally without precedent. No fewer than 11 individuals were sighted with six at 3 locations in Minnesota and five singles from 4 locations in Wisconsin. American Avocets were found at 2 Michigan locations, three at M.W.S., May 2 (BR, LF) and one in *Macomb* May 4-5 (RL, AR *et al.*).

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS** — Although they are rarely seen in the spring, Parasitic Jaegers appeared in both Minnesota and Wisconsin with up to three at Duluth May 25+ (KE, MH *et al.*) and one at Wisconsin Pt., Superior May 29-30 (DT). Glaucous Gulls lingered into May in both Michigan and Wisconsin. Iceland Gulls were seen at 2 Michigan and 2 Wisconsin locations, with one May 7 at Fond du Lac (TSc), the latest-ever Wisconsin sighting. Great Black-backed Gulls are uncommon in the Region away from s.e. Michigan so this spring's sightings on Lakes Michigan and Superior were noteworthy: single birds were seen at M.W.S., Apr. 24 (SM, CR, BJ) and in *Berrien, Mich.*, May 14 (RS, WB) and two, an adult and an immature were seen at Wisconsin Pt., Superior Mar. 15-16 & 24 (RJo). Even more unusual was one inland at Oshkosh May 10+ (TZ, JK, m.ob.). Laughing Gulls strayed into the Region in average numbers, with three reported. Unusual, however, was one seen at Superior May 29 (DT). Franklin's Gulls were seen in all 3 states with the 200 at Mille Lacs L., Minn. (WN) particularly impressive. Little Gulls were reported from all 3 states. A Black-legged Kittiwake at W.P.B.O., May 28 (LM) was unprecedented for Michigan. An excellent concentration of 1500-2500 Com. Terns was present during May at Manitowoc.

#### S.A.

**Arctic Terns** were long thought not to occur on the w. Great Lakes. In recent years, observers have realized that these terns are rare but regular in the spring. The observations from this spring would tend to support that hypothesis. One was found May 15 at New Buffalo, *Berrien, Mich.* (WB, DP, RS) where it was seen standing on the beach with both Common and Forster's terns. This observation constitutes the sixth Michigan record, all since 1979. One was found May 20 at Manitowoc (DT) where it was seen in subsequent days by others. Not to be outdone, four were found at Duluth May 29 (TS) with at least one remaining into June (m.ob.) for the fourth Minnesota record.

**CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Both Yellow-billed and Black-billed cuckoos were scarce and late in Michigan and Wisconsin. Almost never seen in the Region anymore, Barn Owls were found at Silver Creek P., Manitowoc Apr. 28 (CS) and in *Alcona, Mich.*, where one was found dead in a barn May 18 (*vide* RSm). Late Snowy Owls were in Muskegon, Mich., May 17 (BB *et al.*) and *Chippewa, Mich.*, May 28 (MP). A Hawk Owl was found Mar. 4 in *Douglas, Wis.* (DF). Wisconsin was treated to only its seventh Burrowing Owl when one was in *Douglas* May 16-17 (RP). Minnesota had a pair return to last year's nesting site in *Rock*, the first time in recent years that a nesting site was occupied for 2 consecutive years. Great Gray Owls were found in all 3 states. Short-eared Owls were scarce in Michigan and Wisconsin. After last year's record 36, "only" 11 Boreal Owls were banded at W.P.B.O. this spring. Boreals were heard again at their "traditional area" along the Gunflint Trail in *Cook, Minn.*, with a high of five the night of Apr. 5 (M & KH). Much more interesting was one heard in *Roseau, Minn.*, just s. of the Canadian border May 21 (TS, KE), both the date and location being quite unexpected. Saw-whet Owls were captured in record numbers at W.P.B.O. this spring. A Chimney Swift in *Dane, Wis.*, Apr. 13 (MS) was early and an incredible 4500 were seen going down a chimney in *Ottawa, Mich.*, May 13 (BM). An apparently "pure" red-shafted race of the Com. Flicker was found Apr. 29 at Crookston, Minn. (K & SS). Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen in above-average numbers along L. Superior in Minnesota and the w. Upper Pen. of Michigan. However, numbers were down elsewhere in Minnesota. Black-backed

Three-toed Woodpeckers were reported from 3 Michigan and 4 Wisconsin sites, with one in *Jackson, Wis.*, May 30 (DT) unusually far s. Single N. Three-toed Woodpeckers were found in *Pine/Carlton, Minn.* (RJ) and *Burnett, Wis.* (PF).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRUSHES** — Western Kingbirds were found at Duluth May 22 (S & DM), in *Jefferson, Wis.*, May 9 (RH) and at Trempealeau N.W.R., Wis., May 28 (DT). **Scissor-tailed Flycatchers** were seen an amazing 4 times, three in Minnesota where it is casual and one Apr. 27 at Racine (DK), for only the seventh Wisconsin record. A Say's Phoebe in Grand Marais, Minn., Apr. 30-May 1 (M & KH *et al.*) was of particular interest in that most records are from w. Minnesota. *Empidonax* flycatchers were late but in very good number in Kleinstuck Preserve, Kalamazoo, Mich. (RA). The flycatcher of the season was Wisconsin's third **Vermilion Flycatcher** found May 14 in Wauwatosa (*vide* JI). Tree Swallows arrived in Minnesota at the record early date of Mar. 12 (FL). A nest with 4 eggs of the Com. Raven was found in *Alpena* Apr. 6 (LS), only the third recent nesting in the Lower Pen. Boreal Chickadees were "very late" at Duluth May 5 (KE), but were as expected at W.P.B.O., through at least May 28. Brown Creepers were found in both s. Michigan and s. Minnesota in mid-late May, possibly indicating breeding. The only Bewick's Wren was one found along the Milwaukee lakeshore May 19 (JI). Carolina Wrens remain scarce throughout, with only 3 reports in Michigan and none elsewhere. Impressive this spring was the number of sightings of Mockingbirds with 9 reports from Michigan (including 2 from the Upper Pen.), 9 reports from Minnesota and 12 from Wisconsin. Varied Thrushes remained into March or April at one Michigan and 2 Wisconsin locations. Swainson's and Gray-cheeked thrushes presented a mixture this season with some observers commenting on their absence and others on their abundance. Three Mountain Bluebirds were found—all singles—at Appleton, Wis., Apr. 19 (BBr, MB *et al.*), near Duluth Mar. 20-23 (JG *et al.*), and in *Otter Tail, Minn.*, Apr. 19 (G & MO). The only appearance of Townsend's Solitaire was one near Oxford, *Oakland, Mich.*, Apr. 3-4 (MM).



Mountain Bluebird, Appleton, Wis., Apr. 19, 1983. Photo/M. Brandel.

**GNATCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS** — Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were up with reports from w. and n. Minnesota where they normally do not occur. A Sprague's Pipit at E. Saugatuck, *Allegan, Mich.*, May 10 (BM) furnished only the fourth Michigan sighting. After the poor flight during last winter, it is not surprising that Bohemian Waxwings were reported from only 2 sites—one in Michigan and one in Wisconsin. Loggerhead Shrikes were seen at 4 Michigan locations, with one nest located, and at 15 Wisconsin sites, with at least one nest. The 15 reports are more than the last 3 year's Wisconsin total combined. White-eyed Vireos were reported from both Michigan and Wisconsin in increased numbers with at least 14 individuals found in Michigan and 16-20 individuals in Wisconsin. Bell's Vireos were found at 8 Wisconsin sites with nesting occurring in at least 4 and at one Michigan site. Unusually far n. was one at Ashland, Wis., May 19 (*vide* DV). A Yellow-throated Vireo appeared at Duluth May 23 (KE, MH), where it is rare/casual. Solitary and Philadelphia vireos were late with the migration continuing into June at Madison, Wis. (MS). Red-eyed Vireos were late and quite scarce in Michigan, with the migration continuing into June.

In Michigan, after several years of poor-to-fair warbler migrations, this spring's migration was exceptional. Although many species were later than normal in returning, almost all were reported in above-average numbers, particularly in the s.w. In Minnesota, the following species were up in numbers: Tennessee, Yellow, Cape May, Yellow-rumped, Com. Yellowthroat and Am. Redstart. Worm-eating Warblers were found at 10 Wisconsin, 4 Michigan and 2 Minnesota locations, certainly more than usual. Setting a new early arrival date by 5 weeks was a Blue-winged Warbler which arrived at the Riveredge Nature Center, Wis., Mar. 15 (AL). Singles at Ashland, Wis. (DV) and *Ontonagon*, Mich. (JM) were farther n. than usual. A Golden-winged Warbler at Perrot S P., Wis., Apr. 16 (CW) was the earliest-ever for the state. A Magnolia Warbler at W.P.B.O., May 1 was early for Michigan's Upper Pen. Black-throated Blue Warblers were seen in their highest numbers in many years in Michigan's *Berrien* and *Kalamazoo* (RA, DP, RS). A Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler at Minneapolis May 3 (m.ob.) was only the second recent Minnesota occurrence. The warbler find of the season, however was Minnesota's second **Hermit Warbler**, a male May 14 in *Lac Qui Perle* (BL, DR, GS). Cerulean Warblers were n. of their usual range at Eau Claire (JPo) and *Iron*, Wis. (MBu) and *Manistee*, Mich. (KW). Yellow-throated Warblers were present at 2 locations in *Berrien*, Mich., May 15+ (DP, WB, RS), where they have nested in past years and at 2 locations in Wisconsin, at Madison Apr. 30-May 2 (MS, PA) and along the Wisconsin R., n. of Mazomanie Apr. 30 (DT), where they are very rare. A Kirtland's Warbler at the Milwaukee County Zoo May 14 (GB) was the first Wisconsin sighting in several years. Prairie Warblers were seen at 4 Michigan and one Wisconsin location. Unusually far n. were a pair of Louisiana Waterthrushes in *Pine*, Minn., May 21+ (DZ/MC *et al.*). The usual number of sightings of Kentucky Warblers were made in Michigan and Wisconsin and one was in *Martin*, Minn., May 15 (EBK). Michigan observers reported far more Connecticut Warblers than usual, with sightings statewide. Yellow-breasted Chats were reported in above-average numbers Regionwide, as were Hooded Warblers. A Hooded Warbler in Minnesota's *Crow Wing* May 31 (*vide* TS, JBl) was much farther n. than usual. Very early was a Canada Warbler at Ann Arbor, Mich., May 2 (TW). American Redstarts were seen in record numbers at Kleinstuck Preserve, Kalamazoo (RA, DP).

**MEADOWLARKS THROUGH BUNTINGS** — Both Michigan and Minnesota reports commented that W. Meadowlarks were down in numbers. Orchard Orioles were more common in Michigan, but less common in Wisconsin. A N. (Bullock's) Oriole at Duluth May 22 (JN) was only the second Minnesota sighting of this form. Three W. Tanagers were seen this spring, one at Bemidji, Minn., May 14-17 (m.ob.), one n. of Milwaukee May 18-21 (WW *et al.*), and one at Manitowoc May 20 (JT). More reports than usual were made of Summer Tanagers with six in Michigan, three in Minnesota and three in Wisconsin. Cardinals were reported from 2 sites in Michigan's Upper Pen., where they are rare. Black-headed Grosbeaks were found at Chanhassen, *Hennepin*, Minn., May 14 (CWe), *Douglas*, Wis., May 29 (FH), *Chippewa*, Mich., May 10 (KWi) and two in *Barraga*, Mich. (AMa). Four Blue Grosbeaks were seen in the Region, all single birds: a female in River Hills, *Milwaukee* May 4-9 (WW *et al.*), a male in Milwaukee May 8 (JI), a male in *Dane*, Wis., May 21 (RH), and unusually far n., one at Deerwood, *Crow Wing*, Minn., May 10 (*vide* TS). Wisconsin recorded its third **Painted Bunting**, when a male frequented a feeder in Gordon, *Douglas* for 4 days in mid-May (*vide* LE). Michigan had its seventh **Painted Bunting**, but first in 10 years, a male that came to a feeder in Texas Twp., *Kalamazoo* Apr. 28-May 4 (NL, RA, DP *et al.*). Continuing the trend in recent years, Dickcissels were quite scarce in Michigan and Wisconsin. One of the real success stories in the Region is the House Finch. It continues to spread explosively, with nesting reported from 6 counties in Michigan and additional observations in 3 other countries. Wisconsin had its first verified record when a male was photographed at Cedarburg Mar. 27-28 (RSu, MD).

After last winter's record "non-invasion," it was not surprising that the winter finches were reported in low numbers. A ♂ Lark Bunting was at Munising, *Alger*, Mich., May 13 (GBa); another was at Superior, Wis., May 19 (JTU)—they are casual e. of w. Minnesota. Henslow's Sparrows were in reduced numbers in Michigan. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was at Wisconsin's Crex Meadows W.M.A., May 28 (DT). Wis-

consin had several breeding pairs of Lark Sparrows from each of *Burnett*, *Pepin* and *Sauk*. Two were at Ludington, Mich., May 14 (RP) and one was farther n. than usual in *Lake*, Minn. (EH). Harris' Sparrows were seen less frequently this spring in both Minnesota and Wisconsin. White-crowned Sparrows presented a mixed picture with observers in Michigan and Wisconsin reporting excellent numbers, *i.e.* "Truly an impressive flight!" (DT), but Minnesota observers finding them down in numbers. A Fox Sparrow in *Fillmore*, Minn., Mar. 6 (RJ) was the earliest ever sighting for Minnesota. Two very late Snow Buntings were at Ashland, Wis., May 19 (PM).

**CORRIGENDUM** — The Boreal Owl photograph in *AB* 37:184 was of a female in a nest box in *Cook*, Minn. in May 1982, and is not the Boreal Owl seen in Michigan.

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## MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

/Bruce G. Peterjohn

This spring's migration patterns were directly related to unusual weather conditions. The record high temperatures of early March allowed most March migrants to arrive one-two weeks ahead of schedule and produced overflights of species that normally do not return until early April. Except for these early migrants, birding was rather dull as most birds appeared to be moving rapidly through the Region. Normal temperatures and precipitation during the last half of the month halted this early migration.

April reminded us of what March should have been. Temperatures were well below normal while precipitation was above normal including several snowfalls in northern areas through the 17th. This cool, wet



weather retarded migration, producing substantial concentrations of April migrants but causing arrivals to be one-two weeks later than normal by month's end.

Similar cool, wet weather continued throughout May and produced some locally severe flooding. These conditions caused most May migrants to arrive at least one week later than normal and to linger well beyond normal departure dates. Many species were still migrating during the first ten days of June. However, the cool temperatures, strong winds and absence of foliage forced many birds to feed on or near the ground where they could be easily observed. These excellent viewing conditions plus a prolonged migration period produced one of the best-observed passerine movements of recent years. Scattered among the numerous May migrants were accidentals such as Vermilion Flycatcher in Iowa, Lazuli Bunting in Missouri, Cassin's Sparrow in Illinois and Townsend's Warbler and Painted Bunting in Indiana.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — S.C.R.: Squaw Creek N.W.R., Mo.; O.W.R.: Ottawa N.W.R., O.; M.M.W.A.: Magee Marsh W.M.A., O.; Spfld.: Springfield, Ill. Italicized place names are counties.

**LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS** — Few Com. Loons were reported, the largest flock was of 21. Unusual in spring were single Red-throated Loons at Hurshtown Res., Ind., Mar. 27 (Haw, R & RMc) and Alum Creek Res., O., Apr. 7-15 (†J). The only migrant Red-necked Grebe appeared in Macon, Ill., Apr. 8-9 (SS, m.ob.). Horned Grebes were scarce in most areas. The L. Erie maximum was only 10 while 41 comprised the largest inland flock. As many as eight Eared Grebes were scattered across Iowa, Illinois and Missouri and one wandered E to L. Waveland, Ind., Mar. 24 (AB). One or two W. Grebes were discovered at 4 locations in w. Iowa and w. Missouri May 3-19 including a light-phase grebe at Cone Marsh, Ia., May 5 (†JS). Pied-billed Grebes exhibited little improvement with a maximum of 50 this spring. Normal numbers of White Pelicans in w. states included 900 at Riverton W.M.A., Ia. (BW) and 7 flocks of 75-300. One appeared e. to Metzger Marsh W.M.A., O., Apr. 18 (†JP). Double-crested Cormorants were widely reported with maxima of 250-300 in the w. states and 10-42 elsewhere. Missouri's second **Magnificent Frigatebird** was observed in Jefferson Apr. 27 (†MW). Like last year's sighting, this bird was briefly viewed along the leading edge of an advancing thunderstorm.

**HERONS** — Most herons appeared in unimpressive numbers as high water levels created less than optimal habitat conditions. Green Herons returned during the second week of April and were scarce at several locations. Only 1-2 Little Blue Herons were reported from 1-3 localities in each state, a poor showing for recent years. In contrast, Cattle Egrets appeared in exceptional numbers with more than 75 reports Regionwide and maxima of 15-50 in all states. As many as five Snowy Egrets were noted at 1-4 locations in each state beginning with an early migrant at Louisville Apr. 7 (JC). Louisiana Herons have become regular spring visitors as evidenced by singles near Lawrenceburg, Ind., May 21 (†D & MS) and Oregon, O., May 26 (JP). Yellow-crowned Night Herons were found at only 10 locations, a considerable decline from the 36 reports during 1981. A total of 27 Least Bittern reports was above normal for spring while 22 Am. Bittern sightings represented a marked decline from last year. Unidentified *Plegadis* ibises were noted at single sites in Ohio and Missouri.

**WATERFOWL** — Since many birds had already passed through by early March, it is not surprising that most waterfowl were reported in low numbers. Only Missouri supported large numbers where excellent habitat conditions and cold weather caused many species to linger later than normal.

At its traditional staging areas, maximum numbers of Whistling Swans included only 45 in the w. L. Erie marshes and 110 at New Albin, Ia., Mar. 21 (JSc). Two migrant flocks of 40-50 over Springfield Mar. 13-19 were exceptional for s.w. Missouri (CBo *et al.*). Only scattered small numbers were found elsewhere with two late swans in Zion, Ill., May 7 (JN). Very rare in spring, a Brant was observed at Michigan City, Ind., May 13-27 (†CK, m.ob.). Unlike the past few years, White-fronted Geese were primarily restricted to the w. states. The only Illinois sighting was at Horseshoe L. As many as eight Ross' Geese were noted at one w. Iowa location during late March.

Cinnamon Teal were sighted in Buchanan, Mo., Mar. 10-17 (L), Chandlerville, Ill., Mar. 25 (†K), two in Fremont, Ia., Apr. 5-23 (SDa *et al.*) and one at Hamilton, Ia., Apr. 6 (*fide* JD). A Eur. Wigeon was observed in Ottawa, O., Apr. 1-5 where it is apparently regular during spring (†JP). Noteworthy duck concentrations included 1000 N. Shovelers at L. Carlyle, Ill., Mar. 26 (SR) and 1000 Canvasbacks in Henderson, Ill., Feb. 27 (MB). Late Com. Goldeneyes lingered through May 26 at Sweet Marsh, Ia. (JSc) and May 28 at Michigan City, Ind. (KB, Haw). Few Oldsquaw were reported. The Great Lakes maximum was 24 while inland sightings consisted of 1-3 at 2 Illinois and 4 Ohio locations Mar. 20-Apr. 26 and two at L. Jacomo, Mo., Mar. 26 (NJ). A maximum of 39 White-winged Scoters was observed on L. Michigan and inland singles appeared at Brookville Res., Ind., Mar. 6 (D & MS) and Little Wall L., Ia., Apr. 10 (GB). Only one Surf and two Black scoters were discovered on the Great Lakes. A concentration of 1500 Ruddy Ducks at Findlay Res., O., Apr. 16 was noteworthy (BS) and a late Hooded Merganser lingered through May 31 at Hamlin, Ky. (JEr).

**DIURNAL RAPTORS** — The predominantly N winds produced unfavorable conditions for migrating hawks. Even at traditional areas, they seemed to trickle by in small numbers with a few noteworthy concentrations such as 150 Sharp-shinned over Ottawa, O., Apr. 27 (ET), 173 Red-taileds at Dunes S.P., Ind., Apr. 12 (KB) and 100-300 Broad-winged Hawks in n. Ohio Apr. 27 and n. Illinois May 3-4.

The mild early spring weather brought returning Turkey Vultures to all states by the first week of March. Extralimital Black Vultures appeared near Dayton, O., Apr. 1 (DN) and Monroe, Ill., May 31 (KR). Normal numbers of Mississippi Kites were observed along the Mississippi R., n. to Eureka, Mo., while the only extralimital kite was observed at Bernheim S.F., Ky., May 29 (†WB). Following last autumn's record Goshawk invasion, this spring's return flight was pronounced only in Illinois with 1-3 appearing at 12 locations through Apr. 27. While 12 were noted in the Indiana Dunes area Mar. 5-Apr. 12 (KB), only one-two were discovered at 11 other locations. Cooper's Hawks continued to improve with 27 migrants noted along L. Michigan in n.w. Indiana. In contrast, Red-shouldered Hawks received mixed reports with a maximum of 40 along w. L. Erie in early March. Swainson's Hawks were more numerous than normal in the w. states including a remarkable 14 in Clay, Mo., Apr. 18 (KH). Nine were observed in Kane, Ill., May 3-26 (JM). Golden Eagles were only noted at 3 Iowa locations while a normal number of migrant Bald Eagles was reported. Marsh Hawks were rather scarce in most areas. Ospreys were widespread and numerous in all states beginning with an early migrant at Olney, Ill., Mar. 10 (LH). A total of 17 Peregrine Falcon and nine Merlin sightings was normal for recent springs.



Swainson's Hawk, Kane Co., Ill., May 26, 1983. Photo/J. Milosevich.



**GROUSE THROUGH GALLINULES** — While gallinaceous birds will occasionally wander during autumn, spring movements are unexpected. This year, a Ruffed Grouse was recovered from Cincinnati in early April (\*W) and a Greater Prairie Chicken was observed at S.C.R., Mar. 4 (†KG). Both locations were 40-100 mi from the nearest known populations. Along its traditional migration corridor, Sandhill Cranes passed through Kentucky Mar. 4-7 and 23-25 and were widely reported in e. and n. Illinois into early April. Elsewhere, 4 Iowa reports included 10 near Oskaloosa Mar. 10 (*fide* JD) while one in n.e. Ohio near Garrettsville Mar. 2 (†LK) and eight at Spfld., Mar. 15 (H) were unexpected. As many as four King Rails were reported from 8 locations, a slight decline from previous years. Virginia Rails returned with the warm weather in March; the earliest report was of four in *Franklin*, O., Mar. 9 (JM). Soras also returned by Mar. 15 at Spfld. (H) but their peak concentration was 60+ at Marais Temps Clair W.M.A., Mo., May 4 (DU). Single Yellow Rails were adequately described from Ames, Ia., Apr. 13 (†SD *et al.*), Spring Valley W.M.A., O., Apr. 17 (†JH) and Doolittle Prairie, Ia., May 8 (†EA *et al.*) while a Black Rail was captured in *Vermilion*, Ill., May 30 (†JSm). Purple Gallinules staged a minor incursion with n. reports from Granite City, Ill., Apr. 7 (AE), Greenville, Ill., Apr. 11 (CM), Spring Valley W.M.A., O., Apr. 18-20 (†JSh, m.ob.) and S. Amana, Ia., May 16-31+ (LHa, †m.ob.). Common Gallinules were scarce in all states except Missouri.

**SHOREBIRDS** — Despite extensive available habitat in all states except Ohio, the shorebird flight was disappointing in most areas. Only Illinois and Kentucky observers described their numbers in positive terms. A concentration of 50 Semipalmated Plovers at Louisville May 8 was locally noteworthy (BP). Piping Plovers were scarce with only 2 Illinois and 3 Iowa sightings. Large numbers of Am. Golden Plovers were reported from Iowa and Illinois during early May. Black-bellied Plovers were quite scarce along the Great Lakes although 75 in *Wayne*, O., May 23 comprised a large inland flock for spring (DK). A maximum of 87 Ruddy Turnstones was reported along the Great Lakes. Record early Am. Woodcocks returned to *Shelby*, Ill., Feb. 18 (KF) and Lucas, Ia., Feb. 24 (*fide* JD) while an impressive 40 were counted at Killdeer Plains W.M.A., O., Mar. 5 (JM). Common Snipe remained locally scarce. A **Long-billed Curlew** at Killdeer Plains W.M.A., May 25 provided Ohio's first sighting since 1926 (†JM). Only one Whimbrel was observed along the Great Lakes but unusual inland sightings consisted of one at Hendrickson Marsh, Ia., May 4 (†BPr, †m.ob.), one-two in *Wayne*, O., May 19-23 (DK), one at Coralville Res., Ia., May 24 (†CB *et al.*) and two in *Monroe*, Ill., May 26 (†SR). As many as 24 Upland Sandpipers were widely reported from all states. Willets appeared at 31 locations Apr. 17-May 16 including a substantial movement Apr. 29-May 1. The largest flock was of 32 near Lawrenceburg, Ind., Apr. 30 (MM, D & MS) while groups of 18-27 were reported from the other states.

Both yellowlegs returned with the warm weather of early March; the earliest sightings were of a Greater in *Ottawa*, O., Mar. 6 (J *et al.*) and a Lesser at Columbus, O., Mar. 7 (JM). They were scarce except for 300 Lessers in *Ballard* and *Fulton*, Ky., Apr. 19 (JE). Remarkable Red Knot concentrations included 48 at Waukegan, Ill. (JN) and 60 in *Wayne*, O., May 19 (*fide* DK) and 35 at Oregon, O., May 20 (CH, PL). Early Pectoral Sandpipers returned to the w. L. Erie marshes Mar. 5. White-rumped Sandpipers were widely reported including 150 at L. Manawa, Ia., May 7-10 (TB) and 100 at Meredosia, Ill., May 21 (TP). Baird's Sandpiper sightings included 109 at Riverton W.M.A., Ia., Apr. 24 (JSc) and 1-8 at 3 Illinois locations Apr. 21-May 7 (H, RG). An early Dunlin returned to O.W.R., Apr. 3 and peaked May 27 with 6700 in *Ottawa*, O. (JP). Dowitchers were scarce in most areas. Judging from the large number of Long-billed reports, many observers are having difficulty separating the 2 species. Since Short-billeds often give several call notes, identifications based on the absence of a series of whistled notes is not sufficient. In order to clarify their spring status, all Long-billeds and early Short-billeds must be documented. While the earliest dowitchers are usually Long-billeds such as one at Killdeer Plains W.M.A., O., Mar. 27 (†J), an apparent Short-billed was observed at Marais Temps Clair W.M.A., Mo., Mar. 13-Apr. 2 (†SR). A maximum of 50 Stilt Sandpipers was noted in the w. states and 27 in *Monroe*, Ill. (RG) while smaller numbers were reported e. to w. Indiana. Semipalmated Sandpipers were numerous in Ohio and Illinois May 24-June 4

and were accompanied by 1-7 W Sandpipers at 4 locations. The only Buff-breasted Sandpiper sighting was of four at Riverton W.M.A., Ia., May 19 (BW, RS).

Marbled Godwits appeared at only 6 locations although three near Lawrenceburg, Ind., Apr. 16 (†D & MS) and one at Louisville May 2 (†S, FS) were locally unusual. Hudsonian Godwits were widespread in the w. states and Illinois with a maximum of 55 at Colo, Ia., May 13 (HZ). They also appeared in Ohio with three L. Erie reports and one at Findlay Res., May 21 (CH). American Avocets were widespread in the w. states where the largest flock was of 28 at Riverton W.M.A., Apr. 24 (BPr *et al.*). They also appeared at 3 Illinois sites with a maximum of 23 at Spfld., Apr. 23 (H) plus one in *Daviess*, Ky., Apr. 28 (*fide* AP). A Red Phalarope at Mosquito Creek W.M.A., O., Mar. 15 provided one of very few spring records from Ohio (†J). An exceptionally early Wilson's Phalarope returned to Cone Marsh, Ia., Mar. 13 (†T). The largest concentration in the w. states was 200 at Riverton W.M.A., Apr. 24 (JS) while scattered e. reports included nine at Shakertown, Ky., May 4 (RM). One or two N. Phalaropes appeared at single inland locations in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Iowa May 5-30.

**GULLS, TERNS** — Most wintering gulls departed with the warm weather of late February although single Glaucous Gulls lingered through Apr. 16 at Horseshoe L., Ill. (RK, m.ob.) and May 9 at Huron O. (PL). Lesser Black-backed Gulls appeared at 2 L. Erie sites through Mar. 25 and Thayer's Gulls were present at Evanston, Ill., Apr. 9 (JL) and Huron, O., May 9 (†PL). Along the Great Lakes where they have become regular, 1-2 Laughing Gulls appeared at 3 L. Erie and 2 L. Michigan sites Apr. 13-May 28. The only inland report was of four at Alton Dam, Mo.-Ill., May 30 (PB, TBa). Two early Franklin's Gulls returned to L. Manawa, Ia., Mar. 2 (TB, SK). Small numbers of migrants have become regular in the e. states where there were 7 reports this spring. Little Gulls were reported from Chicago Apr. 8-9 (RD, m.ob.) and 3 L. Erie locations Mar. 16-May 19 with a maximum of 10 at Cleveland Mar. 20 (M). Unusual in spring, an imm. Black-legged Kittiwake was studied at Lorain, O., Mar. 26 (†JP).

Forster's Terns were widespread but numbers were not large except for 130-500 at Chicago May 4-8 (JL, HR). Common Terns were generally scarce although 1500 were noted at Lorain, O., May 16 (TL). The only Least Tern was reported from Hamlin, Ky., May 3 (JE). Caspian Terns appeared in better numbers with maxima of 101 at Cleveland Apr. 23 (M) and 56 at Little Clear L., Ia., May 23 (RCu). A substantial number of Black Terns moved through the w. states and Illinois May 7-19 but they continued to be scarce elsewhere.

**CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Both cuckoos were generally late and scarce in most locations. Not normally considered to be predators, a Black-billed Cuckoo was observed carrying a hummingbird in *Ottawa*, O., May 30 (JP). Barn Owls were reported from single Ohio and Kentucky, 2 Iowa and 8 Missouri locations this spring. These increased observations probably reflected better reporting of this species rather than population increases. A Snowy Owl remained at Oregon, O., through Apr. 20 (JP). Other migrant owls were rather scarce. Long-eareds were reported from 10 locations and Short-eareds at 13 sites while the 12 Saw-whet Owl reports included a late bird at Euclid, O., May 2 (DC). An early Chuck-will's-widow returned to St. Louis Apr. 4 (*fide* RK). In addition to their regular summering locations, one was discovered at Columbus, O., May 2 (†JF) and two at L. Waveland, Ind., May 5-14 (AB). Common Nighthawks were scarce except for 100 at Hamlin, Ky., May 11 (JE). An early Chimney Swift returned to M.M.W.A., by Apr. 3 (JP). Locally improved numbers of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were reported from Ohio and Indiana but they remained scarce at many localities. Three Pileated Woodpecker reports from the Dunes area of n.w. Indiana (*fide* KB) were representative of this species' continued increase in the Region. Late Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers lingered at St. Louis through May 10 (RBo) and Chicago through June 4 (SP) while numbers of migrants were comparable to last year. A Red-cockaded Woodpecker was observed near Cumberland Falls S.P., Apr. 30-May 1 (RM *et al.*), indicating that the small resident population still survives in s. Kentucky.

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CREEPERS** — Early E. Kingbirds returned to 3 n. locations Apr. 15-16; largest reported concentration was

45 although numbers were generally fairly low. Normal numbers of W. Kingbirds were noted in w. Iowa but none was observed in Missouri. Extralimital Scissor-tailed Flycatchers wandered N to *Madison*, Ia., May 15 (†MD) and *Buchanan*, Mo., Apr. 28 (L, LG) and E to Mingo N.W.R., Mo., Apr. 28 (SDi *et al.*). The warm early spring weather brought E. Phoebes to all states by the first week of March. As was true for most passerines, the *Empidonax* flycatcher migration was relatively good. Yellow-bellied and Alder flycatchers were widely reported and Willows appeared in better numbers than last year. Normal numbers of Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported after May 5. A well described ♂ **Vermilion Flycatcher** was observed at Sioux Center May 6-7, providing a first record for Iowa (†JV *et al.*—ph.).

Many early swallow sightings reflected the warm weather of early March. Earliest sightings included a Tree at O.W.R., Mar. 6 (J, JM), Rough-winged at Columbus, O., Mar. 9 (JM), Barn at Hamlin, Ky., Mar. 14 (JEr) and two-three Purple Martins at Davenport, Ia., Mar. 3 (*vide P*). The subsequent cold weather during April caused some mortality, particularly of nesting Purple Martins. The only noteworthy concentrations were 2500 Trees at L. Waveland, Ind., Apr. 28 (AB) and 2000 at Euclid, O., Apr. 14 (DC).

Blue Jays migrated rather late with some movement continuing into June. Largest flights included 500 in *Story*, Ia., May 6 (SD), 200-500 along L. Michigan May 12-13 (KB, CK) and Cleveland maxima of 1377/hour May 14 and 844/hour May 21 (M). Fish Crows were noted n. to St. Louis where the largest flock was 25. Following a dismal flight last autumn, Red-breasted Nuthatches were universally scarce. In contrast, Brown Creepers staged an excellent movement with several reports of 25-40 and many lingering into early May.

**WRENS THROUGH SHRIKES** — Winter Wrens were generally reported in improved numbers and also lingered into May. While Bewick's Wrens remained fairly stable in Missouri, only two were reported from Kentucky and two pairs were observed in *Hamilton*, O., May 11 (RA). Long-billed Marsh Wrens were scarce in many areas. Good numbers of Short-billed Marsh Wrens were noted in w. states such as 28 at Doolittle Prairie, Ia., May 20 (JSc). Only 3 reports were received from Ohio and Kentucky. Most thrushes appeared in good-to-excellent numbers although Wood Thrushes were locally scarce. Encouraging numbers of Hermit Thrushes included 185 at Chicago Apr. 22 (JL). Early Swainson's Thrushes returned to Kansas City Apr. 12 (KH) and an early Gray-cheeked Thrush appeared at Hamlin, Ky., Apr. 16. However, the thrush movement was generally late with many remaining well into June. Exceptional for n. Indiana was a migration of 83 E. Bluebirds along L. Michigan Mar 5 (KB).

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers continued to increase in most n. areas. Many observers reported good numbers of Golden-crowned Kinglets with maxima of 65-70 at several localities. Exceptionally late individuals lingered through May 17 at Van Meter S.P., Mo. (CHo, KH) and May 27 near Dayton, O. (RC). Ruby-crowned Kinglets were reported in comparable numbers. Continuing the trend of recent years, Water Pipits were scarce; the largest reported flock was 150 at Maceo, Ky., Apr. 19 (AP). The Cedar Waxwing migration was normal with a typical peak during the last half of May. Three N. Shrike reports included one s. of its normal range in *Wayne*, O., Mar. 5 (†DK) and another through Mar. 21 near Waukon, Ia. (JSc). Loggerhead Shrikes exhibited little improvement with a total of 9 sightings in Ohio, Indiana and c. Illinois plus 4-8 birds in Iowa.

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — Although local concentrations were reported from many areas, the most pronounced Region-wide movements occurred Apr. 26-29 and May 5-8. The latter flight produced some remarkable concentrations May 7 including 1581 Yellow-rumped and 1462 Palm warblers in *Cook*, Ill. (m.ob.) and an estimated 2000 Yellow-rumped, 800 Yellows, 400 Magnolias and Black-throated Greens and 200 Palm and Chestnut-sided warblers in *Lucas*, O. (ET).

Increased numbers of White-eyed Vireos appeared n. to Laurens, Ia., May 18 (RH). Bell's Vireos remained stable and good numbers of Philadelphia Vireos were noted beginning with an early migrant at Busch W.M.A., Mo., Apr. 21 (SR). Swainson's Warblers returned to traditional s. Illinois and s.e. Missouri sites. Since they very seldom overfly their normal range, one at Chicago May 4 was exceptional (†JL, m.ob.). Numbers of Golden-winged Warblers were similar to last

year's; the largest reported group was of nine and there were several sightings from w. Missouri. A Blue-winged Warbler banded at Kansas City was noteworthy for w. Missouri (MMY). Two Lawrence's and nine Brewster's hybrids were reported this spring. An early Orange-crowned Warbler returned to Spfld., Apr. 1 (H) while an exceptional 133 were observed at Ames, Ia., Apr. 26-May 18 (PM). A N. Parula at Ballard W.M.A., Ky., Apr. 1 was early (KC). Cape May Warblers invaded Iowa where they are usually scarce. This year's 14 reports included 20 at Sweet Marsh May 13 (FM, RMy). Single Black-throated Blue Warblers were also found at 4 Iowa locations. Yellow-rumped Warblers remained through May 17-31 in all states, an indication of this season's late migration. A ♂ **Townsend's Warbler** at Dunes S.P., May 1-2 provided a second sight record for Indiana (†JK, †KB). A Cerulean Warbler at Sioux City May 21 was unusual for n.w. Iowa (DE) and a Blackpoll Warbler at Louisville Apr. 17 was early (DNo). Pine Warblers at Madisonville, Ky. (JHa) and Giant City S.P., Ill., Mar. 5 (JR) probably returned with the unusually mild early March weather. A closely studied ♂ **Kirtland's Warbler** at Michigan City May 22-23 provided Indiana's fourth record (TC, †KB, m.ob.—ph.). The usual scattered Prairie Warbler reports in n. areas included one at Sweet Marsh, Ia., May 12-13 (†FM, RMy). A Louisiana Waterthrush in *Lorain* Mar. 16 was quite early for n. Ohio (JP). Unusual in w. Iowa was a Kentucky Warbler in *Mills* May 25 (TB, BPa). Other *Oporornis* warblers appeared in exceptionally good numbers this spring. Connecticut Warblers were widely reported May 7-June 4+ including a remarkable eight at Waterloo, Ia., May 22 (FM, RMy). Mourning Warblers were almost common. Daily maxima of 7-12 in all states were dwarfed by the 22 at Waterloo, Ia., May 22 (FM, RMy) and 49 at Spfld., May 7-early June (H).



*Kirtland's Warbler, Michigan City Harbor, Ind., May 22, 1983. Photo/ J. Koss.*

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH TANAGERS** — Good numbers of Bobolinks were reported, beginning Apr. 16 in *Fulton*, Ill. (MB *et al.*). Largest concentrations were 50-250+ in all states. Yellow-headed Blackbirds returned to most areas by mid-April. They appeared at traditional sites e. to the w. Lake Erie marshes with a maximum of 100+ in n.w. Missouri (L). Extralimital observations included singles at one e. Missouri and 4 central Illinois locations. Both orioles generally appeared in good numbers. A Rusty Blackbird in *Ottawa*, O., May 31 was very late (JP). In the e. states, as many as nine Brewer's Blackbirds were observed in *Ottawa*, O., Mar. 13-May 2 and 5-10 appeared at 3 Kentucky locations Apr. 23-26 e. to *Warren*. Iowa's first **Great-tailed Grackles** were discovered in *Mills* May 19 (†TB, †BPa). This sighting was overdue as they have been regularly observed in adjacent states. As many as 12 were counted at S.C.R., during the period. A total of 14 Summer Tanagers from n. areas represented a good number of spring overflights.

**FINCHES, SPARROWS** — The May 7 flight also included 461 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in *Cook*, Ill. Normal numbers of Blue Grosbeaks returned to their traditional locations while the few extralimital

reports included one n. to South Bend, Ind., May 6 (†VI). A ♂ **Lazuli Bunting** was discovered in St. Louis May 14 (†RK). This species is accidental anywhere in the Region. Equally remarkable was a ♂ **Painted Bunting** recovered at an Indianapolis office tower May 5, providing a second specimen for Indiana (\*RB). Within its normal range in s.w. Missouri, two pairs were observed near Springfield (*vide* CBo) and one in *Cedar* (AC). Dickcissels remained quite scarce in the e. states except for 60 in *Butler*, O., May 30 (FR). Since few finches were noted this winter, it is not surprising they were universally scarce this spring. Evening Grosbeaks appeared at only 2 Kentucky locations. Only Purple Finches were numerous with daily maxima of 35-114 in all states and scattered singles lingering into late May. House Finches continued to increase in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana. Illinois reports consisted of three in the Chicago area plus one in *Edgar* (†PS) while Iowa observers discovered singles at Liscomb Apr. 15 (†BPr) and Davenport May 1 (†P). The only other finches reported were single Com. Redpolls in Ohio and Illinois and single Pine Siskins in Iowa and Missouri.



*Cassin's Sparrow, Olive Park, Chicago, Ill., June 1, 1983. Photo J. Milosevich.*

A representative of the spotted race of Rufous-sided Towhee wandered E to Decatur, Ill., May 8 (GD). Grassland sparrows received mixed reports. Savannah Sparrows were fairly numerous, beginning with an early migrant in *Madison*, Ia, Mar. 4 (MD). In contrast, Grasshopper Sparrows were generally scarce except for 40 in *Butler*, O., May 30 (FR). Le Conte's Sparrows were well reported in the w. states and Illinois with a maximum of 24 at Mark Twain N.W.R., Ill., Mar. 19 (RG, JEa). In the e. states, six were observed in *Gibson and Sullivan*, Ind., Apr. 16 (KB *et al.*) and one in *Ottawa*, O., May 2 (†JP). Henslow's Sparrows were only reported in small numbers. One or two Sharp-tailed Sparrows were discovered at 7 locations in Iowa, Indiana, Missouri and Illinois May 21-June 5, an unusually large number of spring observations. A thoroughly studied **Cassin's Sparrow** was banded and photographed at Chicago May 27-June 4, providing a first record for Illinois (†JL, †SP, m.ob.). The cool weather caused Dark-eyed Juncos

to linger well into May at a number of locations and Tree Sparrows to remain along L. Erie through May 2. Normal numbers of Clay-colored Sparrows were reported from the w. states and Illinois while the e. sightings consisted of two at Evansville, Ind., Apr. 30 (†TG, †JCM—ph.) and one at M.M.W.A., May 20-22 (CH, PL †m.ob.). A Harris' Sparrow appeared e. to *Fulton*, Ill., Apr. 10 (LA). The May 7 flight also brought 207 White-crowns and 703 White-throated Sparrows to Chicago (PC *et al.*); these species received mixed reports elsewhere. Fox Sparrows were widely observed including a very late migrant at Spring Valley W.M.A., O., May 15 (NW). Lapland Longspurs were abundant in Iowa and Illinois with an estimated 10,000 in *Story*, Ia., Apr. 17 (PM) and 1000-1500 at 3 other locations Mar. 20-Apr. 2. Few were reported elsewhere. Smith's Longspurs were observed at 8 Iowa, 6 Illinois and 2 Missouri locations Mar. 9-May 7 with 200 near Hills, Ia., Mar. 12 (†T, †TS) and in *Macon*, Ill., Apr. 16 (LA, TP). The only adequately documented Chestnut-collared Longspur was reported from Hills, Ia., Mar. 12 (†CKn). Ten late Snow Buntings lingered through Apr. 9 at Findlay Res., O. (JM).

**ADDENDUM** — The following line was inadvertently omitted from the autumn report (AB 37:188): An incredibly late Bobolink visited a Rockford, Ill. feeder Dec. 7 (†D. Williams).

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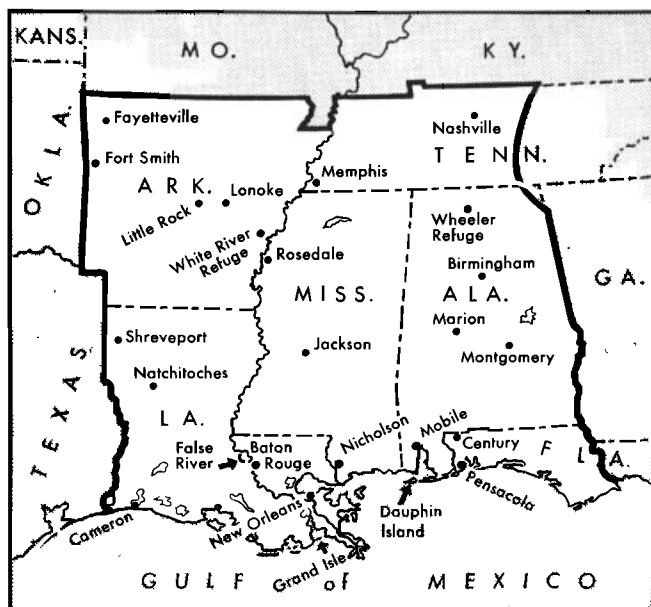
## CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

/Thomas A. Imhof

The weather this spring was awful—but the birding was excellent. Poor “migrating weather” was the rule for almost every day of the period. Before the northerly winds of one cold front died down, the heavy rains of the next front began, and so the birds often made very little headway. The amazing variety and number of birds that normally pass over us unnoticed, or are recorded only as a token few, were once again revealed. The variety of birds present on the Gulf coast in late April prompted many attempts at a Big Day, and on April 24 young veterans, Dwight Cooley and Mark Brown, set a new Alabama record of

202 species! The wind was N, 10-25 m.p.h., the route Tensaw Delta to Dauphin Island. The birds that were missed tell the story better than the list itself: Turkey and Black vultures, Marsh Hawk, Barred Owl, Eastern Wood Pewee, robin, Seaside and Sharp-tailed sparrows. Their record will take a long time to better, and is a fine tribute to two of the best birders in our 6-state Region.

For more than five months most fronts have come from the Pacific rather than Arctic Canada, and the air masses behind them have been warmer and wetter. Thunderstorms and flooding seemed to be the rule as heavy rain fell on already saturated ground. Westerly winds south of a low moved birds east, then as the low crossed the coastline and moved out into the Gulf, birds on the coast, now north of the center, were moved west—and all winds moved lots of water! Van Remsen birded in



Cameron Parish, Louisiana's southwesternmost on the weekend of April 22-24, apparently the best weekend of the season. He noted exceptional numbers of western migrants including Wilson's Phalarope, Lesser Nighthawk, Western Kingbird, Warbling Vireo, Nashville Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Western Tanager, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Dickcissel. He stated that "several Cape May Warblers were also seen—a species that we normally associate with easterlies." That bird mixture really had him scratching his head.

Bob Duncan of Gulf Breeze near Pensacola also scratched his head at the crazy bird happenings. On April 19 he had many migrants not present at Gulf Breeze or Fort Morgan the day before. There was not enough shower activity in the Gulf to justify such a fallout, and the birds he banded were low in fat and exhausted as from a very long flight. Reports of cold and snow on the ground in Tennessee and North Carolina made him think of a possible reverse migration. Birmingham had 31°F on April 19, so all evidence pointed to a strong cold front that didn't need a rain squall to precipitate migrants.

After a springlike February, March was more wintery—on March 10 Birmingham saw an all-day powdery snow fall on 40°F ground against a background of green and blossoming trees. March 24 saw 3 inches of snow. Birmingham's last frost was 31° on the 19th and 20th, while Nashville had 28° on the 19th. In most of the Region bottomlands were still flooded, ponds were full to overflowing and inland mudflats unknown at this writing. Birmingham has an average annual rainfall of 53.8 inches, but in the first five months of this year received 39.9 inches or 75%.

Spring migration arbitrarily ends June 1, but how long after that it continues is anybody's guess. There seemed to be many more late shorebirds, cuckoos and warblers trickling through this year, as was evident to someone who covers the same small area daily.

The birds reacted in many, often unprecedented ways to this strange weather, and birders had a field day recording the unusual. In the account below can be found: successful wintering of at least eleven unusual species, nine species improving their status with the DDT ban, seven eastern species found far west, and fifteen western ones far east, eleven species very early and at least 26 very late, two woodland species on the coast and two coastal ones far inland, three northern species recorded in an off winter, twelve species in exceptionally high numbers, six species affected by flood waters, seven rare in the Region in spring, and seven others rare at any season. Italicized locations refer to counties and parishes.

**LOONS** — Since January Com. Loons have been dying in the Gulf; CLK estimates as many 40/mi of n. Florida beach, perhaps 1000 altogether from Fort Morgan, Ala., to Boca Grande, Fla. Pathologists at the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Unit in Athens, Ga. and at

the U.S.F. & W.S. Disease Lab., Madison, Wis., are examining many carcasses. OEF feared that 2-5000 birds may be involved along this 550+ mi coastline. Robert Lange of the Wisconsin facility estimated 2000. The investigation thus far centers around an unidentified trematode intestinal fluke, the blue crab, and a severe drought in panhandle Florida last fall which affected the salt-fresh-water balance and the food available to the loons. Possibly unrelated was a die-off of 30 loons on the Mississippi coast late April-early May (JT). This spring loons were found in numbers in breeding plumage in a harbor, 45 at Gulfport, Miss., Apr. 19 (JT, EJ); on freshwater near the Gulf; Hackberry, *Cameron*, La., Apr. 18 (MS) and Buck Pond, *Jackson*, Fla., May 31 (MGr); 250-350 mi inland, Birmingham to *Franklin*, Tenn., half in summer plumage, 26 in April, six in May (TAI, GP, SJS *et al.*) Normally few loons are seen inland in spring, especially in summer plumage, but they started late and in poor physical condition and encountered bad weather. Let us hope they do better in the North.

An **Arctic Loon**, most likely one bird, was seen in suburban Pensacola Feb. 19, Mar. 6 & 14, & May 20, all within an 8-mi circle, acquiring summer plumage on the last date (MLM, RD, OF, ph., m.ob.). It was described carefully by knowledgeable observers after direct comparison with nearby Com. Loons.

**GREBES THROUGH SPOONBILL** — Eared Grebes were seen in Biloxi Mar. 17 (JT *et al.*) and Pensacola Mar. 31 (RD). Pied-billed young at Pascagoula by Mar. 14 which were about 4/5 adult size by Mar. 19 (JT *et al.*). Brown Pelicans were much more numerous and widespread on the coast: 50 pairs were reported nesting on Audubon I., *Bay*, Fla. (TF). One slightly injured found in a parking lot in s.e. Memphis Apr. 12 (JLS, Memphis Zoo), was rehabilitated and later returned by air to the Gulf Coast and was the second locally in 55 years (*vide* B.B.C.). Gannets were numerous with about eight reaching Grand Isle, La., by Mar. 13 (DM, RDP). Double-crested Cormorant is another fish-eating bird doing better lately; the 78 counted Apr. 1 on Sardis L. was the highest ever counted by the observer (WMD) in n. Mississippi. March 5 was a good day for early-arriving herons in *Jackson*, Miss.; at Pascagoula R. marsh, 24 Cattle Egrets, and at Bellefontaine Beach, two Green Herons and two Yellow-crowned Night Herons (JT *et al.*). Two days later the Green Heron was noted in Arkansas, at El Dorado (HHS). Least Bitterns seemed to be doing well; 17 in *Baldwin*, Ala., Apr. 17 (GDJ, RD *et al.*) and 12 at Pascagoula Apr. 28 (JT *et al.*). Owen Fang was chagrined May 8. While he was out birding, his wife Allison saw a **Roseate Spoonbill** behind their house on Perdido Bay, for the second record for n.w. Florida. The bird of course, was gone when he got back!

**WATERFOWL** — A small Canada Goose was seen on a pond in Elberta, *Baldwin*, Ala., Feb. 26-Apr. 25 (CLK *et al.*). It appears true (Paxton *et al.*, AB 37:161) that the increase in Ross' Goose in the east is owing to more careful observation. After 3 records in the Region this winter, one furnishing the first Alabama specimen, the second came this spring. On Apr. 19 in a Birmingham city park, a **Ross' Goose** in a flock of domesticated geese came to within 10 ft of this writer. At first the bird was dismissed as feral, but then it was determined that it had been present only one day. Breeding ducks included five young Mottled Ducks Apr. 24 at Pinto Pass, Mobile (GDJ, A.O.S.) and Apr. 10 in Mobile a ♀ Hooded Merganser with eight young washed down out of the swamp into the harbor by torrential rains (SM, m.ob.). At least 6 duck species were very late: Black Duck, Dauphin I., Apr. 22 (GDJ, LP); Green-winged Teal, *Cameron* May 9, two pair (MS, VY); N. Shoveler, 500 still at Blakely I., Ala., Apr. 12 (GDJ) and a male May 28 in *Cameron* (VR, TP); a Canvasback, Pinto I., Ala., Apr. 27 (GDJ); a ♀ Bufflehead, probably wounded, Preston I., near Gunterville, Ala., May 28-29 (CDC); five Oldsquaw, showing up at the same place in Biloxi for several years now, Mar. 15 (JT, JMG, MC); Black Scoter, Bayview L., Birmingham, Apr. 16, latest date for state and first inland spring record (TAI); Red-breasted Merganser, 200 Mar. 22, and 110 Apr. 3 at Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, Ala. (GP).

**HAWKS** — Two, possibly three, pairs of **White-tailed Kites** have been present within 20 mi of the Mississippi-Louisiana line n. of New Orleans from as early as Oct. 27, 1982. One pair e. of Abita Springs, La., bred successfully and had four young May 26 (MWi) for the first in Louisiana. Another pair, between Bienville and Pearlinton, Miss.,

produced 2 eggs, but apparently there was some disturbance and nothing further developed. The third pair disappeared in February, but it possibly nested nearby undetected by birders (JT). Many Swallow-tailed Kites were reported; the most noteworthy was one in Birmingham May 11 (MGa, JMD), third record in Alabama n. of the coastal plain, all in a narrow May time period. On the Tensaw R., Ala., Apr. 24 were recorded 88 Mississippi Kites, 68 in one kettle (CDC, DMB). Two Swainson's Hawks were seen Apr. 17 near Vinton, *Calcasieu* (PL). This March and April, Bald Eagles were noted in Alabama in the Tennessee (CDC); Warrior (B.A.S.), Coosa (DChO), and Chattahoochee (DMB) river valleys. Of the many Osprey reports, two at Tangipahoa, La., appeared to have young in the nest May 15 (WPS); those at Escatawpa, *Jackson*, Miss., were feeding young Apr. 23 (JT, ChR, EJ); those near Fort Morgan, Ala., were rebuilding May 11 after a storm Apr. 22 had destroyed the nest where they had raised young last year (JMD). A pair still present May 15 at Waterloo, Ala. (GP), and birds in *Cameron* May 22 & 28 (VR *et al.*) may have indicated local breeding. Peregrine Falcons were reported from *Cameron* Apr. 18 (MS), Dauphin I., Apr. 23 (A.O.S.) and Gulf Breeze May 12 (LD). The only Merlins mentioned were in Birmingham Mar. 13 (TAI), at Fort Morgan Mar. 27, and three on Dauphin I., Apr. 17 (GDJ, DGJ) and one Apr. 24 (CDC, DMB).

QUAILS, CRANES, RAILS — The 87 Bobwhite calling on the D'Iberville B.B.S., *Jackson*, Miss., May 28 was a record high (JT). On that B.B.S. route, 13 Sandhill Cranes were counted (JT). On Apr. 10, D Muth walked 1-2 mi of U.S. 90 between the w. and e. Pearl R., in Louisiana just before the road was closed by flood waters. He heard many rails, but counting just those seen, tallied 13 Kings, 31 Virginias, and 28 Soras. Virginias were late, one May 1 in Pascagoula (MGi); one Apr. 30 and two May 7 in *Escambia*, Fla. (CLK, MLM, RD *et al.*); and one May 22 at Bonnet Carré Spillway, La. (NN). Soras also were late with one May 9 at Pinto Pass, Mobile (CDC, GDJ, FH). Also at Pinto Pass, a Black Rail walked 5 ft in front of L. Peavler Apr. 22 (15th record for the Alabama coast, 6th in April).

PLOVERS, SANDPIPERS, AND ALLIES — An Am. Oystercatcher on E. Jetty Beach, *Cameron* May 28 was a probable first for w. Louisiana (VR). Three Piping Plovers were seen at Wheeler N.W.R., May 5 & 6 (DCH); of 5 inland spring records, this was the third at Wheeler. One was seen Apr. 9 and May 4 at Sardis L. (WMD), the only two ever seen by the observer in n. Mississippi. Two very early Killdeer nests, each with 4 eggs, were seen Mar. 6 in Starkville, Miss. (JAJ, OD). Along U.S. 90 near the Pearl R., La., Apr. 10, 150 Com. Snipe were counted (DM). Along the Mobile Causeway near the Battleship, a Long-billed Curlew successfully wintered for the first time (November-Apr. 12—GDJ). Six Whimbrels were reported from Dauphin I., May 9 as a good number (GDJ, CDC, FH), yet Apr. 21, 1956, 35 were counted (TAI, others)—can it be that this species has dropped to a sixth of its former abundance? Three Spotted Sandpipers had been present in El Dorado, Ark., mid-October at least Mar. 10 (H & LS, YF). The 22 Willets Apr. 21 at Oak Mountain S.P. (ph., JF) were earliest ever for the mountain region of Alabama; 2 days later there were 62 at Sardis Dam, Miss. (WMD). On Mar. 29 at Lakeland Farm, Marion, Ala., 150 Pectoral Sandpipers were counted (MBo, JG, HHK, RSm). [The White-rumped Sandpiper peak of 80 reported last year for the nearby federal hatchery should have read May 29, not Apr. 29 (AB 36:862).] Baird's Sandpipers were early with one Mar. 20 in New Orleans (DM) and three at Fort Morgan Apr. 9 (AM, ADM) earliest for s.e. Louisiana and Alabama respectively. A Semipalmated Sandpiper seen in *Cameron* this spring was color-banded on both legs (MJM) and has been reported to Manomet Bird Observatory, Mass., and possibly may have been banded in South America! Sanderlings and Red Knots are also part of this program. A count of 800 Semipalmated Sandpipers May 9 (GDJ, CDC) compares poorly with 2000 on Blakely I., Apr. 16 last year. However a count of 100 Stilt Sandpipers same date, place, and observers as the 800 comprised a spring maximum. Three May 28 in *Cameron* were extremely late. An early Buff-breasted Sandpiper was in New Orleans Mar. 17 (DM) and a late one was on the Mobile Causeway May 7 (CDC, TAI, JI).

Several Marbled Godwit records in Florida and Alabama included 11 at Alabama Pt., Apr. 22 (C & PB, ph.). The rarer Hudsonian Godwit

included records Apr. 23, two near Pensacola (R & DB), one at Mobile Causeway (DMB), eight at Fort Morgan and two still there Apr. 25 (MLM, OF); two in *Cameron* Apr. 16 (PL) and one near Lonoke, Ark., Apr. 26 (PL). Although the Am. Avocet and Black-necked Stilt seemed to be doing well in Florida and Alabama this spring, coastal Mississippi reported no avocets and few stilts (JT). Wilson's Phalaropes were noted in small numbers in the e. half of the Region, and the only numbers outside *Cameron* were 15-20 at Nettleton, Ark., Apr. 28 (ELH). In *Cameron* there were 25 on Mar. 31 (MJM), 250 Apr. 16 (MJM), and 1000+ Apr. 22 (SC, DD).

GULLS AND TERNS — A Glaucous Gull, probably the same bird as has spent 3 winters at Pensacola, this year noted Dec. 20, 1982-Apr. 29, 1983 (WV, RD *et al.*). Two **Great Black-backed Gulls** were noted, one in first-winter plumage on Dauphin I., Apr. 9-24 (JT, GDJ *et al.*), and one in second-winter plumage at Biloxi Mar. 15-21 (MC, JMG, JT, ph.). Two **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were also on the coast, old "one-foot" now at least 7 years old, was last seen at Pensacola Mar. 29 (PT); and the first one for Mississippi was an adult on the Gulfport Beach Mar. 2-31 (MT, ph., JT, Mba). A first-year **Thayer's Gull**, described in detail and sketched, seen in *Cameron* May 28, was the sixth for Louisiana, and if summering would be the first for North America (VR, TP). Part of the increase in inland Larids this spring may be owing to the bad weather but, as was noted this winter, the birds themselves may be increasing. Franklin's Gull was especially widespread with a max. of 77 at L. Millwood, *Hempstead*, Ark., May 4 (CMi, CMa), and adults were still present on the coast at *Cameron* May 9, 15, & 28 (VR, TP, MS, RHa, VY). Inland Bonaparte's Gulls included a count of 60+ Apr. 10 at Wheeler Dam, Ala. (GP). A flock of 60 Ring-billed Gulls Apr. 2 in *Benton*, Ark., was the biggest flock in years (TH, JN). Also reported well inland in Alabama, Mississippi, and Arkansas were Forster's, Caspian, and Black terns; at Sardis Dam, Miss., were the first spring Black Terns in 20 seasons (WMD). Fifty Least Terns arrived in Gulfport Apr. 4, and 3150 nests were counted there May 21, with an estimated total on the whole Mississippi coast, including a few Black Skimmers and Gull-billed Terns, of 6000 pairs (JT, M.C.A.S.). An injured Sooty Tern, examined in the hand at St. Andrew's S.P. (TF) furnished the first March record.

DOVES, CUCKOOS, OWLS — Six White-winged Doves reported this spring were in Florida, Mississippi, and Louisiana on the coast; the only two slightly inland near Baton Rouge Apr. 27 (DFC) and *St. James* May 21 at a feeder (B & VS) were still s. of I-10. An early Yellow-billed Cuckoo was in Marianna, Fla., Mar. 27 (BSP); 80 were counted on Dauphin I., May 3 (GDJ, JT, MF); 14 were banded at Fort Morgan and at least 5 times as many seen May 5 & 6 (TAI); 200+ counted on Grand Isle May 8 (RDP); and migrants were still passing through Birmingham June 10 & 28 (TAI). Groove-billed Anis in Florida, possibly from the flock of 11 at Gulf Shores in January, included one at Marianna Apr. 1 (CR) for a first local record, and birds at Fort Pickens Mar. 2 (WV), Apr. 16 (HMS), and 24, late (P & BT); one in *Cameron* May 28 (VR) was very late. An ad. Great Horned Owl on an old Red-tailed Hawk nest in a crotch of the tallest cottonwood around on Archer I., *Chicot* Ark., Feb. 8 produced young by Mar. 13. (N & JCH). Another, also in an old Red-tailed nest, in *Washington*, Ark., was about to fledge young Apr. 10 (JN, RSt). Another successfully wintering was a Burrowing Owl on Dauphin I., seen Nov. 6-Apr. 12 (RWH, PB, GDJ *et al.*).

NIGHTHAWKS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS — Was n.w. Florida's second **Lesser Nighthawk**, at Gulf Breeze Apr. 27 & 29 (R, L & SD) Gulf Shores' January bird or perhaps related to Cameron's flurry of 3-4 birds Apr. 22 & 23 (HHJ, VR, DTK, TS, SA)? On Bellefontaine Beach, Miss., an early Chimney Swift was seen Mar. 10 (JT). Several hummingbirds wintered successfully in the Region: an imm. ♂ Ruby-throated at Spring Hill, Mobile through Mar. 23 (GDJ, MsLC); a Black-chinned at Reserve through Apr. 19 (RJS *et al.*); and four at Norco through Apr. 24 with one ad. male through May 24, the latest ever for the state (MA *et al.*); an ad. ♂ Rufous at Reverse through Apr. 21 (RJS, NN); and a Buff-bellied at Reserve through Apr. 8; all but one of the Louisiana birds banded by NN; finally a late-reported but acceptable Buff-bellied from Gulf Breeze Nov. 25 & 30 (BAS).

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS — Near Mobile Harry Woodpeckers were noted at Tensas Delta Apr. 22 (GDJ, LP) on the Escatawpa R., May 11 (GDJ), and at Fort Morgan May 4 & 5 (TAI). On Noxubee N.W.R., the oldest known **Red-cockaded Woodpecker** colony—in the residential area—now appears abandoned, possibly owing to nearby understorey growth (JAJ); while in Tuskegee N.F., *Macon* this spring, 4 of the 5 known colony sites appeared abandoned also (DMB). Four early E. Kingbirds were at Bellefontaine Beach Mar. 19 (JT *et al.*). Western Kingbirds were seen at Dauphin I., Apr. 19 (C & PB); in *Cameron* Apr. 23, (three—HHJ, DTK) and 24, (four—TS, VR, SA); and in *E. Baton Rouge* May 19 (MS, VY, GL). The Gray Kingbird did not reach Dauphin I., until May 3 (GDJ, MF), and none remained at Fort Morgan. Eleven Great Crested Flycatchers were still present in *Cameron* May 22, with one still there May 28 (VR, TP, DM, MJM, SL). An Alder Flycatcher was seen and heard May 14 at Helena, Ark. (HP) and a Willow May 26 in *Stone*, Ark (TLF). Of the five Leasts reported, one Apr. 10 at Fort Morgan (CDC) and Apr. 11 at Gulfport (JT) were very early. Exceptionally early was an E. Wood Pewee Mar. 19 at Bellefontaine Beach (JT), with no vocalizations mentioned. Latest for Louisiana was a Vermilion Flycatcher in *Cameron* Apr. 24 (JK, TS, VR, SA).

LARKS THROUGH THRUSHES — Pairs of Horned Larks were noted at Tallulah, *Madison*, La., May 31 (DPa, RHa, VR) and 50 mi farther upriver at Winterville near Greenville, Miss., year-round (N & JCH). Early Barn Swallows were two Mar. 12 in *Hancock*, Miss. (JT *et al.*), and 11 in n. Mississippi Mar. 16, seven near Jackson, one near Granada, and three near Oxford (WMD). Fish Crows n. of the Fall Line included one and six Apr. 5 & 16 at L. Fayetteville and L. Sequoyah, Ark. (TH, JN); near W. Blocton, *Bibb*, 15 mi n. of the Fall Line, several in May (LT) and seven June 2 (TAI, GA). Most of the Red-breasted Nuthatches this spring were on the coast; five at L. Charles Apr. 24 (MJM), one at Dauphin I., Mar. 19 (MF) and May 3 (GDJ), one at Fort Morgan May 4 (TAI *et al.*) but one in Birmingham Apr. 30 (TAI, FD). White-breasted Nuthatches were moving around a bit, one was at Gulf Breeze, on the water Apr. 17 (HK, B & HD, OB), and another produced three young May 25 for the first local nesting at Decatur, Ala. (JLW, RW).

Late wrens in n.w. Florida were a Winter at Gulf Breeze Apr. 3 (RD) and a House at Fort Pickens Apr. 30 (RD, MLM, CLK).

Bewick's Wrens nested near Decatur, Ala., with five eggs Apr. 20 (DCH, JLW, RW). This was the first reported nesting in Alabama in several years. A pair was noted at Hickory, *Newton*, Miss., Mar. 9, 13, & 25 (JMG); one at Little Rock Mar. 22 (WMS); and one and two Mar. 14 & Apr. 2 in Fayetteville (JN, KS, DJ). In Nashville, a young robin fledged Apr. 12, yet freezing temperatures persisted there through Apr. 19 (SJS). In coastal Mississippi 10 birds were still present Apr. 23 (JT, EJ, ChR), yet May 20 near Delisle, *Harrison*, young hatched from the first nesting of this species on the Mississippi coast since the 1940s (LN, JT). A late Hermit Thrush was in the Tensas Delta, Ala., Apr. 22 (GDJ, LP). On May 3 on Dauphin I., 70 Swainson's Thrushes were listed; on May 4-6 at Fort Morgan 30 were banded with probably 5 times as many seen nearby (TAI *et al.*) Around Birmingham the first brood of E. Bluebirds fledged successfully about mid-May with 58 nestlings banded on May 13 (JF, TAI, HHK).

KINGLETS THROUGH VIREOS — A late Golden-crowned Kinglet was at Leiper's Fork, *Franklin*, Tenn., Apr. 24 (SJS); and a latest-ever Sprague's Pipit for the coast was on Dauphin I., Apr. 21 (C & PB). Late lingering Cedar Waxwings were 30 in *Cameron* May 15 & 30 (VR, TP). At least 100 singing White-eyed Vireos were listed for coastal Mississippi Apr. 23 (JT, ChR, EJ). Late Solitary Vireos were last noted Apr. 22 on the Tensas Delta (GDJ, LP) and on the 23rd, three were singing at Logtown, *Hancock*, Miss. (JT, ChR, EJ). On May 3 at Dauphin I., 300 Red-eyed Vireos were estimated (GDJ, MF, JT); on May 4-6 at Fort Morgan 39 were banded, most abundant bird, estimating 5 present for every one banded = 195 (TAI *et al.*). Of seven Philadelphia Vireos reported, three were banded at Fort Morgan May 4 (TAI, MN, GDJ, OF, MLM *et al.*). Warbling Vireos were noted in Florida at Fort Pickens Apr. 16 (HKa) and Gulf Breeze Apr. 23 (LD) and in *Cameron* Apr. 23 & 24 (VR).

WARBLERS — Three Prothonotary Warblers on the Mississippi

coast Apr. 11, 12, & 14 showed fairly extensive rufous in the head, one resembling a Palm Warbler (JT). On Apr. 19-20, 1968 several Prothonotaries and Blue-wingeds were banded on Dauphin I. with these same stains (MLB, MEM) and it was explained (WPN) that the birds visited certain tropical vines for insects (AFN 22:534). Among the few Golden-winged and Blue-winged warblers reported were a Brewster's-type hybrid Apr. 29 at Leiper's Fork, Tenn. (SJS) and a ♂ Lawrence's-type in *Cameron* Apr. 23 (SC). Three Tennessee Warblers in *Cameron* May 22 were very late (VR, MM, DM) as was an Orange-crowned Warbler Apr. 23 in *Hancock*, Miss. (JT, ChR, EJ). Early warblers included a Nashville at Fort Morgan Apr. 9 (J & BW, many) and one at Fort Pickens, Fla., Apr. 10 (PT); a N. Parula in Biloxi Mar. 4 (MBA); and a Yellow at Fort Pickens Mar. 26 (CLK *et al.*). Records were received of seven Black-throated Blue Warblers, noteworthy anywhere in the Region in spring; the earliest Apr. 8 on Dauphin I. (GDJ); the farthest w., Metairie, La., Apr. 30 (NN), a female banded at Fort Morgan May 4 (TAI *et al.*); latest May 7, a female at Leiper's Fork, Tenn. (SJS). Far w. Cape May Warblers were a male Apr. 22 (SC) and a female Apr. 24 (VR), both in *Cameron*. A ♂ **Black-throated Gray Warbler** Apr. 14 at Bellefontaine Beach (JT, MBA) furnished the first spring record for coastal Mississippi. A late Black-throated Green Warbler and three late Chestnut-sideds were in *Cameron* May 22 (VR, MM, DM); a Palm at Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, Ala., May 15 (GP) had only one later date in Alabama. Northern Waterthrushes' latest for Louisiana were in *Cameron*, three May 22 (MM, VR, DM) and two May 28 (VR, TP). A little far w. and also early was a Connecticut Warbler Apr. 30 at Tensas River N.W.R., *Madison*, La. (DPa, VY). The Mourning Warbler, recorded in spring on Florida and Alabama coasts only once each, was noted 3 times in Gulf Breeze in April, on the 9th (E & HB), 16th (DG) and 17th (JW<sub>1</sub>), inland two males and one female were seen May 15 near Helena, Ark. (H & MP). To complete the genus, a ♂ **MacGillivray's Warbler**, the second for Louisiana, was seen and described well Apr. 30 in *Cameron* MWe, RC). A ♂ Wilson's Warbler, at Fort Pickens Dec. 21-Apr. 16 (CLK *et al.*) was another successful overwinterer.

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS — The earliest-ever Bobolink for Alabama was a male at Fort Morgan Apr. 10 (CDC). Of 14 Yellow-headed Blackbirds reported, a male was from Mississippi, Pascagoula R. marsh Apr. 23 (JT); six were from Arkansas, four at Lonoke May 7 (WMS), and seven from *Cameron*, five + Apr. 23 (DM, others). Another late bird from *Cameron* May 28 was an ad. ♂ N. (Baltimore) Oriole (VR), but Orchard Oriole was early in Mobile Mar. 5 (PB). A late Rusty Blackbird was in *E. Baton Rouge* Apr. 10 (MS). The Bronzed Cowbird, present in the Reserve area for 6 years, patronized a Gretna, suburban New Orleans, feeder Dec. 20-late March (when food with withdrawn), built up to 50+ in mid-March (ph., FB). The first egg (to L.S.U.) was collected from an Orchard Oriole's nest May 18 (TS, RJS, MWe). The species has now moved to Baton Rouge where a male was seen displaying ruf May 27 (RJS, MWe). Birds were first noticed this year in Metairie Mar. 26 and Reserve Mar. 31 (RDP, RJS), and two were in 2 places in *Cameron* Apr. 23 (MM, VR, others). The second **Hepatic Tanager** for Louisiana was collected in Peveto Beach Woods, a female May 22 (VR, DM). A ♂ W. Tanager was at Holly Beach, *Cameron* Apr. 22 & 23 (SC, DD, MM, RDP). An estimate of 400 Scarlet Tanagers was made on Dauphin I., May 3 (GDJ, JT, MF). On May 28 in Peveto Beach Woods, *Cameron* a ♀ Summer Tanager was noted (VR, TP).

FINCHES — Dauphin I. had an estimated 400 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks May 3 (GDJ, JT, MF) and three record late ones were in *Cameron* May 22 (VR). Migrant flocks of Indigo Buntings were numerous and widespread throughout Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas mid-April-mid-May, causing much comment from non-birders about the unusual blue birds. No exceptional concentrations or early or late records resulted. A ♂ Painted Bunting at Alabaster, *Shelby*, Ala., Apr. 30 (MBo, HHK, JF, MWa) was only the fourth n. of the coastal plain in spring. Known to breed in only a few places near Mobile, a singing male on Pinto I., Apr. 30 (GDJ, JP) and a female at Hurricane Landing, *Baldwin* May 9 (GDJ, CDC) may have indicated additional sites. During late April and early May at least 10 flocks of Dickcissels were reported for the area between Gulf Breeze and the Mississippi coast. The only Evening Grosbeaks reported was a flock of 25 in Century, Fla.,

Mar 22 (KB, *vide* MG) A late Purple Finch was at Leiper's Fork, Tenn., May 8 (SJS, BHS). A single ♀ House Finch patronized an Oxford, Miss. feeder Jan. 16-Mar. 29 (WMD). In Birmingham, birds were at 4+ feeders and breeding nearby with a maximum of 30 at the Oakland feeder in late March and early April (TAI). Scarce this winter, Pine Siskins were noted on the coast at Marianna, three Mar. 16 (MAM); at Fairhope, Ala., Mar. 24 (A & MN); and Biloxi Apr. 11, 16, & 24 (MGi). A late Am. Goldfinch was at Gulfport May 17 (JT), but even later was one on the 28th in *Cameron* (VR, TP). On Apr. 9 at Fort Morgan, 40 Grasshopper Sparrows were noted (CDC); three were in *Boone*, Ark., May 1 (WMS); nine were in *Phillips*, Ark., May 15 (H & MP); and three in *Cherokee*, Ala., also May 15 (GP). Some Henslow's Sparrows moved through early, one Feb. 20 at Muscle Shoals, Ala. (GP, TD); three Mar. 1 in Bessemer, Ala. (LT, FD); but two were late Apr. 17 in *St. Tammany*, La. (TD). Two Sharp-tailed Sparrows at Wheeler Ref., May 15 & 16 (DCH) constituted the third inland record and all readily identifiable as the race *nelsoni*. On Apr. 23 a late Vesper Sparrow was seen in *Cameron* (MS, PM, VY).

An early Lark Sparrow was seen at Bellefontaine Beach Mar. 5, but five others for Florida, Alabama, Arkansas, and Mississippi were all in the narrow time period Apr. 11-18 (JT, RD, MLM, GDJ, JN). The rare **Rufous-crowned Sparrow**, which barely enters our Region from the n.w., was tape-recorded on Magazine Mt., *Logan*, Ark., May 30 (WMS, MSc). Although Bachman's Sparrow is getting difficult to find in much of Alabama, possibly owing to drastic habitat changes, a few have been located n. of Spanish Fort, *Baldwin*, (GDJ) and in Tuskegee N.F., *Macon* (DMB, CDC). In Mississippi 48 singing birds were tallied May 28 on the D'Iberville B.B.S. (JT), and in Arkansas one was found in a new area in St. Francis N.F., *Phillips* (E & HH). Two late Dark-eyed Juncos were near Rosebank, *W. Feliciana*, La., Apr. 11 (MS). Clay-colored Sparrows were in *Cameron* Mar. 31 & Apr. 23 (MJM, SC); and in Arkansas May 8 at Fayetteville (KS). A very late Lincoln's Sparrow was at Wheeler N.W.R., May 10 (HW, AM).

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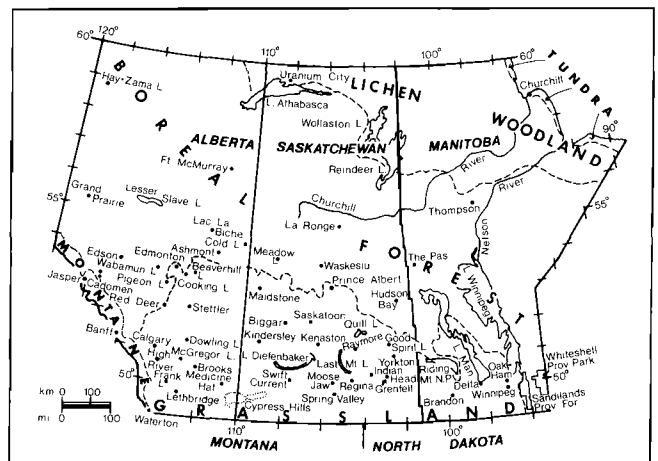
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## PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

/Wayne C. Harris

Weather during the period was unsettled and generally cooler than normal. The unseasonably mild conditions of the winter season continued through March with the usual blustery conditions and no significant major storms. April temperatures were near normal with the exception of southern Manitoba; precipitation was almost double that normally received—much of it falling as snow in some areas. May continued cool with blizzards from the 10th through 14th, which were the major event of the spring. These storms caused high mortality among some species, particularly swallows and warblers. For example, at Regina there were thousands of dead birds floating in the water of Wascana Lake, mostly Barn Swallows, Purple Martins and some warblers. At Good Spirit Lake, the thrushes were also hard hit. In southern Manitoba Whip-poor-will populations were down 70%. Mountain Bluebirds and all swallow species were hard hit at Raymore, Saskatoon and Spring Valley. Mortality was not the only result of the storm as tremendous fallouts of thrushes and sparrows occurred at several localities.

The weather resulted in a somewhat delayed migration. In southern Manitoba and southeastern Saskatchewan arrivals were one-two weeks later than average, the remainder of Saskatchewan only a few days late to average, and normal in Alberta. At Churchill on the Hudson Bay, coast migration was 4 weeks behind schedule with many species still not present at the end of the period, not surprising considering that there was still up to 4 feet of snow. The late spring at Churchill and the entire arctic will undoubtedly result in reduced arctic nesting success, something which should be monitored during the fall migration.



**LOONS, GREBES** — A single Com. Loon at Gardiner Dam, Sask., Apr. 3 would indicate that the individual that was seen there through mid-winter successfully overwintered since the normal first arrivals in this region do not occur until late April (SJS). South of their normal range were four Arctic Loons at Thompson, Man., May 28 (RDM, PS) Grebe numbers were normal except for Pied-billed in s. Manitoba where they were "almost nonexistent" (HWRC, RFK).

**HERONS** — Great Blue Heron numbers may have been somewhat below normal as White Bear, Wolseley, Moose Jaw and Spirit L., in

Saskatchewan, s. Manitoba and Calgary reported fewer than usual and reduced heronry sizes (WCH, HWRC, ANW). At Churchill single Great Blue Herons were seen May 9 & 25 (BC). There were single Great Egrets along Cottonwood Coulee, s.w. Sask., May 20 and at Regina May 19-31 and 5 reports totalling 10 individuals in s. Manitoba (G. Bain, TB, RFK). The only Cattle Egret reports were of an adult at Oak Hammock May 24 (P. Lawson, H. Lloyd) and one Apr. 30 at Regina (BL, CA). Single Snowy Egrets were seen near Waterhen, Man., May 6-8 and at Bruce L., near Calgary May 9-12 (D.G. Jacobs, JT). A Green Heron was present at Delta during mid-May (CWC). Both Black-crowned Night Heron and Am. Bittern continue to recover from the low numbers of 2 years ago but still have not returned to the population levels of the mid-1970s. A single Least Bittern was reported from Oak Hammock May 4-7 (GDG).

**WATERFOWL** — Water conditions and hence waterfowl populations were much improved throughout much of the s. prairies while reporting areas in the forested regions remarked on reduced numbers of waterfowl compared to the past 2 years (HWRC, RFK, WCH, JRG). Some of the more impressive migratory movements included almost 12,000 White-fronted Geese at Raymore Apr. 19 (WCH, SML); 2000+ Ross' Geese at Goose L., s.w. of Saskatoon May 23 (BCG, KMM); 30,000 Pintails at Oak Hammock Apr. 16 (GEH, RFK); and 60 Ring-necked Ducks on Glenmore Res. near Calgary Apr. 24 (DMC). Several species that are rare or uncommon during spring were recorded. In s. Manitoba two Ross' Geese were seen near Pierson Apr. 5 and a single at Virden Apr. 30 (RW, CWC). More reports than usual of Cinnamon Teal away from the traditional s. Alberta-s.w. Saskatchewan areas were received. A single male possibly paired was seen at the Last Mountain L. Wildlife Management Unit (hereafter, Last Mountain) by several observers May 4-27 (WCH); a male near Dundurn, Sask., May 7 (SJS) and another exceptionally far n. May 16-24 at Ft. McMurray (JRG). Hybrid Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal were reported at Wildlife Reserve of Western Canada (hereafter, W.R.W.C.) near Cochrane, Alberta May 3 and another Cinnamon "type" with some spotting on the sides of the breast in mid-May at Regina (SJ, BL).

**Eurasian Wigeon** staged a major influx this spring. There were 9 reports including what appeared to be two pairs. In the Calgary area there were singles seen at 5 different localities with the dates being Apr. 1-2, Apr. 2, 17 and May 1 (2 localities—JT, DMC, JS). On Apr. 18 a pair was seen near Ft. McMurray and what appeared to be a pair was seen 6 mi w. of Semans, Sask., May 14 (JRG, WCH).

Two pairs of Wood Ducks were seen on the Souris R. oxbows s. of Estevan May 25 indicating that this species is a rare but regular breeder on the Souris R., in s.e. Saskatchewan (BCG, KMM). In s. Saskatchewan a major influx of Greater Scaup occurred. The first reports came from Regina Beach with 10 on Apr. 24 increasing to 25 and then 100+ the following 2 days (BL, RK, CA, TR). In Regina there were 22 on Apr. 28, two May 19 and six May 21 (RK, TR). The Saskatoon area had 10 on Apr. 30 and singles May 1 & 21 (SJS, CJE). Other reports were from Craven Apr. 28 with 20 and two at Last Mountain May 5 (TR, WCH). White-winged Scoter numbers were up in s. Manitoba and at Last Mountain, where up to 17/day were seen (RFK, WCH). A rare spring record of an Oldsquaw was of one near Calgary Apr. 6 (ANW).

**DIURNAL RAPTORS** — The raptor migration was not spectacular, to say the least. There were some isolated good counts reported, but the only species that was more common than it has been for the past few years was Goshawk. A single Sharp-shinned Hawk at Churchill May 12 was unusual as was a Red-shouldered Hawk seen there May 8 (BC). Another Red-shouldered was at St. Adolphe Apr. 9, the first s. Manitoba report in 2 years (RFK, IAW). Broad-winged Hawks, generally considered to be rare migrants in the s.w. portion of the Region, had 3 sightings from each of Swift Current, Sask., and Calgary, more than normally reported (CH, ANW, JS). Ferruginous Hawks are very rare in s. Manitoba thus 4 scattered sightings there this spring was exceptional (CWC, NS). Peregrine Falcon numbers were close to normal with a total of 28 reports (HWRC, WCH, JRG). An encouraging Peregrine report came from Calgary where a pair nested in the downtown area (ANW).

**SHOREBIRDS** — The shorebird migration was not spectacular as it

is in some years. For the most part species moved through at a leisurely pace with few high counts, few rarities and would appear to be as close to a normal or average migration as experienced in this Region in a number of years. A major movement of Am. Golden Plovers occurred in s. Saskatchewan May 17-24 with the highest numbers occurring on the 17th with Last Mountain, having 345 and Regina 140 (WCH, BL). In s. Manitoba the peak occurred 11 days later with 300 at Oak Hammock May 28 (GEH, GDG, RFK). More than usual Whimbrel reports were received, all from s. Saskatchewan. There were six seen near Regina May 21, 22 at Swift Current, May 22, three at Dundurn May 22 and three at Last Mountain May 31 (FHB, CH, SJS, WCH). An excellent count of Dunlins was 700 at Oak Hammock May 26 (GDG). Short-billed Dowitchers are not reported every year, probably owing to lack of observers checking over the dowitcher flocks for this species. This spring there were more reports than usual including an exceptional 500 at Oak Hammock May 21 (GDG). Other reports included a single at Last Mountain May 15, 18 & 24, five at Saskatoon May 21 and 15 there on the 23rd (WCH, JBG, CJE). An ad. ♂ **Ruff** present at Oak Hammock May 1-6 provided s. Manitoba with its first record (PT, m.ob., ph )

**GULLS AND TERNS** — Sightings of single Glaucous Gulls Apr. 29 at Brandon, May 28 at Pinawa, Man., and Apr. 7-13 near Calgary were the only ones outside of the Churchill area (CWC, RFK, ANW, JS). A rare spring Thayer's Gull sighting was one near Craven, Sask., May 30 (RK). A Caspian Tern at Ft. McMurray May 31 and a Black Tern May 26 at Churchill were both outside their normal range (JRG, BC). Arctic Tern reports from St. Ambrose, Man., May 22 and Delta May 23 (GDG, GEH) would indicate that the species is a rare but regular migrant in the s. portions of the Region as it has been reported several times during the spring in the last few years.

**POOR-WILL THROUGH FLYCATCHERS** — A Poor-will at Frontier May 22 (JJW) makes this the second year in a row that this species has been seen in s.w. Saskatchewan. A Lewis' Woodpecker was at Sundre May 27 and a Red-headed Woodpecker at Val Marie, Sask., June 1 were both unusual (FH, CH). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is a rare migrant in s. Saskatchewan and ten reports received were more than usual (FB, EWK). Two E. Wood Pewees were at Good Spirit L., May 27 (WJA).

**THRUSHES** — The thrush migration was the best in several years in s. Manitoba and at several scattered Saskatchewan localities. In s. Manitoba the birds were held up by cold weather conditions and were present in the incredible numbers. Most numerous were Swainson's and Gray-cheeked with hundreds being seen in a few hours (RFK, HWRC). In s. Saskatchewan the key factor appeared to be the blizzard-like conditions experienced May 10-14. At Kenaston May 12-13 saw a heavy migration of Swainson's and Gray-cheeked thrushes (PLB). At Good Spirit L., thrushes (mostly Swainson's and Gray-cheeked) arrived May 10, increasing to 100+ by the 12th. By May 14 few remained and numerous dead birds were found (WJA). At Raymore numbers were even more spectacular with no noticeable mortality. Again Swainson's and Gray-cheeked were the most abundant, peaking at 1160+ and 118 respectively May 14, but both Veeries and Hermit Thrushes were also common with maximum numbers reached the same day at 135+ and 17 respectively (WCH, SML). It is possible that the wave of thrushes was more widespread in Saskatchewan than reported because conditions were so bad most observers did not venture out. Rare thrushes, a probable result of these storms included a Wood at Brandon May 19 and a Varied at Raymore May 12 (HWRC, WCH).

**WARBLERS** — The warbler migration was not spectacular. Only s. Manitoba reported significant large numbers and those were grounded birds during the May storms. In general there were few rarities, no pronounced waves but a prolonged migration with many species still present s. of breeding grounds at periods' end. Some of the more notable included a ♂ Black-throated Blue at Winnipeg May 9 (GEH); a Golden-winged at Pinawa May 17 (PT) and an amazing five Connecticut near Calgary May 29 (ANW).

**FRINGILLIDS** — Unlike the warblers, the finch and sparrow migration was considered spectacular by many. There was an excellent migra-



tion in s. Manitoba and e. Saskatchewan. At Pinawa there were "hundreds of Fox, White-crowns and White-throats" (PT). At Raymore the same storm that grounded the thrushes also grounded sparrows. Peak numbers occurred May 14 and included 170 Chipping, 200+ Clay-colored, 60 White-crowned, 80+ Fox and 50+ Lincoln's (SML, WCH). At Good Spirit L., Harris', White-crowned and White-throats were present in above normal numbers with White-throats peaking at 200 May 11-17 (WJA). Also of note were 80 Le Conte's Sparrows at Oak L., May 11 (CWC). Rarities included ♂ Black-headed Grosbeaks near Cochrane June 1 and Moose Mountain P.P., Sask., May 15 (SJ, RD). Manitoba's first House Finch records were of a female at Stonewall Mar. 29-Apr. 9 (KDG, RFK, ph.), a male at the same location May 2 (KDG) and a male n. of Winnipeg Apr. 17 (GDG). Single Golden-crowned Sparrows were seen at Pinawa Apr. 29-30 and Ray-

more May 14 (PT, WCH). A Lark Sparrow at Good Spirit L., May 14 furnished the first local record in 20 years (WJA).

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## NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

/Craig A. Faanes

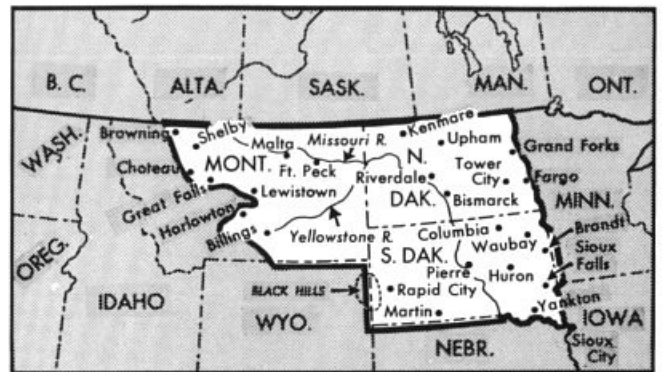
Despite the relatively warm winter, and a surprisingly warm March across much of the Region, spring migration got off to a slow start and was generally behind schedule through late May. Much of the Region experienced late-season snowstorms in April and mid-May. One major storm began in central Montana May 9, depositing several inches of heavy, wet snow. The storm entered eastern Montana on the evening of May 11 and continued through May 12.

A cold front stalled out in eastern North Dakota during May 10-12 which resulted in a spectacular fallout of warblers at Fargo. The weather then was characterized by overcast skies and light rain or drizzle. Many individual warblers resorted to ground feeding which greatly enhanced observations and identification. While eastern North Dakotans were relishing the warbler numbers, observers in eastern Montana were encountering large numbers of weather-killed birds. Gniadek reported finding many dead sparrows, Mourning Doves and Western Meadowlarks in Miles City. Many birds were killed along highways because these were the only open areas for great distances and the birds tended to congregate there.

In the text following, place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH PELICANS — The first Com. Loons in e. Montana were at Ft. Peck Apr. 24. Four singles were found in e. North Dakota Apr. 10-May 23. A single Pied-billed Grebe was early Mar. 8 at Yellowwater Res., Mont. (LKM). None were found at Ft. Peck where this species is observed nearly every spring (CC). An active Horned Grebe nest May 26 provided the first confirmed breeding record for Montana's latilong L10. About 25 Red-necked Grebes on Lord's L., in the Turtle Mts., N.D., Apr. 24 was the largest concentration reported. Most lakes in the mountains were still frozen on that date (REM,GB). The White Pelican colony at Piyas L., *Marshall*, S.D., had 780 active nests May 28. The Drywood L., *Roberts* colony supported 500 nests this spring, and 686 nests were in the Waubay L., *Day* colony. All South Dakota nest counts showed increases over 1982.

BITTERNS THROUGH IBISES — Only two Am. Bitterns were reported from e. North Dakota this spring. Great Blue Heron numbers appear to have "declined drastically" near Ft. Peck in recent years (CC), and the heronry along the Milk R., near Nashua, Mont., appeared to be abandoned. A ground-nesting Great Blue Heron was found at Piyas L., S.D. (BH). Four Great Egrets were reported from e. North Dakota May 1-12, and seven from e. South Dakota; the first Apr. 15. A well-documented Snowy Egret was at Tewaukon N.W.R., N.D., May 12 (DPo). This egret was also reported from 3 e. South Dakota counties during May. A **Little Blue Heron** was found May 8 & 27 in *Kingsbury*, S.D., and also reported from *Brown*, S.D., in early June. A single Yellow-crowned Night Heron was in *Brookings*, S.D., May 3 (L & DW), and a White-faced Ibis was in *Hutchinson*, S.D., Apr. 28-May 2 (LA).



WATERFOWL — A Greater White-fronted Goose in *Gregory* Mar. 1 represented a record arrival date for South Dakota. The peak Snow Goose count was 50,000+ at Salyer N.W.R., N.D., Apr. 5 (GE). "More than usual" numbers of Cinnamon Teal were observed in South Dakota's *Meade*, *Bon Homme*, *Fall R.*, and *Stanley*. One was e. of Bismarck May 1 & 8 (RQ, WB). An Oldsquaw at Garrison Dam, N.D., Mar. 2 & 13 may have wintered there. A White-winged Scoter May 31 and June 1 at Waubay N.W.R., represented the latest South Dakota spring observation, and was also one of few spring records for that state. Eleven Red-breasted Mergansers in e. North Dakota Apr. 14-23 were interesting in light of the species' rare spring status. One May 19 in *Yankton* was among the latest dates ever for South Dakota.

HAWKS THROUGH GROUSE — An Osprey at *Malta*, Mont., Mar. 21 was very early (DPr). A Cooper's Hawk pair was found nesting May 15 in *Marshall*, S.D. Good numbers of Goshawks were reported, including five in e. North Dakota Mar. 27-Apr. 12, five in w. North Dakota Mar. 13-Apr. 10, and eight near Miles City Mar. 1-Apr. 11. This species was also reported Apr. 8 & 12 from *Fall River* where it may nest (RP). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at Fargo May 16 (LF). Five Broad-winged Hawks were reported from e. and c. Montana where this bird is quite rare. Gniadek reported seven Am. Kestrels from Miles City in March; he had 41 there in March 1982. Peregrine Falcon observations included three in e. Montana, three in e. North Dakota and one in w. North Dakota. A male in *Brookings* Mar. 8 represented the earliest arrival date for South Dakota. A Prairie Falcon nest found near Ft. Peck (CC) was about 6 feet from an active Great Horned Owl nest. The falcon nest was found abandoned at the end of May. A Sage Grouse strutting ground in e. Montana visited Apr. 24 had 73 males (CC), and 14 were on a ground near Marmath, N.D., Mar. 13 (GB, REM). The Sharp-tailed Grouse dancing ground count at Upper Souris N.W.R., yielded 870 birds during the third week of April (DLi).

CRANES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — A group of 200+ Sandhill Cranes near Washburn, N.D., was unusually early (RQ). Five Whooping Cranes were found in *Perkins*, S.D., Apr. 18, and two more were

found s of *Bison*, *Perkins*, but no date was given (GH) The Region hosted a rather dismal shorebird migration this spring, characterized by markedly lower numbers of individuals at some known concentration areas. One possible reason was related to habitat conditions. Much of e. and c. North Dakota had excellent water levels in the wetlands resulting in few exposed mudflats, especially in highly-used alkali lakes. These conditions, while conducive to attracting waterfowl, may have caused many shorebirds to overfly the Prairie Pothole Region this spring.

The first Piping Plovers arrived at Ft. Peck May 1, and five plovers were observed in courtship there May 3 (CC). Two Mountain Plovers found at the w. end of C.M. Russell N.W.R., Mont., Apr. 22, were the only ones reported (LKM). Five **Black-necked Stilts** were at Benton Lake N.W.R., Mont. (*vide* D. Dole), and one was at Stink L., *Stutsman*, N D., June 3 (J. Eldridge). About 140 Am. Avocet nests were found at Benton Lake N.W.R., in mid-May (*vide* P. Wright). The 24 Whimbrels at Ft. Peck May 14 constituted Montana's 18th record. This was an exceptional spring for **Red Knot**. The third South Dakota appearance of this shorebird was photographed in *Yankton* May 15 (WH). One knot was at the Grand Forks airbase lagoons May 22 (DOL), and six were at Fargo May 26 (MB). The Dunlin in *Brown* Apr. 22 furnished a record South Dakota arrival date (DT). Two ♂ Am. Woodcock were displaying in *Brookings*, at least 13 males were near Big Stone L., *Roberts*, and one was at *Waubay* N.W.R., Apr. 23 (JK).

**GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — The Ring-billed Gull colony at *Waubay* L., *Day*, S.D., held 1266 nests June 6; a number almost identical to that in 1982 (BH, KH, MR). There was heavy mortality among chicks at this colony, probably attributable to unseasonably cold weather in late May. The *Waubay* L. colony also held 24 California Gull nests. this is the only known nesting locale in South Dakota. Glaucous Gull reports included two Mar. 19, one Apr. 2 and Apr. 20 at Ft. Peck (CC), and one at *Pierre* Apr. 22. Caspian Terns were found at Ft. Peck May 7 (where they nested in 1982—CC), and May 17 in *Stanley*, S.D. (BC). Only two Short-eared Owls were reported from North Dakota, and 13 were near *Yellowstone Res.*, Mont., Apr. 7. *Microtus* were almost nonexistent this spring which no doubt contributed to the paucity of reports. At least 10 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were feeding at a blossoming crab apple near *Crystal* N.D., May 24 (LFM, RBM). This was by far the largest number of hummingbirds reported at one location in the last 6 years.

One Lewis' Woodpecker at *Lewistown*, Mont., May 28 was at the limit of its range (LKM). Ten Lewis' were found throughout the period in *Meade*, S.D. (EM). The ♀ Red-bellied Woodpecker at *Hope*, N.D., reported the last 2 seasons, was last seen Apr. 24 (DK).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CORVIDS** — Up to 19 Alder Flycatchers were heard in the *Minot* area May 15-June 2 (GB, REM). An *Empidonax* sp. at *Upper Souris* Apr. 19, was suspected of being a Least (DLI). This was an incredibly early date for any *Empidonax*, especially considering weather conditions this spring. A nesting pair of Say's Phoebe returned to *Kantrud's* front porch Apr. 26 for the ninth consecutive year. Swallows were probably hard hit by the cold May weather. GB found eight Barn and two Cliff swallows dead in a *Minot* rain gutter after a heavy snow May 14. A flock of 400+ Bank, Tree, and Cliff swallows and Purple Martins, apparently still in migration, was at the *Minot* lagoons May 30 (REM). Barn Swallows were still apparently migrating at *Minot* during the first week of June (GB). A Clark's Nutcracker May 28 in the limber pine area of *Slope*, N.D. was very late. Nutcrackers were also reported Mar. 25 from *Wind Cave* N.P., S.D., where the species has been suspected of nesting (RP). **Common Ravens** were at *Salyer* N.W.R., Mar.29 and May 1.

**NUTHATCHES THROUGH THRUSHES** — A nesting Pygmy Nuthatch pair in *Fall River* Mar. 24-May 1, represented the first confirmed South Dakota breeding record (RP). A Rock Wren May 11 at *Salyer* N W R., provided the first e. North Dakota record in at least 6 years (BB) A Winter Wren May 9 at *Bottineau* was one of very few records for w. and c. North Dakota (DS). Fifty bluebird houses erected this spring at *Waubay* N.W.R., had 100% occupancy by E. Bluebirds and Tree Swallows. Montana's 16th and 17th Gray-cheeked Thrushes were at Ft. Peck May 14 (CC), and *Medicine Lake* N.W.R., May 16 (LKM). One was seen at *Bottineau*, N.D., with Swainson's and Hermit thrushes

on the early date of Apr. 22. A mixed flock of 200+ Swainson's and Gray-cheeked thrushes was found foraging in the snow along the *James R.*, in *Jamestown* May 15 (CF). One Wood Thrush was quite far w. at *Bismarck* May 9 (RQ).

**WARBLERS** — One of very few South Dakota **Blue-winged Warblers** was in *Minnehaha* May 15 (C & GR). The Tennessee at *Bowdoin* N.W.R., Mont., May 22 was new to the refuge (TP). About 25 Nashvilles were in *Fargo* May 10-18, and one was in *Brookings* May 10. Montana's third **Cape May Warbler** was found dead at Ft. Peck May 6 (JC). This also provided the first state specimen. An "Audubon's" was in *Brown* May 13, and in *Stanley* May 21. This species is rarely reported e. of the *Missouri R.* North Dakota's sixth **Pine Warbler** was at *Fargo* May 8 (MB), and Montana's sixth **Black-throated Green Warbler** was at Ft. Peck May 8 (JC). MacGillivray's at *Minot* May 23 (GB, REM), May 29 in *Brookings* and two banded May 29 and *June 1* near *Aberdeen* were all far e. of the "normal" range. The ♂ **Hooded Warbler** at *Oak Grove* P., *Fargo* May 12 provided North Dakota's third record. The second North Dakota **Hooded Warbler** was in *Oak Grove* P., in May, 1981. RB found a ♂ Kentucky at *Madison, Lake*, S.D., May 15.

A Bullock's Oriole banded at *Bismarck* May 9 was about 120 mi e. of its limited North Dakota range (RNR). The N. Oriole at *Crystal*, N.D., Apr. 26 was very early (LFM).

**TANAGERS THROUGH TOWHEES** — The W. Tanager pair at *Ft. Peck* May 12 was quite unusual for that locale (CC). Cardinals were unreported this spring from their usual *Fargo* location. Black-headed Grosbeaks become rare within a few mi. e. of the *Missouri R.* riparian forests; they are common, however, along the river. Thus, the single male in *Coddington*, S.D., was quite unexpected. The Dickcissel at *Minot* May 1 was extremely early (GB, REM). No others were reported in the Region by the end of May. At least 10 Red Crossbills, including one dependent young, were in *Slope*, N.D., May 29-30 (REM,GB). One Green-tailed Towhee in *Bowman*, N.D., May 13 furnished one of very few state records. An unusually-plumaged towhee in *Billings* was suspected of being a hybrid of the Rufous-sided and Collared towhees (JM, m.ob.). The latter is restricted to the mountains of c. Mexico. Numerous pictures were taken of this bird. Those of highest quality suggested a possible Green-tailed x Rufous-sided hybrid. The photographs have been submitted to the U.S. National Museum; the final determination will be reported later.

**SPARROWS THROUGH SNOW BUNTING** — Grasshopper and Baird's sparrows were very late arriving in North Dakota, both were not well-distributed until the first week of June. The single White-winged Junco in *Slope* Mar. 2, represented the third North Dakota record of this subspecies (GB, REM). The Dark-eyed Junco in *Stanley* May 21 was the latest known date for South Dakota (GS *et al.*). Both Chipping and Clay-colored sparrows were extremely numerous at Ft. Peck feeders during the May 12-13 snowstorm (CC). Crawford found a Chipping Sparrow at his *Grand Forks* feeder on the very early date of Mar. 15. This species was not reported again until Apr. 17. The Field Sparrow at a *Grand Forks* feeder May 11-14 was about 100 mi n. of its known breeding range in e. North Dakota (DOL). One of the best known movements of Fox Sparrow in South Dakota included at least 64 birds at 6 locations. Mc Cown's Longspur has been considered rare even as a migrant in South Dakota in recent years. However, field work by RCR indicates that this species moves through s.w. counties regularly. Sixty (all males) were found in *Fall River* Apr. 19, and six were there Apr. 20. The last Snow Buntings were 200+ at *Grand Forks* Apr. 24 (DOL).

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## SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS

/Frances C. Williams

Early spring was unseasonably warm, but from late March into mid-May, most of the Region suffered through snow storms, freezing temperatures, a preponderance of north winds and finally torrential downpours. All this held up migration so that late departures and arrivals were the rule. In some areas, storms grounded and held migrants for extended periods, occasionally producing spectacular concentrations of birds. These elicited such comments as "the best passerine migration in years" from M. Cooksey in northeastern Kansas and "fantastic" from J. McMahon in northeastern Oklahoma. Periods of maximum numbers of migrants were May 12-19 in Fort Worth, May 6-16 in northeastern Oklahoma, May 17-19 in northwestern Kansas and May 15-21 in northwestern Nebraska. But in western Texas the drought which began in the fall was steadily worsening, and rainfall was 60% below normal. Even there, many unexpected species were observed as the eastern storms deflected migrants from their normal routes.

In the text following, place names in *italics* are counties.

**LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS** — Common Loons remained until the first week of May. Eared Grebes were still present in late May at Kerrville, Tex., Lawton, Okla., and Black Mesa S.P., Okla. Two W. Grebes were performing courtship rituals at Oklahoma City Apr. 19. In Texas, Okla., a W. Grebe was present as late as May 24 (PL). At El Paso, a W. Grebe of the dark form *occidentalis* was studied closely Mar. 21 (BZ *et al.*). A surprising 134 Pied-billed Grebes were counted in Lancaster, Neb., Apr. 16. The largest concentration of White Pelicans comprised 1000 birds on L. McConaughy, c. Nebraska Apr. 18. At Nacogdoches, Tex., 40 White Pelicans remained as late as May 23. At least 1000 Double-crested Cormorants occupied White Rock L., Dallas, Tex., Mar. 25. Single birds were found in Wichita Mountains N.W.R., Okla., Mar. 12 and *Hudspeth*, Tex., Apr. 30, while four were located in El Paso Apr. 9. By mid-April, 40 Olivaceous Cormorants were gathered at O.C. Fisher Res., *Tom Green*, Tex. (TM), while one was discovered at El Paso Apr. 9 (BZ).

**HERONS** — Over 100 pairs of Great Blue Herons inhabited a heronry in Pawnee, Okla., and many of the nests contained recently hatched young Apr. 9 (JH). A Little Blue Heron was seen in *Sarpy*, Neb., Apr. 25. Egrets, which normally are scarce in spring, were reported widely. Cattle Egrets were found in *Potter*, *Randall* and *Kendall*, Tex., and *Douglas*, Neb. Single Great Egrets were present in El Paso and Midland, Tex., *Texas*, Okla., *Wallace*, Kans., and *Sarpy*, Neb. Snowy Egrets were seen in Nacogdoches, San Angelo, Midland, *Linn*, Kans., and *Lancaster*, Neb. At Webb's L., *Texas* Okla., 26 Black-crowned Night Herons were counted May 24 (MD). Least Bitterns were discovered at San Angelo, Tex., May 7, *Sequoyah* N.W.R., Okla., May 20, Oklahoma City Apr. 7 and *Sedgwick*, Kans., May 30.

**WATERFOWL** — Seven Whistling Swans lingered on a playa in *Potter*, Tex., until Mar. 2. Eight Trumpeter Swans graced Valentine N.W.R., Neb., Mar. 14. The normally rare Ross' Goose appeared at El Paso Mar. 20 (PL *et al.*), *Cimarron*, Okla., Mar. 27 (PL), Tulsa Apr. 2-3 (PL, m.ob.), *Linn*, Kans., Mar. 13-20 (m.ob.) and Quivera N.W.R., Kans., Apr. 23 (SS, m.ob.). A flock of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks comprising 80-100 birds visited *Burleson*, Tex., Mar. 1 and a pair remained throughout the period (WAI). Cinnamon Teal were recorded at 4 localities e. of their usual range. Wood Ducks were discovered in Guadalupe Mountain N.P., Apr. 23 (ML) and Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Kans., May 5 (SK). Greater Scaup were seen at 5 localities. The Barrow's Goldeneye discovered during the Kenton, Okla., CBC was still present Mar. 27. The Oldsquaw that wintered in *Comanche*,



Okla., remained until Apr. 23. Hooded, Red-breasted and Com. mergansers were all present at Cheyenne Bottoms Mar. 29. In *Lancaster*, Neb., 500 Com. Mergansers were counted Apr. 3.

**RAPTORS** — A pair of White-tailed Kites was building a nest at Somerville W.M.A., Tex., Apr. 25 (JY). A single bird of this species visited *Comanche* Mar. 26-Apr. 9 (JA *et al.*). A Mississippi Kite in *Comanche* Mar. 15 was 20 days earlier than the previous arrival date (FBR). Goshawks from the winter invasion remained until May in several Kansas counties. Flights of Broad-winged Hawks evidently bypassed the Region as very few were reported. More migrant Swainson's Hawks were seen than in many years in n.w. Nebraska, where 31 were counted in *Dawes* Apr. 28 and 17 in *Sioux* Apr. 23 (RCR, DJR). The largest flock of Swainson's reported comprised 125 birds in *Kendall*, Tex., Apr. 14. The nest of a Zone-tailed Hawk was discovered in Big Bend N.P., Apr. 1 (AB) and one Zone-tailed was noted in *Crockett*, Tex., several times in April and May. A Black Hawk, presumed to be the same bird that was present last year, returned to *Lubbock*, Tex., May 11-31 (CS). The pair of Black Hawks in Limpia Canyon near Ft. Davis, Tex., was dwelling in its customary cottonwood grove by mid-April. A Golden Eagle was seen at Tulsa Mar. 13 (E & KH). A Bald Eagle in *Kerr*, Tex., Mar. 4 was late (E & KM). A nest of a Marsh Hawk in *Pawnee*, Kans., contained 3 eggs May 4. At least 15 Ospreys were counted at El Paso during the period, an unusually high number anywhere in the Region. Caracaras were noted at *Medina*, *Dallas* and *Johnson*, Tex. A Prairie Falcon at Tulsa Mar. 20 was noteworthy. Only six Peregrine Falcons were reported other than the resident birds at Big Bend N.P. Unexpected spring sightings of Merlins were at Nacogdoches Apr. 22-23 (DW), *Coffey*, Kans., late April (PD *et al.*), *Lancaster* Mar. 27 (TB) and *Cass*, Neb., Apr. 17 (S & JK).

**PRAIRIE CHICKENS THROUGH RAILS** — A lek of 14 Greater Prairie Chickens was found near Tulsa Apr. 1 (JH). In *Wheeler*, Tex., an

18% increase in numbers of Lesser Prairie Chickens was noted. After an absence of several years Gambel's Quail were again present in *Jeff Davis*, Tex. Two families of Whooping Cranes with radio-tagged young were monitored from Aransas N.W.R. to Wood Buffalo N.P., in Canada. Family #1 rested in *Sheridan*, Kans., Apr. 11-15. Family #2 rested in *Kiowa*, Kans., Apr. 12-16, Quivira N.W.R., Apr. 17 and *Mitchell*, Kans., Apr. 18. King Rails lurked at Oklahoma City May 13 and Tulsa May 21. Purple Gallinules were present in Big Bend N.P., May 5-21 and at Tulsa May 12. At Tulsa, a Com. Gallinule May 21-22 provided a first county record (m.ob.). An Am. Coot remained in *Kerr* until the late date of May 21.

**SHOREBIRDS** — Drying lakes in w. Texas and flooded fields in most of the remainder of the Region led to an outstanding shorebird season. The usually rare Piping Plover was recorded at Hagerman N.W.R., Tex., Apr. 21 & 28 (KH), Cheyenne Bottoms Apr. 23 (SS), Marais des Cygnes W.M.A., Kans., May 21 (NJ) and Quivira N.W.R., May 5 (SK). Mountain Plovers were present in *Cimarron*, Okla., Mar. 27 and May 25. High counts of Am. Golden Plovers included 130 in *Washington*, Okla., Apr. 16 and 136 at Tulsa Apr. 17. Ruddy Turnstone, a rare migrant on the plains, was observed at 7 localities. Eleven Whimbrels provided a first county record at Tulsa May 13 (JWA, JH). A single bird of this species visited El Paso Apr. 9 (BZ). Peak of the Upland Sandpiper migration at Norman, Okla., occurred May 11, when 160 birds were heard in a 20-minute period about 11:00 p.m. (JAG). Unusually large congregations included 50 Willets at Oklahoma City Apr. 28 (JGN), 20 Red Knots at Cheyenne Bottoms May 24 (SS) and 250 Pectoral Sandpipers at Tulsa May 13 (JWA). White-rumped Sandpipers were reported at 14 localities, often in record numbers. At Marais des Cygnes, about 800 were counted May 7. The normally scarce Dunlin appeared in small numbers at 8 localities. One in *Dawes*, Neb., May 18-19 provided the first spring record in 10 years (RCR, DJR). Only 3 contributors mentioned Sanderlings, surprising when most other shorebird species were in such abundance. Up to 300 Long-billed Dowitchers were seen daily in early May in *Tom Green*, Tex. (TM). High counts of Stilt Sandpipers included 65 at Nacogdoches May 15 and 83 at Oklahoma City May 15. Buff-breasted Sandpipers provided a new county record at *Kerr*, Tex., May 16 (E & KM). Small numbers of this species rested briefly at *Tarrant*, Tex., May 10, 16, *Cleveland*, Okla., May 8 and Tulsa May 13. Hudsonian Godwits were observed at 8 localities, with a peak of 46 at Tulsa May 13. Marbled Godwits were present at only 5 sites, with a peak of 12 at El Paso Apr. 19. Wilson's Phalaropes provided unusual spring records at *Kerr* May 16, 21 and *Brazos*, Tex., May 6.

**GULLS THROUGH SKIMMER** — A Glaucous Gull graced Cheyenne Bottoms Mar. 6-7 (SS). Storms on the Texas coast drove seven Laughing Gulls inland to *Kerr* May 21 (E & KM). A Little Gull at Lubbock, Tex., Apr. 9 unfortunately departed before the sighting could be confirmed by additional observers (ML). Common Terns appeared in *Randall*, Tex., May 21 (CS) and Marais des Cygnes May 8 (MC *et al.*). A Least Tern at Kerrville May 21 constituted a first record (E & KM). Several Least Terns were present at a potential nesting site on the Canadian R., Hemphill, Tex., May 21-22. The seldom seen Caspian Tern was recorded at Waco Apr. 25, Hagerman N.W.R., Apr. 28, *Rains*, Tex., May 5 and *Sarpy*, Neb., May 19. No details or explanations were submitted for the appearance of Black Skimmers at Waco Apr. 25 (FB).

**DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — A Ground Dove visited Nacogdoches May 13 (MW). An Inca Dove waded through snow in an Amarillo back yard Mar. 16, but one at Meridian S.P., *Bouque*, Tex., Apr. 16 found conditions more to its liking. Black-billed Cuckoos were found at Dallas May 10 and Muskogee, Okla., Apr. 30. At Midland May 22, a Groove-billed Ani robbed an Am. Robin of worms as it pulled them from the soil. Three Elf Owl nests were located in Big Bend N.P., Mar. 20 (BT). A Long-eared Owl nest with at least two owlets was found in *Morton*, Kans., Apr. 30. Long-eareds were noted in Oklahoma in *Cleveland* Mar. 15, Oklahoma City Apr. 14 and *Cimmaron* Mar. 27. A Chuck-will's-widow provided a first record at Lubbock May 8 (DS, ML). Whip-poor-wills were noteworthy at Tulsa Apr. 25-May 30 and *Sarpy* Apr. 21. A Chimney Swift sojourned in *Wallace*, Kans., May 5-

19. An estimated 170 White-throated Swifts in small groups flew over Dell City, *Hudspeth*, Tex., May 21. If these birds were from the Guadalupe Mts., their daily range is extensive (SW). At Chickasaw Nat'l Recreation Area, Okla., the Black-chinned Hummingbird seems to be the hummer of the dry hillsides while the Ruby-throated Hummingbird is the hummer of the moist woods, at least during migration (RMC). A Costa's Hummingbird discovered in Big Bend N.P., Apr. 14 remained at least to May 5 (AB, m.ob.). Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were unusually common in the El Paso area. A Rufous Hummingbird at Midland Mar. 21 constituted one of the few spring records there (RMS). A Rivoli's Hummingbird defended a water puddle against several Blue-throated Hummingbirds in Big Bend N.P., Apr. 28 (GL).

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS** — Pileated Woodpeckers were observed in Fontenelle Forest, *Sarpy*, Neb., May 30 (S & JK), *Rains* and *Van Zandt*, Tex., Apr. 16 (RK). Red-bellied Woodpeckers continue to be reported in the Texas Panhandle and Golden-fronted Woodpeckers appear to have taken up permanent residence in Big Bend N.P. The Lewis' Woodpecker that wintered at Midland remained until mid-April. Others of this species were discovered in the Davis Mts., Tex., Mar. 15 (RE) and *Texas*, Okla., May 14-15 (RMC). Williamson's Sapsuckers were located in Big Bend N.P., Mar. 20 (AB) and at Midland Apr. 2 (RMS). Two or three pairs of Ladder-backed Woodpeckers were nesting in *Morton*, Kans., Apr. 30. Heavy rains at Tulsa May 13 brought down E. Kingbirds in flocks comprising up to 50 birds which sat about in bare fields and sod fields with shorebirds and terns (JH). A Tropical Kingbird in *Terrell*, Tex., May 18 was apparently building a nest, although no mate was evident (BE). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were n. of their usual range in *Wallace*, Kans., May 12 (MDS), Baldwin, Kans., Apr. 6 (BS), *Lancaster*, Neb., May 5 (RW) and Omaha May 15 (C & EJ). Three Great Crested Flycatchers were in *Wallace* May 7. Ash-throated Flycatchers were observed in *Morton* May 1 and in Wichita Mountains N.W.R., May 13. An Olivaceous Flycatcher was again discovered in Big Bend N.P., May 2 (RS). Say's Phoebe were found at 5 localities n. and e. of their normal range. In *Terrell*, a Say's Phoebe caught minnows from a mid-stream rock. Gray Flycatchers were carefully identified in Big Bend N.P., May 1-3 (RS) and Hueco Tanks S.P., Tex., Apr. 30 (BZ). Vermilion Flycatchers wandered N and E to *Stephens*, Okla., Apr. 5-9 (J & MC), Bryan, Tex., Apr. 18 (AT), Waco Mar. 16 (LMB), Hurst, Tex., Apr. 4 (R & LC).

**LARKS THROUGH WRENS** — Horned Larks in Brazos, Tex., Apr. 16 provided the first spring records there since 1973. Several culverts under I-10 between Segovia and Ft. Stockton, Tex., were inhabited by varying combinations of Cave, Cliff and Barn swallows. When both Cave and Cliff swallows dwelled in the same culvert the former were the most numerous (GL). A Fish Crow was seen and heard in *Choctaw*, Okla., May 7 (RMC). More than 1000 Pinyon Jays leap-frogged through the pines and oaks of the Davis Mts., Apr. 26 (GL). Carolina Chickadees were out of range in *Randall*, Tex., May 4 (PA *et al.*) and *Sedgwick*, Kans., May 8 (SK). Eight Black-capped Chickadees were counted in *Wallace* Apr. 27 (MDS). The Mountain Chickadee discovered on the *Morton* CBC was still present May 1 (MCT). A Red-breasted Nuthatch in *Sarpy* May 25 was extremely late and others lingered into mid-April or early May at several localities. A possible nesting pair of Pygmy Nuthatches was discovered in *Scottsbluff*, Neb., Apr. 23 (RCR, DJR). An exceedingly heavy movement of Brown Creepers occurred in *Tom Green* in March and early April. Up to 20 or more per day could be found (TM). A remarkably late Brown Creeper in Big Bend N.P., May 1 surely looked out of place crawling up mesquite and ocotillo (RS). Winter Wrens remained in n.e. Oklahoma until Apr. 3 and in Fontenelle Forest until Apr. 24. Cactus Wrens were nesting in *Young* and *Throckmorton*, Tex., e. of their usual range, Apr. 28-May 10 (WP *et al.*). Short-billed Marsh Wrens tarried until Apr. 22 in *Brazos*, May 5 in Dallas, May 29 in Tulsa.

**THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS** — A Varied Thrush was discovered in *Wallace* in early May (MDS). Wood Thrushes were seen at Dallas May 5 and Ft. Worth May 16. Both Hermit and Swainson's thrushes were abundant in their usual haunts and Gray-cheeked Thrushes were much commoner than usual. Veeries were banded at Lincoln May 12, 24 (MBO) and were seen at Tulsa May 7 (JL) and *Osage*,

Kans., May 13 (SK). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were present at Hueco Tanks S.P., and *Wallace* May 7. A White-eyed Vireo provided a first record at Albion, Neb., May 8 (WJM) while two were in Fontenelle Forest in mid-May and one was heard in Big Bend N.P., May 3 (RS). Two Philadelphia Vireos were banded at Hays, Kans., May 18 (MER). A Philadelphia Vireo in El Paso May 7 constituted a new county record (BZ, JD).

**WARBLERS** — Warbler migration evoked superlatives everywhere. At Omaha, where 36 species were recorded, Tanya Bray wrote "There were no days when it could be said we had a warbler "wave," but as each species arrived it stayed. Thus the cumulative effect was quite impressive." In n.w. Nebraska, Richard C. Rosche wrote, "I had ten species of warblers in one short walk—something that has never happened in our 10 years of birding experience in w. Nebraska." In Wichita, Kans., Donald Vannoy wrote "I almost thought I had made a wrong turn and was at High Island." Fred Baumgartner wrote, "We just experienced our first big migration of warblers in 34 years of observation in Oklahoma."

A Prothonotary Warbler at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Tex., May 15 represented one of the few records of this species in the Texas Panhandle (KS). At Kaw Res., *Osage*, Okla., two Prothonotary Warblers were visiting a tree cavity and the male was singing incessantly May 6 (SK). Worm-eating Warblers overshot their usual stopping places and turned up in Big Bend N.P., May 5, Lubbock May 10, Denison, Tex., Apr. 4, *Osage*, Okla., Apr. 10 and Fontenelle Forest May 9. The equally rare Golden-winged Warbler was recorded once in Texas, 3 times in n.e. Oklahoma, 4 times in Kansas and once in e. Nebraska. One in *Wallace* May 10-11 was remarkable (MDS). Blue-winged Warblers were observed in Dallas May 12, Ft. Gibson, Okla. (date?), and Fontenelle Forest May 12. Tennessee Warblers were seen w. to El Paso, Lubbock and Hays, Kans. Virginia's Warblers flitted about Buffalo Lake N.W.R., May 1, 7, 15 (PA, KS), Muleshoe N.W.R., May 1 (GF), Lubbock May 3, 6 (ML) and Midland Apr. 26 (JM). Lucy's Warblers were again found at Candelaria, *Presidio*, Tex., Apr. 28 (GL). Northern Parulas appeared periodically in Big Bend N.P., Mar. 20-May 1 and one was seen in *Rush*, Kans., Apr. 29. Magnolia Warblers were wonderfully abundant in n.e. Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska and seven were counted in far west *Wallace*.

Among the myriad of warblers, the Cape May Warbler was outstanding. There were sightings at El Paso Apr. 21-25 (AG, m.ob.), *Delaware*, Okla., May 10 (FMB), *Johnson, Linn* and *Douglas*, Kans., May 8-21 (m.ob.), Chadron, Neb., May 15 (RCR, DJR), Fontenelle Forest May 14 (TC). Black-throated Blue Warblers were encountered at 5 localities, and Black-throated Gray Warblers visited 4 w. Texas sites. Cerulean Warblers graced College Station Apr. 28, *Washington*, Okla., May 9, *Rogers*, Okla., May 16 and yet again, that outstanding w. Kansas birding site, *Wallace*, May 9. Yellow-throated Warblers were sighted in Big Bend N.P., Apr. 9 (JEL) and *Terrell*, Tex., May 18 (BE). Blackburnian, Bay-breasted and Chestnut-sided warblers were found in tens and dozens where usually a persistent birder is lucky to see one. Blackpolls were abundant in n.e. Nebraska and all across Kansas, while a few visited Oklahoma City May 22, *Randall*, Tex., May 4 and Buffalo Lake N.W.R., May 7. A Pine Warbler appeared in Amarillo Mar. 12 between cold spells (KS).

Nine contributors from the w. half of the Region reported Ovenbirds. In *Wallace*, 15 N. Waterthrushes were counted May 18. Of the remaining 8 reports, none included more than two birds. Louisiana Waterthrushes were tallied in the Wichita Mts., May 14 (RMC), Arlington, Tex., Apr. 25 (EWa) and Fontenelle Forest May 3-31 (m.ob.). Kentucky Warblers were discovered at Hagerman N.W.R., Midland, Bartlesville and Wichita in mid-May. Usually reports of Connecticut Warblers in this Region get "misplaced" on the editor's desk, but this year reports from 2 experienced, careful observers can't be ignored: *Rogers*, Okla., May 16 (DG), and Buffalo Lake N.W.R., May 12 (KS). A Mourning Warbler in *Dawes*, Neb., May 19 constituted only the second area record (RCR). A MacGillivray's Warbler in *Rush*, Kans., May 12 provided a first county record (SS) and one was seen at Wichita Mountains N.W.R., where the species is rare May 13 (KM). A Yellow-breasted Chat in the Guadalupe Mts., May 21 possibly constituted a first Culberson record (SW).

**ICTERIDS THROUGH TANAGERS** — Two ♂ Bobolinks visited Nacogdoches, where the species is an uncommon but annual spring migrant May 11. Small groups of Bobolinks were noted at Oklahoma City May 15-23, *Ottawa*, Okla., May 1-10, *Washington*, Okla., May 3-9, Tulsa May 13-15, Hagerman N.W.R., May 19. Yellow-headed Blackbirds appeared e. to Longview, Tex., Apr. 16 and Nacogdoches Apr. 23, May 11. The species was nesting at Chet Ager Nature Center at Lincoln for the first time. Great-tailed Grackles continued their endless range expansion. Three nests were found in Big Bend N.P., and others took up residence in Presidio, Tex., *Osage*, Kans., Marais des Cygnes W.M.A., and Chet Ager Nature Center. A Bronzed Cowbird remained at Ft. Worth Apr. 1-May 31 (MG). A W. Tanager in *Irion*, Tex., May 3 was e. of its usual migratory path (G & MC). Scarlet Tanagers brightened Ft. Worth May 8 and Tulsa Apr. 24-May 1. A Summer Tanager was found in *Wallace* May 5.

**FRINGILLIDS** — Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were widespread and abundant May 3-17. one in *Kerr* May 9 provided a first record for the area (E & KM). An out-of-range Black-headed Grosbeak visited Crowley, Tex., Apr. 26 (MR). Lazuli Buntings appeared at an amazing 8 localities in the e. half of the Region. Perhaps the most unexpected sighting was at Marais des Cygnes May 7 (SCR, RG). A Dickcissel was located in *Wallace* May 11. Six Evening Grosbeaks came to feeders in Chadron, Neb., May 4 (DJR). House Finches continue to do extremely well at Hays, Kans., where 143 were banded. At Hays the nesting population of Pine Siskins was the smallest in years. Green-tailed Towhees were astonishingly abundant at Lubbock and Amarillo, and one was found in *Morton*, Kans., May 22. A Le Conte's Sparrow was found in the unlikely location of Fontenelle Forest May 5 (RC). Others were seen at Tulsa Apr. 2-10 and *Brazos*, Tex., Apr. 17. Clay-colored Sparrows were common in c. Texas and c. Oklahoma, while one at Hueco Tanks Apr. 30 provided a first spring record. Harris', White-crowned and Lincoln's sparrows lingered until mid-May in many areas. About 50 McCown's Longspurs remained in *Pawnee*, Kans., Mar. 18-31. A Chestnut-collared Longspur visited Nacogdoches Apr. 11-15 (DF), a startling occurrence for the pine woods.

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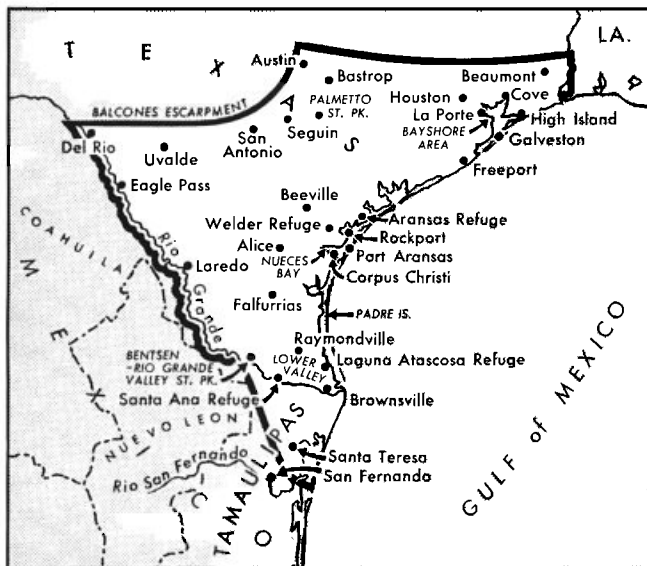


Crowdrawing by Barbara Harris.

## SOUTH TEXAS REGION

/Fred S. Webster, Jr.

Temperatures were below normal throughout the season. Rainfall was below normal the first half of March, above normal the second half. All of April and the first third of May were incredibly dry, but heavy rains fell in mid-May. Upper level disturbances brought frontal movement from the northwest with such frequency that moisture-bearing southeasterly winds were short-lived. Volume of passerine migrants, from the observers' viewpoint, was less than normal and for many species migration was later than usual. Dry weather during the expected peak migration period was blamed for the poor showing, especially along the coastal strip, but even during conditions favoring "fall-out," the rewards were far less than anticipated. Rather than assuming that multitudes of trans-Gulf migrants flew safely inland before pausing, one suspects that there actually were fewer birds aloft.



**LOONS, BOOBIES** — Two Arctic Loons were found in Offat's Bayou at Galveston Mar. 24 (TE); at least one remained through May 16 and had attained almost complete breeding plumage. A **Red-throated Loon** was seen in Galveston harbor Apr. 20 (HJ, AR). A sub-ad. Masked Booby was relaxing on the Mustang I. beach Apr. 21 (TA). The more unusual Brown Booby was spotted on the beach at N. Padre I., May 16 (AT, RW), and an injured booby, apparently a different bird, was picked up on the national seashore May 18 (*vide* RW).

**HAWKS** — An early movement of Mississippi Kites was noted at Falfurrias, Brooks Co., Apr. 13, when 150± went into overnight roost in brushland n. of town (AO). A significantly large coastwise movement was noted Apr. 23 with 50+ counted at Rockport (C & HK) on the c. coast, and 200+ in e. Harris County on the upper coast (MA). To the s. of the latter sighting lesser numbers were seen travelling N along the w. shore of Galveston Bay (MA). A good migration of Accipiters, mostly Sharp-shinned Hawks, moved N up Mustang I., Apr. 22 (WP). At Santa Ana N.W.R., the major "port of entry" for Broad-winged Hawks, 40,000 were reported the last week of March, but only 725 the first week of April and 1470 the second week of April (SL). One obvious reason for huge hawk counts at Santa Ana is the number of hawk watchers. Also, in regard to topography, a substantial land bulge e. into the Gulf of Mexico occurs around the mouth of the Rio Grande, so that birds migrating due N along the coastal strip in Mexico would pass almost directly over Santa Ana rather than veer E to follow the shoreline. A possible deterrent to the latter course is the Mexican portion of the Laguna Madre which separates the mainland from the barrier islands. Species such as the Broad-winged Hawk are thought to avoid extended flights over water. A flight proceeding directly N from Santa Ana would pass in the vicinity of Falfurrias, Alice, Seguin, Austin and out of the Region; however, a fanning out process apparently starts s. of Corpus

Christi and spreads many migrants over the coastal plains to the n.e. In theory, when strong NW winds prevail, flights drift farther E, missing Austin—as was the case this season—and in some instances, if the flight is coastwise, approach the shoreline along the c. and upper coasts.

North of the border, the first large flight of 5500± birds, was observed at Welder Wildlife Ref., on the c. coastal plain Mar. 24 (CC). At Rio Hondo, an estimated 10,000 Broad-wingeds passed between 4:00-4:30 p.m., Apr. 1 (JO, C & SW). This locality is 35 mi e.n.e. of Santa Ana N.W.R., but very strong N winds buffeted the Region on this date. A citywide migration was noted over Corpus Christi Apr. 8, from mid-morning until sunset (KM). On Apr. 9, 500 were seen at Weslaco, Hidalgo Co. (CE), and Apr. 10, up to 1000 were observed in the Corpus Christi area. Late movements were noted on Mustang I., Apr. 22, with 2000+ reported (WP); also, Apr. 23, 2 kettles of 2500± each were seen near Port Aransas on Mustang I. (TA), and a kettle of 1000+ at Rockport, farther up the coast (C & HK). A N wind may have influenced a shoreward drift on the latter date but not on the preceding day. A very rare Golden Eagle passed over Austin May 21 (G & BL).

**CRANES** — A total of 71 Whooping Cranes survived a mild winter at Aransas N.W.R., and all were present Mar. 1. The rate of departure is indicated by the following census figures: 67 present Mar. 29, 49 Apr. 7, 42 Apr. 9, 16 Apr. 15, one Apr. 19, and none Apr. 27.

**SHOREBIRDS** — Exceptional numbers of shorebirds were observed on the upper Texas coast throughout the season; this sub-region is based on political boundaries and in places extends more than 50 mi inland. Some excellent counts were reported from other coastal localities, and numbers were good at San Antonio and Austin. The latter sites boast man-made reservoirs and sewage pond complexes which tend to concentrate shorebirds, especially during periods of drought, thus are not always reliable indicators. Violent overnight thunderstorms grounded many shorebirds on w. Galveston I., Mar. 24, most numerous being Am. Golden Plover of which 2000+ were found in less than 5 mi of grassland (TE). Elsewhere, good numbers of this species were reported through early April. Two **Surfbirds** were at the Fort Aransas jetty, "standing on wave-splashed rocks" Apr. 21 (CC); they were closely observed and photographed. An April, 1951 sighting at the same location, plus 2 photographed occurrences on Padre I., 1973 and 1974, were the only previous Texas records for this species. A Whimbrel was seen at Mitchell L., San Antonio area May 6-21, an unusual locality record (LA, RCu, EH). Upland Sandpipers were reported in good numbers, especially on the upper coast. Baird's Sandpipers made a very good showing at Austin in late March and early April (G & BL). Apparently grounded by thunderstorms, 1500+ Short-billed Dowitchers were found in grass fields on w. Galveston I., Mar. 24, along with typical grassland species (TE). Those dowitchers identified of 5000+ in a rice field in Chambers County Apr. 21, were Long-billed (HJ, AR). Ten Hudsonian Godwits at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., Apr. 30 (CE) were the most reported in a single sighting, and one at Mitchell L., May 31, was the latest (SH). A Ruff (Reeve) was found in a flooded rice field near Dickinson, Galveston Co., May 11 (MA). A sub-ad. **Red Phalarope** and a N. Phalarope were found working in tide pools on the N. Padre I. beach May 15, and a Northern was seen at Port Aransas May 17 (WP). Both are very unusual.

**GULLS, TERNS** — A Lesser Black-backed Gull and a **Thayer's Gull** were at the Brownsville dump, Mar. 10 (JA). A **Thayer's Gull** was discovered on Bolivar Flats Apr. 18 (JD, RS); two individuals were described from this locality Apr. 19 & 21 (HJ, AR). Between Apr. 15-25, the crew of a research vessel reported a "very dark" gull in the ship channel near Corpus Christi Bay. It was thought that this may have been the Heermann's Gull observed on the Mustang I. beach Feb. 8 (TA).

**NIGHTHAWKS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — A Lesser Nighthawk was seen at Sabine Pass, adjacent to Louisiana Apr. 15 (PL). A **White-collared Swift** (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) was found dead on the s. beach near Padre Island N.S., Mar. 8 (JS). This represented a second U.S. specimen and the first documented Texas record (*vide* GL). Many hummingbirds were moving up the N. Padre I. beach during frontal passage May 15 (WP). A Green Violet-ear was regular in San Marcos, Hays Co., May 14 into June (D & DB, m.ob.). This represents the fifth

confirmed record since 1969 within a 30-mi radius of Austin

**FLYCATCHERS** — As was the case for passerines in general, flycatchers were late and reported in sub-normal numbers. Among the unusual was a Kiskadee Flycatcher seen near Sabine Pass and headed for Louisiana Apr. 22 (TE, JM). Of greatest interest were 2 coastal sightings of the **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher**. One occurred in Port Aransas Apr. 29 (TA, J & SC, WP). The other bird, second of record for the upper coast, was present on Bolivar Pen., May 7-10 (PV *et al.*). Because the bird had unusually pale underparts, the very similar Streaked Flycatcher, a summer resident in n.e. Mexico, was studiously considered but ruled out by birders familiar with both species (*vide* JM). A noteworthy and late push of flycatchers was observed along the c. and upper coasts May 15-16. *Empidonax* flycatchers and E. Wood Pewees were prominent among numerous passerines moving up N. Padre I., May 15 (WP) as a cold front passed. Heavy rains accompanied the front on the upper coast where May 16, Acadian Flycatchers—75 ±—were by far the most numerous of the *Empidonax* group seen, and 165 E. Wood Pewees were recorded (TE, JM). A stormy night preceded an excellent show of these species at Austin May 20; pewees were especially prominent with 40+ in the area's best migrant trap—the State Capitol grounds (GL).

**SWALLOWS, WAXWINGS** — Some very large flights of swallows were reported along the coastline. At Port Aransas, Pulich noted a large movement Mar. 20, and estimated 100,000 swallows migrating Apr. 23. A great migration of Tree Swallows occurred on the upper coast during the first weekend of April. At San Luis Pass, where 0.5 mi of water separates Brazoria County from w. Galveston I., Eubanks watched a flight along the narrow land bridge on the afternoon of Apr. 20. Tree Swallows were passing at a rate of 150-200/min. Along the c. coast, Purple Martins were reported weeks late and much fewer than usual. Cedar Waxwings lingered later and in greater numbers than usual along the entire coast, flocks of 100+ being observed into mid-May. Latest sighting reported was at Port Aransas May 28 (WP).

**MIMIDS THROUGH VIREOS** — There was an apparent regionwide scarcity of Gray Catbirds, Brown Thrashers and all common thrush species. Coastal pileups were singularly lacking. Thrushes in particular were more audible than visible, as weather conditions favored nocturnal flight rather than grounding during much of the peak migration period. To all appearances, vireo species fared no better and seemed particularly low in numbers around the c. coast. A Philadelphia Vireo on Galveston I., May 22 (TE) registered a new late record for the upper coast.

**WARBLERS** — In general, warblers were late and comparatively few in number. Variety was excellent on the upper coast—40 species—but no exceptional concentrations were found. Highest reported counts of some common warblers follow: Tennessee, 300 in Chambers County Apr. 22 (TE, JM); Nashville, 100s on Capitol grounds in Austin Apr. 20 (m.ob.); Magnolia, 42 at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., May 8 (CE, TP); Bay-breasted, 100+ at Galveston May 22 (TE); Ovenbird, 75 on the Capitol grounds May 11 (m.ob.); Am. Redstart, 41 in Hidalgo County May 9 (CE). The following e. species are rare as far inland and w. as Austin (where observed): Worm-eating Apr. 21 (DCa, MG); Black-throated Blue May 15 (JLR); and Blackpoll Warbler Apr. 20 (JR). The following warblers are rare or accidental at the localities cited: Virginia's near Bolivar Apr. 22 (TG, m.ob.), Townsend's at High I., Apr. 20-22 (BF, PL, DW, m.ob.); Hermit at Corpus Christi May 20 (PK, *vide* KM); MacGillivray's at Sabine Woods near Sabine Pass Apr. 29 (MH, RH); Painted Redstart at San Ygnacio, Zapata Co., Mar. 9 (BA).

Two banding projects in the Austin area revealed a surprising number of MacGillivray's Warblers, a species long thought to be rare migrant. A site near Driftwood, Hays Co., netted two (DCo, GL), and a brushy site near downtown Austin netted 13 (CT), all between May 5-June 2. A Tropical Parula, a rare resident in extreme South Texas, was n. at Austin Apr. 8 (NW). A very late Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler was seen at Port Aransas May 21 (WP), and a Cape May Warbler on Galveston I., Mar. 24 (TE) was the earliest ever recorded in Texas.

**BOBOLINKS THROUGH TANAGERS** — A flock of 15 Bobolinks on w. Galveston I., May 5 (MA) were the only ones reported. Yellow-

headed Blackbirds, usually uncommon to rare on the upper coast, were widespread in flocks of up to 100 birds Apr. 20-May 1. Farther w., flocks appeared on Mustang and N. Padre Is. during the same period. Record numbers were seen in the Falfurrias area (AO). Orchard and N. orioles, usually common to abundant, were far below normal. Largest single party counts reported were 50 Orchard and 200 N. Orioles in Chambers County Apr. 22 (TE, JM). A Hooded Oriole on n. Padre I., Apr. 25 (CC) was rare, as was a pair of Scott's Orioles near Rockport May 7 (RCa). Western Tanagers made a surprise appearance on the c. coast: three different birds at Corpus Christi Apr. 22-May 1 (KM *et al.*), one at Rockport Apr. 22 (DNW); and one at Port Aransas Apr. 29 (WP). Scarlet and Summer tanager numbers were well below normal.

**FRINGILLIDS** — Rose-breasted and Blue grosbeaks, and Indigo and Painted buntings were rated below normal. Counts of 175 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at High I., Apr. 22 (CE) and 100 Indigo Buntings there Apr. 20 (HJ, AR) were the largest reported. A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Port Aransas was inexplicably late June 22 (WP). Dickcissels were unusually abundant along the upper coast, especially Apr. 22-24, with party counts up to 1000. A Lesser Goldfinch at Corpus Christi Apr. 30 (KM) was unusual, as was a Lark Bunting flushed on the Anahuac N.W.R. rail buggy tour Apr. 18 (HJ, AR). Several sparrow species, notably Savannah, Le Conte's, Sharp-tailed, Chipping, White-crowned and White-throated were observed on the upper coast well past normal departure dates. Lincoln's Sparrows were abundant at Austin. Four Chestnut-collared Longspurs at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., Mar. 26 (BF) were the first ever recorded at that locality.

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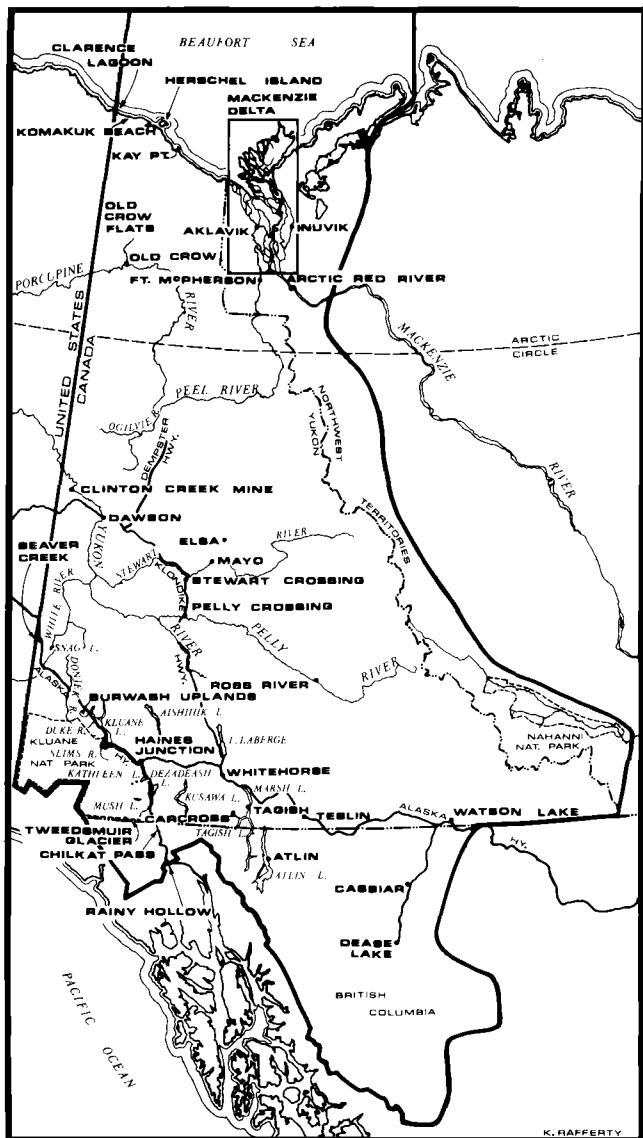
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## NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION

### /Helmut Grünberg

Spring arrived early in southern parts of the Region. In the Yukon, temperatures south of the Ogilvie Mountains were generally milder than usual. From the Ogilvies north, including Inuvik in the Northwest Territories, spring arrived late. This unusual pattern had some effect on the spring migration. Early migrants, such as waterfowl, arrived early, late migrants such as shorebirds and some songbirds, were late or "on time." Some birds, for example Snow Buntings, Lapland Longspurs and sparrows, apparently gathered in large numbers in areas where they are not normally that common. This was possibly in part a result of early exposure of snowfree ground in many southern areas. These latter birds were noted only in small numbers in the southern Yukon. A total of 204 species was observed this season.

**HERONS THROUGH CRANES** — The rare sighting of a **Great Blue Heron** was reported from Tagish, Yukon May 30-31 (HM). Cinnamon Teal has been observed more regularly in recent years. They may be extending their range in a N direction. One was seen near Fort St John (hereafter, F.S.J.) May 9 and one May 14 (JJ, CS). In the s Yukon, the following observations were recorded: one male at Tagish



L., s Yukon May 9 (B & KG); one male at Swan L., 20 km n. of Whitehorse (hereafter, Whse.), May 14-15 (HG, WH, CO); one at L. Laberge slough May 17 (HG, GJ *et al.*); one male at Tagish L., May 18 (GJ). If there had been females as well, they could have been difficult to identify. A **European Wigeon** was observed at Teslin L., May 1 (CM), and one was seen near F.S.J., May 21-22. This represents the first record for the Peace R. area, B.C. (JJ, CS). Redheads were observed regularly in small numbers in the s. Yukon in May (m.ob.); there was a high count of 22 at Marsh L., Apr. 23 (GJ, CM); two were seen as far n. as Gravel L., km 625 Klondike Hwy., c. Yukon May 20 (HG, MP). A Ruddy Duck was reported from Fort Providence, N.W.T., May 21-23 (DM *et al.*).

A Broad-winged Hawk was seen near F.S.J., May 14 (JJ, CS). An Osprey was noted 25 km s.e. of Whse., Apr. 17 (WH); one sighting was reported near Johnson's Crossing, s. Yukon Apr. 20 (JL, PW), and a pair was noted not too far from this location at Squanga L. (LG); one was observed in Whse., Apr. 21-22 (WK); one was seen at Fort Providence, N.W.T., May 21-23 (DM *et al.*). Surprisingly, Gyrfalcons remained unreported this spring, and there were only three Peregrine Falcon sightings: one at Marsh L., May 13 (B & KG, GJ, CM), one at Wood Buffalo N.P., May 12 (EK), and one at Fort Providence May 21-23 (DM *et al.*).

Two Blue Grouse were observed near the Atlin Rd., B.C., Apr. 30, and one was seen near Good Hope L., B.C., May 15 (TMu). Whooping Cranes were monitored in Wood Buffalo N.P., Apr. 22+, and a record number of 23 nests was found May 12 (PG, EK).

**SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — A Ruddy Turnstone was observed at Fort Providence May 21-23 (DM *et al.*). Three Wandering Tattlers each were sighted in the s. Ogilvie Mts., May 21 (HG *et al.*) and at Goat Cr., Haines Rd., May 22 (RC, NW). At least four Baird's Sandpipers were seen at Swan L., 20 km n. of Whse., May 15 (HG, WH, CO); one, one and five were noted at Tagish L., May 13, 18 and 22, respectively (GJ, CM); and they were also reported from Fort Providence May 21-23 (DM *et al.*). The first record of **White-rumped Sandpipers** for the Peace R. area, B.C., was obtained when five were observed May 28-31 at the F.S.J. sewage lagoons (JJ, CS). Ten Short-billed Dowitchers appeared at Swan L., 20 km n. of Whse., May 14, while at least two were seen the next day (HG, WH, CO); they were also noted at Fort Providence May 21-23 (DM *et al.*). Near F.S.J., two Stilt Sandpipers were seen May 23, one May 25, two May 28, and one May 30 (JJ, CS); an unspecified number was seen at Fort Providence May 21-23 (DM *et al.*).

Two Buff-breasted Sandpipers were at Inuvik, N.W.T., May 26 & 29 (MBen); and a rare spring record for British Columbia of this species was obtained when two were seen near F.S.J., May 30 (JJ, CS). Hudsonian Godwits were regularly seen near F.S.J. (CS); three were reported from Tagish L., May 9 (B & KG); one was reported from Graham Inlet, Tagish L., n. B.C., May 21 (MBr); and one was seen at Inuvik May 29 (MBen). Three Sanderlings were observed at Marsh L., May 18 (GJ). One **American Avocet** was seen at the F.S.J. sewage lagoons for the first n.e. British Columbia record, May 23, and four were observed here May 28 (JJ, CS). Up to four Wilson's Phalaropes were seen at Swan L., 20 km n. of Whse., May 14-15 (HG, WH, CO); the same species was observed at Fort Providence May 21-23 (DM *et al.*).

A Caspian Tern was reported from Yellowknife May 29 (KS). Near the Haines Rd. summit, B.C., a Snowy Owl was seen Apr. 3 (TMu). This species was noted regularly in the F.S.J. area. In the same general area, two Barred Owls were observed at close range May 10 (JJ, CS). A Boreal Owl was heard and seen near Swan L., 20 km n. of Whse., May 8-9 (HG, WH). One-to-three Rufous Hummingbirds were sighted near Telegraph Cr., n. B.C., May 16-21 (TMu); a male and a female Rufous Hummingbird were observed at Graham Inlet May 6-7; later, the male disappeared and only two females were seen until May 30 (MBr); a Rufous Hummingbird was also reported from Teslin, Yukon May 6 (LW, *fide* to LG). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker of the *ruber* race was observed near Telegraph Cr., May 16-20 (TMu).

**PERCHING BIRDS** — A Barn Swallow was observed as far n. as Inuvik May 27 (MBen). At least one Mountain Chickadee was seen in a n.w. suburb of Whse., on 3 different days Mar. 4-13 (ML; JL & PW; D & LS). A **Winter Wren** was reported in the F.S.J. area for the first Peace R. record since 1938, Apr. 23-24 (JJ, GS, CS), and a "probable" Winter Wren was at Wann R., Tagish L., B.C., May 22 (CE). A Black-and-white Warbler was observed near Yellowknife May 30 (KS). Brewer's Blackbird, W. Tanager, Harris's and Song sparrows were reported from Fort Providence May 21-23 (DM *et al.*).

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## NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

March was warmer and wetter than normal in most parts of the Region, continuing the abnormally warm winter. An exception was the mountain areas, which were cold: Red Rock Lakes, Grays Lake and Fortine, and Missoula and Helena, which were decidedly dry. April in general was mild and dry. May was wet in a belt running from Walla Walla through Boise, Missoula and Helena but dry to the north and northwest. Helena had a disastrous late snowstorm May 9-10 that injured and killed many passerines and destroyed nests. The last ten days of the month were very hot and dry.

Many reporters considered the migration dull and poor, with low numbers of species and individuals. Waterfowl appeared to have been diverted from normal migration patterns by abundant water supplies, making for high water levels and many more available ponds. Conversely, water covering mudflats made shorebirds especially hard to find, except in the Bend, Oregon area, where the extra water was a boon to them. Some reporters noted early arrivals during mild periods; others noted no abnormal schedules. Several suggested that stormy weather to the south disrupted the migration timetable. Jim Grant's comment that it was a mixed-up migration period without much rhyme or reason, may be the best description. To explain it all would no doubt require far more information than is available.

The sudden death of P.D. (Dave) Skaar of a heart attack came as a terrific shock. He leaves powerful and indelible strokes upon Montana's ornithological picture and will be deeply missed.

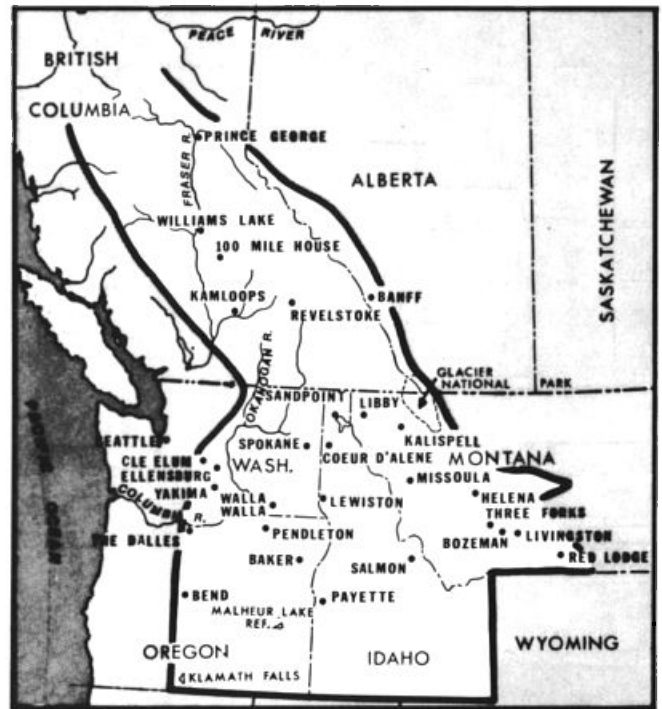
**LOONS AND GREBES** — Very few Com. Loons were seen on lakes in the Fortine, Mont., vicinity, reflecting the declining breeding population as human presence increases (WW). A **Yellow-billed Loon** was reported on Osoyoos L., in extreme s. British Columbia (*vide* BK). Red-necked Grebe nesting with a breeding population of 24 was underway in May at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida. A Horned Grebe stopped at Mountain Home Res., Ida., May 7 (KP). Eared Grebes numbered 3600 on Stinking L., Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., Apr. 13 and 925 were on Boca L., there May 6. Nicola L., Nicola, B.C., had 125 W. Grebes Apr. 29 (RH).

**PELICANS THROUGH IBISES** — White Pelicans numbered 400 at Malheur at period's end. Several islands there were modified to encourage nesting, but none was observed. Up to 100 were at Potholes Res., Moses L., Wash., in April and American Falls Res., Ida., had 150 Apr. 21. No Cattle Egrets were reported. A Great Egret near Killarney L., w. of Rose L., was n. Idaho's second (AB, RP, TW). Two-three Least Bitterns were heard at Upper Klamath L., Ore., May 22-23 (FI, A & MA). A White-faced Ibis appeared w. of Bozeman, Mont., Apr. 22 (J & PH).

**WATERFOWL** — Whistling Swans peaked at 15,546 at Malheur. Their movement pattern apparently shifted in the s.e. British Columbia/n.w. Montana/ n. Idaho/ n.e. Washington areas. Few appeared on L. Windermere, B.C., and on lakes s. of Spokane, and the n. Idaho count was only one-half of last year's 1000. On the other hand, 950 stopped near Chewelah, Wash., Mar. 6 and numbers were up at Fortine with up to 94 seen on a lake with nearby ranch buildings and a well-travelled highway. A pair of Mute Swans nested on Swan L., near Vernon, B.C., for the first breeding record for the area (JGr).

Peak goose and duck counts at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., were up somewhat from 1982 but dropped at Turnbull, supposedly because of availability of more small ponds. The decided drop at Malheur was credited to budget constraints, which confined counts to the refuge itself. Even at that Malheur reported 3160 Canada Geese, 47,830 Snow Geese, 2500 Ross' Geese, 18,000+ Pintails, 7000+ Am. Wigeons, 7210 Ruddy Ducks and 885 Com. Mergansers. Canada Goose numbers were extremely low in the Coeur d' Alene drainage of n. Idaho, only 2500 passing through compared to the usual 10,000, but their numbers were up at Fortine. Twelve Cackling Geese were with Canadas s. of Spokane Mar. 26 (JA).

Notable were 20 Snow Geese on Oden Bay, Pend Oreille L., Ida.



(PHa) as were six blue-phase Ross' Geese with white-phase birds s. of Burns, Ore., Apr. 18 (MStL). A Ross' apparently wintered in the La Grande, Ore. vicinity (B & CC, P & REW). Sightings of single Eur. Wigeons were made at Coeur d' Alene L. (GH), Kootenai N.W.R. (PS), s. of Spokane (JA), near Burns (MA), Crowsnest Pass e. of Fernie, B.C. (MO'S, CT), and in the Kamloops-Vernon, B.C. area (JQ, RH). Unusual for the latter area were two Wood Duck sightings, one near Fernie, the other near Sparwood (DR, DF, HM). Also of note in that area were nine Ring-necked Ducks n. of Elkford for the first records there (DF, MW, JL). A pair of Greater Scaup was at Miller I., Klamath L., Ore., May 16 (MA) and two males were at Boise May 8 (MC). Common Goldeneye had young in the water at Fortine soon after mid-May. Males departed the last week of May, about 7-10 days earlier than usual (WW). A pair of Barrow's Goldeneye was courting on small ponds near McCall, Ida., in mid-May. It looked like suitable nesting habitat (MRC). The only Oldsquaws were one on Clearwater R., at Lewiston, Ida. (RN, MK, EP) and five at Kootenay L. ferry, B.C. (PS). Tranquille, B.C. reported the only Surf Scoter (RR) and a pair of **Black Scoters** was at the Yakima R. delta for the first Benton County, Wash. record and only the Region's third (GB). A Hooded Merganser was seen along the Boise R., near Boise, Ida., in March and April (LK) and a female appeared at Dry Lakes s. of Nampa, Ida., May 22 (MRC). A pair of Red-breasted Mergansers was on Deep L., in the Colville, Wash. area in early April (VB) and two females were on a pond in Lewiston, Ida., Apr. 30 (RN, MK).

**HAWKS** — An imm. **Broad-winged Hawk** was photographed at Malheur May 30 (TC, JG, HN, OS) for Oregon's first record. A dark-phase Ferruginous Hawk was sighted near Princeton, B.C. The species is almost unknown from that province but there are now breeding records from the Merritt-Aspen Grove area (BK). Golden Eagle numbers were down at Malheur and nesting success low, reflecting another year of depressed jackrabbit populations. That refuge had 173 Bald Eagles roosting during the first week of March. A pair of Bald Eagles was rearing a nestling at Oden Bay, Pend Oreille L. (PHa). An imm. Bald Eagle found in the Helena, Mont. area with symptoms of poisoning was nursed back to health (VY, Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks).

Ospreys, rare in the Malheur area, were seen repeatedly there. A pair was nesting at Kootenai N.W.R., for the first time and a pair was nesting on a structure erected for them at Salmon, Ida. A nest platform put up for a pair at Bend, Ore., apparently was too late for the birds to use. Ten sightings of Peregrine Falcons and three of Merlins were reported.

**PHEASANTS THROUGH RAILS** — Ring-necked Pheasant and California Quail numbers remained low at Malheur, not having recovered yet from the heavy snows of 1981-82. Two Turkeys were sighted on Joseph Plain between Cottonwood and Whitebird, Ida. (DK).

A yearling and a 4 year old ♂ Whooping Crane returned to Grays Lake N.W.R., s.e. Ida., Apr. 18. Others returned to w. Wyoming and e. Idaho at about the same time. Six eggs were brought from Patuxent Research Ref. this spring and placed in Sandhill Crane nests and at least two hatched successfully (EB). Greater Sandhill Cranes peaked in late March at Malheur and promptly began nesting. Lesser Sandhills were present in large numbers on their staging area s. and e. of Burns; one wore a plastic collar that had been placed on it at Merced N.W.R., in California. A flock of 1200 flew over Kamloops Apr. 20, Penticton, B.C. had 950 Apr. 24 and 1000 were at Stump L., w. of Williams L., B.C., the same day.

At least 11 Yellow Rails were heard and their calls taped at 4 localities near Ft. Klamath, Ore., May 20-22 (MA, JG, OS, RS, SS).

**SHOREBIRDS** — A Snowy Plover was seen May 22 at Dry Lakes, a potential breeding site, s. of Nampa (MC). Summer L., Lake Co., Ore., had 20 Snowies May 15 and five Semipalmated Plovers were there that day for apparently the first latilong record (MA). Up to eight of the latter at Bend, Ore., were unusual (TC). A Ruddy Turnstone at Malheur in mid-May provided the refuge's second sighting. A **Whimbrel** flying over Osoyoos was presumably the first for interior British Columbia (BK). Up to four Upland Sandpipers were sighted in the traditional nesting area in the Spokane Valley (JA, ME, THR). Woodley's first spring record of a Solitary Sandpiper was of a bird near West Richland, Wash., May 7. Deschute County's first Red Knot, one in full breeding plumage, was at Bend May 10 (TC, CM) and Malheur had one in mid-May for one of very few sightings there. A Baird's Sandpiper was identified at Lewiston, Ida., Apr. 29 (RN). Up to four Dunlin, Deschute County's first, were at Bend on several dates in May and a Black-necked Stilt, rare there, was at Bend May 31 (TC, CM). One-two of the latter were sighted along the Dodson R./Frenchman Hills R., s. Grant Co., Wash., in April and May (ME, ES, PM *et al.*).

**GULLS AND TERNS** — Single Glaucous Gulls at Wawawai and Lower Granite Dam, Wash., Apr. 23 were quite unusual (R & GD). Noteworthy were two Herring Gulls on Am. Falls Res., s.e. Ida., Apr. 21 and one on Little Camas Res., n.e. of Mountain Home, Ida., May 21, the latter apparently a first for the county (MC). Twenty Mew Gulls at Tranquille, B.C., May 10 were unusual (RR).

An ad. **Laughing Gull** photographed near the state line at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Apr. 24 furnished Oregon's first verified record (SS). A Franklin's Gull at Mountain Home Res., May 31 was presumably that area's first (KP) and two at Dry Lakes May 22 may be Ada County's second record (MC). A Bonaparte's Gull at McKay N.W.R., Pendleton, Ore., was probably the first in spring there (C & MC, NB) and one at Bend May 13 merited mention (CM). A **Sabine's Gull** at L. Chatcolet, St. Marie's May 7 was presumably n. Idaho's first (BG).



*Laughing Gull, Lower Klamath N.W.R., Ore., Apr. 24, 1983. First state record. Photo/S. Summers.*

Two Caspian Terns were sighted near Vernon May 29; the species is rare in interior British Columbia (P & PMcA). Kootenai N.W.R. had its first Caspians with two May 14 (*vide* LN). One along the Clearwater R., Lewiston Apr. 23 was presumably that locality's third (RN). A sighting of this species at Ennis, Mont., May 30 was the latilong's second (SC). A Black Tern at Indian Creek Res., e. of Boise May 21 was a rare sighting (MC).

**PIGEONS THROUGH OWLS** — A Band-tailed Pigeon was identified along Barber Pool of the Boise R., May 8 (MM, LK) and another was photographed at Reynolds, Ida., May 29 (VK & MC). One at Parker Cr., Boundary Co., Ida., was that area's first (PS) and one of the species, uncommon in interior British Columbia, was seen near Kamloops May 21 (RH). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen May 31 at Fields, Ore (JG, TC, HN, OS).

The only Flammulated Owls reported were one at Penticton, B.C., May 13 (SCa) and one in the Blewett Pass area w. of Wenatchee, Wash., May 21 (EH). A Barred Owl was sighted near Coeur d' Alene Mar. 21 (GH) and an imm. bird was sighted up Smith Cr., n. Boundary Co., Ida., May 25 (PS). A pair of Great Gray Owls was near Invermere, B.C., Mar. 4 (HB) and one was photographed near Winchester, Ida., Feb. 15 (*vide* KL). The experimental station at Moxee, Wash., had ten Long-eared Owls Mar. 26 (Y.A.S.). Saw-whet Owls were "unusually common" in the Vernon area (JG). Four imm. birds were found May 20 at Turnbull (JA) and one was sighted at Blewett Pass May 21 (EH).

**SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS** — The only Black Swift noted was one over Wenas Cr., n.w. of Yakima (Y.A.S.). At their peak migration at Walla Walla, Wash., 1500+ Vaux's Swifts funneled into the chimney at Reynolds Hall, Whitman College (SM). White-throated Swifts returned to their new breeding location among the cliffs at the Bowl and Pitcher, Riverside S.P., Spokane; ten were seen there Apr. 17 (JA). At least two ♂ Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were at feeders with Rufous and Calliopes at Crowsnest Pass, B.C. (JK), and a ♂ Black-chinned was feeding at apple blossoms at Fernie, B.C., well e. of its normal range (T & HM, *vide* DF). A Calliope and a Black-chinned at Malheur were noteworthy and a Calliope was on the nest at Bend May 8 (TC). A ♀ Anna's was on the nest in Klamath Falls for the first nesting reported for the county (MA). At least four males were staying in the upper Wenatchee Valley, Wash. (RO-T), and a male was seen in Hardy Canyon n.w. of Yakima Apr. 11 (ME).

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — A "Yellow-shafted" Com. Flicker was at the Davenport, Wash. cemetery May 13 (JA). A Red-headed Woodpecker was seen in Livingston, Mont., May 22 (Mrs. D, *vide* CD). Lewis' Woodpecker numbers appeared good in the Yakima area, at Malheur, in the Rupert, Ida. vicinity, and in the canyons of s.w. Idaho but were very scarce or absent elsewhere. One in the Elk R. Valley n. of Sparwod, B.C., was only the second recorded there (DF, HF). A ♂ Williamson's Sapsucker, rare in the Fortine area, was at a tree used in previous years for nesting and a Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker in that area was the first in about 10 years (WW). One was reported in the Colville, Wash. area (VB). Two Least Flycatchers were seen at Fields May 31 (JC *et al.*). No Gray Flycatchers were found on 2 visits to their traditional nesting site on Wenas Cr., but two were along Observatory Rd., to the n.e. of Wenas Cr. (EH, PM *et al.*).

**JAYS THROUGH NUTHATCHES** — A Blue Jay visited Spokane Apr. 20-24 (JA) and the two that wintered in Coldstream near Vernon were last seen May 4 (JQ). Three Scrub Jays were at Summer L., May 15 and a pair of Piñon Jays was chasing a Red-tailed Hawk at the "Lost Forest" May 28, both in Lake Co., Ore., and new localities for these species (MA). Several Boreal Chickadees were found at lakes up Rattlesnake Cr., 10 mi n. of Missoula, Mont. (BKe). Up to four Chestnut-backed Chickadees were near Coeur d' Alene in March (GH). Several Pygmy Nuthatches were discovered in a burned area s. of Lytton, B.C. (BK).

**MIMIC THRUSHES AND THRUSHES** — The Mockingbird that wintered at Kamloops was last seen in early April (RH). A Gray Catbird appeared at Malheur May 29-30 (TC, JG, HN, OS) and one was at

Fields May 30 (RS *et al.*). Chopaka, Wash. had a Sage Thrasher (BK). Peak Hermit Thrush numbers at that migrating bird oasis, Davenport cemetery, were only seven, compared to the usual 15-20 (JA). The thrush migration in c. Oregon was notable for its absence, with no Swainson's reported, although several were at Malheur May 27 (TC). Only one Veery was heard May 29 at Ochoco Campground, Ochoco N.F., Ore. There apparently had been a fire that destroyed some of the riparian habitat (DA). A good population of Mountain Bluebirds was reported in the valley at Fortine, with young on the wing by the end of May.

**GNATCATCHERS AND WAXWINGS** — At least two pairs of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers arrived at Barber Pool, Boise Apr. 28 and remained in suitable breeding habitat (MC). A pair was sighted n. of Grant's Pass, Ore., May 25 (MA). For the first time in Jim Grant's knowledge Cedar Waxwings wintered at Vernon and stayed around through the spring. Usually there is a gap between winter and spring sightings.

**VIREOS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS** — Two Red-eyed Vireos, always scarce at Malheur, were there May 27-28 (TC *et al.*). A ♀ Black-and-white Warbler was at Malheur May 27 (J & JC, TC *et al.*). Tennessee Warblers were seen migrating through Malheur in May (refuge personnel). One was sighted at Fields May 31 (JC) and the species was seen in Bend May 6 (TC). A sparse scattering of Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers went through e. Washington and Idaho. A Black-throated Gray Warbler at Umatilla N.W.R., was highly unusual (CC) and a pair, furnishing Montana's third record, was identified in Colorado Gulch s.w. of Helena Mar. 25 (NN). Malheur had a ♂ Ovenbird May 25 (JA) and N. Waterthrushes were described as numerous in backwater willow thickets in the lowlands of Pend Oreille County, Wash. (ME). A singing ♂ **Mourning Warbler** was carefully identified at Tumwater Campground, Wenatchee N.F., Chelan Co., Wash., May 15 (ME). Klamath Falls had a ♂ Hermit Warbler May 17 (MA). Bobolinks had returned to Malheur by May 22 and a male was at Reynolds, Ida., May 22 (MC). A large colony of Tricolored Blackbirds was observed May 17 at Miller I., Klamath Falls (MA).

**FINCHES** — The only Rose-breasted Grosbeaks reported were one at Livingston May 22 (Mrs. D, *fide* CD) and one in Ketchum, Ida., May 30 (WS). A ♂ Indigo Bunting was at Page Spring Campground near Frenchglen, Ore., May 29 for that area's first record (SS). Lazuli Buntings seemed scarce or absent from most localities but were reported as common in the Rupert area (WS) and at Wenatchee (RO-T). Evening Grosbeaks were also scarce except for the Helena and Missoula areas, which reported good numbers, and Bonner County, Ida., which had low numbers throughout the period. One-two Purple Finches were reported at Cle Elum and Wenas Cr., Wash., in May (Y.A.S.). A pair of Pine Grosbeaks was sighted at 7200 ft elevation in Kootenay N.P., B.C. (LH); 10-15 were at 5000 ft on Myrtle Peak w. of Bonners Ferry, Ida., Mar. 11 (PS), and one was along the Little Spokane R., near Spokane Apr. 2 (MV, S.A.S.). A flock of 30 Com. Redpolls flew over Wolverine Pass, Kootenay N.P., Mar. 15 for the only sighting (LH). Pine Siskins were unreported except for Helena, which had "goodly numbers," the Colville area with "flocks," and the Rupert area. Red Crossbills were little mentioned; they presumably stayed mostly at higher elevations. The only White-winged Crossbills were four at Myrtle Peak and two at Kootenay N.W.R., in March (PS).

**BUNTINGS AND SPARROWS** — A flock of 65 Lark Buntings at Blacks Creek Res., May 8 produced only the second record of these birds for s.w. Idaho (MC). Single Grasshopper Sparrows were found near Ephrata, Wash. (ES); Pendleton, Ore. (C & MC, NB), and Vernon (MCo). Two were in the vicinity of Eltopia, Wash. (MV, S.A.S.) and five were seen and more heard in the Spokane Valley near the Idaho border (JA). Lark Sparrow was the most common bird among the Juniper Forest sand dunes between Connell and Pasco, Wash., May 21 (MV, S.A.S.) and they were abundant near Weston, Ore., Apr. 30 (SM *et al.*). Several were found e. of Soap L., Wash., May 5 (ES) and at Summer Falls, Wash. (C.B.). Yakima Firing Range furnished the only report of the Sage Sparrow, one bird (Y.A.S.). An apparently valid sighting of a **Gray-headed Junco** near Robinson L., n.e. Kootenay Co.,

was the first ever for n. Idaho (reported to PS by the Monks family). A singing Clay-colored Sparrow was identified in a shrubby meadow 2 mi e. of Metaline Falls, Wash., May 29 (ME) for that latilong's second record. A Harris' Sparrow in nearly full breeding plumage was in the Davenport cemetery May 7 (JA) and three were at a Richland feeder Mar. 29, at least one of which stayed until the first week of May (HE, RW). A very few Golden-crowned Sparrows were observed migrating through e. Oregon and Washington, the most unexpected, one at Rogersburg, Wash., Mar. 26 (AM, C.B.). A lone White-throated Sparrow was at Richland Mar. 18 (TG) and one was at Knouff L., near Kamloops May 14 (RH). The Davenport cemetery had a surprising 11 migrating Fox Sparrows May 7 (JA). A bright-plumaged **Swamp Sparrow** in McNary P., Umatilla Mar. 26 was e. Oregon's first (JC, C & MC).

**ADDENDA** — A Eur. Wigeon was in the Nampa area Feb. 27 (J & NHe). A gray-phase Gyrfalcon was reported from Montana in January (JD). An Anna's Hummingbird was seen in s.w. Idaho Dec. 7 (A & HL). Three Blue Jays were sighted on 2 occasions during the winter in the Wasa, B.C. area (MW). A Hermit Warbler near Plain, Wash., May 1, 1982 was apparently the first for the latilong (DH, *fide* PM). Ten Black Rosy Finches were reported for s.w. Idaho Dec. 28 (A & HL). A Chipping Sparrow in imm. plumage frequented a South Slovan, B.C. feeder daily Dec. 25-Jan. 25 (JS *fide* MEI). A Harris' Sparrow used a feeder in s.w. Idaho regularly Dec. 1 at least through Feb. 28 (JS, A & HL).

**CORRIGENDUM** — Delete the reference to Golden-crowned Sparrows (AB 36: 1000); checking this June revealed White-crowned Sparrows singing an unusual song pattern.

**OBSERVERS CITED** — (JA) James Acton, David Anderson, (JAm) Jim Anderson, Ann & Merle Archie, Eugene Barney, Helen Bavin, Nancy Bock, Greg Books, Al Bruner, Vernon Byrd, (SCa) Steve Canning (C.B.) Canyon Birders, Jim & Judy Carlson, Mark Collie, (MCo) Mary Collins, Becky Corder, Craig & (MC) Marion Corder, (SC) Sharon Cotterell, Tom Crabtree, John Dalke, C.V. Davis, Rick & Gay Demmer, Mrs. Dunn, (ME) Mark Egger, (MEI) Maurice Ellison, Howard Ennor, David Fraser, Helen Fyles, (JG) Jeff Gilligan, Bill Goble, (JGr) James Grant, Tony Greager, Larry Halverson, (PHa) Paul Hanna, Gertie Hanson, (J & PH) Jim & Pat Harp, (JHe) Jim & Naomi Heckathorn, Rick Howie, Eugene Hunn, Dave Hutchinson, Frank Isaacs, Lydia Kading, (BK) Brian Kautesk, (BKe) Bill Kerling, J. Kerr, Dwight Kilgore, Merlene Koliner, Vicky Kolb, Al & Hilda Larson, Keith Lawrence, Joanne Lawrence, Pat & Peter McAllister, Phil Mattocks, Craig Miller, Tony & Helen Milligan, Helen Milne, Monks family, Alice Montag, Martel Morache, Shirley Muse, Larry Napier, Harry Nehls, Ron Neu, Norma Nixon, Ruth Ortiz-Torres, Michael O'Shea, Ralph Pehrson, Kerry Provance, Eleanor Pruett, John Quirk, Ralph Ritcey, Thomas H. Rogers, Dave Ryder, Marty St. Louis, Owen Schmidt, W.H. Shillington, Paul Sieracki, Eugene Smirnov, Jack Smith, Richard Smith, (S.A.S.) Spokane Audubon Society, J.A. Street, Steve Summers, Clayton Truman, Maurice Vial, Winton Weydemeyer, Mildred White, Mike Whittaker, Tom Williams, Pat & R.E. Woodley, Vince Yannone, (Y.A.S.) Yakima Audubon Society.—**THOMAS H. ROGERS, E. 10820 Maxwell, Spokane, WA 99206.**



*Swamp Sparrow/drawing by Robert G. Barrett.*

## MOUNTAIN WEST

/Hugh E. Kingery

An incredible, obliging Ross' Gull electrified Colorado bird watchers and signaled the transformation of a lackluster spring migration into a lustrous one, at least in the plains part of the Mountain West. The Region had the largest variety of species since 1979 (including first state records of a Cardinal in Utah and a Yellow-throated Warbler in Wyoming), and a series of May snow and rain storms grounded unusual numbers of passerines. Although weather is never uniform across the Mountain West, most reporters cited a continuous series of storms, record precipitation, below-normal temperatures, and endless winter. After two rain/snowstorms, May 11-12 and 17, came instant summer.

Spring also built high snowpacks in the mountains, and the combination of melting snow and continuous rains created high water in the valleys, filled the reservoirs, and eliminated shorebird habitat. Particularly hard hit, Great Salt Lake and Lake Mead lost shoreline and marshes, as did Ruby Lake N.W.R. and Kirch W.M.A., Nevada, and the eastern Colorado reservoirs. Waterfowl fared well, shorebirds passed us by.

Despite the litany of terrible weather, the two reporters who kept track of early, average, and late arrivals reported about equal numbers of early and late arrivals (31 and 37 respectively; MF, MJ). Most observers had the impression of a late migration; Dixon's observation very likely applies to the Region as a whole: "From mid-April on vanguard individuals arrived on schedule but numbers did not increase much for a couple of weeks . . . one Orange-crowned Warbler came April 26, no others until May 10. . . ." First arrivals do not comprise the migration. Regional observers reported 384 species: 343 from Colorado, 268 from both Utah and Nevada, and 249 from Wyoming.

ABBREVIATIONS — †: written report on file with Reg. Ed.; ††: written report submitted to C.F.O.; #: no written report; L/L/B/L: Longmont/Lyons/Berthoud/Loveland area, Colo.



**LOONS TO FLAMINGO** — Reports of migrating Com. Loons continue to increase; of the 239 reported, Minersville, Utah tallied the most, 100 Apr. 8 (SH). Wyoming and Colorado had peaks of 10-17 Apr. 30-May 4. A few remained into June in e. Colorado. An Arctic Loon visited Colorado Spgs., Mar. 25 (RB), for the Region's third spring record. A Red-necked Grebe stayed at Boulder, Colo., May 6-22 (B.A.S., m.ob.). White Pelicans peaked at Bear R., Apr. 1 with 415, Mesquite, Nev., with 230 Mar. 15, Julesburg, Colo., with 150 Apr. 26, and Dubois, Wyo., with 150 Apr. 28 (LW, CR, BP, PA). Boulder and Pueblo newsletters reported Little Blue Herons without details, and the D.F.O. Bird Alert mentioned two at Boulder. The Region's 77 Cattle Egrets included 15 at Overton, Nev., Apr. 17 (VM) and 18 at Greeley, Colo., May 1 (D.F.O.). A Louisiana Heron stopped May 28 at mountain-ringed Antero Res., near Hartsel, Colo. Wyoming's second, no doubt bewildered, **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** Apr. 7 stood for an hour in a snow-covered field at Tie Siding (†FW). One stayed at Crook,

Colo., May 16-20 (B, I, JP, ph). A surprising set of Least Bittern reports, all in May, included one at Kirch W.M.A., near Lund, Nev. (*fide* #CS), Jensen, Utah (†MBr), Grand Jct., Colo. (#RL), Ft. Collins, Colo. (†PP, †KC), as well as the usual Boulder birds. White-faced Ibis reports went up, with top counts at Ruby L., of 300 ready to nest, 360 at Bear R., May 31, and 278 at Ogden, Utah May 24. Flocks in Colorado ranged 10-40, and in Wyoming 2-18. Nevada's exotic for this spring occurred in a Reno city lake: three Am. Flamingos, free-flying and wild-mannered. Supported by a newspaper photographer, the Humane Society launched a boat to rescue the birds but could get no closer than 50 yards (JA).

**WATERFOWL** — Whistling Swans peaked in mid-March at 1430 at Bear R.; one remained to May 24 at Ogden (JN). Snow Geese numbered 2000-3000 at Julesburg, Colo., at the Mar. 14 peak (BP). The Region's 55 Ross' Geese included Wyoming's second at Casper May 22-24 (†JH), as well as 20 at Roosevelt, Utah Mar. 21 (MBr, ph), and 22 on Apr. 18-19 at Logan (†MT, KA). A Black Duck was at Ft. Collins May 18 (†KC). A female with four young May 27 evidenced the first breeding Cinnamon Teal at Las Vegas in several years (VM). Colorado reported three Eur. Wigeons: Apr. 9 at Colorado Spgs. (#SHo), Apr. 11-14 at Pueblo (RB, #J & RW), and Greeley May 8 (†Jc). A ♀ White-winged Scoter spent most of May at Monte Vista N.W.R. (JK).

**HAWKS, EAGLES** — The earliest Turkey Vulture seen arrived at Ruby L., Mar. 10 (SB). Thirty-five circled over the Wyoming Capitol building at Cheyenne Apr. 16 for 90 min. (K & PW, E & GP). A Swallow-tailed Kite soared past a startled 15-member bird class s. of Denver Apr. 24 (†PE); Colorado has 5 other records—in 1871, 1877 (2), 1939, and 1947. Observations of Sharp-shinned (86) and Cooper's hawks (59) dropped about one-third from the numbers of the past 6 years. Colorado and Wyoming sightings of Broad-winged Hawks increased 50% (to 23 and 11 respectively). The Denver/Boulder area had five Apr. 23 in 4 locations. To the w., Evergreen, Colo. had one May 1 (WwB) and Logan had Utah's ninth May 14 (MT *et al.*, KA). The stormy spring may account for 4 May reports of Rough-legged Hawks in Colorado/Wyoming and a few at Kirch W.M.A. (#all). Figgs studied Golden Eagle eyries in Boulder County, Colo., and found 8 active breeding territories in 14 likely or historical sites; they face threats from technical rock climbers and mountain home building. Bald Eagle counts tallied 132 at Willard, Utah Mar. 5 (BH), 255 at Bear R., Mar. 8 (LW), and 37 at Evanston, Wyo., Mar. 2 (CK). The pair at Moab gave Utah its first nesting record since 1922 (JCr). A Gyrfalcon passed through Jackson, Wyo., Apr. 22 (BR). The 34 Peregrine reports tripled the usual spring complement.

**GROUSE, CRANES** — A tour of the sand hills near Wray, Colo., produced 51 Greater Prairie Chickens (DN, DMa), an encouraging count for this isolated population facing habitat contraction from expanding irrigated farming. Kirch W.M.A. supports 200-300 Afghan White-winged Pheasants, survivors of a 1972 stocking, which do not hybridize (CS). Migrant Whooping Cranes were seen at Delta and Grand Jct., Colo., Jensen, Utah, Crowheart and Jackson, Wyo. One may summer at Monte Vista. Janos counted 2388 Sandhills passing over Delta Mar. 22-Apr. 22; Grand Jct. saw 788 Mar. 25 (BT). A survey of Sandhills in n.e. Nevada counted 436 (the most, 101, at Ruby L.) and extended the known nesting range SE from Ruby Valley about 80 mi (MR). Observers found unusual Com. Gallinules at Kirch W.M.A., Apr. 25-May 18 (CS), Bear R., Apr. 23 (#LW), and Greeley, Colo., May 9-21 (†Jc *et al.*).

**SHOREBIRDS** — The high run-off inundated shorelines and reduced shorebird habitat; observers reported fewer shorebirds—except for Wilson's Phalaropes which swim-feed and except for increased counts of Lesser Yellowlegs, dowitchers, and peeps at L/L/B/L. Spring Counts had average variety—19 species the high, at Denver and Longmont—but many fewer birds. Snowy Plovers at Kirch May 1-8 (†CS) and Monte Vista N.W.R., May 18 (†PP) provided first latilong records. The Region's only Am. Golden Plover at Kirch May 18-21 provided the first e. Nevada record (†CS, ph.). A good complement of Whimbrels included 8-10 on May 8 and 18 at Pawnee Nat'l Grassland, Colo. (DG, KC), 15 at Ramah, Colo., May 14 (RB), five at Big Piney, Wyo., May 22

(JR—1st lat), and one May 23 at Cedar City (†SH—3rd for s. Utah). Many observers mentioned a scarcity of Willets. Utah observers found two Red Knots at Bear R., May 14 (†MT) and 65 at Farmington May 15 (#MW); two stopped at Kirch May 17 (CS ph.). Pectoral Sandpipers continue scarce in spring with only four in Colorado and three in Utah (Zion Mar. 23—JG). The best place in the Region to catch the late-migrating White-rumped Sandpiper is Julesburg, where 100 flocked May 30 (D & JW). Six Short-billed Dowitchers stopped at Ramah, Colo., May 14 (#RB). L/L/B/L noted a large influx of Long-billed Dowitchers, 1184 for the spring cf. 337 last year. Stilt Sandpipers occur regularly in e. Colorado, with the top count of 50+ from Julesburg May 19-28 (BP). Farther w., one at Fontanelle, Wyo., May 21 plied the mud flats of an almost-empty reservoir (†FL) and a remarkable 18 fed with dowitchers May 14 at Bear R. (†MT). Grand Jct. reported 100 Marbled Godwits in April, Cedar City had 50 Apr. 8, Marys R., n. of Deeth, Nev., had 30 on Apr. 26, and Fontanelle, Wyo., had 40 May 4. Otherwise observers found groups of less than 15. Bear R. reported peaks on Apr. 15 of 4450 Marbled Godwits, 6830 Am. Avocets, and 1150 Black-necked Stilts (LW). Most of the Region reported ordinary numbers of Wilson's Phalaropes, but during May high counts of 275-500+ came from many lakes in e. Colorado. Spring Counts exceeded the average numbers, although not last year's high numbers. Similar numbers of N. Phalaropes did not appear; in fact the Region reported only 53 besides a flotilla of 10,000+ May 21 at Great Salt L. (JN).

**GULLS, TERNS** — Unusual inland in the spring, four ad. Mew Gulls stopped at Las Vegas Apr. 3 (VM). Far from water, a Bonaparte's Gull winged N along a highway near Baker, Nev., May 11 (LN).

**S.A.**

Bill and Inez Prather, newly moved to the e. Colorado plains, discovered the bird of the year: a **Ross' Gull** which remained at Julesburg Apr. 28-May 7 and presented its fans with views at close range. The Colorado gull did not attract mobs of birders as did the Massachusetts bird a few years ago, but 100 or so did see the obliging Colorado visitor. Probably more photographers documented this bird than any other first state record in the Mountain West. It liked to feed along strings of foam, particularly near the dam where observers could huddle behind a 2-ft wall and watch it 25 ft away. As a postscript, Ewing wrote of a report several years ago: "Do you recall my reporting a neighbor who saw a gull on Sweetwater L. (near Gypsum in the Colorado mountains) while ice fishing? He saw a strange little gull with rosy underparts walking along on the ice and then taking off." One of those tantalizing mysteries.



Ross' Gull, Julesburg, Colo., Apr. 2-May 7. Photos/W. Maynard and I. Prather.

Bonny Res., 100 mi S, attracted the only reported Sabine's Gull Apr. 17 (RB). The same lakes attracted large flocks of Black Terns—250 at Bonny May 14-15 (JRe) and 500 at Julesburg May 20 (LHa).

**DOVES TO WOODPECKERS** — Las Vegas' nesting flock of Inca Doves has left: the people who fed it moved (VM). L/L/B/L reported 45 Barn Owls, cf. 55 last spring. All spring Cook listened to a Screech Owl which gave both e. and w. calls and responded to tapes of both "species." One night 6 observers stood 8 ft from the owl as it repeatedly gave 4 e. calls, then one w. call. Observers found migrating Flammulated Owls May 11-20 at St. George and Zion N. P., Utah, and Monte Vista N.W.R., and Evergreen, Colo. (SH, JG, JK, WWB). An 8-mi route near Cedar City netted a count of 46 Poor-wills May 28 (SH). Single Vaux's Swifts were reported May 8-20 from Las Vegas and Kirch (#) and from Cedar City (†SH). White-throated Swifts declined in numbers in surveys at Lyons, Colo., and Sheridan, Wyo. (MF, HD). At Grand L., Colo., and perhaps elsewhere the delayed insect hatching may have deterred their arrival. At Zion, far enough s. to avoid the weather effect, Black-chinned Hummingbirds arrived on time Mar. 28 (JG). On Apr. 11 the first Calliope huddled in a snowstorm on Mt. Charleston near Las Vegas (VM). Further n., hummingbirds arrived late, reacting to the cold and stormy spring. They achieved average numbers by mid-May. Starlings compete with native woodpeckers to the detriment of the latter; at Zion Starlings commandeered one of the only 2 flicker nest holes found, and also ousted Hairy Woodpeckers from a cavity (JG). Denver's tally of flickers increased slightly, L/L/B/L's was average. An Acorn Woodpecker visited Las Vegas May 6 (CL).

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — Northerly of the usual reports, E. Phoebe occurred at Ft. Collins Mar. 29, Ft. Morgan May 17, and Crook, Colo., May 18-26 (CA, JCR, BP, LH). A Black Phoebe stayed at Baker, Nev., Apr. 28-30 (LN). The spring saw abundant *Empidonax* flycatchers—up to 30/day in mid-May. Cook commented on *Empidonax* identifications. "After years of field study [a fellow student who recently completed a Master's Degree on Dusky and Hammond's flycatchers] still finds birds he can't separate conclusively. How do people with less experience muster the confidence to make such identifications? Especially when the 2 "species" may nest only a few feet apart in different species of plants that supposedly represent different habitats?" An E. Wood Pewee was reported from Fountain, Colo. (††BM). The stormy weather led to high counts of swallows feeding low over the water at regional reservoirs; L/L/B/L's 8618 for the season (cf. 2291 last year) probably stems from that. Purple Martins occurred at Denver, Colo., May 14 (††HEK) and Kanab, Utah (BLu).

**JAYS TO THRASHERS** — At Grand L., Colo., the most surprising change in numbers of any species was a drop in Gray Jays from 20/day to four all spring (DJ). Brigham City, Utah's Blue Jay stayed all spring (DK; see AB 37:323) and R.M.N.P., reported one May 21 (F.C.A.S.). After the Vail ski area closed in April, a Com. Raven picked a gondola tower for a nest site. Sitting there May 24 when the ski area took advantage of late spring snows and reopened, she was "probably grumbling that the real estate man hadn't told her about all the traffic" (JM). Piñon Jay numbers dropped, probably due to the declining cone crops where they roamed last year. L/L/B/L's four, down from 413 in 1982, shows the e. Colorado situation. Meanwhile at Cedar City they appeared in April at the rate of 100/day after a winter absence. Clark's Nutcrackers fledged four young Apr. 20 in the town of Dubois, Wyo., from a nest built in a willow bush; usually they nest in mountain conifer forests. The



Blue Jay, Mendon, Utah, Dec. 20, 1983. Photo/M. Tove.

two Black-capped Chickadees in Baca County, Colo., close to the Oklahoma panhandle, had pushed to the s. limit of their range (PL). Grand L. had half the usual chickadees, while in Denver Mountain Chickadees remained through May 27 (PE, HEK). Last year Bushtits at Lyons, Colo., were feeding young May 22; this year they did not complete nest building until May 24 (MF). Erratic records of Red-breasted Nuthatches included a pair nesting in Denver (EO), one at Fleming, Colo., Sept. 6-May 2 (B, I, & JP), 1-2 at Cheyenne Apr. 21-May 31 (MH), more at Grand L., and fewer in w. Boulder County. The wrong habitat attracted a Long-billed Marsh Wren Apr. 22-29; the campus in Boulder (LHa). A Mockingbird visited Laramie, Wyo., May 29 (DI, DM). Reports of Bendire's Thrashers came from Cedar City and Kanab May 17 & 31, and from Monte Vista May 8 (†JJR). A LeConte's Thrasher at St. George Mar. 5 was Utah's first in several years (SH, MW, MBr).

**THRUSHES TO VIREOS** — The storms made Am. Robins more visible than usual; L/L/B/L counted 1600, twice the number found last year. A Varied Thrush, n. Utah's first, now sports a band after staying Mar. 24-Apr. 9 at Ogden (MLK, ph.). Other reports came from Kanab, Utah—two Apr. 21 (#BLU), Sheridan, Wyo., Apr. 13 (†EM—3rd record), and Denver Apr. 16 (#KK). Wood Thrush reports came May 7 from Sheridan (†DKn) and Ft. Collins May 19 (#DL). The May storms brought throngs of thrushes to e. Colorado. The period May 12-26 generated reports of Swainson's like 150-350 at Fountain (RB), 100 at Fleming (BP), 1600 at Ft. Collins including 150 in one tree (KC), and 200 in Cheyenne (D & EH). Spring Counts all had 2-4 times the usual quantity with an average of 25/count. Denver, Boulder, and L/L/B/L had 4-5 times the usual spring totals. The abundance of Hermits and Veeries increased proportionately, in their usual ratio to Swainson's. The early April storms grounded Mountain Bluebirds all over Boulder; in the mountains Grand L. saw migrating flocks down 75%. Baca County, Colo., sported an impressive count of 24 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers May 7 (J & DW). Spring Counts May 14-15 reported more Ruby-crowned Kinglets, showing that they delayed moving to their mountain nesting grounds; at Grand L., they "came in overnight May 24-25" (DJ). Only 8 observers saw Bohemian Waxwings, the numbers a shadow of a normal year. The Regional total of 195 included 15-50 Mar. 12-Apr. 29 at Cody, 75 at Ogden Mar. 20, 20 at Laramie Mar. 1-14, and 40 at Evanston Mar. 4. More Cedar Waxwings flocked through the Region, with high counts of 175-200 at Bonny Apr. 8 and May 18-19 (DN, DMa, LHa). Field work in May in Beaver Dam Wash w. of St. George, Utah, located 4 breeding pairs of Bell's Vireos, a hopeful increase. Philadelphia Vireos were well-described from Longmont May 20 (JK) and Julesburg May 23 and 31 (JP, D & JW).

**WARBLERS** — Spring Counts found a mid-May jam of migrants: the average count of 438 doubled the prior average of 189 and increased the prior peak average of 249. For the Spring, the Region reported 38 species; Colorado reported 35 and Nevada 25, most at Las Vegas. A small riparian area at Fountain, Colo., yielded 23 species in 2 days, May 15 & 17 (RB).

Among the common species, Orange-crowned and Virginia's occurred in good numbers; Denver's Spring Count had 101 and 114 respectively. At Beaver Dam Wash 300+ Yellow Warblers May 14-15 included 40 in one tree (SH). At Sheridan the 41 Yellows on the Ash Cr. riparian survey May 23 reflected a trend up (HD). Spring Counts found over twice the usual Yellow-rumpeds, including record totals of 633 at Denver, 591 at Boulder, and 549 at Longmont. Hundreds populated Seedskadee N.W.R., Wyo., May 21—birds literally in every bush (FL).

Observers reported the following rarities, documented only if noted, all in May unless noted. Black-and-white at Baker, Nev., May 12 (†LN), one in Las Vegas Apr. 26, one in Sheridan, four in Cheyenne, and 29 in e. Colorado; one Prothonotary at Boulder (EMe); a Worm-eating at Las Vegas (CL) and one at Fountain (RB, J & RW); Golden-winged and Blue-winged at Fountain (RB); Tennessees at Las Vegas, Casper, and 29 in e. Colorado; Nashvilles at Las Vegas Apr. 10, Zion Apr. 12 and Baker May 12, three in Wyoming, and nine in Colorado; a N. Parula at Las Vegas May 22 (MK, CR *et al.*) and nine in e. Colorado; a Magnolia at Las Vegas and 18 in e. Colorado, including six at Bonny May 21-22 (D.A.S.); Cape Mays at Crook (†B, I & JP) and Prewitt Res.

(LHa) both May 20; a Black-throated Blue at Las Vegas (J & MC) and three in e. Colorado; Nevada's 3rd and 4th Black-throated Greens, May 26 at Las Vegas (CL) and May 28 at Dyer (†BL), Wyoming's 4th at Sheridan May 15 (†JD), and seven in e. Colorado; four Blackburnians in e. Colorado; a well-described, tame **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Laramie May 25-27, Wyoming's first (DI, †DM); one Chestnut-sided at Cheyenne and only six in Colorado, including one at Durango; Nevada's 4th Bay-breasted May 21 at Dyer, which fed deliberately for 10 min within a 25-ft area (†DP), and ones at Boulder and Crook; eight Palms in e. Colorado; one N. Waterthrush at Las Vegas Apr. 28-29, five in Utah beginning with one at Zion Apr. 21-22 (last Utah spring record, 1976), four in Wyoming, and 44 in Colorado, including 10 at Fountain May 14-18, and doubling any previous spring total for Colorado; Louisiana Waterthrush at Bonny May 15 (JRe); Kentucky Warblers at Boulder May 14 & 17 (DW, MM, *vide* LHa) and at Crook May 18-19 (†B & JP); an *Oporornis* warbler with one-half of one white eyelid only, at Ft. Collins (KC); three e. Colorado Hoodeds; and a Painted Redstart at Las Vegas Apr. 17-May 1, the first in s. Nevada since 1976 (VM).

Blackpolls staged an unprecedented showing. Cheyenne reported 18 on May 21, and Wyoming had five others. In Colorado 167 Blackpolls included 35 at Ft. Collins May 18, 30 at Bonny May 18-19, 20 there and 10 at Prewitt May 20, and in May, 31 at Denver, and 15+ at Fountain. The largest number reported any previous spring was in 1980: 30 in Colorado and six in Wyoming.

**MEADOWLARKS TO TANAGERS** — Identification of the three E. Meadowlarks reported from e. Colorado apparently relied on song (another sang Eastern for a while, then sang Western and flew off; it had a Western's tail and throat pattern). Female meadowlarks rely on the call to identify their kind; so should birdwatchers. Bonny reportedly had 525 orioles May 18-19 (200 Orchards, 150 "Bullock's," 175 "Baltimores"—LHa), but D.A.S. counted a mere 72 May 21-22 (similar ratio); either way the number of "Baltimores" exceeded the usual. L/L/B/L reported 344 N. Orioles, over 3 times last year's count. Grand Jct. had Scott's Orioles again this spring, with three May 14 (BT). Colorado Spgs. also reported one May 14 (#EP). Great-tailed Grackles continue to press into new territory. Reports came from Beatty, Nev. (*vide* CL), Ruby L. (SB), and Kirch (20-35 all spring—CS), St. George (11 pairs at 3 locations—SH), and Paradox (†JRG) and Buena Vista (BW), Colo., both new locations. Pressing in the opposite direction, two Com. Grackles appeared May 25 in a Las Vegas yard (CL). Observers saw fewer W. Tanagers, except for the 50 counted at Beaver Dam Wash May 14-15 (SH). Scarlet Tanagers stopped at Fountain May 14 (J & RW), Grand L., May 16 (F, *vide* DJ), and at Colorado Spgs., May 26 (TB, BMo). Six Summer Tanagers graced 4 e. Colorado sites Apr. 29-May 18.

**FINCHES, SPARROWS** — Utah's first **Cardinal** fluttered into a mist net at Ogden; in poor condition, it subsequently died (MLK, \*B.Y.U.). One at Casper stayed Mar. 14-June 3 (JH). F.C.A.S. reported 12 at Orchard, Colo., Mar. 12. Rose-breasted and Black-headed grosbeaks piled in together; L/L/B/L reported 35 and 173 respectively, *cf.* 20 and 22 last year. Fountain had 20 Blue Grosbeaks May 17 (RB).



*Cardinal, Provo, Utah, Mar. 11, 1983, first state record. Photo/M. Killpack.*

Indigo Buntings have become widespread in the Region; the 45 reported included one at Eureka, Nev., in early May (BD), one at Kanab, Utah May 31 (SH), and singles in Jackson Apr. 28 and May 19 (FC, MA). L/L/B/L reported 34. In Ogden, Killpack said, "This year I have banded 630 Lazuli Buntings; ran out of bands, could have banded about 100 more. I estimate that about 1000 came through my yard by May 31. Last year I banded 315." Colorado spring counts reflected the same pattern; Longmont had 147, Grand Jct., 109 (prior peaks 48 and 55), and L/L/B/L tallied 437 for the season *cf.* 132 last year. Among them, a Painted Bunting zipped into a Lyons, Colo. yard May 17 (†MG) and A.V.A.S. reported one at Pueblo May 14. Hedges explains the scarcity of Evening Grosbeaks in s. Utah as fitting a pattern: after a severe winter, a common migrant; after a mild one like this year, few occur. Except for Nevada, all states reported modest numbers, although by May the Colorado foothills had fair numbers (LH, PH).

Purple Finches visited feeders in Evergreen, Colo., Mar. 15 (EV) and Colorado Spgs. (a pair) during March (RB, BM). All 4 states saw a few Cassin's Finches, but in Ogden Killpack could have banded twice as many as the 38 he did. Possibly the mild winter kept them in the high country, since Jasper found many at Grand L., and Radium, Colo. The 74 Pine Grosbeaks May 21 in Indian Peaks W of Boulder reflect typical numbers which good field work can find in the appropriate mountain habitat. At Ogden Pine Siskins moved through in numbers—159 banded March-May until the bands ran out, 28 last year (MLK). Siskins cruised throughout the Mountain West during May; peak numbers came at the same time in both the plains and mountain valleys (attracted to a copious crop of dandelion seeds). American Goldfinches reflected this explosion in some places, with 225 at Cheyenne May 28 (H.P.A.S.) and 803 at L/L/B/L (355 last year). Six locations reported Red Crossbills, the maximum 30 at Sheridan Mar. 1 (MC *et al.*). Six White-winged were reported from Colorado Spgs., May 14 (#DD). Three Brown Towhees were reported from the San Luis Valley, Colo., May 14 (MKe). Lark Buntings spread W in unusual numbers. The three Nevada birds occurred in Las Vegas, Ely, and Baker (PG, MR, LN); Utah reports included one at Burbank near Baker, Nev. (LN) and two at Roosevelt (CK). They visited all of Wyoming except the n.w. part, and the Colorado mountains at Ridgway, Eagle, McCoy, Grand L. (40 observations *cf.* 10 in the last 10 years—DJ), R.M.N.P., and Eldora. High count on the plains was 688 on the 2-hour drive between Byers and Idalia (D.A.S.). A storm at Sheridan May 11 grounded 600 Savannah Sparrows (HD).

Vesper Sparrows tripled and Lark Sparrows doubled over last year by L/L/B/L counts (155 and 377 this year). Field Sparrows visited feeders in Colorado Spgs., Mar. 20-Apr. 11 (EW, RB) and Golden, Colo., May 15-27 (PH ph). Many White-crowned Sparrows remained in the valleys and plains into late May as shown by Spring Count totals and the high numbers at Big Piney (JR).

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## SOUTHWEST REGION

### Arizona

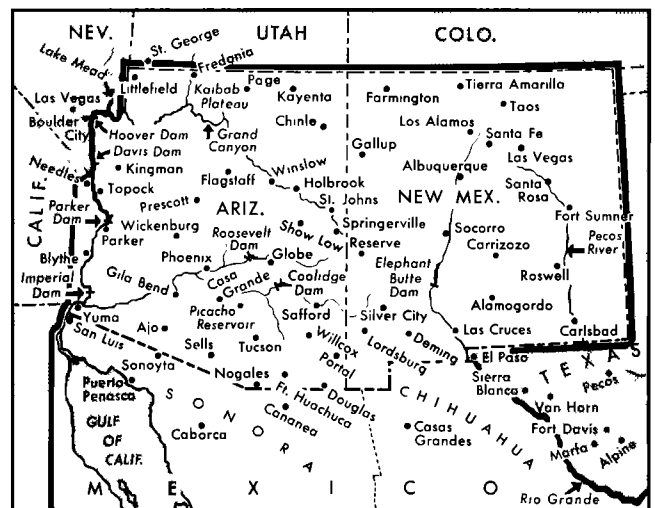
/Janet Witzeman

The wettest winter and spring in 40 years produced a lush desert and a brilliant wildflower display. However, this allowed the migrants to spread out instead of concentrating at the regular oases, and fewer rarities than usual were reported. In northern Arizona, shorebirds were nearly nonexistent because of the high water in the lakes there.

In the report which follows, many of the interesting accounts are of transients not necessarily uncommon to the state, but noteworthy because they are more unusual in spring than fall.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — Common Loons away from the Lower Colorado River (hereafter, L.C.R.) were two s. of Kayenta, n.e. Ariz., Apr. 15 (CLaR), one at Becker L., near Springerville Apr. 16 (BHe) and a loon (probably Common) at Horseshoe Dam, n.e. of Phoenix Apr. 2 (RW). Besides the usual scattering of Cattle Egrets in s. and w. Arizona, a few were recorded in e. and n. Arizona where the species is uncommon: two at San Carlos Res., e. of Globe Mar. 30 (GM, BJ), two at Sedona Apr. 12, one s. of Sedona Apr. 15, one at L. Montezuma Apr. 22 and one at Mormon L., May 18 (A. Greene *et al.*).

As usual Black-bellied Whistling Ducks appeared during April in the Tucson-Nogales area. In Phoenix, where the species is uncommon, 3-8 were present Mar. 30-May 8 at least (RBr, TG, MJ). A pair of Blue-



winged Teal with six young in s.w. Phoenix May 10 (RBr) represented one of the few nesting records for the state and the first below the Rim. Individual Eur. Wigeons were at Tucson Mar. 8-12 (J. Drewek, L. Jones) and Lower L. Mary Mar. 8 (JSh). There are about a dozen records for the state. A pair of Red-breasted Mergansers, uncommon in

n Arizona, were observed at the bottom of the Grand Canyon on the late date of May 29 (DSte).

**RAPTORS** — Adding to the total of straggling White-tailed Kites in Arizona were singles at Dudleyville Apr. 29 (D. Brown, *vide* SSu) and n of the Gila R., and Interstate 10 on May 12 & 18 (TG, S. Vaughan). A one-year-old imm. Mississippi Kite at Nogales May 11 was a local first; the species is very rarely seen away from its limited Arizona breeding area (KK, LH).

An ad. Zone-tailed Hawk was observed at Bill Williams Delta (hereafter, B.W. Delta) May 20 (HW). The species is a rare and irregular summer resident there. Black Hawk is very rare as a migrant in far w. Arizona where one was seen at Dome Valley Mar. 25 (†RH, CH, LL, JJ) At B.W. Delta, where one has summered for several years, one was seen Apr. 13 and May 20 (DK, HW, KC). The isolated, small and uniquely adapted population of desert-nesting Bald Eagles fledged a high of 14 young again (as in 1981). A high of three young was fledged for each of 2 nests that would be inundated if Orme Dam were built (*vide* RW).

At least one female and two ♂ Marsh Hawks at Arlington, w. of Phoenix May 24 raised the possibility that the species may be nesting there (DT).

**RAILS, SHOREBIRDS** — Clapper Rails responded to taped calls at 2 areas in c. Arizona — two birds (unpaired) at a marsh e. of Phoenix May 18, and only two pairs May 24 at the Arlington marsh where numbers were much higher last year (DT).

An Am. Golden Plover, only the sixth spring visitor to the state, was found at Willcox May 24 (R. Taylor). A Black-bellied Plover, also uncommon in spring, was seen e. of Phoenix May 13 (L. Harrison, D. Jones, *vide* TG). As usual, Long-billed Curlews congregated in large flocks s. of Phoenix; a high of 350 was counted there Mar. 20 (SG). Up to 20 were at McNeal, s.e. Ariz., Apr. 14 (AM). Unusual were two Whimbrels at Nogales May 2 (KK, DStj, R & JW) and one in s.w. Phoenix May 19 (TC). On the L.C.R., where the species is more regular, three were at Cibola N.W.R., Mar. 12 (CH *et al.*) and 15 w. of Roll Mar. 18 (RH, JJ). Marbled Godwit is an uncommon spring migrant, especially in n. Arizona, so of interest was the large flock of 125 at Montezuma L., Apr. 21 (S. Hyde, *vide* CT).

Surprising was a Red Phalarope in s.w. Phoenix May 9 (RBr *et al.*) and two at Nogales May 11 (KK, LH). There were only 2 previous spring records for the state.

**GULLS, CUCKOOS** — A Herring Gull, an uncommon visitor, was at Davis Dam Mar. 12 (PL). A Franklin's Gull, uncommon on the L.C.R., was observed at L. Havasu City Mar. 15 (TC, M. Norris). One Heermann's Gull straggled N; an adult was seen at Cibola N.W.R., Apr. 19 (†RH). This spring's Bonaparte's Gull reports came from Dudleyville (M. O'Brien), Arivaca (JSa), four at Gila Bend and eight at Painted Rock Dam (RF, DStj).

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was at Portal (where it is uncommon) May 22-25 (S & WS *et al.*).

**OWLS, NIGHTJARS** — A Ferruginous Owl was seen Mar. 17 in the same area of n.w. Tucson where it was found nesting a year ago (SSu). An Elf Owl, scarce on the L.C.R., was at B.W. Delta Apr. 13 (DK). A nest of Spotted Owl was found May 22 in the Patagonia Mts., where the status of the species is poorly known (N. Krug).

By late May Buff-collared Nightjars had returned to Arivaipa and Guadalupe Canyons, with a copulating pair seen at the latter area May 18 (R. Stallcup *et al.*).

**SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS** — A large, all dark swift, identified as a Black Swift, was seen at Portal May 23 (RM). There have been several sight records of this species in the Chiricahuas the past few years, and although it is a probable transient, there are no verified records.

A ♀ Lucifer Hummingbird was at Portal Apr. 25-May 6 (SS) and a male there May 20 (B. & M. Schaughency). Calliope Hummingbird is a sparse spring migrant — a male was at Ramsey Canyon Apr. 16-17 & May 1 (T & DC).

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — An E. Kingbird was observed up

Havasu Cr., at the bottom of the Grand Canyon May 28 (DSte) The species is an uncommon summer visitor to the state, there are about 4 previous records for the Grand Canyon region. Four individual E. Phoebes were recorded in s. Arizona during March and April (CDeW, PL, KK *et al.*), and on the L.C.R., where the species is uncommon, one was seen n. of Ehrenberg May 30 (†KC, JJ). In addition to the small population of Buff-breasted Flycatchers in the Huachuca Mts., a few were found in the Chiricahua Mts. (Salisbury Canyon) and Santa Catalina Mts (Rose Canyon) (RBo *et al.*). This species may be reclaiming some of its former range. Coues' Flycatcher was recorded in 3 areas away from its usual range — at Dome Valley, L.C.R., Apr. 17 (†DK, LL), one singing May 2 in Oak Cr. Canyon (where it has nested at least once) (JC, TM) and one singing in the Pinal Mts., May 31 (BJ).

Arizona's Cave Swallow returned for the fifth season to the U of Arizona Library at Tucson May 17 (J. Dunning, JSu), but by the end of the month there were definitely two present (JSa *et al.*).

**NUTHATCHES THROUGH GNATCATCHERS** — A Red-breasted Nuthatch observed near Tacna, e. of Yuma May 24 (RH, KC) was very late for a desert locality. A surprising number of catbirds was recorded away from the species' breeding area: one in Arivaipa Canyon Apr. 11 (SG), one at Portal May 18-19 (R. Balda *et al.*), one at Kino Springs (since December) remained until Apr. 23 (JBo, m.ob.) and the one at Prescott (since December) remained until Apr. 28 (CT), A Brown Thrasher at Cibola N.W.R., Mar. 6 may have wintered locally (†DK).

Finishing up the best season in years were six additional Rufous-backed Robins: in Tucson Estates Mar. 7-Apr. 4 (AG, J. Rogers), at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Mar. 8 (AG), Tanque Verde Ranch, Tucson Mar. 10 (CDeW), Canoa Ranch Apr. 17-22 (SG), Madera Canyon Apr. 29 (T. Meyer) and Patagonia Sanctuary May 17-21 (R. Baxter, G & DJ, RF *et al.*).

A Wood Thrush at Portal May 12-21 (†F. Luke, SS, PN *et al.*) was the 10th for the state. The only previous spring record was also from Portal. A pair of Black-capped Gnatcatchers returned to Chino Canyon for the third season in early May (ph., G. Lasley, KK *et al.*).

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — On the L.C.R., where Bell's Vireo is uncommon, approximately 15 singing males were recorded from Cibola N.W.R., n. to n. of Ehrenberg May 5-31, and four at B.W. Delta in May (DK, RH).

A **Fan-tailed Warbler**, which would represent only the second record for Arizona and the U.S., was reported in Sheelite Canyon, Huachuca Mts., May 19 (†G & DJ). Although the bird could not be located subsequently, the details reported would seem to rule out all other species. A **Blackpoll Warbler** was discovered at Cibola N.W.R., Apr. 29 (†DK); of the approximately 16 state records, this represents one of the few in spring.

A Palm Warbler near Parks, w. of Flagstaff May 15 (G. Bateman) was only the fourth recorded in spring out of a total of about 21 overall. A ♂ Kentucky Warbler on the e. fork of Coalmine Wash, s. of Kayenta May 7 (CLaR) was one of the few ever recorded in n. Arizona.

Individual Worm-eating Warblers (becoming more common in recent years) were found at Cave Cr. Canyon, Portal Apr. 18-May 1 (G. Smith *et al.*, *vide* SS) and at Patagonia Apr. 23 (JBo, DDe). An Ovenbird was reported near Portal Apr. 25 (BK). The only N. Parula reported was one at Ramsey Canyon May 21 (T & DC).

Two Black-and-white Warblers were recorded in s.e. Arizona during March and April (CDeW, RM) and one in n. Arizona at Prescott May 5 (CT). There were two Am. Redstarts and four N. Waterthrushes reported during the period.

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS** — Along the L.C.R., and lower Gila R., Yellow-headed Blackbirds breed only locally, so of interest was the colony with flying young observed at Arlington on the Gila R., w. of Phoenix May 24 (DT).

A ♂ **Painted Bunting** was discovered at Bright Angel Cr., at the bottom of the Grand Canyon May 11 (C. Fritzing, B. Dimmock, K. Crumbo, CT). This furnished the first record for the Grand Canyon region, one of only three for n. Arizona and the first spring record for the state.

Individual Cardinals were found at 3 locations on the L.C.R., where



they are uncommon a female at Parker Mar 5 (RH, DK), a male at Ehrenberg May 1 and a male n. of Ehrenberg during May (RH). Three reports of Rose-breasted Grosbeak came from s.e. Arizona, one from the L.C.R., and three from n. Arizona during the period. Five Evening Grosbeaks, scarce wanderers in the state, were seen in Guadalupe Canyon Mar. 27 (DDa, AM). Following a winter in which Lawrence's Goldfinches were virtually absent, one at Cibola N.W.R., Mar. 12 (DK) and one at Wickenburg Mar. 13 (PL) may have been spring arrivals from Arizona's very sparse breeding population.

A pair of Black-chinned Sparrows, uncommon winter residents in Yuma County, was observed in the Kofa Mts., Mar. 21 (JC, DP). Reports of White-throated Sparrows in March came from Patagonia (CDeW, JBo) and Phoenix (PL, JW).

**CORRIGENDA** — The following record of Streak-backed Oriole at Tucson should be changed to Hooded Oriole: AB 36:882. The observer for the imm. Brown Pelican at Nogales Dec. 4, 1982 (AB 37:325) was Richard Bailowitz.

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## New Mexico

/John P. Hubbard

**LOONS THROUGH HERONS** — Single Com. Loons in breeding plumage were at Elephant Butte L. (hereafter, E.B.L.) in April (*vide* W. Evans) and Percha Dam, Sierra Co., Apr. 23 (S. Nelson, *vide* KZ). The only Horned Grebes reported were two each at E.B.L., Mar. 18-19 and L. McMillan Mar. 24 (PL). Thousands of Eared Grebes were at E.B.L., in late March (J. Vaught, KZ), while one near Jal May 14 (SW) was e. of the usual range. Cattle Egrets were present in numbers in the period in s. Dona Ana County, with a peak there of 221 Apr. 16 (BZ). Other reports included the Zuni Res. (hereafter, Zuni) May 7 (JT *et al.*), two at Bosque del Apache N.W.R. (hereafter, Bosque N.W.R.) Mar. 19 (PL), and one near Loving May 25 (SW).

**WATERFOWL** — Unusual were 400-500 Snow Geese, including 10 of the blue phase, near Clayton Mar. 23 (WC); normally the numbers seen there are much smaller. Some 391 Canada Geese were at Farmington May 14, including 50± downy young (AN *et al.*). Late Wood Ducks were six at Farmington May 14 (AN *et al.*), plus one at Espanola (B. Lewis) and two in the Albuquerque area (DH *et al.*), on the same date. A ♂ **Barrow's Goldeneye** was reported at Maxwell N.W.R., Apr. 20 (W. Mobley), for the second record for that general area. More than the usual numbers of Red-breasted Mergansers were reported, with 1-5 at Morgan L., San Juan Co., Apr. 17 (AN) & May 15 (H. Stein), near Las Vegas Apr. 25 (JH), E.B.L., Mar. 19, Bitter Lake N.W.R., Mar. 24-25, and L. McMillan Mar. 24 (PL).

**RAPTORS** — A **White-tailed Kite** was photographed at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Apr. 21-23 (J. French, K. Wood); this is the second verified record for the state, the first also being of a bird photographed at this refuge in July 1975. Somewhat out-of-range was a Mississippi Kite at Clayton May 23 (WC), while a Sharp-shinned Hawk at Las Cruces May 13 (KZ) was late. The only report of Broad-winged Hawk was of an immature at Corrales, Sandoval Co., May 7 (D & SH), while a Swain-

son's e. of Roswell Mar. 25 (PL) was early. There were at least 20 reports of Ospreys Mar. 2-May 21, these being essentially statewide (v.ob.).

**RAILS THROUGH SANDPIPERS** — Twenty Soras at Zuni May 2 (JT) represented a very high count. Outside the usual range was a Com Gallinule at Espanola May 30 (JH *et al.*) and two near Redrock May 8 (RF). A new locality for Semipalmated Plover was Cuesta, Taos Co., where a bird was present Apr. 29 (WB). A Com. Snipe at Zuni May 5 was observed "singing" and "winnowing"; however, no bird was seen at this locality later in the month (JT). Early was a Long-billed Curlew near Ft. Sumner Mar. 25 (PL), while Marbled Godwits were somewhat more widespread than usual—including one at Cuesta Apr. 29 (WB). The only Baird's Sandpipers reported were singles at Cochiti L., Sandoval Co., Apr. 12 (WB) and Alamogordo Apr. 20 (RH), while Dunlins were somewhat more frequent than usual—including one at Cochiti L., Apr. 12 (WB). A Semipalmated Sandpiper was seen and heard at Zuni May 4 (JT), while three Stilt Sandpipers at Bosque N.W.R., May 21 (KZ) were also unusual.

**GULLS THROUGH TERNs** — California Gulls are now regular in New Mexico, and data are accumulating on spring arrivals—including single ad. birds at E.B.L., Mar. 19 (PL) & 26 (KZ) and at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Apr. 2 (RT). Other reports included 30 at Morgan L., and two at Juan's L., San Juan Co., Apr. 30 (AN) and two at Zuni May 31 (JT). Four Franklin's at Jal May 14 (SW) may have been a local first, while the earliest spring report was of 15 birds at Cochiti L., Apr. 15 (JH), others included a bird at Bluewater L., May 1 and another at Zuni May 29 (JT). Bonaparte's were notable at E.B.L., in late March (v.ob.), with a peak of 200 Mar. 18-19; in addition, 20 were at L. McMillan Mar. 24 (PL). Single Caspian Terns, a very rare species in New Mexico, were reported at Morgan L., Apr. 29 (HL) and L. McMillan May 29 (*vide* SW).

**PIGEONS THROUGH OWLS** — Unusual in suburban Santa Fe were five or more Band-tailed Pigeons May 22 (K. Parkes *et al.*), while the only Ground Dove reported was one at San Simon Cienega, Hidalgo Co., May 26 (JH). An almost albino Barn Owl was seen in s. Dona Ana County Apr. 10 (DJ, BZ), another potential source for misidentification among less wary observers. More Long-eared Owls were reported than usual, including nests with young at Corrales (J. Darling *et al.*) and Ft. Bayard (RF *et al.*) in May. Northerly Whip-poor-wills included one calling in Hausner Canyon, Zuni Mts., May 28 (JT *et al.*) and 2-3 in Cienega Canyon, Sandia Mts., May 21-22 (RB *et al.*).

**SWIFTS THROUGH KINGFISHERS** — Chimney Swifts were first seen at Clayton May 18 (WC), and a vagrant was reported at Corrales in the period (D & SH). Higher than normal numbers of Black-chinned Hummingbirds were reported at Alameda, Bernalillo Co., in the period (J. Phillips), but this was not the case for other reporters or for the Broad-tailed (v.ob.). Very unusual was a ♂ **Costa's Hummingbird** in lower Mangas Canyon, near Cliff May 17 & 21 (SM *et al.*); the only other report for the Gila Valley of New Mexico dates from 1876, and that is a questioned record. A ♂ Lucifer's appeared at Post Office Canyon, Peloncillo Mts., Hidalgo Co., Apr. 2, and by the end of the period two males and two females were present there (R. Scholes, *vide* RT). A Belted Kingfisher was seen carrying fish into an apparent nest hole near Cliff May 7 (RF), while a bird was seen at Zuni on the late date of May 23 (JT).

**WOODPECKERS** — Single Com. (Yellow-shafted) Flickers were at Santa Fe Apr. 7 (JH) and near Ft. Sumner Apr. 30 (SW). An Acorn Woodpecker at Clayton May 15 was well e. of the normal range and represents only the second record there (A. Krehbiel, *vide* WC). Lewis' Woodpecker is infrequent and rare in the Gila Valley, where one was seen in the Cliff area Apr. 23 and four on May 7 (RF *et al.*). Three-four pairs of Downies were in the Bernardo area in the period, excavating holes (WH) in the southernmost nesting locality in the Rio Grande Valley. Another bird at Mangas Springs May 2 (BZ, KZ) was notable, both in terms of it being s. of the usual range and late for a lowland locality. More than the usual numbers of Hairies were noted in the middle Rio Grande Valley (hereafter, M.R.G.V.), with 7 records between Isleta and Bernardo Apr. 2-May 16 (WH). A female was present

in an area of Santa Fe where the species is infrequent Mar 12-May 7 (JH). A pair of N. Three-toeds was near Ojo Redondo in the Zuni Mts., Mar. 6 (JT).

**FLYCATCHERS** — An E. Kingbird at Zuni May 26 (JT) was w. of the usual range in the state. Eastern and Black phoebes again shared the upper Pecos Valley, with two pairs and a nest of the former and two pairs of the latter between Ribera and Villanueva Apr. 22 and May 22 (JH *et al.*). A Black Phoebe was at Zuni May 3 & 27 (JT), while w. records of Easterns included one at Percha Dam Mar. 26 (KZ). A “sooty” phoebe, closely resembling a Say’s in morphology and vocalizations but gray in color with a light throat, was at Zuni May 26-27 (JT); while possibly melanistic or even a hybrid, it is equally possible that the bird was discolored by adventitious elements, *e.g.*, soot. Dusky Flycatchers were singing in several places in the Sandia Mts., by May 22 (HS), while a dozen Grays, mainly singing birds, were recorded in the M.R.G.V., Apr. 20-29 (WH). At Zuni May 26, a bird identified by song as an **Eastern Wood Pewee** sang “fee’-ur-eee’, fee’-ur’ for about 3 min (JT), to provide the first credible record of this species for New Mexico.

**SWALLOWS** — A nesting colony of Bank Swallows near San Juan Pueblo, Rio Arriba Co., had 50+ birds present May 30 (JH *et al.*), while late apparent migrants included 26 birds near Albuquerque May 14 (DH *et al.*), 12 near Mesilla May 15 (JD, BZ), and two at Mangas Springs May 31 (RF). Two Rough-winged Swallows at Sandia P., May 21 were high for the species and perhaps a first for the Sandia Mts. (HS). More nesting records of the Barn Swallow in the extreme s.w. included Lordsburg May 26 (JH) and near San Simon Cienaga May 8 (RF); the species breeds very locally in that area.

**CORVIDS THROUGH PARIDS** — The Blue Jay from the previous period was present at Santa Fe through Apr. 25 (M. Lang), and two vagrants were at Taos May 18 (*vide* R. Enriquez). All other records of the species were in the Pecos Valley and e., including a bird at Ft. Sumner May 1 (SW). Out-of-habitat were two Scrub Jays at Albuquerque May 6, one at Los Lunas Mar. 26 and Apr. 29 (WH), and three at Ft. Sumner Mar. 25 (PL). Similarly displaced were three Piñon Jays at Albuquerque May 24 (RT), one at Los Lunas Apr. 20, and four at Bosque, Valencia Co., May 14 (WH). Evidence continues to accumulate that Black-capped and Mountain chickadees are hybridizing in the M.R.G.V. For example, two pairs each of Black-capped X Mountain, Black-capped X apparent hybrid, and Mountain X apparent hybrid were found in the period between Isleta and Bernardo, all nesting and at least one with young by May 30 (WH). Remnants of last winter’s lowland invasion on Mountain Chickadees persisted, including in the form of small numbers of birds at Percha Dam Mar. 18 (PL), near Las Cruces Apr 17 (N. Cobb), Rattlesnake Springs Mar. 23 (PL), and e. of Carlsbad Mar. 27 (J. Bednarz). A Bridled Titmouse was at Percha Dam Mar. 18 (PL), and a pair of Bushtits was building a nest at Bosque Mar. 24 (WH); both species are rare and/or local in the Rio Grande Valley.

**NUTHATCHES THROUGH WRENS** — A White-breasted Nuthatch in suburban Santa Fe May 17-30 (JH) was unusual; a pair was feeding nestlings at Bernardo May 30 (WH). An apparent spring movement of Red-breasted included small numbers Mar. 7-May 29 at Zuni (JT), Bernardo (WH), Clanton Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. (JH), and the Las Cruces area (KZ *et al.*). Brown Creepers were late leaving the M.R.G.V., including nine birds between Albuquerque and Bernardo Apr 16-22 (WH). Notable were single Dippers at Santa Cruz L., May 9 and 14 and Nabe Dam May 14 (W. Stone), both localities being at middle elevations in Santa Fe County. A new locality for Short-billed Marsh Wren is Bosque N.W.R., where two birds were noted Mar. 19 (PL).

**THRASHERS THROUGH SHRIKES** — The only Brown Thrasher reports w. of the Pecos Valley were of two birds in s. Dona Ana County Mar. 1-May 3 (BZ *et al.*). A ♂ E. Bluebird was again at Cottonwood Gulch in the Zuni Mts., where seen May 24 (JT) and earlier (A. McCallum). East of the usual range was a Golden-crowned Kinglet at Clayton May 8 (WC). Cedar Waxwings made a notable appearance, with small to moderate numbers s. as late as May 14-31 to Zuni (JT), Albuquerque (D & SH), Cliff-Redrock area (SM), and Rattlesnake Springs (RT, SW).

The only N Shrike reported was an immature at La Cienaga, Santa Fe Co., Apr. 1 (C. Hubbard, JH).

**VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS** — The only “exotic” vireo reported was a Red-eyed at Zuni May 27 (JT). By contrast, warblers in this category included a Golden-winged at Albuquerque May 14 (DH *et al.*), a ♀ Black-throated Blue near Ft. Sumner May 1 (SW); a Black-throated Green at Albuquerque May 14 (DH *et al.*) and a female s. of Las Cruces Apr. 14 (BZ *et al.*, ph.); a ♀ **Blackburnian Warbler** at Rattlesnake Springs May 15 (RH *et al.*); a ♂ Chestnut-sided near Mesilla in May (DJ); a ♂ Bay-breasted near Santa Fe May 22 (H. Voetberg); a Palm at Zuni May 2 (JT); a Kentucky near Belen May 16 (WH); and a ♂ Hooded at Zuni May 29 (JT). Also reported were several less-rare but still notable species, including Black-and-white, Tennessee, and Nashville warblers, American Redstart, and especially N. Waterthrush, while n of the usual range were a Lucy’s Warbler at Bosque May 14 (WH) and a Painted Redstart at Albuquerque May 15 (RB) and a probably different bird there May 16 (J. Kjelmyr).

**ICTERIDS** — Unusual was a report of a singing E. Meadowlark at Cedar Crest May 21 (D. Bradley, RB), an apparent first for the Sandia Mts. A ♂ Hooded Oriole was reported at Farmington Apr. 13-15 for the second local record (HL, AN); this area is far n. of the usual range in the state. An anomalous oriole, described as similar to a ♂ Baltimore but with an all-dark tail, was at Rattlesnake Springs May 7 (SW). Great-tailed Grackles at Clayton in May (WC *et al.*) represented only the second report from there, while also notable were small numbers at Zuni May 2-5 & 23-31 (JT). Other records from areas of irregular occurrence included small numbers Apr. 24-May 30 in the area of Cliff (RF, SM), Mangas Springs (RF), Silver City, and near Redrock (JH). Common Grackles were again at Farmington, with three there May 14 (AN *et al.*), late were single birds at Socorro Apr. 17 & 23 (RT) and Carlsbad May 30 (SW), but no birds were seen at Zuni in May (JT). Well e. of the usual range was a ♂ Bronzed Cowbird at Rattlesnake Springs May 28 (SW), also easterly was an apparent female in s. Dona Ana County May 12 (ph BZ)—apparently representative of the w. race, *Molothrus aeneus loyoi*

**FRINGILLIDS** — A ♂ Cardinal in s. Dona Ana County Apr. 17 & May 12 (JD, BZ; ph.) was out-of-range and furnished only the second verified record for the area. North of the usual range were two Pyrrhuloxias near Ft. Sumner Mar. 25 (PL). Moderate numbers of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported Apr. 30-May 21, these essentially statewide (v.ob.). Indigo Buntings were reported in a similar fashion, the period of occurrence being Apr. 17-May 30 (v.ob.). Evening Grosbeaks were present locally into mid-May in areas outside the normal breeding habitat, including at Farmington (AN *et al.*), Raton (RY), and Santa Fe (JH). Also notable were 10 birds in the Sandia Mts., May 14 (DH *et al.*) and a bird at Pinos Altos, Grant Co., May 2 (BZ, KZ). The only Purple Finch reported was a female-type at Percha Dam Mar 26 (KZ *et al.*), while Cassin’s Finches were present until mid-May at Santa Fe (JH) and in the Sandia Mts. (DH *et al.*). Three Pine Siskins at Rattlesnake Springs May 28 (SW) were late while Am. Goldfinches were still present into mid- or late May at Raton (RY), Zuni (JT), and Mangas Springs (SM). A Le Conte’s Sparrow at Cochiti L., May 5 (WB) was both late and w. of the usual range. Early were 22 Sage Sparrows at Zuni Mar. 7-8 (JT), which may indicate that these were wintering birds there. A Clay-colored Sparrow was reported May 9-10 near Las Cruces (BZ *et al.*), where very rare in spring; even more unusual was a probable one at Zuni May 4 (JT). Two Golden-crowned Sparrows were at Monticello Apr. 15, culminating a winter in which a very high 12 sightings of the species were obtained in the Sandia Mts (*vide* HS). Late dates for wintering sparrows included the following White-throated at Santa Fe May 4 (JH), Socorro May 8 (P. Basham), and Los Lunas May 10 (WH); Swamp at Zuni May 3 (JT) and Mangas Springs area May 16—along with a late Song (SM).

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## ALASKA REGION

/D. D. Gibson

Weather was generally mild and sunny over much of mainland Alaska away from marine influences during the period, and no obstacles to migration were reported within the Region. But spring 1983 was perplexing and did not lend itself to cursory analysis. Brina Kessel evaluated spring migration and breeding populations of passerines at Fairbanks in 1983, outlining the complexity of the situation. This evaluation, paraphrased below, might strike a familiar chord with observers beyond the eastern Interior of Alaska.

Four chronologically separate groups of spring migrant passerines occur at Fairbanks. Earliest to arrive (Group 1, late April) are Dark-eyed Junco, American Robin, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Tree Sparrow, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Fox Sparrow, and Varied Thrush; next (Group 2) come Hammond's Flycatcher and White-crowned, Savannah, and Lincoln's sparrows; third (Group 3) are Orange-crowned and Wilson's warblers, Swainson's Thrush, Northern Waterthrush, Yellow Warbler, and Gray-cheeked Thrush; and the fourth (Group 4) group comprises only Alder Flycatcher.

Of these groups, the first arrived early—juncos (in unusually high numbers), robins, kinglets, and Tree Sparrows, and the first individuals of Varied Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Fox Sparrow. The second group started to arrive early too, especially the earliest of this group, Hammond's Flycatcher [on April 25—PDM]. A very few individuals of the other Group 2 species also arrived very early, but these birds, plus the bulk of the populations of Varied Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Fox Sparrow failed to arrive on schedule. A hiatus in migration at Fairbanks began May 1.

Thereafter, with the possible exception of White-crowned Sparrow (the main male population began arriving near the 30-year mean of May 7) and with the exception of Alder Flycatcher (Group 4), which arrived normally and *en masse* about June 4, all other species (Group 3) arrived late.

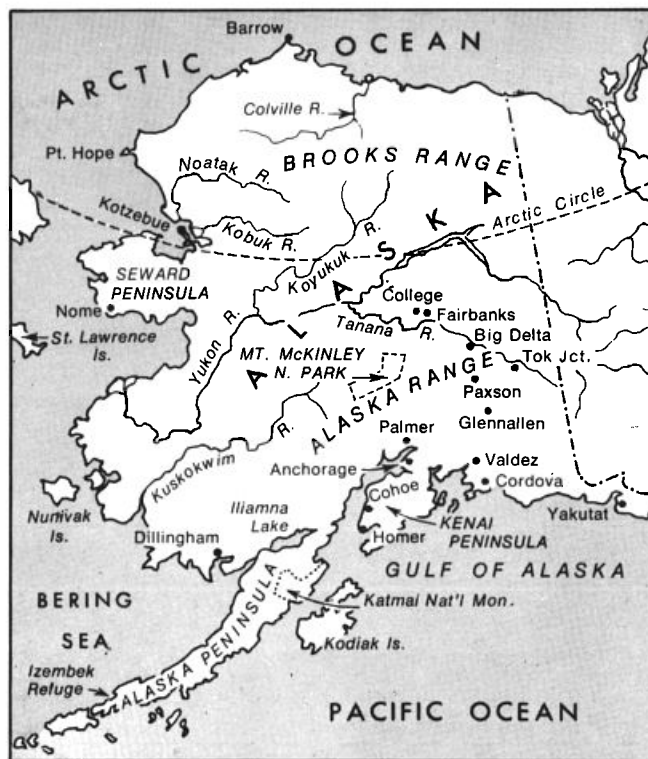
A few species arrived May 13-17 (end Group 2 and early Group 3), but their population densities did not build until 5-8 days later than normal. After this time, the rest of Group 3's arrival times were spaced out and late, and, with the exception of Swainson's Thrush, final breeding densities were 22% to 67% lower than in 1982.

Yellow-rumped Warbler presented a particularly interesting situation in 1983. The first birds arrived early (April 27-28), but a main movement never materialized and, well into May, very few birds were present in the Fairbanks area. The first male seen at BK's house was on May 12, and by May 18 numbers seemed to be slowly increasing. Based on her census data, the breeding population was down only 10.1% from her 7-year mean and only 4.3% from 1982, but the population did not reach this level until 2-2.5 weeks later than normal, *i.e.*, until the fourth week of May.

Spring migration 1983 did not seem completely articulated elsewhere in the Region either; although there were many early individuals of a variety of species, data were much more sketchy from other areas, and it was difficult to determine if only *individuals* were early, in many cases, or if the *population* of a species was early. To no one's surprise the Aleutians generated much excitement, as usual, including two additions to the Alaska list. Some of the highlights of spring 1983 follow.

**WATERFOWL** — Early waterfowl were mentioned by numerous observers, *e.g.*, 30 Canada Geese at Kasilof Mar. 31 (JS, *fide* MAM); a pair of Garganeys at Adak I., c. Aleutians May 1-5 (JK, VK, FZ, MZ); a Cinnamon Teal at Petersburg Apr. 20 (PIH, JP); one Eur. Wigeon at Anchorage Apr. 9 (DFD) and eight of them at Cold Bay Apr. 15 (CPD); Redheads at Anchorage Apr. 6 (RLS) and at Fairbanks Apr. 16 (BP). No Tufted Ducks were seen in the c. Aleutians this season, but a new state high was established at Attu May 16, when 53 birds, including a flock of 31, were counted. A pair of Lesser Scaup at St. Paul I., Pribilofs June 6 (TGT *et al.*) provided only the second Bering Sea record (see AB 31:363).

**HAWKS, EAGLES AND FALCONS** — A **Common Buzzard** (*Buteo buteo*) seen well in flight over Nizki I., w. Aleutians, May 26 (†FZ) will be added to Alaska's unsubstantiated list as a well-documented



single-observer sighting. White-tailed Eagles used the same Attu I. cliff nest site as in 1982; at least one nestling was being fed by a pair of adults May 29. A **Hobby** (*Falco subbuteo*) observed at Attu May 20 (†TGT & †NSP *et al.*) provided Alaska's first substantiated record of this widespread Old World falcon.

**SHOREBIRDS, GULLS AND TERNS** — Killdeers were widely reported this spring. Two birds arrived at Anchorage Mar. 20 (JLT), and several pairs were present there during May (RLS). One was seen at Valdez May 20-25 (GJT, JB), but none was reported at Fairbanks until June. Well beyond the normal range were Killdeers at Kotzebue May 21 (RLS) and at Wales May 28+ (MLW). An imm. **Black-winged Stilt** (*Himantopus himantopus*) observed on a small pond at Nizki May 24-June 2 (†FZ ph., JEH, †MSE) provided an astounding first record for Alaska. This species is apparently an uncommon migrant in Japan, so its occurrence in the w. Aleutians was quite unexpected.

Wood Sandpipers occurred in respectable numbers in the w. Aleutians (max. 103, Attu, May 20). The fourth and fifth records of **Green Sandpiper** in Alaska were of singles at Nizki May 24 (†FZ *et al.*) and at Shemya May 29-June 1 (†DWS ph.), the latter the first photo-substantiated Alaska record (there is no specimen). Whimbrels (*hudsonicus*) arrived right on schedule, *e.g.*, Anchorage Apr. 30 (DFD) and Fairbanks May 6 (TP, DDG & BK); a Whimbrel (*variegatus*) at Adak May 5 (FZ, MZ) was record-early, but most of the c. and w. Aleutian passage of this form took place on time, during the last week of May. At least one Bristle-thighed Curlew was seen at Middleton I., Gulf of Alaska May 8 (DWS) and two+ were seen there May 14 (m.ob.), both on time (see AB 35:853), the latter during a one-day trip by numerous observers. Single **Far Eastern Curlews** at Nizki May 24 (JEH, *fide* FZ) and at Attu May 25-28 were among the earliest records of the species in Alaska. The only report of Marbled Godwit this spring was of one bird at Middle Bay, Kodiak I., May 10 (RAM). Ruddy Turnstones were not recorded at Kodiak, where usually seen in small numbers in spring (RAM), but were much more numerous than usual in the w. Aleutians (max. 31 each at Shemya [DWS] and at Attu, both June 1); fifty Ruddy Turnstones at Fairbanks May 21 (BAA) was unparalleled; this species is casual, and in very small numbers, in C. Alaska.

A most impressive flight comprising Gray-tailed Tattlers, Terek Sandpipers, and Rufous-necked Stints moved through the w. Aleutians at the very end of May. **Seventy-seven** Gray-tailed Tattlers, including a flock of 35, were seen at Attu May 30; 24 were seen at Shemya (DWS)

and a flock of six was seen at nearby Alaid I (FZ), on the 31st Seventeen Terek Sandpipers were seen at Attu May 30 (flock of 14 on May 28), 18 (including flock of 15) were seen at Alaid (FZ *et al.*) May 31, and four were seen at Shemya (DWS) June 1. *Forty-five* Rufous-neckeds were seen at Attu May 30; 26 were seen at Shemya (DWS) and 21+ were counted on 1 mi of beach at Alaid (FZ *et al.*), May 31. Shemya also produced one **Little Stint**, studied amid Rufous-neckeds May 31 (†DWS ph.), providing the seventh Alaska record, the fourth adult in spring or summer; a Curlew Sandpiper June 1 (†DWS), for the third Aleutian record; and a new state high count of 34 Com. Sandpipers, including a flock of 15 on May 29 (DWS). Many observers commented that N. Phalaropes were late and their numbers were low.

An ad. Ross' Gull on the Alaid beach May 29 (†FZ, JEH, †MSE) was amazing, the first substantiated Aleutian record. This species is quite rare at this season even in N. Alaska, so two birds seen at Pt. Franklin (adult May 31 and immature June 14, PGC & REG) are of interest as well. Common Terns (*longipennis*) were rather more widely reported than usual. Three birds were present at Shemya May 26-June 1 (DWS); one was seen on the high seas in the Bering Sea, at 58°08'N 175°45'W, May 27 (RHD *et al.*); at least two were seen at Attu June 1; and up to two birds were observed at Gambell, St. Lawrence I., June 1 & 4 (JLD *et al.*)

**PARIDS THROUGH THRUSHES** — A Gray-headed Chickadee was observed at Peter Cleaver L., Koyukuk R., in w. C. Alaska Mar. 30 (TOO), the only one reported all winter. Alaska's third and fourth **Dusky Warblers** were singles aboard ship in the Bering Sea (at 57°04'N 179°37'W on May 31; RHD, DJF, JSH ph.\*) and at Gambell (June 5-6, JLD *et al.*, †RLS). A ♂ **Red-breasted Flycatcher** at Shemya May 31 (†DWS) became the third state record; two Gray-spotted Flycatchers, a less-than-annual species, were seen at Attu May 30-June 2.

Siberian Rubythroats arrived a week early at Attu (♂, May 20—PI); they were present almost daily thereafter; a male seen at Wales May 30 (MLW) provided the first mainland record of this handsome skulker. A ♂ Bluethroat at Wales May 26 (MLW) was record-early by 2 days. A ♀ Wheatear seen in Thompson Pass May 28 (GJT) is of interest because the species is rare and not well known in the mountains fringing Prince William Sound; the earliest report of this trans-Bering Strait migrant in 1983 was of five birds on Ester Dome, Fairbanks, May 13 (RHD). Exceptionally early Mountain Bluebirds were single males at Peters-

burg, s e Alaska, Apr 1 (PIH *et al.*) and at Fairbanks, beyond the w fringe of the species' normal range, Apr. 13-14 (DRH *et al.*). A Swainson's Thrush was carefully studied May 31 at Gambell (JLD *et al.*), where it provided a first record for any of the Bering Sea islands.

**WAXWINGS THROUGH FINCHES** — The geographic origin of Bohemian Waxwings seen at Attu (five plus, May 16-June 4) and at Amukta I., c. Aleutians (up to four, May 24-June 19—FD *et al.*), is problematic, since no specimen was obtained. Although *B. g. centralasiatica*, a straggler to the Commander Is., from Japan or from mainland Asia and unknown in Alaska, seems the likely bird at those locations, the issue was complicated by a Bohemian Waxwing seen June 9 at St Paul (KS, TGT *et al.*), where the only prior record is of Nearctic *B. g. pallidiceps* (in spring), and by a pair seen June 17 at King Salmon, Alaska Pen. (DDG), at the limit of trees, where the latter form is known as an irregular mid- and late summer visitant. The only prior Aleutian record of the species is an Amchitka specimen of *pallidiceps* taken in fall.

A ♂ Red-winged Blackbird arrived at Anchorage, where rare, Apr. 15 (MH, *vide* DFD). As in Fairbanks, Lincoln's Sparrow was early at Valdez, where one bird was seen Apr. 29; the species was unusually numerous there in early May (GJT). Bramblings occurred at Attu on schedule and in normal, small numbers (day max. 15); one male was seen at Gambell, where the species is casual in spring June 5 (JLD *et al.*), and a female found dead at Pt. Franklin June 8 (PGC & REG\*) constituted only the second N. Alaska record, first in spring.

**CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS (SUB-REGIONAL EDITOR IN BOLDFACE), ABBREVIATIONS** — [Unattributed Attu Island observations are by ATTOUR (L.G. Balch, T.G. Tobish, N S Proctor, D.D. Gibson *et al.*)] B.A. Anderson, J. Barringer, P.G. Connors, C.P. Dau, R.H. Day, F. Deines, D.F. DeLap, J.L. Dunn, M S Eltzroth, D.J. Forsell, R.E. Gill, J.E. Hamernick, J.S. Hawkings, P J Heglund, M. Heller, D.R. Herter, P. Isleib, B. Kessel, J. Klett, V Klett, R.A. MacIntosh, P.D. Martin, M.A. Miller, T.O. Osborne, J Parker, B. Peterson, T. Pogson, N.S. Proctor, K. Schafer, R.L. Scher, J. Stopes, D.W. Sonneborn, G.J. Tans, **T.G. Tobish**, J.L. Trapp, M.L Ward, F. Zeillemaker, M. Zeillemaker; † details on file U.A.M., ph photograph on file U.A.M., \* specimen at U.A.M.—**D.D. GIBSON, University of Alaska Museum, 907 Yukon Drive, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.**

## NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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

March was a continuation of the warm, wet winter. Thereafter rainfall was about normal overall, although temperatures remained higher than usual. Most of the season's rarities were found May 16-23. This was a period of almost no precipitation and of light westerly winds, following a frontal passage May 14-15. Reports of Dusky Flycatcher and American Redstarts on the coast, Yellow-breasted Chat and Bobolink in southwestern British Columbia, and Lark Sparrows in the San Juan Islands were all of species that nest just east of the Cascades. The Curlew Sandpiper, Laughing Gull, and Canada Warbler were from farther afield.

Frequently used abbreviations: N.J.C.R.-N. Jetty Columbia R., S J C.R.-S. Jetty Columbia R., V.I.-Vancouver I., B.C.

**LOONS THROUGH SHEARWATERS** — The Yellow-billed Loon found on Saanich Inlet, V.I., last winter stayed through Mar. 23 (J & RSa, VG, J. Will). There were 6 sightings of Yellow-billed Loons at 4 localities in the Vancouver, B.C., area Apr. 13-May 1 (*vide* DK). Elsewhere single Yellow-billeds were at Parksville, V.I., Apr. 29 (AP), and at the mouth of the Palix R., Pacific Co., Wash., Apr. 25-May 9 (†CC). There were 2800± Arctic Loons Apr. 13 in Active Pass, B.C., which is a regular concentration point for this species (AP). There were numerous reports of N movements of hundreds of Common and Arctic

loons along the coast, almost all Apr. 23-May 1. A Red-throated Loon was at Finley N.W.R., near Corvallis, Oreg., Apr. 23 (MH, *vide* E & EE). This species is unusual in the Willamette Valley.

A large flock of 40 Eared Grebes was off Iona I., B.C., Apr. 20 (GT) Censuses of Saanich Inlet, Satellite Channel, and Cowichan Bay, s V.I., showed 8000+ W. Grebes present Mar. 14 & 22, 4100+ Apr 19, 380 Apr. 29, and 127 May 14 (VG *et al.*). All W. Grebes for which color phase was specifically reported were of the dark form (EH, DFi)

A Laysan Albatross was seen Mar. 6 20± mi off Garibaldi, Oreg (M. Smith). Pelagic birding trips out of Coos Bay, Oreg., Apr. 29-May 1 and out of Westport, Wash., May 1 each found 40± Black-footed Albatrosses and 20± N. Fulmars. Only seven Pink-footed Shearwaters were seen off Westport (TW *et al.*) and a "handful" were off Coos Bay (DF *et al.*). Although this date is about 2 weeks earlier than usual the counts are dramatically lower than the average of about 65 Pink-footeds per Westport trip over the last 7 spring seasons. Single Short-tailed Shearwaters were found dead May 11 & 14 on n.w. Oregon beaches (B Loeffel, HN).

**PELICANS THROUGH MERGANSERS** — Echoing last spring's early influx of Brown Pelicans into s. Oregon, single adults were seen just s. of Florence Apr. 23 (DR) and off Cape Arago Apr. 30 (DFi *et al.*). Four (one ad., two imm., and one unaged) were at the s. jetty of the Siuslaw R., near Florence May 10-11 (DFi), and 21 were in Grays Harbor, Wash., May 30 (MMo). A stray White Pelican stayed around



Vancouver I., Vancouver, Wash., Apr. 9-May 22 (D. Reisbick, WC *et al.*).

Along the Columbia R., the Great Blue Heron colonies on Reed I., near Washougal, Wash., had 138 active nests Apr. 13, and the colony on nearby Pierce I., had 59 nests (WC *et al.*). In addition to the now regular Snowy Egrets at Coos Bay, a single was found Apr. 16 at Finley N.W.R., Oreg., where the species is accidental (E & EE *et al.*). There were sightings of an ad. White-faced Ibis at Wapato L., near Forest Grove, Oreg., May 2 (VT, JGa) and at Sauvie I., near Portland May 5-8 (JGi *et al.*).

An ad. "blue" Snow Goose was seen Mar. 20 with several thousand Snow Geese at the Skagit flats, Wash. (D. Norman) for only the third record for w. Washington. Since the "blue" form is very rare in this population that breeds on Wrangel I., and the Skagit flats are well watched by birders, this bird could have been a displaced migrant. However, the picture is complicated by a single free-flying "Blue" Goose that has been resident at Reifel I., B.C., for some time and that was absent from there during early spring (C. Trefry). A late flock of 40 Snow Geese was noted May 15 at Blackie Spit, Crescent Beach, B.C. (BK).

The widespread arrival of Blue-winged Teal in late April was on schedule. One at Iona I., B.C., Apr. 23 (BK) was a few days ahead of the average first date. The last sightings of several "Eur." Green-winged Teal were much earlier than usual: Mar. 20 at Iona I. (BK), Mar. 28 at Saanich, V.I. (A. Knowles), Apr. 8 at Finley N.W.R. (JKr) and Apr. 17 at Seattle, Wash. (DB). One of the ♂ Tufted Ducks found this winter in Seattle stayed to at least Mar. 21 (W. Fogelman). A few Oldsquaws were later than usual in leaving the s. parts of the Region. A male and five females were on Willapa Bay Apr. 27 (CC *et al.*), a male was at Coos Bay Apr. 29-May 1 (DFi, HN *et al.*), and a male stayed on Yaquina Bay, Oreg., until May 18 (R & JKr, J. Shewey). A ♀ Com. Merganser and seven very young chicks traversed the ocean surf May 15 just s. of Florence, Oreg. (DFi).

**VULTURES THROUGH CRANES** — Subsequent to the usual scattered reports of Turkey Vultures in late February, several transient groups of up to 45 vultures were noted Mar. 21-30 at roost trees along I-5 at Phoenix, Oreg. (MjM). Also, N-moving kettles of 25+ vultures were seen over Ashland and Medford Mar. 31-Apr. 3 (MjM). The 40+ White-tailed Kites that wintered in w. Oregon dispersed as usual. There were reports from only 5 Oregon localities this season. Pairs were found at Corvallis (M. McInnis, *vide* E & EE) and on the Wilson R. meadows

e. of Tillamook (D. Anderson). Three adults were found on the White-tailed Deer N.W.R., near Skamokawa, Wash., during February and March (A. Richards, A. Musche, M. Morteck *et al.*). Two kites were seen Apr. 8 working the dikes along the Palix R., near Bay Center, Wash. (†T. Lund) and one was nearby at the mouth of the North R., Apr. 22 (P. Martin, *vide* CC).

Last year's Cooper's Hawk nest in Beacon Hill P., Victoria, V.I., was occupied again this season (J & RSa, MN). In addition, MN found 3 other active Cooper's Hawk nests in s. Vancouver I., two in Oak Bay and one in Saanich. The ad. Red-shouldered Hawk that wintered in the Oaks Bottom area of Portland was last seen Mar. 12 (M. Houck, S. Jagers). Two nesting pairs of Red-tailed Hawks, one at the mouth of the Humptulips R., near Ocean Shores, Wash., and the other s.w. of Philomath, near Corvallis, Oreg., contain distinctively marked partial-to-near-albino individuals. This is the 12th known nesting season for the Philomath bird (E & EE) and about the tenth for the Ocean Shores bird (DP, G & WHO). The Mar. 26 sighting of about 50 Red-tailed Hawks heading E from Neah Bay, Wash., along the Straits of Juan de Fuca (J. Fackler, B. Anderson) was one of few such reports of raptor migration in the Region. An active Golden Eagle nest was found Apr. 6 along the Mollala R., e. of Salem, Oreg. (C. Bruce *et al.*, *vide* E & EE).

The only Gyrfalcon report was of one in C. Saanich, V.I., Mar. 11 (DFr, J. Fitzpatrick). A Prairie Falcon seen May 8 at White Rock, B.C., furnished only the second record for the Vancouver area (†M. Schouten). Those observers and area compilers reporting for the last 4 years noted about the same number of Peregrines (18+) and Merlins (28+) this spring as in previous years. Noteworthy were the three Peregrines at once over Tatoosh I., off Cape Flattery, Wash., Mar. 29 (B. Paine), and one pale adult, thought to be *tundrius*, at Florence, Oreg., May 15 (DFi, AD, DR). Two pairs of Merlins were in the Campbell R., V.I., area throughout the season (H. Telosky).

**Mountain Quail** are rare n. of c. Oregon, but a small population has existed for some years on s. Vancouver I. A male was seen Apr. 18 along the road to Grass L., in Sooke Mountain P.P., V.I. (W. Campbell) for one of few recent records. There were 400 Sandhill Cranes Mar. 19 at their regular stop on Sauvie I., Oreg. (HN). Flocks of 70 were over Eugene Mar. 8 (DFi) and at Neah Bay, Wash., Apr. 9 (M. Carmody). The first arrival noted at the Pitt Meadows, B.C., breeding location was Mar. 20 (TP).

**SHOREBIRDS** — A Snowy Plover nest with 2 eggs was found May 24 at Ocean Shores, Wash. (G & WHO). A very early Semipalmated Plover was at Iona I., B.C., Apr. 1 (DA). The first arrival on Willapa Bay, Wash., was Apr. 16, and the peak of the migration there was 600 Apr. 27 (CC *et al.*). The first arrival on s. Vancouver I., only 120 mi to the n., was not until Apr. 30, and the high count there was 30+ on May 7 (*vide* VG). A pair was noted mating May 14 at the Sandspit airport, Graham I., Queen Charlotte Is., B.C. (M. Force). Two very early Am. Golden Plovers were on Pony Slough, Coos Bay, Oreg., Mar. 26 (VT). The only others reported were one at Ocean Shores, Apr. 23 (G & WHO), six at Coos Bay Apr. 30 (T. Crabtree, HN), two at Boundary Bay Apr. 28 (JI, DA), and one there May 4 (I. Robertson, V. Thomas). Peak counts of Black-bellied Plovers occurred Apr. 10-25, with 900 around Willapa Bay Apr. 22 (CC *et al.*) and 300 at Blackie Spit, B.C., Apr. 25 (DK).

The 84 Ruddy Turnstones around Willapa Bay May 15 (CC *et al.*), and 90 on Leadbetter Pt. (R. Widrig) the same day, constituted the peak of movement for this predominately outer coastal migrant. A single individual May 15 at West Pt., Seattle, provided the first King County record (EH). A single **Bristle-thighed Curlew** sighted May 13-14 with a flock of Whimbrels at Blackie Spit was closely seen and well described for the first record for the Vancouver area, and only the third for British Columbia (†MP). The 2 other spring records for the Region are May 1 (AB 36:887) and May 31 (Auk 87:815), and both were found along the outer coast.

Sixteen sightings of Solitary Sandpipers were spread from two very early at Finley N.W.R., Apr. 8 (R & JKr, *vide* E & EE) to one at Forest Grove, Oreg., May 21 (JGa). High counts for Greater Yellowlegs were flocks of 100± birds at Iona I., B.C., Apr. 12 & 15 (BK) and around Willapa Bay Apr. 14 (CC *et al.*). On May 1, a flock of 20± was seen 35 mi off Westport (TW *et al.*). The only Willet reports were of the wintering flock at the North R., Wash., which gradually left during

April (CC *et al.*), one at Iona I., Apr 20 (†BK), the first Vancouver area spring record, and three sightings Apr. 23-May 11 at Blackie Spit and adjacent Boundary Bay, B.C. (†BK, †MP, DJ).

Further information on the extreme site-specific nature of the N migration of Red Knots was provided by daily censuses during most of April and May of up to a dozen locations in the n. part of Willapa Bay, Wash., by CC *et al.* First arrivals were flocks totaling 63 a few mi w. of South Bend Apr. 10. By Apr. 22 there were 1300 ± Red Knots along Willapa Bay, and May 12-15 there were 3500 ± present. Departure was rapid, with only 315 left May 18. Elsewhere there were 80 at Ocean Shores Apr. 30 (PM), 300 there May 7 & 8 (DP), 23 at Tillamook May 7 (J Hannum, K. Hamilton, *vide* R. Palmer), 14 at the S.J.C.R., May 15 (DFi *et al.*), nine at the mouth of the Dungeness R., Wash., May 15 (MMo), and seven on the Roberts Bank jetty, Delta, B.C., May 21 (DK, S Howell).

Another team of shorebirds students led by S. Herman monitored the migratory passage at development-threatened Bowerman Basin, Hoquiam, Wash. These observers determined a peak count there Apr. 24 of 450,000 shorebirds, mostly W. Sandpipers. Other high counts of Westerns were 76,000 around Willapa Bay Apr. 23 (CC *et al.*), 8000 at Boundary Bay Apr. 24 (GT) and 8000 on Iona I., Apr. 30-May 1 (W & HHe, GT). There were 5 sightings of single Semipalmated Sandpipers at Iona I., Apr. 29-May 14 (BK *et al.*), one at Metchosin Lagoon, s. V.I., Apr. 30 (KT), and one at the S.J.C.R., May 14 (HN). There were 8 sightings of Baird's Sandpipers from Coos Bay and Tillamook, Oreg., Clover Pt., Victoria, and Iona I. All were of single birds except the two-three at Iona I., May 23-24 (BK, MF, TP). A **Curlew Sandpiper** was closely observed May 17 on Leadbetter Pt. (†RKn) for the second spring record for Washington. A single Rock Sandpiper in breeding plumage was still at the Ocean Shores jetty on the late date of May 24 (G & WHO). High counts of Dunlins were the 11,000 on Willapa Bay Apr. 9-10 (CC *et al.*) and the 5000 on Boundary Bay Apr. 16 (DK).

A single Short-billed Dowitcher at Boundary Bay Apr. 3 (BK) was very early. Their migration peaked in late April with 26,000 around Willapa Bay Apr. 23 (CC *et al.*), and 500 at Iona I., Apr. 26 (BK). The high counts of Long-billed Dowitchers were 117 near Medford May 8 (MjM), and 150 at Iona I., May 15 (WW). A first year (unbarred breast, *vide* DP) Marbled Godwit found Apr. 22 near Blaine, Wash. (†WW) and probably this bird again at nearby Blackie Spit May 1-25 (†BK *et al.*, P. Yorke, ph.) provided the fifth spring record for the Vancouver area. On May 11 there was a second individual present at Blackie Spit (†MP). Two other first-year Marbled Godwits were noted at Ocean Shores May 8 (DP). An **Hudsonian Godwit** at Long Beach, near Ucluelet, V.I., Apr. 30 (AP) furnished the first report for Pacific Rim N.P.

**JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS** — Two Pomarine Jaegers seen Mar. 4 off North Head, near Ilwaco, Wash., were very early (†RW). Single Pomarines were seen from the N.J.C.R., May 1 (RW, CC, RKn) and at sea off Westport the same day (TW *et al.*).

There were six Glaucous Gulls reported, which is the average number for the last 5 spring seasons. The latest was an adult in Richmond, B.C., May 17 (DK). An ad. and a first-winter Herring Gull still present at Florence, Oreg., May 15 (DFi) and an ad. Thayer's Gull at Gilbert Beach, Richmond May 21 (DK) were the latest reports. A first-winter **Iceland Gull** was seen and well described Feb. 27 in Vancouver, B.C. (†BK, DK, S. Cannings). The white primaries, delicate brown barring on the mantle, wing coverts, and tail, small body size relative to Glaucous-wingeds, and slender bill were among the field marks noted. An ad **Laughing Gull** was seen May 18 along Willapa Bay near South Bend, Wash. (†CC, G. Wallace) for the second documented report for the state. An imm. Little Gull was noted Apr. 5 in Active Pass, V.I., with a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls (†P. Arcese) for the second spring record for B.C. An imm. Heermann's Gull at Gilbert Beach, Richmond May 1-9 (†BK, †WW *et al.*) furnished one of very few spring records for the Vancouver area. Two other imm. Heermann's at the N.J.C.R., Wash., May 5 (CC *et al.*) were also very early that far n. An unusual onshore flock of 12 Sabine's Gulls, including both adults and immatures, was noted Apr. 30 at the N.J.C.R. (RW, RKn), and five were still there the next day (CC). Single first-year Sabine's Gulls were seen May 1 offshore Coos Bay (AD, †DFi) and May 11 from the s. jetty of the Siuslaw R., near Florence, Oreg. (†DFi). An ad. Sabine's Gull was noted at Yaquina Bay, Oreg., May 21 (R. Bayer).

Two Arctic Terns standing on the beach with Com Terns at Tokeland, Wash., May 12 (CC) and one there May 13 (P. Martin) were the only ones reported. Two Caspian Terns at Tokeland by Apr. 2 (B Morse) were the earliest ever for Washington. Two Caspian Terns were found May 14 n. to Moresby I., Queen Charlotte Is., B.C. (MF). A Black Tern was present at the Medford sewage ponds May 14, and two were there May 21 (MjM). A gathering of 75+ Marbled Murrelets May 11 just off the s. jetty of the Siuslaw R., near Florence (DFi) was unusual for that late in the season.

**OWLS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS** — A Burrowing Owl was on the jetty at Iona I., B.C., Mar. 11 (†TP). The Burrowing Owls that wintered in the Rogue R. valley of Oregon were last seen Mar. 14 in Medford, and Apr. 13 near Agate L. (MjM). Barred Owl nests with young were found during May in East Sooke, s. V.I. (P. Axhorn, HHO), and in Discovery P., Seattle (DH, DB). A Barred Owl was heard calling above Glide, e. of Roseburg, Oreg., Mar. 31 (M. Sawyer, *vide* DFi). A Great Gray Owl was seen May 31 n.e. of Ashland, Oreg. (MjM), near where a pair nested last summer. The Long-eared Owl found last February in Scoggins Valley P., near Forest Grove, Oreg., was seen there through the season (VT, JGa). An imm. Saw-whet Owl just out of a nest was observed May 17 near L. Whatcom, Bellingham (M. Vance, *vide* TW).

An extremely early Com. Nighthawk was seen at close range Mar. 8 near Fern Ridge Res., Eugene (TM, *vide* DFi). Vaux's Swifts arrived on schedule; Apr. 14 in Eugene (DFi), Apr. 18-19 at Finley N.W.R., and Corvallis (MH, RKr, E & EE), Apr. 22 in Portland (RSm), and May 1 in Burnaby, B.C. (JI). Three **White-throated Swifts** were seen Apr. 27 over L. Louise, Bellingham (†RK) for the first spring record for Washington.

An Anna's Hummingbird nest with 2 eggs was found during late February in an apple orchard near Medford. The nest was covered with plastic during spraying, and two nestlings were seen Mar. 18 & 28 (J McGraw). However, on Mar. 30 the nest was gone and an adult wing was found beneath the tree. This was the second nest report and the third breeding record for Oregon. On Mar. 6 in Discovery P., Seattle, DH & B. Doe censused 25 territorial ♂ Anna's Hummingbirds and a female at a nest 60 ft up in an alder.

Four ♂ *Selasphorus* sp. hummingbirds with distinct green backs were seen in Washington this season. They were in Poulsbo Mar. 16+ (*vide* JC), Redmond April 23+ (EH, G. Gerds), Ocean Shores S.P., Apr. 17-May 1 (JC *et al.*, PM *et al.*), and at the s. end of Willapa Bay Apr. 27 (RW). Only the observers of the Redmond bird were able to see the shape of the second rectrix, which is the significant field mark to distinguish Allen's from Rufous (F. Stiles, *Condor* 74:25). That rectrix was clearly notched, and their bird was a green-backed ♂ Rufous Hummingbird.

Ten of the 11 Calliope Hummingbirds reported first appeared May 2-8. A male was in Vancouver, B.C., where they are rare (W & HHe), a male hit a window in Tualatin, near Portland (V. Dorsey), and another was found dead in Corvallis May 2 for the first Benton County record (B. Crowell, *vide* E & EE). The only reports of birds lingering more than a few days were the two males at the Merlin exit off I-5 n. of Grants Pass, Oreg., May 4-21 (DFi, A. Contreras), and a male in Ashland, Oreg., Apr. 13-May 22 (MjM).

There were five W. Kingbirds in the Portland area May 7 (*vide* HN), and four others just n. of Portland May 10-11 (JGi, WC) but the 12+ gathered on Leadbetter Pt., Wash., May 22 was a most unusual concentration (RW, RKn). Seven Say's Phoebes were reported, Mar. 12-Apr 5. A Dusky Flycatcher was seen and heard May 22 on Leadbetter Pt (RW, RKn), and two were on territory in a clearcut near Hagg L., w. of Forest Grove, Oreg., May 30 (VT, D. Lustoff). A very early W. Flycatcher was seen and heard Apr. 4 in Saanich (H. Vander Pol). Elsewhere first arrivals were Apr. 18-23 throughout the Region. First arrivals of Olive-sided Flycatchers were May 6-11.

**SKYLARKS THROUGH WAXWINGS** — A census of Eur. Skylarks on the Saanich Pen., yielded 42 singing males at 12 locations (A MacLeod, HHO). The high count was of 16 males at the Victoria airport Mar. 19. Widespread first arrivals of Violet-green Swallows n. to Vancouver, B.C., occurred Mar. 6-10. Fifty Cliff Swallows Mar. 7 at the Medford sewage ponds (MjM), several Mar. 17 at Walton, w. of Eu-

gene (TM), and five Mar. 31 at Jericho P., Vancouver, B.C. (MP) were all earlier than usual. The only Bank Swallows reported were one at Blackie Spit, B.C., May 11 (MP) and two at Iona I., May 17 (GT).

A Scrub Jay was at Coos Bay Mar. 26 (VT). Two Wrentits were found near Dallas, Oreg., Apr. 18 (R. Gerig). A White-breasted Nuthatch in Apodaca P.P., near W. Vancouver May 1 (A & JGr *et al.*) furnished only the sixth record for the Vancouver, B.C., area. A pair of White-breasted were feeding almost fledged young May 22 in Fort Steilacoom P., Tacoma, Wash. (CC). First arrivals of House Wrens were noted in w. Oregon and s. Vancouver I., Apr. 13-19. A Mockingbird appeared Mar. 7+ for the third straight year on territory in Medford (MjM). The one that wintered in Phoenix, Oreg., stayed through Apr. 19, and may have been the one that was seen nearby at Central Pt., Apr. 24 (MjM). A Mockingbird seen near South Bend, Wash., Apr. 3 & 10 was reported to have spent the winter in the area (CC). Another was seen on Fisher Butte, near Eugene May 15+ (DFi, B. Combs *et al.*).

The first W. Bluebird egg noted near Corvallis this season was found Mar. 18, 2 weeks earlier than any in the past 8 years (E & EE). Young W. Bluebirds in Paczolt's boxes near Medford Apr. 20 were the earliest on record (MjM). Three boxes in the Metchoshin, V.I., area fledged young by late May (*vide* VG). Eighteen of the 22 migrant Townsend's Solitaires noted were found Apr. 6-19, and most were in w. Washington or the Vancouver, B.C., area. The **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** found in February near Westport was seen again Mar. 15 & 21 (CC, J. Buchanan *et al.*). The only Bohemian Waxwing reported was one seen with Cedars Apr. 14 in Dungeness, Wash., on the late date of Apr. 14 (D. & S. Smith).

**VIREOS AND WARBLERS** — A pair of Hutton's Vireos was feeding nestlings Apr. 7 in Discovery P. (DH *et al.*). Two Warbling Vireos in Eugene Apr. 22 were the first reported (DFi). First arrivals from Corvallis n. to Vancouver, B.C., were Apr. 27-May 6. Spring arrival of Orange-crowned Warblers was Apr. 1-2 in Metchoshin, V.I. (VG), and Vancouver, B.C. (A & JGr). Large numbers of migrant Orange-crowns were noted in Eugene Apr. 4-9 (DFi), and throughout the Region Apr. 16-May 7. Arrival of Nashville Warblers in Eugene and Medford was on schedule Apr. 15-21 (S. Heintl, MjM). There were three sightings of Nashville Warblers Apr. 18-26 in the Vancouver, B.C., area, where they are rare migrants (MP, DJ). Single Yellow Warblers were early at Mandarte I., off Sidney, B.C., Mar. 13 (DFr) and at Grants Pass, Oreg., Mar. 25 (MjM). Other local first arrivals spanned Apr. 16-May 4, with no clear pattern or concentration. Two Black-throated Gray Warblers Apr. 1 in Saanich (F. & R. Stoba, *vide* VG) and one Apr. 9 near Seattle (ME) were very early. First sightings in Medford, Eugene, and Corvallis were Apr. 7-9, and in other Seattle-area localities, s. Vancouver I., and near Vancouver, B.C., Apr. 20-24.

A Palm Warbler, rare in spring, was seen Apr. 6 at Newport, Oreg. (R. Lawrence, *vide* E & EE), and two were found Apr. 23 at Swan L., Saanich, V.I. (KT, R. Prior). A ♀-plumaged **Canada Warbler** was sighted May 23 at Pitt Meadows, e. of Vancouver, B.C., for the first Regional report (†GT). A MacGillivray's Warbler in Bellevue, Wash., Apr. 11 (ME) was very early. Elsewhere first arrivals were spread irregularly over Apr. 18-May 4. A Com. Yellowthroat found Mar. 7 at Pitt Meadows, B.C. (C. Butt), was over a month earlier than the usual arrival, and could possibly have wintered nearby. Most first arrival dates of yellowthroats were Apr. 1-17 throughout the Region. A Yellow-breasted Chat in Jericho P., Vancouver, B.C., May 16 furnished the eighth Vancouver area record (†MP). First arrivals of Wilson's Warblers in Puget Sound localities, s. V.I., and the Vancouver, B.C., area were Apr. 23-30. Two imm. ♂ Am. Redstarts were at Leadbetter Pt., May 21 (RW, RKn), and an ad. ♀ Am. Redstart was there May 23 (RW). These provided the fifth and sixth outer coastal records for Washington.

**BOBOLINK THROUGH BUNTINGS** — A ♀ Bobolink seen May 28 at Iona I., B.C. (†MF, †TP, L. Koch) furnished the ninth Vancouver area record. This is the fifth straight year that a Bobolink has appeared in the Vancouver, B.C., area or in Seattle May 24-June 3. A nesting colony of 20± pairs of Tricolored Blackbirds was discovered near the Medford airport May 17+ (O. Swisher, m.ob.). Northern Orioles had arrived in the Rogue R. valley of s. Oregon by Apr. 16 & 23 (MjM). Arrival over the remainder of the Region n. to Vancouver, B.C., was

during Apr. 30-May 8. One of the Hooded Orioles found last winter in Coos Bay stayed until Mar. 6 (RSm). A ♂ Rusty Blackbird Mar. 6 and a female Mar. 31 were sighted at Pitt Meadows (GT). First arrivals of W. Tanagers appeared May 3-5 at several localities from the Rogue R. valley n. to Vancouver, B.C. On May 13, a male was heard and seen on Graham I., for what may have been the first record for the Queen Charlotte Is. (MF).

Evening Grosbeaks, virtually absent during the winter, staged a small, widely-noted passage during late April-early May, but the species remained scarce throughout the Region. Red Crossbills were much more widely reported from w. Oregon and the Vancouver, B.C., area than last winter. A Vesper Sparrow on Ft. Lewis, Wash., Mar. 7 (T. Bock) was about a month earlier than the usual arrival at that location. The observation of two **Lark Sparrows** May 22 just s. of Friday Harbor, on San Juan I., furnished the fourth spring record for w. Washington (†A. & H. Whiteley). The three Dark-eyed "Slate-colored" Juncos that stayed at Metchoshin, V.I., until Apr. 15 (M & VG) and the one on Leadbetter Pt., Apr. 27 (CC) were the latest of 10 sightings this season. Single Chipping Sparrows Apr. 24 in N. Vancouver, B.C. (MD), May 8 in Bellingham (TW), and May 19-20 in Seattle, (EH) were the only reports for those areas. The Clay-colored Sparrow found last winter in Delta, B.C., stayed until Mar. 5 (DJ).

Four of the eight Harris' Sparrows reported stayed until early May. One near Burlington, Wash., May 12 was the latest (ph. D. McNeely). There were reports of 18 White-throated Sparrows, which is many more than previous spring seasons. The *four* (2a, 2i) that wintered around a feeder in Metchoshin, V.I., all stayed until Apr. 15, with the two immatures there until Apr. 27 (M & VG). Two were at Coos Bay Apr. 30 (DFi *et al.*), one stayed in Ashland until May 3 (MjM), and one was seen in N. Vancouver, B.C., May 7 (MD). The Swamp Sparrow found last winter near Issaquah, Wash., stayed until Mar. 30 (EH, PM). A Lapland Longspur at Iona I., May 15 (WW), and a Snow Bunting at the Boundary Bay, B.C., airport Apr. 17 (BK) were both unusually late.

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American Avocet/drawing by David Clelland.

## MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Jules G. Evens, Richard A. Erickson, Kenneth V. Rosenberg

“El Niño” dominated the marine environment and was perhaps the underlying cause of the continuing excessive precipitation on land. The warm ocean temperatures of winter continued through the period with surface readings of 2°C or more above normal. Despite some NW winds late in the season, nearshore waters never cooled significantly. As a result, most food items (squid, rock fish larvae, anchovy, etc.) were in short supply and the effect on locally breeding seabirds was disastrous (AB, BBO, P.R.B.O.). This ongoing phenomenon will be covered in depth in the forthcoming nesting season report.

Gillnetting may exact an additional toll, as Alan Baldrige points out: “the closure of Monterey Bay inside the 60 foot contour had the effect of driving the refuge fishermen elsewhere in central and northern California. News of heavy murre kills (in the hundreds) in the Half Moon Bay area came towards the end of the period. Gillnetters are now setting their nets in the immediate vicinity of the Farallon Islands group, where bird kills can be expected. Who is to monitor them so far offshore? Setting nets in deep water will still trap deep-diving alcids.”

Precipitation on the mainland was more than twice the norm at many locations from the coast to the Sierran/Cascade divide. The subsequent high water levels benefited nesting waterfowl in Plumas/Lassen area (DAA), the Sacramento Valley (numbers double last year—BED) and Suisun Marsh (unprecedented numbers—BED) but also flooded shorebirds out of some traditional sites while creating others.

All sightings from Palomar and s.e. Farallon Is. (hereafter, F.I.) should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory (hereafter, P.R.B.O.). Reports from these locations were thoroughly provided by Dave DeSante (Palomar), Bob Bokelheide (F.I.) and Phil Henderson (F.I.). Records from “Creighton Ranch” refer to Creighton Ranch Preserve (Nature Conservancy) near Corcoran in Tulare County and from “Gray Lodge” to Gray Lodge Wildlife Management Area, at the junction of Colusa, Butte and Sutter Counties. In the following text, place names in *italics* are counties.

The following are arrival and departure dates of species away from areas of breeding; exceptional dates are indicated with *italics*.

**DEPARTURES:** Horned Grebe May 25 Arcata (RAE), Eared Grebe May 27 Pt. Lobos (JE), Manx Shearwater Mar. 5 Monterey Bay (AB), Whistling Swan Apr. 20 Tomales Bay (*vide* JE), Oldsquaw Mar. 31 Patrick's Point S.P. (*vide* LD), Com. Goldeneye Apr. 30 Moss Landing



(LCB, DR), Hooded Merganser Apr. 30 near Arcata (KVR *et al.*), Canvasback May 6 L. Earl (JAR), Bald Eagle Apr. 4 Humboldt (GIS), Sharp-shinned Hawk May 3 Gray Lodge (BED), Cooper's Hawk May 6 Palomar (DDeS), Swainson's Hawk Mar. 18 Merced (FB), Ferruginous Hawk Apr. 30 Altamont Pass, Alameda (TG), Rough-legged Hawk Mar. 28 Merced N.W.R. (RJB), Merlin Apr. 18 Ft. Dick (RAE), Peregrine Falcon May 25 Arcata (RAE, KVR) Am. Avocet May 20 Arcata (JS), Lesser Yellowlegs May 22 *Marin* (*vide* KFC), Willet May 16 Merced N.W.R. (RJB), Wandering Tattler May 29 Pt. Montara (JE), Ruddy Turnstone June 8 Arcata (RAE), Red Knot June 8 Arcata (RAE), Black Turnstone May 14 F.I., Sanderling May 28 Moss Landing (PU, KHb), Dunlin June 8 Arcata (RAE), Short-billed Dowitcher June 8 Arcata, Long-billed Dowitcher May 22 L. Talawa (JAR), Com. Snipe May 17 Arcata Bottoms (JS), N. Phalarope June 11 Eureka (RAE), Varied Thrush May 22 F.I., “Audubon's” Warbler May 13 Gray Lodge (BED), Townsend's Warbler May 22 Lafayette (LF); Savannah Sparrow May 3 Humboldt (RAE), Lark Sparrow May 7 F.I., Dark-eyed Junco Apr. 13 Merced (RJB), White-crowned Sparrow May 6 Gray Lodge (BED), Golden-crowned Sparrow June 5+ Livermore (AE), White-throated Sparrow May 13 Alviso (*vide* TG), Fox Sparrow May 18 Santa Clara (WB).

**ARRIVALS:** Brown Pelican Mar. 17 F.I., Osprey Mar. 4 Humboldt Bay (*vide* LD), Black-bellied Plover Mar. 13 Lower Klamath N.W.R. (MR, RE), Whimbrel Mar. 5 Merced N.W.R. (RJB), Red Knot Mar. 26 Arcata Bottoms (JS), Short-billed Dowitcher Apr. 5 Crescent City (RAE), Com. Tern Apr. 9 Tomales Bay (JE), Com. Nighthawk May 29 L. Almanor (HG), Black Swift May 12 Dunsmuir (CSt) Vaux's Swift Mar. 28 *Marin* (KFC), Black-chinned Hummingbird Mar. 20 *San Joaquin* (*vide* DY), Rufous Hummingbird Mar. 11 Palomar (P.R.B.O.) and King City (RLR), Allen's Hummingbird Jan. 11 Santa Cruz, Costa's Hummingbird Mar. 6-18 (N.Kerr, DY), Calliope Hummingbird Apr. 5, F.I., W. Kingbird Mar. 24 Fremont (TG), Ash-throated Flycatcher Apr. 9 Merced (RJB, TG), Hammond's Flycatcher Apr. 15 F.I., Dusky Flycatcher Apr. 18 Merced (RJB), Gray Flycatcher Apr. 15 Merced (†RJB), W. Flycatcher Mar. 28 Palomar, W. Wood Pewee Apr. 16 Sutter Buttes (WA) and Berkeley (SFB), Olive-sided Flycatcher Apr. 9 Sonoma (DB, PC), Bank Swallow Apr. 15 S.F. (PU), Barn Swallow Mar. 4 Stockton (DY), Cliff Swallow Feb. 13 Stockton (DY), Purple Martin Mar. 26 Sacramento (B & HK), Swainson's Thrush Apr. 28 Palomar, Solitary Vireo Apr. 9 (late) Menlo Park (WB) and Lafayette (LF), Warbling Vireo Mar. 25 Olema Marsh (JE, DS), Orange-crowned Warbler Mar. 8 Pt. Reyes (*vide* DS), Yellow Warbler Apr. 1 S.F. Zoo (WB), Black-throated Gray Warbler Apr. 2 Carmichael (TM), Hermit Warbler Apr. 15 Creighton Ranch, Tulare (KH, RH), MacGillivray's Warbler Apr. 9 Trinity (JWB), Wilson's Warbler Mar. 19 Sonoma (LCB), Hooded Oriole Mar. 23 Stockton (DY), N. Oriole Mar. 13 S.F. (HP), W. Tanager Apr. 14 Lafayette (LF), Black-headed Grosbeak Apr. 8 Inverness (RS), Blue Grosbeak Apr. 20 *San Joaquin* (DY), Grasshopper Sparrow Apr. 18 Stanislaus (AE).

**LOONS THROUGH HERONS** — Lake Almanor has produced impressive spring concentrations of Com. Loons in the past but 60 there Apr. 20 (DAA) was our greatest inland count ever. A late imm. Yellow-billed Loon was at Pt. Reyes Apr. 13 (†CH).

The only Laysan Albatross reported was off Trinidad May 30 (G. Friedrichsen). Small numbers of N. Fulmars were reported with five still at the Cordelle Banks, *Marin*, and 21 (AB, BB) and one sick bird at F.I., May 22. Pink-footed and Sooty shearwaters were reported in lower-than-normal numbers (m.ob.), probably related to warm waters, and Flesh-footed Shearwater was unreported. One Short-tailed Shearwater was on Monterey Bay Mar. 5 and another there May 14 established the Region's latest record (both AB). A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel on Bodega Harbor May 21 (AB) was a rare sight close to shore. Ashy Storm-Petrels were found at sea on Monterey Bay (one May 14) and at the Cordelle Banks: five May 2 (both AB, DE).

Two hundred White Pelicans were late n.w. of Los Banos May 20 (BED). Brown Pelicans apparently responded to “El Niño” with several reports n. to the Oregon border by mid-April, 87 at F.I., by May 7, and 700 at Moss Landing in late May (*vide* AB).

Palo Alto's wintering Least Bittern was last seen Mar. 4 (*vide* SFB).



Out of place were Snowy Egrets at the Smith R. estuary Mar. 12 (SS) and at L. Almanor May 25-28 (HG). Three ad. Little Blue Herons (two suspected of nesting) at the Alviso heronry on S.F. Bay N.W.R., May 13 (RWL) was more than ever previously reported together in the Region. One at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Apr. 23-25 (RE, MR, SS) followed closely last spring's unprecedented record at nearby Tule Lake N.W.R.

Contrary to an earlier statement (AB 37:219), this species is not resident anywhere in this Region; occurrence outside the period April-October is considered casual. Cattle Egret nesting on s. San Francisco Bay seems inevitable; several reports from the area include at least seven high-plumaged birds in Fremont throughout April and May (TG, JM *et al.*) and one leaving the Alviso heronry May 13 (RWL). The high count from the San Joaquin Valley was 250 s. of Stevenson Mar. 7 (*fide* SFB). White-faced Ibises were noted as follows: ten nesting in a heronry at Mendota Wildlife Area Apr. 7 (RHG); one at Delevan N.W.R., Apr. 26 (MR-H); one at the Yolo Bypass May 12—the first Sacramento area record in over 9 years (B & HK); two at Merced N.W.R., May 21 (RJB); one at Sacramento N.W.R., May 22 and another near there at Gray Hills Hunting Club May 26 (both MR-H).

**WATERFOWL** — Three Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at Mendota Pool, Fresno, May 7 (KH) were the only ones seen. Single Ross' Geese out of their usual flyway were at Stafford L., Marin, mid March—May 11 (*fide* SFB), L. Earl, Del Norte, Apr. 8-21 (FB, RAE, JAR), and L. Almanor Apr. 11-12 (DAA). Thirty Snow Geese in the Arcata Bottoms Mar. 7 (*fide* LD) were the only ones reported from the coast. Canada Geese used a rain pond in Pleasanton for nesting; two pairs with five goslings were there May 1 (AE). It is unknown whether these birds were related to the established East Bay population (see Lidicker and McColum. 1979. *West Birds* 10: 159-162) or were truly wild birds, perhaps crippled. Two birds at Delevan N.W.R., May 19 (MR-H) were late.

A Eur. Green-winged Teal in the Loleta Bottoms Apr. 12 (*fide* LD) was the only one reported. A brood of N. Shovelers s. of Petaluma May 22 (*fide* KFC) was the first known from Sonoma. Single wintering Tufted Ducks were last seen at Mill Valley Mar. 13 (*fide* SFB) and Foster City Mar. 21 (PJM); a female at Arcata Apr. 29-May 4 (JS, RAE, KVR *et al.*) was a spring migrant. O'Neill Forebay, Merced hosted 38 Greater Scaup Apr. 9 (TG), a high inland count. Both of the winter's most cooperative eiders stayed very late: the ♀ **King Eider** at Emeryville to May 7 (AE) and the ♀ **Steller's Eider** at Crescent City to May 30 (RAE). Very rare inside S.F. Bay were single ♂ Harlequin Ducks at Pt. San Pablo Feb. 26 (BR) and at Fort Pt., San Francisco ca. Mar. 16-23 (*fide* SFB). An imm. Oldsquaw at Moss Landing to the end of May (*fide* AB) was unusual, especially following the past winter's poor showing. A large concentration of 54 Barrow's Goldeneyes at Castro Pt., Richmond Mar. 24 may have been staging to migrate as none were found at the same locations 2 days later (*fide* SFB).

**RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES** — An Osprey at Creighton Ranch Apr. 13-May 22 (KH) was unexpected on the San Joaquin Valley floor. In contrast to the past winter's mixed reports, White-tailed Kites were unanimously considered to be in lower than normal numbers: coastal Del Norte County (FB, RAE); Sacramento Valley refuges (BED, MR-H); San Francisco and Monterey Bay areas (AB, HLC, DDeS). Unusual low elevation Goshawks were found at Carmichael Apr. 2 (TM) and near Yreka May 4 (RE, MR). At the e. limit of their range along the n.w. California coast, Red-shouldered Hawks are resident along the Trinity R., at Hoopa, Willow Cr., Salyer and possibly Hawkins Bar, and up the Klamath R., possibly to Somes Bar (KVR, JKWB, RAE). After their impressive showing last season, wintering Broad-winged Hawks were last seen at Inverness Mar. 19 (LCB), Belmont Mar. 25 (PJM), n. of Año Nuevo St. Reserve Mar. 30 (RAE), and s. of Half Moon Bay Apr. 12 (TG). The only previous April regional record was of an obvious spring migrant. A "Harlan's" Hawk was near Susanville Mar. 12 (HLC). An imm. Golden Eagle at Palomarin Mar. 11 and a sub-adult there Mar. 25 furnished the first spring records for this long daily-monitored site. In *Monterey*, s.e. of King City, Prairie Falcons were virtually absent where one or two pairs formerly resided, apparently the result of an effective ground squirrel poisoning campaign last year (RLR).

Ruffed Grouse were reported from 2 sites each in *Del Norte*, *Hum-*

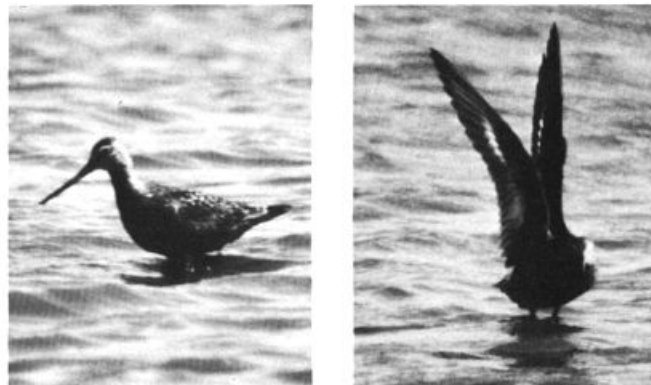
*boldt*, and *Trinity*, where expected (m.ob.). Drumming birds were cooperative on French Hill Rd., and Howland Hill in *Del Norte* and Swede Creek in *Trinity*.

Apparent migrant Sandhill Cranes were noted over Sacramento Feb. 17-Mar. 8 (900+—B & HK), Serene Lakes, *Placer*, Mar. 6 (40+—*fide* TB), and Auburn Mar. 8 (six—MA), but 8000 were still at Merced N.W.R., Mar. 14 (RJB).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Wintering Am. Golden Plovers (*P.d. fulva*) were last seen at Lawson's Landing, *Marin*, Apr. 9 (five—JE) and Pt. Reyes Apr. 16 (seven—*fide* DDeS) and May 10 (two—RS). Two birds at the Lodi sewage ponds Mar. 3-Apr. 8 (DY) also apparently wintered. One was in the Arcata Bottoms Apr. 30 (*fide* LD) and rare on S.F. Bay were singles at Hayward Mar. 26 and Alameda Apr. 24 (both *fide* SFB). Two Snowy Plovers at Pt. Pinole Reg. P., *Contra Costa*, Mar. 28 (RAE), one in the *Sutter* portion of Gray Lodge Apr. 23 and another in the *Butte* portion Apr. 25-27 (both BED) were in areas with very few previous records. A high count of 72 Mountain Plovers was made on the late dates of Mar. 26-27 near Davis (*fide* SFB).

Two Black Oystercatchers were at Richmond Feb. 24-Mar. 28 (BR, RAE *et al.*). There were only 2 previous e. S.F. Bay area records, both within the last year. There are very few records of Black-necked Stilt from the coast n. of S.F. Bay; two were at the Bolinas sewage ponds May 21 (*fide* DDeS).

In contrast to the last 2 springs, only five Solitary Sandpipers were found along the n. coast Apr. 17-May 1 (JS, RAE, GSL, GJS *et al.*). Inland, two were at Gray Lodge Apr. 26-27 (BED) and one was at Yreka May 17 (MR). The shorebird of the season was a ♂ **Hudsonian Godwit** at Arcata May 17-20 (RLeV, LD, †RAE, ph. KVR *et al.*). The only



*Hudsonian Godwit, Arcata, CA, May 18, 1983. Photos/K. Rosenberg.*

unquestionable previous Regional sighting was at the same location almost a decade ago (see AB 29:908 and 32:252). A Red Knot at the Yolo Bypass May 7 (*fide* B & HK) was a rare inland migrant. A Sanderling apparently wintering at the Hollister sewage ponds Feb. 23-May 1 (KVV, KC) was also unusual inland. The Region's first inland winter record was reported in the previous seasonal report.

Semipalmated Sandpipers continue to be detected in increasing numbers. This spring five were found: very early in the Arcata Bottoms Apr. 19 (†JS), Oakland Int'l Airport May 12 (SFB), Hayward Reg. Shoreline May 21-22 (BR), and Corcoran sewage ponds May 30 (†KH). Similarly, Baird's Sandpipers were well reported: up to six in the Arcata Bottoms Apr. 15-18 (GSL, JS *et al.*), two at the Smith R. estuary Apr. 17 (JS, RAE), another there Apr. 30 (GSL), one at the Lodi sewage ponds Apr. 20 (DY), and two at Hayward Reg. Shoreline May 4 (BR). Single Pectoral Sandpipers were at the Arcata Bottoms Apr. 17-21 (JS, RAE *et al.*), L. Earl, *Del Norte*, May 14 (GSL, JAR), and Hayward Reg. Shoreline May 15-22 (BR). Since spring records of these 3 species were almost unheard of only 10 years ago, we urge that observers in this Region continue to properly document all such reports.

A Ruff at Merced N.W.R., Apr. 25 (†RJB) may well have wintered locally but a striking alternate-plumaged male at Pt. Reyes May 18 (*fide* SFB) was clearly a spring migrant, only the second such Regional record. Short-billed Dowitchers were noted inland at the Lodi sewage ponds Apr. 8 (four—DY), Creighton Ranch Apr. 14 (two) and Apr. 23 (one—RH), and s. of Dinuba Apr. 23 (one—RHG). Red and N. phalar-

opes made a very poor showing with no reports received of Reds on land or of Northern's for the entire month of April (m.ob.).

**JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS** — Parasitic Jaegers were seen from shore at Pigeon Pt., May 4 (PJM) and Pt. Lobos St. Reserve May 27 (JE). As expected, Pomarines far outnumbered Parasitics offshore with only a single Parasitic reported: Monterey Bay May 14 (AB, DE). There were no reports of Long-tailed Jaeger or S. Polar Skua.

An ad. **Laughing Gull** at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Apr. 24 (ph. SS) was perhaps the season's most unexpected find; all previous Regional records are coastal. Three ad. Franklin's Gulls was a typical showing: Mad R. estuary Apr. 23 (*vide* LD); Pajaro Dunes, *Santa Cruz*, May 24 (J & RW); Pinos, *Monterey*, May 26 (†JE). The Stockton sewage ponds continue to attract attention as a haven for small dark-headed gulls. The ad Black-headed Gull was last seen there Apr. 10 (*vide* SFB). As last spring, the wintering ad. Little Gull was joined by a second adult Apr. 22-May 4; however, *three* Little Gulls there Apr. 26-30, established a Regional and probably w. North American record count. The last single bird was seen May 9 (all DY *et al.*).

A Glaucous-winged Gull was inland at the Stockton sewage ponds Mar. 9 (DY) and single Glaucous Gulls at Princeton harbor Mar. 1 (*vide* PJM) and Bodega Bay Apr. 14 (CH) were the only ones seen. An injured Black-legged Kittiwake at Five Brooks pond, *Marin*, Mar. 7 (*vide* JE) and another injured bird at Palo Alto Baylands Apr. 3 (*vide* WB) were unusual slightly inland. Sabine's Gulls were reported in normal numbers offshore May 14-June 4 (m.ob.) and 30 were noted passing *Santa Cruz* May 15 (BLaB).

It is unclear whether the low number of Com. Tern reports truly represents a poor migration. Arctic Terns were seen offshore on Monterey Bay May 14 (18—AB, DE), near F.I., May 21 (3—RWL), and at Cordelle Banks May 21 (3—AB). From shore, ten passed *Santa Cruz* May 15 (BLaB). Several Least Terns on S.F. Bay at W. Pittsburgh in early May were suspected of nesting nearby (*vide* SFB); there is no confirmed nesting n. of the Alameda area. Two Black Terns at Hayward May 17 (BR) provided the only coastal report.

A pair of Black Skimmers frequented the Alameda area May 2-18 (SFB, AE, JM *et al.*), at least the male of which was banded. A pair of banded skimmers was here last year and we predict skimmers may soon breed in suitable habitat on s. S.F. Bay. Also in an area of suitable breeding habitat was a skimmer at Moss Landing May 13-14 (KVV, KC, ph. PHO), where sightings are increasing.

The warm waters of "El Niño" were undoubtedly responsible for the frequent sightings of Xantus' Murrelets with one on Monterey Bay May 14 (AB), four at the Cordelle Banks May 21 (AB, DE), one near F.I., May 21 (JW) and two there May 29 (AB). Near shore one was at Bodega Harbor May 21 (AB, DE) and two were at Pt. Lobos, *Monterey*, May 27 (†JE).

**PIGEONS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS** — Band-tailed Pigeons were generally scarce except at Palomar where "excellent numbers" were present after mid-April. In Carmichael, *Sacramento*, small flocks were seen overhead through May 22 (TM). At least 7 active Barn Owl nests at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory (KHb, AE) indicated a continuing strong population in the Livermore Valley (see AB 36:1012), however none was reported elsewhere. Despite much field work by observers (RAE *et al.*) in the n.w. counties in May, only one Flammulated Owl was found near Salyer (M.R. Stoll). A Pygmy Owl at Cedar Pass, Warner Mts., Mar. 20 (KHb, PU) and a Spotted Owl at Arroyo Seco, *Monterey*, Apr. 9 (JW) were at previously unpublished locations. There are now at least 3 separate sites where at least three **Barred Owls** have been found: Redwood N.P., *Del Norte*, Mar. 3-Apr. 20 (†RAE *et al.*); Salyer, *Trinity*, March-May + (KVR, JWB, †RAE *et al.*); Willow Cr., *Humboldt*, Apr. 30-May 2 (RLeV, †RAE, KVR). The Willow Cr. bird was discovered for the first time this season. Long-eared Owl was found breeding in early May at Shasta Valley, *Siskiyou* (RE, MR) and Estero Trail, P.R.N. S. (C. Cutler, *vide* JE). Only five Short-eared Owls were reported: three at Lower Klamath N.W.R. (CSt); one at Grizzly Is., *Solano* (BED), one at Creighton Ranch (RH). This species seems to be in serious trouble within the Region. A Saw-whet Owl was heard in Coulter Pine at 3000 ft elevation on Fremont Peak, *San Benito*, May 1 (KVV, KC), apparently a new location for this "vagarious" species. A Poor-will at Creighton Ranch May 12 (RH) was a rarity on the s. San

Joaquin Valley floor from where there are only 4 previous records (*vide* KH, RH). A *Chordeiles sp.* near Ash Mt., Sequoia N.P., Apr. 19 (GSM) must have been a vagrant Lesser Nighthawk; the earliest record of a Common in the Region is May 23. Other vagrant Lessers were on the coast at Pt. Reyes May 3 (*vide* SFB) and at F.I., May 24.

**SWIFTS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — Ten Vaux's Swift at Stone Lagoon, *Humboldt*, Mar. 12 apparently wintered (GJS). Passage of Vaux's Swift spanned Apr. 16-May 8 with a peak of 1000+ moving N over Willow Cr., May 8 (KVR). An early one at Novato Mar. 28 (KFC) and three at F.I., May 21 were the only reports outside the above dates away from breeding areas. Migratory flocks of Vaux's Swifts took refuge from inclement weather in chimneys in coastal *San Mateo* (PJM) Four + ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbirds near Greenhorn P., Yreka May 11+ was an unusual number there (RE, MR). Rufous Hummingbird migration was strong at Corral Hollow, *San Joaquin* (DY) and coastally with 24 at Palomarin Mar. 11-Apr. 25 and nine at F.I., Apr. 17 a "remarkable high". Four + ♂ Anna's and one + ♂ Allen's hummingbirds displaying at 5200 ft on Ironside Mt., *Trinity*, June 2 (RAE) was at high elevation. One Anna's singing in Susan R. Canyon, *Lassen*, May 15 was beyond the boundaries of its "Pacific drainage" distribution and is further evidence of breeding there (see AB 36:1013). Six coastal Costa's Hummingbirds Apr. 17-May 23 was a remarkable showing three females at F.I., one male at Palomarin Apr. 29, one female or imm. male at Bodega Harbor May 8 (KFC, JG) and an imm. male at McKinleyville May 7-8 (LD, RLeV *et al.*). Calliope Hummingbird migration spanned Apr. 8-May 10 in the interior with a peak of 20 at Corral Hollow, *San Joaquin*, May 1 (DY). Five unusual locations (4 coastal) for Calliopes (all males) included singles at F.I., Apr. 5; Berkeley Apr. 17 (KHb); one found dead in Sebastopol, *Sonoma*, Apr. 26 (CH, \*Bodega Marine Lab); Bodega Bay Apr. 27 & May 6 (PH, NTC, L. Rodgers); Ammon Cr., s. of Salyer *Humboldt*, Apr. 29 (KVR).

**WOODPECKERS** — Up to 15 Lewis' Woodpeckers in San Antonio Valley, *Santa Clara*, through mid-May (AE, GB, WB *et al.*) was the highest number reported. Three "Red-naped" Sapsuckers were found, all in the n.w. counties: Forks of Salmon Apr. 3 (MR) and Weed Apr. 29 (MR), both *Siskiyou*, and a male at Ironside Mt. (elev. 3900 ft) *Trinity*, May 26 (R.J. Reynolds, KVR). The latter record was intriguing as it involved an apparently territorial bird, however it could not be relocated after this initial sighting. Nuttall's Woodpecker was found coastward of breeding areas as late as Apr. 3 near Olema, *Marin* (DS).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — An E. Kingbird at Klamath May 30 (RAE) was the first and only report; most records are in summer. Movement of W. Kingbirds was impressive at both interior and coastal locations; peak numbers and dates include 15+ near Coulterville, *Mariposa*, Apr. 10 (HLC), ten at Alcatraz Is., S.F. Bay Apr. 15 (HP, I. Timossi), and ten at Klamath Apr. 26 (RAE). Cassin's Kingbird was again found nesting in Corral Hollow May 20 (DY, AE) and one migrating N overhead at L. Merced, S.F., Apr. 15 (PU) was most unusual. Spring sightings of E. Phoebe have been increasing in recent years; one was at Salmon Cr., in Bodega, *Sonoma*, May 8-31 (†NTC, †KFC, JG *et al.*). A Say's Phoebe in Corral Hollow May 24 suggested nesting there (DY); there are no breeding records for *San Joaquin*. Say's Phoebe is a rare migrant in the n.w. counties; six were reported Mar. 14-late April with three in coastal Del Norte, and one each in *Humboldt*, *Trinity* and *Siskiyou* (m.ob.). *Empidonaces* "seemed somewhat scarce" during migration in the Sacramento Valley (TM), however coastal passage was exceptional (P.R.B.O., DDeS) as characterized by 6 species May 19 on outer Pt. Reyes (DDeS). Reports of Willow Flycatchers earlier than May are highly suspect; in the future extratemporal reports should be accompanied by supporting details. The migratory passage of Willows was concentrated in the last 2 weeks of May, as usual. Arrival at Ackerson Meadows, *Tuolumne*, was pinpointed to May 16 (none present May 14) with two individuals responding to tapes (NN). A Least Flycatcher at Pt. Reyes May 19-20 (†DDeS, †JE) was one of few mainland spring records. Hammond's Flycatcher migration spanned Apr. 18-May 20 in the lowlands. Seemingly territorial Hammond's at Lost Claim Campground, Stanislaus N.F., *Tuolumne* (elev. 3000 ft) in May and early June suggested breeding at that low elevation (MM) Dusky Flycatcher lowland migrants were found Apr. 18-May 12 in the

C V (RJB, TM, DY), Apr 20-May 12 in the n w counties (KVR, RAE, RleV) and May 3-28 on the coast of F.I. and Pt. Reyes (DDeS, JE, RS). One singing at Chew's Ridge, *Monterey*, May 28 (PU, KHB, \*San Diego Mus. Nat. Hist.) was a location where breeding has been suspected for years but has yet to be confirmed. "Unprecedented" numbers of Gray Flycatchers were recorded at lowland locations Apr. 15-May 21 with ten at F.I., 16+ in the n.w. counties (13+ in Humboldt—RAE, KVR, JS, CAT), four in the C.V. (RJB, BED, TM, DY) and five on the c. coast (m.ob.). First county records were apparently provided in *Trinity* Apr. 28-May 5 (JWB *et al.*), *San Joaquin* Apr. 23 (DY, R. Acker) and *Merced* Apr. 15 (†RJB). Passage of W. Flycatcher was unimpressive, although reporting was light. An unprecedented wave of W. Wood Pewees littered F.I., May 22-29 with a peak of 80 present May 28, of which 59 were banded.

At Palomarin, higher numbers of Violet-green Swallows than any other year corresponded with a marked scarcity of Tree Swallows. A Barn Swallow at Ackerson Meadows in Yosemite Mar. 31 (JW) was slightly earlier than the previous early date for the Sierra.

**CORVIDS THROUGH THRASHERS** — A Scrub Jay at L. Almanor May 12 (DAA) was within the time period of spring wandering from breeding areas. Piñon Jay was confirmed breeding at Markleville, *Alpine*, May 27 (LCB). Twenty + Clark's Nutcrackers at L. Almanor Apr. 20 provided the only spring records from that area (DAA). A Black-capped Chickadee at Salyer Apr. 16 (JWB) furnished one of few *Trinity* records. Chestnut-backed Chickadees nesting at Ackerson Meadow May 30 (JW) furnished the second confirmed breeding record for Yosemite N.P. (first 1982; AB 36:891). Perhaps the harsh weather has affected Bushtits. At Palomarin good recovery was evident in March and April, however there were no successful nests and the species was scarce by the end of the period; in *Placer* it was rare all season (MA). Winter Wren was found both above and below its known altitudinal range in the Yosemite Sierra (MM). Single Bewick's Wrens n.e. of Litchfield, *Lassen*, Mar. 12 and n. of Honey L., Mar. 13 (HLC) provided early "arrival" dates for the Great Basin district of the Region, however, because this population is in part resident, in part migratory, influx is difficult to assess. A Brown Thrasher at Ranch del Oso Mar. 25 (†GJS, R. Sermon) provided the second *Santa Cruz* record of a species that seems capable of appearing anywhere at anytime, although rarely.

**THRUSHES THROUGH STARLINGS** — With the exception of ten in Willow Cr. Canyon, *Sonoma*, Mar. 19 (LCB), Varied Thrush was rare away from breeding areas. One ♀ Mountain Bluebird at Bodega Head Apr. 13 (CH) and one near Orick, *Humboldt*, Apr. 26 (GJS) fell within the phenology of spring coastal vagrant records. Departure dates for wintering Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were well recorded: Half Moon Bay Mar. 17 (PJM), and three that wintered at Palomarin were last seen Mar. 31, Apr. 14, and May 3, respectively. One at Killgore Hills near Yreka Apr. 12 (RE) was early for the n.w. counties and one at Smith R., Apr. 30 (GSL) was a n. coast rarity (3rd *Del Norte* record). Ruby-crowned Kinglets were found very late in the lowlands. Last dates from representative locations include: one at Carmichael May 22 (TM), two on outer Pt. Reyes May 28 (JM), two on Mt. Tamalpais, *Marin*, June 4 (DSi). On F.I., 3 migrant pulses were noted: Apr. 6 (15), Apr. 16 (225), May 3 (25). Cedar Waxwings lingered through spring in the C.V. (DY, RJB, TM) and in the Willow Cr. area (KVR); at Bolinas, after an earlier absence, there was a strong surge of waxwings in late May (DDeS). Single Loggerhead Shrikes at Klamath Mar. 17 (RAE) and F.I., Apr. 19 were extremely rare at each location. Even more unusual at F.I., the substantial Starling population had vacated the island by Apr. 30!

**VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS** — A **White-eyed Vireo** at Pt. Reyes Lighthouse May 19 (†DHE, JH, †DDeS) was a true rarity providing the Region with the fourth record, all in spring. Hutton's Vireo, unknown to the Sutter Buttes 5 years ago, continue to be found there rarely with three singing Apr. 16-17 (WA, BED). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** at Elk Head, n. of Trinidad, *Humboldt*, Apr. 28 (GSL, GJS *et al.*) furnished the fifth Regional record and a first for the n.w. counties. Solitary Vireo migration spanned Apr. 9-May 21. A single Red-eyed Vireo was at F.I., May 22. Passage of Warbling Vireo through the C.V. was unusually heavy (BED) and spanned Apr. 16-May 18 (WA, RJB, BED, DY) with peaks Apr. 25 in *Merced* and May 11 at Gray Lodge. One singing at Oak Grove P., *San Joaquin*, June 3 was quite late (DY).

Wintering Black-and-white Warblers were last seen near Ft. Dick Mar. 6 (JAR) at Half Moon Bay Mar. 17 (PJM); one at Golden Gate P., Mar. 12 (PU, KHB) may have wintered locally. Five coastal migrants were found Apr. 19-May 23. Three Tennessee Warblers at F.I., Apr. 22 were very early; ten at F.I., May 23-29 and one at Dillon Beach, *Marin*, May 22 (JE) were more typical. Of two Tennessees at Half Moon Bay Mar. 17, at least one wintered (PJM). Orange-crowned Warbler migration pulsed Apr. 17, May 4 & 13 at F.I. Six Nashville Warblers at Half Moon Bay Mar. 10 was an exceptional winter concentration (PJM); numbers were fairly high everywhere in the lowlands with 30 at Willow Cr., Apr. 25 (KVR) the highest number reported. Interestingly, only one Nashville was at F.I., and that at the late date of May 23. Three N. Parulas were reported on the coast: S.F., May 3 (*vide* SFB); Five Brooks, *Marin*, May 25 (*vide* SFB); F.I., May 28. Five Magnolia Warblers on the immediate coast May 23-30 included a *Del Norte* first at Pt. Saint George May 30 (RAE). The only Cape May Warbler was a male at F.I., May 26. "Last" and late dates for "Myrtle" Warblers include one female at Mines Rd., *Alameda*, May 10 (DDeS), one female at Klamath May 15 (RAE), and one male at Pt. Reyes June 2 (JE). At Hennessy Peak, *Trinity*, the first "Audubon's" Warbler singing on territory was Apr. 14 (KVR). Little is known about arrival dates of montane species to breeding grounds but information is slowly accruing. One Black-throated Gray Warbler near W. Sacramento, *Yolo*, Mar. 26 probably wintered locally (TM); primary movement through the C.V. occurred Apr. 9-May 8 (WA, RJB, BED). Black-throated Grays were first singing on territory in *Trinity*, Apr. 7 (KVR), at Ackerson Meadow, Yosemite Apr. 10 (JW) Sequoia N.P., Apr. 10 (GSM), and *Santa Clara* Apr. 12 (WB). Townsend's Warbler moved through the C.V., Apr. 17-May 17. Four coastal Black-throated Green Warblers was a high spring count; three were at F.I., May 22-24 and a male was at Pt. Reyes May 28-29 (JM, AE, GB, m.ob.). Extremely rare in spring, especially on the mainland, was a Blackburnian Warbler at Santa Cruz May 21 (B. Palfalvy, *vide* SFB). A singing Yellow-throated Warbler (*D.d. albiflora*) was at Pacific Grove May 27 (W. Russell, DR), there have been 6 mainland spring records since the first in 1979. Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted and Blackpoll warblers were absent. Single Palm Warblers were at Crescent City Apr. 21 (a winterer—RAE) and F.I., May 26. Single Ovenbirds were at Pt. Reyes May 20 (JE) and Lanphere Dunes, *Humboldt*, May 25-27 (RAE): five were at F.I., May 23-28. A **Kentucky Warbler** was at F.I., May 23, where most records originate. Six Yellow-breasted Chats were singing at Gray Lodge after arriving Apr. 25 with three remaining through the period; this species was not known to breed there prior to 1982 (BED). Coastal migrant chats were at Bodega Bay Apr. 27 (PH, NTC) and Santa Cruz May 2 (BLaB). A ♀ Hooded Warbler was at F.I., May 23. A first-year ♂ Canada Warbler at Pt. Reyes May 28 (JM) furnished apparently the first mainland spring record; the other five spring records are from F.I. Four coastal Am. Redstarts were found May 21-27.

**ICTERIDS THROUGH TANAGERS** — One Bobolink visited F.I., May 24. Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Moss Landing Apr. 30 (15—LCB) and Ft. Dick May 3 (one male—JAR) were rare coastal vagrants. Two-four Tricolored Blackbirds nesting at the n. end of Honey L., May 28 (TM) apparently established a new breeding station. Five W. Tanagers in March must have wintered locally.

**FRINGILLIDS** — Eight Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were concentrated near the c. coast May 16-28. Blue Grosbeaks at unusual locations include an imm. male at Bucks Meadow (elev. 2900 ft), *Toulumne*, May 15 (MM *et al.*) and a male at F.I., May 19. Six Indigo Buntings (including three at F.I.) were on the c. coast Apr. 23-May 28. Five ♂ Lazuli Buntings had returned to Sequoia N.P., by Apr. 26 (GSM); coastal migrant peaks included eight at Neary's Lagoon, *Santa Cruz*, May 1-2 (BLaB *et al.*) and eight at Klamath May 8 (RAE). A ♂ Dickcissel at Trinidad May 17 (GJS, GSL, JS, RAE *et al.*) provided the third n. coast record (all *Humboldt*), first for spring. The only Pine Grosbeaks were 16 at the Cedars, *Placer* (6000 ft elev.) Apr. 16 (TB *et al.*). The dearth of Pine Siskins continues (LF, P.R.B.O.). An Am. Goldfinch in Sequoia N.P., at 4000 ft, Mar. 9 (GSM) provided apparently a first record for Sequoia/Kings Canyon N.P. (*vide* GSM). Three Green-tailed Towhees in the San Joaquin Valley was unusual; Creighton Ranch May 3 (KH), RuAnn Dairy May 3 (*vide* KH), both *Tulare*, and Fresno May 6-10 (*vide* KH). Less unusual was one near Auburn May 6-10 (MA). Six singing

Grasshopper Sparrows near Tres Pinos, *San Benito*, May 28 (KVV, KC) were at a new location. Migrant Vesper Sparrows were noted on the n. coast Apr. 7-23 (FB, GJS, *et al.*). Rufous-crowned Sparrow was found breeding at Palomar for the first time since 1979. Several pairs of Rufous-crowned and Sage sparrows at Corral Hollow (DY) were previously unknown as breeding species in *San Joaquin* County (*fide* DY). A singing Clay-colored Sparrow at Pt. Reyes May 10 & 12 (RS) provided the second mainland spring record (first 1982) for the Region. Brewer's Sparrows were in the C.V. at Creighton Ranch Apr. 26 & 28 (RH) and three at L. Yosemite May 12 (†RJB). One at Trinidad, *Humboldt*, May 17 (JS, GSL *et al.*) was a n. coast rarity. After a strong showing this winter, Harris' Sparrow were found in good numbers with three in the C.V. (BED, AE, DY) and three in the n.w. counties (RAE, GSL *et al.*); the last date in both areas was May 2. White-crowned Sparrow migration spanned Apr. 6-May 16 at F.I., with pulses Apr. 18 (43) and May 3 (15). The winter's dearth of Fox Sparrows continued through spring (m.ob.). Lincoln's Sparrow was recorded at low breeding (?) elevations in the Sierra: Ackerson Meadow, May 15 (JW) and Yosemite Valley May 29 (VJ). The last (and only) Swamp Sparrow report was from Palo Alto Baylands Mar. 17 (F. Damminger, *fide* WB). Two Lapland Longspurs that wintered in *San Mateo*, at Redwood Shores were last seen Mar. 2 (PJM). Fifteen Laplands at L. Talawa Apr. 2 (KHb, PU) and one near Orick May 7 (GJS) were the last ones reported.

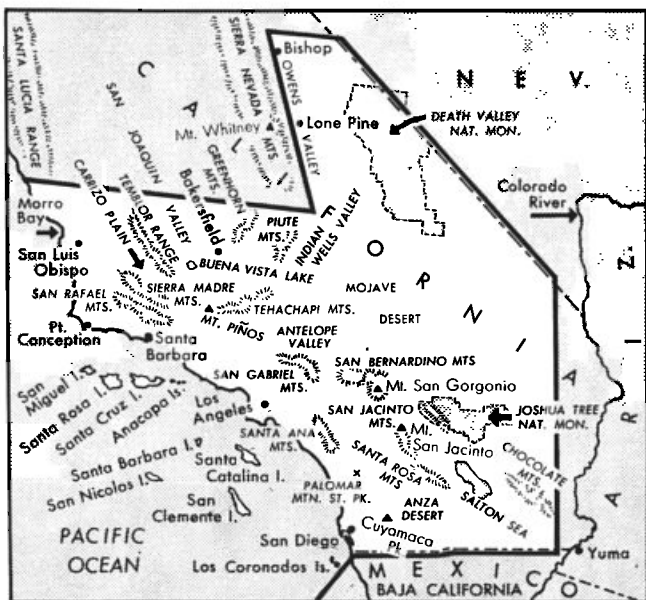
**CORRIGENDA** — In AB 36:327, the sentence on Barn Swallow should read “. . . and seven were inland at Los Banos Dec. 29 (*fide* KFC).” Also in that report “one Lapland Longspur was near Davis, Yolo Co. (not Solano Co.) Jan 23 (RAE). In AB 37:221 the Black-and-

white Warbler at San Jose should be credited to Peter LaTourette, not WBa.

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## SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION /Guy McCaskie

The wet weather of the winter continued on into the spring with storms persisting into early May. This stormy weather caused large numbers of migrant waterbirds moving northward out of the Gulf of California to become “grounded,” with flocks of Brant and Surf Scoters “downed” on some inland lakes, and impressive numbers of shorebirds concentrated at the north end of the Salton Sea. During stormy conditions in spring, exceptionally strong winds funnel through the San Gorgonio Pass and down the Coachella Valley north of the Salton Sea stopping most migrant shorebirds moving northward up the Imperial Valley and across the Salton Sea.



The movement of landbirds, on the other hand, was unimpressive with no large concentrations reported (most observers commented on the paucity of migrant landbirds). However, first arrivals of our regularly occurring summer visitors appeared much as in previous years.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — F.C.R. = Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley National Monument; N.E.S.S. = north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.; S.D.N.H.M. = San Diego Natural History Museum; S.E.S.S. = south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial County.

The early arrival dates for some of our key migrants were: Wilson's Phalarope Apr. 1, Daggett; N. Phalarope Apr. 23, Salton Sea; Com. Tern Apr. 24, San Diego; Least Tern Apr. 17, San Diego; Elegant Tern Mar. 12, San Diego; Black Tern Apr. 13, Salton Sea; Lesser Nighthawk Mar. 21, Desert Center; Vaux's Swift Apr. 13, Salton Sea; Black-chinned Hummingbird Mar. 24, San Timoteo Canyon; W. Kingbird Mar. 9, Thousand Palms; Ash-throated Flycatcher Apr. 3, Huntington Beach; Willow Flycatcher May 8, San Diego, Hammond's Flycatcher Mar. 10, San Diego; W. Flycatcher Mar. 9, San Diego; W. Wood Pewee Apr. 13, Salton Sea; Olive-sided Flycatcher Apr. 3, Santa Barbara; Swainson's Thrush Apr. 14, Morro Bay; Bell's Vireo Mar. 24, Willow Hole; Solitary Vireo Mar. 24, Desert Hot Springs; Warbling Vireo Mar. 5, Anaheim; Nashville Warbler Mar. 24, Willow Hole; Yellow Warbler Apr. 1, Victorville; Black-throated Gray Warbler Mar. 20, San Diego; Hermit Warbler Apr. 18, Carpinteria; MacGillivray's Warbler Mar. 24, Willow Hole; Yellow-breasted Chat Apr. 20, Mono Creek; Wilson's Warbler Mar. 9, Thousand Palms; Scott's Oriole Mar. 23, Apple Valley; Hooded Oriole Mar. 7, Irvine; N. Oriole Mar. 12, San Diego; W. Tanager Apr. 11, Goleta; Black-headed Grosbeak Mar. 24, Cabazon; Blue Grosbeak Apr. 13, Salton Sea; Lazuli Bunting Apr. 1, Victorville; Black-chinned Sparrow Mar. 10, near San Diego.

**SPRING MOVEMENT OF WATERBIRDS OUT OF THE GULF OF CALIFORNIA** — For years we have known that large numbers of waterbirds, not normally encountered inland in California, spend the winters in the Gulf of California, and we have assumed these birds migrate across s. California when migrating N each spring. Stormy conditions in spring of other years has grounded some of these birds, but

stormy conditions in spring in s. California are the exception rather than the rule, so most of these birds go undetected. However, with storm fronts persisting to the first of May, and the regular checking of L. Henshaw (located on a n.w. line between the head of the Gulf of California and the Pacific) in the mountains of San Diego County by RHi, we now have a better understanding of the magnitude of this movement. Common Loons were found on 6 visits Mar. 21-Apr. 29, with high counts of 317 Apr. 18 and 194 Apr. 29; at least 15 Horned Grebes were found on 8 visits Mar. 4-Apr. 29, with a high count of three Mar. 31; Brant were present on virtually every visit Mar. 4-Apr. 29, with an amazing 754 Mar. 4, along with other concentrations such as 85 Mar. 18 and 74 Mar. 21, and Surf Scoters were also regularly encountered Mar. 4-May 1, with an unprecedented 1000 ± Mar. 16-18, along with other large numbers such as 173 Mar. 21, 57 Mar. 11 and 52 Mar. 4. These birds remained "grounded" for only brief periods, with virtually none present during clear periods between storms. Never before have numbers such as these been reported from inland locations anywhere in the southwest, and some match numbers hoped for during good days of movement along the coast.

**LOONS, ALBATROSSES** — Single Com. Loons near Bakersfield, Kern Co., Apr. 10 (MHe) and at Shoshone, Inyo Co., May 30 (WDW) along with 16 in flight over the summit of Mt. Palomar, San Diego Co., Apr. 18 (RHi) were all at unusual localities. A Red-throated Loon on L. Perris, Riverside Co., Mar. 24-26 (AMC), single birds on L. Henshaw Mar. 11 and Apr. 26, and three there Apr. 18 (RHi) were in the true interior where considered casual. A Laysan Albatross discovered dead on the shore n. of Oceanside, San Diego Co., Mar. 31 (LBel,\* S.D.N.H.M.) was one of very few ever to have been found in s. California.

**TROPICBIRDS, PELICANS, CORMORANTS** — A Red-billed Tropicbird 10 mi n. of Santa Barbara I., May 24 (CD) was exceptionally early, being only the second found in s. California waters in May. A young Brown Pelican at N.E.S.S., Apr. 23 (GMcC) was the first ever found in this inland locality in April. An ad. **Olivaceous Cormorant**, only the fourth to have been found in California, among nesting Double-crested Cormorants at S.E.S.S., Feb. 27-Mar. 5 (GMcC) appeared to be defending a nest site, but was evidently driven off by its larger relatives.

**HERONS, STORKS, IBISES** — At least two ad. Little Blue Herons were present around San Diego throughout the period, frequenting a nesting colony of Cattle and Snowy egrets near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co., during May (EC). Sixty Cattle Egrets in Santa Barbara Mar. 1 (TW) was a large number for that area. The ad. Reddish Egret that wintered around San Diego was last seen Mar. 26 (EC), and the last of the three Louisiana Herons wintering around Imperial Beach remained to Apr. 5 (JL). The ad. Yellow-crowned Night Heron found on San Elijo Lagoon near San Diego Feb. 20 was still present Mar. 6 (DKi), and another (possibly the same bird) was associating with breeding Black-crowned Night Herons in nearby La Jolla May 23-June 1 (MR). A Wood Stork, now exceptionally rare away from S.E.S.S., and casual-to-accidental anywhere outside the summer/early fall season, was near Oceanside Mar. 26 (SW) and Apr. 23 (AF), and another was in the Prado Basin near Riverside Apr. 22 (KK). A flock of 23 White-faced Ibises in Goleta, Santa Barbara Co., Apr. 13 (DBa) was a large number for this area, especially in spring.

**GEESE, DUCKS** — Forty Brant at N.E.S.S., Mar. 19 (GMcC) was the only flock found inland away from L. Henshaw, and up to five at N.E.S.S., Apr. 23+ (GMcC) were summering. One or two Fulvous Whistling Ducks on the Kern N.W.R., in the s. San Joaquin Valley Apr. 21-May 5 (MP) were unexpected, this species being virtually unrecorded in recent years away from S.E.S.S. Two Harlequin Ducks at Atascadero Beach Pt., in Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo Co., Apr. 22-23 (MHa) were in an area where the species may prove to be regular. A Surf Scoter in Anaheim, Orange Co., Mar. 17 (DRW), four on L. Elsinore, Riverside Co., Mar. 21 (BS), five in flight over Mt. Palomar Apr. 17 (RHi), and another at N.E.S.S., May 1 (GMcC) were all migrants moving out of the Gulf of California across s. California. A ♂ Black Scoter on L. Henshaw Mar. 18 (RHi) was one of very few ever found inland.

**HAWKS** — A one-year-old Mississippi Kite was at F.C.R., May 28-30 (CC) and an adult was near Imperial Beach June 5 (DP) for the 12th and 13th to be found in the Region, but the species has been found during each of the past 3 springs and appears to be on the increase as a vagrant to California. A Red-shouldered Hawk in the Fremont Valley of e. Kern Co., May 21 (LK) and another at Yaqui Wells in e. San Diego Co., Mar. 6 (WDW) were both outside the species' normal range in California. Of 9 reports of Swainson's Hawks Mar. 23-May 22, 7 were of single birds, one was of three together over Yucca Valley, San Bernardino Co., Apr. 17 (RMcK) and the other was of 85 passing over San Bernardino Mar. 27 (R&JK); this was one of the largest spring flocks reported in the past 20 years. An ad. Zone-tailed Hawk at F.C.R., May 31 (LRB) was unusually far N., and only the second ever to be found in Inyo County. Two Rough-legged Hawks in the Antelope Valley near Lancaster, Los Angeles Co., Apr. 16 (KLG) were quite late, and unexpected after a winter during which few were present in this Region. An imm. Bald Eagle at S.E.S.S., Mar. 22 (BED) was in an area where now quite rare. A Peregrine Falcon near Lancaster Apr. 16 (KLG) and another at N.E.S.S., Apr. 23 (GMcC) were away from known nesting localities.

**RAILS** — A calling Black Rail in Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co., May 10 (EAC) was only the second to have been found in the desert regions of California away from the lower Colorado R., and around the Salton Sea.

**SHOREBIRDS** — A flock of 50+ Black Oystercatchers flying N past Cayucos, San Luis Obispo Co., Apr. 22 (TME) was an exceptional concentration, and two on Pt. Loma in San Diego Apr. 23 (BP) were at a location where the species is rare. The only spring migrant Am. Golden Plovers reported were one near Del Mar, San Diego Co., Apr. 21-22 (DKi), another inland at N.E.S.S., May 6 (TW) and an exceptionally late individual in San Diego June 4-8 (DKi). A stunning breeding-plumaged **Spotted Redshank** at N.E.S.S., Apr. 30-May 6 (DD, AS, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) was the first to have been found in California; however, this species is a somewhat regular stray to Alaska, with four recorded in coastal British Columbia, and another recorded in coastal Oregon, hence, was being looked for by California birders. A Solitary Sandpiper, rare in spring, was in Anaheim May 15-17 (DRW). Ruddy Turnstones were continually present on the Salton Sea Apr. 23-May 7 with a high count of 11 on May 1 (GMcC); one on Owens L., May 30 (RMcK) was the only one found inland away from the Salton Sea, and was only the second ever found in Inyo County. A Black Turnstone, a casual spring straggler to the Salton Sea, was at Salton City Apr. 24 (GMcC). Two Surfbirds were at Salton City May 1 (GMcC); three April records from the Salton Sea and a May record from the Antelope Valley are all the previous records from the interior of s. California. Migrant Red Knots were regularly found on the Salton Sea Mar. 26-May 7 with a peak of 300+ May 1 (GMcC); one at N.E.S.S., June 5 (JO) was exceptionally late. A Sanderling at F.C.R., May 14-15 (DRW) was the only one found inland away from the Salton Sea. Up to four Semipalmated Sandpipers were at N.E.S.S., Apr. 30-May 6 (GMcC, JLD), small numbers of these birds are now found on the Salton Sea each spring. The Rock Sandpiper that wintered near San Simeon, San Luis Obispo Co., was last seen Mar. 26 (GPS). The only spring migrant Stilt Sandpipers to be found on the Salton Sea were three at S.E.S.S., May 7 (GMcC); however, one was at Owens L., May 30 (RMcK) in an area where the species is casual at best. Two Ruffs in the San Jacinto Valley near San Jacinto Apr. 11-15 (BC, EAC) were the first to have been found in Riverside County. A Red Phalarope, always a rare find inland, was near Lancaster May 22 (H&PB).

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS** — An ad. Pomarine Jaeger, accidental inland, at N.E.S.S., May 29 (RRV) was the first jaeger to be found inland in s. California in spring, and is presumed to have become "trapped" in the Gulf of California while migrating N along the w. coast of Mexico. A first-summer Glaucous Gull at N.E.S.S., May 14+ (RMcK, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) was evidently attempting to summer at this inland locality. A first-summer Glaucous-winged Gull at N.E.S.S., May 7 (GMcC) and a first-summer Thayer's Gull at the same location Apr. 30-May 5 (GMcC) were both inland where rare. A Herring Gull near Lancaster May 1 (JLD) was one of very few ever to be found inland

away from the Salton Sea and along the Colorado R valley A first-summer Laughing Gull at Redondo Beach, Los Angeles Co., May 10 (N&NS) and two adults in San Diego June 4 (DP) were along the coast where considered casual. Franklin's Gulls were more numerous than usual with 35+ reported Apr. 30- end of May including four near Lancaster May 15 (FH), eight near L. Isabella, Kern Co., May 27 (KH) and 19 at N.E.S.S., May 15 (RRV). An ad. Heermann's Gull at N.E.S.S., Apr. 23 (GMcC) was inland where considered casual, and established the earliest date for this species on the Salton Sea. Two first-summer Sabine's Gulls at N.E.S.S., May 29 (RRV) undoubtedly reached the area from the Gulf of California, and were nearly a month earlier than previous "spring" records for this area. Counts of 50 Black Terns at the Edwards Air Force Base marsh near Lancaster May 1 (JLD) and 80 there May 15 (FH) indicated the period during which this species moves through s. California.

**DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Four White-winged Doves found on Pt. Loma in San Diego May 24-June 5 (EC), one in Anaheim May 21 (SG) and another at Linda Mia Ranch in the Antelope Valley June 4-8 (JAJ) were all w. of the species' normal range. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at F.C.R., May 28 (GPS), another along Cottonwood Cr., near Oasis May 28-29 (JLD), and a third at Oasis, Mono Co., May 29 (DRW) were all presumed migrants away from known breeding localities at the time this species arrives in California in spring. A Com. Nighthawk, another species that arrives in California exceptionally late in spring, at Oasis May 28 (BED) was the first noted this year. A Lesser Nighthawk on Pt. Dume near Malibu, Los Angeles Co., May 28 (KLG) was a vagrant away from areas of normal occurrence. Two Black Swifts over L. Henshaw May 4 (RH*i*), three over Mt. Palomar May 6 (RH*i*), nine more there May 10 (RH*i*), and one over Morongo Valley May 15 (JW) were all away from areas of regular occurrence at the time of migration. Three Chimney Swifts over Goleta May 26 (LRB) and 3-6 near Del Mar June 7-12 (DD) were along the coast where vagrants are regularly found each spring; however, two flying in and out of a chimney in Big Pine, Inyo Co., May 27+ (JLD) were in the e. portion of the Region where much rarer. Fifteen Vaux's Swifts in the Eaton Canyon/Altadena area of Los Angeles Co., Mar. 20-21 (DB*e*) had probably wintered locally as the date is some 2-3 weeks too early for spring migrants. The spring storms forced large numbers of these birds to lower altitudes in late April, making them conspicuous to observers, the largest concentration being 2000+ in Placerita Canyon, Los Angeles Co., Apr. 28 (EN). Calliope Hummingbirds were a little more numerous along the coast than usual, the species being continually present on Pt. Loma in San Diego Apr. 10-27 with 5-6 there Apr. 16 (DP). A ♂ Broad-billed Hummingbird, a casual straggler to California, along the lower portion of Chimney Cr., e. Kern Co., Apr. 24-27 (RH*e*) was only the second to be found in this area of California. An Acorn Woodpecker on Pt. Loma in San Diego May 14-15 (DP) was away from areas of normal occurrence. Two Lewis' Woodpeckers near Calipatria, Imperial Co., Mar. 26 (REW) were in an area where few have been recorded, and one remaining on Mt. Palomar to May 28 (RH*i*) was exceptionally late. A Hairy Woodpecker in the Antelope Valley e. of Lancaster May 7 (JLD), a Downy Woodpecker there Apr. 29 (JLD), and another a little farther e. at Linda Mia Ranch May 12 (JeB), were all some distance from known breeding localities. A ♂ Ladder-backed Woodpecker near Vista, San Diego Co., May 27-29 (CSW) was w. of the mountains where considered accidental.

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — Three E. Kingbirds, a rare but regular late spring transient, were reported with one at F.C.R., May 30 (BED), another in Needles, San Bernardino Co., May 29 (J&ES) and the third on Santa Barbara I., June 6-10 (CD). The **Thick-billed Kingbird** that spent the winter in Peters Canyon near Tustin was last seen Apr. 9 (AFP). A Tropical Kingbird that wintered in Goleta was still present on the remarkably late date of June 8 (TW). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Needles Apr. 19+ (WCH) appeared to be mated with a W. Kingbird, and was sitting on a nest at the end of the period; this may well be the same bird found here in 1979 (AB 33:897-898, 1979), the area having gone unchecked during the intervening years. A Wied's Crested Flycatcher at F.C.R., May 14-30 (BED) was appreciably n.w. of the species' known range, and another in Yucca Valley May 28 (H&PB) was only a short distance n. of Morongo Valley where an isolated

breeding population has been established for nearly 20 years. An Ash-throated Flycatcher at Mountain Palm Springs in e. San Diego Co., Mar. 13 (LD) may have wintered locally, this date being some 2 weeks early for a spring migrant. A Dusky Flycatcher, exceptionally rare along the coast in spring, was on Pt. Loma in San Diego Apr. 21 (EC), and nine Gray Flycatchers, another scarce bird along the coast in spring, were found there Apr. 6-30. A bird identified as a melanistic Tree Swallow was carefully studied in Needles May 22 (KLG); the bird superficially resembled some of the neotropical swallows of the genera *Notiochelidon* and *Neochelidon*, but lacked the right shape and pattern, however, it could easily have been so identified by a less cautious observer.

**CROWS THROUGH VIREOS** — A Com. Crow near Lancaster Mar 12 (KLG) was only the second to be found in the Antelope Valley, we still have much to learn about the factors determining the ranges of Com Ravens and Com. Crows in s. California, some areas supporting only one of these species while other areas play host to both. A Pygmy Nuthatch in W. Los Angeles May 8 (KLG) was in the coastal lowlands some distance from any area of normal occurrence. A singing Bendire's Thrasher at Palm Spring in the Anza Borrego Desert of e. San Diego Co., Mar. 19 (EAC, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) was judged to be a migrant since the species is not known to breed anywhere nearby. One of the two **Rufous-backed Robins** found wintering in Newport Beach remained through Apr. 11 (DRW) while the other disappeared in early March (SJR). A Varied Thrush in Shoshone May 14 (BED) was late and unexpected considering how few were in s. California during the winter. Two Townsend's Solitaires remained on Mt. Palomar to the late date of May 25 (RH*i*), this locality being s. of the species' breeding range. A flock of 2500 Cedar Waxwings arriving on Mt. Palomar during a snow storm Mar. 21 (RH*i*) came as a surprise since the species was virtually nonexistent throughout s. California during the winter. A (*Plumbeus*) Solitary Vireo carefully studied in Montana de Oro S.P., near Morro Bay Apr. 28 (GPS), was the first to be identified in San Luis Obispo County. A Red-eyed Vireo, a rare but regular spring vagrant to California, was at Oasis May 31 (LRB) and another was near Saugus, Los Angeles Co., June 4 (KLG).

**WOOD WARBLERS** — Thirty-one species of wood warblers were reported this spring, including all the regularly occurring w. coast species and the common vagrants (Black-and-white and Tennessee warblers, N. Waterthrushes and Am. Redstarts). A Worm-eating Warbler at F.C.R., May 30 (DKr) was only the fifth to be found in s. California in spring. A Virginia's Warbler in Santa Barbara Apr. 17 (AB) was along the coast where considered exceptionally rare in spring. An early N. Parula was found on Pt. Loma Apr. 16 (JO), with five others occurring May 19-June 8, the expected time period for this species in spring. Four Magnolia Warblers were found with a male on Pt. Loma May 25 (REW), another at F.C.R., May 27 (CC), a female at Oasis May 31 (LRB) and a male on Santa Barbara I., June 8 (CD). A ♂ Cape May Warbler, a casual spring vagrant, was at Deep Springs May 27 (DS) and a second was in Malibu June 4 (H&PB). The Black-throated Green Warbler found wintering in Goleta remained through Mar. 27 (TW), and a male at Oasis May 21 (GMcC) was only the 6th to be found in s. California in spring. The Chestnut-sided Warbler found wintering in Santa Barbara was last seen Mar. 15 (BED), and a male at Deep Springs May 27-29 (JAJ) was the only one found this spring.

The Grace's Warbler that wintered in Santa Barbara remained to Apr 1 (TW) and the other in nearby Carpinteria was last seen Mar. 12 (JEL). A ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler, a casual spring vagrant, was on Santa Barbara I., June 8, another was at Linda Mia Ranch in the Antelope Valley the same day (JeB), and a third was in Coronado, San Diego Co., June 15 (EC). A ♂ Blackpoll Warbler, exceptionally rare in spring, was at Oasis May 21 (REW). A Palm Warbler near Imperial Beach to Apr 10 (JO) and another in Los Osos to Apr. 20 (F&DK) had both wintered, but one at Deep Springs May 23 (JoB) was clearly a spring vagrant, this species being most unusual at this time of the year. Four Ovenbirds May 5-June 7 was fewer than normal. A ♂ Mourning Warbler, only the 4th to be found in s. California in spring, was well studied at Oasis May 28 (BED), ph. S.D.N.H.M.). A ♂ Canada Warbler at Deep Springs May 28 (CC) was only the 6th to be found in s. California in spring, the previous five all being in this general area. A ♀ Hooded Warbler, a

regular spring vagrant to California, was at Deep Springs May 27-28 (RA) and another was at nearby Oasis May 31 (LRB). The Painted Redstart found wintering in Santa Barbara was last seen Mar. 12 (TW); one at Dripping Spring in the Granite Mts., e. San Bernardino Co., Apr. 2 (BC) was undoubtedly a spring migrant, this species being an exceptionally early migrant arriving on nesting territories in s.e. Arizona in March.

**BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, TANAGERS** — Some half-dozen Boblinks at F.C.R., May 24-30 were in an area where small numbers are found each spring, but a male in Encino, Los Angeles Co., June 6-7 (CB) was unexpected. A ♂ Orchard Oriole in Santa Barbara Mar. 24-Apr. 17 (LR) was far too early for a spring vagrant, and is presumed to have wintered nearby. The only N. (Baltimore) Orioles reported were single birds at Mesquite Springs in Death Valley N. M., May 24 (BED), at nearby Scotty's Castle May 29 (BB), and in Goleta May 18 (TW); fewer than in previous years. Great-tailed Grackles continue to be found outside the species' current range with a male at Oasis May 23 (BED) and another at Tinemaha Reservoir in the Owens Valley May 29 (LCB) being relatively far n., and a male in Saugus, Los Angeles Co., Apr. 27 (JeB) and a female near Imperial Beach Apr. 16 (JO) being relatively far. A Com. Grackle at F.C.R., May 23 (JS) was about the 12th to be found in the Region.

A ♀ Scarlet Tanager, one of the rarer vagrants to reach California, was at Deep Springs May 30 (BB) and another was on Pt. Loma in San Diego May 29-June 2 (LS). The Hepatic Tanager that wintered in Santa Barbara was last seen Mar. 26 (TW). Summer Tanagers returned to Morongo Valley, where they nest, on the relatively early date of Apr. 17 (R&MW); a pair at nearby Yucca Valley May 28-29 (H&PB), and another pair in Valyermo, Los Angeles Co., May 26 (JT) could well have been birds of the w. race *cooperi* nesting at these localities, but one at Deep Springs May 22 (BED) and another in Huntington Beach May 21 (R&MW) were more likely to have been vagrants from the e. population *rubra*.

**FINCHES, SPARROWS** — Three Cardinals (an apparently mated pair and a single male) at the point where Vidal Wash enters the Colorado R., San Bernardino/Riverside Co., Mar. 23+ (BED) could well be the entire population remaining in California. A ♀ Pyrrhuloxia in the Chemehuevi Wash n. of Vidal Jct., San Bernardino Co., May 14 (JW) was at the very location where a pair nested in 1977; another female at Linda Mia Ranch in the Antelope Valley May 7-10 (JLD) was much farther w. than any of the previous localities of occurrence, but still

within the desert, and a male in Encinitas, San Diego Co., May 26-27 (DD) was best considered an escapee. Small numbers of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings occurred during May and early June as expected with  $25 \pm$  of the former and  $15 \pm$  of the latter reported. Three Red Crossbills on Mt. Palomar Mar. 3 (RH*i*) were in an area where few have been recorded. Two Lark Buntings were in Sunnymead, Riverside Co., Mar. 15 (TM), three more were near L. Perris, Riverside Co., Apr. 21 (TM), a male was in Salton City Mar. 27-29 (RH*i*), five were in the Earthquake Valley of e. San Diego Co., Apr. 18 (BM) with another there May 9 (RM*c*K) indicating a small number moved through the s.e. portion of the Region this spring. Two Harris' Sparrows at Oasis May 22-25 (REW) were exceptionally late. A wintering White-crowned Sparrow near Santa Barbara remained to the somewhat late date of May 11 (JH).

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## HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

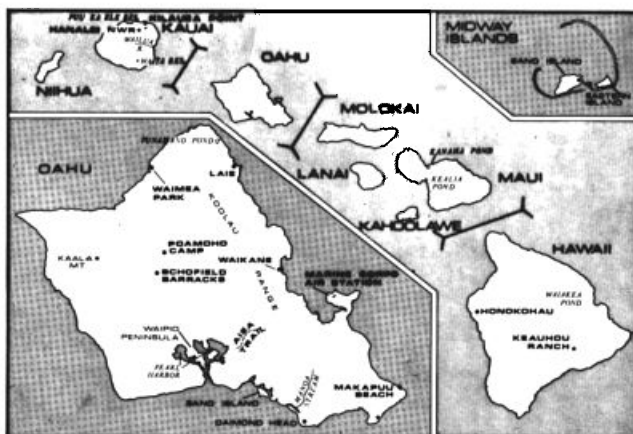
/Robert L. Pyle

Abnormally dry conditions that began last winter (see winter report) continued unabated through June. Precipitation at Honolulu has not reached half the monthly normal in any month yet this year. Total rainfall here for January through May of 1.69 inches, only one-eighth the expected normal, is the lowest for this 5-month period since records began in 1874. Previous lowest for this period was 2.64 inches. Some rain continues to fall in the mountains so that water tables are not yet endangered. But Kealia Pond on Maui Island, long one of the finest wetland areas in the state, is "in the throes of its last drying up." (CK).

**ABBREVIATIONS** — H.: Hawaii I., K.: Kauai I., M.: Maui I., O.: Oahu I., R.B.D.P.F.: Rare Bird Documentary Photo File, maintained by Hawaii Audubon Society.

**ALBATROSSES THROUGH TROPICBIRDS** — Although nesting of Laysan Albatrosses on Kauai was unsuccessful at the Kilauea Crater colony, recent reports indicated a potentially good year at Barking Sands. Of the seven known chicks hatched there, six survived into June. The seventh was blinded by severe pox lesions and had disappeared by Apr. 22 (TT). At least three had less severe pox lesions and were treated

May 27, with good chances of making it to fledging (JS, PS). A Black-footed Albatross was seen well flying past Kilauea Pt., K., Mar. 27 (DP *et al.*), and also on 1 or 2 other dates (TG). A dark albatross, probably also this species, appeared off Sand I., O., Apr. 29 (PD).



Manx (Newell's) Shearwaters (Threatened species) were first heard calling at the Nature Conservancy's Kaluahonu Preserve, K., Apr. 2, 4 days earlier than in 1981 and 1982 (JS). By mid-April, 200-300 birds were calling, which was comparable to recent years. Damage from hurricane *Iwa* last November was relatively light in the Preserve. But uluhe fern, the common ground cover at most of the 12 nesting sites known on Kauai, was only 3 ft high, in contrast to its normal 6 ft height. (JS)

A Red-tailed Tropicbird nest was located on Manana islet, off O., May 9, but its contents could not be determined (JB, MG, *fide* MM). Red-taileds gathered as usual at Kilauea Pt., K., with a high count of 18 reported Apr. 11 (RLP). Many were engaging in active courtship flight, although the nearest nesting locale, except for an occasional nest on Manana I., is hundreds of miles away in the n.w. Hawaiian Is. White-tailed Tropicbirds are also commonly seen at Kilauea Pt., and elsewhere in the canyons and cliffs of Kauai where they nest. But the shocker this year was a report of a **Red-billed Tropicbird** at Kilauea Pt., Apr. 6-7, watched at close range in comparison with Red- and White-taileds. Full descriptive notes were submitted (TG). The only prior records of this species in Hawaii are of 2 specimens from the n.w. Hawaiian Is., many years apart, and a possible sighting at sea off Hawaii I., a few years ago. *Where else in the United States, or in the world for that matter, can one watch 3 species of tropicbirds together, closely and at leisure, 2 days in a row, with his feet planted firmly on solid ground?*

EGRETS, WATERFOWL — Evening counts of Cattle Egrets at a roost near Kanaha Pond, M., observed for 2 years, are now up to 250 birds (LG). This is a definite increase over the numbers of this species previously reported on Maui I. A small Canada Goose was found at Kii Pond, James Campbell N.W.R., May 31 (PD). Northern Shovelers wintered in Hawaii in unusually low numbers this year, and also seemed to be late in departing. At Aimakapa Pond, H., about 30 shovelers (half the wintering population) were still present Apr. 16 (AT). **Blue-winged Teal** nested at Aimakapa *again!* AT found a female with 11 chicks, 3-5 days old, June 2. Six to nine adults were seen there regularly through the spring, and courtship display was noted Apr. 16 (AT). The Blue-winged Teal brood at Aimakapa last year was the first recorded nesting of a migratory waterfowl species in Hawaii. Also, three adults were found at nearby Opaepa Pond Apr. 2, but were not seen thereafter (AT).

PHASIANIDS THROUGH TERNS — Two broods of Red Junglefowl were running around happily at Kokee, K., Apr. 10 (RLP *et al.*). Numerous Com. Peafowl were heard calling in upper Makaha Valley, O., Apr. 24 (MO) & May 4 (PD, DS). Kalij Pheasants continue to increase in Hawaii Volcanoes N.P., H. (PS), and were seen commonly this spring in upper Kaloko on the opposite side of the island.

The Semipalmated Plover wintering on the rock flats next to Aimakapa Pond, H., was seen repeatedly into early June (AT), suggesting that it might overwinter here, as do occasional individuals of the more common migrant shorebird species. A **Greater Yellowlegs** at Honolulu Unit, Pearl Harbor N.W.R., during late February and March (sev ob., R.B.D.P.F. #s 214,215,216) furnished one of the very few records of this species in the state. Single Lesser Yellowlegs, a casual to regular migrant here, were at Opaepa Pond, H., Mar. 6 & Apr. 2 (AT), and at Waipio, O., May 4 (PD). Hawaiian (Black-necked) Stilts (Endangered) seem to be increasing on Hawaii I. Counts of 22 on Mar. 6 (AT) and 29 on Mar. 19 (PS, RLP) at Aimakapa Pond, and 14 on Mar. 6 (AT) at Opaepa Pond 12 km up the coast, were encouraging. At Aimakapa, two birds were on nests May 20, and two downy chicks and 2 more nests were found June 2 (AT).

A Glaucous-winged Gull was reported at Kaena Pt., O., Apr. 15 & 19 (JE, PD). A Laughing Gull turned up at Kii Unit, James Campbell N.W.R., May 20 (PD), and the bird wintering at Lokoaka Pond, H., was seen through Mar. 22 (PS) but had gone by Apr. 29. An ad. Franklin Gull in breeding plumage was seen well at Kealia Pond, M., May 21 (CK *et al.*).

The Caspian Tern wintering at Nuupia Pond, O., remained until at least Apr. 17 (RLP *et al.*). The two on Maui were seen at Kealia Pond May 21 (CK), but had moved to Kanaha Pond by June 27 (MU, *fide* CK) as Kealia was fast drying up. A tern seen at Kii Unit, James Campbell N.W.R., in late April was identified Apr. 24 as an **Arctic Tern** (RLP,PP) as it foraged on Pond D. *Three* were seen over the prawn

ponds at Lowe Aquafarm, adjacent to Kii, Apr. 26 (PD), and two on Apr. 28 (DS). Ponds at both these locations are freshwater and are about one km inland from the sea. Arctic Terns presumably migrate through the Hawaiian area of the c. Pacific, but there are fewer than 5 confirmed records for the state. The Black Tern resident at Aimakapa Pond, H., for 18 months began molting into black plumage in April and had disappeared by May 20 (AT). A pair of White Terns raised a chick in a large tree along Punahou Street in Honolulu this spring. The three birds were still being seen there when a second chick, almost ready to fledge, was picked up in the same locale June 9 and taken to Sea Life Park for care (*fide* MM).

#### PASSERINES —

#### S.A.

Since last November, aerial surveys of the mountain areas of Kauai, including the Alakai Swamp, have indicated extensive blowdown damage from hurricane *Iwa*, particularly in stands of native koa and of eucalyptus and other introduced trees. The Alakai is the last remaining habitat for several extremely rare and endemic Kauai birds. Effects of the hurricane on the remnant populations of these and other Hawaiian endemic species have been conjectural, largely because access by foot to this area, normally difficult at best, was made much worse by the extensive blowdown.

The first post-*Iwa* visit to the inner Alakai was made May 23-27 by J. Sincok, longtime investigator of the Alakai's rare species, accompanied by P. Sykes and D. Boynton. The first two are veteran biologists with the U.S.F.&W.S. Endangered Species Program. Going in by helicopter and camping 4 nights in the locale where the rarest species had last been observed, they were successful in finding two **Puaiohi** and two **'O'u**, along with reasonably expectable numbers of the more common species. None of the exceptionally rare Kauai Nuku-pu'u, Kauai 'Akialoa or Kama'o (Hawaiian Thrush) were found.

With respect to the most famous Endangered species, the 'O'o'a'a, the news was both good and bad. Good news was that a very active **O'o'a'a** was observed at leisure each day, calling repeatedly, and busily going in and out of a nest cavity from which nesting material was protruding. The nest was in a mostly dead ohia tree leaning over a steep slope such that the nest's contents could not be determined.

Bad news was that in 3 days of observation no second bird was seen or heard, and it was feared that this one, probably a male, has no mate. The 'O'o'a'a is not a secretive bird, and its loud, ringing call can be heard up to a quarter mile away. It is thus unlikely that a second bird would have been missed during 3 days of observation. No 'O'o'a'a have been recorded more than 2 miles from this spot in recent decades.

There is no way of knowing for certain, but is conceivable that these 3 observers were watching possibly the last remaining individual of this species, going through nest-building ritual in spring, and calling over and over for a mate that may never come.

'O'u also were heard calling but not seen at a favored locality in Olaa Forest Reserve, H.; one Apr. 2 and three Apr. 16 (PS *et al.*). A Red-crested Cardinal along Puhi Rd., w. of Lihue, K., Apr. 9 (RLP *et al.*) was one of the few reports of that species on Kauai. Many fledgling Yellow-billed Cardinals were noted in their traditional locale near Aimakapa Pond, H., Apr. 16 (AT).

ESTRILIDIDS — Introduced species in this family, which is unique to Hawaii in the A.O.U. Checklist area, are being reported more frequently now at localities other than the original well-known introduction point at Diamond Head, O. Twelve Red-cheeked Cordonbleus and 12 Lavender Mannikins, along with abundant Saffron Finches (Emberizid) and a lone Yellow-fronted Canary (Fringillid) were found Mar. 20 at a favored spot along the highway near Puu Waawaa Ranch on Hawaii I., where they were introduced some years ago (DP, PS *et al.*). A flock of 10 Orange-cheeked Waxbills was in a lotus field near Haleiwa, O., May 9 (TB, *fide* MM), on the opposite side of Oahu from Diamond Head. Fifteen Warbling Silverbills were noted at Molokini Islet between Mau



and Lanai Apr 2 (CK), and the species was reported again this spring on uninhabited Kahoolawe I. (RS, *vide* CK). A large flock of 150 Chestnut Mannikins at Hanapepe Salt Ponds, K., Apr. 10 (RLP *et al.*) attests to the continuing increase of this species on that island. And finally, a Java Sparrow in a yard in Kailua, O., Mar. 26 (RS) furnished one more record of this species appearing on the windward side of the island.

## WEST INDIES REGION

/Robert L. Norton

Regional climatology was the overriding influence on avian distribution and ecology. The drought mentioned in earlier reports continued in the Virgin Islands and elsewhere in the Caribbean from the coasts of Mexico to Panama where it has been the worst dry spell in 70 years. Indiscriminant lumbering at the rate of 100,000 acres/year has aggravated drought conditions, not to mention habitat loss. In Kingston, Jamaica, rationing of water was ordered for the first time in 56 years, and the hydro-electric plant in Haiti was closed due to extremely dry conditions over a long period. The dry spell, however, came to an abrupt end April 17-18 in the northern Virgin Islands when torrential rains left  $18.5 \pm$  inches occasionally at the rate of 6 inches per hour (!) at several sites. The monthly rainfall totals compared to the 60-year average at St. John are as follows; March -88%, April +437%, and May -13%.

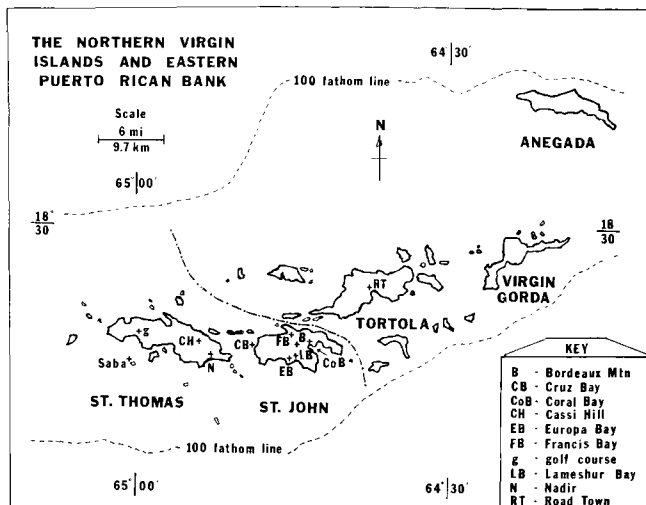
Perhaps the most telling effect of the April deluge was on the nesting population of Sooty Terns near St. Thomas. Plot censuses at Saba Cay in the last two years have indicated a population of about 50,000 Sooties. Censuses this season suggested a 30% decrease owing particularly to their habit of arriving in the area about 30 days prior to nest site selection, remaining entirely aerial until nesting commences, and having no water repellency in their plumage which renders them extremely vulnerable to long periods of heavy rain.

Two reports, one late, from sailing cruises off the southern coast of Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic and Haiti by GO who was near shore February 10-13 and RLN who was 50+ miles offshore aboard *Appledore* April 7-10 from Hispaniola to Jamaica provide sightings of pelagics infrequently reported. This area comes under the influence of the western extension of the Atlantic Equatorial Current which enters the Caribbean in the Lesser Antilles at about  $11^\circ$  to  $13^\circ$  N moving west eventually entering the Gulf of Mexico and emerging through the Straits of Florida as the Gulf Stream. Pelagic species follow this "highway" in spring and fall as Bond's (1979) *Stercorariid* records suggest. These major current flows clearly explain why pelagics are reported in the lower latitudes of the Lesser Antilles, northwest Cuba, and west Bahamas. Records from Bermuda in late April to late May are from an area of convergence of the Antillean northern extension of the Atlantic Equatorial Current) flow and the Gulf Stream along the western edge of the Sargasso Sea.

Habitats and their status are mentioned with increasing frequency by contributors. For example, a large conflagration apparently set in Haiti burned for 8 days into the nesting area of Black-capped Petrels, fragmentation of forests in Puerto Rico is reducing endemic avian distribution, dumping of solid waste and pathogens in coastal areas is a serious problem everywhere in the West Indies, slash and burn farming and charcoal production are similarly going unchecked, lumbering interests on Dominica are encroaching on the magnificent rain forest, land clearing for commercial developments, and the devastating hurricanes have impacted bird life that has yet been unmeasured. If natural disasters and the incipient human use of finite island resources are not enough, the *San Juan Star* (June 1) reported that defoliantes were tested 1963-1966 in the Luquillo National Forest, Puerto Rico, near Maricao, and other areas where approximately 1500 pounds of different herbicides were dumped. About 340 lbs of *Agent Orange* and its derivative TCDD, or dioxin which "is considered to be the deadliest poison ever produced by man", were dumped mostly in the El Verde area. A Puerto Rican based study is underway to determine the effects of the dumping on the nearby human populations.

On an inspirational note, ASD observed "a couple of pairs of Com-

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mon Yellowthroats carrying nesting material." Bond (1956) mentioned two June records from the Greater Antilles, but it may only be a matter of time before nesting of more North American species are confirmed in Hispaniola (very continental in aspect (BS *et al.*). Indeed, a siskin (*Carduelis dominicensis*) and a crossbill (*Loxia leucoptera*) are resident only in Haiti in the Caribbean (see Leck, *J. Field Ornithol.*, 1980), the least known ornithologically of the Greater Antilles (Bond).

Lastly, there will be mention of unobserved species, a form of negative data, which were expected or searched for in vain. This is an attempt to exhort further work on little known species.

Frequently used abbreviations: Dom. Rep.: Dominican Republic, St J.: St. John, ST.T: St. Thomas, T. & C.: Turks and Caicos Is., V I Virgin Islands, P.R.: Puerto Rico.

**SHEARWATERS THROUGH FALCONS** — A Greater Shearwater was observed at close range from the *Appledore* Apr. 8 about 50 mi s of Hispaniola. Audubon's Shearwaters (two) were also seen in the area Apr. 7 as were 11 Black-capped Petrels Apr. 7-9 off s. Hispaniola. Single Wilson's Storm-Petrels were noted close to the ship Apr. 8 & 9. GO reported 16 Black-capped Petrels from Beata, Dom. Rep., to Isla a Vache, Haiti, Feb. 11-13. BS observed 20 Red-billed Tropicbirds at Moule à Chique, St. Lucia Mar. 7-15. White-tailed Tropicbirds (seven) were seen well offshore near Barahona, Dom. Rep. Apr. 7-8; (eight) along the n.e. coast of Jamaica Apr. 9; and (seven from Grand Turk (hereafter, G.T.) Apr. 12 (RSIL). Red-footed Boobies (*ca.* 200) were noted in the Mona Passage, P.R., Feb. 10 (GO). Fifty miles off the s coast of Haiti, 23 Red-footeds were seen probably from the little-known U.S. possession of Navassa, w. of Haiti, a good location for avian turnover work. A Double-crested Cormorant was reported from Providenciales, T. & C. Apr. 11 (BA). Reddish Egrets are reported to be common in these islands. An Am. Bittern was first seen Mar. 22 and probably inclusive to Apr. 13 at Parrot Cay, T. & C. (HC, *vide* BA). ARK reported a **Least Bittern** seen at Dominica Apr. 9 which may represent the first Lesser Antillean record. A Glossy Ibis was seen offshore Apr. 9 near Haiti (RLN). American Flamingos numbered 13 at Parrot Cay, T. & C., May 20 (HC). At Cockroach Cay, St. T., Mar 24 a Peregrine Falcon was seen feeding on a downy Brown Booby chick. The densely populated booby colonies provide easy prey for overwintering

*Falco peregrinus* on the e. P.R. Bank. Merlins were noted on St. T., Apr. 2 & 4 at G.T. (RStL). A rufous-phased Am. Kestrel was carefully noted in the Blue Mts., near Spring Hill, Jamaica Apr. 11 (RLN), for one of the few records of *F. sparverius sparveroides* in the Greater Antilles outside of Cuba.

**GALLINULES THROUGH TERNS** — BA reported the first occurrence of Purple Gallinule from Providenciales, seen Mar. 15. Single Am. Coots were observed Apr. 1 at Parrot Cay (HC, *fide* BA) and May 31 at St. J. (RLN). A Sora was noted at St. J., Mar. 25. The dry winter provided extensive margins around ponds in the V.I. which may have stimulated early nesting by Killdeer on St. T., where a 3-egg nest was found Mar. 7 indicating that nesting began in late February. Snowy Plovers were seen constantly in the T. & C. (BA, RStL) Apr. 9-May 26 where nesting is likely. A Solitary Sandpiper was seen Apr. 25 at St. T. and two White-rumped Sandpipers seen May 15 at G.T. provided rare spring occurrences. The two cruises off the s. coast of Haiti provide important insight on the winter and spring distribution of jaegers in the Caribbean as evidenced by the following observations. GO noted 19 Pomarine and 13 Parasitic jaegers Feb. 12-13. RLN recorded fewer numbers of Pomarine (four) and Parasitic (one) Apr. 7-9 while ARK noted 9+; Parasitic Jaegers Apr. 10-11 at Dominica (ca. 15° 30' N). But a very carefully observed **Long-tailed Jaeger** at close range as it approached the stern of the vessel and alighted on the surface of the ocean was quite unexpected. A **Great Skua** which passed very close to the ship Apr. 9 may represent only the second spring record from the Greater Antilles. Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers were constantly following and harrassing Sooty Terns as they fed.

Ring-billed Gulls at G.T. (TStL) were seen Mar. 6 (one)-13 (two). On Apr. 7 four were noted in the harbor at Santo Domingo, Dom. Rep., and ARK reported two Apr. 10-11 at Dominica. Gull-billed Tern, an uncommon and very local breeder, was observed at G.T. (six) May 15 (RStL) and possibly four at Great Pond, St. Croix Apr. 28 (JY). Common Tern (two), another very localized breeder, was noted at G.T. (RStL) Apr. 24. No breeding site has been located recently in the V.I. where Nichols (1943) collected evidence over 40 years ago. About 50 Com. or Roseate terns were seen off s. Haiti Feb. 11 (GO) either of which are very uncommon at this latitude in winter and prior to mid-April. Sandwich Terns were found nesting again at Pelican Cay, St. T., May 27. Among the several hundred pairs of incubating "Cabot's Terns" were several yellow-billed or intermediate types (or "Cayenne Terns"). More about this subject is expected elsewhere. This caps a remarkable seabird migration as witnessed by only a handful of observers.

**PARROTS THROUGH WAXWINGS** — BS *et al.*, observed both of Dominica's endemic parrots; three Imperials and 12 Red-necked, including an active nest, and eight St. Lucia Parrots Mar. 7-15. ARK visited the same islands Apr. 5-11 reporting that Imperials were still nesting, eight Red-neckeds were seen, and four St. Lucia Parrots were noted. ARK also reports that Brown-throated Parakeets may be established as a recent introduction to Dominica (possibly from St. T.—RLN). Subspecific determination would be of interest. In St. T. they have become popular pets and export trade. Indeed, ASD says that the Dom. Rep.'s psitticines are being illegally exported and depleting the island's endemic avifauna. Thirty Haitian Parakeets were seen Apr. 6 (ASD, RNL) near Neiba, Dom. Rep. Only 2 nightjar species breed in the Lesser Antilles. ARK reported that two Rufous Nightjars were observed Apr. 4 at St. Lucia, the only West Indian locality. Three West Indian Nighthawks were heard at L. Enriquillo, Dom. Rep., Apr. 6 (RLN, ASD) and one at Coral Bay, St. J., Apr. 18. A Com. Nighthawk was seen at Maho Bay, St. J., Mar. 29. Also at L. Enriquillo, a Least Parakee was seen Apr. 5 (RLN). Another Lesser Antillean endemic, a Blue-headed Hummingbird, male, was observed only once at Dominica Apr. 10 (ARK).

The Lesser Antillean form of the 'Stolid Flycatcher' was present at Dominica and St. L. (BS, ARK) in March and April. A nest containing 6 eggs of this flycatcher was found at Cruz Bay, St. J., May 2 (RLN, DK). BS and ARK report that the 'House' Wren is fairly common at Dominica (26+) in March and April but was not noted at St. Lucia, where it is habitat-restricted and thus vulnerable. Another absentee was the Tropical Mockingbird which was not observed at Dominica, by BS or ARK. Recently from Grenada, MM confirmed that hurricane damage left little

suitable habitat for birds. Dominica's N. P. sustained incredible damage from Hurricane *David* (BS). Another Lesser Antillean endemic, the White-breasted Thrasher, was unobserved by BS and ARK at St. Lucia, in March and April. A group of **Cedar Waxwings** (12) remained in Santo Domingo, Dom. Rep., Mar. 5-12 which may not have been the same flock seen at Puerto Escondido on Dec. 28 (BS).

**WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES** — ASD reports that the Dom. Rep. had a poor warbler migration, probably weather and habitat related, which was also reflected by the paucity of Parulid sightings in Dominica and St. Lucia even of the common or expected parula (one) at St. Lucia (BS) in March and Am. Redstart (one) at Dominica (ARK) Apr. 5. During the same period RLN noted one Black-and-white and two Black-throated Blue warblers during several hours of walking in the Blue Mts., Jamaica, Apr. 11. Lack (1976) found these types the most common migrant Parulids (12 and 7 hours of walking respectively). A Blackburnian Warbler was seen Mar. 5 (ASD) in Santo Domingo. BS and ARK did not observe Semper's Warbler, endemic to St. Lucia which is perhaps the rarest Parulid in the West Indies. Nothing is known of its song or nidification. St. Lucia's endemic oriole was seen in March (BS) and Apr. 7 (ARK). A N. (Baltimore) Oriole was seen at St. J., Mar. 25 and Apr. 4 another was seen in Santo Domingo (ASD). The endemic St. Lucia Black Finch was unrecorded by BS and ARK.

**ADDENDUM** — ASD reports that a **Gray Catbird** was seen at Parque del Este, Dom. Rep., Nov. 12 providing one of the few records e. of Cuba and that a Golden-winged Warbler was noted in February, 1981. BS adds that Golden-wingeds were seen at Maricao, P. R., Feb. 2 and at El Verde, P.R., Feb. 4. Seven Puerto Rican Parrots were seen there Feb. 5.

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*Barn Swallows/drawing by Tad Theimer.*