

The Spring Migration

March 1 — May 31, 1984

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, ∅: 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

Although the diversity in this Region invariably precludes any consensus among its many observers, rarely does a season evoke such an extreme divergence of opinions as did the spring of 1984. Comments ranged from "one of the best we ever had" to "a silent spring." This feast-to-famine situation defies explanation and appears unrelated to local variations in the weather, which was fairly uniform across the Region: cold, very wet and generally unfavorable, both for migration and for migration-watchers.

Following an exceptionally mild spell in late February and the resultant premature influx of blackbirds and other early migrants, March was ushered in by below-normal cold that persisted, with only brief exceptions, most notably March 21-24, through the end of the month. In fact, March temperatures in Boston averaged 5.2°F colder than those of February(!) and two major storms brought as much as 30 inches of snow to portions of northern New England. Not surprisingly, by month's end migration had fallen well behind schedule. The sub-par temperatures persisted through much of April (2.6° below normal for the month in Boston) accompanied by above-normal rainfall and, while a few species managed to appear on time, the arrival of most remained retarded by a week or more. Storms of southerly origins swept through the Region April 5-6, 15-16 and 24-25, bringing with them an ample number of the typical April overshoots, although totals fell far short of last year's record flights. Indigo Buntings, as usual, led the charge, followed by a well-above-average number of Blue Grosbeaks.

A brief surge of warm air at the end of April brought a small flurry of migrant activity, but the cool, excessively wet conditions returned in early May and continued with only momentary spells of relief (primarily May 11-14) through the 18th. Finally, the weather broke May 19 and the first significant southwest winds of the season generated the only Region-wide wave of note. From Connecticut to Nova Scotia, observers found good, although generally unremarkable, concentrations of warblers and other migrants May 19-22. The Manomet Bird Observatory



recorded their peak activity on May 22 when 340 birds were handled. The warm spell lasted through the 27th, but then the skies opened and copious rainfall across New England the last four days of May resulted in severe flooding in many areas and seriously impacted much of the nesting activity underway at that time.

It appears the northward range extension undergone by a number of essentially southern species over the last two-to-three decades may have abated, at least temporarily. Species such as the "southern" herons, Chuck-will's-widow, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Northern Mockingbird and Northern Cardinal have all been lightly reported at the northern edges of their respective

ranges recently Whether these species have reached their "limits" in the Region, or are merely exhibiting a temporary response to three successive colder-than-normal springs, remains to be seen. Conversely, a few species, such as Turkey Vulture, Kentucky Warbler and Blue Grosbeak, have continued their northward expansions.

Genuine rarities were few and far between, although it should be noted that several species that were almost unknown in spring a few years ago (e.g., Lesser Black-backed Gull, Forster's Tern, Clay-colored Sparrow, Yellow-headed Blackbird) are now regularly reported during this season and no longer merit "bold-facing." For those keeping score, the season netted three state/provincial firsts, one of which was also new to the Region. Newfoundland failed to live up to its developing reputation as "Attu East," perhaps due to rather limited coverage there this spring (BMc). Understandably, observers in that province may have needed a rest following last fall/winter's bonanza!

ABBREVIATIONS — G.B. = George's Bank; G.M.N.P. = Gros Morne Nat'l Park, Nfld.; M.V. = Martha's Vineyard, Mass.; M.B.O. = Manomet Bird Observatory, Mass.

LOONS, GREBES — A breeding-plumaged Arctic Loon was a surprising find at Manomet, Mass., May 27-29 (J. Loughlin). Observers once again documented a loon migration past Pt. Judith, R.I., although numbers were well below the last 2 seasonal totals. On 4 dates in May (9, 12, 23 & 24), 565 Com. Loons were tallied, with a peak of 186 May 12 (RLF, RAC *et al.*), the same day that Red-throated Loons also peaked at 46 birds.

Stormy weather generated a remarkable grounding of grebes inland in w Massachusetts Apr. 15. At Congamond L., in Southwick, 44 Horned and 69 Red-necked grebes on that date (SK) exceeded most totals from s coastal locations this spring. The observer noted that most of the Red-neckeds, but none of the Horneds, were in breeding plumage. Along the coast, Horned Grebes continued to be very scarce with 46 at Plum I., Mass., Apr. 17 (J. Grugan) the largest concentration reported. Red-necked Grebes were scarce again also, particularly in s. portions where the highest count was a mere 47 at Gloucester, Mass., Apr. 7 (C. Floyd). In Nova Scotia, an influx (from where?) of Red-neckeds was noted in mid-April, when 150+ were at Cow Bay Apr. 11 (FLL), 80 at eastern Passage Apr. 13 (IAM), and 150 were tallied at 4 other locations in the province. Still farther n., on St. Pierre, 427 Mar. 6 (*vide* RE), although impressive compared with elsewhere in the Region, was fewer than half of the 883 counted there last spring (not previously reported). Western Grebes (morph not specified) were at Revere, Mass., Apr. 25-27 (M. Vaughn *et al.*) and Nantucket I., Mass., Apr. 26 (E & C Andrews).

TUBENOSES THROUGH IBISES — Northern Fulmars were abundant in the Cabot Strait Apr. 23 when 907 were noted (BM) while farther s, 120 storm-driven birds were seen in Eastham, Mass., Mar. 30 (BN). Single Sooty Shearwaters were first noted at Cape Breton, N.S., Apr. 18 (*vide* RGG) and on G.B., Apr. 21 (RSdE), and 116 were on Cox's Ledge May 28 (*vide* DLE). One to two Manx Shearwaters were again noted around Pt. Judith, R.I., on several dates beginning Apr. 15 (*vide* DLE), resurrecting speculation about probable breeding in that area. The first Wilson's Storm-Petrels were noted on G.B., Apr. 25 (RSdE), while two unidentified storm-petrels in Barnstable Harbor, Mass., Mar. 30 (JA) following a storm, were probably Leach's.

No exceptional counts of cormorants were received, however, both species continued in greatly increased numbers and an inland Great Cormorant appeared again in Lakeville, Mass., May 28 (WRP).

While populations of Am. Bitterns in s. portions of the Region remained low, it was encouraging to learn that "most suitable areas in Newfoundland have a pair" (BM), and in Nova Scotia, 14+ birds was "more than usual" (IAM). An unusually cooperative Least Bittern was present at Grand Desert, N.S., May 15-31 (*vide* IAM). One of the more bizarre events of the season was a fall-out of herons on and around the C.G.S. "Dawson" at sea off N. Cape Breton, N.S. (exact location not specified), in late March. Some 50 Great Blue Herons, 25 or so Cattle Egrets and a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron were noted there Mar. 30 (*vide* IAM)! Other "pelagic" herons included two Great Egrets on an oil rig 180 mi e. of St. John's, Nfld., Apr. 5 (*vide* BMC), a Snowy Egret that landed aboard a ship and perished 20 mi s. of Burgeo, Nfld., in late March (*vide* BMC) and a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron found dead on

Sable I, N S, in April (IAM) At the other extreme, notable inland birds included single Great Egrets in E. Conway, N.H., May 2-31 (B Robinson) and Manchester, N.H., May 13 (M. Martin), and single Glossy Ibises in Wentworth, N.H., Apr. 6 (E. Burke) and S. Windsor, Conn., May 19 (PJD). A Great Egret was early in Chatham, Mass., Mar 3-12 (*vide* BN).

In addition to those noted above, extralimital herons, all in Nova Scotia, included 15 Snowy Egrets, three Little Blue Herons, two Tricolored Herons, two Cattle Egrets, and two Green-backed Herons, plus two Glossy Ibises (*vide* IAM). A Little Blue Heron was also reported from Miquelon May 28 (RE). Certainly the preeminent wading bird of the season was a **White-faced Ibis**, carefully studied among nine Glossies in Essex, Mass., Apr. 24-27 (†RAF *et al.*). Diagnostic features noted were a bright red iris, red "knees" and a ¼ inch-wide crescent of white around the eye. The sighting constitutes a first Regional record, although not unexpected in light of the species' regularity in New York and New Jersey recently.

WATERFOWL — Tundra Swans were found in Massachusetts at Rutland Apr. 2 (ML, SC) and Springfield Apr. 9 (B. Kinnery) and an exceptionally late individual was reported from Lincolnville, Me., May 28 (J. Despres, *vide* WCT). Modest numbers of Snow Geese included 1500 over Egremont, Mass., Apr. 6 (D. Spurr), 500 over Greenwich, Conn., Apr. 9 (*vide* TB) and a maximum of 400 at Plum I., Mass., in April (*vide* RPE). Significant concentrations of Brant were in Wellfleet, Mass., Mar. 22 when 2500 were estimated (P. Trull) and in Westport, Conn., where 2000-3000 were moving in the evening on the rather late date of May 20 (DV). "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal Regionwide totaled three or four individuals while Eur. Wigeon numbered six birds. In Newfoundland, 10+ pairs of Am. Wigeon during the period (BM) was indicative of that species' increase in n. portions of the Region, and in the same province, a pair of N. Shovelers in the Codroy Valley May 20 (BM) and a pair of Lesser Scaup at G.M.N.P., May 7-9 (BM) were considered noteworthy.

Typically late King Eiders were singles in Marion, Mass., Apr. 23 (RAF) and Greenwich Pt., Conn., Apr. 26 (JZ), and three on M.V., May 14-19 (W. Manter *et al.*). At Isle au Haut, Me., the annual Harlequin Duck census Mar. 25 recorded 200+ birds (PDV). Scoters migrating past Pt. Judith, R.I., Apr. 21 numbered 1300 Black, 1300 Surf and only 40 White-winged (RLF), while at Greenwich Pt., Conn., on the evenings of Apr. 26 & 27, 1111 White-winged, one Black (and no Surfs) were recorded, all moving E to W (JZ *et al.*). The waters around Cape Cod have hosted increasing concentrations of Red-breasted Mergansers in recent years, perhaps in response to a spectacular increase in populations of the small fish *Ammodytes* (sp.), but a count of 15,000 from Wellfleet to Provincetown Mar. 31 (WRP) was the highest ever reported there or, perhaps, anywhere in the Region.

HAWKS — Turkey Vultures were again numerous as far n. as c Maine. The only kite reported was an **American Swallow-tailed Kite** in Concord, Mass., May 30 (P. Stowe). Amidst concern for the species throughout most of the Region, it is encouraging to learn that five or six pairs of N. Harriers are now breeding in G.M.N.P., Nfld., where they were formerly only vagrants (BM). Good numbers of migrating Sharp-shinned Hawks were noted in Massachusetts, with a maximum of 165 in 4 hours at Truro May 6 (BN *et al.*). A very early Broad-winged Hawk was found in Hamilton, Mass., Mar. 13 (RSH), and the peak of that species' migration apparently occurred Apr. 22 when 228 were counted passing Mt. Wachusett, Mass. (T. Lipsky) and the following day when a "strong migration" was noted in s. New Hampshire (SAG). Thorough, convincing details were furnished for two(!) birds identified as Swainson's Hawks that passed Peaked Hill, N.H., Apr. 13 (SAG). However, the observer feels that, because no other observers were present for corroboration, the sightings should be considered hypothetical.

Peak numbers of migrating Am. Kestrels this spring were found at Scituate, Mass., where 155 were totaled on 4 dates in late April, with a peak of 89 on Apr. 29 (*vide* GWG). No fewer than 79 Merlins across the Region was an exceptional spring total (*cf.* an above-average 40 last year) and 28+ Peregrines continued the steady upward trend in spring reports for that species. The wintering gray Gyrfalcon at Sakonnet Pt., R.I., remained through the end of March and was joined by a white bird during the first 2 weeks of that month (*vide* DLE)!

GRUIFORMES, SHOREBIRDS — Five Purple Gallinules—dead, alive and otherwise—included a dead, frozen bird on Cape Sable I., N.S., Mar. 1 (E. Murphy), a dead adult in Eastham, Mass., Apr. 10 (*vide* DR), an injured bird in Springfield, Mass., May 1 (*vide* SK), one which landed on a boat “far to the south” of Rhode Island May 8 and rode into Galilee (*vide* DLE), and one adult in Shad Bay, N.S., May 26–June 4 (*vide* IAM). Sandhill Cranes were found in Franklin, Me., May 3 (*vide* WCT), Seal Harbor, Me., May 7–8 (*vide* WCT) and on Plum I., Mass., May 27–28 (*vide* RPE). RSH enjoyed watching the latter bird leaping into the air and trumpeting, as it pursued an over-matched and intimidated Red Fox along the marsh edge!

Extensive shorebird censuses were conducted this spring at both the mouth of the Housatonic R., Conn. (DV) and on Monomoy I., Mass. (BN, DH). The accompanying table illustrates some interesting similarities and contrasts in arrival dates and peak numbers for the most common species.

Table 1. Shorebird censuses at Housatonic River mouth, Conn. (HR) & Monomoy I., Mass. (MI).

Species		First date	Maximum # (date)
Black-bellied Plover	(HR)	4/8	600 (5/30)
	(MI)	3/31	950 (5/13)
Semipalmated Plover	(HR)	4/29	350 (5/14)
	(MI)	4/29	20 (5/22)
Greater Yellowlegs	(HR)	4/2	260 (5/2)
	(MI)	5/3	20 (5/17)
Ruddy Turnstone	(HR)	5/6	190 (5/22)
	(MI)	5/8	150 (5/28)
Red Knot	(HR)	5/22	6 (6/1)
	(MI)	3/31	160 (6/3)
Sanderling	(HR)	?	110 (4/26)
	(MI)	4/18	2000 (5/28)
Semipalmated Sandpiper	(HR)	4/26	1000 (6/5)
	(MI)	5/8	1500 (5/28)
Least Sandpiper	(HR)	4/18	500 (5/11)
	(MI)	4/18	450 (5/13)
Dunlin	(HR)	?	660 (5/22)
	(MI)	3/31	1200 (5/3,17)
Short-billed Dowitcher	(HR)	5/6	100 (5/30)
	(MI)	4/18	250 (5/21)

No fewer than 12 Lesser Golden-Plovers, Apr. 11–May 22, all but two of which were in Massachusetts, could be considered an “invasion” by this normally rare spring migrant. **Wilson’s Plovers** were photographed at Plymouth, Mass., May 15 (D. Bolster) and Seal I., N.S., May 26–28 (IAM, ELM *et al.*). A Willet at Stephenville Crossing, Nfld., May 27 (BM) added to the increasing number of records in that province. Three Upland Sandpipers on M.V., Apr. 3 (VL) were very early. A total of 21 Whimbrels across the s. one-half of the Region was well above average, while a Marbled Godwit on Monomoy I., May 19 (J. Barton *et al.*) was unique this season. White-rumped Sandpipers were early at both Monomoy I. (BN) and Richmond Pond, Mass. (*vide* DLE), Apr. 29, and one at Stephenville Crossing, Nfld., May 27 (BM) established only the 2nd spring provincial record. Many observers, throughout the Region, commented on numbers of Purple Sandpipers lingering into late May. Curlew Sandpipers at Squantum, Mass., May 27–28 (*vide* RPE) and Monomoy I., May 28 (BN) provided the first spring occurrences in the Region since 1980. A very early Stilt Sandpiper was in Salisbury, Mass., Apr. 7 (*vide* RPE, ph.), and three were in Newburyport, Mass., Apr. 23 (M. Litchfield *et al.*). Spring **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** are virtually unknown in the northeast, so one in Lancaster, Mass., Apr. 28 (†ML, SC) was an eye-opener. No details were received on a 2nd individual reported from Miquelon May 5 (*vide* RE).

The indomitable Ruff that survived the winter with a flock of Rock Doves in St. John’s, Nfld., was last seen Apr. 24 (*vide* BMc). Visions of this misguided soul sitting on a nest under a bridge somewhere, or perhaps in a church steeple, are, of course, preposterous, and yet . . . ?! More normal Ruffs were found on only 3 occasions this spring: singles

in Scarboro, Me., May 3 (PDV), Newburyport, Mass., May 5–13 (*vide* RPE) and Squantum, Mass., May 27 (*vide* RPE). Long-billed Dowitchers were at Jerusalem, R.I., Apr. 7 (†RAC) and M.V., Mass., Apr. 27 (VL *et al.*), but a dowitcher in Newburyport, Mass., on the early date of Mar. 28 (JPS) was thought to be a Short-billed. Wilson’s Phalaropes were again widely reported, with five in Connecticut, one in Rhode Island, 16+ in Massachusetts (including a maximum of eight plus at Plum I.), one in Maine, two in Nova Scotia, and one in Miquelon. Red-necked Phalaropes are routinely encountered off Monhegan I., Me., in late May, but a flock of 60+ Red Phalaropes there May 27 (*vide* WCT) were not only late but unusual that far inshore.

JAEGERS, GULLS — Very few jaegers were noted, but one storm-driven individual, species unidentified, in Eastham Mar. 30 (BN) was very early, while a Parasitic in West Haven, Conn., Apr. 12 (NP) was not only early but in an unusual location.

Far-afield Laughing Gulls were on G.B., Apr. 24 (RSdE), Bon Portage I., N.S., May 20 (EPS) and inland at Southwick, Mass., May 12 (SK). Little Gull numbers seem to have leveled off somewhat recently; this season’s total of 10+ (*cf.* 7, 15+, 8+, 8+ the last 4 years) were distributed among Connecticut (three+), Rhode Island (two), and Massachusetts (five+). Common Black-headed Gulls, on the other hand, may be in the initial stages of a major expansion into the Region. Totals of 45+ in Newfoundland and 42+ in Nova Scotia early in the period suggested more than a token breeding population somewhere farther north(?). Although numbers in New England remained comparatively low (17+ total this season), they were well distributed throughout s. portions and a significant development occurred on Monomoy I., site of last year’s unsuccessful “single-handed” nesting attempt (AB 37:847), where a pair of Black-headed returned this year and produced 2 eggs in late May for a first United States nesting record (DH).



Common Black-headed Gull on nest on Monomoy I., Mass., June 1984. First U.S. breeding record. Photo/Robert Humphrey.

Mew Gulls were represented by adults in Rocky Harbor, Nfld., Apr. 2 (†BM) and Falmouth, Mass., Apr. 8 (†K. Griffis *et al.*), and a 2nd-year bird in Dartmouth, N.S., Mar. 12–Apr. 18 (FLL *et al.*, ph.). No fewer than four different Thayer’s Gulls at Galilee, R.I., Mar. 3–May 5 (†RAC *et al.*) had observers speculating about a “migration” of the species through that area, but one adult at Cape Ray, Nfld., Apr. 28 (†BM) was the only other report in the Region. An impressive migration of Iceland Gulls up the w. coast of Newfoundland was detected Apr. 13–15 when 10,000 birds, 98% adults, were estimated to have passed (BM). This same movement also contained 180 Glaucous Gulls, also 98% adults (BM). The season’s seven Lesser Black-backed Gulls were split between Newfoundland (four) and Massachusetts (three). Top hon-

ors in the gull department went to Connecticut, where an ad. **Ross' Gull** both pleased and frustrated birders with its sporadic appearances (and disappearances) in West Haven Apr. 11-22 (DV *et al.*), for a first state and 4th Regional record. An ad. Ivory Gull at Conception Bay, Nfld., Apr. 16 was both late and unusually far s. (BMc).

TERNs, ALCIDS — Gull-billed Terns were found at Watchemoket Cove, R.I., May 7 (†RAC) and Rowley, Mass., May 29 (†RSH). An excellent total of 58 Caspian Terns was distributed among Newfoundland (24), Nova Scotia (one), Maine (one), Massachusetts (20), Rhode Island (10), and Connecticut (two). A basic-plumaged Forster's Tern was very early, although not unprecedented, at W. Dennis, Mass., Mar. 26 (JA), two were among the Ross' Gull fall-out at West Haven, Conn., Apr. 19 (*fide* DV) and an alternate-plumaged bird was identified in Chatham, Mass., Apr. 22 (BN *et al.*). A prevenient Least Tern at Plymouth, Mass., Apr. 20 (PWS) rounded out the tern list. Single Black Skimmers were found on M.V., May 7-8 (*fide* RPE), Squantum, Mass., May 8-11 (*fide* RPE), and Monomoy I., May 12-13 (RP *et al.*), while six to seven flying past Monhegan I., Me., May 20 (T. Martin, *fide* WCT & PAC) were far afield.

Alcids reports were sparse, but 29 Dovekies in the Cabot Strait May 19 (BM) were surprisingly tardy, and a trip 50 mi s. of Block I., R.I., Mar. 15 produced two to three Atlantic Puffins (RAC).

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — A **White-winged Dove** photographed on Grand Manan, N.B., May 22 (C. Johnston, J. Wilson) provided a 3rd record for that province. Following a crash in the gypsy moth population, both cuckoos were sparsely reported throughout most of their ranges within the Region.



White-winged Dove, Grand Manan I., N.B., May 22, 1984. Photo/ Cecil L. Johnston.

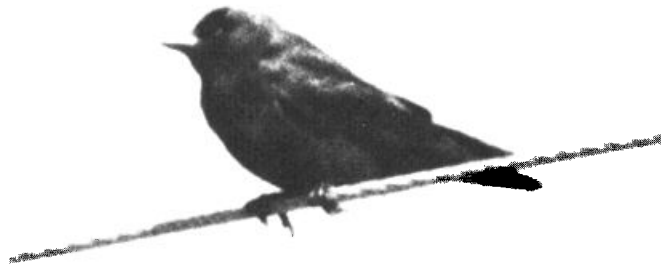
Snowy Owls lingered until Apr. 4 at Plymouth, Mass. (PWS), Apr. 15 on St. Pierre (*fide* RE), and May 2 at Concord, N.H. (R. A. Quinn). Equally late was a Great Gray Owl in Hillsboro, N.H., through Apr. 29 (J. Adams) while the Hadley, Mass., bird and two in Dover/Foxcroft, Me., were all last sighted on the more normal date of Mar. 25 (*fide* SK & WCT). A Chuck-will's-widow at Mt. Auburn, Mass., May 21 (*fide* RPE) was unique this season, the species apparently absent from its usual haunts on M.V. (VL). A ♀ hummingbird, reported as a Ruby-throated, was seen briefly at Comerbrook, Nfld., May 27 (BM). The usual scattering of Red-headed Woodpeckers was found throughout s. portions up into New Hampshire (three) and Maine (two), while the N expansion of Red-bellied Woodpeckers seems to have slowed with only single birds as far n. as s. New Hampshire and s. Maine.

An Olive-sided Flycatcher was early at Glace Bay, N.S., May 5 (*fide* JSC). An *Empidonax* flycatcher, carefully studied at very close range on Brier I., N.S., May 14, was thought to be an Acadian Flycatcher (IAM).

Although a bit early, the detailed description seemed consistent with that species. Farther s., an Acadian was banded on Appledore I., Me., May 28 (DWH), 14 were reported in Massachusetts and three in Rhode Island. A second, potential vagrant flycatcher in Nova Scotia eluded conclusive identification, as a *Myiarchus* (sp.) on Brier I., May 28 allowed only a brief observation before dismissing itself. Said to be "not a Great Crested," the details submitted lend support to the observer's impression that it was probably an Ash-throated (†ELM).

SWALLOWS THROUGH SHRIKES — Noteworthy concentrations of Tree Swallows were 1100 in Millis, Mass., Apr. 20 (B. Cassie) and 2500 in the Codroy Valley, Nfld., May 20 (BM). The latter flock also contained a locally rare Cliff Swallow (BM). Although Barn Swallows are among the most frequently encountered passerines offshore, one at 45.21.4°N, 55.04.1°W, May 20 (*fide* RE) seemed to have carried the species' pelagic tendencies to an extreme.

Blue Jay numbers were up at M.B.O., where 174 were banded. Common Ravens continue their S spread, and are now regularly seen as far s. as the w. half of Massachusetts and s. New Hampshire. One wonders what factors previously limited the distribution of such a seemingly adaptable species and why it is only now beginning to occupy large tracts of apparently suitable habitat.



Jackdaw (Corvus monedula) on Brier I., N.S., May 6, 1984. Photo/Ian A. McLaren.

S.A.

Another corvid is making suspicious inroads into the Region. Following the presence of a bird on Nantucket I., off and on(?) for over a year, there may have been as many as five **Jackdaws** in the maritimes this spring. In Nova Scotia, one was on Brier I., May 6+ (J. & N. Kearney *et al.*, ph.) and a bird thought to be a 2nd individual, based on plumage differences, was on Bon Portage I., May 19-24 (R. Foxall *et al.*). IAM also reported that three birds were on St. Pierre Mar. 23-Apr. 6; however, no details on those sightings were received. IAM & MG called attention to a 1962 record for the species from Florida (AFN 17:322) and a record of a flock of 20 that appeared on a weather-ship at 57°00 N, 20°00 W (approximately 500 mi w. of Scotland), Oct. 18, 1975 (*Sea Swallow* 26:18). Jackdaws have also been recorded from Iceland, the Faeroes, the Azores and the Canary Is., and thus, have some history of limited vagrancy. Nonetheless, extralimital corvids are always suspect and debate over the legitimacy of the species in North America (however that may be defined) is destined to rage for some time. Tune in to the summer season summary for further developments.

A Carolina Wren on Seal I., May 16 (SJF *et al.*) furnished only the 3rd record for Nova Scotia. Golden-crowned Kinglet numbers continued to be generally up, while Ruby-crowned Kinglets were, with some exceptions, reported as being scarce. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were also generally below recent averages. The Swainson's Thrush picture in e. Massachusetts exemplified the discrepancies that can occur between impressions gained through binoculars and those gained with banding nets: 33 Swainson's netted at M.B.O. (TL-E) was well below normal (*cf.* 86 & 83 the last 2 years), yet observers elsewhere in e. Massachu-

setts reported excellent numbers of this shy species. Eleven Hermit Thrushes at M.B.O. (TL-E) was also well below last year's 33. The two wintering Varied Thrushes were last seen Apr. 3 in Worthington and Apr. 5 in New Salem, Mass. (*vide* SK). Brown Thrashers drew discouraging remarks from several areas, and observers are urged to keep an eye on this inconspicuous bird in the near future. Although not surprising, it is no less disheartening to relate that no Loggerhead Shrikes were reported this season.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — An exceptionally early Yellow-throated Vireo in Falmouth, Mass., Mar. 25 was carefully identified (†P. Trimble *et al.*). Philadelphia Vireos totaled an average eight across s. portions of the Region. Early Red-eyed Vireos were at Sakonnet, R.I., Apr. 18 (*vide* DLE) and Martinsville, Me., Apr. 20 (M. Plymire) and one on Miquelon May 27 (*vide* RE) provided a first island record. In New Hampshire Red-eyes were said to be scarce (SAG, WWF) and a meagre six banded at M.B.O. (TL-E) continued a disconcerting recent trend there.

Following a SW gale, single N. Waterthrush and Black-and-white and Hooded warblers on Sable I., N.S., Apr. 6 were remarkably early (T. Lock, S. Crowell). Single Orange-crowned Warblers were reported from Nova Scotia and Maine, and four were in Massachusetts in May. Two N. Parulas in Newfoundland in May (BM) were considered unusual, as was a Chestnut-sided Warbler on St. Pierre May 28 (*vide* RE). Cape May Warblers were said to be "more common than ever" in w. Connecticut (DV) and were exceptionally numerous on Cape Cod, yet only two were banded at M.B.O. (TL-E). Were the four Palm Warblers on St. Pierre Mar. 16 (*vide* RE) successful winterers or very premature migrants? Later in the season, Palms were numerous in w. Connecticut (DV), and 100+ on Brier I., N.S., Apr. 29 (EPS) were noteworthy, yet only one was banded at M.B.O. (TL-E). Similarly, Bay-breasted Warblers were "many" in w. Connecticut (DV) but totaled only one at M.B.O. Lest the reader think that warblers bypassed M.B.O. altogether this spring, 101 Black-and-white Warblers banded there was well up and particularly surprising following an all-time low last fall, and 133 Com. Yellowthroats was their best spring total since 1980 (TL-E).

"Southern" warblers, beyond their known breeding ranges, were generally scarce but included five Yellow-throated, seven Cerulean (one of which was banded on Appledore I., Me., May 30), six Prothonotary, two Worm-eating in Nova Scotia, 28+ Kentucky, and 22 Hooded warblers. Yellow-breasted Chats were particularly numerous with eight at Ninigret W.R., R.I., May 18 (RAC) plus four others in Rhode Island, one in Connecticut, eight in Massachusetts, and two in New Hampshire, all in May.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — Twenty-four Summer Tanagers were found this season, with the northernmost in Nova Scotia May 15 (IAM), and a Scarlet Tanager was in Lomond, Nfld., May 12 (†BM). Six Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in Newfoundland was considered exceptional (BM), while farther s., Blue Grosbeaks, though below last year's record (70+), still numbered an impressive 48+, with no fewer than 10 as far n. as Nova Scotia. Surely, a first Regional nesting for that species is imminent. Another good influx of overshooting April Indigo Buntings (100+) was noted this year and was actually most pronounced in Nova Scotia, where 50+ were found during that month.

Wintering Dickcissels were present through late April in St. John's, Nfld. (*vide* BMc), and through Mar. 20 in Pine Pt., Me. (*vide* WCT), while others were in Brewster, Mass., Mar. 7-8 (*vide* BN), Chatham, Mass., Apr. 26 (H. Rich), Portland, Me., May 3 (*vide* WCT) and Monhegan I., Me., May 25-28 (*vide* SS). A wintering Clay-colored Sparrow in St. John's, Nfld., was still present Apr. 25 (BMc), singles were banded in Rockport, Mass., May 16 (*vide* RPE) and on the same day at M.B.O. (TL-E), and one was on Monhegan I., mid-late May (T. Martin *et al.*). A Henslow's Sparrow was also a nice find on Monhegan I., May 25-28(?) (J. Pierson *et al.*). Fox Sparrows were found in excellent numbers in most areas and White-throated Sparrows were also numerous, with 153 banded at M.B.O. (TL-E). A total of 42 Swamp Sparrows at M.B.O. was also above average. Yet another sparrow in good numbers this spring was White-crowned, with one in Newfoundland, 22 in Nova Scotia, eight banded at M.B.O., and a "Gambel's" on Monhegan I., Me., May 5-6 (PDV).

The season's six Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found in Connecti-

cut, Massachusetts (four), and Nova Scotia, and spanned the dates Mar 7-May 27. Overshooting Orchard Orioles included four in Nova Scotia and 10+ on Monhegan I. House Finches were said to have "almost vanished" from Nova Scotia (PRD)—we should all be so lucky! Following an essentially non-flight year, it was not surprising that very few winter finches were reported. Six Hoary Redpolls were noted in Newfoundland Mar. 31 (BM) and 240 Com. Redpolls at G.M.N.P., Apr 1 had dwindled to 110 by Apr. 19 (BM). As during the winter, 2 exceptions to the paucity of finches were Pine Siskins, which were widely reported throughout the period and Region, and Evening Grosbeaks, which lingered into May in several areas beyond their breeding range. Two enigmatic species round out the spring season: yet another Eur Siskin was reported, this one at a feeder in Middleboro, Mass., Mar 8 (D. & J. Briggs) and a Eur. Goldfinch was found in Milan, N.H., Apr 29 (A. Johnson).

UNCONFIRMED REPORTS — Although an increasing number of observers are providing documentation of their sightings, reports of rare or unseasonal species continue to be received unaccompanied by any details or with insufficient details. Such reports this season included: W Sandpiper Apr. 21 in Rhode Island; Royal Tern Apr. 19 in Connecticut, Mountain Bluebird in 2 locations in New Hampshire in May; Bell's Vireo in 2 locations in New Hampshire, May 15 & 18; Black-headed Grosbeak May 20 in Massachusetts; and Harris' Sparrows in 2 locations in Maine, May 15 & 23.

ADDENDUM — The *Myiodynastes* flycatcher on Martha's Vineyard, Mass., Nov. 12-13, 1983 has been conclusively identified from the photographs as a **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** (R. Ridgely, R A Forster, R.R. Veit) and is thus a first Regional record.

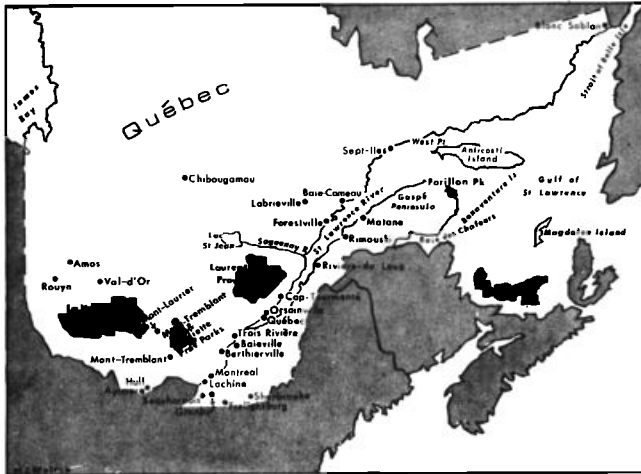
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QUEBEC REGION

/Richard Yank and Yves Aubry

March temperatures were below normal throughout the province with precipitation below average in the south and above average in the north. In southern Quebec a normal April was followed by an unseasonably cold and wet May, delaying the arrival of many passerines. Meanwhile, mild dry weather prevailed in the north.

PELICANS THROUGH GEESE — A white pelican, presumed to be an Am. White Pelican, was seen flying E along the Ottawa R., at Plaisance May 27 (MG). With the exception of the now regular presence of a few Great Egrets in extreme s.w. Quebec, southern herons were relatively scarce this spring: lone Great Egrets at Rimouski, Trois-Pistoles (GG *et al.*) and Cap-Tourmente (MD, CBr), a Snowy Egret at Rimouski (YG *et al.*), and a Cattle Egret at Sainte-Anne-des-Monts (JB) were reported in May. An ad. Black-crowned Night-Heron arrived early at Jonquière Apr. 9 (CC). A group (large for this Region) of 13 Tundra Swans passed over Hull Mar. 27 (AL), and a bird was sighted at Km 381



of the James Bay Rd., May 14 (DB *et al.*). A good showing was made by the Greater White-fronted Goose with one each at Baieville (JL *et al.*), Saint-Barthélemi (PBr *et al.*), Lauzon (FG) and Métabetchouan (JM, CC, JG)—the latter an immature and a first for L. Saint-Jean—and five (a high number) at Plaisance May 5 (DT, RS, CB). Northbound Snow Geese were again numerous outside their usual migration corridor: 20,000± staged along the Richelieu R., and the s. shore of L. Saint-Pierre and, on the Gaspé Pen., where the species is seldom seen, 500 were at Petite-Matane Apr. 27 (LR) and 60 were found at Sainte-Anne-des-Monts May 10 (AD). In addition to a couple of Ross' Geese at Quebec City (PL, CV), one was at La Pocatière Apr. 19 and May 6 (CA) and another was at Isle-Verte May 16 (JPL). There were several noteworthy sightings of Brant: a group of 35 inland at Lac-aux-Sables May 19 (GM) and flocks of 650 and 660 respectively (large for w. Quebec) moving N over Dundee May 21 (DG *et al.*) and Aylmer May 23 (BD).

DUCKS THROUGH FALCONS — Extralimital ducks included single Wood Ducks at Hauterive Apr. 26 (SM) and Saint-Paul-du-Nord May 10 (AP), three male and two ♀ Canvasbacks at Sainte-Anne-des-Monts May 11 (RF), a Redhead at Rimouski May 3 (TAP) and lone Ruddy Ducks at Bic Apr. 29, Rimouski May 3 (YG) and Cacouna May 4-8 (TAP, YG). Eurasian Wigeons were noted at Montreal (JM), Baieville (two birds, m.ob.), Quebec City (CV), Lauzon (PBr), Saint-Gédéon (*vide* CC), Cacouna (GG) and Saint-Paul-du-Nord (AP). Several Com. Eiders reached the Upper St. Lawrence R., where the species is a rare vagrant: a male was found dead at Contrecoeur May 10 (*vide* PB) while I. des Soeurs produced a female May 18 (FH) and a pair the following day (DM). The species is also scarce at Quebec City in spring, so flocks of 24 on May 12 (LM *et al.*) and eight on May 19 (JG, CC) were unusual. A Turkey Vulture discovered at Saint-Jean-Vianney in late May (FP, LT) was only the 2nd for the Saguenay area. A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks returned Apr. 24 to Alma (MS, CG), where the species nested in 1977, at the n. limit of its range. For the 2nd consecutive year Peregrine Falcons nested in Montreal. Both birds were captive bred, the female having been released in Vermont by Cornell University and the male in New York. The pair laid 4 eggs Apr. 1-10 in a scrape on a downtown office building; two young (male and female) hatched May 11 and successfully fledged in June (DBi, RGa). Sightings seem to be increasing in the province as 19 other birds were counted at widely scattered locations.

PARTRIDGES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Four Gray Partridge at Saint-Joseph-de-Beauce Mar. 3 (YM *et al.*) were at the n.e. limit of this introduced species' established range. An Am. Coot at Métabetchouan Apr. 9 (NT) was early, while singles at Bergeronnes in May (AB) and Cacouna May 21 (ALa) were farther n. than usual. This season's only Sandhill Cranes were two observed at Km 381 of the James Bay Rd., May 6-11 (LRo *et al.*). Among notable shorebirds were 2 species seldom encountered here in spring migration: a Lesser Golden-Plover at Saint-André, Kamouraska Co., May 23 (JPO, DL) and two Baird's Sandpipers at Cacouna May 26 (CMa, RSé). Single Willets visited Laprairie (RW, m.ob.), Pointe-au-Père and Métis (TAP), and an

Upland Sandpiper at Cap-Tourmente May 9 (PBr) was a local rarity. The Whimbrel is casual in w. Quebec; consequently, a flock of 44 at Hull May 25 (BD) was surprising. A Marbled Godwit turned up at Baieville May 10-11 (DJ) and nearby I. du Moine May 21 (DJ, YA), while a Purple Sandpiper was found at Quebec City May 25 (AGo). Although no Ruffs were reported this spring, a **Long-billed Dowitcher** was at Baieville Apr. 28 (YA) and another was at Cacouna (GG, DR), adding to the recent increase in sightings of this bird. A ♂ Wilson's Phalarope at New-Carlisle May 12 (RBi *et al.*) provided one of very few records from the Gaspé Pen.; individuals also strayed to the n. shore of the Lower St. Lawrence R., with a female at Pointe-Lebel May 20 (SM) & 28 (CT) and a male at both Pointe-Lebel and Hauterive May 25 (SM, CD, GC).

GULLS THROUGH OWLS — There was the usual scattering of rarer gulls along the St. Lawrence R.: Laughing Gull at Baieville May 1 (JPO), Franklin's Gull at Rivière-Ouelle May 15 (CA, MA), Com. Black-headed Gull at Rimouski May 2 (TAP, YG) and Lesser Black-backed Gull at Quebec City Apr. 18 (CV). At least eight Little Gulls returned to LaSalle in May (PB). Remarkable for spring were an ad. Black-legged Kittiwake at LaSalle May 20 (PB), 75 at Quebec City May 25 (AGo, CV) and 10 at Lévis May 29 (SMd). Twenty-nine Arctic Terns were identified at Quebec City May 27 (AGo, CV) and Forster's Terns were observed at Baieville in early May for the 3rd consecutive year—two on May 1 (JPO) & 8 (JH). A Ringed Turtle-Dove at Berthier-sur-Mer Apr. 27 (PBe *et al.*) was undoubtedly of captive origin. A N. Hawk-Owl appeared at Dorion Mar. 25 (*vide* GH) and birds previously reported at Laval and Deschambault (GL) stayed into March. Remnants of last winter's Great Gray Owl invasion included up to three at Aylmer until Apr. 4 (*vide* RB), one at Dundee May 23 (DG *et al.*), one (possibly two) at Oka until at least May 18 (RL), and one each at Stoke Mar. 31 (*vide* VL), Cap-à-l'Aigle Mar. 27 (JPO) and Nicolet Apr. 20 (AG). The annual owl census in the Outaouais region produced calling Boreal Owls at Aylmer Mar. 23 (RD, RFu) and Perkins Apr. 11 (RB, DD). A dead bird was also collected at Matane Apr. 28 (LR). All were considered migrants.

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH TANAGERS — A displaced Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was found at Maria May 26 (RC) and a N. Wheatear seen at Carleton May 25 by the same observer provided a rare spring record. A Wood Thrush was slightly n. of its normal range at La Malbaie May 30 (RLa), while several mimids wandered exceptionally far N: a N. Mockingbird at Hauterive May 27 (LD, CD) and Brown Thrashers at Bergeronnes in May (AB) and Pointe-Lebel May 27 (RT). A Magnolia Warbler at Portneuf Apr. 29 (CMA) was the only early arrival to be noted among the warblers. At least two Pine Warblers at Cap-Tourmente May 20-21 (FC, MH *et al.*) and one at Sainte-Foy May 31 (CM) were locally uncommon, while one at Bonaventure I., May 27 (PBr, GCh) was far from its breeding grounds. A Connecticut Warbler was at Saint-François-du-Lac May 11 (DJ)—a record early arrival date for this rarely detected migrant. A few southern vagrants also delighted observers: a ♂ **Blue-winged Warbler** (YA *et al.*) and a ♂ Hooded Warbler (PM, PB) stopped at Mt. Royal May 19, a ♀ Hooded Warbler was at the same location May 21 (BB *et al.*), and a Yellow-breasted Chat was seen briefly at Pointe-Claire May 26 (MM). Northerly Scarlet Tanagers were tallied at Bergeronnes May 23-31 (AB) and Hauterive May 26 (LD, CD).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH FINCHES — An imm. ♂ **Blue Grosbeak** frequented a feeder at Lévis Apr. 29-May 3 (FG) and an Indigo Bunting at Mont-Laurier Apr. 26 (EB) established a record early date for the Region. Quebec's 8th **Lark Sparrow** (2nd for spring) was an exciting find at Saint-Paul-du-Nord May 5 (RG). A ♀ Dark-eyed Junco of the "Oregon" type was photographed at Alma May 5 (PT, SMa). A ♀ **Northern "Bullock's" Oriole** observed at Westmount May 12 (MAi) represented only the 2nd provincial sighting of this form. The increase in House Finches continued, as 20 or more were counted at Montreal I. feeders during the period (*vide* ND). Single pairs also moved into feeders at Dundee Apr. 2-3 (DG *et al.*) and Loretteville Mar. 18-May 18 (LDR), new localities for the species.

ADDENDUM — A belated report of an ad. ♂ Black-throated Gray Warbler was received; the bird was apparently seen for 5 minutes among a mixed flock of warblers migrating through a Longueuil yard May 11, 1983 (SB). Details of the head and upperparts were noted, although no written description was prepared. This represents the Region's first convincing sight record.

ERRATUM — The sighting of a Great Blue Heron at Sherbrooke Feb. 4, 1984 should be deleted from last winter's report.

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HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

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

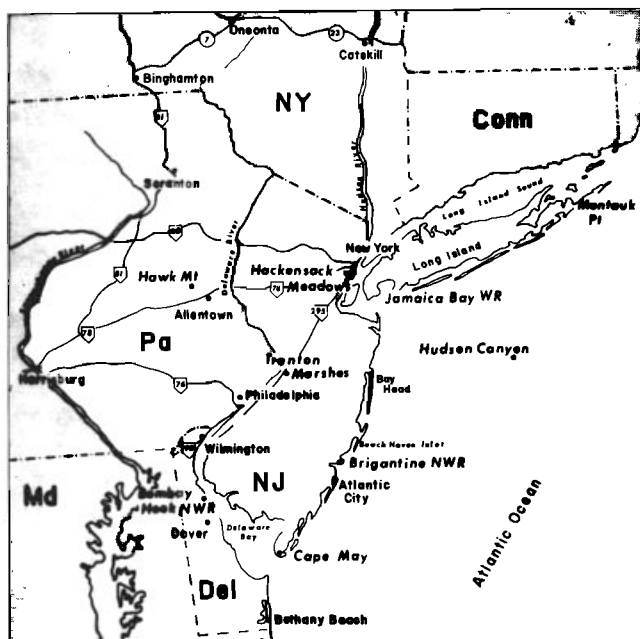
As compiler Greg Hanisek noted, Spring 1984 was a season of plenty—plenty of rain, plenty of cold weather, and plenty of birds. Weather-wise, it was similar to last year's cold, wet spring, except that it was not quite as cold, nor quite as wet, and the birding was even better. March was especially dreadful, with temperatures averaging about 5 degrees below normal and precipitation well above normal. The main event of the month was the devastating storm that struck the Region March 28-29 with hurricane-force winds. This nor'easter, the worst spring storm in many years, dumped up to two feet of snow on northeastern Pennsylvania and rearranged parts of the New Jersey coast. The combination of strong winds, heavy rain and high tides sent waist deep water surging through many coastal towns, isolating Atlantic City from the mainland for part of one day.

April and May were tame by comparison, but both months were colder than normal and very wet. The 9.74 inches of rain received by New York City in May made it the wettest May since recording began. For the season, the city got almost 23 inches, nearly twice the normal allotment. The combination of cold, wet weather with predominantly northerly winds, alternating with briefer periods of southerly flow, resulted in an outstanding passerine migration that lasted from late April into the second week of June. Late development of foliage, induced by the cool, damp spring, allowed the hordes of songbirds to be easily seen.

Never have we had such unanimous agreement on a migratory season. Reports from almost every observer began with statements such as "this was the best migration in many years." Barb and Frank Haas called it "the best warbler migration in 20+ years" in southeastern Pennsylvania, while Bob Deed said it was the best at his home in Nyack, Rockland County, New York, during the 40 years he has lived there. So many interesting reports were received that picking and choosing those to fit into the limited space of this column was unusually difficult; many worthwhile records had to be omitted.

The first big wave of songbirds came during the last few days of April, after which there was a lull in most areas until mid-May, although May 5 was good on Long Island and May 8-9 produced a major fallout on the coast. Inland, the flood gates opened (as Bill Reid put it) May 12, with a steady stream of migrants for about ten days. A second big fallout hit the coast on May 19-20, but things quieted down a bit after the 22nd, when the weather turned warm. There were still numerous lingering migrants during the first week in June, including the usual late flycatchers and Mourning Warblers June 10.

With the waves of migrants came some spectacles of the sort that are usually seen only in the fall, if at all—50+ Yellow-bellied Flycatchers at Princeton May 17-21 (RBI); 25+ Gray-cheeked Thrushes at Forest Park, Queens May 20; 38 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at a Bucks County, Pennsylvania feeder, May 7 (SF); 20 Scarlet Tanagers feeding on the



ground at Bull's Island, New Jersey, May 15 (RBI); 40+ Orchard Orioles in a field at Cape May, May 5 (PBa). The fallout of May 19 was mainly along the coast, as a cold front from the north collided with a warm front from the south to push many migrants out to sea. Those fortunate enough to be birding along the coast in the light rain saw hundreds of migrants pouring in off the ocean. Paxton banded 46 birds in two hours using only two nets at Gilgo, Long Island, while Lauro, a few miles west at Tobay, had 76 White-crowned Sparrows. May 19 was also the day of the New Jersey Audubon Society Birdathon, and one team spent the entire day at 4600-acre Sandy Hook, where they tallied an amazing 148 species, including 1000+ Cape May Warblers, 100+ White-crowned Sparrows, and 30+ Lincoln's Sparrows. A total of 245 species was found that day by the 13 birdathon teams.

ABBREVIATIONS — Bombay Hook = Bombay Hook Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, near Smyrna, Del.; Brig. = Brigantine Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Atlantic Co., N.J.; J.B.W.R. = Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York City. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — As usual, there were many reports of lingering loons, the latest being a Com. Loon at Sumnertown, Montgomery, Pa., June 3 (GFr). Following a good winter showing, Horned Grebes were common along the coast in early spring, but scarce inland.

Red-necked Grebe reversed that pattern, with most of the reports coming from inland lakes and reservoirs. High counts were two at Hoope's Res., *Sussex*, Del., Apr. 3 (RWe *et al.*); six at Harvey's L., *Luzerne*, Pa., Apr. 17 (WR); seven at Culvers L., *Sussex*, N.J., Apr. 19 (FT); and 11 at the Bashakill, *Sullivan*, N.Y., Apr. 16 (JPT). An Eared Grebe was reported from Hoope's Res., Apr. 3-5 (E. Speck, APE).

The annual Delaware Valley Ornithological Club/Urner Club pelagic trip out of Barnegat Light, N.J., May 26 was hampered by fog and produced far fewer birds than last year, although most of the usual species were represented. Three Cory's Shearwaters and three Manx Shearwaters were bonuses among the several dozen each of Greater and Sooty shearwaters, but no N. Fulmars were seen this year. A single Leach's Storm-Petrel was spotted among the hundreds of Wilson's Storm-Petrels (DS).

An Am. White Pelican arrived in early March at Brig., where the species is getting to be somewhat regular, and remained throughout the season. Seven Brown Pelicans at Cape May Pt., May 25 (MG), heralded the beginning of a minor invasion during June; these birds proved to be even more elusive than those in 1983. A big inland flight of Double-crested Cormorants was reported from several locations in Pennsylvania Apr. 17, and 100-200 were seen daily Apr. 25-May 25 migrating up the Delaware R., near Philadelphia (NP); the species is not yet known to nest inland in the Region, so migrants are presumably heading for the Great Lakes and farther n.

S.A.

The bird of the season in New Jersey, narrowly grabbing honors from a visiting tropical flycatcher, was the ♂ **Anhinga** found soaring over Cape May Pt., May 4 by Mary Gustafson and Linda Mills. This elusive vagrant from the s., only the 2nd recorded in the state, frustrated birders for almost a month, as it was seen on 5 more occasions through June 1—always in the air and never for more than a few minutes (ph. PDU).

Several records of Least Bittern in May from e. Pennsylvania, where the species is a rare breeder, could have indicated nesting birds. One was at Bethlehem May 5 (KK); another at Beach Haven, *Luzerne* May 20-27 (D, J., and M. Kalbach); and a 3rd at Minsi L., *Lehigh* May 24 (SBo, ph BS). Inland Tricolored Herons were at Hyper Humus, *Sussex*, N.J., Apr. 28 (JZ), for a first county record; at the Bashakill Apr. 29 (JPT *et al.*), for a first *Sullivan* record; and at Piermont Pier on the Hudson R., *Rockland* May 8, providing only the 2nd county record (PDe). An imm. White Ibis at Little Creek, Del., May 13, was the first in that state in several years (PDM).

WATERFOWL — A Greater White-fronted Goose returned in late February to Round Pond, *Amenia*, *Dutchess*, N.Y., where a pair was present last spring. It was joined Mar. 27 by a 2nd bird, and the two were seen until Apr. 18 (DF, MY). An estimated 20,000 Snow Geese passed over Goshen, *Cape May*, N.J., Apr. 7 (CS, PS), and many smaller flocks were noted at inland hawk watches during the month. Late lingerers included a flock of 20 at Bombay Hook throughout most of May, with a few still around in June (m.ob.). A gathering of 15,000 Canada Geese at L. Ontelaunee, *Berks*, Pa., Apr. 4, provided a record local concentration (SBe).

Five Eur. Wigeon in New Jersey and three on Long Island in March were holdovers from the winter season. A good scattering of divers remained late into the spring, perhaps discouraged from migrating by the cool weather. Among them were a Canvasback and a Redhead at Little Creek to at least May 17 (DAC *et al.*). Local high concentrations of Ring-necked Duck included 150-200 at Thousand Acre Marsh, Del., Mar. 19 (L. Frink); 220 at a reservoir in *York*, Pa., Mar. 25 (DHe); 320 at Spruce Run Res., *Hunterdon*, N.J., Mar. 24 (RKA); and 50+ at the Bashakill Apr. 14 (JPT).

A ♀ King Eider lingered at Montauk Pt., Long Island, to May 13, along with two Harlequin Ducks (IBa). Other gatherings of Harlequins included an impressive 11 (six males, five females) at Barnegat Light Mar. 12 (B&FH), some of which remained into mid-April, and six at Jones Inlet, Long Island, Mar. 3 to mid-April (JR *et al.*). Numerous flocks of Com. Mergansers in March were headed by a group of 570 at Budd L., *Morris*, N.J., Mar. 20 (C. Kelly).

VULTURES THROUGH CRANES — The Black Vulture population continues to increase, particularly near the n. edges of its range. A count of 30 in the Kingwood Station, *Hunterdon*, N.J., roost in April surpassed the previous state high of 25 set in January at the same place (m.ob.). Similarly, a flock of eight Black Vultures at Hawk Mt., Pa., Apr. 21, was the biggest number ever recorded there (SBe). A prospecting scout was seen near Mt. Peter, *Orange*, N.Y., Mar. 10 (D. Murphy *et al.*).

The first of three Am. Swallow-tailed Kites in the Region was at Southport, Long Island Apr. 19 (C. McKeever). The 2nd was at Sandy Hook Apr. 30, only one day later than the bird there last year (FN), while the last of the season entertained numerous observers at Cape May May 5. Mississippi Kites visited Cape May for the 9th spring in a row, but like last year, none lingered for more than a day. Sutton estimated a total of eight individuals on hand May 5-24, including a full adult May 19 (AK *et al.*). More unusual was a Mississippi Kite near Dover, Del., May 26, providing only the 3rd state record (RWe, J. Patterson, K. Zietler).

Scattered reports of Bald Eagles were, fortunately, too numerous to mention, but there were a few noteworthy records. One of these was of the construction of a nest by a pair in *Salem*, N.J.; although the nest was not used, it is hoped that the pair will attempt to breed there next year. If so, it would be only the 2nd nesting pair of Bald Eagles in the state. Another pair of Bald Eagles was seen at the Tamarack Swamp, *Dutchess*, N.Y., May 12 (R.T.W.B.C.), while scattered individuals were noted during the period at the *Sullivan*, N.Y., reservoirs, where it is hoped they will nest in the near future (JPT *et al.*).

Four Regional hawk watches were manned on a more-or-less regular basis. The Sandy Hook site, monitored daily for the 6th year, recorded a record 8018 birds, predominantly Sharp-shinned Hawks (4990) and Am. Kestrels (1561), but also including new high counts for Bald Eagle (five), Cooper's Hawk (165), Broad-winged Hawk (179), Merlin (251), and Peregrine (seven—FN). At Morgan Hill, Pa., on a promontory overlooking the Delaware R., DeReamus tallied 3168 raptors (59% Broad-wingeds) in 39 days of watching (DD). Although Hawk Mt counted 1749 raptors in only 20 days of observation (JO, SBe), the Morgan Hill counts were consistently higher on days when both were covered (which included all of the big flight days), again demonstrating that spring migration paths vary substantially from the familiar fall routes. Big spring flights do occur at the traditional fall sites, however—Mt. Peter, N.Y., recorded 1725 raptors in only 7 days of counting, mainly because of an Apr. 27 flight that included 1269 Broad-wingeds (JC).

The Delaware Ornithological Club spring roundup located 10 Red-shouldered Hawks, mainly in *Sussex*, and Ednie found the species in each of his 3 breeding bird atlas blocks (APE *et al.*). This species, which is steadily declining in New Jersey, appears to be increasing in s. Delaware, where it was formerly severely persecuted (*vide* DAC). Three reports of Golden Eagles included an extraordinarily late one at Middle Creek W.M.A., Pa., May 12 (SS). Inland records of Peregrine Falcons came from Great Swamp N.W.R., Mar. 11 (LS), Fairfield, N.J., in late March (PBA), and Mt. Peter, Apr. 27, but with the burgeoning Regional breeding population (*ca.* 15 pairs), coastal migrants are harder to ascertain. A gray Gyrfalcon photographed at Tuckerton, N.J., Mar. 11, may have been the one seen earlier in the winter at nearby Brigantine I (RWi, ph BS).

Black Rails were reported from such regular sites as Port Mahon, Del., May 5 (two calling—JCT); Oak Beach Marsh, Long Island May 20 (RKE); and Turkey Pt., *Cumberland*, N.J., May 19 into June (minimum three calling males—PGu *et al.*). The Tuckahoe R. site at Marmora, which has dwindled rapidly in the past 2 years, held only three calling males May 19, and none was heard after that date (RM). Most unusual was a calling Black Rail at the Allendale, N.J., celery farm, May 14-June 8 (B. Johnson, m.ob.). For the first spring in many years, we received no report of a wandering Purple Gallinule. Three Sandhill Cranes soaring over Port Elizabeth, *Cumberland*, N.J., May 8, on a stormy, windy day were late and misplaced migrants (RBA).

SHOREBIRDS — A modest spring flight of Lesser Golden-Plovers brought up to 12 to a rain pool near Bombay Hook Apr. 20-May 2 (*vide* APE), and about 10 to Pedricktown, N.J., Apr. 9-May 3 (m.ob.), a single was at Caven Cove, *Hudson*, N.J., May 4 (DHa). Most notewor-

thy was one near the Bashakill May 12-13, one of the few spring records for inland s.e. New York (S.C.A.S.).

Five reports of Black-necked Stilt were well above any recent spring tally: the first was a single at Somers Pt., *Atlantic*, N.J., Apr. 7 (MD); two were near Petersburg, *Atlantic*, Apr. 15 (MM); one at Alloway and Pedricktown, N.J., Apr. 26-28 (JHa, JSt); two at Mannington Marsh, *Salem*, N.J., May 12 (S.C.B.C.); and 10 were early at Port Mahon, Del., May 26 (APE). Three Am. Avocets were sitting on the ice at Little Creek W.M.A., Del., Mar. 3 (D&KBa), and four-to-five were there in late May. Four avocets at Brig., Apr. 8, stayed to at least Apr. 29 (DHa, m.ob.).



Willet (with two Greater Yellowlegs) at Minsi Lake, Pa., May 7, 1984. Photo/Brad Silfies.

A Willet inland at Minsi L., *Lehigh*, May 7, provided a rare occurrence for e. Pennsylvania, and may have been the first for that area documented by photograph (BS, ph.). In the aftermath of the spring storm in late March, a dazed and very early Upland Sandpiper was found wandering the median strip of Long Beach Boulevard near Harvey's Cedars, *Ocean*, N.J., Mar. 30 (EF *et al.*). Just where the bird was coming from or going to is a mystery, as this uncommon migrant and breeder ordinarily arrives about Apr. 25. At the other extreme was a very late migrant Upland Sandpiper at Bombay Hook May 17 (JCM, DAC *et al.*); the species is not known to breed in Delaware. The annual spring gathering of Whimbrels at Tuckerton numbered about 500 in late April and early May (RKA *et al.*), and included an individual of the Eurasian subspecies, as it often has in the past (MM). A similarly-sized flock of Whimbrels was at Shellbay Boulevard, near Cape May Court House May 14 (CS).

No aerial survey of the Delaware Bayshore massing of migrant shorebirds in late May was undertaken this year, but visitors to such spots as Pickering Beach, Del., Reed's Beach, N.J., and Moore's Beach, N.J., found the usual hordes of Ruddy Turnstones, Red Knots, Sanderlings and Semipalmated Sandpipers. A Red Knot at Emmaus, Pa., May 7 (KBU) furnished the first *Lehigh* record of a species that is always rare inland, especially in spring. Ten Purple Sandpipers at Roosevelt Inlet, Del., May 28, were unusually late for that state (BF), although they are regular along the Jersey coast in late May. Among tens of thousands of Semipalmated Sandpipers at Moore's Beach May 28, was a breeding-plumaged Curlew Sandpiper (WJB, TH). Other Curlew Sandpipers were at Stone Harbor Apr. 27 (SLi *et al.*); two at Brig., May 19-20 (m.ob.); Jamaica Bay May 20-early June (H. Martin *et al.*); and Lido Beach, Long Island May 29 (M. Lindauer).

Ruffs put on another good show at Pedricktown; Meritt assembled photographs and detailed descriptions indicating that at least seven males and one female were present during the season. Three of the males were apparently repeats from 1983. The first was found Mar. 14 (RKA), and the last two were seen Apr. 29 (m.ob.). Elsewhere, there were a male and female at Moore's Beach in early May, several individuals at Little Creek-Bombay Hook in April, and a male in full breeding plumage at Cape Henlopen, Del., May 27 (JA, WWF). A Short-billed Dowitcher at Clarks Summit, near Scranton, furnished an unusual spring record for n.e. Pennsylvania (B. Ludlow, B. Nichols).

A Com. Snipe winnowing in the Great Swamp N.W.R., *Morris*, N.J., on the late date of May 19, suggested possible nesting there (RKA, PAB, AK, H. Wallum). This species seems to be a rare breeder in n.

New Jersey, but has been winnowing in mid- to late May at Troy Meadows and Great Swamp N.W.R., since the mid-1950s (*vide* PAB). Reports of Wilson's Phalarope were too numerous to detail, but included five in Delaware, four in New Jersey and four in New York. Noteworthy were two singles in *Orange*, N.Y., one at Kingston May 15 (RT, FM), and one near Chester May 16 (E.A.M.B.C.). A Red-necked Phalarope at Jones Beach, Long Island Apr. 8 (*vide* THD), was the only report of the season. On Apr. 22, J. Cadwalader spotted what he thought was a dead robin on a suburban lawn in Blue Bell, *Delaware*, Pa. Closer investigation revealed that the bird was a Red Phalarope in partial breeding plumage. It had apparently been dead a few days, and was probably brought in by the storm of Apr. 18-19.

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — The Hudson Canyon pelagic trip May 26 produced three Pomarine Jaegers, but no other jaegers or skuas. Little Gulls showed a big jump from the lows of the past few years, with at least 20 individuals reported, although there was some possibility of duplication. Concentrations included two at Kitt's Hummock, Del., May 17 into June (DAC *et al.*); six at S. Cape May Apr. 29-May 5 (PDU, LM *et al.*); an adult and an immature at Caven Cove May 4 (DH); six immatures at Caven Cove May 23 into June (DH *et al.*); and about five on Long Island during the season. A half-dozen Com. Black-headed Gulls were all in New Jersey, one of them inland at Assunpink W.M.A., Mar. 31 (RKA). The Little Gulls at S. Cape May were with a flock of about 1000 Bonaparte's Gulls roosting in the S. Cape May Meadows; a flock of about 100 Bonaparte's at Kitt's Hummock, Del., May 12 was the largest and latest grouping that Cutler has observed in Delaware in late spring (DAC). A Bonaparte's Gull at Struble L., *Chester*, Pa., May 18 was a good find for that location (B & FH). Numerous Iceland, Lesser Black-backed and Glaucous gulls in New York and New Jersey during March and early April were holdovers from the winter season.

A pair of Gull-billed Terns was at Jamaica Bay May 20 (GT, TWB); this species now nests annually in small numbers on w. Long I. Scattered reports of Caspian Terns from various coastal and inland locations were normal, but a Royal Tern at Great Kills, Staten I., N.Y., May 28 was rather early (A. Morris). Three Roseate Terns were at S. Cape May May 27 (RKA), and two were there the next day (DS); a single was at Cape Henlopen May 29 (JA, WWF). Three first-summer ("portlandica") Arctic Terns were seen on the Hudson Canyon pelagic trip May 26, and another was at S. Cape May May 28-30 (DS). Black Terns were very scarce this season and, surprisingly, most of the records were from inland locations. Among them was one at Hyper Humus marsh, *Sussex*, N.J., Apr. 28 (JZ), and two at the Bashakill May 9 (P. Jeheber *et al.*).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A **White-winged Dove** stopped off in Bob Maurer's yard at Marmor, N.J., for 2 hours on the morning of May 20, but departed before a swarm of birders could get there from Cape May (RM). The bird may have come with the wave of migrants that hit the Jersey shore May 19-20; there are now 3 state records (one photographed), all within the last 4 years. Because of the cold, damp spring, there were almost no tent caterpillars anywhere in the Region, and in response to this lack, there were almost no cuckoos. Many active birders made it through the season without seeing or hearing either species, and the few birds that arrived did so mainly at the end of May.

S.A.

A N. Saw-whet Owl was found at a traditional nesting location near Chatsworth, *Ocean*, N.J., May 19 (AB *et al.*). This species is probably a much more common breeder in the Pine Barrens of New Jersey and Long Island than is generally recognized, but its wholly nocturnal habits and lack of birder interest in the monotonous barrens contribute to an incomplete knowledge of the bird's distribution.

A Chuck-will's-widow struck a building at Newark Internat'l Airport on a foggy Apr. 17 and died despite efforts at rehabilitation (*vide* LS); inland Chucks were at Great Swamp N.W.R., May 19, and at Eagle Rock Res., *Essex*, N.J., May 21 (TP). Several reports came from various parts of Long Island, where a small population is now well established. Red-headed Woodpeckers remained at new nesting loca-

tions after the winter invasion: three pairs were apparently nesting at Forest P., Queens, in May (GT), and about four pairs were nesting at Great Swamp N.W.R. (m.ob.). Two reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in late May were most unusual: one was found on the Moriches Bay Aud. Soc. Big Day Count May 26 (J. Clinton, Sr.; J. Clinton, Jr.; R. Adamo); the 2nd, a female developing a brood patch, was netted and banded at Newark, Del., in late May (R. Roth, *vide* GKH). The sapsucker is an early migrant and is not known to breed s. of the mountains of n.e. Pennsylvania and s. New York.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES — Olive-sided Flycatchers and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were more widely reported than usual, mainly with the big waves of migrant passerines. Many observers felt that the other *Empidonax* flycatchers were late in arriving.

— S.A. —

Narrowly losing out to the Anhinga as New Jersey's bird of the season was a flycatcher, found by B. Nixdorf and fellow birders, feeding with a flock of E. Kingbirds in a field near Cape May Point on the afternoon of May 18. It was identified by M. Gustafson and L. Mills (the same two who found the Anhinga) as an imm. **Fork-tailed Flycatcher**, providing about the 9th record for New Jersey. The bird was seen by several dozen birders (including Roger Tory Peterson on a record New Jersey Big Day) before it departed on the night of May 20 (MG, LM, m.ob., ph. SLF). All but 2 of the previous 20+ records of this species in the n.e. United States and e. Canada have come in fall (see B.L. Monroe, Jr., and A. Barron, *AB* 34: 842).



Fork-tailed Flycatcher at Cape May, N.J., May 20, 1984. Identified as an immature, but a worn or molting adult could have an equally short tail. Photo/Serge LaFrance.

A yellow-bellied *Tyrannus* flycatcher that flew past a group of birders watching the Fork-tailed Flycatcher was thought to be a W. Kingbird, but some other vagrant species could not be ruled out (FH *et al.*). We have no recent spring records for W. Kingbird, although it is a regular fall and early winter visitor. A full-tailed Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at Locust Valley, Long Island May 2-5 (J. Schumsby *et al.*).

Observers from all parts of the Region commented on the late and heavy migration of swallows, especially the usually uncommon Cliff Swallow. Single-day counts of Cliff Swallow ranged up to about 100 in Delaware May 17 (DAC *et al.*), 150 near Cape May May 16 (GM), and hundreds at Bulls I., May 15 (RBI, V. Blauvelt). The Boreal Chickadee previously reported from Liberty S.P., N.J., stayed until at least Mar. 21 (m.ob.). A late and widespread flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches in mid-May included many at potential breeding locations. Brown Creeper was found nesting at Ridley Creek S.P., Delaware, Pa., for the first

time; young were being fed May 14 (AG *et al.*). There were no authenticated reports of Sedge Wren in the Region, although their former haunts in coastal Delaware were carefully searched. Many observers continued to comment on the improving health of the E. Bluebird population, as the species spreads into areas from which it vanished decades ago. The cold, wet spring caused a lower than average breeding success, however.

Kinglets and thrushes were among the many species recorded in excellent numbers during the big flights of late April and May. The 25+ Gray-cheeked Thrushes recorded at Forest P., Queens May 20 must be an all-time Regional record for the spring (GT, TWB). A late flight of migrant thrushes produced over 300 Swainson's Thrushes on the evening of June 7 at the Philadelphia Airport (JCM). One species that was not found in abundance was Brown Thrasher. Many observers have commented over the past few years on the declining numbers of thrashers away from their pine barrens stronghold. Whatever the reasons, this is a species that bears watching. The Loggerhead Shrike at Rosedale P., Mercer, N.J., was last seen Mar. 20 (DHa), and another was found dead in Somerset, N.J., Apr. 8 (WJW). Most interesting was a Loggerhead Shrike at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Westchester, N.Y., May 24, a date suggesting possible breeding (J. Kalin); there are only a few nesting records for the Region, the last one being in Orange, N.Y., in 1963.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — A White-eyed Vireo at the Bashkill May 12 furnished a first local record (E.A.M.B.C.). In contrast to some of the other rare spring migrants, Philadelphia Vireo was almost unreported. One was at Alpha, Warren, N.J., May 20 (J. Ebner). Solitary Vireos were late, but all of the other vireos were plentiful.

The big warbler flights brought numerous reports of both Brewster's and Lawrence's hybrids, along with improved numbers of Golden-winged Warblers. Seven Orange-crowned Warblers were a bit above average for the spring: one was in New York, two in New Jersey and four in Pennsylvania. The usual rash of Yellow-throated Warblers n. of their normal range was mainly in April, as expected. Farthest afield were birds in Rockland, N.Y., Apr. 12 (V. Schwartz), at the Bashkill May 12 (E.A.M.B.C.), and at Beach Haven, Luzerne, Pa., May 10 (D., J. & M. Kalbach). Others at Lenhartsville, Berks, Pa. (C. R. Elwell), and near Sunnyside, Montgomery, Pa. (GFr, GAF), were in areas where the species has previously nested. A singing ♂ Yellow-throated Warbler appearing to be of the nominate race *dominica* in Lebanon S.F., N.J., May 18-19, was well n. of the known breeding range for that subspecies in New Jersey (GM, m.ob.).

A "Western" Palm Warbler, rare in spring, was banded at Somerset, N.J., on the late date of May 19 (WJW). Kentucky Warblers were at Wilkes-Barre May 12 and at nearby Wyoming, Pa., May 24 (JHo, KM, MB). Two others at Wapwallopen, also in Luzerne, Pa., were present May 20-July and were presumably nesting (DG). A Connecticut Warbler was reported from Spring Cr., Lehigh, Pa., May 12 (KBu), and Mourning Warblers were plentiful, with 40+ reports, including four at Forest P., June 3 (GT) and five at Rye, N.Y., May 26 (L. Brinker).

TANAGERS THROUGH ORIOLES — Only a dozen accounts of Summer Tanagers n. of their known breeding range were referred to us, but we suspect that many records go unreported, as sightings of this increasing and N-expanding species become more commonplace. A Summer Tanager at Dingman's Ferry, Pa., May 16-17, was the northernmost sighting (J. Padalino). Another species that is steadily expanding N is the Blue Grosbeak, which breeds commonly n. to about the Raritan R., New Jersey, with an outpost at North Arlington in the Hackensack R. Marshes. Further expansion this year included a pair that attempted to nest at Central P., New York City (m.ob.), and another pair present at Kingwood Township, Hunterdon, N.J., with no positive evidence of nesting (OH).

There were several late-spring reports of Dickcissel from Delaware, Pennsylvania and s. New Jersey. Two pairs of Dickcissels were discovered near Swedesboro, Gloucester, N.J., May 23, in an alfalfa field. The birds appeared to be nesting, but May 26 the field was mowed. On May 28, two males and a female were in an adjacent alfalfa field, but birders searching after that date could not relocate them. Other Dickcissels suffered a similar fate in June a few miles away. A singing ♂ Clay-colored Sparrow discovered at Sandy Hook May 19 was present through the 21st (FN *et al.*).

Vesper Sparrows were found along many farm roads in *Somerset*, N.J. (WJW) in addition to the usual *Hunterdon* and *Warren* locales. A singing male was at Assunpink W.M.A., May 19 (FT *et al.*), and another was on territory at Bridgeton, *Cumberland*, N.J., May 22-24, well s. of the species' normal range in the state. A Lark Sparrow at Colliers Mills W.M.A., N.J., May 1, was an unusual spring find (SH). Three Lapland Longspurs at Alpha, N.J., May 9-11, were the only holdovers from a poor winter showing.

The only two Yellow-headed Blackbirds reported were both females and both in Pennsylvania: one was at Quarryville, *Lancaster*, Apr. 17 (RMS) and another was at Moselem Springs, *Berks*, Apr. 24 (SBe, M. Spence). At least eight Boat-tailed Grackles at Jamaica Bay in May indicate a continuing increase in the small New York State breeding population. A group of four Boat-taileds at the *Salem*, N.J., nuclear power plant were a few mi upstream from the recently formed colony at Mad Horse Creek W.M.A. (RKA). The coastal flight of May 8 brought an estimated 150 each of Orchard Oriole and N. Oriole to Higbee's Beach W.M.A., near Cape May (PDU, MG *et al.*).

FINCHES — The Regional rarity of the season was a ♂ **Brambling** that visited a Pleasant Valley, *Dutchess*, N.Y., feeder ca. Mar. 1-27. Because of the circumstances of the feeder, only a small group of birders were able to see the bird, but the identity of this first New York State record was confirmed by an identifiable photograph (MV, EPi, J&MK, ph. OW); there are 2 records for New Jersey (1958, 1965). A Red Crossbill in e. *Dutchess*, N.Y., on the late date of May 12 suggested possible nesting (R.T.W.B.C.). There were many reports of flocks of Pine Siskins in late May from various parts of the Region. It seems likely that some of these birds will have remained to nest, as a few did following the big invasion year of 1981-1982.

EXOTICS — A pair of Eur. Goldfinches was at Shoreham, *Suffolk*, Long Island May 27 (H. Halama, T. Droisen); can they possibly be remnants of the former Long Island population?

UNCONFIRMED REPORTS — Two different reports of Black-shouldered Kite were received from New Jersey — one near Columbia, *Warren*, Apr. 22 (R. Malkovsky) and one near Reaville, *Hunterdon*, May 16 (D. Dalrymple). These single-observer sight records have been referred to the New Jersey Bird Records Committee. There is one confirmed record for the Region, a bird photographed in *Dutchess*, N.Y., in April 1983. A bird identified as an ad. Gray Hawk was seen near Bernardsville, *Somerset*, N.J., Apr. 27, by an experienced raptor enthusiast (LS). Distant photographs were obtained, and the report has been referred to the N.J. Records Committee. The possibility of an escaped falconry bird exists in this case.

CORRIGENDUM — The date of the Black-shouldered (White-tailed) Kite in *Dutchess*, N.Y., reported in *AB* 37:852, was April 26, 1983, not March 26.

OBSERVERS — (Subregional compilers in boldface): John Aull, Peter Bacinski (PBA), Ilze Balodis (IBA), Robert Barber (RBA), Doug & Karen Batt (D&KBA), Seth Benz (SBe), **Irving Black** (IBI, n.e. NJ: Eagle Rock Village, Bldg 26, Apr. 8B, Budd Lake, NJ 07828), Mark Blauer, **R.J. Blicharz** (RBI, n.c. NJ: 827 Pennsylvania Ave., Trenton, NJ 08638), Pete Both (PBo), Steve Boyce (SBo), Alan Brady, P.A. Buckley (PAB), Joe Burgiel, **T.W. Burke** (Westchester Co., NY: 235 Highland Ave., Rye, NY 10580), Keith Butler (KBU), Judy Cinquina (JCI), Joel Citron (JCI), Mike Danzenbaker, **T.H. Davis** (s.e. NY, L.I.: 94-46 85th Road, Woodhaven, NY 11421), Dave DeReamus, **R.F. Deed** (Rockland Co., NY: 50 Clinton Ave., Nyack, NY 10960), Peter Derven (PDe), Jim Dowdell, Paul Dumont (PDm), **Peter Dunne** (PDU, coastal NJ: CMBO, Box 3, Cape May Point, NJ 08212), **A.P. Ednie** (New Castle and Kent Cos., DE: 21 N. Wells Ave., Glenolden, PA 19036), Steve Farbotnick, Ed Fingerhood, Bill Fintel, Dot Fleury, G.A. Franchois (GAF), **W.W. Frech** (Sussex Co., DE: Carr. Rt. 3, Box 1144, Lewes, DE 19958), Gary Freed (GFr), Paul Gillen (PGi), Doug Gross, Al Guarente, Paul Guris (PGu), Mary Gustafson, Jerry Haag (JHA), Barbara & Frank Haas (B&FH), Saul Hait, Tom Halliwell, **Greg Hanisek** (n.w. NJ: 363 James St., Phillipsburg, NJ 08865), Dave Harrison (DHA), Dorothy Hartmann (DHT), Dan Heathcote (DHe), Otto

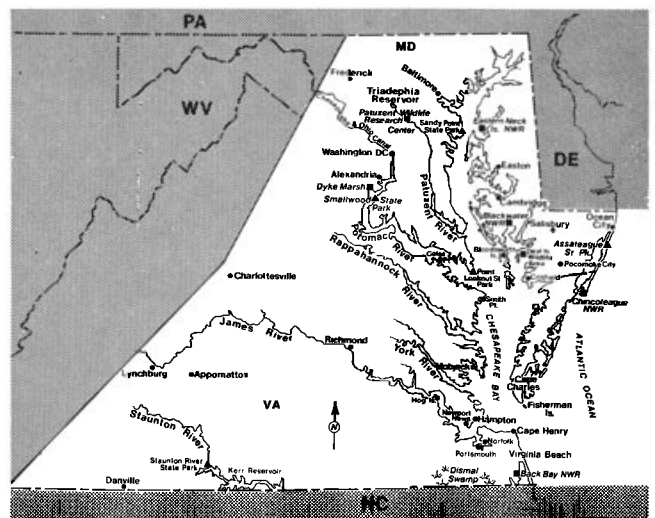
Heck, G.K. Hess, Jim Hoyson (JHo), Rich Kane (RKA), Allan Keith, Rich Kelly (RKe), Jim & Mary Key, Ken Kranich, Don Kunkle, Serge LaFrance (SLF), A.J. Lauro, Steve Lawrence (SLA), Sid Lipschutz (SLI), Mike Maurer, Robert Maurer, Gerry McChesney, Kevin McGuire, E.A. Mearns Bird Club, **J.K. Meritt** (JKM, s.w. NJ: 809 Saratoga Terrace, Turnersville, NJ 08012), J.C. Miller (JCM), Linda Mills, A. & J. Mirabella, **B.L. Morris** (BLM, e. Pa.: 825 Muhlenburg St., Allentown, PA 18104), Brian Moscatello (BMo), Frank Murphy, Frank Nicoletti, D.M. Niles, Jim Olmes, Dave Oster, Ed Patten (EPa), Jack Peachey, Eleanor Pink (EPi), Ted Proctor, Nick Pulcinella, G.S. Raynor, **William Reid** (n.e. Pa.: 73 W. Ross Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702), John Ruscica, Salem County Bird Club, Steve Santner, R.M. Schutsky, Joe Seneca (JSe), Dave Sibley, Brad Silfies, Len Soucy, Jim Stasz (JSt), Sullivan County Audubon Society, Clay Sutton, Pat Sutton, Joe Swertinski (JSw), Robert Terwilliger, Fred Tetlow, Ken Tischner, **J.P. Tramontano** (Orange, Sullivan and Ulster Cos., NY: Orange County Community College, Middletown, NY 10940), Guy Tudor, Marion VanWagner, Otis Waterman, **R.T. Waterman Bird Club** (Dutchess Co., NY), W.J. Wayne, Berna Weissman, Rick West (RWe), Rick Wiltraut (RWi), Mary Yegella, Jim Zamos. — **WILLIAM J. BOYLE, JR.**, 15 Indian Rock Road, Warren, NJ 07060, **ROBERT O. PAXTON**, 560 Riverside Drive, Apt. 12K, New York, NY 10027, and **DAVID A. CUTLER**, 1110 Rock Creek Drive, Wyn-cote, PA 19095.

MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/Henry T. Armistead

Spring was wet, windy and cold. March averaged 3.4° F below normal, April 2.2° below normal, while precipitation was 2.7 inches and 1.7 inches above normal, respectively. May saw no improvement. Waterfowl and cold-weather passerines lingered late. Shorebird arrivals were delayed. Yet many warblers, thrushes, Bobolink, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Lincoln's Sparrow were up and the migration spilled over into June far more than it usually does. Herons and hawks were underreported.

ABBREVIATIONS — Adv. = Adventure Sanctuary, Potomac, Md.; Balt. = Baltimore; Black. = Blackwater Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Md.; the Bay = Chesapeake Bay; C.B.B.T. = Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Va.; Chinc. = Chincoteague Nat'l Wildlife Refuge; Craney = Craney I., Portsmouth, Va.; D.C. = Washington, D.C.; F.S.P. = Ft. Smallwood Park, Anne Arundel Co., Md.; Hart = Hart-Miller Is., e. of Baltimore; S.S. = Sandy Spring, Md.; Susq. = lower Susquehanna River, Md.; italicized *date* indicates birds were banded. For technical assistance with this report I am indebted to Rick Blom, Claudia Wilds and Erika Wilson.



LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Common Loons showed up in numbers much earlier than usual in March with three at Piney Run County P., Carroll Co., Md., Mar. 31 (RFR) and 35 at Oxford, Md., Apr. 1 (BM, GLA, HTA), yet no extraordinary counts were received. Two pairs of Pied-billed Grebes bred in May at Huntley Meadows County P., Fairfax Co., Va., on a beaver pond, the first county breeding record having been here in 1983 (JMA, EMW *et al.*). Although Horned Grebes continued to be scarce, an exceptional report was of 698 carefully counted in St. Mary's County, Md., Apr. 20, with 598 of these at Elms Environmental Education Center (EMW, MH); 195 were at Craney Apr. 5 (EMW *et al.*). Red-necked Grebes were rather widely reported in March and early April w. of the Bay with two in D.C., Mar. 8 (DC) and two on Triadelphia Res., w. of Columbia, Md., Apr. 7 (HM, *fide* CPW). Pelagic reporting was nil but seen from shore were two Sooty Shearwaters at Chinc., May 19 (HD, *fide* CPW); 75 N. Gannets were at Back Bay Apr. 5 (EMW *et al.*) where a lingerer was still present May 19 (TRW). American White Pelican's streak of 22 consecutive reporting periods ends. No reports this spring. Previously they had been seen each season since the fall of 1978. The first Brown Pelicans were in Virginia at Smith I., Apr. 27 (BT), two immatures were at Fisherman I., May 17 (ME), one was at Back Bay May 19 (RLA *et al.*), and two were at Chinc., May 27-31 (HB, JAG, DFH *et al.*).

The only Great Cormorant sightings were at Lower Machodoc Cr., Va., near the Potomac R. mouth where two to eight were seen as late as Apr. 2 (JEJ). Double-crested Cormorants continued to flourish with notably early upper Bay records of one at Poole's I., Mar. 2 (JGG), 30 at Hart Apr. 1 (RFR) and a high of 121 on the lower Susq., May 24 (RMS). At Hopewell, Va., 185 was a record count Apr. 21 (FRS, JWD), 92 lingered at Barren I., Md., May 27 (GLA, HTA) and an apparent albino was at Langley A.F.B., Va., May 22-23 (PMC, *fide* TK). A ♂ **Magnificent Frigatebird** was at Assateague I., Md., Apr. 30 (MHN), about the 6th for Maryland. American Bittern was more widely seen than usual, especially w. of the Bay. In D.C., at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, three (plus a Sora) were found May 6 (BS). A bit early was a Least Bittern at Grand View, Hampton, Va., Apr. 2 (LW, *fide* TK) but most herons returned late (v.ob.). An estimated total of 110 Great Blue Heron and 25 Great Egret pairs were at a colony at Barren I., May 27 with good production of young (HTA, GLA). As in the past few years Cattle Egrets continued to be in low numbers. Early were singles in Maryland at Claiborne Mar. 21 (JKE) and Accokeek Apr. 1 (PN), and on the Virginia Piedmont two were at Leesburg May 23 (KS).

The first Green-backed Herons were at Jug Bay, Md., Apr. 1 (JAG) and near Hopewell Apr. 5 (BP). A Black-crowned Night-Heron at Glen Falls, Md., May 24 was only the second recorded for inland Carroll Co. (RFR, PW). Twenty-three Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were at Newport News, Va., May 12 (WPS *et al.*). Glossy Ibises made a very good showing w. of the Bay with records such as four at F.S.P., Apr. 6 (WK), four in D.C., Apr. 16 (DC), six at Merkle W.M.A., Prince Georges Co., Md., Apr. 20 (RFR, PW), five at Hart Apr. 22 (RFR *et al.*), and one at Nokesville in the Virginia Piedmont May 12 (RAA, KB *et al.*). An early one was at Black., Mar. 18 (HTA) and one the color of light milk chocolate was at Fishermans I., May 11 (MM) in a flock with other Glossies. At Chinc. these low maxima, many of them frequently surpassed on CBCs, indicated the often-low numbers of herons on the refuge in spring: Little Blue Heron 13 on May 17-18, Great Egret 20, Cattle Egret six, and Glossy Ibises 32 on May 3-4, Snowy Egret 51 on May 31-June 1, and Tricolored Heron nine on Apr. 25-26 (CPW).

WATERFOWL — More than the usual numbers of waterfowl lingered into May. High counts at Chinc. included: 690 Tundra Swans and 690 N. Shovelers Feb. 26-Mar. 3; 350 Am. Wigeons Mar. 18-24; 640 Green-winged Teals Mar. 25-31; 253 Blue-winged Teals Apr. 1-7; 2599 Gadwalls Apr. 8-14 with 530 still present as late as May 10 (DFH *et al.*). Most of these counts are from weekly censuses with the date unspecified. Higher counts of many of these species are usually obtained during the fall. Two imm. Trumpeter Swans with yellow patagial tags were at St. Michaels, Md., December to mid-April and had been hatched by Mute Swans in Ontario and consorted with Mutes on their winter range (JGR). Up to 42 Mute Swans, at their s. limit, were at Chinc., in early April. A Greater White-fronted Goose, present in winter, remained at Creswell, Hartford Co., Md., until Apr. 15 (DLK *et al.*). Four thousand Snow Geese at Ridgely, Caroline Co., Md., Apr. 6 (MWH) had dwin-

bled to 200 by Apr. 16, 60 remained until Apr. 26 at Chinc. (DFH) On Mar. 18, 65 blue morph Snow Geese were at Black., and 70 were in Queen Annes County, Md. (HTA).

A pair of N. Pintails nested unsuccessfully in Norfolk in April, the 2nd Virginia breeding record, assuming the birds can be determined not to have been escapes (RLA). At newly-birded sewage lagoons near Hurllock, Dorchester Co., Md., 100 N. Shovelers Apr. 8 and a late N. Pintail and four Ruddy Ducks May 13 were notable for the c. Eastern Shore (RFR). Excellent counts from Deal Island W.M.A., Md., were 1500 Gadwalls, 1000 Am. Wigeon, 250 N. Shovelers and 500 Ring-necked Ducks Apr. 8 (SHD). One-to-three Eur. Wigeon were at Claremont, Va., Mar. 4-18 (TK *et al.*) and a male was at Black., Apr. 1 (HTA *et al.*). Good counts of Ring-necked Ducks were 230 on Liberty Res., n.w. of Balt., Mar. 31 (RFR) and 171 at Gaithersburg, Md., Mar. 11 (MO) capping a good showing for this species. The only "jetty duck" report was of a ♀ Harlequin Duck from C.B.B.T., Mar. 3-Apr. 7 (RLA, DKD, EMW *et al.*). More than the usual number of lingering (*i.e.*, May birds) Canvasbacks, Redheads, scaup and Oldsquaws were seen (v.ob.). In D.C., Apr. 3, 42 Oldsquaws and 40 Com. Goldeneyes were surprising counts for there (DC). Miscellaneous high counts were of 50 Hooded Mergansers at Piney Run Mar. 10 (RFR), 1000 Ruddy Ducks at Back R., e. of Balt., Apr. 1 (RFR) and 838 Ruddies on the Patuxent R., at Horse Landing Mar. 19 (EMW).

RAPTORS TO CRANES — In s. Dorchester County a raptor migration was underway Apr. 1 when 130 Turkey Vultures, 20 Red-tailed Hawks, three Rough-legged Hawks, 17 Bald Eagles, 35 N. Harriers and 30 Am. Kestrels were counted (GLA, BM, HTA). Early Ospreys were singles in Talbot County, Md., Feb. 26 (JGR), at Smith I., Md., Mar. 2 (RT), Westmoreland County, Va., Mar. 4 (JEJ) and Hog I., Surry Co., Va., Mar. 4 (TK); a fine count of 98 was made on the Susq., Md., Apr. 25 (RMS). Both Osprey (PRS) and Red-shouldered Hawk (EM) had below-average breeding production probably due to excess rains. The Bald Eagle nest survey found 62 active nests in Virginia and 51 in Maryland, the first time in 27 years of censusing that more have been found in Virginia (JMA, FRS *et al.*). At least four were downed by windstorms and tornadoes of May 8 (MAB, *fide* FRS). In 1982 there were 102 nests, in 1983, 107 vs 113 this year. Notable for the lower Eastern Shore, Md., were a Cooper's Hawk at Hebron May 27 (RFR), one n. of Black., May 12 (CP, PL, FLP, HTA) and a pair of Broad-winged Hawks at Nassawango Cr., May 26 (SHD), all probable breeders. New for Maryland was a **Swainson's Hawk** in company with 10 Broad-winged Hawks at F.S.P., Apr. 17 (WK). Piedmont Merlin singles were reported from Rockville Apr. 23 (MO) and New Design Rd., Frederick Co., May 5 (BS *et al.*) in Maryland and Nokesville, Va., Apr. 26 (KB). Four Peregrine Falcons fledged by natural birth in downtown Balt. (RFR) but information was unavailable on their other breeding sites as it was for the hawk counts made this spring at F.S.P.

Rallids were well reported with highlights including a Yellow Rail flushed at Grand View, Va., Apr. 22 (LR, *fide* FRS) and a Black Rail which "flew right into my wife's hands" at 3:30 a.m. May 19 at Elliott I., Md. (DLK), where 12 were heard Apr. 27 (JCM). Meanley found Clapper Rails paired off by Apr. 1 at Chinc., and a rather early nest with 8 eggs May 16. Piedmont King Rails, always of interest, were singles at Port Deposit, Md., May 3 (RMS) and Sterling, Va., May 12 (CT). In s. Dorchester County, Md., 42 Virginia Rails May 5 and 44 on May 12 were average counts for censuses there (KS, PL, CP *et al.*). Three Virginia Rails were at Black Marsh e. of Balt., May 20 (RFR), 13 plus two Soras were at Miles Cr., Talbot Co., Md., May 5 (T.C.B.C.), six were at Back Bay Apr. 27 (BW), and 10 plus two King Rails and two Soras were in Kent County, Md., May 5 (JGG, FLP). Very early young seen at Grand View were Clapper Rails May 8 and Virginia Rails May 5 (TK). New for inland Carroll County, Md., were single Soras May 9 & 17 (RFR *et al.*) and a Com. Moorhen May 17 (RFR, EB). Late (?) Am. Coots were singles at Berlin, Md., May 12 and Back R., May 20 (RFR), a nesting attempt failed at Nokesville May 17+ (KB), one of the few Virginia records. A coot with a large white frontal shield was at McKee-Beshers W.M.A., Montgomery Co., Md., May 10-11 (PP, MO, ph). Dorchester County's first Sandhill Crane was at Black., Mar. 18 (RPR, LV), almost all other Regional records being in fall or winter.

SHOREBIRDS — Universally lamented as being late and in low numbers, one problem being the cold waters which inhibited horseshoe crabs egg-laying during the mid-May period of full moon (BT, CPW), waders nevertheless had their moments of interest this spring. Wilds' Chinc. surveys continued with 10 two-day censuses conducted Mar. 15-June 1, for which space permits mention only of highlights here (*i.e.*, maxima): two Marbled Godwits Apr. 5-6; 25 Piping Plovers, 166 Willets Apr. 26-27; 425 Whimbrels, 1038 Dunlins May 3-4; 603 Short-billed Dowitchers May 11-12; 751 Semipalmated Plovers, 139 Black-bellied Plovers, 720 Least Sandpipers May 17-18; one Stilt Sandpiper May 24-25; 2098 Ruddy Turnstones, 663 Red Knots, 72 White-rumped Sandpipers, 11,061 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 3744 Sanderlings, one Wilson's and three Red-necked phalaropes May 31-June 1. As in any other year some of these spring migrants may actually have been in peak numbers later, in June. Also present was a Curlew Sandpiper May 17-24 (CPW, KHW, DPn, DLK *et al.*). Our of sheer perversity, mention is also made of the surprisingly low numbers of some species seen here, to show that even a paradise such as Chinc. is not an undifferentiated showcase for superlatives and offers plenty of chances to ponder on the relative abundance of birds from place to place (see also under herons in this report); other maxima included: one Killdeer Mar. 15-16 & May 17-18, 83 Am. Oystercatchers Mar. 15-16; 14 Greater Yellowlegs Apr. 26-27, nine Lesser Yellowlegs May 3-4; two Solitary Sandpipers May 3-4 & 17-18; six Spotted Sandpipers May 17-18. Species missed completely were Lesser Golden-Plover, Pectoral Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, and Com. Snipe. Wilds commented that this was an exceptionally good spring here for Whimbrels.

Lesser Golden-Plovers included two near Jamestown, Va., Apr. 4-7 (RLA, HCI, FRS *et al.*) and one at Trappe, Md., Apr. 15 (T.C.B.C.). Mehلمان found a Wilson's and 12 Piping plovers (including 4 nests) on Assateague I., Md., May 12. Among the 260 shorebirds Buckalew banded at Chinc. was a Semipalmated Plover he caught in May that he originally had banded in May 1983. A Black-necked Stilt was at Craney May 18 and *three* were at Deal I., Md., May 14 (WS). American Avocets peaked at 200 at Craney Apr. 7, then declined to 10 by May 6 (TK). Two were at Back Bay May 12 (BW) where they are much less expected. The high yellowlegs counts were in Dorchester County, where there was 184 Greaters and 86 Lessers May 5 (DB, EMW *et al.*). Notable for landlocked Frederick County, Md., were six Willets, a Black-bellied Plover, and two Pectoral Sandpipers near Adamstown May 7 (DHW). An early Spotted Sandpiper was at Cape Charles Apr. 4 (EMW) and they again bred in D.C., in May (DC). Upland Sandpipers were widely reported throughout the Region, mostly singles and pairs in early May (*v.ob.*). The first Whimbrels were three at Upshur Cr., Apr. 5 (BT) and two at Grand View the same day (RHP, DP), and 400 were on a tump at Fowling Pt. marsh Apr. 13 (BT), these all in Virginia. At Barren I., Md., 28 plus 89 Ruddy Turnstones and 14 Red Knots May 27 were unexpectedly high counts for the c. Bay area (HTA, GLA). At the top of the Bay at Hart, Ringler *et al.* had 12 Ruddy Turnstones, 16 Red Knots, 75 Dunlins and a Purple Sandpiper May 20.

The only W. Sandpiper was one at Shirley Plantation near Hopewell May 20 (FRS *et al.*). The overwintering Least Sandpipers at Curles Neck, s.e. Henrico Co., Va., were seen Mar. 11 & 24, when eight were there (FRS, JWD, BR). White-rumped and Pectoral sandpipers as well as Short-billed Dowitchers were in poor numbers (*v.ob.*). A Purple Sandpiper and six Red-necked Phalaropes were seen from C.B.B.T., May 27 (GL, *fide* DC). Single Stilt Sandpipers were at Hebron May 13 (RFR) and Black., May 12-14 (PL, WS *et al.*). A Long-billed Dowitcher at Lilypons, Frederick Co., Md., was unique May 7 (DHW). Portlock found 135 Com. Snipe at Presquile N.W.R., near Hopewell Apr. 3 and Hewitt found 51 at Denton, Md., Apr. 10. A pair of Wilson's Phalaropes was at Remington Farms, Kent Co., Md., May 5-8 (JGG, FLP).

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS — In the Hampton, Va. area spring arrival Royal Terns were first noticed Mar. 11 (TK) and Laughing Gulls Mar. 17 (TK, HCI). Thirty-four Laughing Gulls were at Chinc., Mar. 15-16 (CPW). An ad. Little Gull at Grand View Apr. 5-7 was joined by an immature Apr. 6 (TK, HCI) and one was at Chinc., Apr. 25-26 (CPW). An ad. Com. Black-headed Gull was at Chinc., Mar. 20-Apr. 15 (BY, DKD *et al.*) and one at Back R., Md., Apr. 1 was in immaculate breeding plumage (RFR, PW *et al.*, ph.) and in company with 600

Bonaparte's Gulls. More than the usual number of Bonaparte's lingered well into May with 19 in D.C., May 5 (DC), one at Piney Run on the Maryland Piedmont May 19 (RFR), one at Hart May 20 (RFR), 12 at Newport News May 12 (*fide* WPS) and some until May 20 at Grand View (TK). On the York R., Va., 600 on Apr. 6 were considered unprecedented (BW). A first-winter Iceland Gull was on the Susq., Mar. 7 (RMS). Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen only at Ft. McHenry, Balt. (two adults Mar. 3 & 11—RFR), on the C.B.B.T., Mar. 21-24 (RLA, GR) and at Wittman, Talbot Co., Md., Feb. 23 (JKE), perhaps an indication we should not yet take them for granted. Glaucous Gulls were at Hart (two immatures Apr. 22—RFR; one immature May 20, RFR, EB, JD *et al.*), Back R., Mar. 4, one immature (RFR, EB), on the C.B.B.T., Apr. 4 (BB, EMW) and one was at Ocean City, Md., during early May (CP, SM).

Only nominal numbers of Gull-billed Terns were reported, the earliest being four at Back Bay Apr. 21 (TRW). The first Caspian Terns were two at Craney Apr. 5 (EMW *et al.*). At their prime concentration area at Hart they built up from 60 on Apr. 15 to 200 on Apr. 22, 220 on Apr. 29 and then down to 65 on May 20 (RFR *et al.*). Sandy Point S.P., Md., had 75 on Apr. 21 (WK) and a breeding pair was at Ship Shoal I., Va., May 24 (BT), marking the 11th consecutive year of attempted breeding by this species in very small numbers on Virginia's Eastern Shore. A vagrant was still in D.C., June 4 (DC). Royal Terns were almost unreported on the Maryland part of the Bay except for two at Poplar I., Talbot Co., May 5 (T.C.B.C.). In Virginia two Sandwich Terns were at Craney May 2, one at Back Bay May 11 (both TRW) and two at Poquoson R., May 24 (BP). On May 27 the Barren I. area had a record 554 Com. Tern nests plus 64 of Forster's Tern, 23 of Least Tern and 16 of Black Skimmer, these latter representing the 2nd breeding record for the Maryland part of the Bay, the first having been here in 1983 (HTA, GLA).

Earliest terns included Forster's Mar. 11, Common Mar. 15, and Least Apr. 16 all at Grand View (TK). At Nokesville, Va., a Forster's Apr. 30 and a Common May 7 were unusual for the Piedmont (KB). Colonies of Least Terns were at Craney (150 pairs, May 18—RLA, RLAK), 75 nests with eggs near 120th St. at N. Ocean City May 27 (RFR), small colonies at Hart and Patuxent N.A.S., Md. (*fide* ME) with many hundreds of birds at Grand View (FRS, WPS *et al.*) and a few pairs again on the roof of the Cambridge, Md., high school in late May (HTA). Very small numbers of Black Terns were widely reported in May such as three on the Susq., May 10 (RMS), four at Hooper's I. in the central Md. Bay May 12 (HTA *et al.*), one with two Forster's at Lilypons May 7 (DHW) and three at Seneca, Md., May 13 (SS, *fide* CPW), with an early one at Craney Apr. 28 (TK), a good albeit diffuse showing. Rare on the upper Bay were nine Black Skimmers in n. Anne Arundel County just s. of Balt., May 28 (SG). Rarer still was a Razorbill 8 mi s.e. of Wachapreague, Va., which circled a boat at close range in company with 12 N. Gannets Apr. 12 (GR).

DOVES THROUGH SHRIKES — A total of 617 Mourning Doves was seen on the Newport News spring bird count May 12 (WPS *et al.*). Two Monk Parakeets were at Annandale, Va., Apr. 20 (BK, *fide* CPW), a species that never has been commonly reported in this Region. Several commented that Black-billed Cuckoos were late and uncommon. Except on the Piedmont the cuckoo most people see here is the Yellow-billed, which almost everyone considered to have arrived very late and in low numbers, many not seeing them until mid-May or later. Interestingly enough, tent caterpillars were almost nonexistent also. Highest owl counts included 17 E. Screech and 18 Great Horned in Talbot County, Md., May 5 (T.C.B.C.) and four Short-eared Owls at the Chinc. causeway Mar. 15 (RAA). A N. Saw-whet Owl was in D.C., Apr. 11 (DC, ph.).

The earliest Chimney Swifts were three in Richmond Mar. 30 (PB, *fide* FRS). The first Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were singles at Locustville, Va., Apr. 6 (GR) and Virginia Beach Apr. 13 (TRW). Late Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were at Alexandria, Va., May 10 (PN) and in D.C., May 19 (DC). Unusual on or near the coastal plain were Olive-sided Flycatchers at Richmond May 12 (MJI, KLR, *fide* FRS) and nearby at Curles Neck May 13 (FRS, RHP *et al.*), while at Nokesville May 17 one plus a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and a Lincoln's Sparrow were all *singing* (KB). Cannot one say that flycatchers sing? If not, then their calling must mean both their songs plus their call notes, an impre-

cise descriptor Black Rails also sing. A late Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was at S.S., June 2 (JSW). The only Alder Flycatcher report was of one at Beltsville, Md., May 23 (WS), but 38 "Traill's Flycatchers" were at S.S., May 13-June 3 with eight on May 20 (JSW). Unusually far s.e. was a Willow Flycatcher near Hopewell June 3 (JWD, FRS). One of the few reports ever for Maryland was a well-described **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** seen at very close range at Black., May 16 (BFR *et al.*).

The first swallows are always heartening. At Lilypons two N. Roughwings were seen Mar. 18 (EMW *et al.*), two Banks were at Betterton, Md., Apr. 4 (JGG), a Cliff was at Claremont, Va., Mar. 17 (LW, *fide* TK) and a very early Purple Martin was in Newport News Mar. 3 (ES, *fide* TK). Exceptionally late was a Black-capped Chickadee at S.S., banded May 18 (JSW). Red-breasted Nuthatches were widespread and late during May with two at Chinc., as late as May 24 (KHW, DPn). Two Brown Creepers were singing at Nassawango Cr., where they breed, May 26 (SHD). The last Ruby-crowned Kinglet was at Adv., May 20 (MD). The thrush migration was excellent with peak numbers of Gray-cheekeds and Swainson's at Adv., May 20 (MD) and close by at S.S., May 21 (JSW) as indicated by banded birds. At S.S., two Swainson's were present June 2 (JSW) and a late Hermit was at Adv., May 15 (MD). Gray Catbird was the commonest catch at S.S. (242—JSW, N & SM) and the 2nd-commonest at Adv. (304—MD *et al.*). In Frederick County, Md., May 5, 66 Water Pipits was a very high number for so late (DHW). Cedar Waxwings staged a veritable invasion of the area in May with many birds spilling over well into June in most areas (m.ob.). Three Loggerhead Shrikes were at Lilypons Apr. 1 (DWH) but for the first time in 5 years none nested in the Nokesville area (KB).

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — In spite of the cold, wind and rain many considered this an exceptional spring for these birds. Among the 2795 birds of 92 species banded at Adv., in 16,611 net-hours Apr. 15-May 31 were 29 warbler species, including an Orange-crowned Apr. 28, 20 Mournings May 14-31 (four on both May 21 & 27), highs for Magnolia, Wilson's, Canada and Am. Redstart all May 20, and N. Waterthrush being the commonest warbler with 145 banded including 16 on May 1 (MD *et al.*). The big numbers of common birds on some of the spring counts are indicated by 118 White-eyed and 152 Red-eyed vireos at Williamsburg Apr. 29 (BTa *et al.*), and 133 Red-eyeds at Newport News May 12 (WPS *et al.*). Blue-winged Warblers were abundant with an extremely early one at Ashland, Va., Apr. 2 (KD). A "Brewster's Warbler" was at Richmond Apr. 30 (DP, *fide* FRS) and a "Lawrence's Warbler" was at Rockville May 5 (JS, *fide* CPW). Golden-winged Warblers were widespread and Tennessee Warblers were in above-average numbers (v.ob.). An Orange-crowned Warbler was at Rockville Apr. 28 (MO). The first N. Parula and Prairie Warblers were in Norfolk Apr. 5 (TRW). A late Magnolia Warbler was in D.C., June 5 (DC). Yellow-rumped Warblers stayed late in large numbers with one at Richmond May 24 (FRS) and 860 in Talbot County, Md., May 5 (T.C.B.C.); they were still numerous around Balt., May 20 (RFR). A late Blackburnian Warbler was at Curles Neck June 3 (JWD, FRS). At S.S., 1310 birds of 76 species were banded on 21 days Apr. 21-June 3 with 28 warbler species including three Mourning Warblers May 20, a ♀ Connecticut Warbler May 21-22, a Canada Warbler June 2 and two Blackpoll Warblers June 3 (N & SM, JSW). Bay-breasted Warbler drew the most commentary for being in best numbers, the best ever for many birders, with a big influx May 10-20, such as 16 in Richmond May 17 (FRS *et al.*). In Newport News 171 Blackpoll Warblers were found May 12 (WPS *et al.*) and Scott had 15 still in Richmond June 1. Out of place was a Swainson's Warbler at Huntley Meadows County P., May 13 (LL, *fide* CPW). The Mourning Warbler migration was as extraordinary as that of the Bay-breasteds with many reported well into June, many observers seeing > one/day. Exceptional also was the passage of Wilson's and Canada warblers with Wilson's being seen commonly even near the coast and counts such as 21 Canadas in Richmond May 15 (FRS). More notable census totals were 70 Black-and-whites, 94 N. Parulas and 66 Prairie Warblers at Williamsburg Apr. 29 (BTa *et al.*).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH CARDUELINES — Rose-breasted Grosbeak was yet another species drawing comments from all sections for its high numbers. Single Black-headed Grosbeaks were seen at Virginia Beach Jan.-Apr. 26 (SLC *et al.*, ph.), in Norfolk May 4 (RLA, NS) and at Jug Bay, Patuxent R., Md., May 6 (JAG). Single Dickcissels

were at Nokesville May 12 (RAA), Frederick, Md., May 7 (*fide* DHW), Beltsville, Md., May 3 (WS) and McKee-Beshers W.M.A., May 21 (JO) while three were at Curles Neck also during May (FRS *et al.*) Extremely late was a Tree Sparrow at Sterling, Va., Apr. 29 (EMW *et al.*). A Clay-colored Sparrow in D.C., May 1-5 was new for there (DC, BS, ph.) and one was in Rockville May 9-17 (BA *et al.*). Nine Henslow's Sparrows were at Elliott I., Apr. 27 (JCM). A late Fox Sparrow was at Adv., Apr. 17 (MD). The Lincoln's Sparrow migration was excellent with 19 at Adv., May 6 (two)-May 21 (three) with five on May 20, while S.S. captured seven on May 20 and five on May 21 (MD, N & SM, JSW). White-throated Sparrows lingered in huge numbers into mid-May with counts such as 240 in D.C. (DC) and 380 in Frederick County (DHW) May 5, and very late ones at Adv., May 30 (MD) and three banded at S.S., May 21 (JSW). The Harris' Sparrow at Hampstead, Md., stayed until at least Mar. 18 (RFR *et al.*). A Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco was in D.C., Mar. 14 (DC, ph.). Bobolinks staged an excellent flight throughout, many people seeing hundreds in one day, with 767 at Newport News May 12 (WPS *et al.*), 60 at Curles Neck June 3 (JWD, FRS *et al.*), and many others seen well into June. A ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird was in Kensington, Md., Mar. 9 (DS, *fide* CPW). Purple Finches were present late at Adv., with some banded May 8-18 including 17 on May 10 (MD). Pine Siskins lingered late again this spring, with more reports in May than for most of the winter, including one at Nokesville (KB) and two at Alexandria (JMA) May 15, and the last at Richmond May 19 (BR, FRS). The same may be said for Evening Grosbeak with last records at Jug Bay May 20 (JAG) and four at Claiborne, Talbot Co., Md., May 11 (JKE).

OBSERVERS — J.M. Abbott, R.L. Ake (RLAk), R.A. Anderson, R.L. Anderson, G.L. Armistead, Bob Augustine, Ken Bass, Paul Bedell, Henry Bielstein, Eirik Blom, L.D. Bonham, Bill Bruni, J.H. Buckalew, M.A. Byrd, Danny Bystrak, Lester Coble, S.L. Collins, George Consolvo, David Czaplak, Gus Daniels, Karl David, Fenton Day, Harold Day, J.W. Dillard, D.K. Disher, K.L. Dixon, Margaret Donald, Jon Dunn, S.H. Dyke, J.K. Effinger, Ethel Engle, Mike Erwin, A.J. Fletcher, R.B. Fletcher, Shirley Geddes, Inez Glime, J.A. Gregoire, J.G. Gruber, Maggie Hawk, M.W. Hewitt, Mark Hoffman (MHn), D.F. Holland, H.C. Irving, M.J. Iwanik, J.E. Johnson, Sylvia Johnson, Teta Kain, D.L. Kirkwood, R.L. Kleen, Wayne Klockner, Alicia Knotts, Bob Kuhn, YuLee Lerner, L. Leavy, George Ledec, Paul Lehman, Nancy & Stuart MacClintock, Elwood Martin, Paul McAllister (PMc), Sean McCandless, Mark McNair, Brooke Meanley (BMy), D.W. Mehlman, Bjorn Miller, J.C. Miller, Harvey Mudd, Paul Murphy, Paul Nistico, Marianna Nuttle, John O'Brien, Michael O'Brien, F.L. Parks, E.D. Peacock, Dwight Peake, R.H. Peake, Carl Perry, Don Peterson (DPn), Paul Pisano, Bill Portlock, J.G. Reese, George Reiger, R.F. Ringer, Wilbur Rittenhouse, K.L. Robertson, Larry Robinson, B.F. Rollfinke, Betsy Roszell, R.P. Russell, Kurt Savoie, R.M. Schutsky, F.R. Scott, Steve Steimel (SSm), Kim Shank (KSk), Don Smith, W.P. Smith, P.R. Spitzer, Evelyn Stalnaker, Nick Stavros, Jean Steinberg, Susan Strange, Wally Sumner, Byron Swift, Charlie Swift, Brian Taber (BTa), Talbot Co. Bird Club (T.C.B.C.), Barry Truitt, Craig Tufts, Robin Tyler, Laura Valoppi, D.H. Wallace, Pete Webb, K.H. Weber, J.S. Weske, H.L. Wierenga, C.P. Wilds, Lew Wilkinson, Bill Williams, E.J. Willoughby, E.M. Wilson, T.R. Wolfe, Benjamin Yokel.—HENRY T. ARMISTEAD, 28 E. Springfield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19118.



SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

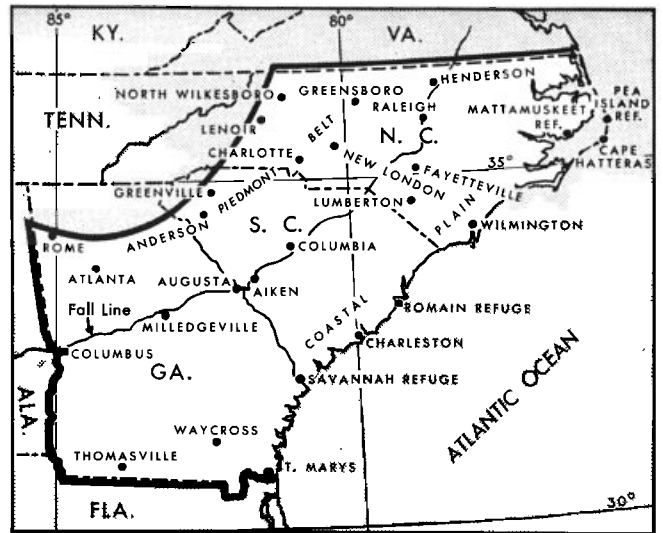
/Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

The weather this spring was quite similar to that of a year ago. March and April were quite cool and wet, and very unsettled, as evidenced by an unusual number of tornadoes, but the Region essentially avoided snow and hard freezes. The regular procession of cold fronts from the Great Plains to the Southeast continued well into May. However, the May fronts were rather dry, and unsettled weather became somewhat scarce.

Last spring in this journal I proclaimed that the 1983 flight "was one of the better spring migrations in the last ten years." This spring was even better, perhaps the best in ten years, at least for passerine migrants. Trans-Gulf migrating warblers were in much above normal numbers in the Piedmont, but the Coastal Plain observers found such species uncommon or rare, as usual. A stalled front April 21-22 caused a major songbird fallout, and westerly winds behind several cold fronts from late April to mid-May, especially May 4-5, also blew birds to the east of their normal migratory routes (and into the Piedmont). On the other hand, shorebirding was rather disappointing, as most lakes were full and the unsettled weather did not coincide with the period when shorebird flights are typically heavy (late April to late May). Pelagic birding was rather bland, in part because of the scarcity of trips to North Carolina's Gulf Stream. Despite the lackluster waterbirding, there were a number of unusual sightings, especially among songbirds that migrate to our west. In fact, the two new state records, both from Georgia, were Western passerines.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS — The best inland count of Com. Loons was 47 at vastly under-birded L. Moultrie, S.C., Mar. 18 (DBM). The two N. Fulmar records were hopefully of different birds—singles each 40 mi s.s.e. of Beaufort Inlet, N.C., Apr. 7 (RD) & Apr. 12 (LD). Black-capped Petrels have proven to be essentially year-round residents in parts of the Gulf Stream, at least off North Carolina. Records this season were of 10 off Cape Lookout, N.C., Mar. 3 (WI *et al.*); four on May 11 off Charleston, S.C. (CH); a Georgia record 65 e. of St. Catherines I., Apr. 13 (CH); and one off Jekyll I., Ga., May 27 (TM *et al.*). Shearwaters of note were an early Greater May 7 off Charleston (DF), six Sooties off Tybee I., May 18 (CH) for just the 3rd record ever for Georgia, one and possibly two Manxes off Cape Lookout Mar. 3 (DL, HL, WI), two early Audubon's Apr. 13 off St. Catherines I. (CH), and 169 Audubon's May 11 off Charleston (CH). A record early Wilson's Storm-Petrel for Georgia was one Apr. 13 off St. Catherines I. (CH). Haney had the only Leach's Storm-Petrel for the season—125 mi e. of Tybee I., Ga., May 11, and in the same area the same day was an ad. White-tailed Tropicbird (ph., CH). Hardly a season goes by without a record for the once-very-rare Am. White Pelican; individuals this spring were noted for a week in mid-March in the Morehead City, N.C., area (AP *et al.*) and in Charleston harbor Apr. 27 (CW, PN). Georgia's remarkable inland **Great Cormorant** that spent the winter near Albany lingered to mid-March (G & CV, *fide* TM). Numbers of Double-crested Cormorants nesting in inland North America must surely be on the rise, based on the astronomical increase in migrants observed on inland lakes in the Region. McNair had 2200 on L. Marion, S.C., and just below its dam on Mar. 18; 360 were tallied on a spring count at Jordan L., Chatham Co., N.C., May 6 (RD, BR); 200+ were flying over Augusta, Ga., Apr. 14 (AW); and 210 were at Falls L. near Durham, N.C., May 13 (RD).

WADERS — Great Egrets were formerly rather rare in spring in the Piedmont, but this season individuals were reported at 5 spots in c. North Carolina and at 2 sites near Atlanta, Ga. However, Snowy Egrets are genuinely rare in that province in spring; sightings there were one at Jordan L., N.C., May 6 (RD), one near Atlanta May 6 (PB, BP, PR), and seven near Raleigh, N.C., Apr. 22 (HL, JM). Five "changing" imm. Little Blue Herons at Falls L., Apr. 22 (KK) were notable inland, and seldom seen in the Piedmont at this season was a Tricolored Heron at Jordan L., Apr. 23 (RD). The best wader of the spring was a Reddish Egret Apr. 7 somewhat inland at Middleton Plantation, 10 mi n.w. of Charleston (DP). Cattle Egrets differ from other waders in being more numerous inland in spring than as late summer visitors; the 5 records for the Atlanta area (*fide* TM), and numerous reports from the Raleigh-



Durham-Chapel Hill area were more than usual. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons nested near Chapel Hill several years ago, so two adults at New Hope Cr., Apr. 28 (BW, MW) might possibly have been breeders. Always a good find inland, a Glossy Ibis was at Jordan L., Apr. 28 (P & PHo).

WATERFOWL — Notable for spring were two Tundra Swans Mar. 24 at Jordan L. (RD, AB) and another near Atlanta Mar. 9 (JG, CA). The cool weather in April allowed waterfowl to linger longer than normal, with the Durham spring count Apr. 22 tallying 11 species of waterfowl (*fide* MS), including two N. Shovelers and two Gadwalls (RD). Georgia's first **Harlequin Duck**, discovered this winter, remained at Tybee I. until Mar. 10 (PB, MO, BP). Occasional Oldsquaws are seen on inland lakes in winter, for a few days, but two birds at a pond near Augusta Mar. 15-Apr. 11 (AW, DW) were nearly unprecedented for length of stay. Both a Surf Scoter and a White-winged Scoter stopped at L. Keowee, S.C., Mar. 13 (DBM). Another White-winged was there Apr. 4 (DBM), and nine at St. Simons I., Ga., were rather late Apr. 3 (D & PM). Other late waterfowl were a ♀ Hooded Merganser at L. Lure, N.C., May 15 (RW) and three Com. Mergansers Mar. 23 at Jordan L. (RD, AB).

HAWKS THROUGH CRANES — A first Piedmont nest of the **Osprey**, and the first away from North Carolina's tidewater zone, was found May 6 at Jordan L. (ALB, JPay *et al.*). There were mixed reports as to the presence or absence of young, but the nest was found partly destroyed (by a storm?) later in the month, and the nesting apparently failed (*fide* BR). American Swallow-tailed Kites turned up at 5 coastal sites in North Carolina, with one at Ocracoke I., Mar. 8 (LC) being quite early. Possibly the earliest Mississippi Kites for North Carolina were seven at their usual breeding (?) site in e. Halifax County Apr. 28 (MAS, WL) and a migrant was rare in that state near Swansboro May 16 (HH). These kites breed in the Congaree Swamp below Columbia, S.C., but 17 on that city's spring count May 5 (*fide* JS) was impressive. Gratifyingly, a pair of Bald Eagles bred successfully *in the wild* in North Carolina, ending a frustrating and mysterious 14-year lapse; the pair fledged two young from the nest on mainland Hyde County (MWe *et al.*). Inland reports of migrant Bald Eagles continue to increase, with the best count being of 14 (12 immatures) at a marsh below L. Marion dam Mar. 18 (DBM) and three at Jordan L., May 6 (GM, RD). What might be a first in the Region in spring was an ad. **Northern Goshawk** seen soaring in s.e. Alamance County, N.C., Mar. 11 (AB). A good hawk migration was noted at Jordan L., Apr. 15; 10 species were tallied, including 30 each of Osprey and Broad-winged Hawk (RD, AB, HL). Both inland Merlins were observed May 5: near Columbia (SC *et al.*) and near Fayetteville (PIC *et al.*). A Peregrine Falcon near Raleigh May 1 (JM) was the only inland report, whereas three were sighted along the coast, at Charleston Apr. 27 (CW, PN) and at Cedar I., N.C., May 6 & 20 (JF *et al.*).

There were scattered inland reports of King and Virginia rails and

Soras, as usual, and many Kings (including two chicks) were at Eufaula N.W.R., Ga., Apr. 22 (BP). A Purple Gallinule was out of range at Merchants Millpond S.P., N.C., May 26-June 3 (*vide* FW); and good Am. Coot totals for the w. Piedmont were 320 at L. Keowee Apr. 4 (DBM) and 233 at Sweetwater Creek S.P., Ga., Mar. 25 (D & PM). Sandhill Crane migrants seem to be on the increase through the Atlanta area (TM); the peak of the northbound flight over the city was Mar. 4-6, about average.

SHOREBIRDS — Rare in spring inland was a Black-bellied Plover at Clayton County, Ga., Mar. 25 (PB); but 1984 had the poorest spring flight of Lesser Golden-Plovers in many years, with the only report being of three near Townville, S.C., Mar. 31 (SG, CWo *et al.*). Inland Willets were encountered along the Chattahoochee R., near Atlanta Apr. 29 (A.A.S.), near Pineville, N.C., May 9 (HWh), and at Falls L., May 12 (MS, LS). Upland Sandpipers were widely reported, mostly in mid- and late April, with the best being a count of 14 near Dublin, Ga., Apr. 15 (TKP) and a very early bird near Atlanta Mar. 17 (BP). Fussell had his 3rd record of a Whimbrel of the Eurasian race, supposedly casual in North America, an individual that flew past Atlantic Beach, N.C., Apr. 10. Notable records of *Calidris* sandpipers inland included a Sanderling at Jordan L., May 4 (AB) & May 6 (KK); a peak of 37 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Peachtree City L., near Atlanta May 12 (PB); a W. Sandpiper at Falls L., May 20 (RD); peak White-rumped Sandpiper totals of seven near Raleigh May 8 (HL), four near Pineville, N.C., May 5 (DB, TP), and two at Clayton County, Ga., May 5 & 26 (PB); and Dunlins at Jordan L. on May 6 (RD) and Pineville May 5-9 (HW, PH). The rare-in-spring Stilt Sandpiper was found near Marietta, Ga., May 2 (TMI) and in Clayton County May 12 (PB, FM, EM).

Coastal results were rather bland, as is typical in spring, in part because no one reported from the Region's premier shorebird spot at Bodie-Pea Is., N.C. McNair had notable counts from South I., near Georgetown, S.C.: 1300 Semipalmated Plovers May 11, 5000 Semipalmated Sandpipers May 13, and 40 Stilt Sandpipers May 13. The best shorebird was a Curlew Sandpiper in breeding plumage May 12 at Portsmouth I. (JF, RB), where it is somewhat regular in late summer and fall, and maybe also in spring (pending further field work). Short-billed Dowitchers were found inland in North Carolina at Beaverdam Res. (JM) and Pineville (HW) and in Clayton County, Ga. (PB). Only two Wilson's Phalaropes were reported—at Portsmouth May 11-12 (JF, RB) and in Clayton County May 19 (CH, PB); whereas the other phalarope species were noted only offshore. Forsythe had Reds on all 5 trips off Charleston Mar. 10-Apr. 22 with a peak of 135 on Mar. 18.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers were observed off the South Carolina and Georgia coasts on numerous occasions (DF, CH); amazingly, no jaegers were reported from North Carolina. Single Laughing Gulls were at Jordan L., Apr. 23 (RD) & May 6 (AT, PT, TS, MWe) and Sweetwater Creek S.P., Ga., Apr. 22 (D & PM); however, they were no match for the 180 at the L. Moultrie, S.C., dam May 10 (DBM) and the 800 at the L. Marion dam May 10 (DBM). One of the most exciting finds was North Carolina's first spring **Franklin's Gull**, only the 3rd ever for the state, near Raleigh Mar. 31-Apr. 1 (HL, JM *et al.*). Second-winter Iceland Gulls are seldom found in the Region; thus notable was one in Beaufort, N.C., Mar. 4-5 (JF, AB, RD, HL). Rare for South Carolina was a 2nd-winter Lesser Black-backed Gull off Charleston Mar. 18 (DF), and an imm. Great Black-backed Gull May 4 at Jordan L. (AB) provided one of just a few inland records for the Region. The Black-legged Kittiwake, practically unknown in South Carolina and Georgia waters a few years ago, is no longer a great rarity; this season's reports were two off Charleston Mar. 18 (DF) and one off Cumberland I., Ga., Mar. 22 (CH). A Sabine's Gull 125 mi e. of Tybee I., Ga., May 11 (CH) was unfortunately outside the Region's boundaries, but the record is very significant nonetheless.

Caspian Terns have never been more numerous in c. North Carolina than this spring; most lakes had a few mid-April to early May, with peaks of nine each at Falls and Wheeler lakes and a remarkable 27 at Jordan L., Apr. 23 (RD). A few Forster's and Com. terns were reported inland, the best totals being five Commons at L. Keowee Apr. 30 (DBM) and 11 Forster's near Atlanta Apr. 22 (D & PM). Again this spring Arctic Terns were seen off the Georgia coast, with five photographed May 27 e. of Jekyll I. (CH *et al.*). Always a good find inland

was a Least Tern at Augusta Apr. 9 (AW, VW), and a Bridled Tern was somewhat early May 11 s.e. of Charleston (CH). Though there was evidence of a flight of Razorbills this winter into our waters, three in Charleston harbor Apr. 8 were a complete surprise (DP).

CUCKOOS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — It was a poor spring for the Black-billed Cuckoo, with just one sighting at Atlanta and 4 reports elsewhere. A dead N. Saw-whet Owl was found at Durham, N.C., Apr. 3 (JH, *vide* BW), and a count of eight Chuck-will's-widows to the n e near Butner Apr. 22 (RD) was quite good for the area. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were rather early at Cedar I., Mar. 22 (JF, RE) and nearby Morehead City Mar. 24 (JF). As northbound Olive-sided Flycatchers pass almost entirely to the w. of the Region, it was no surprise that the 2 reports were for n. Georgia — near Palmetto May 12 (D & PM) and Douglas County May 20 (D & PM). In addition to breeding birds again noted at Winston-Salem (RS), the only certain Willow Flycatcher was one singing at Chapel Hill May 22 (ME), where one spent the summer in 1971. An E. Phoebe appeared to be on territory near Fayetteville May 15 (PJC), an overdue first such occurrence for that city. A first spring record for the Region, and new to the Georgia list, was a **Say's Phoebe** between Cordele and Americus from late March into April (G & CV). None of the 4 Regional records has yet been documented by photo or specimen. A pair of Gray Kingbirds seen May 11-13 at Frapp I., S.C., suggests a rare nesting for that state (TKP), while in Georgia Haney had two at Sea I., May 26 and another in downtown Brunswick May 28. Three reports of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers was excellent for a single season, each bird being near the coast, at Hilton Head I., S.C., Apr. 18-19 (GB, JK, *vide* LL), Cedar I., Apr. 29 (WI), and Oriental, N.C., May 24 (RBr, DFoy, RF, JF).

LARKS THROUGH VIREOS — Several Horned Larks near Cordele Apr. 1 were rare for s. Georgia (BP, HG, PB), and Atlanta's earliest ever Cliff Swallow was one Apr. 7 (BP). Fish Crows were finally found conclusively to breed at Clemson this spring (DBM); yet the species is still unknown from Atlanta and most other sites in the upper Piedmont. The 2 reports of Bewick's Wrens came from n. Georgia, one that wintered near Pendergrass and was last noted Mar. 12 (JP) and another near Atlanta Mar. 26 (D & PM). The best of the inland Sedge and Marsh wren reports were at National Wildlife Refuges—five Sedges at Eufaula Apr. 22 (BP) and four Marshes at Santee, S.C., Mar. 17 (DBM).

It was a good spring for the migrant thrushes, and the normally uncommon Gray-cheeked Thrush was several times more common than usual. A Gray Catbird was 3 weeks early near Atlanta Mar. 24 (PB), but the news on the Brown Thrasher was not good. The deep freeze in late December eliminated over 50% of the wintering population in inland parts of the Region, and spring count totals in c. North Carolina suggested that the mortality rate may have been closer to 75%.

Rather rare and early was a Solitary Vireo nest found Apr. 16 near Drowning Cr., Moore Co., N.C. (LW, *vide* JHC); and also suggestive of nesting were two singing near Zebulon, N.C., May 9-31+ (EP) and two also singing at Crowders Mountain S.P., N.C., May 28-31+ (PH). A normal spring generally sees only a few reports of Warbling Vireos, but 1984 may have had record numbers. *Eight* on the Winston-Salem spring count May 5 (*vide* RS) was outstanding; others were three in Moore County, N.C., Apr. 25-29 (S & FD, CG), one near Raleigh Apr. 25 (JM) and another Apr. 27 (RD), and one at Athens, Ga., Apr. 23 (CH). Even rarer were a Philadelphia Vireo near Atlanta Apr. 30 (TMI), one in Burlington, N.C., May 5 (AB), and two also May 5 at Raleigh (JL, *vide* RJH); unfortunately, none was reported singing.

WARBLERS — Both Blue-winged and Golden-winged warblers were quite numerous in the Atlanta area (*vide* TM); individual records of note included two Blue-winged May 5 on the Morehead City count (JF, JPo, NM) and a Golden-winged rather far e. near Raleigh Apr. 27 (RD). Tennessee Warblers were more common than usual, but only in the Piedmont, with the best tally being four on the Raleigh count May 5 (HL *et al.*). The Nashville Warbler generally skirts the Region to the w., so of interest were 4 sightings in the Atlanta area Apr. 23-May 5 (*vide* TM), and singles at Clemson in April (CWo), Kershaw County, S.C., May 20 (CWo), and Chapel Hill Apr. 29 (HWi). Early were N. Parulas near Atlanta Mar. 21 (PR) and Southern Pines, N.C., Mar. 25 (EC), in addition to two+ Yellow-throated Warblers and a Prothonotary War-

bler Mar 17 at White L., N.C. (DL). Rare for the Coastal Plain in spring were Chestnut-sided Warblers in c. Carteret County, N.C., May 5 (JPo, NM) and at Fayetteville May 10 (WJ, HR). As with most Trans-Gulf migrating warblers, the Blackburnian was noted in increased numbers (in the Piedmont), and T. Moore estimated that they were 10 times more numerous than usual in Atlanta.

No warbler drew more raves than the Bay-breasted; normally uncommon to occasionally fairly common in the Piedmont, many observers found them "common" and "most ever in spring." At long last a Cerulean Warbler was found in the North Carolina Sandhills, near Vass Apr 29 (JHC, JMo). There were a few scattered Cerulean reports from the Piedmont of the Carolinas, plus 25+ reports from the Atlanta area, a near-normal figure (*vide* TM). An excellent count of Worm-eating Warblers was 21 in I'On Swamp, S.C., Apr. 29 (PN party). One-to-two Swainson's Warblers singing on territory along the Deep R., Lee Co., N.C., Apr. 28 & May 6 was very unusual for the e. Piedmont (HL). There were several reports of Swainson's in the Atlanta area, where they may breed, but one singing near Raleigh May 5 (RD) was believed to have been a migrant. As usual, the only Connecticut Warblers were found in Georgia—May 13 near Atlanta (A.A.S.) and May 16 at Athens (CH). The Region's first spring records for **Mourning Warblers** in at least 7 years also came from n. Georgia—an ad. male near Tyus May 20 (D & PM) and one seen and heard May 21 at Athens (PS, CF, *vide* CH). The usual handful of Wilson's Warblers was highlighted by four on the Raleigh count May 5 (*vide* RJH), quite early for such a number. The best bird of the season was a **Painted Redstart**, an adult seen well in a group of Am. Redstarts Apr. 13 near the coast at Crooked River S.P., Ga. (DG). Of course, this is a first record for the Region and one of just a few for e. North America.

TANAGERS THROUGH CARDUELLINES — Almost regular at Fayetteville, a ♂ W. Tanager that overwintered was last noted May 10 in breeding plumage (CIH, *vide* PJC). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, as expected, were more numerous this spring than usual, and three at Moore's Landing n.e. of Charleston Apr. 29 was a good coastal total (TR, BK). Black-headed Grosbeaks, probably "boldface-able" a year ago, continued to turn up—a female was seen at High Point, N.C., May 6 (RO), and an imm. male was a feeder visitor near Morehead City Mar. 19-Apr. 21 (MWade *et al.*). The first Painted Buntings in several years at Dublin were feeder birds, a male in early May and a female in late May (TKP). The Dickcissel continues to make news as a breeding species, despite the apparent discontinuation of the Payment-in-Kind program. In addition to a probable migrant female at Eufaula N.W.R., Apr. 22 (BP), several birds including a singing male were seen near Raleigh May 12-15 (WI, JM). Most importantly, breeding or presumed breeding colonies of Dickcissels were found in the upper Coastal Plain, where quite rare, in Lexington (JS, LSt) and Calhoun (DBM) counties in South Carolina and near Dublin in Georgia (TKP) in late May and June. Further details on these colonies will appear in the Summer Season Report. J. Carter discovered several **Lark Sparrows** in April at drop

zones in w. Ft. Bragg, N.C., including one singing on territory Apr. 29 (JHC, JMo). These birds, coupled with the continued presence of a few birds in nearby Richmond County (HL, KK), suggest that a viable population is present in the Sandhills. More details will follow in the next report. A s. range extension of the Grasshopper Sparrow's breeding range in Georgia occurred when Patterson found a pair near Dublin in late April; the birds were feeding young in the nest May 28. Migrant Henslow's Sparrows were detected Apr. 13 at Pendergrass, Ga. (CH) and near Atlanta Apr. 21 (BP); whereas the elusive Lincoln's Sparrow was reported only thrice—Apr. 17 at Athens (CH), Apr. 21 near Atlanta (BP), and May 5 near York, S.C. (BH). Late birds included a Song Sparrow at Santee Coastal Reserve, S.C., May 11 (DBM), a Dark-eyed Junco at Southern Pines May 5 (EC), two Bobolinks at a Columbus County, N.C., airport May 31 (DBM), and an Evening Grosbeak at Pine Knoll Shores, N.C., May 21-22 (KKi, *vide* JF). A ♀ Yellow-headed Blackbird Apr. 7-29 at Cedar I. (HH, JF) was very rare for the spring season; and the easily-overlooked Brewer's Blackbird was detected near Townville, S.C., Apr. 21 (SG *et al.*) and at Eufaula N.W.R., Apr. 1 (30 birds—BP, PB). Several pairs of House Finches again nested on the Clemson Univ. campus at Clemson (*vide* CWo), and they ought to nest at York, S.C., as surely a few of the 975 banded over the winter by Hilton must remain into summer!

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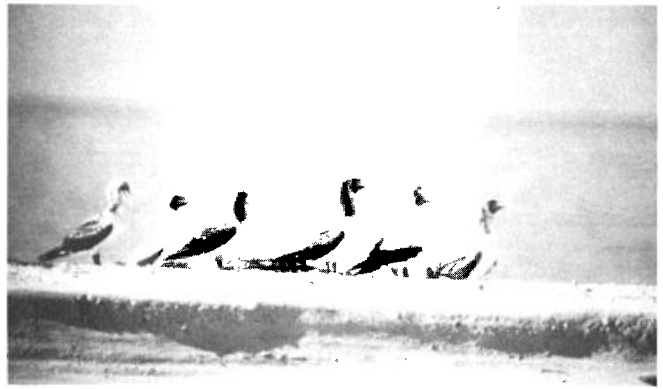
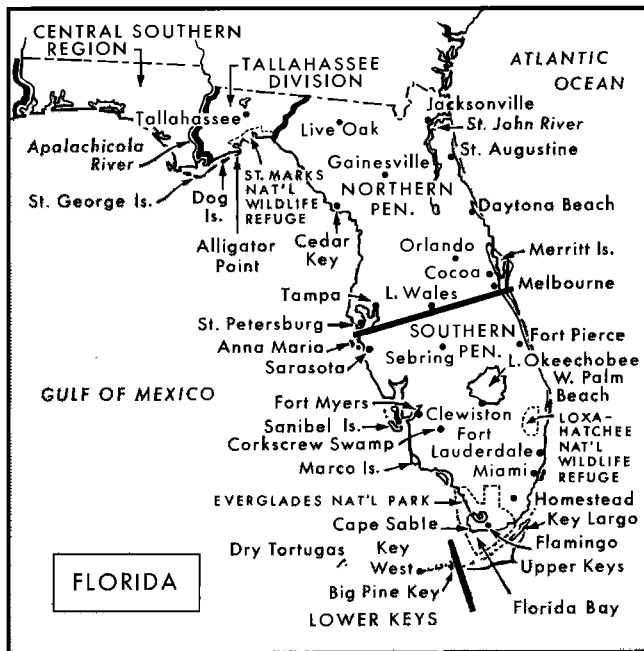
FLORIDA REGION /Herbert W. Kale II

The spring 1984 migration would have won the "poorest migration in memory" election if area editors had voted—it certainly was the most "silent" of the 20 springs I've lived in Florida. Although numerous fronts passed down the peninsula in March before peak migration, the few that occurred in April and May were not accompanied by weather severe enough to precipitate many migrants. The most productive weekend—qualitatively—was April 16-18 when 28 species of warbler were sighted at Ft. DeSoto Park, that Gulf coast birding hotspot at the end of the Pinellas Peninsula. Temperatures were mild and pleasant well into May. Heavy rains in March and early April in south Georgia and north Florida raised the Suwannee and other north Florida rivers to their highest levels since the early 1970s. In south Florida the drought of 1981 has receded into dim memory as ponds and lakes remained relatively full

throughout the period. The destruction wrought by the December freezes was still widespread in central Florida with most of the citrus groves dead or severely killed back, along with most of the subtropical vegetation.

Probably the most outstanding event of the period was the first nesting of the Masked Booby in the continental United States. Other notable sightings were a Common Black-headed Gull, Little Gull, Tropical (or Couch's) Kingbird, "yellow-green" Red-eyed Vireo, and a flock of 26 Bronzed Cowbirds.

ABBREVIATIONS — A.B.S. = Archbold Biological Station; Cape Can. = Cape Canaveral; C.S.M. = Clear Springs Mine, Polk Co.; D.T. = Dry Tortugas; E.N.P. = Everglades Nat'l Park; F.S.M. = Florida State Museum; Lox. = Loxahatchee Nat'l Wildlife Ref.; N. Pen. = Northern Peninsula; S. Pen. = Southern Peninsula; S.G.I. = St. George Island; T.T. = Tall Timbers Research Station; Tally Div. = Tallahassee Division.



Masked Boobies, Dry Tortugas/Alan Brady.



Adult Masked Booby in flight near Middle Key, Dry Tortugas, Fla., May 6, 1984. Photo/Alan Brady.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS—A Red-throated Loon 3 mi s.w. of Dog I., Mar. 22 (LEW), provided one of our few spring records. The massive dieoff involving an estimated 4000 Com. Loons that occurred along the Gulf coast in the spring of 1983 was not repeated in 1984. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service found that many of the dead loons autopsied showed high mercury concentrations, but stopped short of blaming mercury for their deaths. A loon in basic plumage remained near Tierra Verde throughout the period (LA), and one in full alternate plumage on a pond in an Ocala park Apr. 3-6 (JRS) was unusual. By mid-March many of the 20 Eared Grebes that wintered at C.S.M. were in breeding plumage and five of these were still there Apr. 21 (PF, SB). An impressive 36 Cory's Shearwaters seen 25 mi e. of Cape Can., May 15 (JJ), were the earliest for the N. Pen. Equally impressive were 13 Audubon's Shearwaters sitting on a weed patch in the Atlantic Ocean e. of Marathon May 12 (HD), and 11 Wilson's Storm-Petrels with the above-mentioned Cory's May 15 (JJ). A Wilson's 10 mi e. of Palm Beach May 6 (HPL, TT, WM) was the earliest for the S. Pen.

As usual, up to six White-tailed Tropicbirds thrilled visitors with a daily show at Garden Key, D.T., during April and May (m.ob.).



Adult White-tailed Tropicbird in flight over Fort Jefferson, Dry Tortugas, Fla., May 4, 1984. Photo/Alan Brady.

The first definite breeding record for the **Masked Booby** in the continental United States was established Mar. 25 when park ranger Tom Rutledge found an adult incubating an egg on Middle Key, D.T. Five other adults and four subadults were also present (details to be published). Few records for this species exist in the upper Gulf, hence nine at S.G.I., Apr. 21, and eight at Bald Pt., May 1—probably the same flock (GRG *et al.*)—was unprecedented. One flying 25 mi e. of

Cape Can., May 15 (JJ) was a rarity there. A N. Gannet sitting on Lower Tampa Bay 3 mi in from the Gulf May 5 (RTP) was unusual, and one off Tierra Verde May 19 (BA) tied the latest date for the N. Pen.

Migrating Am. White Pelicans joined the small flock that winters at Fernandina Beach so that by Mar. 18 it numbered 75 birds (MJW). Lake Apopka, once a famous fishing lake, is now considered "dead" (a result of agricultural runoff), but this did not deter a flock of 250 Am. White Pelicans seen there Apr. 20 (DF). A passage of 528 Brown Pelicans flying N past Turtle Mound, Volusia Co., between 6:30 and 7:30 a.m., Feb. 26 (JCD), were probably headed back to their nesting grounds in the Carolinas. Only in recent years have they been wintering on interior lakes, but an adult in breeding plumage on L. Clay, Highlands Co., Mar. 17 (CP), and two to four adults and immatures roosting on a boat house on Lake June Apr. 30-mid May (FEL *et al.*) stimulated speculation about breeding possibilities.

The wintering Great Cormorant at Wakulla Springs was still there Apr. 1 (DB), marking the first spring record for the Tally Div., while one of the wintering Delray Beach birds spent Mar. 4-Apr. 14 at the W. Delray Beach sewage pond (m.ob.). A Magnificent Frigatebird flying over U.S. 98, 3 mi e. of East Point, Franklin Co., Apr. 19 (HWK) was early, and up to 107 were on a Marco I. roost during May, compared with a prior 10-year mean (1974-1983) of nine (THB).

HERONS THROUGH WATERFOWL—Seventeen Am. Bitterns at Lox., Mar. 26 (PWS, BH), provided evidence for a migration taking place, and a Least Bittern found dead on Garden Key Apr. 8 (WBR) furnished the 4th record for D.T. Two Wood Storks were early at L. Lafayette, Leon Co., Mar. 18 (RN). Drawn to flooded agricultural fields near Wellington, Palm Beach Co., Mar. 25, a flock of 5800 White Ibis (PWS *et al.*) must have been a sight reminiscent of pre-drainage years. "Pink" ibises, progeny of Scarlet x White Ibis crosses, appeared in Gibsonia, Polk Co., where one was in a flock of 12 White Ibises Apr. 10 (ES), and at Flamingo where two were on the mudflats Apr. 21 (BN). Two Greater Flamingos were spotted near Christian Pt. in Florida Bay,

E N P , Mar 3-4 (NEM)

The blue Snow Goose at Okeehelée P., West Palm Beach since January was still there May 19 (m.ob.), the latest date for this morph in Florida, and brought to mind the Blue Goose that was reported late for several years on a Sarasota golf course before we learned it was a permanent resident there. Over 100 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were at Hatbill P., Brevard Co., Mar. 10 (DHu, DS), and "thousands" were reported on the w. side of L. Okeechobee, near Moorehaven Mar. 17 (CDB). A ♂ Mallard x Mottled Duck hybrid seen near the Bayway and Ft DeSoto P. area was probably the offspring of one of the local domesticated Mallard hens (LA). A ♂ Eur. Wigeon was late on Merritt Island N.W.R., Mar. 23 (JMC). The first record of the Ring-necked Duck at D.T. occurred Apr. 24 (HPL), establishing also the latest date for the Lower Keys. Far s. of its usual range was a White-winged Scoter seen repeatedly in the 10,000 Is. s. of Marco I. (THB, DA). A rare species for E.N.P., a flock of three to five Buffleheads was on Homestead Canal near Flamingo Mar. 2 (NEM). Two ♀ Masked Ducks were at Lox., Apr. 8 & 11 (PWS).

RAPTORS — American Swallow-tailed Kites continue to increase in Florida with one early in Liberty County Mar. 22 (WWB), and others seen at unusual places like Gainesville Mar. 6 (PS), Lox., Apr. 8 (PWS), and Lanark, Franklin Co., May 28 (HWK). Mississippi Kites were again in Ocala during the nesting season with one there May 10 (JRS), and a pair was observed copulating near Madison in n. Florida May 5 (N & CT). With water levels for Apple Snails optimal for the past 3 seasons, Snail Kites have been sighted frequently along Tamiami Trail near a roost located just n. of the Miccosukee Indian restaurant and the Shark Valley entrance to E.N.P. For the 2nd year the kite has nested within the park also (OLB). Cooper's Hawks again nested at A.B.S., near Lake Placid (FEL). One at Lox., Mar. 18 (PWS) was a rarity there. An albinistic Red-shouldered Hawk at Orange L., Mar. 21 was all white with yellow eyes and faint barring on its tail (RWR *et al.*). Early Broad-winged Hawks were in Tallahassee Mar. 26 (HMS) and Liberty County Mar. 30 (WWB).

Visiting birders want specific directions to a sure-bet Short-tailed Hawk. Well, the place does not exist. That light-phase pair near the entrance to the Fish-eating Creek W.M.A. is not always there, and one takes his chances on seeing one of the E.N.P. birds along the Flamingo Road. But it is encouraging to know that the species continues to show up at scattered locations in Florida, even if rarely seen. A light-phase bird was on the Desert Ranch in e. Orange Co., Apr. 13 (LEW), and a dark-phase bird was on the Rock Springs Run State Reserve, Lake Co., May 5 (GM, BP, BS). Soaring over the Fruit & Spice P., in Homestead Mar. 1 was a late Swainson's Hawk (BC, LG). So far as I can determine the last date reported for the wintering Ferruginous Hawks at Zellwood was Mar. 5, when one of the two was still there (JEC). Merlins and Peregrine Falcons were relatively scarce, with most of the numerous wintering birds probably having departed before Mar. 1. Merlins were at Cedar Key Mar. 20 (JC, RWR), Cape Florida Apr. 7-8 (BN), and Ft. DeSoto P., Apr. 10 (LA) & 15 (PF). Single Peregrines were at Alafia Banks, Hillsborough Bay, Mar. 16 & 30 (RTP), Cedar Key May 1 (JHH, DLM), and Ft. DeSoto P., Apr. 2 (TP) & May 11 (LA), the latter date being the latest for the N. Pen.

RAILS THROUGH TERNS — Not the rarest species in Florida but possibly the most infrequently seen, a Yellow Rail was at Lox., Mar. 20 (BH). Black Rails were heard calling at Eco Pond, E.N.P., Mar. 3, where they wintered (HPL), and at Wellington Mar. 24 & 25, but not thereafter, hence were probably migrants (PWS, BH *et al.*); but rails heard frequently throughout March and April at Lake Woodruff N.W.R., n. of DeLand (NOW, PCP), were probably breeding there. The latest Virginia Rail for the state was observed by A. and S. Stedman on Casey Key as it "appeared from the rip-rap at our dock and walked around the feeders and across our yard within 10 ft of us, then crossed the driveway and disappeared into the mangroves. This was May 18, and May 22 we watched as it retraced its steps back to the rip-rap." Two Limpkins on Garden Key Apr. 12 established the 4th record for the D.T. (WBR).

Lesser Golden-Plovers were near St. Marks Light, nine Mar. 10 (HMS, BAn), and three each at Sunshine Speedway Mar. 29 and Ft.

DeSoto P., Apr. 4-7 (LH *et al.*) A single Am Oystercatcher at Black Pt., Biscayne Bay Apr. 15 (RM) may have been the same bird reported there in 1983. Up to 500 Am. Avocets were in McKay Bay Mar. 16 (PF) and five on Casey Key May 14 were in full breeding plumage (A & SS). A very late Spotted Sandpiper was seen May 28 on Clay Gully Rd., e of N. Myakka (L & JN). A single Upland Sandpiper was at Ft. DeSoto P., Apr. 4-18 (LA), while seven reached Imeson Industrial P., Jacksonville, Apr. 25 (PCP). Sixty Marbled Godwits near St. James, Franklin Co., Apr. 5 were unusually numerous (JEC). Two White-rumped Sandpipers were at Toytown Dump, St. Petersburg, May 1 (LH), and 22 were at Sykes Cr., Brevard Co., May 13 (JJ). Single Long-billed Dowitchers were at Toytown Dump Apr. 14 (LH, JH) and at St. Marks Light May 9 (JMS, DY) & May 29 (JEC), the latter being the latest for the state. A live downy Am. Woodcock chick found Mar. 7 on a road in Alachua County was the first recent evidence of breeding there (JRB, *F.S.M.; details to be published).

A Little Gull at the Melbourne Sewage Plant Mar. 3 (PWS, BH) furnished the first spring record for Florida, while another accidental, a Com. Black-headed Gull, joined Laughing Gulls at a Cedar Key dock Mar. 21-24 (PB). The observer, a gull biologist, was studying Laughing Gull dispersal. Herring Gulls winter throughout coastal Florida but they are never abundant on the lower s.w. coast. T. Below's 10-year (1974-1983) average for March is 38. A fish kill this March attracted 1210 Herring Gulls to the Marco I. area. A rare Black-legged Kittiwake perched long enough for a careful study at Jupiter Beach Apr. 5 (KR). A flock of 200-300 Roseate Terns at D.T., Apr. 4-11 was the largest in recent years. Nesting occurred at the e. end of Bush Key (WBR *et al.*) Roseates again nested with Least Terns atop the Truman Annex and the high school in Key West (JT). In the upper Keys six to eight Roseates were sitting on the Molasses Reef light Apr. 28 (SS) and one was at Flamingo May 1 (GC). Though one or more Com. Terns occasionally winter on the Gulf coast, two at S.G.I., Mar. 29 were considered the earliest for the Tally Div. (HMS). Several Sooty Terns, Bridled Terns, and Brown Noddies were in the Atlantic Ocean e. of Marathon May 12-13 (HD), and three Bridleds were 20 mi e. of Cape Can., May 15 (JJ). A Black Tern at St. Marks N.W.R., Jan. 14 (RJR *et al.*) was possibly the first recorded in winter for the Tally Div., and this may have been one of the two birds seen at S.G.I., Mar. 29 (HMS) & Apr. 6 (SC), establishing the earliest spring records for the Division. The avidly-sought-for Black Noddy was at the D.T., Apr. 21 (BD, HPL) but was not seen subsequently, to the disappointment of many visitors.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — The 2nd Ringed Turtle-Dove for E.N.P. was found along Anhinga Trail May 5 (CMs). This was only a few miles w. of Homestead, where this dove is becoming quite abundant, and along with the White-winged Dove is displacing the native Mourning Dove. Another Ringed Turtle-Dove was seen on Sandy Rd., n.e. of N. Myakka Apr. 13 (ESf, GE). Two Blue-crowned Conures, presumably escaped birds from the mainland, spent several weeks at D.T. in April and May (m.ob.). Other psittacines were a flock of eight Dusky-headed Conures in the Miami Springs area May 18 (MC), a White-crowned Parrot in Ft. Lauderdale Apr. 29 (GC), and two Canary-winged Parakeets in downtown Sarasota Apr. 11 (EVM).

Numerous Mangrove Cuckoos were on Sugarloaf Key, where they breed, mid-April and May (M & PB *et al.*), and two remained at Ft. DeSoto P., Apr. 7-28 (m.ob.). At least one of the Groove-billed Anis that wintered at Anhinga Trail was still there Apr. 23 (CMs). Heavy rains must have forced Burrowing Owls out of their burrows near Wellington Mar. 25 when 21 owls were counted where usually only two or three are seen (HPL, GH). A Short-eared Owl at Ft. Jefferson Apr. 11-12 furnished the 3rd record for the D.T. (WBR *et al.*). Two Lesser Nighthawks were on Garden Key Apr. 24 (HPL, JM). The Rufous Hummingbird that wintered in Tallahassee was last seen Mar. 21 (F & SW). Two more, a male and female, were with seven Ruby-throats at Oak Hill Mar. 26 & Apr. 3 (DS), the latest date for the state. A xanthic ♂ Red-bellied Woodpecker was in Orlando Mar. 10 (DF, WF). This condition appears to be more prevalent than we originally thought. The reappearance of a Red-cockaded Woodpecker at Morningside Nature Center in Gainesville, after an absence of several years, was somewhat encouraging, although a *pair* would be more encouraging (DLJ, CMr). Numerous clans in the Big Cypress Preserve had chicks calling this spring—an improvement over last year when no reproduction was detected (DJ).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH KINGLETS — At least six Acadian Flycatchers were singing along Blackwater Cr., Lake Co., May 28 (BS, LS) A Least Flycatcher was a spring rarity on S.G.I., Apr. 28 (JMS *et al.*) The last report I received about the wintering ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher at the Flamingo campgrounds was Mar. 13 (KMCM). Received too late to include in my 1983 report was a sighting of a ♂ Vermilion on Amelia I., Nassau Co., Apr. 17, 1983 (JP). A Great Crested Flycatcher returned early to Liberty County Mar. 17 (WWB); two of the wintering Brown-crested Flycatchers were still at the Royal Palm Visitors' Center, E N P., Mar. 2 (BN), and one was in the Flamingo area Mar. 6 (RW). A Tropical/Couch's Kingbird at Hypoluxo I., May 13 gave observers only a 30-second look as it perched atop a gumbo-limbo tree, hence no specific determination was made (FC, PWS, HPL). Although the E. Kingbird breeds in s. Florida, it does not occur near the coast, hence one just e. of Sarasota May 28 (J & LN) was puzzling. If still migrating then it was the latest for the state. Gray Kingbirds, one each at Homestead Mar. 17 (*vide* BN) and at Merritt Island N.W.R., Mar. 16 (KMCM) were early. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were widespread—at Ft. DeSoto P., Apr. 1-18 (LA *et al.*), Sarasota Apr. 3 (EVM), along S.R. 70 at DeSoto Prairie Apr. 6 & 29 (KMCG, DRS), L. Istokpoga Apr. 7 (m.ob.), and Flamingo Apr. 21, where at least one wintered.

Northern Rough-winged Swallows were seen at an Alachua County site where they have nested in the past (JHH, DLM), and were observed entering drain pipes in a seawall next to the highrise bridge in Carabelle May 28 (HWK). As usual, Barn Swallows were nesting under this bridge. Although they have not been found nesting on Payne's Prairie for several years now, Barn Swallows nested 15 mi farther s. at the River Styx (TAW). Migrating flocks of Blue Jays, especially in spring, are rarely seen or reported, hence a flock of more than 70 birds flying N from tree to tree near Gainesville Apr. 11 (LEW) was noteworthy, as was a single jay on Plantation Key Apr. 2 (PH). A White-breasted Nuthatch in Gainesville May 5 (GC) was either a rare breeder or a late migrant. Formerly they nested s. at least to Orlando, but not in recent years. A Golden-crowned Kinglet at Brooker Cr. Park, Pinellas Co., Mar. 10 (LH, JH) was a rarity so far s. One that wintered in Alachua County Dec. 2-Mar. 23 (JHH) was late, while a Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Cedar Key May 1 (JHH, DLM) was also the latest for the N. Pen., excluding the one found injured June 3 in a Gainesville backyard (DSM, *F S.M.).

THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS — Characteristic of the poor (for the birder) migration, thrushes were scarcer than in any recent year. Hotspots such as Ft. DeSoto P., and St. George I., where dozens of thrushes are usually seen after cold fronts, produced relatively few. At Ft. DeSoto P., only one or two were seen at a time, with the following on the peak date of Apr. 17: four Veeries, six Gray-cheekeds, 25 Swainsons, and three Wood Thrushes (Wood Thrushes peaked Apr. 15 with 13 individuals). A Veery at Ft. DeSoto Apr. 15 (LH, LA) was the earliest by one day for the N. Pen. A Gray-cheeked on S.G.I., Apr. 13 (JEC) was the earliest for the Tally Div., and a Wood Thrush there May 30 (JMS) was the latest in migration for the state. An early Wood Thrush was at San Felasco Hammock, Alachua Co., Apr. 5, near its s. breeding limit. A pair of Am. Robins nested for the first time in Jacksonville (PCP—details to be published later). At least one pair from that outlier population in Tampa nested again this May (*vide* LA). A robin on Long Pine Key, E.N.P., Apr. 23 (RWR) was unusually late there.

The presence of six to seven Hill Mynahs at Royal Palm Hammock, Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve, "traveling in pairs, calling and interacting" May 1 (RN) suggested an extension of this species' range from the s.e. coast where it has been feral for approximately the past decade. A supposedly typical individual of one of the "yellow-green" races of Red-eyed Vireo (such as *V. o. flavoviridis*) was observed closely in the company of a Black-whiskered Vireo on Hypoluxo I. (the check-in station for all rarities in the Palm Beach area), May 25 (HPL) & 26 (HPL *et al.*). A Black-whiskered Vireo at Alligator Pt., May 24 (GRG, *T.T.) was representative of several through the years that have overshot their breeding range.

WARBLERS — Although a dearth of warblers was one of the major complaints of the season, almost all of the species that migrate through Florida were accounted for (only the Canada Warbler was missed). Most records occurred, of course, at Ft. DeSoto P., which L. Atherton sur-

veyed almost daily, and P. Fellers, B. Cooper, and the Hopkins hit most of the weekends. Rare Blue-wingeds were there Mar. 3-Apr. 24 (LA, BC *et al.*). One was banded at Casey Key Apr. 24 (A & SS), and one at Cedar Key Apr. 26 (JHH, DLM) was late. The only Golden-winged for the Region was on S.G.I., Apr. 30 (LA *et al.*). A ♂ "Lawrence's Warbler" was closely observed on Garden Key May 10 (BB, AB, GS). Ironically, in this spring of scarcities, three Nashville Warblers, among our rarest species, were reported. One in Seminole, Pinellas Co., Mar. 17 (JFi) was the earliest for the N. Pen. Another at Lox., Mar. 18 was the earliest for the S. Pen., and a 3rd was at Ft. DeSoto P., Mar. 30-Apr. 7 (LA *et al.*). A Cape May Warbler singing in Jacksonville Mar. 14 (VMM) and one at Ft. DeSoto P., Mar. 16 (LA) were early. It is possible that both birds overwintered in Florida. The only Blackburnian Warbler reported was at Ft. DeSoto P., Apr. 16-18 (LA). The latest Yellow-throated Warbler for the Lower Keys was a female found stunned in downtown Key West May 17. It soon recovered and flew off (FTH).

Single Bay-breasted Warblers were at Ft. DeSoto P., Apr. 16-18 (LH, LA), and Palm Beach May 5 (CC, HPL, GH). Four Ceruleans were at Ft. DeSoto P., Apr. 16-20 (LA *et al.*) and one on Garden Key, D.T., May 10 (BB *et al.*) was the latest for the state by one day. While in the Gulf stream off Marathon May 12-13, H. Darrow observed flocks of Am. Redstarts mixed with other warblers and Indigo Buntings coming from the SSE between 8:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Largest flocks each date contained 26 and 56 redstarts, respectively. On May 15, six redstarts, six Blackpolls, and a Black-throated Blue landed on J. Johnson's boat 25 mi e. of Cape Can.

Swainson's Warblers were relatively common at Ft. DeSoto P., Birch P., Ft. Lauderdale, and Bill Baggs S.P., Key Biscayne throughout April and early May (m.ob.) A N. Waterthrush was late at Marathon May 24 (HD), and a Louisiana Waterthrush banded on Casey Key May 8 (A & SS) was the latest for the S. Pen., tying the latest state migration record Kentucky Warblers appeared at Ft. DeSoto P., Apr. 5-20 (LA *et al.*) and at Palm Beach Apr. 20 (WG, BH, FJ) & May 10 (WG). As usual, Connecticut Warblers were widespread in s. Florida during May, including four banded on Casey Key May 18-24 (A & SS). A rare Mourning Warbler was on Cedar Key Apr. 22 (CMR). Single Wilson's Warblers in Winter Park (BK) and Coot Bay Pond (MW), both Mar. 9, may have been wintering birds. Single birds on S.G.I., Apr. 14 (JMS) & 21 (GRG) were considered rarities there. A male at Ft. DeSoto P., Apr. 16-18 (JF, LA) and a female there May 9-11 (LA) were the latest for the state.

TANAGERS THROUGH SPARROWS — Only 26 Scarlet Tanagers passed through Ft. DeSoto P., Apr. 5-24 (LA), and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were also relatively scarce. A Blue Grosbeak at Lox., Mar. 16-19 (RB, PWS, HPL) may have wintered in the state, and an Indigo Bunting on S.G.I., May 30 (HMS, JMS) was late for the Tally Div. Two Chipping Sparrows were late in Orlando Apr. 23 (WF), while one at Alligator Pt., May 9 (GRG) was the latest for the Tally Div. Rare in spring, a Clay-colored Sparrow was near St. Marks Light Apr. 21 (GRG). Up to 50 Field Sparrows were feeding at Morningside Nature Center in Gainesville Mar. 16 (Jdy), while one singing at A.B.S., Apr. 1 (JWF) was the latest for the S. Pen. Another rarity at A.B.S. was a singing Lark Sparrow Mar. 25-31 (JWF, GEW). Three Lincoln's Sparrows were in the Tally Div., near the Wacissa R., Mar. 10 (GRG), at St Marks Light Apr. 17 (JEC, SCC), and Alligator Pt., May 9 (GRG), the latter bird being the latest for the Tally Div. One was near Lantana Apr. 7 (PWS). A Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow from the far w. spent Apr. 5-18 on Casey Key where it was netted (several times), banded and photographed by the Stedmans.

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES — Two E. Meadowlarks singing on Lower Matecumbe Key May 21 (*vide* KS) were s. of their usual range for that date. Fourteen Rusty Blackbirds near Lantana Apr. 1 (PWS, BH) and one still there Apr. 14 (PWS) were the latest for the S. Pen. An unprecedented 26 **Bronzed Cowbirds**, males and females, were discovered just by chance when a birding tour group stopped for gas Mar. 1 at the Snapper Cr. Plaza on the Florida Turnpike s. of Miami (WCR *et al.*). The flock remained in the area (attracted to bird seed provided by a station employee) until at least Apr. 19 (CWB). Brown-headed Cowbirds continue their southward range extension. Singing

males were in mangroves on Jack I. State Preserve at Ft. Pierce Mar. 18 & Apr. 23 (JMB), the latter being the latest in the S. Pen. Several were at Ft. DeSoto P., throughout the period and a pair seen copulating there May 23 provided first evidence of breeding in the Tampa Bay area (LA). Orchard Orioles on Hypoluxo I., where they rarely occur, Mar. 29-30 were probably blown there by 49 m.p.h. W winds (HPL *et al.*). I'll leave it to others to speculate on the presence of an Orchard Oriole in n. Titusville May 30-June 8 (DS). Only six N. Orioles appeared at Ft. DeSoto P., this spring (LA); one May 20 was the latest for the N. Pen. (except for an aberrant July record), and one Mar. 30-Apr. 17 was a ♀ Bullock's (m.ob.). A lone, late Am. Goldfinch was at Alligator Pt., May 24 (GRG).

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ONTARIO REGION

/Ron D. Weir

At the risk of oversimplifying the weather in this vast province, it is fair to say there were two winters separated by a February thaw. In the south, the second winter lasted to late April when a system containing moist air from southern United States opened the flood gates and the deluge of migrants began. Some 22 of the early arrivals listed in Table 1 occurred April 26-May 2. Between April 26-29, first season arrivals at Long Point numbered 44 species and 2626 were banded. Over 10,000 hawks passed Grimsby in the same four days. Relatively few migrants in April were either willing or able to fly through the cold air of southern Ontario to reach the warmer northern areas. May remained cool and wet almost everywhere holding back migrants until the major push May 17-20 that brought huge numbers of passerines as far north as Quetico Provincial Park. Torrential rains on May 23 grounded many, among which were 1000 Swainson's Thrushes and 50+ Scarlet Tanagers, onto a muddy road at Kettle Point. Heavy shorebird passage occurred in the last week and by month's end in the south, large numbers of passerines were still expected. Observers expressed disappointment at the succession of high pressure systems that dominated Ontario's weather, forcing several storm systems farther south and east, thereby holding back the most southerly flows needed to encourage migration. Nevertheless, 40 species were early arrivals and there was a generous assortment of rarities.

ABBREVIATIONS — A.P.P. = Algonquin Provincial Park; M.I. = Manitoulin Island; Pelee = Point Pelee Nat'l Park; P.E. Pt. = Prince Edward Point; P.P.P. = Presqu'ile Provincial Park; Rondeau = Rondeau Provincial Park. Place names in *italics* denote counties.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS — Numbers of Red-throated Loons continued to increase. At least 31 were noted, of which 26 were from L. Ontario (14 e. of Oshawa), three from L. Erie, one at Kettle Pt., and one in Pukaskwa N.P. Apart from the one that landed in a frozen marsh near Kingston Mar. 6 and subsequently died, the main flight occurred Apr. 23-May 20. Four Arctic Loons was an unprecedented number for spring in the s. Singles in breeding plumage were at P.E. Pt., Apr. 23 for the area's first (RDW), Whitby May 1 (MJB, DDC) and in winter plumage at Cobourg Apr. 29 (BCO), Whitby May 21-22 (DB *et al.*). Commons numbered 135 and 105 respectively at P.E. Pt., May 6 &



Apr. 28 (K.F.N.) and 117 at Mississagi Light May 14 (JCN). Horned Grebes were scarce except at P.E. Pt., where peak numbers were 110 and 59 respectively Apr. 20 & 23 (K.F.N.). Noteworthy in the strong flight of Red-neckeds were 180 and 70 respectively at Mississagi Light Apr. 23 & 24 (JCN) and 70 at Ottawa May 9 (BMD, BL). An Eared Grebe in breeding plumage lingered at the Harrow lagoons Apr. 18-21 (AW, PDP) and another or the same turned up at Pelee Apr. 21 (MBo). The W. Grebe at P.P.P., May 11 was only their 2nd ever (AWI), a species unknown farther e. in L. Ontario. Record numbers of Double crested Cormorants were noted in early May on M.I. (JCN).

HERONS, IBISES — The season was noteworthy for s. herons. Up to 44 Great Egrets were found at sites along L. Erie where 23 were counted in a survey of sewage ponds in the extreme s.w., May 9-15 (PH,

AGC). Singles wandered N to Collingwood May 20 (DBu), M.I., May 21 (RRT), and E to Amherst I., May 19 (K.F.N.). At least three were in the Ajax area Apr. 14-May 26. Only three Snowies were reported from Ottawa Apr. 21, their 6th (BMD), Cranberry Marsh Apr. 28 (DDC) and Pelee May 13 & 23 (M. Willard, AW). The ad. Little Blue Heron at P.P.P., May 14 was that area's first (RDM). Tricoloreds overflowed their usual boundaries in record numbers. Singles appeared at Smithville, *Niagara* Apr. 29 (ph., REB, SB, DM), Wye Marsh, *Simcoe* Apr. 30 (DJH *et al.*), Amherst I., May 13-17 (K.F.N.) and Stoney Pt., May 28 (AJR *et al.*). About 12 have been reported for the province since 1969. Cattle Egret numbers held steady for the 2nd consecutive year. About 19 were reported, of which 10 were along L. Erie and three from L. Ontario sites. A single consorted with geese near Morrisburg May 15-16 and two were n. to Ottawa May 31 (ph., RL *et al.*). Irruptions of Glossy Ibises into Ontario last occurred in 1976 and 1982. A weak flight developed this spring as one appeared at Stoney Pt., May 14 (MWi, RWi) and four at Pickering May 24 (R. Wood). However the ibis at Pelee May 14 was not identified as to species (WAM).

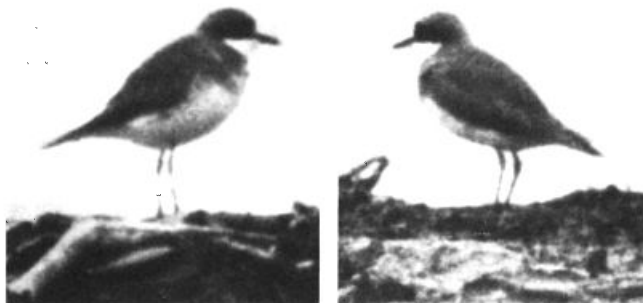
SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — The flight of Tundra Swans was confined almost entirely to the extreme s.w., where 4000 ± were at Rondeau Mar. 9 and again Mar. 24 (PAW, KJB), 1500-2000 ± at Pinery P.P., Mar. 4 and again Mar. 25 (AHR) and 3000 ± at Aylmer Mar. 26 (DBu). Sixty Snow Geese at Ottawa Apr. 6 was a large number for the area (BMD), and their main passage along Hudson Bay at Winisk occurred May 6-20 (KFA). The heavy Brant flight was confined mainly to the e., as usual, where Kingston observers noted peak counts of 2000 and 1100 respectively, May 12 & 20. The 1500 near Oshawa May 22 was a large group for the w. location (MJB). Fitting a neat pattern were 900 ± at Pembroke May 21 (JB, JD), 660 at Ottawa May 23 (BMD), 500 at Deep R., May 26 (WW) and their surge at Moosonee May 27 (KFA). An ad. Barnacle Goose traveling with Canadas put down at Ottawa Apr. 29 (RD *et al.*). The bird wore no leg bands, was very wary and seems to have been a legitimate wild straggler. Canada Goose numbers seem to have increased in another heavy flight led by 40,000 ± and 25,000 ± respectively, at Ottawa Apr. 23 & 28 (*vide* BMD) plus 12,000 ± and 10,000 ± at Kingston May 5 & Apr. 28 (K.F.N.). Their major passage over Marathon occurred Apr. 19-21 at 3000 ±/day (MJ), at Moosonee Apr. 22 and Winisk Apr. 29 (KFA). The ♂ Eur. Green-winged Teal in Dundas Marsh Mar. 25-31 (RF, KMCL) and the ♂ **Tufted Duck** at Hamilton Mar. 25 (KMCL) were likely the individuals that overwintered. A ♂ Eur. Wigeon turned up near Port Rowan Mar. 25-26 (DVW *et al.*), another or the same bird was at Long Pt., Apr. 6 (L.P.B.O.) and one was in Cranberry Marsh Apr. 20-21 (DDC *et al.*). There were 6600 ± Oldsquaw at Long Pt., Apr. 23 (L.P.B.O.) and 1000 ± migrating past Rondeau May 21 (PAW). Black Scoters were more numerous than usual at Kingston and Long Pt. The 223 Surfs at P.P.P., May 9-17 was a spring high (J & JT) and farther e., at P.E. Pt., 1000 ± White-wingeds passed May 6 (K.F.N.). A ♀ Barrow's Golden-eye was still at Ottawa Apr. 28 (BMD) and 100 Red-breasted Mergansers was a large concentration at Pelee for the late date of May 29 (WC).

VULTURES, HAWKS — Ontario's 7th **Black Vulture** was photographed at Pelee Mar. 31 (K & MO *et al.*) and it was probably this same individual found farther n.e., at Bothwell at 17:00 hrs, on the same day (TH). Three of Ontario's Black Vultures have been seen since 1980. A seasonal total of 529 Turkey Vultures was tallied at the Grimsby hawk-watch, of which 293 passed Apr. 1-2 (WK). A cave lined with porcupine droppings on M.I. served as a nest site that held 2 eggs May 20 (DBF). A record 38 Ospreys were counted at Grimsby this spring (WK). The **Mississippi Kite** in first-summer plumage at Pelee May 19-26 (ph., m.ob.) constituted Ontario's 6th record since 1971. Typical for spring were the 42 Bald Eagles reported. Highlights among numerous accipiter sightings were the ♀ Cooper's Hawk seen in A.P.P., May 8 (RWK) and 67 N. Goshawks counted at the Grimsby lookout for the season, which almost equalled last spring's record count (WK). However, Red-shouldered Hawks set a record there at 838 in all (WK) and their nesting reported in *Waterloo* was encouraging (AB), although their future there depends upon the conservation of suitable habitat. A major movement of Broad-winged Hawks occurred at Grimsby Apr. 26-29 when 7509 were tallied (WK). The imm. Swainson's Hawk at Stoney Pt., Apr. 28 (DAS)

provided Ontario's 4th record in spring and another, or the same, was at Pelee May 14 (BW *et al.*). The latter bird was in its first-summer plumage. Five Golden Eagles (4 ad.) were seen at Grimsby in the period (WK) and an adult was in Pukaskwa N.P., May 23 (MJ). The 34 Merlins away from breeding sites were slightly above normal numbers for spring. However, Peregrines totalled an encouraging 26 s. of M.I., up sharply over the past several years. Eight were from Pelee (AW) and five different birds from Rondeau including an ad. ♀ *tundrius* May 16 that was seen mantling a still flapping ♂ Mallard (DS). An adult at Ottawa Mar. 25-May 6 roosted on the same building as a Gyrfalcon that stayed Mar. 25-Apr. 26 (BMD, RBr). Farther n., single Gyrfalcons were sighted at Marathon Mar. 18 (SP, MJ) and Moosonee Apr. 13 (KFA).

QUAILS THROUGH CRANES — The only N. Bobwhite reports were of 17 males on Walpole I., May 10 (PH, AGC) and a single was at Rondeau in mid-May (HP). Stoney Pt. hosted one Yellow Rail May 18 (IP) and the Richmond Swamp had four May 19-31 (BMD *et al.*). King Rails made their appearance at 3 locations in the extreme s.w., at P.E. Pt., May 22 (RDW) for the first recorded there since 1973, and in Carr's Marsh between Port Hope and Cobourg May 30-June 2 (BCO *et al.*). The Purple Gallinule at Stoney Pt., May 3 (RP), was seen by many and still present at month's end. High counts were the 420+ Am. Coots at Pelee Mar. 23 (AW) and 192 Sandhill Cranes at Rainy R., Apr. 20 (SFP). There were 53 other reports of Sandhills from Kettle Pt., Pelee, Rondeau, Union, Long Pt., P.P.P., Ottawa, Cochrane, Sudbury, and Thunder Bay Mar. 31-May 31.

SHOREBIRDS — The shorebird flight was especially strong, highlighted by rarities and numbers. The two Lesser Golden-Plovers at Richmond May 14 were rare for spring and the only ones reported. The outstanding rarity was Canada's first **Mongolian Plover** at P.P.P., May 4 (ph., RDM, m.ob.) in breeding plumage. Details will appear in *Ontario Birds*. The two Piping Plovers reported were at P.P.P., Apr. 26



Two views of the Mongolian Plover at Presqu'ile Provincial Park, Ont., May 4, 1984. First Canadian record. Photos/R.D. McRae.

(RDM *et al.*) and L. Nipissing May 18 (GFC). That at P.P.P. were coloured leg bands. The lone Am. Avocet lingered in the Sarnia area May 9-16 (ph., RT, A. Simms *et al.*). For the 4th consecutive spring, Willets flew in high numbers with at least 43 birds of which 29 were from L. Erie areas, headed by 20 at Wheatley May 8 (AW *et al.*). Eleven were from L. Ontario at Toronto's e. Headland, Bowmanville, P.P.P., Consecon, Amherst I., Ottawa, Sudbury, and Thunder Bay May 1-June 3. This spring's heavy Whimbrel flight was widespread May 19-30. Leading totals include 1200 at Rondeau May 23 (PAW, HP), 1000 over Marmora May 21 (TB, DCS) and 600 at Grand Bend May 20 (HGC). Migrants were flying past Moosonee May 27 (KFA).

Single Hudsonian Godwits at Rondeau May 13 (G & GB), M.I., May 15 & 23 (JCN), Moosonee May 22 (KFA), and Toronto's e. headland May 26-27 (AJ, HGC) represent average numbers. However, the eight Marbleds were well above spring's usual two or three. All were singles at Wheatley, Pelee, Bowmanville, Ottawa, Leamington, Stoney Pt., P.P.P., and Rainy R., Apr. 25-June 6. The two and one Ruddy Turnstones in A.P.P., May 26 & 29 respectively, provided first park records

(RGT) A Red Knot arrived at Moosonee May 20 (KFA), on the same day 102 were at Pelee (KJB, GTH). Five W. Sandpiper reports were received from Port Stanley, Sarnia area, Lakefield, and Kingston May 2-26. Thirty White-rumped Sandpipers was a normal number. Single Baird's Sandpipers were discovered at P.P.P., May 4 (ph., AW *et al.*), Strathroy May 24 (DEW), and Bracebridge May 31 (RLB). The 1600 Pectoral Sandpipers at Essex lagoons Apr. 30 was an impressive number. Purple Sandpipers, like Baird's, are much rarer in spring than in autumn, but there was one at Deep R., May 26, the first there in spring (WW). Heavy rains downed 1500 ± Dunlins on Amherst I., May 23 (JHE), and 1500+ were moving up the Ottawa R., at Deep R., the morning of May 26 (WW). Dunlins peaked on M.I. and at Sudbury May 23-26 (JCN). Noteworthy among the eight Stilt Sandpipers, which were below normal numbers, was the single at Strathroy May 26, only the 2nd recorded in spring for *Middlesex* (GEM, WRJ).

S.A.

The Ruff in Ontario is undergoing an expansion. During the 1950s, one/year was outstanding; 1963-1973, three or four annually were discovered, mostly during autumn; 1971-1975, two or three were found each spring but four were discovered in 1977. From spring 1980-1983, there have been two, four, four, and seven birds, respectively. This spring's 11 established a record high, of which six, including a female, frequented lagoons at Essex, Comber and Stoney Pt., May 3-11 (*vide* GTH). Others were a female at Blenheim May 5 (GTH), single males near Sarnia May 6 & 9 (AHR), Pembroke May 6 (MF, JB *et al.*), Pelee May 8 (MK, AWh), and Lakefield May 9 (PB *et al.*). All this activity suggested nesting in Canada, perhaps in the low Arctic or even at Churchill, Manitoba. However, no nesting evidence has been reported.

A Wilson's Phalarope appeared at North Bay May 9-10 for their first record (GFC), and the 25+ lingering at Ottawa lagoons suggested breeding in the area (BMD *et al.*). Five Red-neckeds were more than usual with two females at Strathroy May 26-27 (GEM *et al.*) and singles at Lakefield May 26 (PB *et al.*), Moosonee May 27 (KFA), and Sudbury May 29 (JCN).

GULLS, TERNS — A NE gale May 28 resulted in a spectacular eastward lake movement by gulls and terns at the Long Pt. breakwater, consisting of four Little and 4000 ± Bonaparte's gulls, 500 ± Common, 650 ± Forster's, and 900 ± Black terns (L.P.B.O.). Single ad. Franklin's Gulls appeared at P.P.P., May 5 for their 3rd record ever (LR), Kingsville May 20 (SL, S & RL), and Sudbury May 22 (JCN). The ad. Little Gull near London Apr. 27 was only the 2nd ever recorded for *Middlesex* (DMa), and at least 13 were at P.P.P., Apr. 23-May 13 (RDM *et al.*), which also hosted its first Com. Black-headed Gull Apr. 29 (HM, m.ob.). Single Com. Black-headed were also at Leamington Apr. 22 (PDP) and Rock Point P.P., May 20 (RFA). An ad. Ring-billed at Mississagi Light May 14 was wearing a faded orange wing tag #33 (JCN). Details are awaited of the California Gull report near Long Point P.P., May 4 (JSK), which if accepted would be Ontario's 4th ever. The latest of 15 reports of Thayer's Gull was at Lindsay May 25 (AGC, RH). Six Lesser Black-backed were one short of last spring's record total. Lone birds were at P.P.P., Mar. 31 (J & JT), Ottawa Apr. 5 (BMD), Pelee Apr. 8 (GTH), Turkey Pt., Apr. 9 (TW), Long Pt., Apr. 30 (L.P.B.O.), and Rondeau May 21 (PAW, PT). Another exceptional rarity at P.P.P. was the Sabine's Gull in breeding plumage May 14 (ph., HM), a species that has not previously occurred in s. Ontario during spring. Early Arctic Terns were migrating up the Ottawa R., May 21 & 23, and numbered seven and eight respectively (BMD). Tremendous numbers of Forster's Terns were present in the s.w. Some 215 were at Pelee May 3 (AW *et al.*), a high count there. Several hundred passed Kettle Pt., May 10-11, with 280 on May 12 (AHR). Forster's appeared near London Apr. 8-23 (AWM), Morgan's Pt., *Niagara* May 14 (RWK *et al.*), e. to P.P.P., Apr. 23 & 30 (RDM), and Amherst I., May 19 (RDW *et al.*).

Table 1. Early arrivals in Ontario: Spring 1984.

Green-backed Heron	Dwight	Apr.	29(1)	RGT
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Oshawa	Mar.	30(1)	MJB
Wood Duck	Manitoulin I.	Apr.	1(1)	CTB,JGL
Black-bellied Plover	Wheatley	Apr.	21(1)	GTH
Upland Sandpiper	Port Weller	Apr.	14(1)	MEF
Ruddy Turnstone	Harrow	Apr.	18(1)	AW <i>et al</i>
Sanderling	Presqu'île P.P.	Apr.	23(3)	RDM <i>et al</i>
Pectoral Sandpiper	Richmond	Apr.	11(1)	BMD
Short-billed Dowitcher	Kingston	May	8(1)	AS,RDW
Caspian Tern	Pelee	Apr.	8(2)	PDP
Forster's Tern	Pelee	Mar.	21(1)	GTH,AW
Black-billed Cuckoo	Erieau	Apr.	29(1)	KJB
Common Nighthawk	Kettle Pt.	Apr.	28(2)	AHR
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Algonquin P.P.	May	24(1)	RDS
Acadian Flycatcher	Pelee	Apr.	30(1)	PDP <i>et al</i>
Least Flycatcher	Marathon	Apr.	27(2)	MJ
Great-crested Flycatcher	Oshawa	Apr.	9(1)	DVR
Gray-cheeked Thrush	Pelee	Apr.	27(3)	AW
Gray-cheeked Thrush	St. Catharines, Long Pt.	Apr.	30(1)	MEF,LPBO
Swainson's Thrush	Rondeau	Apr.	21(1)	HP
Hermit Thrush	Oshawa	Mar.	16(1)	JS
Wood Thrush	Peterborough	Apr.	27(1)	RS
Water Pipit	Peterborough	Apr.	29(1)	PH
Yellow-throated Vireo	Prince Edward Pt.	Apr.	28(1)	RKE,RDW
Warbling Vireo	Prince Edward Pt.	Apr.	28(1)	RKE,RDW
Red-eyed Vireo	Pelee	Apr.	27(1)	AW
Tennessee Warbler	Rondeau	Apr.	29(1)	KJB
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Sudbury	May	6(2)	CTB,JGL
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Prince Edward Pt.	Apr.	27(3)	KFE <i>et al</i>
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Manitoulin I.	Apr.	12(2)	JCN
Black-throated Green Warbler	Lakefield	Apr.	29(1)	FH
Blackburnian Warbler	Pelee	Apr.	26(1)	GTH
Prairie Warbler	Rondeau	Apr.	29(1)	KJB <i>et al</i>
Bay-breasted Warbler	Prince Edward Pt.	May	1(3)	FA,MBe
Mourning Warbler	Lakefield	May	2(1)	DCS
Wilson's Warbler	Pelee	May	2(1)	AW
Canada Warbler	Pelee	May	1(1)	LW,MWi
Scarlet Tanager	Erieau	Apr.	27(1)	KJB
Swamp Sparrow	Pelee	Mar.	22(1)	AW
Bobolink	Peterborough	Apr.	29(1)	PH
Brewer's Blackbird	Manitoulin	Apr.	12(2)	JCN

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — One pair of Mourning Doves arrived in Cochrane Apr. 18 (ERA), while farther n., on the

Hudson Bay coast, one was found dead May 24 (KFA). A single Monk Parakeet appeared at Pelee May 13-15 (AGC *et al.*) raising the question of the effectiveness of the eradication programme carried out in the mid-1970s in the United States. A Snowy Owl tarried on Amherst I., until May 12 (K.F.N.), and the last of the invading N. Hawk-Owls were singles near Sudbury Mar. 4 (JGL), Odessa Mar. 6 (JCB), and Merrickville Mar. 13 (B. Kerr). The record-smashing invasion by Great Grays ended as birds moved out of the s. during March and April. Last sightings were in Sudbury Apr. 8 (JCN), Kingston Apr. 15 (K.F.N.), A.P.P., Apr. 24 (*fide* RGT), Ottawa Apr. 26 (BMD, RMP), and Alexandria May 6 (GM). Of the four admitted to the Owl Research and Rehabilitation Foundation, one had been shot at North Bay and three were involved in collisions in Sault Ste. Marie, Thunder Bay and Kirkland L. (KMCK). Remnants of the Boreal Owl irruption included one at Gananoque Mar. 3 (M & TH), another in Quetico P.P., Mar. 25-30 (TJN, SFP), and one found dead in a barn on M.I., in late March (CTB). Two Amherst I. birds were still present Mar. 10 and the last one was seen Mar. 19 (K.F.N.). Chuck-will's-widows returned to their usual site at the St. William's Forestry Station (L.P.B.O.), and two were at Rondeau May 10 (PAW). A female was picked up in Kingston May 17 as she slept by day, but was released (K.F.N.). High numbers of Red-bellied Woodpeckers were found in Niagara (RWK), and singles were in Wingham May 12-June 3 (JBM), Georgian Bay Islands N.P., May 14 (GG), P.P.P., May 9 (J & JT), and P.E. Pt., May 11 (RKE). The only Three-toed Woodpecker reported s. of the breeding range was in Waterloo Apr. 12 (AB).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS — The season's W. Kingbird turned up at Marathon May 31 (GY). For the 3rd consecutive spring, Pelee hosted a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher May 19 (JWC, JMB *et al.*), and another was in Thunder Bay May 16 (IM, JF). High counts of Horned Larks were 1000 at Pinery P.P., Mar. 4 (AHR), and 5000 Bank Swallows at Long Pt., May 28 furnished another high total (L.P.B.O.). The migrating Com. Raven at P.E. Pt., Apr. 1 (JHE, RDW), was late, as was the Boreal Chickadee at P.P.P., Apr. 2 (J & JT). Both nuthatches staged a strong return flight along the lower Great Lakes. Red-breasted arrived at Long Pt., Apr. 24 and up to 30/day were at P.E. Pt. in mid-May. Following their record flight last autumn, White-breasted moved through Apr. 1-May 27 with up to 20/day at P.E. Pt. and P.P.P., and numbers at Long Pt. The Brown Creeper peak came Apr. 26-28 at Long Pt., with approximately 2500, 4000 and 1500/day, respectively (L.P.B.O.). Three Carolina Wrens at Pelee Apr. 26-May 15 (*fide* AW), and a pair at Holiday Beach May 31-June 2 (PDP), were the only ones noted. Long Point P.P., Apr. 21 was the site for Ontario's annual Bewick's Wren (PL).

KINGLETS THROUGH VIREOS — The 5000 ± Golden-crowned Kinglets at the Long Pt. breakwater Apr. 26 was the largest single group reported (L.P.B.O.). High tallies for Blue-gray Gnatcatcher were 40 at Pelee Apr. 27 (AW), high for the early date, 20 reports for Port Hope-Cobourg (ERM), and 16 at P.E. Pt., May 20 where one nest was virtually complete May 8 (K.F.N.). Singles were on M.I., May 12 (JCN) and in Georgian Bay Islands N.P., May 30 (PD). The wintering Varied Thrushes tarried at Whitby to May 14 (*fide* MJB) and at Aberfoyle to Apr. 1 (ADB). The most northerly of 22 N. Mockingbird sightings were singles at Cochrane Apr. 14 (*fide* ERA) and Moosonee May 23 & 30 (KFA). The 200 Water Pipits flushed from a field being harrowed at Melbourne May 2 seemed more typical of autumn numbers (D Murray). The last of the wintering Bohemian Waxwings were 300 at Peterborough Mar. 18 (AH, WMC), and 250 at Dunrobin (BMD) and 30 at Kapuskasing Apr. 18 (*fide* ERA). The N. Shrike at Peterborough Apr. 20 provided a latest-date record there (AGC *et al.*). The paucity of Loggerheads continues to cause concern and begs for an explanation; only 14 birds were reported. Numbers were down in Kingston and Ottawa while none was noted at several sites where expected. Away from their usual L. Erie locations, single White-eyed Vireos made it to Bronte May 5-13 (MJe *et al.*), P.P.P., May 10 (J & JT), Whitby area May 1 & 20 (DB, DJM *et al.*), P.E. Pt., May 26 (JM, SE) and near Stratford June 1 for their 2nd record ever (RHD). A Bell's Vireo was at Pelee May 11 (AW) and the Yellow-throated n. to Espanola May 13 was rare there (CTB).

WARBLERS — The 45 Blue-winged Warblers reported, excluding Pelee, were up over last spring's record and one pair of Brewster's was on territory at Cambridge May 27 (PE). Single Golden-winged were n to Quetico P.P., May 12 (S. Palecny) and Sibley P.P., June 2 (GY). Pelee's 5th recorded Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler occurred Apr. 26 (GTH). Ontario's 6th recorded **Townsend's Warbler** was a female at Rondeau May 11 (PAW *et al.*). Another westerner, a ♂ **Hermit Warbler**, appeared in Toronto's James Gardens Apr. 30 (TJ, HGC, m.ob.), to constitute Ontario's 3rd record ever. The first was downed in a chimney kill near Kingston September 10, 1978, and is now in the Nat'l Mus. of Canada. Both species last occurred in spring 1981. Away from Pelee, single Yellow-throateds reached Bronte May 2 (ph, MJe), Stoney Pt., May 8-9 (DG, R. Baker) and Long Point P.P., May 5 & 10 where two were also sighted Apr. 28 (RC, DVW, KDL). A Palm Warbler of the yellow *hypochrysea* race was at Pelee Apr. 27 for their 4th report ever (AW). A ♂ Prothonotary wandered N to Ottawa May 23 (BMD), the first there in spring, and the pair thought to be nesting near Goderich (TD) may establish the species' most n. breeding location in the province. The only Worm-eating Warbler reported away from Long Pt., Rondeau, and Pelee, where numbers were normal, was at P.E. Pt., May 7 (RKE). The 26 Kentucky Warblers at Pelee Apr. 28-May 23 (AW) were more than usual and away from the extreme s.w. only two were noted: at Bronte May 25 (MJe) and P.E. Pt., May 26 (JM, SE). Pelee, Rondeau, and Long Pt. observers reported typical numbers of Hoodeds. Singles were at St. Catharines Apr. 29-May 2 (J. Black *et al.*), Bronte May 19 (IR), P.E. Pt., May 20 & 22 (RDW), P.P.P., May 21 & 26 (J & JT), and well n. at Cape Roberts, M.I., May 12 (JCN). Some 21 Yellow-breasted Chats were banded at Long Pt. (L.P.B.O.), and others reported were along the n. shore of L. Ontario at Whitby May 18-22 (DB *et al.*), Willow Beach May 23 (ERM), P.P.P., May 6 (J & JT), and P.E. Pt., May 6 & 26 (K.F.N.).

TANAGERS THROUGH BUNTINGS — Eight Summer Tanagers at Long Pt., Apr. 19-May 26, was an unprecedented number (L.P.B.O.), but numbers at Pelee appeared normal (AW). Singles were at Tilbury May 10 (AGC, PH), Erie Beach May 19 (RFA), and e. to Cranberry Marsh May 25 (MJB), the first there. A ♂ W. Tanager found at Listowell May 29 (JKo) has yet to be considered by the Ontario Bird Records Committee. There are fewer than 10 satisfactory spring records in the past 35 years. The ♂ Dickcissel at a Kingston feeder Apr. 7-8 (ph., CC, VW) was that area's first occurrence since 1974, and at Pelee lone birds were present Apr. 23, May 11, 15 & 20 (AW). The season's sparrow rarity was the singing ♂ **Cassin's Sparrow** at Pelee May 19-23 (GS, m.ob.), for the province's 3rd and Pelee's 2nd record ever. The occurrence of the ad. Lark Sparrow at Long Pt., Apr. 28 (GEW *et al.*) maintained the species' provincial average of about one/year. A Le Conte's was at Pelee May 8-9 (MR *et al.*) and another was near Sudbury May 27 (JGL). New for *Middlesex* was the Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Strathroy May 20 (DEW). Fox Sparrows were widespread in large numbers, and 175 Lincoln's Sparrows at Pelee May 11 was a high tally (BM). A White-crowned at Guelph May 16 was of the *w. gambelii* race (B. Wyatt). Harris' Sparrows were at Marathon Apr. 27 (SP) and Quetico P.P., May 11 (SJW). Outnumbering the 8000 ± Dark-eyed Juncos at the Long Pt. breakwater Apr. 26 (L.P.B.O.) were Snow Buntings flying in tube-shaped formation past Pinery P.P., Mar. 2 (AHR). The tube measured 1.5km long by 100m diameter, which at a conservative estimate of 50 buntings/metre of tube length amounts to 75,000 birds!

BOBOLINK THROUGH EVENING GROSBEAK — An early ♂ Bobolink was forced by the cold to frequent a North Bay feeder May 1 (GFC). Six W. Meadowlarks were found at Pelee Apr. 14 & 28 (AW, WJC), London Apr. 18 (*fide* WRJ), Bronte Apr. 21-May 23 (DG *et al.*), and West Lorne May 9 (AGC, PH). Of the 39 Yellow-headed Blackbirds reported in the s.w., there were 15 pairs at Stoney Pt., one pair at Amherstburg, singles at Pelee May 11 & 18 (B. Fox *et al.*), Long Pt., May 24 & 27, and three from nearby lagoons (L.P.B.O.). A female was e. to Whitby May 12 (JW) and a male was nearby at Oshawa May 27 (RGT). The only Brewer's Blackbird reported away from its regular haunts was at Kingston Apr. 20 (AS). Three Orchard Orioles were in the Whitby-Oshawa area May 12-13 & 19 (DDC, MJB), three were at P.P.P., May 13 & 19 (CEG, J & JT), and two were e. to P.E. Pt., May 12 (JHE, RDW).



Cassin's Sparrow at Point Pelee Nat'l. Park, Ont., May 1984. Third Ontario record. The "laddered" effect on the central tail feathers and the subterminal black spots or crescents on many back feathers help to distinguish Cassin's from the other Aimophila sparrows. Photo/Alan Wormington.

The last of about 30 Pine Grosbeak reports involved six at P.P.P., Apr. 2 (J & JT). House Finches continued their colonization. First-ever birds were in Stratford Mar. 18 (MPD), *Simcoe* at Barrie Mar. 24 (CJM), Kettle Pt., Mar. 31 (AHR), and *Temiskaming* at Matachewan May 1-2 (LT). Small numbers were passing the tip of Long Pt., Apr. 10-11 (L.P.B.O.). Crossbills continued to be scarce. Reds totaled 21 at Sudbury Mar. 2, 23 & 30 (JCN), 20 at Petawawa Mar. 18 (D. Shade) and six in A.P.P., May 28 (R. de By). The only White-winged was in Marathon Mar. 1-Apr. 15 (MJ). A few reports of Com. Redpolls were received for March and there were occasional stragglers in April. One was still at Pembroke May 1 (LB *et al.*). Two Hoary Redpolls appeared at Osgoode Apr. 4 (HH), and singles were in Ottawa Apr. 4 (WEG), Moosonee Apr. 3-7 (KFA), and Kingston Apr. 30 (AS). Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks appeared all along the n. shores of Lakes Erie and Ontario from early March to late May as they migrated almost daily in steady numbers.

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NIAGARA-CHAMPLAIN REGION

/Douglas P. Kibbe and Cheryl M. Boise

March offered little respite from winter's icy grip. Although February temperatures had soared to the sixties, March averaged 6°F below normal with many areas seeing minus temperatures in the double digits. Blizzards early and late in the month dumped over four feet of snow on parts of the Region. April saw a return to more seasonable temperatures but a series of slow-moving low pressure systems brought passerine migration to a virtual standstill until late May. Brief breaks in this weather pattern, particularly April 26-30, led to exceptional hawk movements along Lake Ontario accompanied by a few early migrants and southern strays. Passerines returned in small numbers at nearly normal dates, but the majority of the breeding population was two to three weeks late in arriving. Ever-increasing coverage of the Region resulted in a proportional increase in the number of early records and rarities sighted. Since "rare" is a relative term, the reader may notice that species highlighted a few years ago are given scant notice now. Unfortunately, although we now know far more about the regularity with which some species occur, our knowledge about the factors influencing the occurrence of "rarities" or even facts regarding the basic biology of local species has remained relatively stagnant. This spring southern passerines were in low numbers while western species were much in evidence.



Notable research efforts recently initiated in the Region include several banding projects on the Lake Ontario lake plains which promise to shed considerable light on the mysterious movements of birds along this massive impediment to migration.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — A mediocre loon migration was offset by a better than average season for grebes, particularly Red-necked Grebes which more often than not overfly the Region or occur only on the Great Lakes. The majority of these sightings occurred in mid-April when inclement weather dominated the entire Northeast and apparently forced many birds to land on the smaller water bodies. An Eared Grebe at Hilton Apr. 5 (CC) was unusual, particularly for spring. Given the improbability of a **Northern Gannet** successfully overwintering on the Great Lakes, the appearance of one Apr. 22 at Ripley (FR, Buck, *fide* B.O.S.) was extraordinary. As predicted, the L. Champlain Double-crested Cormorant population is increasing. Sixty-three nests were counted on Vermont's Young I., where a single breeding pair was first noted in 1982, and a nest at Four Brothers Is. marked the first instance of breeding on the New York side of the lake. No more than three Great Egrets were noted at any given location but these s. breeders were found as far n. as L. Memphremegog. Only two Snowy Egrets were seen, at Westpoint (GC) and Rochester (m.ob.), but as will be seen in next season's report more were on the way. Cattle Egret sightings picked up in c. New York but Little Galloo and Young I. are now the only Regional breeding sites. A convincingly-described ad. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at Weybridge May 19 (MN, AB) was only Vermont's 2nd, the first since 1958.

Tundra Swans departed late. Some were still present at Oak Orchard W.M.A., the last week of May. Greater White-fronted Geese, normally very rare fall migrants, were found at 4 New York locations this spring: Newstead Mar. 25 (RA, *fide* B.O.S.), Henderson Mar. 25-28 (RW *et al.* *fide* O.A.S.), Carlton Station Mar. 28 (WS, *fide* G.O.S.), and L. Ontario in Wayne County May 27 (DS *et al.*). An excellent flight of Snow Geese passed through the Region. Many of them staged at either Montezuma N.W.R. (3000 birds) or Missisquoi N.W.R., or Dead Creek W.M.A. (1500 birds) but few observers bothered to note subspecies, making it impossible to ascertain whether one or more breeding/wintering populations were involved. A flight of 600 Brant was the best reported but Canada Geese were abundant, as usual. Rarities included a Barnacle Goose at Iroquois N.W.R., Mar. 25 (B.O.S.) and a **Ross' Goose** on a Henderson, N.Y., pond from Mar. 25 through early April (RW *et al.*). The 4 localities that hosted Eur. Green-winged Teal of unknown origin were Woodville, Oak Orchard W.M.A., Montezuma N.W.R., and Swanton, Vt. (R & DL, PT). The latter sighting was only Vermont's 3rd or possibly 4th. The only Barrow's Goldeneye reports came from the Rochester area.

HAWKS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — The hawk migration along the lake plains was spectacular the last 5 days of April, following prolonged poor flight conditions which caused massive buildups. At Braddock Bay 44,690 of the record 63,295 hawks tallied were seen during this brief period (L & NM). Even better coverage, at times miles from the lake shore, produced record total counts of many species (indicated by *). Some of the best daily and seasonal totals tabulated by species for Braddock Bay, and for Derby Hill (in parentheses), follow: 2632* (1600*) Turkey Vultures, 507 on Apr. 14 (161 on Apr. 2); 124 (342) Osprey, 35 on Apr. 30 (78 on Apr. 28); 24 (22) Bald Eagles; 739* (914) N. Harriers, 152 on Apr. 14 (74 on Apr. 14); 9515 (11,582) Sharp-shinned Hawks, 2383 on Apr. 28 (3019* on Apr. 28); 216* (676*) Cooper's Hawks, 36 on Apr. 14 (64 on Apr. 17); 90 (174) N. Goshawks, 10 on Apr. 14 (36 on Mar. 22); 514 (964) Red-shouldered Hawks, 124 on Apr. 1 (127 on Mar. 22); 44,347* (39,673*) Broad-winged Hawks, 19,879 on Apr. 27 (16,582 on Apr. 28); 3494* (8166*) Red-tailed Hawks, 861 on Apr. 14 (1233 on Apr. 17); 547 (563) Rough-legged Hawks, 65 on Apr. 20 (45 on Apr. 28); 11 (22*) Golden Eagles; 558 (435) Am. Kestrels, 110 on Apr. 20 (57 on Apr. 13); 16 (26) Merlins; and six (four) Peregrine Falcons.

One or more Black Vultures toured c. New York, appearing over Derby Hill Apr. 2 (GS), Webster Apr. 3 (WL) and Albany Apr. 7 (B.O.S.). While the probability that only one westbound individual was involved seems high, raptors typically move W to E along the lake plains and in the absence of recorded flight direction such a conclusion

would be pure supposition. The Jefferson County Bald Eagles produced two eaglets. A **Swainson's Hawk** over Derby Hill Apr. 30 (GS) and a possible Harlan's form of the Red-tailed Hawk at Webster (DS) added variety to the hawk watching scene. Hawk banding at Braddock Bay yielded 4 "foreign" bands in some 200 total captures, several times the normal recovery rate for banded raptors. Word is still awaited on the origin of these foreign recoveries.

Did the unrelenting downpours cause extensive clutch losses in Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse and Wild Turkey this spring? Pheasant populations in particular may have suffered as they already evidenced a continuous decline despite attempts to stock hardier, more resistant varieties. The folly of investing a major effort to maintain this species in regions where changing agricultural practices render the habitat unsuitable seems obvious but old stocking practices die hard. Another unlikely candidate for successful stocking, a Chukar, was seen near Alfred (EB). There were at least 7 Sandhill Crane sightings in c. and w. New York, most in the Rochester vicinity. One watched crane displayed a decided reluctance to cross L. Ontario but there is scant evidence that the species follows the lakeshore as do diurnal raptors.

The shorebird migration was less than spectacular despite good conditions for induced fallouts, perhaps because the multitude of flooded fields gave grounded migrants ample opportunity to disperse. Early New York arrivals included Black-bellied Plover Apr. 29 (MJ, TM), Greater Yellowlegs Mar. 25 (AC, FD), and Wilson's Phalarope Apr. 28 (FS). A Peregrine's mere presence induced a Spotted Sandpiper, in flight, to submerge in a Middlebury pond (JP). As usual, spring produced few rarities. Three Piping Plovers at Sandy Pond May 21 (FS), by far the most seen Regionally in a decade, and an Am. Avocet (one individual?) near Rochester May 12 (m.ob., R.B.A.) and Angelica May 13 (VP *et al.*) were exceptional spring finds. Rochester area birders reported all 4 Willet sightings and late May brought a small flight of Whimbrels to w. New York. At least nine Wilson's Phalaropes were reported in late May as New Yorkers watched eagerly for evidence of nesting.

GULLS THROUGH CHICKADEES — A black-headed, red-billed gull (Franklin's or Laughing?) in a Middlebury field May 19 (MN, AB) would have been Vermont's 2nd ever had the wing pattern only been verified. Little Gulls are seldom spotted away from the Region's 3 major lakes, making one at Norwich, N.Y., May 13 (RD, JL) a particularly significant indication of this species' migration route through c. New York. Two subad. Thayer's Gulls were reportedly seen (*fide* H.P.A.S.) at Westport May 18. Although only the 3rd reported instance of this "species'" occurrence on L. Champlain, difficulties in identification make relative abundance anywhere in the Region an open arena for speculation. A Lesser Black-backed Gull apparently was present on Cayuga L. in April (no details, *fide* C.B.C.). A Forster's Tern at Derby Hill Apr. 15 (GS) was more than a week ahead of the Regional record.

Cuckoos and their recently favored prey, forest tent and gypsy moth caterpillars, were noticeably scarce causing all to wonder how these species' breeding populations readjust their range so rapidly in response to overwinter crashes in potential prey. A single Com. Barn-Owl, in Aurora, was reported (C.B.C.). A **Great Gray Owl**, doubtless a laggard from this winter's influx, was seen Mar. 8 at Popes Mills, N.Y. (SB) and another remained in South Fayston, Vt., through Mar. 15 (N & RJ). One hopes that the results of the owl banding station at Noyes Sanctuary on the L. Ontario plains will inspire other banders to undertake similar efforts. Conifer plantations throughout w. New York's agricultural district are refugia for nocturnal (and diurnal) birds of prey and offer ideal mist netting conditions for insomniac banders. A network of stations could unlock many mysteries about these reclusive raptors. The single station banded 13 Long-eared and 27 N. Saw-whet owls. Although exceptionally early Com. Nighthawks were found at Brockport in February, Rochester in late March and near Lake Placid in early April, the mass of the migrants (wisely) did not appear until early May when 300+ could be found over ponds near Rochester.

Several observers noted an increase and spread in Red-bellied Woodpeckers although only one was observed in Vermont (KD) and the species continues to be absent from most of n. New York. A Hairy Woodpecker in its 9th year at Alfred (EB) underscores the value of data derived from backyard banding. The species' longevity record, however, is nearly 16 years. Field work turned up breeding Black-backed Woodpeckers near Puffin Pond in e. New York (RG) but efforts to

verify an extralimital report near Amherst were to no avail. Unfortunately fewer small landbird tallies were received from the hawk watch sites than last year but the conditions which produced the exceptional flight Apr. 28 brought 80 N. Flickers past Derby Hill. New localities hosting Acadian Flycatchers included Little Sodus Bay (FS) and Cairo, N.Y. (RG). Despite conditions to the contrary several exceptionally early flycatchers were spotted. First of these was an E. Kingbird Apr. 13 at Webster (SS), followed by Great Crested Flycatchers at 2 w. New York localities Apr. 28 and an Alder Flycatcher at Dewit May 6 (JH). These and other early-arriving insectivorous passerines, notably Tree Swallows, had slim foraging under cool sodden conditions and many of the latter species at least are known to have succumbed to starvation. This unfortunate fate probably awaited the overzealous Cliff Swallow seen at Greece Mar. 21 (KG) and the Bank Swallow near Rochester Apr. 4 (KG). The May Blue Jay migration on the lake plains was termed incredible. Counts during peak flights exceeded 5000 birds/hour (RS). What cohort of the population these birds constitute still remains to be determined. Could two Fish Crows at Montezuma N.W.R. (DS *et al.*) and another at Derby Hill (FS, GS) portend further expansion by this species in the Region? Common Ravens again visited the lake plains, one appearing May 5 at Carlton Station (WS). A strong return flight of Black-capped Chickadees was noted on the lake plains but only two extralimital Boreal Chickadees were reported.

WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS — Carolina Wrens, aided by an open winter, may be staging a comeback. A Bohemian Waxwing at Shelburne, Vt., Apr. 12 (SA) was late, particularly following a "poor" winter flight. Loggerhead Shrike put in a token appearance (8 ± sightings) but by season's close was still not known to be nesting anywhere in the Region. A half-dozen New York sites and one Vermont locality hosted White-eyed Vireos. Special efforts to confirm this species as a Regional breeder are clearly in order. Many vireos delayed their arrival 1-2 weeks until the end of May. Orange-crowned Warblers staged perhaps their finest spring showing ever with about 2 dozen surprise appearances throughout the Region. Prairie Warblers, who exhibit a curious pattern of disjunct colonies in the Region, are probably increasing here. While unlikely ever to become as abundant as it is in the Southeast pine plantations, the species is well suited to young white pine stands which proliferate in our Region's abandoned hillside pastures. Several Prothonotary and Worm-eating warblers overshot their normal breeding areas to land near Rochester and four Kentucky Warblers were seen in c. New York while one Yellow-breasted Chat made it to s. Vermont. Vermont hosted its first spring Connecticut Warbler (WN) and two or three were seen (one banded) in w. New York. Hooded

Warblers, up in numbers throughout the Region, continued to be most abundant at Letchworth S.P. where 22 were found May 20 (DB, PC).

TANAGERS THROUGH SPARROWS — Three Summer Tanagers were identified in New York this May and a **Painted Bunting** spent several days at a Tully, N.Y., feeder (m.ob.) early in the month. Nearly every year we receive Blue Grosbeak reports which must be summarily rejected as probable Indigo Buntings, cowbirds or in one memorable instance a House Sparrow. The species is, however, a likely vagrant as evidenced by at least one convincing description this spring from Vermont. A 5-year-old Am. Tree Sparrow recaptured at Alfred (EB) showed remarkable site fidelity. A Clay-colored Sparrow flew in May 17 and established a territory at the Dunkirk-Fredonia airport (J & PK). A Harris' Sparrow was reported without details (*fide* KC, GS) in n. New York. The Region's only W. Meadowlark was back on territory at Pt. Breeze by late March. At least four Yellow-headed Blackbirds were discovered in New York during the period but only two Brewer's Blackbirds could be found at their "traditional" stopover in Hamlin. Watch for continued increases in the Orchard Oriole, particularly in the Champlain valley and Great Lake plains. The occurrence of nine N. Orioles at a Ferrisburg feeder May 14 (J & MD) may give you some idea of the desperate straits arriving migrants faced this spring. Crossbills and Com. Redpolls remained extremely scarce, apparently having wintered n. of the Region.

CORRECTION: The Palm Warbler nesting in New York last summer provided the first Regional, not United States, record.

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APPALACHIAN REGION /George A. Hall

It was a very short spring but while it lasted it was an eventful one. There were a few minority opinions but most reporters felt they experienced the best spring migration in recent years.

The late winter had been fairly mild but March turned very cold with several heavy snowfalls, even as far south as the Shenandoah Valley. At Pittsburgh, March rainfall was lower than normal but elsewhere about normal. April had normal rainfall and only slightly below normal temperatures. In May, however, rainfall at all locations was greatly in excess of normal (eastern Tennessee having nearly three times the normal amount), and the first half of the month was quite cool with several frosts as far south as northern Virginia. Extensive flooding in the southwest destroyed many early nestings. Spring finally arrived about May 10 and lasted only until perhaps May 20, when summer conditions appeared.

Except in the north, where most bodies of water were still ice-locked, the March and early April migration was about on time. By late April and early May events were perhaps a week to ten days behind. Starting about May 12-15, migrating passerines came through in great numbers until about May 24 with the arrival of summer.

Despite the cold early weather there was a great number of extremely



early records of some species, as for example, an Indigo Bunting in Indiana County, Pennsylvania, April 8 (R & MH) and a Bank Swallow at Lake Arthur, Pennsylvania, April 7 (DF). Unlike the last two years there were few migrants remaining in the Region on the first of June.

There was some suggestion that the extremely cold weather of December, which penetrated far to the south, caused excessive winter mortality of some species wintering in the south. This was evident at most places for Eastern Meadowlarks, and perhaps for Golden-crowned Kinglets and Field Sparrows.

ABBREVIATIONS — B.E.S.P. = Bald Eagle State Park, Pa.; P.I.S.P. = Presque Isle State Park, Pa.; P.N.R. = Powdermill Nature Reserve, Pa. Place names in *italics* refer to counties.

LOONS, GREBES, AND CORMORANTS — The only report of a Red-throated Loon came from P.I.S.P., May 12 (DF). Common Loons were more numerous than in recent years, and there were reports as late as mid-May, even in the s. In late March and early April there was a major influx of Red-necked Grebes with reports from *Crawford*, Pa., Apr. 21 (RFL); B.E.S.P., Apr. 8 & 15 (m.ob.); Hanover, Pa., Mar. 16 (CG); Fayetteville, Pa., Apr. 19 (CG); Vienna, W. Va., Apr. 1 (m.ob.); and Blacksburg, Va. (SB). An Eared Grebe was seen in *Somerset*, Pa., Apr. 8 (RT), for the first s.w. Pennsylvania record.

At *Erie*, Pa., Double-crested Cormorant sightings have been increasing for several years (JM) and at *Pymatuning L.*, Pa., a count of 20 on May 13 (m.ob., *vide* RFL) was noteworthy. There was more than the usual number of reports from elsewhere.



Red-necked Grebe near Vienna, W. Va., early April 1984.

HERONS AND IBISES — The Am. Bittern is seldom reported from this Region but there were 8 reports coming from as far n. as P.I.S.P., and as far s. as Blacksburg, Va. Least Bitterns were found at P.I.S.P., where they were frequently observed (m.ob.); *Mason*, W. Va., May 18 (TI); and Fairview, N.C., Apr. 10 (R & JY). Great Egrets were more widely reported than is usual in the spring. Snowy Egrets were reported from *Meadville*, Pa., Apr. 14-22 (RFL, ML) and from Johnson City, Tenn., May 4 (MDi). Cattle Egrets were found at P.N.R., Apr. 24 (RCL, RM); State College, Pa., Apr. 23 (TL) & May 28 (MW); *Frederick*, Va., May 4 (RSi); Silver L., Va., Apr. 16 (BA); and Ft. Loudon L., Tenn., May 7 & 9 (MD, PP).

Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were reported from *Mason*, W. Va., May 5 (TI) and Salem, Va., Apr. 28 & May 22 (NM), and were nesting at Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE).

Most unusual for this Region were 3 records of Glossy Ibises: State College, Pa., May 4-14 (MW); *Augusta*, Va., May 1 (YL, IO); and Blacksburg, Va., May 12-14 (SB).

WATERFOWL — The waterfowl flight was widely reported as one of the best in years, although as expected some areas did not do so well. The good numbers were however most notable for diving ducks while the dabblers did not show as well. The peak of the flight was in late March. Some unusually high counts were made at L. Arthur, *Butler*, Pa.: one-day maxima of 555 Canvasbacks, 175 Hooded Mergansers, 800 Red-breasted Mergansers, and—most remarkable for a 1980s count—120 Am. Black Ducks (*vide* PH). At P.I.S.P. an estimated 15,000 waterfowl were present in late March and early April, about the same as last year. Rather late were the 1000 Red-breasted Mergansers there May 10 (JM).

The migration of Tundra Swans was generally good in early March, with an out-of-normal-route record from Roanoke, Va., Mar. 25 (MDo). A Mute Swan was at P.I.S.P., Mar. 4 (SS, JM). Snow Geese were reported from Hanover, Pa., Mar. 16 (CG); L. Arthur, Pa., Mar. 17 (GW, MK); Mosquito L., O., Apr. 18 (CB); and Blacksburg, Va., Apr. 17 (SB). At State College, Pa., an apparent hybrid Snow x Canada

Goose was seen Mar. 16-24 (MW). Two Brant were at P.I.S.P., May 24-31 (RHo, DFl) and three were at B.E.S.P., Pa., May 28 (HH, MW). A Bar-headed Goose, certainly an escape, was at Seneca L., O., in late May. A bird of this species had spent 6 weeks at that location in the spring and summer of 1982 (ME).

A **Cinnamon Teal** at L. Arthur, Pa., Mar. 18 (DD) would establish the first s.w. Pennsylvania record, if it was not an escape. A Eur. Wigeon was seen at the Middle Creek W.M.A., Pa., Mar. 31 (CG). Oldsquaws and Greater Scaup were more widespread and numerous than is usual in this Region. Surf Scoters were at Yellow Creek S.P., Pa., Apr. 27 (MH) and at P.I.S.P., May 12 (DF); the more unusual Black Scoter was seen at L. Arthur, Pa., Mar. 25 (PH). White-winged Scoters were unusually numerous in w. Pennsylvania and they were reported at Cheshire, W. Va., Apr. 18 (TI), *Rockingham*, Va., Mar. 28 (YL) and Boone L., Tenn., Mar. 17 (DH).

RAPTORS — There was a small amount of systematic hawk watching this spring. At Erie, 1200 hawks and 266 Turkey Vultures were counted in 9 days of observation, with a high count of 505 on Apr. 15 (SS, JM). Of these 341 were Sharp-shinned Hawks and 423 were Red-taileds. At another location at Erie, 1500 hawks (860 Broad-winged) were seen in 6 hours Apr. 26 (CK). At Harvey's Knob, Va., 601 Broad-winged were counted Apr. 15 (MM *et al.*). At Waynesboro, Va., "uncountable numbers" of Broad-winged were seen Apr. 16 (GK).

At Erie the 2 prize records of the season were of a **Black Vulture** Apr. 30 following SW winds of up to 50 m.p.h. (CK) and a **Swainson's Hawk** Apr. 21 (JM). Black Vultures, very rare in the Ohio Valley, were also reported from *Mason*, W. Va., Apr. 18 and *Cabell*, W. Va., May 5 (TI). There was an encouraging number of reports of Ospreys. A pair of Ospreys started nesting at the R.D. Bailey L., in s.w. West Virginia (first nesting in the state in about 9 years) but this nesting was wiped out by severe flooding in late May (*vide* GAH). Three pairs of Bald Eagles were nesting in the Pymatuning L. area (RFL), two were at Norris L., Tenn., all season (JH), and a pair was at Kinzua Res., Pa., all season (WH). There were numerous other eagle records during the migration season. The only N. Goshawk records came from Erie where one was banded Apr. 14 (RG) and from *Allegheny*, Pa., Apr. 10 (T&NMc) & May 6 (late—DF, PH). Rough-legged Hawks remained at s. locations until early May. The only reports of Golden Eagles came from Lookout Plateau, Ga., Mar. 4 (JGr, CA), Raccoon Creek S.P., Pa., Mar. 30 (NK), and Harvey's Knob, Va., Apr. 13 (MM).

Merlins were reported from *Somerset*, Pa., Apr. 14 (RT), *Crawford*, Pa., Apr. 7 (ML) & Apr. 8 (RFL), 6 reports from *Erie*, Pa. (JM, CK), and *Garrett*, Md., May 10 (PL). Peregrines were found at Erie Apr. 28 (CK), at P.I.S.P., May 10 (JM, DS), at Woodcock L., Pa., Apr. 23 (RFL) and on Roan Mt., Tenn., Apr. 28 (GE *et al.*).

CRANES AND RAILS — Several flocks of up to 200 each of Sandhill Cranes were seen in the Dalton, Ga., area Mar. 3-8 (*vide* HD) and they were reported at Knoxville as late as Mar. 16 (PP). These are the usual crane reporting stations but more unusual was one seen at *Geneva*, Pa., May 23, for a 2nd county record (RFL, ML).

The rail of the year was a **Yellow Rail** seen well in *Buncombe*, N.C. (AB). Virginia Rails, Soras, and Com. Moorhens were more widely reported than usual. Was this a result of the very wet season? Another unusual record was of a **Purple Gallinule*** found moribund at Johnstown, Pa., in early May; details will be published elsewhere (TD).

SHOREBIRDS — At the Kingston Steam Plant, Tenn., one of the usual shorebird hot spots, water levels were too high to produce a good flight (CN); and at P.I.S.P. (the other good shorebird station in the Region) the flight was poor until May 18 when a storm brought in the unprecedented number of 1500 birds of 16 species (JM, DS). Elsewhere the wet weather in May apparently produced some good habitat and many localities had good flights. Such usually rare species as Black-bellied Plover, White-rumped Sandpiper, Dunlin, and some others were reported far too widely to detail individual records. Some of the more unusual records were Whimbrel at P.I.S.P., two on May 18 (DSi) and seven on May 20 (DF), and at B.E.S.P., May 28 (JS); 14 Marbled Godwits in *Rockingham*, Va., Apr. 24-25 (R.B.C.); Hudsonian Godwit at Blacksburg, Va., May 4 (SB); Baird's Sandpiper at B.E.S.P., May 30 (MW, DB); Wilson's Phalarope at Blacksburg, Va., May 4-end (*vide*

JMu) and at Cumberland, Md., May 10 (PL); Red-necked Phalarope at Blacksburg May 4 (SB), and at P.N.R., May 18 (RCL, RM). Lesser Golden-Plovers were reported from Pymatuning L., Pa., May 9 (RFL, ML); B.E.S.P., May 26-27 (*fide* KJ); and *Whitfield*, Ga., Apr. 11 (HD.) Willets were reported from P.I.S.P., May 26 (SS); State College, Pa., May 7 (HH); B.E.S.P., May 23, first local record (CH); Mill Creek, W. Va., Apr. 30 (CS); and *Blount*, Tenn., May 7 (MD). At P.I.S.P., 40 Ruddy Turnstones May 26 (SS) was an unusual number for spring, the only other report coming from B.E.S.P., May 24-26 (PS, CH). Short-billed (presumably) Dowitchers were reported from near Lock Haven, Pa., May 18-19 (PS); Elkins, W. Va., May 14 (EH); and Austin Springs, Tenn., May 8 (RK). At P.I.S.P., May 18 a conservative estimate was of 880 dowitchers, of which 75% were identified as Short-billeds (JM, DS).

GULLS AND TERNS — Franklin's Gulls were found at *Somerset*, Pa., Apr. 8 (RT) and at L. Chatuge, Ga., May 4-5 (AG). There were some large concentrations of Ring-billed Gulls reported: 3500 at L. Arthur, Pa., Mar. 18-19 (GW) and 2000 elsewhere in the Pittsburgh region on those days (*fide* PH), and 2500 at Pymatuning L., Pa., Mar. 24 (RFL, ML). The usual gull hotspot at P.I.S.P., reported a Lesser Black-backed Gull Mar. 18 and a Thayer's Gull May 10, as well as two Iceland Gulls, up to eight Glaucous Gulls and 100+ Great Black-backed Gulls (SS, DS, JM). A non-typical Iceland Gull (hybrid?) was seen there May 10 (JM). A more unusual Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Roanoke Apr. 4 (MP). A Glaucous Gull Mar. 17 (GW *et al.*) and a Laughing Gull Apr. 7 (DF *et al.*) at L. Arthur, Pa., were unusual for this inland locality.



Adult Franklin's Gull (with Ring-billed) at L. Chatuge, Towns Co., Ga., May 4, 1984. Photo/Arthur L. Green.



Adult Franklin's Gull at L. Chatuge. Towns Co., Ga., May 4, 1984. Photo/Arthur L. Green.

Another remarkable record for the Region was of a **Gull-billed Tern** at Blacksburg, Va., May 31 (JV). Caspian Terns were reported from: B.E.S.P. (HH, TS); Mosquito L., O., May 12 (CB); Woodcock L., Pa., Apr. 20 (RFL, ML); Beech Fork S.P., W. Va., Apr. 20 (TI); and *Augusta*, Va., Apr. 24 (YL). Forster's Terns were more commonly reported than Com. Terns with reports from several places in *Erie*, with a high count of 30 at P.I.S.P., May 5 (JM); from B.E.S.P. (HH, TS); from L. Somerset, Pa., May 12 (KP, RCL); from Quemahoning Dam, Pa., June 1 (G & RSa); from *Augusta*, Va., Apr. 24 (YL, IO); from Elkins, W. Va., May 10 (EH); and from Austin Springs, Tenn., Apr. 9 & May 1 (RK). A Least Tern was at P.I.S.P., May 26 for a 3rd county record (J & BB).

CUCKOOS, OWLS AND GOATSUCKERS — Neither cuckoo species was especially numerous, even in those few areas that had tent caterpillar outbreaks. The only Com. Barn-Owl reports came from the 2 regular locations, Lyndhurst, Va. (*fide* RS) and 3 locations near Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE). Short-eared Owls were reported from P.I.S.P., Mar. 25 (BF) & Apr. 10 (JM), Zelenople, Pa., in March (FL), and up to six in *Indiana*, Pa., Mar. 4-10 (R & MH). The only N. Saw-whet Owl

record came from Devil's Courthouse, N.C., where three were heard Apr. 28 (R & JY).

A new locality for the Chuck-will's-widow was *Mingo*, W. Va. (TDe), a tangible result of the Atlas project. One was heard at Lyndhurst, Va., for some time in May (WP). The Whip-poor-will continues to decline and rather few reporters mentioned it.

WOODPECKERS AND FLYCATCHERS — Red-bellied Woodpeckers continue to do well in the n., with 4 locations in *Erie*, Pa. (JM) and a "definite increase" in the Lock Haven, Pa., area (PS). Most encouraging was the number of reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers, about twice as many as in past years. At Pittsburgh the flight of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers was the best in years (PH).

Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported from Lock Haven, Pa., May 19 (CH); Keewadyn, Pa., May 26 (PS); P.N.R. (RCL); Vienna, W. Va., May 13 (LR); *Shenandoah*, Va., May 13 (RSi); and Roanoke, May 19-21 (HT, NM). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported in unusually large numbers for spring. At P.N.R., bandings were 315% above normal with 39 banded, 17 on May 19 (RCL). Two were heard at Mt. Rogers, Va., the southernmost breeding station, in late May (ES). Alder Flycatchers appear to be expanding their range s. at high elevations. At least five were heard on Roan Mt., Tenn., in late May (GE), and three near Fairview, N.C., in late April (R & JY). One was heard in *Cumberland*, Tenn., May 14 (J & BC). The northbound flight of E. Kingbirds was also the best in several years, highlighted by a flock of 50 at Knoxville May 8 (MA). A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was seen near Middleburg, Va., May 19-20 (RSi).

RAVENS, TITMICE, NUTHATCHES — Two Com. Raven nests in the Warren, Pa., area were successful, and another nest was located in that area (WH). Ravens were seen all season along the Kentucky-Virginia border in *Wise*, Va., and one pair acted as if they were nesting (RP).

There were a few Black-capped Chickadees reported s. of the normal range, a holdover from last fall's flight, and the previously reported ♀ Carolina Chickadee at P.N.R. (n. of the normal range) was captured again this year in breeding condition. The Boreal Chickadee reported from *Allegheny*, Pa., in the winter remained until mid-March (RKe) and one was seen in Warren, Pa., Mar. 17 (RR).

There were more reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches than usual for the spring, but it was not a major flight.

WRENS, THRUSHES, KINGLETS — Carolina Wren populations remained good, and apparently this species did not suffer undue mortality during the cold winter. The Winter Wren was another species reported more commonly than usual during migration, but the only report of Bewick's Wren came from *Mason*, W. Va., May 5 (TI). The only Marsh Wren report came from Austin Springs, Tenn., May 9 (RK) but Sedge Wrens were seen at Canoe Creek S.P., Pa., in early May (LB), *Allegheny*, Pa., May 15 & 20 (JG, DR, JR), Austin Springs, Tenn., Apr. 28 (RK), and Knoxville Apr. 29 (PHa).

While some areas reported normal numbers of both kinglet species most places saw rather few Golden-crowneds, and this species may well have suffered mortality on the wintering grounds during the cold December.

It was a banner year for all species of spotted thrushes. The bandings at P.N.R. were 239% above normal for Veeries, 100% for Gray-checked and 70% for Swainson's Thrushes. Hermit Thrushes remained rather late and the others came somewhat early so it might have been possible to list 5 species of spotted thrush in one day. The thrush record of the year, however, was furnished by a **Townsend's Solitaire** at P.I.S.P., Pa., May 12 (DF).

PIPITS, SHRIKES, VIREOS — There was a good flight of Water Pipits with 200+ at L. Arthur, Pa., Mar. 18 (GW). Pipits remained at Elizabethton until May 19 (RK) and at the late dates of May 10-12 there was a heavy flight at P.I.S.P. (JM). Northern Shrikes were reported from B.E.S.P., Pa., Mar. 4 & 6 (PS, CH), P.I.S.P., early March (BG), and *Crawford* Pa., Mar. 31 (JGS, JHS). The only reports of Loggerhead Shrikes were two for the season (normal) at Knoxville (CN), one at Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE), and two in the Shenandoah Valley in *Augusta*, Va. (RS).

Red-eyed Vireos were perhaps slightly fewer than normal but the other vireo species were all in good numbers. This was especially true for the Yellow-throated Vireo in n. West Virginia where it has been low for several years (GAH). Solitary Vireo populations in the West Virginia breeding grounds were also high (GAH).

WARBLERS — The main warbler flight was a little late but once it started most areas reported a very fine migration. It was a short one, however, and most migrants were gone by the last week in May. At P.N.R., of the 21 species recorded in significant numbers, 16 were in above average numbers and only 4 were in below average numbers. Of the passage species, most areas had excellent flights of Tennessees and Bay-breasted. Orange-crowned Warblers (usually missing in the spring) were reported from several places, and one wintered successfully at Elizabethton, Tenn., remaining until Apr. 4 (GE). The most interesting warbler news was the continued expansion of the Yellow-throated Warbler N. This has been progressing steadily for some years but this year there was a veritable "explosion" of n. records. They were reported from at least 4 localities near State College, Pa. (MW), and 5 localities in n. Allegheny, Pa., as well as in *Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Green, and Washington*, Pa. (PH) and one at P.I.S.P., May 12 (ESw). The species continues to be reported at new locations in West Virginia.

Prairie Warblers have generally declined over much of the n. part of their range. Is the habitat outgrowing this species? A Worm-eating Warbler at P.I.S.P., Apr. 28 was unusual (DF). The Connecticut Warbler is very rare in this Region in spring, but this year reports came from P I S.P., May 11 & 22 (JHS) & May 27 (JM); P.N.R., one banded May 27 (RCL); a singing male at Montoursville, Pa., May 27 (SS); and one at Elizabethton, Tenn., May 25 (RC). Wilson's Warblers were found more commonly than usual.

GROSBEAKS THROUGH SPARROWS — Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were in good numbers in migration, but the only reports of Blue Grosbeaks came from the S.: *Buncombe and Henderson*, N.C., Spring Counts (*vide* RW), and Elizabethton, Tenn., Apr. 28 (GE). Dickcissels were reported from *Augusta*, Va., one pair and two males located (RS); Daleville, Va., May 10-15 (BK, TK); Knoxville Apr. 27-29 (JK, J & BMa); and Johnson City, Tenn., May 14 (RK, DH).

A Clay-colored Sparrow was seen at P.I.S.P., May 12-14 (m.ob.). Field Sparrows were generally in short supply, and this species may well have had heavy winter mortality. Lark Sparrows were reported from P I S.P., May 19 (RRy, KW) and from *Whitfield*, Ga., Apr. 28 (HD). Savannah and Grasshopper sparrows seemed a little on the low side. Henslow's Sparrows cannot be said to be up to former numbers but there were encouragingly more reports than in recent years. There was an unusually heavy migration of Fox Sparrows, and Lincoln's Sparrows were reported more commonly than usual, including a very early one at Slippery Rock, Pa., Mar. 19 (GW). The only report of a Lapland Longspur was from *Butler*, Pa., Mar. 18 (GW).

BLACKBIRDS AND FINCHES — The N. Oriole was in unusually good numbers at most places, but E. Meadowlarks were generally in low numbers. Four Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen at P.I.S.P., May 19 (SS *et al.*). A Brewer's Blackbird was seen at a feeder in Waterford, Pa., Mar. 24 (RB) and one was at L. Arthur, Pa., Mar. 25 (DF).

The migration of Purple Finches was quite good. The only report of Red Crossbills came from the Chattahoochee N.F., Ga. (HD), and the only Com. Redpoll report came from L. Arthur, Pa., Mar. 15 (DF). Pine Siskins had been locally abundant and locally absent during the winter, but in late April and early May they appeared practically everywhere in small numbers. Evening Grosbeaks were distributed in excellent numbers throughout the Region, and many of these remained well into May.

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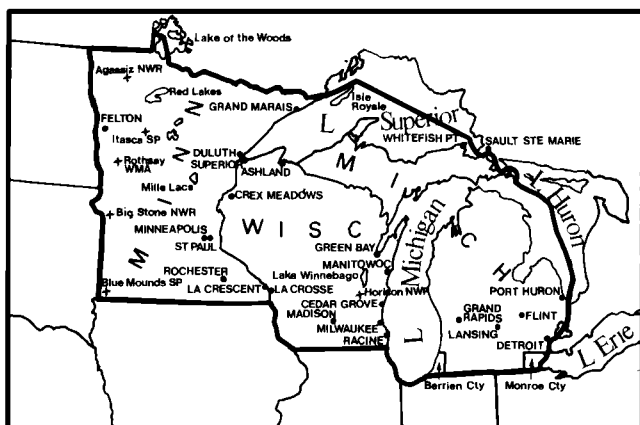
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WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

/David J. Powell

Spring was mixed in the Region with Michigan having an average to slightly above average migration, Minnesota having a very poor migration, and Wisconsin being somewhere in between. After the warm weather of February, March was cold and wet in both Michigan and Wisconsin, cold with snow in Minnesota. April was warm and dry in Minnesota, but cold, wet, and windy in Michigan and Wisconsin. The end of April brought a major front through the Region with severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, and very high winds (91 m.p.h. in Kalamazoo, Michigan; 83 m.p.h. in Grand Rapids, Michigan). The first half of May remained cold and wet with snow in the northern part of the Region and strong winds throughout. In mid-late May, the weather improved in Michigan and Wisconsin with scattered spring-like weather. Unfortunately, this weather was permeated with tornadic weather—in several cases, killer weather. Minnesota, however, remained very cold.

The migration in general was late by two-to-three weeks Regionwide, particularly in March and April. Waterfowl were almost nonexistent in the Region, and almost none lingered. May was better, especially the last one-half, particularly in Michigan. The shorebird migration was poor in Wisconsin, with the exception of several of the larger species,



average in Michigan (low numbers, excellent diversity), and good in Minnesota during late May. Thrushes were low in Minnesota, but in good numbers in Michigan and Wisconsin. Warblers were late and very low in Minnesota and Wisconsin, but in good numbers in Michigan in mid-May. Sparrow numbers paralleled those of warblers.

The outstanding rarity was Minnesota's and the Region's first Ross' Gull. Other notable rarities were Michigan's first Arctic Loon, Minnesota's second Anhinga, Michigan's second Mississippi Kite, Michigan's second Curlew Sandpiper, and Wisconsin's first Lesser Black-backed Gull. In the following text, place names in *italics* are counties.

ABBREVIATION — W.P.B.O. = Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, Mich.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — A Red-throated Loon Mar. 31 at Duluth (m.ob.) set the earliest Minnesota record. They were in good numbers in both Michigan and Wisconsin, with 62 during the period Apr. 19-May 29 at W.P.B.O., the most ever for Michigan, and 110 on L. Michigan in *Manitowoc* Apr. 1 (DT), certainly very high. Interestingly, the birds seen in Michigan are normally seen from late April through May, essentially only on L. Superior, while the Wisconsin birds are seen primarily in March and April with many, if not most, found on L. Michigan. An Arctic Loon May 26 at W.P.B.O. (RS, WS, RHo) provided Michigan's first accepted sighting. Common Loons were nearly double last year's total at W.P.B.O., with 1341 May 6 (RS) the peak count. Red-necked Grebes were up Regionwide, with one Mar. 30 in Minnesota's *Dakota* (RJ) establishing the earliest state record. Eared Grebes were found at 3 Michigan and 5 Wisconsin locations. Western Grebes were found May 15 & 30 at *Crex Meadows* W.A., Wis. (JHo), May 26 & 27 in *Chippewa*, Wis. (JPo), and May 28 in *Dunn*, Wis. (DT).

American White Pelicans were reported from 4 Wisconsin locations. Double-crested Cormorants continue to increase on the Great Lakes, with inland records becoming increasingly frequent. An Anhinga seen May 26 near *Shakopee*, *Scott* (DB *et al.*) was only the 2nd for Minnesota. Great Egrets were found n. of usual at *St. Louis*, Minn. (AE) and *Crawford*, Mich. (DR). Snowy Egrets were found at *Green Bay*, Wis. (m ob.), *Crawford*, Wis. (DT), and *Houghton*, Mich. (NS). As has become the normal pattern, the s. herons were scarce again this spring. The only Little Blue Heron of the spring was one May 12 at the Schlitz Audubon Center, *Milwaukee* (DG, BC), and the only Tricolored Heron in the Region was one May 30 in *Monroe*, Mich. (JR). Cattle Egrets were up in Minnesota with 15 on May 26 in *Grant* (KE *et al.*) the high count. Cattle Egrets were scarce in Wisconsin and Michigan, however, with reports from 3 Wisconsin and 2 Michigan locations. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons remain very scarce in the Region, with only 3 sightings, all in Wisconsin.

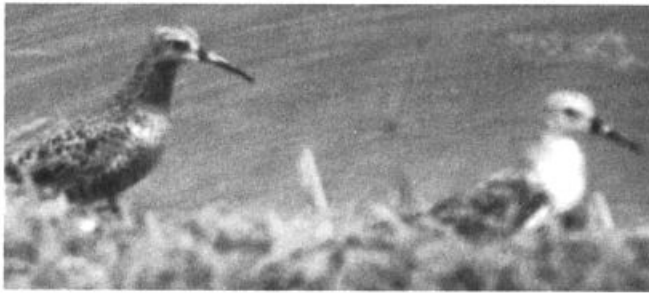
WATERFOWL — Tundra Swans passed through Wisconsin in a hurry the last week of March with 8000+ Mar. 31 at *Shiocton* (DT) the largest concentration. Mute Swans continue to spread in the Region with reports from 4 locations on L. Superior, 3 in Michigan and at *Duluth*, Minn. (KE). Greater White-fronted Geese were found at one Wisconsin and 2 Michigan locations, although local birders think that the same two birds were at both Michigan locations. A late Snow Goose was in *St. Croix*, Wis., May 27 (RH, DT). An excellent movement of Canada Geese was witnessed Apr. 21 on Minnesota's North Shore, with thousands moving N (m.ob.). The duck migration was late and poor in all 3 states, with few lingerers. A Cinnamon Teal was in *Hennepin*, Minn., May 1-17 (m.ob.). This species has become rare/regular in Minnesota. Harlequin Ducks were found Apr. 9 in *Door*, Wis. (JA) and Mar. 26-27 near *Ely*, *Lake*, Minn. (S & NP, SS). The Minnesota report is particularly notable, because it is one of the few inland sightings. As has become the usual in the Region, the only location with significant numbers of scoters was Michigan's W.P.B.O. where 16 Black, 13 Surf, and 1150 White-winged scoters were seen. The only scoter report from Minnesota was of two White-winged Apr. 3 in *Sibley* (HK), unusually early and an unusual location (KE). All 3 species were seen in Wisconsin, but in low numbers with three Blacks, 10-12 Surfs, and about 45 White-winged reported. It is certainly interesting how common White-winged Scoters are in e. L. Superior and how scarce in w. L. Superior.

HAWKS — As has become normal, Turkey Vultures were seen in good numbers at W.P.B.O., with 48 during the period. A strong S wind in May brought Michigan's 2nd Mississippi Kite to *Kalamazoo* (RA). Bald Eagles were seen at W.P.B.O. in record numbers, with 37 during the period (RW, TA, m.ob.). Accipiters were down at W.P.B.O., this spring with N. Goshawks at less than one-half of last year's totals. Broad-winged Hawks were also at a much reduced level at W.P.B.O., with this year's total of 2070 approximately one-fourth of the 5-year average (TA). Swainson's Hawks were seen twice in both Michigan and Wisconsin: singles on Apr. 27 (JF, TH, TL) & May 3 (RW) at W.P.B.O.; May 5 at Schlitz Audubon Center, *Milwaukee* (DT), and May 7 in *Eau Claire*, Wis. (JPo). A "Harlan's" type Red-tailed Hawk was seen at *Muskegon* S.G.A., Mich., Apr. 7 & 14 (BB, DP *et al.*) If this were still a species, it would provide the 3rd state record. Ferruginous Hawks were at *Polk*, Minn., May 19 (K & SS) and at the *Felton* prairie, Minn. (KE, KC, HK). Despite their scarcity this winter, good numbers of Rough-legged Hawks were seen at several locations in Michigan and Wisconsin. Golden Eagles were plentiful in Michigan with 17 at W.P.B.O. (RW, TA *et al.*) and five others at various locations in the state. The rest of the Region was represented by one Apr. 28 at *Milwaukee* (JB). Thirty-seven Merlins were seen in Michigan, 29 of these at W.P.B.O. (RW), certainly a good showing. Peregrine Falcons were seen in excellent numbers Regionwide with 17 individuals reported from 13 counties in Minnesota and 30 individuals in Michigan, 26 of them at W.P.B.O., with an unprecedented six on May 5 (RW *et al.*) The overwintering Gyrfalcon at *Duluth* remained until Apr. 8 (KE). This or another Gyrfalcon near *Superior*, Wis., May 7 (RJo) established the latest spring record for Wisconsin.

GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Spruce Grouse are normally very difficult to find in the Region, so the success enjoyed by the W.P.B.O. staff is of interest. With the aid of a tape of the female's call, they were able to show over 200 people a very cooperative male (TA). Yellow Rails were seen at *Horicon* N.W.R., Wis., May 19 (SR, JeB *et al.*) and at their *Seney* N.W.R., Mich., nesting areas. King Rails were reported from 4 Wisconsin and 3 Michigan locations. This species has become increasingly hard to locate in the Region in recent years. Sandhill Crane numbers were higher in Michigan. Piping Plovers remained very scarce in the Region with reports from 3 Wisconsin and 5 Michigan locations. Alarmingly, none was found at their *Long Island*, *Ashland*, Wis., nesting site. Unusual, however, was one inland at *Morrow* L., *Kalamazoo*, Mich., May 18-19 (RA, DP). American Avocets made an excellent showing in the Region, particularly in Wisconsin, with 30 at the Schlitz Audubon Center, *Milwaukee* Apr. 28 (WW, MB, JB *et al.*) and 28 at *Monroe*, Wis., Apr. 30 (EE), the largest flocks. Avocets at *Minneapolis* (CH) and *Crow Wing*, Minn. (JB1) were at unusual locations.

The only large group of Lesser Yellowlegs reported was 450 May 4 in *Monroe*, Wis. (EE). Willets were seen in excellent numbers in Michigan and Wisconsin with reports of one to 20+ birds from 7 Michigan and 12 Wisconsin counties. An Upland Sandpiper at *Grand Marais*, Minn., May 22 (K & MH) was unusual for the North Shore. Whimbrels were very scarce in Wisconsin, with only 13 reported, but in average to above average numbers in Michigan with 300+ the evening of May 26 (DP, BB, TS, MA) the largest count. The progression of Whimbrels through Michigan is worth a comment. They normally migrate through in the last 10 days of May, and are usually seen at the following places, in this order: *Monroe*, *Tawas Point* S.P., and W.P.B.O. During this period, at these places, hundreds are often seen. Elsewhere in the state or at other times of the year, they are uncommon to rare. Hudsonian Godwits were found at 3 Michigan and 15 Wisconsin locations, a good showing for this uncommon species. Marbled Godwits were found at 4 Michigan and 4 Wisconsin locations with 12 on May 12 in *Columbia*, Wis. (WH), the highest single count.

Red Knots were seen in Michigan and Wisconsin in average numbers. There were 5 reports from both Michigan and Wisconsin of W. Sandpipers, quite high for the spring migration. Surprisingly, Baird's Sandpipers were found at W.P.B.O., one on May 11 (TL), and the *Muskegon* Wastewater System, Mich., seven May 30 (GW); they are very uncommon in the Region in spring. Michigan had only its 2nd Curlew Sandpiper when a molting individual was seen at the *Coopersville*, *Ottawa*, sewage ponds May 19-22 (JP, JBa, m.ob.). This bird exhibited the odd



Curlew Sandpiper at Coopersville sewage ponds, Ottawa Co., Mich., May 19, 1984. Second record for Michigan. Photo/James Ponshair.

behavior pattern of arriving at the ponds between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. and leaving about 6 p.m. Earlier or later in the day, it was never seen. Short-billed Dowitchers were in above average numbers in Michigan. Wilson's Phalaropes were seen in above average numbers in Minnesota and Michigan. The only Red-necked Phalaropes were found in Wisconsin with five individuals at 4 locations. A breeding-plumaged Red Phalarope at the Muskegon Wastewater System May 30 (FD) furnished only the 2nd spring sighting for Michigan.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS — Michigan had only its 2nd spring jaeger sighting when an ad. Parasitic Jaeger flew by W.P.B.O., May 28 (DP, BB, MA). Single Laughing Gulls were found May 15-21 in Manitowoc, Wis. (m.ob.), May 21 at Tawas Point S.P., Mich. (LG), and May 22 in Berrien, Mich. (WB). Franklin's Gulls were reported from 2 Michigan and 5 Wisconsin locations. Little Gulls were seen in all 3 states with 12 (six adults, six immatures) at Kewaunee, Wis., May 13 (DT *et al.*) particularly impressive. Flocks of over 1000 Bonaparte's Gulls were seen in all 3 states with the largest, 12,000 May 13 at Kewaunee, Wis. (DT). Single ad. California Gulls were found Apr. 12 at Agassiz N.W.R., Minn. (KL) and in April at Morrow L., Kalamazoo, Mich. (RA). Thayer's Gulls were reported from all 3 states with birds remaining into May in both Michigan and Wisconsin. Iceland Gulls were seen at 3 Michigan and one Wisconsin locations. A breeding-plumaged ad. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was discovered Mar. 29 at Kewaunee, Wis. (DT) for the first Wisconsin record of this species. The next day it was seen at Two Rivers (MD, RSu) and thereafter disappeared. A Glaucous Gull at W.P.B.O., May 25-26 (RS, DP, MA) was unusually late.

S.A.

The bird of the season undoubtedly was the **Ross' Gull** in Minnesota. An adult, it was discovered Apr. 4 at Agassiz N.W.R. (JM) and was seen and photographed by many until Apr. 14. The bird spent most of its time loafing on the dike road and would allow close approach (to within 10 feet). It fed by hovering low over the ice of refuge pools and picking at tiny organisms. It was closely associated with ice; once a pool thawed, the gull moved to another that was still frozen. With this species now regular at Churchill, Manitoba, it was only a matter of time before one appeared in the Region.



Adult Ross' Gull at Agassiz N.W.R., Minn., Apr. 9, 1984. First for Minnesota and for the Western Great Lakes Region. Photo/Warren Nelson.

An impressive 12,000-15,000 Com. Terns were counted from Kewaunee and Manitowoc, Wis., May 20 (JI, DT *et al.*). Arctic Terns are continuing to show up in the Region with increasing frequency as observers start looking for them. This spring's reports were one at Manitowoc May 13 (DT), with three there May 18 (BBR) and two May 19 (RH); one at Ashland, Wis., May 24 (SR) and one with two Com. Terns at W.P.B.O., May 28 (DP, BB, MA, LR, RS). Sixty Forster's Terns were seen in Bay, Mich., Apr. 28 (DP, BB).

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Both species of cuckoos were very late and scarce throughout the Region. A Com. Barn-Owl was found at the Wood Lake Nature Center, Hennepin, Minn., May 11 (m.ob.), where the species is only casual. Snowy Owls were very late in Michigan, with singles May 17-20 at the Muskegon Wastewater System (BB, DP *et al.*) & May 22 at W.P.B.O. (RS, RW). After last winter's invasion, it was not surprising that Great Gray Owls were found into late May in n. Michigan and n. Minnesota. Eleven were banded at W.P.B.O. (TA, staff). More unusual was one in Marathon, Wis., during the last half of May (*vide* DF). Both Long-eared and Short-eared owls were scarce in Michigan and Wisconsin, particularly the Short-eared. A record 47 Boreal Owls were banded at W.P.B.O. (TA, staff). A single bird was found roosting Mar. 7 near Trout L., Mackinac, Mich. (*vide* NI), and normal numbers (*i.e.*, five) were heard calling along the Gunflint Trail, Cook, Minn. (K & MH). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird at W.P.B.O., Apr. 27 (staff) was very early for the Upper Pen. Red-headed Woodpeckers were generally scarce in Michigan, but both Red-headed and Red-bellied were unusually common in the Duluth area. Black-backed Woodpeckers were reported from 6 Upper Pen. locations in Michigan and 2 locations in Wisconsin.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRUSHES — Flycatchers were scarce throughout the Region with only occasional exceptions. Twenty Yellow-bellied Flycatchers at Kalamazoo, Mich., May 26 (RA) was certainly a high number, however. Also present at the same Kalamazoo location were good numbers of pewees and Alder Flycatchers. Despite the cold weather, Least Flycatchers appeared in s. Michigan and s. Wisconsin in late April. A Say's Phoebe put in a brief appearance in Minnesota's *Lac Qui Parle* Apr. 28 (PE *et al.*). Western Kingbirds were e. of normal at W.P.B.O., May 9 & June 1 (RS, TL, RW) and in Polk, Wis., May 26 (RH). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher found its way to Whitewater S.P., Winona, Minn., May 11 (m.ob.). Both Rough-winged and Bank swallows returned to Trempealeau, Wis., at the very early date of Apr. 9 (THu) with both Cliff and Barn swallows returning the next day to Polk, Wis. (JHu). Despite the cool weather, these were all near their record early dates for Wisconsin. Black-billed Magpies were found nesting unusually far e. at Tower-Soudan S.P. in St. Louis, Minn. (SW/MS). As happens every spring, Boreal Chickadees appeared at W.P.B.O. in good numbers in May (up to 30/day) after having been essentially absent from the state. Where do these birds come from and why can't we find them in the winter? Red-breasted Nuthatches lingered through May in Kalamazoo and Kent in s. Michigan (RA, JW). Rock Wrens were found at 2 Minnesota locations: one May 12-13 at Gooseberry Falls S.P., Lake (LW) and a pair which appeared to be nesting (carrying nesting materials) in Bemidji in late May (AS), establishing only the 7th and 8th state records. Carolina Wrens remain extremely scarce in the Region, with only 4 reports, 2 in Michigan and 2 in Wisconsin. Marsh Wrens were extremely scarce in Kalamazoo, Mich. (RA, DP). As has become usual, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers appeared at W.P.B.O. in late April, the first being Apr. 24 (staff). A Townsend's Solitaire appeared at W.P.B.O., Apr. 22 (RS, TS, TH, TL). Gray-cheeked and Swainson's thrushes both returned early to Michigan and Wisconsin with a Gray-cheeked at W.P.B.O., Apr. 29 (staff), particularly notable. Observers in the s. half of Wisconsin commented on a truly outstanding migration of the above 2 species, along with lesser numbers of Veeries, May 11-13. Observers in s. Michigan also reported a good migration of thrushes.

MOCKINGBIRD THROUGH WARBLERS — Northern Mockingbirds were reported from 5 Wisconsin and 6 Michigan locations with at least six individuals from 2 locations in Michigan's Upper Pen. Water Pipits were scarce in Wisconsin, but abundant at W.P.B.O., with a peak of 345 May 17 (RS, m.ob.). Bohemian Waxwings lingered into late March and early April in both Michigan and Wisconsin, last Apr. 9 at

W P B O Loggerhead Shrikes were reported from 4 Michigan, 4 Wisconsin, and 5 Minnesota locations. A White-eyed Vireo May 22 at *Anoka*, Minn. (KL), was unusual. More normal were 5 reports from Wisconsin and 8 reports from Michigan. The only Bell's Vireos this spring were in Wisconsin where 6 locations were about normal. A Blue-winged Warbler in Wisconsin's *Dane* Apr. 28 (PA) was very early. A spectacular movement of Tennessee Warblers was noted in *Kalamazoo*, Mich., May 19 with 10-50 individuals in almost every woodlot in the s. one-half of the county (RA, DP). A Cape May Warbler Apr. 30 in *Dane*, Wis. (PA), was almost a record early arrival. A Black-throated Blue Warbler at Milwaukee Apr. 24 (JI) was the earliest ever for the state. An "Audubon's" type Yellow-rumped Warbler was at Big Stone N.W.R., Minn., Apr. 28 (m.ob.), providing only the 4th record of this form in the state. Minnesota's 3rd sighting of Yellow-throated Warbler was of one May 9 in *Washington* (RJ). Wisconsin had 2 sightings of this rare species: May 14 in *Buffalo* (CW *et al.*) and May 26 at Wyalusing S.P. (DT). They also were at their *Berrien*, Mich., nesting location at the early date of May 5 (RSm, DP *et al.*). Prairie Warblers are becoming more scarce in the Region. This spring there were only 4 sightings, one in Wisconsin and 3 in Michigan.

A Bay-breasted Warbler Apr. 26 in the Lost Nation S.G.A., *Hillsdale*, Mich. (JR), was early. Blackpoll Warblers appeared early in both Michigan and Wisconsin with individuals Apr. 28 in *Hillsdale*, Mich. (JR) and Apr. 29 in *Sauk*, Wis. (KLa) and *Ottawa*, Mich. (JP). A spectacular 200+ were found along the Kalamazoo R., between Augusta and Galesburg, *Kalamazoo*, Mich., May 19 (RA), with almost as many Blackpolls as there were Tennessees in s. *Kalamazoo* on the same date (RA, DP). A Cerulean Warbler Apr. 29 in *Sauk* (SSw) was considered very early for Wisconsin. An Am. Redstart was at W.P.B.O., at the unprecedented date of Apr. 28. A Prothonotary Warbler May 24 in *Houghton*, Mich. (WR) was the first for Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Worm-eating Warblers were seen at 5 Wisconsin and 3 Michigan locations, about average. One May 8 in *Waseca*, Minn. (RG), was more unusual, as this species is only casual in Minnesota. Kentucky Warblers were unusually scarce with only 3 Michigan, one Minnesota and 3 Wisconsin reports. Connecticut Warblers were seen in Michigan in good numbers with eight May 26 in Kalamazoo's Kleinstuck Preserve (RA) especially impressive. For the 2nd year in a row, a Hooded Warbler found its way to *Crow Wing*, Minn., May 17 (B. Brown, Jr.), unusually far n. Also unusual was a nesting pair in Murphy-Hanrahan County P., *Scott*, Minn. (m.ob.). Hooded Warblers were seen in normal numbers in Michigan and Wisconsin. Yellow-breasted Chats were late and scarce in Michigan, but one Apr. 29 at the Schlitz Audubon Center, Milwaukee (m.ob.), set the earliest Wisconsin record.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — Summer Tanagers made a strong showing in the Region with 4 Minnesota, 5 Wisconsin, and 8 Michigan reports. Three W. Tanagers were seen in the Region, one at a feeder in *Washington*, Minn., in early May (m.ob.), one at the Mosquito Hill Nature Center, *Outagamie*, Wis., May 6 (PW *et al.*) and one May 9 in *Bayfield*, Wis. (DV *et al.*). Unusually far n. was a N. Cardinal May 20 in *Cook*, Minn. (EH). Single Black-headed Grosbeaks were reported from all 3 states: a singing male at Ann Arbor, Mich., Apr. 28 (DBa), one at a feeder in Madison May 10 (TD), and a male in St. Paul May 24 (RSk). Minnesota's 8th and 9th Lazuli Buntings appeared in Duluth within a few days of each other—only a half block from each other: an ad male May 18 at the M. & D. Evans feeder and an imm. male May 22-26 at the K. Sundquist feeder. Painted Buntings appeared at 2 widely separated feeders May 12 in *Racine*, Wis. (EP, Kasperek). Continuing the pattern of recent years, Dickcissels were very scarce and/or very late Regionwide. Field Sparrows were found in Duluth May 12-14 (*fide* KE), where they are only casual. Lark Sparrows were found as usual in 5 Wisconsin counties. More unusual were single birds at Grand Marais, Minn., May 29 (K & MH), Drummond I., Mich., Apr. 27 (BMR) and *Ontonagon*, Mich., May 22 (JMcD). Lark Buntings were found e. of normal in *Aitkin*, Minn., May 20 (JBI, WN) and just w. of Ashland, Wis., May 26 (JeB, TSc). An unprecedented 28+ Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found May 18 at the end of the Stonington Pen., *Delta*, Mich., with eight still present May 19 (CT, BT). Even one Sharp-tailed is unusual in Michigan, so 28 is nothing short of incredible. Wisconsin birders found one May 4 at the Schlitz Audubon Center, Milwaukee (NZ) and several May 26-27 at the Crex Meadows and Fish Lake

Wildlife Areas, *Burnett* (RH, DT, JeB) Fox Sparrows were quite scarce in Michigan. A Lincoln's Sparrow at Kalamazoo Apr. 29 (DP) was early. White-crowned Sparrows were noticeably lacking throughout the Region, except at W.P.B.O., where they were "common" throughout May (staff). Harris' Sparrows were in below normal numbers in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Very unusual for Wisconsin was a sighting of four Smith's Longspurs in a field n.e. of Madison in *Columbia* Apr. 12 (RH), 2nd-highest spring count. Western Meadowlarks remain scarce statewide in Michigan. An Orchard Oriole at Tawas Point S.P., Mich., May 24 (CF) was n. of normal. Minnesota's first Brambling remained at Owatonna until Mar. 24. Michigan's first Rosy Finch lingered until mid-late March at Romeo, *Macomb*. Record late dates for Pine Grosbeaks occurred in Duluth at 2 feeders about 2.5 mi apart, each reporting a pair of adults, the first May 5 and the other May 16 (*fide* KE). House Finches continue to expand in the Region with reports from 9 counties in Michigan, including 36 banded in May in the Detroit area (EC), and Minnesota's 4th through 6th state records, all of ad. males, all at feeders: Mar. 18 in St. Cloud (NF), Apr. 25 in Austin (R & RK, DS) and early May into June near Aitkin (m.ob.)—this last bird was the first to stay more than one day and the first to let Minnesota birders come and see him. As has become the pattern in the last several years, very few crossbills of either species were seen, even in the far north. White-wings were particularly scarce with only 5 reports for the entire Region, one each in Minnesota and Wisconsin and 3 in Michigan. Common Redpolls lingered into April at 3 Michigan and 2 Wisconsin locations with Apr. 25 in *Door*, Wis. (*fide* R & CL) the latest date. Pine Siskins were seen in large numbers throughout the Region, especially in Minnesota, with nesting confirmed in both s. Michigan and s. Wisconsin. Interestingly, there were two reports of interspecies competition between blackbirds and siskins: At a Superior, Wis., feeder during the first half of May, a grackle stalked and killed more than 20 siskins (*fide* KE) and at an *Ontonagon*, Mich., feeder, a Brewer's Blackbird killed and ate at least eight siskins (JMcD).

CONTRIBUTORS — This editor wishes to thank the many individuals who submitted records for this summary. The nature of the summary precludes listing every individual who sends in reports; therefore, only those individuals with cited records are listed below. (State Editors in boldface.) **Michigan:** Ray Adams, Tom Allen, Marc Ameels, David Baker (DBa), John Barr (JBa), Walter Booth, Bill Bouton (BB), Ellie Cox, Feller DeWitt, Jim Fowler, Chip Francke, Leonard Graf, Tom Heatley (TH), Ron Howard (RHo), Nick Ilnicky, Tim Lamey, Joe McDonnell (JMcD), Jim Ponshair (JP), **David Powell**, Jack Reinohl, William H. Riipi, Bertha M. Rollo, Laurel Roth, Don Runck, Rick Sawicki (RS), Norm Sloan, C. Roy Smith (RSm), Tom Smythe (TS), Wes Stinehelfer, Bill Taylor, Charlotte Taylor, George Wickstrom, John Will, Rick Wiltrout; **Minnesota:** Jo Blanch (JBI), Don Bolduc (DB), Keith Camburn, **Kim Eckert**, Paul Egelund, M. & D. Evans, Audrey Evers, N. Ford, R. Glassel, Ellen Hawkins, Ken & Molly Hoffman, Charles Horn, Robert Janssen (RJ), Ron & Rose Kneeskern, Henry Kyllingstad, Ken LaFond (KL), J. Mattsson (JM), Warren Nelson, Steve & Nancy Piragis, A. Schmierer, Dean Schneider, Steven Schon, R. Skayune (RSk), Keith & Shelley Steva, K. Sundquist, L. Weber, Steve Wilson/Mary Shedd; **Wisconsin:** Jim Anderson, Phillip Ashman, Jeff Baughman (JeB), Marilyn Bontly, Jon Bronson (JB), Bernie Brouchoud (BBr), Bill Cowart, Thomas Detmer, Mary Donald, Eric Epstein, Don Follen, Dennis Gustafson, William Hilsenhoff, Jim Hoefler (JHo), Randy Hoffman (RH), Joseph Hudick (JHu), Thomas Hunter (THu), John Idzikowski, Robbye Johnson (RJo), Ken Lange (KLa), Roy & Charlotte Lukes, Janine Polk (JPo), Ed Prins, Sam Robbins, Tom Schultz (TSc), Roger Sundell (RSu), Scott Swengel (SSw), **Daryl Tessen**, Dick Verch, Curt Wilda, Winnie Woodmansee, Paula Wydeven, Norma Zehner.—**DAVID J. POWELL**, Research Associate, Kalamazoo Nature Center, 7000 N. Westnedge Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007.



MIDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

/Bruce G. Peterjohn

Spring began with the return of winter weather to most of the Region. Snow cover was prevalent in the northern states while temperatures were well below normal. Sub-zero readings were widespread March 9-10, and the monthly average temperature was 5 degrees colder in March than in February at Columbus, Ohio. These unfavorable conditions reduced migration to a trickle during the first half of March and retarded migration by one-to-two weeks at month's end. However, when the migrants returned, their numbers appeared to be normal.

April's weather remained cool and wet. Average temperatures were several degrees below normal in most areas while the greatest amount of precipitation fell in Iowa, nearly six inches above normal. Arrival dates remained one-to-two weeks later than normal while unfavorable winds produced few overflights. Typical April migrants were distressingly scarce in many areas, perhaps as a result of the adverse weather conditions. Significant declines were reported for Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush and Brown Thrasher. A warming trend April 24-28 produced a strong Regionwide flight, possibly the most pronounced movement all spring.

The cool, wet weather continued throughout May. Most migration appeared to occur on only a few days with the strongest movements May 11-12 and 18-22. These migrants did not linger and relatively little activity was noted on other dates. Arrival and departure dates remained one-to-two weeks later than normal and many migrants passed through the Region well into June.

These conditions produced a largely uneventful spring. While most observers' perceptions depended upon whether or not they were out during the few flight days, most agreed that numbers were relatively low especially when compared to those of last spring. Despite the poor showing of many migrants, a typical representation of rarities was discovered in each state.



ABBREVIATIONS — S.C.R. = Squaw Creek Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Mo.; M.M.W.A. = Magee Marsh Wildlife Management Area, O.; Spfld. = Springfield, Ill. *Italicized* place names are counties.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS — Surprisingly, the only Red-throated Loon was detected at Cedar Rapids, Ia., Apr. 3-16 (†CB, †TS *et al.*); this species is a casual migrant in Iowa. Common Loons returned to all states during the last one-half of March with maxima of 18-37 reported from several sites. This spring produced an eventful grebe migration. Pied-billed Grebes remained scarce in the e. states but were numerous in the w., with a maximum of 165 at Waterloo, Ia., Apr. 14 (FM, RM). Horned Grebes were widespread through May 19 with concentrations of 40-90 reported from Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. Red-necked Grebes appeared in remarkable numbers. March reports consisted of singles along L. Michigan Mar. 3 plus inland at Laurel River L., Ky., Mar. 7-21 (†JE *et al.*) and Horseshoe L., Ill., Mar. 15-17 (JWa, †m.ob.). A small flight developed during April with singles at 3 n. Ohio locations Apr. 2-8 and 2 Iowa lakes Apr. 12-17 while a late bird remained in Clay, Ia., May 21 (†MB). As expected, small numbers of



Red-throated Loon at Cedar Rapids, Ia., Apr. 6, 1984. The extensive white on the face and neck, small bill with upturned lower mandible, and fine white speckling on the back are all evident here. Photo/Carl Bendorf.

Eared Grebes were scattered across Iowa, Missouri and Illinois after Mar. 15 although 25 at Springfield, Mo., Mar. 27 comprised a larger than normal flock (WH). They wandered E to Merom Res., Ind., Mar. 31 (KB *et al.*) and one-to-two were in Warren, Ky., May 10-13 + (†BP *et al.*). As many as four W. Grebes were noted at 3 Iowa locations Apr. 9-May 23 where they are regular spring migrants, while one at Ft. Wayne, Ind., Apr. 20 (†FH) was e. of its normal range. American White Pelicans were numerous in Iowa and Missouri where 1500 at Swan Lake N.W.R., Mo., Apr. 15 were considered normal (*vide* JW). The only report from the e. states was of one at W. Lafayette, Ind., May 16-17 (†EH *et al.*). Numbers of Double-crested Cormorants continued to improve in all areas with maxima of 100-250 in the w. states, 200-300 at East Harbor S.P., O., during April, and 20-60 at many inland locations.

HERONS, IBISES — For the 2nd consecutive spring, most herons were reported in fairly low numbers. Both bitterns remained disturbingly scarce with a total of 22 Americans and 14 Least reported this year. As many as four Snowy Egrets at one to 4 locations in each state represented a typical movement for recent springs. Small numbers of Little Blue Herons were discovered at 8 Illinois sites and 2-4 locations in the other states except Indiana. Tricolored Herons were found for the 4th consecutive year at L. Calumet, Ill., with one-to-two present May 5-June 2 (†JL *et al.*). Cattle Egrets were locally numerous in the w. states with concentrations of 140 in Ray, Mo., May 19 (MMc, CH) and 115 near Percival, Ia., May 16 (T, RS); flocks of 30-80 were found near the Mississippi R., in Kentucky and Illinois but they were fairly scarce farther e. Both night-herons appeared to be stable; the 16 Yellow-crowned reports included a flock of 17 near Aldrich, Mo., Apr. 15 (m.ob.). A Glossy Ibis was thoroughly studied at Granite City, Ill., May 15 (†PS, †RG) while a small movement of White-faced Ibises in the w. states brought one to three birds each to 4 Missouri locations and singles to 2 Iowa sites Apr. 28-May 11.

WATERFOWL — A fairly good migration developed this spring, especially for divers during March when unfavorable weather contributed to the formation of large flocks of *Aythya* ducks at many locations. However, the puddle duck migration was poor with few sizable flocks found anywhere in the Region.

A flock of nine **Fulvous Whistling-Ducks** visited Muscatatuck N.W.R., Apr. 3-15, providing the 3rd record for Indiana (†KO—ph., m.ob.). Normal numbers of Tundra Swans passed through their regular staging areas. They were more numerous than normal in c. Ohio and n.c. Iowa where 200 near Charles City, Ia., Mar. 29 were remarkable for spring (*vide* JH). Scattered birds were reported from the other states except Kentucky. Latest of several lingering swans was an immature in Seneca, O., May 31 (TBa *et al.*). Greater White-fronted Geese appeared in above-normal numbers e. of the Mississippi R. As many as 18 were found at 7 Illinois locations, 2 Indiana sightings included 15 at L.

Waveland Mar. 19-20 (AB), while singles at Ballard W.M.A., Ky., Apr. 7 (LRa, DN) and Big Island W.M.A., O., Apr. 14 (J) were locally unusual. Small numbers of Ross' Geese were reported from 2 s.w. Iowa locations where they are regular migrants. A total of 7 Cinnamon Teal sightings from Iowa Mar. 17-May 19 was greater than normal, while one wandered E to Carlyle L., Ill., Apr. 18 (†SR). Quite unexpected was an apparent N. Shoveler x Am. Wigeon hybrid at Brookville Res., Ind., Apr. 11 (JC). It was a good spring for Eur. Wigeon with at least two in the w. Lake Erie marshes, different males near Lawrenceburg, Ind.-O., Mar. 18-21 (†JBe, †RH, m.ob.) & 30-31 (†MM *et al.*), and one at Sweet Marsh, Ia., Apr. 15-17 providing only the 3rd record for that state (†FM, †RM, m.ob.).

Inland Greater Scaup sightings increased dramatically. Flocks of 50 at Mark Twain N.W.R., Ill., Mar. 2 (SR) and Brookville Res., Ind., Mar. 15 (TLe, JB) were unusual while smaller numbers elsewhere included several birds lingering through May 10. Harlequin Ducks are scarce spring migrants along the Great Lakes; hence, one at Oregon, O., Mar. 12 (JP) and one-to-two at Chicago Mar. 22-Apr. 10 (HR, JL *et al.*) were noteworthy. Oldsquaws were scarce along the Great Lakes where the largest flock was of 15. However, they staged a strong movement across Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois and Iowa where there was a total of 16 inland sightings including an unprecedented 17 at Barkley L. and 25 at Kentucky L., Ky., Mar. 31 (BP). A few Black and Surf scoters appeared along the Great Lakes while inland records consisted of two Blacks at North Branch Res., O., Apr. 25 (J) and four Surfs at Beaver-creek Res., O., Apr. 3 (TBa) plus singles at Coralville Res., Ia., Apr. 9 (T) and Mendota, Ill., Apr. 24-26 (JHm). White-winged Scoters peaked with 475 at Wilmette, Ill., Mar. 3 (JL) while a late bird lingered at Cleveland through May 31; the only inland sighting was at Columbus, O., Apr. 10 (JF). Common Goldeneyes were numerous along L. Erie where 6000 were present in *Lorain*, O., Mar. 10 (VF). Last but not least, Iowa's first *Barrow's Goldeneye* record was provided by a male photographed at Forney L., Mar. 17-Apr. 6 (†MN, †m.ob.—ph.).



Male *Barrow's Goldeneye*, Forney L., Ia., Mar. 25, 1984. First Iowa record. Photo/T.H. Kent.

HAWKS — The hawk migration got off to a slow start during March's unfavorable weather. However, a substantial movement accompanied the late April warming trend and culminated in large flights along the Great Lakes Apr. 25-28.

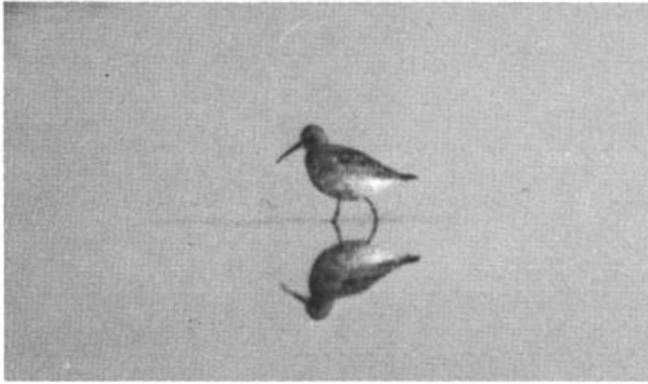
As many as seven Black Vultures at Brookville Res., Ind., through May 15 (m.ob.) and one at Horseshoe L., Ill., Apr. 26 (†JV) were n. of their normal range. Turkey Vultures peaked at 125-170 at several locations in Ohio and Indiana. Ospreys arrived on time, and their numbers continued to improve in most areas. Mississippi Kites were fairly numerous along the Mississippi R. in w. Kentucky where daily counts of 13-17 were reported during the last one-half of May. Extralimital kites wandered N to Channahon, Ill., May 5 (JO) and *Morgan*, Ill., May 13-20 (PW). Wintering Bald Eagles departed during March; migrants were more widely reported from the e. states this spring. Accipiters were generally observed in normal numbers with the largest flight composed of 140 Sharp-shinned and 22 Cooper's hawks at Dunes S.P., Ind., Apr. 26 (KB). This spring's N. Goshawk movement was comparable to last year's and consisted of one-to-three birds at each of 11 Iowa, 10 Illinois, 6 Indiana and 2 Ohio sites through May 1.

No large Red-shouldered Hawk flights developed this spring. Large numbers of Broad-winged Hawks migrated along the Great Lakes during the last week of April as exemplified by a peak of 2000+ in *Ottawa*, O., Apr. 25 (*fide* JG). This flight was not apparent inland. Swainson's Hawks invaded the w. states with 14 sightings in Iowa and 10 in Missouri including flocks of 21 at Cherokee, Ia., Apr. 30 (MBr) and 19 at Taberville Prairie, Mo., Apr. 14 (LM). In addition to Illinois' nesting birds, two were noted at Horseshoe L., Apr. 20 (†LB). A Ferruginous Hawk was discovered at Springfield, Mo., Feb. 22 where it is a casual migrant (†CT). The total of 7 Golden Eagle reports from Indiana, Ohio and Illinois was slightly greater than normal for recent springs. Both Merlins and Peregrine Falcons continued their gradual improvement with at least 12 and 26 sightings, respectively. Prairie Falcons have become rare but regular migrants through the w. states. In addition to wintering birds, single Prairies were observed near Lester, Ia., Mar. 9 (†DH), Forney L., Ia., Mar. 25 (†P) and in *Alexander*, Ill., Mar. 31 (†JRo).

GROUSE THROUGH CRANES — A Greater Prairie-Chicken in *Sullivan*, Mo., May 3 had wandered 100 mi from its normal range (RT). Rails were generally reported in fair numbers. Yellow Rails were more widely observed than normal with single birds in 4 Iowa marshes plus single locations in Missouri, Ohio and Illinois Apr. 13-May 22. The only Black Rail was captured at Fairmount, Ill., May 30 (JS). King Rails have not shown any improvement with a total of 9 sightings this spring. As many as 10-12 were noted at Little Portage River W.M.A., O. (JP *et al.*), while four adults and a nest at Reelfoot N.W.R., Ky., May 27 were unusual for that state (BP *et al.*). Peak concentrations of Virginia Rails and Soras were 17 and 37, respectively. Extralimital Purple Gallinules appeared at Mammoth Cave N.P., Ky., Apr. 28-29 (J & PB, KO—ph.), Mingo N.W.R., Mo., Apr. 28-May 14 (†RL, m.ob.) and near Alton, Ill., May 5-27 (RE, †PS, m.ob.). Common Moorhens were thought to have increased in several states. Normal numbers of Sandhill Cranes were observed along their regular migration corridor between w. Ohio and e. Illinois. Extralimital records included one-to-three at 3 Iowa locations and two in *Holmes*, O., May 2 (DK).

SHOREBIRDS — The shorebird migration was considered to be relatively good in many areas. As usual, large concentrations were very locally distributed and generally of short duration. Migrant Lesser Golden-Plovers returned Mar. 17 and peaked with 1000-4000 in Illinois and 150-900 in the other states. Two early Semipalmated Plovers returned to Louisville Apr. 6 (DN). It was a dismal spring for Piping Plovers with only 3 sightings from Iowa where a large group of 10 was found at the IPL ponds, *Pottawattamie* May 28 (BW). The 13 Am. Avocet reports constituted a normal spring flight. They were scattered across all states except Kentucky with locally unusual concentrations of 24 at Huron, O., Apr. 27 (DC, TL) and 22 near Rockford, Ill., Apr. 28 (LJ). Numbers of Willets continued to improve. They appeared at a total of 38 locations in all states but were most numerous in the w. states with a maximum of 64 at the IPL ponds, Ia., Apr. 26 (BW). In the e. states, largest reported flocks consisted of six to 15 Willets. A remarkably early Spotted Sandpiper returned to S.C.R., Mar. 7 (L). Upland Sandpipers were generally discovered in normal numbers at traditional nesting areas. The flock of 101 Whimbrels in *Wayne*, O., May 26 was unprecedented for this Region (JHe, DK). Between three and seven were found at 3 n. Ohio sites while singles at Hendrickson Marsh, Ia., May 12-13 (†SD *et al.*), Jefferson City, Mo., May 19 (JR), *Ray*, Mo., May 19 (CH, MMc) and LaMoille, Ill., June 3-5 (†JHm, m.ob.) were unexpected. Hudsonian Godwits were restricted to Iowa, Illinois and Missouri with a maximum of 67 at Colo, Ia., May 11 (HZ). Marbled Godwits were fairly scarce with one to six reported from 5 Iowa and 2 Ohio locations.

Red Knots were restricted to Ohio with scattered sightings along L. Erie plus 2 inland reports including a remarkable 47 in *Seneca*, O., May 18 (TBa). An early Sanderling returned to Columbus, O., Apr. 23 (JF). They were scarce along the Great Lakes but appeared at scattered inland sites where one at Kentucky L., May 9 (CP) and three in *Fulton* May 27 (BP *et al.*) provided rare spring records from Kentucky. A Semipalmated Sandpiper at Colo., Ia., Apr. 14 was early (T). Single W. Sandpipers were scattered across Illinois and Missouri while 12 in *Allen*, Ind., May 18 provided a remarkable spring concentration anywhere in the Region (Haw). White-rumped Sandpipers were observed in normal numbers



Curlew Sandpiper in Seneca Co., O., May 16, 1984. First confirmed Ohio record. Photo/Tom Bartlett.

with maxima of 30-100 in the w. states. An early Baird's Sandpiper returned to Spfld., Apr. 19 (H); migrants were scattered across the w. states where the largest flock was 20. Dunlins were generally reported in good numbers. This spring's most unusual shorebird was Ohio's first confirmed **Curlew Sandpiper** discovered in Seneca May 16 (†TBa—ph., m.ob.). Stilt Sandpipers were fairly scarce with a maximum of 10 in the w. states and scattered birds e. to Indiana. Unusual spring Buff-breasted Sandpiper concentrations consisted of 40 in Ray, Mo., May 19 (CH, MMc) and 31 at Forney L., Ia., May 20 (*vide* TB). The 3 Ruff reports were normal for spring with a male in Seneca, O., May 16 (†LR, TBa) and single females in Allen, Ind., May 18-19 (†Haw) and Monroe, Ill., May 19 (†PB *et al.*). Short-billed Dowitchers were fairly scarce while Long-billed sightings included one to 10 at 6 Iowa locations, one-to-four at 3 Illinois sites and one report along L. Erie. Wilson's Phalaropes were widely reported from all states except Kentucky with maxima of 400 in s.w. Iowa Apr. 28 (FM, RS) and four to 17 in the other states. Small numbers of Red-necked Phalaropes were discovered at 4 Iowa locations and along L. Erie.

GULLS, TERNS — The return of winter weather during March was accompanied by the reappearance of winter gull concentrations on the Great Lakes. These concentrations dispersed by month's end although a number of these species lingered well into spring. Single Laughing Gulls were noted at 3 L. Erie locations, while the only inland sighting was one at Horseshoe L., Ill., May 13-14 (†DB). Few Franklin's Gulls wandered E of the Mississippi R. this spring with a maximum of four in Illinois and scattered singles in Ohio. Little Gulls are accidental away from the Great Lakes; hence, an adult at Carlyle L., Ill., Apr. 18-24 (†SR *et al.*) and an immature at L. St. Mary's, O., May 14 (†J) were unexpected. Only one was found on L. Erie this spring. Bonaparte's Gulls were scarce along L. Erie but unusually common at many inland locations as exemplified by peaks of 270-275 in s. Illinois and Kentucky. The first **California Gull** observed in Kentucky was photographed at Kentucky Dam Mar. 31 (†BP). A probable sighting from the same location May 16 (†S *et al.*) may have pertained to the same individual. Along the Great Lakes, March Thayer's Gull reports included 11 in Chicago and a maximum of three on L. Erie where one remained at Huron, O., through May 10 (TL). One at Barkley Dam, Ky., Apr. 6 (†DN, LRA) was quite late for an inland location. Small numbers of Iceland Gulls were scattered across the Great Lakes during March and one remained at Cleveland through May 6 (VF). An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull was discovered at Barkley Dam Apr. 1, providing the 3rd sighting for Kentucky (†BM, †DN *et al.*). At least four were present on L. Erie into early May. As many as seven Glaucous Gulls were reported along the Great Lakes during March where one lingered at Huron, O., through May 9 (VF). The only inland bird was found at Savanna, Ill., Mar. 26 (BS). Small numbers of Great Black-backed Gulls were observed on L. Michigan during March where they are rare but regular. More unusual were inland singles at Louisville Mar. 14-18 (†DN, †BP) and at Salamonie Res., Ind., Apr. 15 (SS). Black-legged Kittiwakes are casual anywhere in the Region during spring but an immature in s.w. Missouri at Springfield Mar. 17 was remarkable (†DT, CBo).

Caspian Terns were fairly numerous with maxima of 220 at Cleveland Apr. 21 (VF) and 71-79 at several inland locations. In contrast, Com. Terns were alarmingly scarce along L. Erie where the largest flock was of only 25. Few were reported from the other states although 16 at Rathbun Res., May 19 were unusual in Iowa (RC). Forster's Terns continued to increase, especially in the e. states where they outnumbered Com. Terns. However, no large concentrations were reported along L. Michigan. It was an encouraging year for Least Terns with one-to-six observed at one Missouri, one Illinois, 2 Iowa and 4 w. Kentucky locations. A remarkably early Black Tern returned to Oldham, Ky., Apr. 7 (DN). This species received mixed reports, being generally scarce in the e. states and fairly numerous in the w. where the largest flock was 200 at Anderson L., Ia., May 12 (SD *et al.*).

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Cuckoos were universally late and scarce. They did not return to most areas until the last half of May; their decline is a continuation of a trend originally noted 2-3 years ago. In addition to nesting reports, Com. Barn-Owls were reported from a total of 8 locations in all states except Indiana. Their population remains very low although management practices undertaken in several states may prove to be beneficial for this species. The latest Snowy Owl remained in LaSalle, Ill., Apr. 1 (JHm) while the only Burrowing Owl was recovered in Lake, Ill., Apr. 26 (RHe). The other migrant owls were also scarce with one-to-three Long-eareds at 8 locations, as many as 12 Short-eareds scattered across 10 sites in all states except Kentucky, and one-to-two N. Saw-whets at 5 locations in the n. states. Common Nighthawks were also remarkably late, not arriving at many localities until the last 10 days of May. Chuck-will's-widows continued their slow N range expansion, returning to their traditional locations and appearing at Willow Slough W.M.A., Ind., Apr. 28 (KB), Cook, Ill., May 20 (PD) and Henderson, Ill., June 9 (†MBA). An early Chimney Swift returned to Dayton, O., Apr. 2 (JGA) while a strong movement brought 1000+ to Cleveland May 16 (VF). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds received mixed reports but at least a few observers noted increases this spring. Woodpeckers elicited few comments. An apparent *nuchalis* race of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was photographed at Chicago Apr. 28 (†JL), providing one of very few e. records of this race (species?). A Pileated Woodpecker in Marshall, Ia., May 4 was w. of its normal range in Iowa (BPr *et al.*).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CREEPER — An apparent **Western Wood-Pewee** was identified by voice at Urbana, Ill., May 26 (†RC) providing the 3rd record from Illinois and the first during spring. The *Empidonax* flycatcher migration was generally late and in reduced numbers from last year. As expected, Yellow-bellied and Alder flycatchers were widely reported in small numbers during the last half of May. As an indication of this year's late migration, a sizable flycatcher movement along L. Erie June 2-3 included many Leasts, normally scarce in n. Ohio after May 20. Say's Phoebes have apparently abandoned their traditional nesting location in n.w. Iowa. Normal numbers of W. Kingbirds were reported from the w. states while single birds wandered E to Hancock, Ill., May 12 (RA) and Fulton, Ill., May 31-June 1 (LA, VH). Fewer E. Kingbirds were reported except for a strong movement in s. Illinois where 44-69 were found in 3 counties. Extralimital Scissor-tailed Flycatchers wandered N to Iowa with one in Wayne May 4 (*vide* JD) and two at Milford May 8 (*vide* DH) and E to Illinois with singles at Macomb May 5 (†EF) and near Vandalia May 30-31 (PW1).

The first Purple Martin returned to Somerset, Ky., Mar. 15 (JE) but arrival dates were much later in the other states. Numbers were thought to be down as a result of the cold spring weather. Few sizable concentrations of the other swallows were reported, most noteworthy being 2600 Trees in LaPorte, Ind., Apr. 22 (S & DP) and 218 Cliffs in Madison, Ill., May 5 (RG). They also arrived relatively late; the only unusually early sighting was a Barn Swallow at Cleveland Mar. 20 (VF). Migrant Blue Jays peaked along L. Erie May 7 & 22 when thousands were observed. The normal small numbers of Fish Crows were noted along the Mississippi R., n. to St. Louis. A few wandered away from the river with 2 sightings from s. Illinois and one in Trigg, Ky., Mar. 30 (CP). Red-breasted Nuthatches were widely reported in small numbers this spring. Numbers of Brown Creepers were lower than last year although local concentrations of 15-30 were found in Ohio and Indiana.



Rock Wren, n.w. Woodbury Co., Ia., May 21, 1984. Third record for Iowa. Photo/T.H. Kent.



Female Black-throated Gray Warbler at Chicago, May 10, 1984. Fifth Illinois record. Photo/Joe Milosevich.

WRENS THROUGH SHRIKES — Iowa's 3rd **Rock Wren** record was provided by one photographed in *Woodbury* May 21 (†T, †RS). Bewick's Wrens improved slightly with one-to-three at 5 locations in Kentucky and Illinois, 2 w. Missouri reports plus singles in Iowa at Oakville May 2 (P) and Waubonsie S.P., May 24 (†TB, †BPa). Sedge Wrens remained scarce in the e. states while Marsh Wrens received mixed reports without any apparent pattern to their distribution. A late Golden-crowned Kinglet remained in *Marshall*, Ill., May 12 (LA). While Golden-crowns were rather scarce, Ruby-crowned Kinglets were locally numerous with a maximum of 90 along L. Erie. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers remained in good numbers with an exceptional 106 in *Massac*, Ill., May 5 (DR).

Good numbers of E. Bluebirds continued to be reported from most areas. A Townsend's Solitaire was observed near Greenville, Mo., Apr. 24 (†A & LC); this species is a casual visitor to the w. states. With the exception of Hermit Thrushes, the *Catharus* thrushes passed through the Region in generally good numbers. Veeries and Gray-cheekeds were plentiful during the first half of May including a remarkable 52 Gray-cheekeds at Giant City S.P., Ill., May 12 (DR). The peak Swainson's Thrush movement occurred during the last half of May and into early June. This winter's Varied Thrushes lingered later than normal, into March at Indianapolis (*vide* CK), through Mar. 31 at Reynoldsburg, O. (*vide* JF), and Apr. 19 at Davenport, Ia. (*vide* P). Water Pipits were widespread with maxima of 30-150 except for thousands in *Ottawa*, O., May 7 (JP). The Cedar Waxwing migration was fairly typical with small numbers scattered across all states during March and April plus a strong Regionwide movement during the latter half of May which brought 1370 past Michigan City, Ind., during 70 minutes on the morning of May 19 (KB *et al.*). Northern Shrikes were discovered at 3 localities in the n. states with the latest Apr. 3 in *Porter*, Ind. (KB *et al.*). Loggerhead Shrikes appeared to be stable in portions of Kentucky and Missouri but remained scarce in Ohio, Illinois and Indiana where one-to-three were reported from a total of 5 locations.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — When they finally arrived, vireos generally appeared in relatively good numbers. While some of the resident birds returned by late April, the bulk of the movement occurred in mid- to late May. An early White-eyed Vireo returned to Springfield, Mo., Mar. 24 (CBo *et al.*). A total of 62 White-eyed in Giant City S.P., Ill., May 12 (DR) was remarkable even for the s. portions of this Region. Normal numbers of Bell's Vireos were reported from every state. Singles in *Allen*, Ind., May 7 (*vide* Haw) and at *Headlands* S.P., O., May 26 (†LR, J) were locally unexpected. Good numbers of Philadelphia Vireos were generally observed during the last half of May.

The warbler migration was disappointing, especially when compared with last year's exceptional numbers. Along L. Erie, this spring's flights produced the following concentrations: 50 Black-throated Blues, 300 Yellow-rumps and 50 Black-and-whites May 11; 150 Bay-breasteds May 18; and 120 Magnolias May 22 (VF, D & JH). However, these numbers were not representative of Regionwide trends. In addition,

many species exhibited very localized patterns of distribution, being relatively abundant in one area and scarce in another.

A total of 17 Golden-winged Warblers in *Wayne* and *Union*, Ind., May 12 was exceptional (*vide* BB). Five Brewster's and two Lawrence's warblers were noted from Indiana, Ohio and Missouri this spring. In the w. states, Cape May Warblers were found at one Missouri and 4 Iowa sites while the only Black-throated Blue was reported from Hoene Springs, Mo., May 5 (PG). An "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler was observed at DeSoto N.W.R., Ia., Apr. 26 (TB *et al.*). This spring's most unusual warbler was Illinois' 5th **Black-throated Gray Warbler** discovered at Chicago May 2-10 (RB, †m.ob.—ph.). An early Black-throated Green Warbler returned to Horseshoe Lake W.M.A., Ill., Mar. 31 (†JRo) while a Pine Warbler at Dunes S.P., Apr. 5 was very early for n. Indiana (*vide* KB). Three Cerulean Warblers were unusual in w. Missouri at Van Meter S.P., May 5 (KH). Swainson's Warblers were restricted to their normal haunts near the Mississippi R. in w. Kentucky and s. Illinois. *Oporornis* warblers returned to normal numbers this spring. As many as three Connecticut's were reported from scattered localities in all states while Mournings were also widespread with maxima of four to eight.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — Since there were few overflights this spring, the appearance of Summer Tanagers at 31 locations n. of their normal breeding range was unexpected. Most noteworthy were 2 sightings from n.w. Iowa, at Storm L., Apr. 30 (MPT) and near Spirit L., May 12 (DH). Accidental anywhere in the Region, a ♂ **Western Tanager** was closely studied near Subula, Ia., May 15 (†LJ). Blue Grosbeaks returned to most traditional locations while overflights were reported from Willow Slough W.M.A., Ind., May 17 (KB), Braidwood, Ill., May 18-23 (JM) and Rockford, Ill., May 27 (LJ). A ♂ Lazuli Bunting was reported from St. Louis May 10 (†RK *et al.*) at a different location than last spring's sighting. Painted Buntings returned to 2 s.w. Missouri sites where they breed in small numbers.

The sparrow migration was also late and generally unimpressive. The only Bachman's Sparrow was discovered in *Calloway*, Ky., May 28 (BP *et al.*). It was a good spring for Clay-colored Sparrows with a maximum of 30 at Independence, Mo., Apr. 20-23 (KH), 7 Illinois sightings, and Indiana singles at New Market May 7 (AB) and Dunes S.P., May 11 (†KB). Lark Sparrows remained scarce in the e. states although as many as 50 migrated through w. Missouri. The only Lark Bunting appeared in n.w. Iowa in Sioux May 24 (†T, †RS). Grassland sparrows elicited few comments with small numbers of Henslow's Sparrows noted in every state. Small numbers of LeConte's Sparrows were also reported e. to n.w. Indiana this spring. A very late Fox Sparrow lingered in *Allen*, Ind., through May 15 (BWa). Lincoln's Sparrows appeared in fairly good numbers although 100 at Euclid, O., May 11 (DC) was not representative of the smaller numbers found elsewhere. Harris' Sparrows peaked with 60 in *Cherokee*, Ia., May 9 (MBr). Farther e., there was one sighting in Illinois, plus Indiana singles in *Noble* May 2 (TH, FH) and Michigan City May 15 (*vide* KB). The main

Lapland Longspur movement occurred in early March with 3000 in Jasper, Ill., Mar. 10 (LH) and 1000-1300 in c. Iowa Mar. 7-14. Flocks of 200-500 were reported elsewhere in Iowa and Illinois through Apr. 22 but only small numbers appeared in the other states. Smith's Longspurs peaked in c. Illinois with flocks totalling 400 and 500 near Spfld., Mar. 31 & Apr. 4 (H *et al.*). Smaller numbers were discovered at one Missouri, 4 Iowa and 4 additional Illinois sites. To the e., 51 in Jay, Ind., Apr. 7 comprised a large flock for that state (BB) while one at Cleveland May 5 (JT, fm.ob.) provided one of few recent records for Ohio. Snow Buntings lingered much later than normal with flocks in excess of 1000 along L. Erie through Mar. 23 and scattered birds through Apr. 13.

Both W. Meadowlarks and Yellow-headed Blackbirds returned to traditional summer locations e. to w. Lake Erie. In addition, extralimital Yellow-headed Blackbirds were noted at 3 s.w. Missouri sites and 4 Illinois locations away from the metropolitan Chicago area. The normal small numbers of Brewer's Blackbirds were reported from all states except Indiana; largest flocks totalled 20-30 in Iowa and w. Kentucky. The Great-tailed Grackle range expansion continued. In Iowa, they returned to Riverton W.M.A., May 15 (†T) while a pair and nest were newly discovered in Greene May 17+ (MB, JD). In w. Missouri, 100 were roosting at Mud L., Apr. 4 (L) and they also appeared at previously undiscovered sites in Newton during April (CH) and Cass May 5 (DM). Northern Orioles passed through most areas in good numbers.

Purple Finches were locally numerous this spring with the largest flocks of 50-80 reported from Kentucky and Ohio. The House Finch invasion continued to expand w. They were spreading through c. and s. Illinois where there were 5 sightings this spring. The origins of House Finches in w. Missouri posed an intriguing question as one appeared in Kansas City Mar. 3-29 (CH), three near Cuba Mar. 21-22 (†JWi), and two in Cass Apr. 10 (JGr). Did these birds come from the e. or w. populations? The only Red Crossbill reports were received from single locations in Missouri and Illinois. Pine Siskins were widely scattered in small numbers with the peak movement during early May. They lingered through the end of May at several locations where nesting was suspected. An impressive 1600 Am. Goldfinches passed by M.M.W.A., May 7 (JP). Evening Grosbeaks were also widespread during May. Generally small numbers were reported although flocks of 100+ appeared in Ohio and Kentucky. They lingered much later than normal, well into May in all states with the latest report May 22 at Valley Station, Ky. (DS).

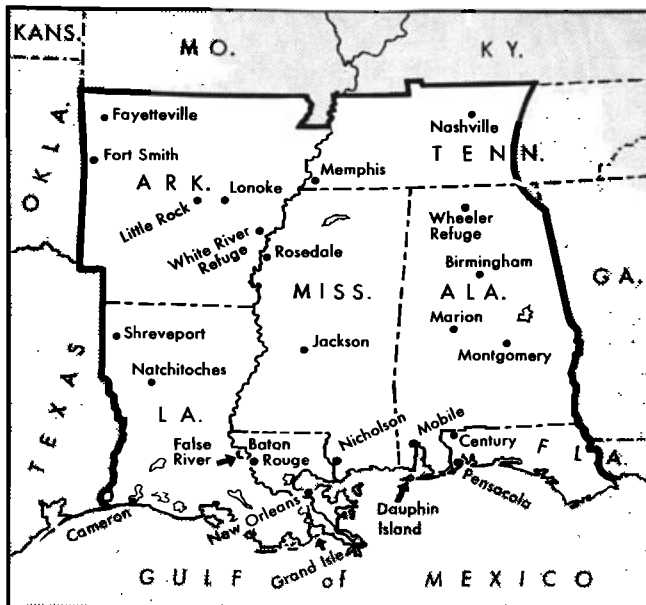
CORRIGENDUM — In AB 37: 995 the photograph of the Clay-colored Sparrow nest should have been credited to Joe Milosevich.

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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

/Thomas A. Imhof

After a record-breaking cold winter, plant development in the Region was judged about two weeks late, evident in pollen problems. Birds that wintered in the United States were also late, but those from south of the border made rapid progress inland on strong southerly winds and were early. Unusual species came not only from the south but also from the west and east, and holdovers from the cold winter provided a few northerners as well. Although May was rather wet, April and spring as a whole were quite dry, especially on the coast which experienced mostly dry "northers" and many fair, warm days with southeast winds. Some comments follow: from Pensacola, "very dull spring"—Curtis Kingsbery and "fairly good for migrants though nothing to compare with last year."—Bob Duncan; from Mississippi, "unremarkable . . . slow to get started . . . not dynamic at any time."—Judy Toups; from Louisiana, "we had almost no weather that would ground migrants."—Dan Purrington, "lacklustre at best; little frontal activity and almost no precipitation."—David Muth, and "south winds were incredibly strong throughout most of the season, so migrants probably sailed past the coast for hundreds of miles."—Nancy Newfield. But these same southerly winds brought unusual birds from south of the border and prompted Ronald Stein to say, "This spring will go down as the most exciting ever."



Often the amount of precipitation is rather constant, so that if one area has a drought, another has a flood. Thus Bob Newman found Louisiana mudflats powder dry and Dan Purrington reported New Orleans rainfall eight inches below normal as of the end of May, while Tom Atkeson reported Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge shorebird habitats flooded out and eastern Tennessee floods kept the Tennessee River in this condition for many weeks. No wonder shorebirds have such long, pointed wings; they need them to be able to fly extra hundreds of miles to find adequate habitat. Many of them however were aided by strong, southerly winds and were logged as early. Inland, observers reported good concentrations of migrants in northwestern Arkansas, middle and western Tennessee, and northern Alabama. Comments from the Tennessee Valley of Alabama were: ". . . 28 species of warblers, six vireos . . . but migrant thrushes . . . less abundant than previous springs."—Glenn Piper, Tusculumbia; from Birmingham, 100 miles south of the Tennessee Valley, "short three inches of rain as of June 1. Land birds peaked April 20-May 8, featuring good numbers of Red-eyed Vireos, Tennessee, Yellow-rumped, Blackpoll, and Palm warblers, but cuckoos, Common Nighthawk, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Empidonacines late, and American Redstart scarce and late."—Imhof. Bob Newman's comments deserve special mention. He was "in the field just about every week . . . several times to the coast . . . witnessed nothing remotely in a class with the

great migratory concentrations of bygone years. Reduction of breeding habitat alone is almost a guarantee that probably trans-Gulf migrants really are fewer." But birding almost always has its saving features: "Imagine watching a Gray Kingbird doing battle with a Tropical Kingbird in the town of Grand Isle!" Bob points out what might be called the "Weston Syndrome:" as Francis Weston got older "each spring's migration was worse than the one before." Those of us with several decades of experience note with sadness that the numbers of spring migrants are noticeably decreasing!

S.A.

IDENTIFICATION — Many observers seem to depend too heavily on pattern to make identifications. Birds advertise their species in many ways, and birders need to take advantage of all these clues, otherwise they will be calling partial albinos Snow Buntings! Birders need to use voice, shape, posture, flight, relative proportions, habitat, season, and many other features, called by Peter Harrison, "jizz." A good way to acquire the ability to use jizz in identifications is to make practice identifications of backlighted birds, then go around with the sun behind you and check. True, in some groups, especially land birds, many species have jizz so much alike that pattern must be used for species identification, e.g., *Dendroica* warblers. But others can hardly be identified by pattern alone either because individuals vary so much—*Buteos*, Ruff, Rock Dove—or because the species vary so little—gulls, terns, peeps, flycatchers. Thank goodness all species need to advertise their identity in some way even when their plumages are very much alike. But outside the breeding season when in immature or winter plumage, birds often have little need to advertise their species identity, so it is important to learn the jizz of identifiable adults first.

Another identification problem is the fellow who logs experience with a species on vacation. Often the bird is pointed out to him and he has no need to search through his Peterson or track down strange calls. So, the field marks do not stick with him. Different though is the fellow who logs experience with the species by living for awhile in its range (transferred there by his company, in the Service or otherwise) and, as all teachers know, these identifications stay with him and the species has a firm place on his life list.

CONTRIBUTORS — We greatly appreciate all contributors who: a) send in reports as soon after June 1 as possible, b) make comments on the season and its effect on birds, c) report all noteworthy records on 3 × 5 cards (obtainable anywhere) with locality including state, date including year, legible observer and place names, **DETAILS OF IDENTIFICATION**, and significance. We are often forced by time considerations to assume that most records not submitted on cards are not considered very noteworthy!

ABBREVIATIONS — A.F.B. = Air Force Base; L.S.U.M.Z. = Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology; N.A.S. = Naval Air Station. Counties and parishes are in *italics*.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — After the die-off of 1982-1983, fewer Com. Loons appeared on the Gulf this winter and spring, and they were mostly in groups of two to 10 rather than singly as usual; many appeared inland, the latest report being on May 21 at L. Porter, *Jefferson* (TI). The latest of several Eared Grebes was one in summer plumage on L. Porter Apr. 21 (TI, LAT). A dark-phase W. Grebe on Budd Kidd L., *Washington*, Mar. 13 was the 11th for Arkansas but only the 2nd for the w. Ozarks (JN, BK). At Gulf Shores, Ala., Apr. 8 with a SE wind about 25 m.p.h., three shearwaters were seen (with a telescope) about 5 min apart flying W in typical shearwater fashion. They appeared gray, paler below, and about the size of a Ring-billed Gull; their bills were light and no head pattern was evident. Although an identification could not be made, they were most likely Cory's (TI). An imm. Masked Booby was seen flying W just offshore at Gulf Shores Apr. 5 (TI, MN); there are now more than 20 records for Alabama, and it has been recorded every year since 1971. An imm. Brown Booby flying S out of Mobile Bay just above the water Apr. 16 (RD) furnished the 12th Alabama record; it has been found in 7 of the years since 1975.

By scanning the Gulf with a telescope, five to 40 N. Gannets/hour were noted in early April, all flying W, away from their breeding grounds—a puzzle to birders for decades. The currents in the Gulf go N along the w. coast of Florida, W along the n. coast, then are deflected S by the Mississippi R. outflow, then SE through the Florida Straits; turning N close to the Miami shore, this current becomes the Gulf Stream. The birds by following this current can go all the way to Bonaventure I. An exception that proved the rule was the adult at Peveto Beach, *Cameron*, May 27 (BC, LH); latest for Louisiana? About 150 Am. White Pelicans, migrating N over Elkins, *Washington*, Mar. 23 were the earliest for n.w. Arkansas (DJ, KS). Brown Pelicans continued to increase in Mississippi, Alabama, and n.w. Florida to the delight of local birders (CK, JT, VF, m.ob.). A **Great Cormorant** at Biloxi Apr. 10 provided the 4th Mississippi record, 3rd successive year (JT); one, possibly two on Dauphin I., Apr. 13-15 (JT, MBA, m.ob.) set the latest date in the 4 years it has become regular on the Alabama coast. Two ad. Anhingas at Waterloo, *Lauderdale*, May 27 (GP) revived the hope that the species will again breed in n. Alabama. Scattered records in Arkansas, n. Alabama, and Tennessee lent hope that many herons also may eventually breed again in the n. part of the Region. Encouraging was the report of 140+ nests of Black-crowned Night-Herons near Nashville (JRS). At Choctaw N.W.R., Mar. 10, about 25 White Ibises (CK, F.M.W.A.S.P.) were unusual this early in inland Alabama. Also unusual was an ad. Glossy Ibis at close range at Sabine N.W.R., La., Mar. 25 (DMu, GR).

WATERFOWL — Ten **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** (one *L.S.U.M.Z.) seen in ricefields near Bayou Lacassine, La., Apr. 21 were with thousands of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks and gave every evidence of being wild (BC, SH). Some of them could have been part of the southern bird influx. Greater White-fronted Geese were reported from 4 states: one near Pensacola Mar. 1, present since Feb. 17, established the 2nd record for n.w. Florida (BM); 400 at Arkadelphia, Ark., with 700 Snows and 25 Canadas Mar. 11 (H & MP) dwindled to two Mar. 24 (L & JS); 100+ also with Snows and Canadas were at Moffett, Okla., 1.5 mi w. of Ft. Smith, Ark., Mar. 13 (JN, BB); 15 in Louisiana at Lacassine N.W.R., with 77 Snows were very late Apr. 21 (BC, SH); most geese, though, left in early March. Several Am. Black Ducks appeared on coastal CBCs, two were in *Hancock*, Miss., Mar. 13 (JT, GM), and two at UNO-East, *Orleans*, Mar. 20 were the latest for s.e. Louisiana (DMu). A ♂ Garganey Apr. 1 in *Pulaski* was the first to be found in Arkansas, but may not have been wild (LP). A ♀ Blue-winged Teal with three young at Waveland Sewage Pond, *Hancock*, Miss., provided the 2nd local breeding record (JT, DaK, DoK). Five Greater Scaup were seen on Budd Kidd L., *Washington*, Ark., Mar. 13 (JN, BK). Oldsquaws still appear off Biloxi, 30 on Mar. 30 (JT); inland they were seen in Alabama Mar. 3 at L. Jackson, *Covington* and Mar. 24 at Eufaula N.W.R., *Barbour* (CK, F.M.W.A.S.P.); also Dec. 28-Apr. 2, a female joined by a male Jan. 23 and by another male Apr. 2 at L. Porter (TI, M & RR, m.ob.). A possibly injured first-winter ♂ Com. Goldeneye, on L. Porter, *Jefferson*, Dec. 17, 1983-May 21 set the latest spring date and may have remained to provide the first summer record for Alabama (TI, m.ob.). A ♀ Hooded Merganser was with three young near Tiptonville, *Lake*, Tenn., May 8 (S & BS). Peak of a good flight of Red-breasted Mergansers through Alabama in mid-March was a count of 1150 at Waterloo on the 18th (GP).

HAWKS — A general increase in Ospreys in this Region, especially of breeders, was shown by four pairs, three at nests in *Jackson*, Miss., Mar. 3 (JT, JD). American Swallow-tailed Kites seemed more numerous this spring; most seen, eight Mar. 24 at Logtown, *Hancock*, Miss. (JT, m.ob.) and on Dauphin Apr. 14 (PB, m.ob.); one was in Huntsville Apr. 28 (BoH, ph.) for the northernmost record in Alabama, 4th n. of the Fall Line; and one exhausted bird was 20 mi s. of the mouth of the Mississippi R., on an oil rig May 4 (*vide* MMy). The latter bird was taken to the Audubon Zoo bird rehabilitation center in New Orleans, recovered, and was later released on Pearl River W.M.A., La., in suitable habitat. Black-shouldered Kites were at Johnson's Bayou, *Cameron*, one Feb. 4 (BC, LH); in *Hancock*, Miss., a pair present throughout the winter produced adult-sized young by May 16 (JT, m.ob.). A kettle of 40 Mississippi Kites was seen Apr. 29 at L. Chicot S.P., Ark (DRS). Near Slidell, *St. Tammany*, La., two full-grown young were in a Bald Eagle nest Mar. 22 and perched out of the nest Mar. 24 (JT,

m.ob.); at Cross Creeks N.W.R., Tenn., three young were produced by Apr. 13 but one later died (RV, CG); late eagles in Louisiana and Alabama raised hopes of more breeding pairs elsewhere in the future (GP, DMu). Late N. Harriers were at Venice, La., Apr. 15 (DMu, MMy, RDP), and in Fernvale, *Williamson*, Tenn., May 5 (LR, JA). Late Sharp-shinned Hawks were at Ft. Morgan, Ala., Apr. 21 (CK, FW, MLM, OF) and at Greenwood I., *Jackson*, Miss., a whole month late May 23 (JT, DaK).

Early Broad-winged Hawks were in *Walton*, Fla., Mar. 3 (CK, F.M.W.A.S.P.); Grand Isle, *Jefferson*, La., Mar. 11 (DMu, NoN); and *Hancock*, Miss., Mar. 22 (JT, MBa). Swainson's Hawks were rather numerous in the w. part of the Region; 14 birds in at least 6 places in *Washington*, *Benton*, and *Pope*, Ark., with three in May, latest 23rd at Fayetteville (KS, m.ob.); 15 light-phase adults in Gum Cove, *Calcasieu*, La., Apr. 18 (BC, m.ob.); in Mississippi a dark-phase bird Feb. 22-Mar. 8 (JT, MBa, EJ) and a light-phase one Mar. 27 (JT, CDJ), both in *Hancock*, provided the 2nd and 3rd records for the state. One Rough-legged Hawk was in Columbia, Tenn., Mar. 1 (KA), but a much later one was in *St. Tammany*, La., Mar. 22 (JT, MBa). Of several Merlins reported, one Apr. 5 at Ft. Morgan made 2 passes over the shrubby marsh and flushed 42 E. Kingbirds each time (TI); another at the Shell Mounds on Dauphin Apr. 15 was chased off the island by a ♂ Purple Martin (TI); a female at Herbert's Bottoms, *Cheatham*, Tenn., May 6 was late (CGD, RJM). Peregrine Falcons were listed from all states. One Mar. 25 at Sabine N.W.R., La., was of the race *tundrius* (DMu, GR); the latest was an immature May 8 at Centerton, *Benton*, Ark. (MMI).

RAILS THROUGH PHALAROPES — One or two Virginia Rails were seen or heard Jan. 2-Apr. 24 at Bayview L., *Jefferson*, Ala. The species has wintered here for almost 40 years (cf. *Alabama Birds*, 1976) yet is listed as casual in interior North America by the A.O.U. Checklist (1983). Soras flocked through: 27 seen simultaneously Apr. 24 at Monsanto Ponds, *Maury*, Tenn. (A & OBL); 25 on Apr. 28 in *Hancock* and *Jackson*, Miss. (JT, DaK, DoK); and 14 in *Pulaski*, Ark. (RC, WCi). Earliest Purple Gallinules were Apr. 1 at Biloxi (JT); 3 places in *Cheatham* and *Maury*, Tenn., May 5, 6 & 12 (CGD, RJM, S & BS); and in a flooded yard in Glenwood, *Pike*, Ark., Apr. 26-May 9 (CR). Flocks of Sandhill Cranes were observed in Tennessee Mar. 1 at Manchester, *Coffee*, 16 (GY); Mar. 10 at Byrdstown, *Pickett*, 22 (RCH); and Mar. 13 in Nashville, 28 (AC).

The 93+ Lesser Golden-Plovers Mar. 17 were actually at Moffett, Okla., 1.5 mi w. of Ft. Smith, Ark. (JN, RiS). Inland Piping Plovers were both in Tennessee, Apr. 28-May 6 at Monsanto Ponds (*vide* AL) and May 8 near Tiptonville (BS). A **Mountain Plover**, seen well and described at length (CDD, RWH, PF, DB) at the airport on Dauphin I., furnished the 3rd record for Alabama. Among the Am. Avocet records were 2 from inland: 30 on Apr. 21 in Mena, *Polk*, Ark. (D, L, S & WB) and four May 9 at Old Hickory Dam, Tenn. (BP); four late ones were at Pensacola May 19 (CK, F.M.W.A.S.P.). Two Willets were near Omaha, *Boone*, Ark., Apr. 21; 11 were at Budd Kidd L., *Washington*, Ark., Apr. 28, and six were there May 2 (MMI, BK); and 80+ were at Ashland City, Tenn. (CGD, RJM). A good count for the Ozarks was the 12 Upland Sandpipers at Centerton Apr. 24 (JN, RiS). Any number is a good count for Whimbrels in the Ozarks where two were seen at Budd Kidd L., May 23 (JN, EA).

All Hudsonian Godwits were on the w. edge of the Region; in *Calcasieu*, La., near Gum Cove, 21 on Apr. 15 and 12 on Apr. 18 (BC, m.ob.); in Johnson's Bayou, *Cameron*, La., one Apr. 29 (MW, RS); at Centerton, 26 on May 12, a really good count for anywhere in Arkansas (BS, MMI, m.ob.). For Marbled Godwit, 75 on Mar. 18 at Fourchon Rd., *La Fourche*, La., was a very high number (DMu, RDP); and one Mar. 22 at Swan Creek W.M.A., *Limestone* (DCH), set the earliest record for inland Alabama. Also earliest for inland Alabama were three Ruddy Turnstones at Decatur, *Limestone* Apr. 26 (DCH), while two at Centerton May 28 (MMI) were late for Arkansas. White-rumped Sandpipers were very early at Fourchon Rd., La., Apr. 22 (MMy, DMu, NoN) and Apr. 29 two were at Gallatin, *Sumner*, Tenn. (D & PC). White-rumped peaked at Pascagoula R. Marsh at 100+ May 12 (JT, CR, m.ob.), and up to 150 were at Centerton, Ark., May 2-12 (MMI *et al.*). A near-record high of 160 Pectoral Sandpipers was at Town Cr., *Lawrence*, Ala., Mar. 25 (GP). Silt Sandpiper high counts were 93 at Centerton May 13 (BSa) and 575 on Blakely I., *Mobile*, Ala. (GJ, DeJ).

Five Buff-breasted Sandpipers May 12 at the Bentonville Airport (BSa) were the first ever for the Arkansas Ozarks. A pair of Am. Woodcock was in courtship near Malvern, Ark., on the late date of Apr. 23 (H & MP). On Blakely I., an early Wilson's Phalarope was present Apr. 28 (CK, JW) and three more were there May 13 (GJ, DeJ); 30 were at the Centerton Hatchery May 2 (BK, MMI); one was at the Gallatin Steam Plant, Tenn., May 6 (LK); and three were near Tiptonville, Tenn., May 8 (SS, BS). Also at Blakely I., one Red-necked Phalarope May 1 (PT, RD) and three May 22 (RD) were the 3rd and 4th, and latest, reported in spring for Alabama; one at the Centerton Hatchery May 27 (BSa) provided the first record for the Arkansas Ozarks.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS — A Parasitic Jaeger at Ft. Morgan Apr. 21 (DMB, CDC) was most likely one that spent the winter nearby. Franklin's Gulls were seen as follows: in n. Alabama Apr. 6 at L. Porter, *Jefferson* (C & PB), only the 2nd recorded between the coast and the Tennessee Valley; in the Tennessee Valley May 13 near Wilson Dam (G & NP) and May 27 at Waterloo (GP); in w. Louisiana, Apr. 18, one adult in *Calcasieu* (BC) and three in *Cameron* the same day (DMu, GR); in Tennessee, one at Old Hickory Dam May 9-10 (BP); but none from Arkansas. A peak of 87 Bonaparte's Gulls was listed for n. Alabama at Waterloo Mar. 18 (GP), while at L. Francis, *Benton*, Ark., numbers Apr. 1-May 2 varied from six to 30 (MMI). This writer feels that Thayer's Gull is a w. subspecies of the Iceland Gull, or an arctic race of the Herring Gull, or a hybrid between the two. All three forms are mostly allopatric and Thayer's does not seem to me to have a jizz of its own—most of the differences are of degree, not of kind. Certainly it must be a lot of fun trying to prove that an arctic gull from the Pacific coast winters in Louisiana, but I believe something like this calls for specimens. Louisiana with a top-notch museum has done very well in providing specimen evidence in other situations. Nevertheless a dark-eyed, small-billed, medium-sized, gray-winged gull was carefully identified as Thayer's Gull by experts on Fourchon Beach, La., Apr. 13-May 19 (RDP ph., DMu, NLN, m.ob.).

Lesser Black-backed Gulls continue to move W along the Gulf coast; Louisiana's 3rd was seen at least 5 times Mar. 11-Apr. 22 at Fourchon Beach (DMu, NLN, RDP ph.); Mississippi's 2nd was an adult Mar. 1-27 on Gulfport Beach (present since Nov. 12, 1983) (JT ph., m.ob.). Lesser Black-backed hybrids were in evidence: old "one-foot", now almost 10 years old and most likely a hybrid with either Great Black-backed or Herring gull, was at Pensacola N.A.S., where collecting is not permitted, Apr. 20-May 25 (RD, m.ob.); a 2-footed bird, most likely a hybrid with a Herring Gull, was on Gulfport Beach Mar. 27-29 (JT ph., CDJ, JD, AMc). It is logical that pioneering, thinly-scattered Lesser Black-backed on this continent should have trouble finding mates of their own species, and so produce hybrids with other *Larus* species of roughly the same size. It is regrettable that the sedentary W. Gull was even brought into the picture.



Adult Lesser Black-backed Gull on Gulfport Beach, Miss., March 1984 (present since November 1983). Second Mississippi record. Photo/Judith Toups.

A hybrid Herring x Glaucous Gull was seen at Bay St. Louis, Miss., Apr. 28 (JT ph., DaK, DoK); it could have been called an Iceland or a Thayer's! Glaucous Gulls were seen at Pensacola Apr. 11-14 (RD, PT, RB) and at Fourchon Beach (where else?) Apr. 17, two (NLN, PN, TS) & Apr. 21, one (DMu, RDP). A first-winter **Great Black-backed Gull** was near Hackberry, *Cameron*, Feb. 4 (BC); another at Paris Landing, *Henry*, Tenn., Feb. 20-24 (DMA, DWB); a 3rd, injured, establishing the 3rd record for Tennessee, at Percy-Priest L., Mar. 19 & 24 (RCS, fully described); and yet another, a 2nd-winter bird, was at Biloxi on the late date of May 8 (JT). Common Terns were noted at Wilson Dam, Ala., four on Apr. 28 (GP) and at Centerton Hatchery May 2, furnishing a first spring record for n.w. Arkansas (BK, MMI). On Mar. 18 single earliest-

ever Least Terns were seen at Grand Isle and on Fourchon Rd. (DMu, RDP). Black Terns were also very early, three Mar. 25 at Holly Beach, Cameron (DMu, GR).

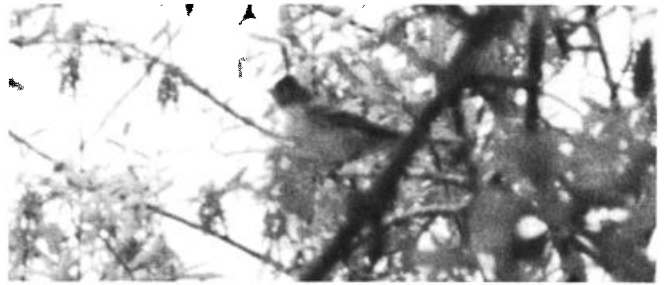


Lesser Black-backed Gull (center—with Ring-billed and Laughing gulls and Royal Terns) on Fourchon Beach, La., spring 1984. Third Louisiana record. Photo R.D. Purrington.

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — The introduced, slowly-moving Ringed Turtle-Dove was found for the 3rd time in n.w. Florida, at Ft. Walton Beach Apr. 9 (*vide* RPo). A maximum of 15+ White-winged Doves in Cameron, La., Apr. 27-29 (DMu) was an indication of the size of the s. and w. influx this spring; as also one at Ft. Morgan May 12 (CK, others), latest recorded for Alabama. Mourning Doves in Metairie, La., had a newly-fledged young Mar. 9 (NLN). The **Inca Dove** successfully bred in Louisiana; two adults and two fledged young were seen Apr. 15 in Lake Charles (BC, PM, MS) and on the 20th were seen carrying nest material (DMu). A Greater Roadrunner near Mt. Olive, Izard, Ark., Apr. 12 (WMS), was only 130 mi from the Mississippi R. The only Groove-billed Anis were two at Grand Isle, La., Apr. 8 (DMu), 3 months later than they ever occur in Alabama or n.w. Florida. Two Short-eared Owls came to grief this spring: one at Van Buren, Ark., Mar. 24 had hit a barbed-wire fence, damaged its wing and later died (JN, BB); the other was found emaciated but uninjured on an oil rig 60 mi off s.e. Louisiana Apr. 5 and was taken to the Audubon Zoo Rehabilitation Center in New Orleans (*vide* MMy). Short-eareds are great wanderers, breeding in most of the Northern Hemisphere s. to Puerto Rico and wintering to s. Mexico, so it is easy to imagine one 60 mi out in the Gulf. This great power of flight and wanderlust is what enables many species to populate odd corners of the world. It also makes birding immensely interesting!

Up to four Lesser Nighthawks were in Cameron for the L.O.S. meeting Apr. 28-29 (BC, MW, m.ob.). A report from Casa Colibri: "Few wintering hummingbirds lingered into spring." Most Ruby-throateds arrived almost 10 days late . . . "mortality in migration last fall seriously depleted the population of immature birds."—Nancy Newfield. The first **Black-chinned Hummingbird** for Alabama spent the winter in Spring Hill, Mobile, and remained through the first week in April (GJ ph., DeJ, LGC). The white collar below the very dark throat and above the dusky sides was much more prominent in the photographs than in the field guides, and served to help find another male at Ft. Morgan in reeds (*phragmites*) on rainy Apr. 8 during a late afternoon influx of 24 Ruby-throateds and four unidentified hummers (JAI, TI).

FLYCATCHERS — First record ever for the U.S. was a bird of the genus *Elaenia*, probably a Caribbean *Elaenia*, *E. martinica*, seen in late



Elaenia species, probably Caribbean *Elaenia* (*E. martinica*), at Ft. Pickens, near Pensacola, Fla., Apr. 28, 1984. Although the photographs are not diagnostic, careful voice descriptions by Evelyn Barbig and others may yet confirm the identity of this first U.S. record. Photo Robert Duncan.

afternoon in live oaks at Ft. Pickens, Gulf Islands Nat'l Seashore, Escambia, Fla., Apr. 28 (E & HB, FG, SD, RD ph., OF, MMA). Evelyn Barbig was attracted by its distinctive song, others were alerted, and the bird was studied and photographed from as close as 20 ft off and on from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The species occurs widely on smaller islands in the West Indies and islands off the Yucatan Peninsula and Belize; the last two are jumping-off places for migrants destined for the n. Gulf Coast. Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen near Nashville May 6 (JCM) and at Dover, Stewart, Tenn., May 17 (DWB). An earliest-ever *E. Wood-pewee* was at Logtown, Hancock, Miss., Mar. 27 (JT). On May 29, up to 16 Alder Flycatchers were noted singing and calling in the willow fringe of L. Fayetteville, Washington, Ark. (JN). In middle Tennessee a Willow Flycatcher was noted May 6 at Ashland City (CGD, RJM) and five were singing at Monsanto Ponds May 12 (S & BS, ARH); near Monroe May 12 a bird was seen where the species bred for the first time in Louisiana in 1983 (DTK); when checked May 28, a 2nd pair was discovered nearby (BC, SH, DTK). Least Flycatcher was noted in Louisiana Apr. 27 in Peveto Beach Woods, Cameron (JaH, JiH); in Tennessee at Dover May 4 (DWB), 30 at Radnor L., May 6 (*vide* JRS), and at Davy Crockett P., May 24 (DJS); and in Alabama at Brushy L., Winston where it sang throughout the day June 11 (MSG).

An Ash-throated Flycatcher was seen at Ft. Morgan Apr. 12 (RD) & 16 (MLM) and on Dauphin I., 3 mi to the w., Apr. 14 & 15 (TI, CDC, DMB, m.ob.); most likely the same bird, which could not be found on Friday the 13th! The 2nd **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** for Louisiana was



Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher in Cameron Parish, La., Apr. 29, 1984. Second Louisiana record. Photo R.D. Purrington.

on Monkey I., Cameron, Apr. 28-29 (DWG, L.O.S., m.ob., ph., *L.S.U.M.Z., GR). A 3rd Mexican flycatcher for this spring and a first for Louisiana was the **Tropical Kingbird** near Grand Isle May 12 (RJN, *L.S.U.M.Z., BC, NLN, many). Western Kingbirds were in Washington, Ark., one at L. Fayetteville, May 4 (MML), another at Budd Kidd L., May 23 (JN, EA). Eastern flycatchers also came to Louisiana: Gray Kingbirds were seen on Grand Terre Apr. 30 (NLN, PN); on Grand Isle May 9, 12 & 13 (NLN, m.ob., RDP ph.); and at Ft. Jackson, *Plaque-*

mines, May 28 (NLN, DMu), the latter being 8th and latest for the state. In Tennessee, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher returned to its breeding site at Murphreesboro on an unknown date (*vide* TJW).



Gray Kingbird, Grand Isle, La., May 1984. Photo/R.D. Purrington.

SWALLOWS THROUGH WAXWINGS — Early Tree Swallows Mar. 10 were at Marion, Ala. (GJ, HK, BG), and Monsanto, Tenn. (WJ). On Apr. 27 on Budd Kidd L., Ark., a pair of Tree Swallows was seen gathering nest material and May 25, eggs were in the nest (JN), establishing a rare nesting for that area. An earliest-ever Bank Swallow was in Hancock, Miss., Mar. 24 (JT) and an early N. Rough-winged Swallow was at Monsanto Mar. 1 (KA). Cliff Swallows arrived early at Cross Creeks N.W.R., Tenn., Mar. 17 (DWB), but hundreds of early nests were flooded out in early May (RJM); they continued to nest on the coast at Middle Pearl R., *St. Tammany*, La. (RDP) and near the Battleship on Mobile Bay (M.B.C.). Another Mexican bird on the n. Gulf Coast was the **Cave Swallow** at Ft. Morgan, studied for 3 hrs Apr. 22 (DMB, CDC) for a first record for Alabama! Barn Swallows continued to increase as breeders nearly throughout the Region; on I-10 w. of New Orleans in 3 years they have built up to 24 nests in 3 colonies (RS, MW).

Bewick's Wren is still reasonably common in middle Tennessee, with six birds reported in late April and early May (*vide* AL); but one at Ansley, *Hancock*, Miss., Mar. 8 was the first seen there since 1976 (JT), and one in Bessemer, Ala., Mar. 31 was the first in n. Alabama since last Oct. 1 (TI, LNT). Two House Wrens at Pensacola May 8 (MLM, GG, KSt) were unusually late, but one singing in Birmingham May 11 (TI), in light of other summer records and its recent addition to the nesting birds of Alabama, may lead to further nesting records. A Winter Wren Apr. 28 at Loretto, Tenn., just over the Alabama line, was also unusual. A Golden-crowned Kinglet at Ft. Morgan Apr. 4 (TI, many) was very late, as were two in 2 places near Nashville May 5 (JCM, JE). A very late Veery was at Mandeville, *St. Tammany*, May 22 (JiH). On Apr. 28 a late Hermit Thrush was in Loretto, Tenn. (DS, MBe) and another was on Smith's I., *Cameron*, La. (DMu, MMY); next day one was collected on nearby Monkey I. (GR, L.S.U.M.Z.) which proved to be of a w. subspecies. This throws new light on the origin of some of our late migrants. Figure the origin of the Am. Robin in Grand Isle Woods May 16, 90 mi from its nearest breeding ground (DMu, NoN, RDP). A Gray Catbird Mar. 21 at Columbia, Tenn. (GRM), was probably a wintering bird. Fifty Cedar Waxwings in *Cameron* May 27 (BC, LH) were the usual late lingerers.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — A Bell's Vireo at Eglin A.F.B., *Okaaloosa*, Apr. 9 (RPO) was one of a very few for n.w. Florida; one at the Zoo in Birmingham Apr. 25 (BG) provided the 6th spring record for Alabama. Yellow-throated Vireos seemed almost twice as numerous as

usual in Alabama (TI), about 20 were in *Jackson*, Miss., Apr. 3 (JT). Earliest ever Warbling Vireos were in *Jackson*, Miss., Apr. 9 (JT, DaK) and at Ft. Walton Beach, *Okaaloosa*, Apr. 10 (RPO), and another there Apr. 21 (RPO); and at Wilson Dam, Ala., four were present May 13 (GP). With all the Gray Kingbirds in Louisiana, it is amazing that only one Black-whiskered Vireo was reported from Alabama, at Ft. Morgan Apr. 18 (ALM).

A Golden-winged x Blue-winged Warbler hybrid at Peveto Beach, La., Apr. 19 had Golden-winged plumage with a yellow wash on the breast (TP, GR, DMu). Very late Orange-crowned Warblers were at Ft. Walton Beach Apr. 23 (*vide* RPO) and in *Hancock*, Miss., Apr. 26 (JT, MBe). Uncommon to rare locally, Nashville Warblers were seen Mar. 31 at Pensacola Beach for the 4th and earliest spring record (CK, FW, MLM, OF), and at Garner Ridge, *Cameron*, Apr. 19 (DMu). Six Cape May Warblers were seen in *Cameron* Apr. 28-29 (BC, L.O.S., m.ob.) and one was at L. Fayetteville, Ark., May 21 (BSA). Among the few Black-throated Blue Warblers reported were singing males in Birmingham May 1 (ALM) and in a gorge near Arab, Ala., May 17 (MSG). A Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler at Gulf Breeze Apr. 4 (R, L, & SD, PT) provided only the 2nd area record. A late Blackburnian Warbler May 31 at Leiper's Fork, *Williamson*, Tenn., was a male (SS). A Pine Warbler building a nest Mar. 1 at Loretto, Tenn. (DS), was exceptionally early in a late season. A Prairie Warbler Mar. 21 at Boothville, *Plaquemines*, was most likely a wintering bird; two were on the nearby Venice CBC (DMu, NoN).

Palm Warblers had a good flight, abundant through Birmingham and with at least 5 records in n.w. Arkansas Apr. 30-May 12 in *Washington*, *Benton*, and *Boone* (MMI, MBe, JN, JR, P & SW). An early Blackpoll Warbler was in Columbia, Tenn., Apr. 17 (AL). American Redstarts were downright scarce in and around Birmingham, so it is encouraging to hear that 11 singing birds were noted in Searcy, Ark., May 19 (JN). A Prothonotary Warbler Mar. 11 & 18 at Grand Isle (DMu) was difficult to place, because the date is not too early for migrants and two were listed on the Grand Isle CBC. Of nine singing Swainson's Warblers around Birmingham Apr. 17-May 21, most were present just for one day or two (TI); singles were in Athens, Ala., Apr. 26-28 and in nearby Loretto, Tenn., Apr. 28 (AA). A N. Waterthrush May 19 at Grand Isle was the latest for s.e. Louisiana (DMu, RDP). Earliest-ever Louisiana Waterthrushes were at Grand Isle, two Mar. 11 (DMu) and two in the Nashville area Mar. 18 (JCM, KG). In Nashville a Connecticut Warbler was present May 9 (BP) and a Mourning May 6-9 (*vide* JCM). Three Wilson's Warblers were at Wilson's Dam, Ala., May 13 (GP).

TANAGERS, CARDINALINES, SPARROWS — A Scarlet Tanager at Ft. Walton Beach May 28 (RPO) was by 11 days the latest for n.w. Florida. An ad. ♂ W. Tanager was in *Cameron* Apr. 28 for the L.O.S. meeting (JiH, RS, MW, m.ob.) and a female was at Ft. Morgan Apr. 18 (ALM). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Columbia, Tenn., Mar. 16-17 would be expected at a feeder because of the earliness of the date (NT), but later in the season they continued to frequent feeders, including 78 at one May 5 in Barnes Hollow, *Putnam*, Tenn. (RWS). The species' migration must be geared to the development of vegetation which this year was about 2 weeks behind, and the birds had to frequent feeders as a substitute for natural foods. Those birds able to capitalize on man's activities, his agriculture, his waste, seem to be the ones that prosper. Sounds like the Rose-breasted is jumping on the bandwagon with its former cousin the Evening Grosbeak. Black-headed Grosbeak is another: one at a feeder in Mobile Apr. 10 (LDi), two at a feeder in Birmingham Apr. 24 and one Apr. 25 (MMc); we now have at least 30 records for Alabama, 12 inland, and it is recorded annually, often at feeders. A Blue Grosbeak Mar. 15 at Fairhope (MN) was the earliest ever for Alabama. An earliest Indigo Bunting for Mississippi coast was a female Mar. 15 at Bay St. Louis (JT, MBe). On May 8 at Cave Spring, *Washington*, Ark., 40 Dickcissels were seen all in one tree! (JN, RiS).

One Bachman's Sparrow was near Malvern, Ark., Mar. 22 (H & MP), and four males were noted e. of Kingsland, *Cleveland*, Ark (WMS, FG). The Rufous-crowned Sparrow on Mt. Magazine, *Logan*, Ark., had apparently suffered a setback, possibly from the severe cold of last winter; only one could be found May 7 (JN) & June 1 (WMS). Unusual in the spring, two Clay-colored Sparrows were at Peveto Beach Woods, La., Apr. 18-29 (DMu, RDP, m.ob.); in Arkansas at least six were seen in *Carroll*, *Washington*, and *Madison* Apr. 28-May 9 (RS,

MMI, DJ, EA) A Vesper Sparrow, latest ever for n w Florida by 4 days, was noted at Ft. Walton Beach Apr. 21 (*vide* RPO). A Lark Sparrow was singing in *Henry*, Tenn. (DWB). A very late Sharp-tailed Sparrow was at Grand Terre May 12 (MW), and a very late Fox Sparrow was at Manchester, Tenn., Apr. 28 (GY). Up to 40 territorial ♂ Song Sparrows were in Nashville (DV) and one was seen with nest material in Monsanto Apr. 28 (OBL). Harris' Sparrow was seen at Ft. Morgan Mar. 4 (PQ, CDC) & Mar. 17 (PB), latest for Alabama except for Apr. 7, 1953.

BLACKBIRDS, CARDUELINES — On May 1, 250 Bobolinks was a good number for the Baton Rouge area (BC); and one in Nashville June 2 was very late (DV). Two W. Meadowlarks were in Arkadelphia, Ark., Mar. 11 (H & MP). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were well distributed: in Tennessee e. of Gallatin Apr. 17 (WCo); in Alabama at Ft. Morgan Apr. 21 (CK, FW, MLM ph., OF); in Louisiana in *Cameron*, two Apr. 20 (BC, SH) and one Apr. 27 & 28 (TS, m.ob.); in Arkansas, five at Mena Apr. 21 (LB, others) and 27 at Centerton Apr. 24 (JN, RS). Also at Centerton, Ark., a male and two ♀ **Great-tailed Grackles** were seen May 14 and two eggs were found in the nest June 3—establishing a first local nesting record (JN, BS). The Bronzed Cowbird continued for its 7th year in the area just w. of New Orleans (RS, MW, NLN) and now has been found across L. Pontchartrain e. of Slidell Apr. 23 (JH). On May 4, an unusually strong low with towering clouds blew into Harrison, *Boone*, Ark., and next day 100+ N. Orioles were everywhere (JR, BK, MMi).

A Purple Finch was late May 3 at a feeder in Gurley, *Madison*, Ala. (BoH). The southernmost breeding of House Finch was in Montgomery where the first of 5 eggs hatched Apr. 24 in a nest in a hanging plant in a carport where people were away at work all day (*vide* HJM). Many Pine Siskins were present in the Pensacola-Ft. Walton area (*vide* CK); about 100 on May 3 were the last seen at a feeder in Gurley, Ala. (BoH); and the latest for Nashville were two May 18 (CRD). Evening Grosbeaks were also well distributed: up to 450 at Greenwell Springs, *E. Baton Rouge* Jan. 22-May 1 (Mr. & Ms. MF, BC, m.ob.) and in other places in the Baton Rouge area; at Midway, *Santa Rosa*, Fla., one Apr. 30-May 7 (B & CEE, A & TZ, MC); Hartselle, Ala., a peak of 50 on Mar. 26 (RW); at Muscle Shoals, last one May 5 (GP); hundreds around Birmingham through May 1; and in Tennessee, late ones in Nashville May 14 (CRD) and in South Tunnel, *Sumner*, May 16 (BHa).

CORRIGENDUM — Two *Plegadis* ibises reported in *AB* 38(2)212-213 *did not* constitute the second record for Arkansas; there are several records of the genus and at least two definite records of White-faced Ibis. In addition, in the same report, the Pomarine Jaeger at L. Millwood Aug. 21-Oct. 8, 1983 was not reported as the first record for Arkansas, which it was. Finally, the excellent photograph of this bird was not credited to the photographer, Charles Mills.

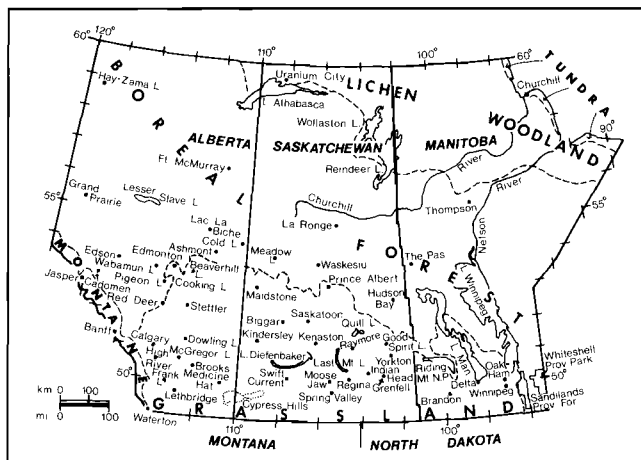
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PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

/J. Bernard Gollop

Temperatures in March were near normal in the east to almost 6°C above in the northwest. Many minimum temperature records were set in early March and many record high temperatures were set in April. May had frequent frosts but the month was noted for its winds, particularly in Saskatchewan. Precipitation was below normal in March except in southern Alberta and southeastern Saskatchewan. There were two major storms in April: one in eastern Saskatchewan gave 20-40 mm of rain April 11; the second April 27-28 gave 30-70 mm of precipitation to southern Manitoba, including up to 40 cm of snow in the southwestern part of the province. May precipitation varied from 25% of normal in the south to more than twice normal in the northern half of Saskatchewan and Alberta. Southwestern Manitoba had heavy wet snow May 24.



LOONS THROUGH HERONS — A vagrant Arctic Loon was found n. w. of Sundre, Alta., May 12 (HH). Pied-billed Grebes were reported down in numbers by 5 of 8 Saskatchewan observers. Manitoba reported record concentrations of Red-necked Grebes May 5: 237 at Oak Hammock (GH) and 364 at Seven Sisters (MS). Eared Grebe *observations* at Ft. McMurray totalled 355, 20% of last year's figure (JGu). Two Am. White Pelicans were found dead under power lines near Rockglen, Sask., May 22 (RG). Double-crested Cormorants peaked at 600 near Seven Sisters, Man., May 12 (PT). A cold spell may have contributed to the death of a Great Egret in Winnipeg, alive Apr. 30, dead May 1 (RS). Saskatchewan reported two egret species: a Snowy May 24 s.e. of Moose Jaw (DR), one Cattle Egret May 19-27 on a slough in Saskatoon (CE, BG) and another at the n. end of Last Mountain L., May 26 (MCo). An ad. Tricolored Heron at Seven Sisters May 26 may have provided Manitoba's 13th record (GG, PH, GH, RK). Saskatchewan's 2nd report of a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was of a single bird n.w. of Moose Jaw May 8 & 27 (EA, EK, MR).

SWANS THROUGH DUCKS — A *black* (not gray) *swan* was seen at close range flying NW with three Tundra Swans May 1 s.e. of Saskatoon (JS). At least two Trumpeter Swans with Tundras were again heard and seen at Spring Valley Apr. 7-30 (FBo). In Saskatchewan hundreds of Greater White-fronted Geese and thousands of Snow Geese were flying NW near Spring Valley Apr. 8-11 (FBo). Moose Jaw reported hundreds of White-fronteds over the city Mar. 31, Apr. 1 & 4, and there were thousands of Snows in the Buffalo Pound L. area May 6 (EK, PK *et al.*). Another concentration of Snows was estimated at 30,000 (10% blue phase) near Francis Apr. 5 (GL). In Alberta "great flocks" of Snows were migrating near Sundre in late April (FH), while in Manitoba, Delta reported 300,000 ± May 6 (CC). The first report of a blue-phase Ross' Goose in Manitoba was one of a pair, in a flock of seven Ross', near Glenboro Apr. 29 (CC). A single Ross' showed up at Ft. McMurray May 2 (JGu). Wood Ducks were particularly common near Calgary with nine birds at 5 locations Mar. 24-May 3 (LG *et al.*).

Total duck numbers in s. Alberta (s. of 54° latitude) were about the same as last year; s. Saskatchewan was down 27% and s. Manitoba down 38%. In s. Saskatchewan Green-winged Teal, N. Pintail, N. Shoveler, Am. Wigeon, scaup, Bufflehead and Ruddy Duck were down 26 to 55% from 1983. Both Redhead and Ring-necked Duck were up 47 and 96%, respectively. Near 56° latitude at Ft. McMurray, Green-wingeds, pintails, Blue-winged Teal, wigeon, Canvasbacks and Redheads were down from 1983 while shovellers and scaup were up (JGu).

The first Mallard brood was seen May 20 near Saskatoon (KD). A ♂ Mallard x Am. Wigeon was studied near Saskatoon May 14 (JGo) and a ♂ Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal was seen and sketched in Cypress Hills Apr. 20 (RG, KM). There were observations of five single ♂ Eur. Wigeon at 5 localities in the Calgary area on 6 dates Mar. 28-Apr. 14 (see spring 1983 also; JP, DC, JPT, WW). Another Eur. Wigeon occurred at Beaverhill L., Apr. 29 (WHc *et al.*).

For the 2nd consecutive year Greater Scaup appeared in numbers in s. Saskatchewan: 95 birds in all, at Saskatoon (SS), Moose Jaw (*fide* EK), Turtleford (MCa), Cochin (JMS), Regina (TR, FBr, MB), and Simpson (WHa) Apr. 8-May 3. Oldsquaw, vagrants in spring, were reported only from Saskatchewan: Apr. 29, one male at Lac La Loche (SS, CE); May 6 & 11, two, and May 29, one, s.e. of Saskatoon (MG, KD, FR). A rarity in s. Alberta was Surf Scoter—a flock of nine on May 12 n.w. of Sundre (HH). A pair of Barrow's Goldeneyes, accidental in Saskatchewan, was seen Apr. 2 at Ft. Qu'Appelle (RH) and a male was found May 6 n. of Turtleford (MCa).

EAGLES THROUGH CRANES — An unusual occurrence of a Bald Eagle was one at Churchill May 21 (BC). Red-tailed Hawks were seen one-tenth as often this year as last on surveys at Ft. McMurray (JGu). A pair of Ferruginous Hawks attempted to nest near Lyleton, but deserted after the Apr. 27 snowstorm; this may have been the first known nesting in Manitoba in >50 years (JJM). Another Ferruginous near Seven Sisters provided the easternmost provincial record in half a century (PT). At least eight pairs of Merlins were on territory in Regina (TR). A pair of Peregrine Falcons that nested on one building in Calgary last year was nesting on another this spring (DC). There were 49 reports of Peregrines, 21 more than last year, including eight May 19 at Beaverhill L. (DD).

A surprising concentration of five Yellow Rails was heard near Douglas, Man., May 26 (CC, GJO). A Virginia Rail was photographed at Churchill, where it is an accidental (BC). Soras were down significantly at Ft. McMurray (JGu). Near Bretona, Alta., 15,000 Sandhill Cranes were seen migrating in one hour (JC). A Whooping Crane (with eight Sandhills) was unusual s.w. of Ashern, Man., Apr. 21 (*fide* RN).

SHOREBIRDS — Regina was the only area reporting a "fantastic" migration. Peak numbers for some of the 32 species recorded there were: 200 Lesser Golden-Plovers May 25; 32 Semipalmated Plovers May 12; >140 Am. Avocets Apr. 23; 35 Greater and 150 Lesser yellow-legs Apr. 24; 18 Solitary Sandpipers May 12; 120 Hudsonian Godwits Apr. 23; 18 ± Ruddy Turnstones May 26; >100 Red Knots May 21, >600 Semipalmated Sandpipers May 22; >100 Least May 21-25, 650 White-rumpeds May 21; >300 Baird's May 20; seven Dunlins May 21, 800 Stilt Sandpipers May 22; 16 Com. Snipe May 13; 400 Wilson's Phalaropes May 21 (BL, TR, CA). In addition were such rarities as four Whimbrels May 9 (CA) and two W. Sandpipers May 16 (RH). Concentrations elsewhere were: 1500 Black-bellied Plovers May 17 near Brooks (LG); two Black-necked Stilts May 10 w. of Manyberries, Alta (JR); 200 Marbled Godwits May 21 near Calgary (AS); 105 Sanderlings May 27 (PA), 1000 Pectoral Sandpipers May 12 and 700 Buff-breasted May 28 at Beaverhill L. (DD); and 2000 dowitchers near Lucky L., Sask., May 23 (PB). Only two Piping Plovers were noted: May 10, Raymore (WHa) and May 18, Irricana, Alta. (JMS). Greater and Lesser yellowlegs were at about one-half their 1983 populations at Ft. McMurray; Long-billed Dowitchers were at one-third 1983 levels (JGu). The first W. Sandpiper for the Saskatoon area was reported May 15 (JW). Saving the best until last, two **Spoonbill Sandpipers** were drawn and described in detail s. of Irricana, Alta., May 19. They were with 10 other species of shorebirds on a 0.2-km² alkali slough surrounded by pasture and cultivated fields (JMS).

JAEGERS THROUGH OWLS — Pomarine Jaegers are stragglers in Saskatchewan; a dark-phase adult was seen at the n. end of Last Mountain L., May 1 (WHa). At Ft. McMurray, Franklin's, Bonaparte's, Mew, Ring-billed, California and Herring gulls were at 20 to 50% of 1983 levels (JGu). Four species of gulls considered accidental in the following areas were reported. An ad. Mew was studied and described s. of Regina May 11 (CA). Thayer's Gull reports were as follows: an adult occurred Apr. 18 near Ft. Qu'Appelle (FBr) and an immature Apr. 24-28 near Regina Beach, Sask. (*fide* CA); an immature May 6 and an adult May 9 in Calgary (JMS *et al.*); single immatures May 12 at Oak Hammock (GH, RT) and May 12-18 in Winnipeg (RK). An ad. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was studied in Winnipeg May 12-13, establishing the 2nd Manitoba record (SH, RK, DF, HL). An imm. Glaucous-winged Gull was seen in Calgary May 9 (JMS, DC), where a Caspian Tern May 12-14 (RC, PS, JT) and a Band-tailed Pigeon Apr. 17 (JR) were also exceptional. Short-eared Owl numbers were reported up in both s. Manitoba and at Churchill; 5 of 7 Saskatchewan observers reported decreases. Boreal and N. Saw-whet owls were more common in s. Manitoba than last year (*fide* RK).

LARKS THROUGH SHRIKES — Horned Larks at Ft. McMurray were at one-sixth their 1983 levels and Black-billed Magpies were at one-third (JGu). There was a vagrant Violet-green Swallow in the same area May 24-25 (JGu). Early arriving swallows in s. Manitoba were apparently wiped out by the Apr. 27 snowstorm (RK). A pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches carrying food provided Regina's first nesting record (BL). A Rock Wren reappeared in Regina this year (CA) and another spent May 25-28 in Saskatoon, far n. of its usual range (MCa). Sedge and Marsh wrens were noticeably down in s. Manitoba (RK). Single E. Bluebirds, considered accidentals in Alberta, appeared 60 km n.w. of Calgary Mar. 30 (CH) and in Edmonton May 30 (*fide* RE). The Region had its first documented **Western Bluebirds** this spring: two pairs were photographed at boxes s.w. of Calgary, Alta., May 7 (JB, ES, DE). Accidental in the Saskatoon area were a Townsend's Solitaire Apr. 1 (RJ, MCa) and a Varied Thrush May 19, providing a first spring record (KD). Regina had a ♀ Varied Thrush May 26, also a rare spring occurrence (CA, TR). The n. thrush migration was poor in s. Saskatchewan (no comments from elsewhere). American Robins were among the few species to show an increase in Ft. McMurray surveys: 2019 observations in 1984, *cf.* 1383 in 1983 and 780 in 1982 (JGu). What may have

been Alberta's most northerly N. Mockingbird was seen at Ft. McMurray May 26 & June 3 (JGu). The latest date for more than a single Bohemian Waxwing was Apr. 2 in Regina (300+—TR), Saskatoon (50—EW), near Canora (20—WJA), and Moose Jaw (two—DK). Five of 7 Saskatchewan reporters found Loggerhead Shrikes down compared to 1983.

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS — Like last year the warbler migration was unspectacular, noted more for its wanderers than its waves. Manitoba was again an exception with >260 Yellow-rumped Warblers in <one km of Winnipeg riverbank May 9 and a much larger wave May 24-25 in s.e. Manitoba, notably Tennessee and Blackpoll warblers and Am. Redstarts (RK). Moose Jaw had a small wave May 14-16 (EK). Yellow-rumpeds peaked in Regina May 12 with 92 counted although "large flocks" were reported May 19; the season totals for most other species were fewer than five (TR, BL, PB *et al.*). Among the rarities were: a Nashville Warbler near Strathmore, Alta., May 19 (JMS), one at Francis, Sask., May 12 (GL) and one in Saskatoon May 31 (PO); a N. Parula near Saskatoon May 26 (KM); a ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler in Regina May 13 (TB); a Black-throated Green near Exshaw, Alta., May 19 (LG); a ♂ Prothonotary in Moose Jaw (no details) May 12-13 (PK, EK); and a ♂ Hooded Warbler in Winnipeg May 20 for Manitoba's 7th record (LL, DH). Also establishing a 7th Manitoba record was an ad. ♂ Summer Tanager photographed at a feeder n.e. of Winnipeg May 19-27 (JGL *et al.*). A ♂ W. Tanager May 27 s. of Winnipeg furnished the province's 13th record (LS). Another ♂ Western appeared at a lily pond in Saskatoon May 24 (MM).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH SISKIN — Saskatchewan rarities occurring in Regina included an imm. ♂ Black-headed Grosbeak May 28-29 and an Indigo Bunting May 20 (BL *et al.*). An ad. ♂ Black-headed was discovered near Canora May 12 (WJA). An ad. Green-tailed Towhee, Manitoba's 2nd, was photographed May 12-14 near Kleefeld (DF, HL *et al.*). The sparrow migration was probably better than the thrush and warbler migration but not by much. The only large counts of migrant sparrows were from Regina: 100+ Am. Tree Sparrows Mar. 24; 27 Lincoln's May 12; 250 White-crowneds May 12; 100 juncos Apr. 9 & 18 (CA, TR, BL). American Tree Sparrows were also common at Beaverhill L., Mar. 25 (RE). White-crowneds were twice as common and Harris' Sparrows 5 times more common than last year at Ft. McMurray (JGu). The only rarities were a Golden-crowned Sparrow photographed in Altona, Man., May 13-14 and a Lark Bunting at Beaverhill L., May 15 (MK *et al.*, WHr). Brown-headed Cowbirds were about one-half as common as last year at Ft. McMurray (JGu). An Orchard Oriole in Moose Jaw May 20 was at the w. extremity of the species' range (SL). A Brambling was found in Winnipeg last fall and the same or another one was photographed in a backyard there May 15 (JM, DH *et al.*). Manitoba's 4th House Finch record was provided by a male photographed in Altona May 15-16 (HW *et al.*); at least two birds of this species were reported from Sundre Apr. 17 (FH). Pine Siskins were up in parts of each province over last year.

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NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION /Gordon B. Berkey

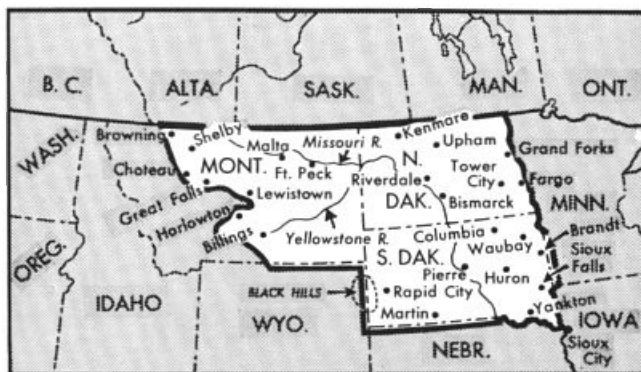
Our continental climate, with its many extremes, usually has a strong effect on the spring migration season, and this season was no exception. March was rather uneventful in North Dakota and Montana, while several snowstorms rolled across South Dakota. Six species of diving ducks that had reached the Missouri River at Yankton February 28 did not reach the Waubay-Sand Lake area until March 23-31.

April was wet, cloudy, and windy in South Dakota; precipitation was variable in North Dakota, with a record amount in Minot, but much below normal in the west and in eastern Montana. The big story, however, was the April blizzard that hit western North Dakota April 27-29. With up to three feet of snow, winds to 90 m.p.h. and drifts to many house roofs, the storm dominated the scene for several days. The blizzard brought many unexpected birds to the yards of many long-time casual observers. Horned Larks, which had long been on territory, were literally blown into the cover of towns. Red-winged and Yellow-headed blackbirds also "thrilled" several people who had never had them at their feeders before. There were numerous stories of birds peering into windows, seemingly wanting to gain admission to the houses. Robins abandoned eggs and territories, and reflocked for several days. Several species, including coots, Mourning Doves and Western Meadowlarks, suffered some mortality, but with no obvious drop in breeding populations. The storm also hit the Black Hills and there was significant mortality among Mountain Bluebirds and, surprisingly, robins.

Windy conditions continued through May; Minot had five weeks in a row with at least one day of winds in the 50 to 60 m.p.h. range. Winds were generally from the southeast and accompanied by fair skies (when one could see through the dust) with the result that many common species blew over the area. Most species of thrushes, warblers, and sparrows were low in numbers, and many regular species were missed by very active observers.

There were two second records, Eastern Phoebe in Montana and Kentucky Warbler in North Dakota.

Italicized place names are counties.



PELICANS THROUGH DUCKS — An Am. White Pelican at J. Clark Salyer N.W.R., Apr. 8 was quite early (GE); pelican nesting was underway at 4 South Dakota locations. Seven Cattle Egrets s.w. of Berlin, N.D., May 16 provided a rare spring record (WH); a high of 16 on May 17 was reported for South Dakota (LA). A carefully described Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was seen in Lake, S. D., May 17 (JE). White-faced Ibises were seen in 4 South Dakota counties, including an early one Apr. 27 in Brookings (KJ); one near Lignite was a rare sighting for n.w. North Dakota (TF), and two were at Bowdoin N.W.R., Mont., Apr. 17 (KS). A total of 13 Ross' Geese on 4 different dates were counted in 3 South Dakota counties Mar. 27-May 3 (LA); a single at Kelly's Slough N.W.R., N.D., was photographed Apr. 29 (DOL). Single Am. Black Ducks were in Hanson, S.D., May 17 (LA) and Ransom, N.D., May 21 (DGP), while two were at Fargo May 31 (MB). Seven Cinnamon Teal were reported from South Dakota and w. North Dakota. A ♂ Harlequin Duck on the Missouri R., just below Ft. Peck Dam Mar. 18-May 6 established the first record of the species for e.

Montana It was often seen chasing a ♀ Bufflehead (CC, JC) The ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye that wintered in Penn, S.D., was last seen Mar. 11 (JB); singles were also in *Deuel* Apr. 8 (BKH) and at Benton Lake N.W.R., Mont., Mar. 13 (LM). A high number of 10 Red-breasted Mergansers was at Grand Forks Apr. 29 (DOL). Ruddy Ducks arrived early at both Tewaukon and Kelly's Slough Apr. 1.

HAWKS THROUGH CRANES — A few years ago an observer seeing an Osprey would have had a good chance of a citation, but there are many more reports this year! There were at least 13 sightings in 11 different South Dakota counties, and 13 sightings in North Dakota. Of 2 nests found in e. Montana along Ft. Peck Res., one was 6 mi from the lake in a cottonwood tree (*vide* CC). Late Sharp-shinned Hawks May 19 in *Brown* (NW) & May 27 in *Fall River* (RP) may have indicated local nesting; there is only one modern nesting record for South Dakota. There were fewer than normal migration reports of Sharp-shinned. Definite nesting of Cooper's Hawks occurred in *Brown*, S.D. (BKH), and Lostwood (RKM) and in L23, Mont., a new latilong record (SG). A territorial display flight was observed in the ponderosa pines of *Slope*, N.D., Apr. 20 (GB). Broad-winged Hawks were early at Mandan Apr. 3 (WB) and Fargo one day later (MB); on Apr. 26 a spectacular kettle of "several hundred" was in *Grant*, S.D. (DRS). An exceptionally early Swainson's Hawk was at Lewiston Mar. 22 (LM). One member of a pair of Red-tailed Hawks at a nest near Devils L., Apr. 20 was a "Kriders" (DOL, SL). Peregrine Falcons were seen Apr. 22-May 16 at Grand Forks (DOL), Fargo (MB, TD), Fairfield, N.D. (REM, GB), and Lacreek N.W.R. (JB, DDP). Six pairs of Prairie Falcons were counted in *Fall R.*, S.D., in April and May (RP), and a pair whose brood was taken by a Great Horned Owl last year returned to the same site near Ft. Peck (CC). The decline of Greater Prairie-Chickens in *Gregory* continued (GS, DLL). A pair of California Quail in *Custer*, S.D., May 10 was presumed to have originated from releases in the early 1960s; none had been reported in several years (LR). Six Whooping Cranes were determined by a tracking team to have spent the night in or near the N. Unit of Theodore Roosevelt N.P., Apr. 17 (*vide* SS).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS — Strong SE winds in May caused many shorebirds to overfly the Region, and most species were seen in greatly reduced numbers. There were reports of Lesser Golden-Plovers from only three South Dakota counties; Harris observed a flock of probable "Goldens" flying into a tornado area against 50-70 m.p.h. N winds! Mountain Plovers were at the w. unit of C. M. Russell N.W.R., Apr. 20 and near Lavonia in L30 Apr. 24 (LM). A Whimbrel at Big L., Mont., May 19 provided a new latilong record for L41 (LM); a report of one at Audubon N.W.R., phoned in by a visiting birder, could not be checked because of insufficient information. Birders should be careful to give as much information as possible when reporting unusual sightings away from home! Four Long-billed Curlews in *Custer*, S.D., Apr. 8 were early (MM). South Dakota reported a good flight of Hudsonian Godwits including 40 in *Brookings* May 9 (JH); good numbers of Marbleds were seen West River, where they are considered uncommon to rare. Eight Red Knots at Ft. Peck May 8 furnished only the 2nd sighting that long-time observer CC has had. A Dunlin Apr. 8 at Grand Forks was undoubtedly the earliest-ever for the entire Region (DOL), and one at Lacreek May 5 may have been the first West River record for South Dakota (JB, DDP). An Am. Woodcock was at Grand Forks Apr. 11 (FK) and a male was performing courtship flights in May where they nested last year at Turtle River S.P. California Gulls were nesting at Waubay N.W.R., S.D., and observations were made in *McPherson* and *Stanley*. A 2nd-year Glaucous Gull at Kelly's Slough provided the 2nd *Grand Forks* record Apr. 14-15 (DOL, SL). Common Terns were early in *Codington*, S.D., Apr. 15 (BKH, JG).

OWLS THROUGH SWALLOWS — Burrowing Owls arrived at U. L Bend N.W.R., Mont., Apr. 9 (LM), and at Crosby, N.D., Apr. 20 (TF); one was in e. *Sargent*, N.D., May 1 (HD). Long-eared Owls were reported nesting in the South Dakota badlands, and in North Dakota one nest was found near Upham (GE) and 2 at Lostwood (RKM). A N. Saw-whet Owl was at Fargo Mar. 30 (MB, CS, VS). A Chimney Swift was early at Brookings Apr. 28 (KH) and two White-throateds were e. of their usual range at Kadoka May 22 (KG).

Area observers appear to be paying more attention to the "Traill's"

Flycatcher complex, early dates were given for Alder as May 16 in South Dakota (DB) & 20 in North Dakota (LF) and for Willow as May 10 (GN) & 13 in Montana (KS). An **Eastern Phoebe** e. of Miles City, Mont., Apr. 21 provided the 2nd state record (SG, doc). The many early swallow arrivals in South Dakota included Purple Martins at Pierre Apr. 7 (JB), Tree Swallow at Brookings Apr. 6 (KJ), 15 Violet-greens in *Penn* Apr. 28 after the snow, and N. Rough-winged Apr. 19, Cliff Apr. 22, and Barn Apr. 11 in *Hanson* (LA).

CHICKADEES THROUGH MIMIDS — Invading Boreal Chickadees were last seen in North Dakota Mar. 17 at Minot (REM) and Mar. 31 at Grand Forks (MW). White-breasted Nuthatches usually seem sedentary, so the daily counts of 80-110 in Bottineau, N.D., Mar. 1-26 were quite surprising; by May daily counts were in the range of four to five (DNS). A total of 16 pairs of Pygmy Nuthatches was found in 4 Black Hills locations Mar. 3-Apr. 16 (RP). One Brown Creeper feeding another in *Grand Forks*, N.D., May 24 could have indicated a pair on nesting territory; there are no confirmed nesting records for the state (DOL). A viable breeding population of Rock Wrens was discovered in n.w. *Ward*, N.D., considerably e. of the known badlands breeding range. At least 5 locations, a gravel pit and 4 eroded badlands-type slopes, had Rock Wrens, and several more pairs could have been present given the habitat (REM, GBB). There had been previous nestings by a single pair in the area in 1959-1960. A Canyon Wren May 26 in the Cave Hills of *Harding* was the first South Dakota observation outside the Black Hills (JB). The four Winter Wrens at Fargo Apr. 20 must have been a new high count for North Dakota (TD). An E. Bluebird brood of five fledged from a nest box along the Souris R., where the species is a rare nester (REM). High totals of Hermit Thrushes were 13 in *Roberts*, S.D., Apr. 13 (DRS), 22 in Minot Apr. 17 (REM), and 50 in Fargo Apr. 28 (MB). Gray Catbirds arrived late in Montana: May 25 at Bowdoin & 29 at Ft. Peck. A N. Mockingbird was seen in Fargo May 11 (MB, CS).

WARBLERS, TANAGERS — Most observers mentioned both fewer species and smaller numbers of warblers this spring, undoubtedly because of the favorable winds which prevailed during nearly all of May South Dakota birder D. Tallman called it the worst ever; yet, there are always highlights. On May 17, Golden-winged Warblers were in Fargo (MB) and Grand Forks (DOL). Also at Fargo were two N. Parulas May 19 (TD) and the 2nd North Dakota record for **Kentucky Warbler** May 16 (GN, doc.). Cape Mays were in South Dakota at Lincoln May 13 (MS) and Brookings May 17 (CT), and one was at Fargo May 15 (MB). An early Yellow-rumped Warbler was at Grand Forks Apr. 7 (PP). Most observers mentioned good numbers of this common species. There were very few reports of less-common but regular species such as Nashville, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Palm, Bay-breasted, Mourning, Wilson's and Canada warblers.

A Summer Tanager was banded and photographed May 26 in *Brown*, S.D. (DT), a singing ♂ Scarlet Tanager was again at Smith Grove, s. of Washburn, N.D., May 28 (REM), and a W. Tanager arrived early May 13 in *Penn* (NW).

CARDINAL THROUGH SISKIN — A ♂ N. Cardinal came to a Bismarck feeder daily May 25-31 (RR). A ♂ Rose-breasted x Black-headed Grosbeak was seen singing in *Ward*, N.D., May 27 (REM), several Black-headed were found singing in the Souris R. loop, where there are a few nesting records, but they may have been overshoots aided by the wind, as they seemed to have disappeared by the middle of June. The earliest Indigo Bunting ever reported for South Dakota was at Brookings Apr. 27 (KH), and an unusual number of Lazuli Buntings was seen East R., including four to five May 17-20 in *Brown* (DT). A Clay-colored Sparrow at Fargo was very early Apr. 10 (GN). A Brewer's Sparrow was observed very carefully in a New Town farmyard all morning May 19 (BCH). Clay-colored were also feeding in the yard, but this bird stayed by itself; this species nests in extreme s.w. North Dakota. Two Fox Sparrows overwintered at Fargo through Mar. 11 (DC); both Dakotas had good numbers of migrants, with a peak of 46 at Minot Apr. 17 (REM). It seems that numbers of migrant Fox Sparrows and Hermit Thrushes correlate well. The earliest-ever Swamp Sparrow for South Dakota was in *Codington* Apr. 8 (JG). A flock of 150 McCown's Longspurs was seen in the snowstorm Apr. 28 near Harlowton in L30 (LM). Single Smith's Longspurs were at Bottineau May 5

(DNS) and Fargo May 11 (MB) The earliest-ever Bobolink for South Dakota was reported Apr. 20 in *Turner* (JW). The last of the wintering Rosy Finches left New Town Mar. 26 (BCH). House Finches were reported from *Hot Springs*, *Belle Fourche* and *Gregory*, S.D., and from Ft. Peck. Pine Siskin nesting was general over c. and e. North Dakota and n.e. South Dakota. Two hundred birds were banded in *Gregory* (GS) Nests were found in both April and June in *Ward*, N.D., indicating possible double brooding (REM, GBB).

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SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

/Frances C. Williams

Nebraska suffered a very late, cold, wet spring, with the worst late spring blizzard in over one hundred years. Severe cold the night of April 26-27 killed many American Robins, Killdeers and Eastern Phoebes. When the weather did clear, it was too nice, with such clear, calm nights that there was no fallout of migrating warblers. Kansas did not undergo the same extreme weather, but migration was "not spectacular" and most migrants trickled through, with no warbler waves or shorebird concentrations.

Spring in much of Oklahoma was also wet, with rain on seventeen consecutive weekends at Bartlesville. From 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. on May 27-28, Tulsa County received up to 12 inches of rain which took its toll of nestlings. Migrants were late throughout the state, even in those portions that were not subjected to storms. Migrating warblers were scarce and breeding species arrived late.

Most observers in the eastern half of Texas reported a "very dull" spring, but the farther west one lived the more exciting events became and at El Paso migration was noted as the "best ever". Throughout Texas west of the 100th meridian, shorebirds appeared which had not been seen in years, "eastern" vireos and warblers were commonplace and there was a larger than usual influx of "western" warblers.

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

GREBES THROUGH CORMORANTS — Horned Grebes at Waco, Tex., Apr. 3 and *Kendall*, Tex., Mar. 15 were slightly out of range. Hundreds of Eared Grebes concentrated at Quivira N.W.R., Kans., Apr. 7, and one was found at Muskogee, Okla., Apr. 3. A W. Grebe in *Rains*, Tex., Apr. 1 & 8 provided a first record there (RK). Lone W. Grebes were also found at Big Bend N.P., May 25 and El Paso May 5. In *Blaine*, Okla., 100 ± Am. White Pelicans were killed by a tornado and hail Apr. 20 (JDT). The largest flock of Am. White Pelicans reported (about 500 birds) flew over Ft. Gibson, Okla., Apr. 25 (JMcM). Double-crested Cormorants were unusual at El Paso Apr. 7-May 30, Amarillo May 20 and *Gray*, Tex., Apr. 15. Olivaceous Cormorants visited Hagerman N.W.R., Tex., Apr. 26-May 31 (KH, JHB), *Kerr*, Tex., May 31 (E & KM) and *Canadian*, Okla., Apr. 28 (JAG).

HERONS THROUGH FLAMINGOS — Least Bitterns arrived at Oklahoma City on the early date of May 8 (JGN). Great Egrets at El Paso Apr. 7 & May 30 provided noteworthy spring records (BZ *et al.*) as did Little Blue Herons in *Gray*, Tex., Apr. 15 and *Potter*, Tex., May 20 (FC *et al.*). Tricolored Herons made unexpected spring appearances in Big Bend N.P., May 13 (DW), Quivira May 13 (MC *et al.*), and Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Kans., May 25 (LM *et al.*). White-faced Ibises were observed in *Washington*, Okla., *Linn*, Kans., *York* and *Sarpy*, Neb., and throughout the w. At least 300 were counted at Quivira and Cheyenne Bottoms. A Roseate Spoonbill delighted a Dallas observer May 29 (DJ).

The mystery of the season was provided by a Greater Flamingo at Kerrville, Tex. First sighted flying over a park May 10, it was found dead on the road May 12. Neither the San Antonio Zoo nor any of the



exotic game ranches of the area were missing a flamingo, and the bird had no tags or identification of any kind. The origin of this bird was indeed puzzling (E & KM).

WATERFOWL — Three Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were sighted at Cheyenne Bottoms May 25. This species was reported at both Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira last summer—what is its status? Two Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks provided a 2nd record in El Paso Apr. 28 (SW *et al.*), two visited *Collin*, Tex., May 16 (FB) and one was in Dallas Apr. 21 (RD). An interesting facet of Snow Goose migration in Nebraska was that it passed to the w. of the Missouri R. valley. At least 100,000 were present in *Jefferson* Mar. 7, and on Mar. 19, Snow Geese covered fields and roads in *York*. Ross' Geese were recorded in *Hudspeth*, Tex., Sherman, Tex., Amarillo, Quivira, and Cheyenne Bottoms. Lone Brants were found at Quivira Apr. 6 and Cheyenne Bottoms Mar. 3. Wood Ducks were reported in Big Bend N.P., Mar. 1 & May 6, El Paso Apr. 28 and *Dawes*, Neb., Mar. 17. In late May, nearly 100 ♂ Wood Ducks gathered in a flooded field in *Sarpy*, Neb. At Tulsa, an Am. Black Duck was sighted Mar. 3 & Apr. 8. Two Mottled Ducks in *Brazos*, Tex., Apr. 9 were the first in that area in 7 years (MW). In n.e. Nebraska, Greater Scaups arrive as soon as the ice breaks up. They linger on past the beginning of Lesser Scaup migration, but as the peak of Lessers reaches the area, the Greater are gone. There were many reports of Greater Scaups in the area in March, with the peak comprising

60 birds in Omaha Mar 15 (TB) Three Greater Scaup were discovered at Tulsa Mar. 24. A Black Scoter provided a first record at Midland Mar. 11 (RMS, FW). A Barrow's Goldeneye graced Bellevue, Neb., Mar. 4 (RG). Hooded Mergansers were observed at El Paso Mar. 1-7, Kerrville, Tex., May 3 (very late), and Cheyenne Bottoms Mar. 3.

VULTURES THROUGH FALCONS — A pair of Black Vultures in Taylor, Tex., during May was presumed to be nesting (BH). At Black Gap W.M.A., Brewster, Tex., McKinney watched 1463 Turkey Vultures fly N across the Rio Grande Mar. 17. Peculiar behavior of an Osprey was observed in Washington, Okla., Apr. 22. It stood in a wet field among 12 Swainson's Hawks. There were no lakes or even farm ponds nearby (MV). Black-shouldered Kites provided first records in Taylor, Tex., Apr. 26-May 1 (BH *et al.*), and Tulsa May 19 (JK). A Bald Eagle nest was discovered in Grimes, Tex., Feb. 24 (DB) and a chick was in the nest Apr. 24 (JY, BB), but the chick was dead in the nest May 28. This was the first confirmed nesting of the species in the c. Brazos R. valley and was the only inland nesting in Texas this year (JY). A N. Goshawk was sighted in Pawnee, Kans., Apr. 4 (SS). A Gray Hawk remained in Big Bend N.P., Mar. 1-May 31 (m.ob.) and another provided a first record at El Paso Apr. 14 (BZ, SW). Two Broad-winged Hawks in Dewey, Okla., May 17 were about 100 mi w. of the normal range (JAG). More Broad-winged Hawks were sighted than ever before in n.w. Nebraska Apr. 29-May 5 (RCR) and the species was also more common than usual in *Osage* and *Washington*, Okla. ("common" at these localities means 4 or 5 sightings of up to five birds.) The largest flock of Swainson's Hawks reported comprised 31 birds in *Johnson*, Tex., Apr. 9 (CAE). A Zone-tailed Hawk was discovered in *Kaufman*, Tex., Mar. 2-3 (KE *et al.*). A tagged Ferruginous Hawk observed in *Gillespie*, Tex., Mar. 1 had been banded and tagged as a nestling in North Dakota June 27, 1983 (MS). Peregrine Falcons were sighted at 12 locations, variously noted as stooping or feeding on Green-winged Teal, Am. Coots and shorebirds. Prairie Falcons in *Rains*, Tex., Mar. 25 were e. of their usual range; the species was nesting at Hueco Tanks S.P. in far w. Texas in May.

RAILS THROUGH PHALAROPES — A Com. Moorhen was discovered in Big Bend N.P., Apr. 8 (BT) and another (or the same?) was just up river at Lajitas May 15 (DW). Heavy snow and strong N winds in late March grounded hundreds of Sandhill Cranes in *Pawnee*, Kans. There were numerous sightings of Black-bellied Plovers and Lesser Golden-Plovers throughout the Region. Good numbers of Snowy Plovers were found in the El Paso area and a pair remained at Midland until May 31. A Piping Plover was noted in *Keith*, Neb., May 16 (RCR). A Mountain Plover at Muleshoe N.W.R., Tex., Apr. 30 provided a new refuge record (AJ), and one visited a grazed prairie dog town near Cheyenne Bottoms May 5 (LM). A Black-necked Stilt stopped at Oklahoma City May 1 (JGN). At Muleshoe, 300 Am. Avocets fed busily Apr. 16 (AJ). A single Am. Avocet was seen in *Rogers*, Okla., May 5 where the species is rare in spring (D & HG). Willets are normally uncommon migrants on the plains, but 150 were counted at Waco Apr. 22, 32 at Oklahoma City Apr. 21, and 40 in *Hudspeth* Apr. 28 and the species was present at several localities where it is sporadic. Whimbrels, among the rarest shorebirds in w. Texas, appeared at Amarillo May 5 (KS), L. Balmorhea, *Reeves* May 3 (RSt), El Paso Apr. 28-May 15 (JSp), and Midland May 8 (JM, FW). Hudsonian Godwits were seen in numbers throughout the Region. Among the larger gatherings were 41 at Oklahoma City Apr. 18, 31 at Omaha May 12, 31 at Bartlesville Apr. 20, and 19 at Hagerman May 17. A single bird in *Dawes*, Neb., provided only the 2nd record there in 11 years (RCR, DJR). Marbled Godwits were recorded at 7 localities. In *Sarpy*, Neb., 15 Ruddy Turnstones were counted May 22-25 (RG). Ten Red Knots were sighted at Cheyenne Bottoms May 28 (SS). Sanderlings were seen at Waco, Amarillo, Hagerman, Midland, Tulsa, and in *Rogers*, Okla. White-rumped Sandpipers appeared at 7 Texas and 2 Oklahoma sites during May. The largest flock comprised 65 birds in *Gray*, Tex., May 28 (KS). At *Tarrant*, Tex., 1289 Baird's Sandpipers were counted, 4 times the number recorded last year (RLN). In *Lyon*, Kans., flocks of Baird's and Pectoral sandpipers fed in burned pastures May 5-6. Dunlins visited *Rogers*, Okla., May 5-11 and Tulsa May 29. Stilt Sandpipers, usually scarce at El Paso, were in the area May 13-30, with a peak of 25 on May 17 (BZ). Another of the less common sandpipers of the plains, the Buff-

breasted, was reported at Midland May 5 (FW, TJ), *Lyon*, Kans., May 5-14 (JSc), and *Rogers* May 5 (D & HG). An Am. Woodcock probing in the leaf litter of a mesquite thicket Mar. 6 provided a new record in *Midland* (FW, m.ob.). Red-necked Phalaropes, always scarce in spring, were found at Quivira May 11 and Cheyenne Bottoms May 25-28

GULLS AND TERNS — A Laughing Gull at Hagerman was studied carefully May 17 (KH). An ad. **Little Gull** was seen with other gulls at Lubbock Apr. 9 (ML); Texas has had very few records. Late Bonaparte's Gulls were reported at several sites, the latest being in *Washington*, Okla., May 28. Several Bonaparte's were grounded by heavy rain in *Rush*, Kans., Apr. 21. There are few records for w. Kansas. Three California Gulls were noted in *Dawes*, Neb., May 27 (RCR, DJR) The Lesser Black-backed Gull that wintered at Oklahoma City remained until Apr. 2. A Sabine's Gull at Elkhart, Kans., May 26 provided a new *Morton* record (SS *et al.*). Two Caspian Terns in *Washington*, Okla., provided a not-unexpected first record (D & HG). Common Terns visited Midland May 8 (FW, JM) and Cheyenne Bottoms May 28 (SS) The only Least Terns reported were at Oklahoma City May 29 and Tulsa May 15. Black Terns formerly migrated across the Region in flocks comprising 30-50 birds, but now only small groups of six to 10 birds are seen.

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — The only Black-billed Cuckoo reported was at Sherman, Tex., May 13 (KH). An early Yellow-billed Cuckoo was discovered in *Crosby*, Tex., Apr. 6 (KH) Young fledged from a mixed nest of a ♂ W. Screech-Owl and a ♀ E Screech-Owl in Big Bend N.P., June 4 (RSt). In *Ottawa*, Okla., where 100 artificial nesting platforms have been erected for Great Horned Owls, and where there are also many Red-tailed Hawk nests which could be used by the owls, only one nesting pair was observed. The cause seemed to be a lack of rodents following the extreme cold of last winter, as no rodents were captured when live trapping was attempted (PWW). In *Custer*, Okla., only 2 Great Horned Owl nests were found, and both nests failed (PWW). A Long-eared Owl* was discovered in *Comanche*, Okla., Mar. 7 (JDT).

The seldom-seen Broad-billed Hummingbird was discovered in Big Bend N.P., Apr. 12 (BMcK), and the even rarer White-eared Hummingbird was seen there May 6 (V & JD). Magnificent Hummingbirds brightened Big Bend N.P., May 3 & 19 (RH, JB) and Guadalupe Mountain N.P., May 10 (HMcG). Broad-tailed Hummingbirds, uncommon in spring, were sighted in *Randall*, Tex., May 12 (KS), *Potter*, Tex., May 14 (KS) and Hueco Tanks S.P., Apr. 28 (BZ). A Rufous Hummingbird in *Dawes*, Neb., May 18-19 provided a first spring record there (RCR). A Ringed Kingfisher was observed in *Val Verde*, Tex., where the species has been recorded several times in the past 4 years, May 15 (SSo, KA). A Green Kingfisher, lover of crystal clear streams, fished in the muddy Rio Grande in Big Bend N.P., May 1 (RSt) Red-headed Woodpeckers were scarce in c. Oklahoma (JAG). Golden-fronted Woodpeckers, recent arrivals in Big Bend N.P., are now nesting there. In *Johnson*, Tex., two pairs of Red-bellied Woodpeckers were nesting within 150 yards of each other after successfully evicting starlings from the site.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH NUTHATCHES — Greater Pewees were reported in Big Bend N.P., Apr. 26 (AB, JB) and El Paso May 21 (A & MG). An Acadian Flycatcher was singing in Fontenelle Forest, *Sarpy*, Neb., May 18 (TB, BP). A W. Flycatcher was identified in *Morton*, Kans., May 26 (SS). Two pairs of Black Phoebes were nesting at McNary, Tex., where there is only one previous breeding record (BZ). Single Black Phoebes visited Hueco Tanks S.P., Mar. 23 and *Kerr*, Tex., May 24. An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** called for more than 2 hrs at Norman, Okla., May 15, providing a first c. Oklahoma record (JAG). If all the sightings of Brown-crested Flycatchers in s.w. Texas this spring were valid, the species staged quite an invasion. A Great Kiskadee was nesting in *Val Verde* for the 3rd consecutive year (SSo, KA). A kingbird of the Tropical/Couch's complex, thought to be Couch's, visited Big Bend N.P., Apr. 21 (HH). Cassin's Kingbirds were a little e. of their usual route at Midland May 2 (BE, AW), Lubbock Apr. 26 (LJ) and Tribune, Kans., May 2 (SS). At Muskogee, Okla., W. Kingbirds were nesting again. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at El Paso May 23-24 was the first seen there since 1971 (R & GA)

A flock of Bank Swallows comprising 150 birds hunted over Copan

Res., Washington, Okla., May 28—an unusual number there. Cliff Swallows were nesting at the Ft. Gibson dam, Wagoner, Okla. (JN). About 40 Cave Swallows visited a bridge in *Hudspeth* Mar. 4 and one pair remained to nest Apr. 7 (BZ, SW). A Blue Jay (m.ob.) and three Scrub Jays (WR) in Big Bend N.P. were unexpected. Two Green Jays near Keene, Tex., are still utilizing the same feeder where they first appeared 4 years ago. Nesting of White-breasted Nuthatches was confirmed in *Kaufman* and *Van Zandt*, Tex. (WP, RK).

WRENS THROUGH VIREOS — Winter Wrens were reported in Big Bend N.P., Mar. 24 (WR) and Bartlesville May 7 (MD). A Sedge Wren photographed at El Paso May 17 provided a new county record (BZ, SW). Several Sedge Wrens sang in *Linn*, Kans., May 11-13, where the status of the species is uncertain. Two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers flitted through the oaks at Hueco Tanks S.P., Apr. 28 (BZ). Veeries were noted in *Tarrant*, Tex., Big Bend and Tulsa in early May. Gray-cheeked Thrushes were sighted in Big Bend May 5 and Norman, Okla., May 2 & 9. The Wood Thrush which appeared at El Paso in February remained until Mar. 29. Wood Thrushes were discovered at Midland May 5 and Lubbock Mar. 27, while the species was nesting at Ft. Gibson for the 2nd consecutive year. Gray Catbirds skulked at Big Bend and El Paso May 8. In Nebraska, N. Mockingbirds sang in Fontenelle Forest Apr. 27-May 8 and *Richardson* May 3. Sprague's Pipits were found in *Crosby*, Tex., Mar. 16, *Lyon*, Kans., Apr. 19 and *Rush*, Kans., Apr. 23. Loggerhead Shrikes were very scarce in the Texas Panhandle, but are increasing in w. Kansas and in Nebraska. Seltman saw and heard about 20 Bell's Vireos in *Rush*, *Pawnee* and *Barton*, Kans., an unaccustomed high number, and the species seems to be holding its own in c. Oklahoma. Although the Black-capped Vireo is in trouble in Oklahoma, Texas populations are stable. There were numerous reports of White-eyed, Yellow-throated and Red-eyed vireos in the w. one-third of the Region.

WARBLERS — Expert birders invading Big Bend N.P. managed to find almost all the warblers on the Park's list—there is just not enough space to list them all. Golden-winged Warblers were found in Guadalupe Mountain N.P., May 10 (TW, BP), *Panola*, Tex., May 5 (SC) and *Rogers*, Okla., May 5 (D & HG). Virginia's Warblers were present from Black Gap W.M.A., n. to Amarillo. Lucy's Warblers were discovered at El Paso Apr. 17-18 (SW, BZ) and Big Bend N.P., Apr. 12 (BMcK). Northern Parulas were found w. to Black Gap Apr. 24 (BMcK), Guadalupe Mountain N.P., May 28 (PL), *Taylor*, Tex., May 6 (BH) and Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Apr. 27 (PA, FC). Chestnut-sided Warblers were found at Guadalupe Mountain N.P., May 29 (PL) and Tulsa May 7-8 (FD). A Magnolia Warbler graced Buffalo L., May 8. Black-throated Gray Warblers were seen at Lubbock Apr. 30 (CS, LJ) and Larned, Kans., Apr. 27 (SS). Townsend's Warblers were found at Midland Apr. 30, *Taylor*, Tex., May 3, Buffalo L., Apr. 22 and *Rush*, Kans., Apr. 27. Blackburnian Warblers were sighted at Ingram, Tex., May 19, Tulsa May 7 and *Canadian*, Okla., May 4-5. Yellow-throated Warblers were noted at Midland Mar. 31 & Apr. 7, Sherman May 2, *Real*, Tex., May 20 and *Linn*, Kans., Apr. 30. A Pine Warbler was discovered in open farming country in *York*, Neb., May 6-8 (LMo *et al.*). Palm Warblers in *Sheridan* May 5 and *Cherry* May 6 provided only the 2nd and 3rd records for n.w. Nebraska in 11 years (RCR, DJR) and one at Balmorhea S.P., Tex., constituted a first record for *Reeves* (GW). Blackpoll Warblers were seen at Midland, Palo Duro Canyon S.P., Tex., Buffalo L., and *Canadian*. A Cerulean Warbler was banded in *Washington*, Okla., May 1 (EM) and another was sighted in *Rogers*, Okla., May 16 (DG, ED). Worm-eating Warblers flitted through Big Bend N.P., May 5, Dallas Apr. 30 and Fontenelle Forest May 12. Swainson's Warblers were seen at Tulsa Apr. 11 and *Rogers*, Okla., May 5. Kentucky Warblers brightened Black Gap May 5, Lubbock Apr. 23 and *Comal*, Tex., Apr. 26. In Oklahoma, Canada Warblers were discovered in *Canadian* May 4-5 and *Rogers* May 6. A Painted Redstart at El Paso was the first there since 1978 (ES). Cooksey commented that Yellow-breasted Chats have become hard to find in the Kansas City area.

TANAGERS THROUGH LONGSPURS — Scarlet Tanagers were found in 4 w. Texas localities May 3-9 and in *Sioux*, Neb., May 29. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks inundated the w. one-half of the Region. In the Texas Panhandle, Rose-breasted were more numerous than Black-headed Grosbeaks. Lazuli Buntings were reported at 9 sites, including these n.e. locations: *Johnson*, Kans., May 2 (AH), Tulsa May 8 (JW,

LD) and Bartlesville May 2-5 (JHa, DG).

The most unexpected migrant at Hagerman was a Cassin's Sparrow which remained May 13-20 (JHB, KH). Numerous Cassin's Sparrows displayed in 4 Oklahoma counties e. of their usual range: *Caddo*, *Dewey*, *Blaine* and *Comanche* (JAG). Hundreds of Clay-colored Sparrows moved through n.c. Texas in late April. This species is "accidental" at El Paso in spring but this year small numbers were everywhere Apr. 23-May 9. A Black-throated Sparrow in Borger, Tex., provided a first *Hutchinson* record (MF). Lark Buntings were seen at 2 locations near Waco in March (AG, JO) and two males in breeding plumage May 3 were in *Kerr*, where Mar. 3 was the previous late date (E & KM). A Le Conte's Sparrow was located near Bartlesville Apr. 25 (MG). Lapland Longspurs were present in *Sarpy*, Neb., Mar. 29 (TB). Smith's Longspurs passed through *Lyon*, Kans., Mar. 5-Apr. 21 (JSc) and one was found in *Crosby*, Tex., Mar. 18 (ML).

BOBOLINK THROUGH EVENING GROSBEEK — A Bobolink in *Moore* May 12 constituted one of the few records in the Texas Panhandle (CSz, KS, ph. to Texas Photo-Record File at A & M). A large flock of ♂ Bobolinks remained near Oklahoma City May 6-9 and hundreds of ♀ Yellow-headed Blackbirds inhabited the same fields (JGN). Twenty Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Roland, Okla., Apr. 13 were nearly in Arkansas (JMCM) and 1000 of this species massed in Dallas Apr. 21. Two ♂ Great-tailed Grackles were noted May 15 near Shelton, Neb. (RCR). Seltman was not overjoyed to add this species to several county lists in w. Kansas this May. A ♂ "Bullock's" N. Oriole visited *Washington*, Okla. May 3 (ED). Scott's Orioles were found at 2 locations in *Randall*, Tex., Apr. 27-28 (PA, FC). A House Finch in *Johnson*, Kans., Mar. 3 provided a new county record (EMcH). A pair of recently arrived House Finches in Larned, Kans., built a nest just feet away from the main entrance to the First State Bank (SS). Pine Siskins lingered to late May at many localities and remained to nest at Omaha. A Lesser Goldfinch seen and photographed in *Sioux*, Neb., May 20 provided the first documented record for the state (PS). Evening Grosbeaks that wintered in e. Texas lingered to May 18 at Huntsville.



Male Lesser Goldfinch in *Sioux* Co., Neb., May 20, 1984. First documented Nebraska record. Photo/Phil Swanson.

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SOUTH TEXAS REGION

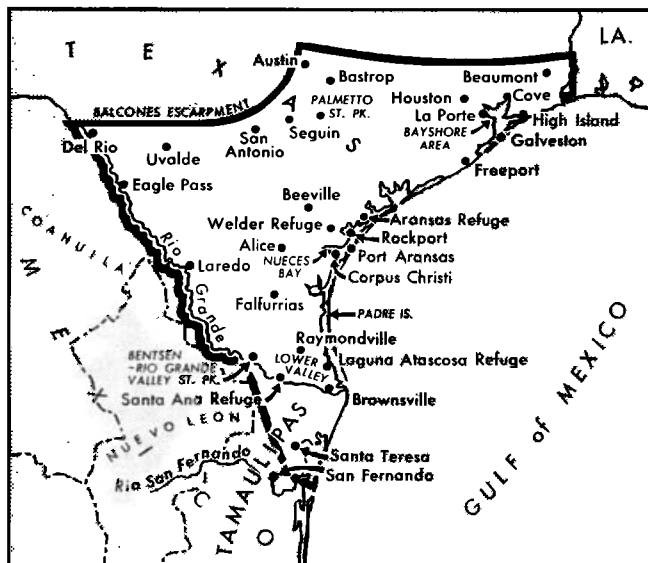
/Greg W. Lasley and Chuck Sexton

The descriptions of this spring season seem schizophrenic. Almost without exception, the regular migration of passerines was described as terrible. Long-time Regional observers like Webster, Kutac, and Morgan deemed it the worst they had ever witnessed. Yet the Region played host to the most dazzling array of super-rare birds ever found here in one season. Three new species for the United States were reported, two of which were thoroughly documented. There was a modest influx of Antillean-route warblers and a major showing of western migrants farther east than normal.

As virtually all Gulf Coast observers now recognize, the explanation for the lack of major migrant fallouts was a lack of significant cold fronts penetrating the Region. Most of the Region entered March with normal rainfall totals (except Austin and the drought-ridden interior brushlands). A few penetrating fronts in early March produced modest rains and some nice early fallouts on the Upper Texas Coast, but then the rains stopped. In late March the Lower Rio Grande Valley had all-time record temperatures of 106-107°F. March rains were sparse to nonexistent in the southern part of the Region. April, normally one of the wetter months, was dry Regionwide. Numerous localities recorded no rain for the month, and Kingsville reported no rain in March or April. No measurable rain fell on most of the Upper Texas Coast March 23-May 18, nor was there rainfall at Santa Ana N.W.R., February 1-May 19. By the end of the season that refuge had received a total of two inches for the year. A wind shift and very light rains on the Upper Texas Coast April 30 and May 1 seemed the only respite from the oppressive hot and dry conditions. Partial relief from the drought finally came May 17-20, but the rains (although locally substantial as in Brownsville and Beaumont) were spotty and insufficient to bring rainfall totals anywhere up near normal. Fronts in late May did however bring good (but not great) migrant fallouts throughout the Region. Temperatures continued hotter than normal through May, and much of the interior brushlands ended the season where they began, in a moderate-to-severe drought.

Observers commonly recognized that what was bad for migrant birding was great for the migrants themselves. Migrant breeding birds of the Region generally arrived on territory on schedule. Several reporters speculated that the same Regional weather patterns that made passerine observations so sparse may have also contributed to the appearance of the handful of Mexican and/or Central American vagrants detailed below.

Birding reports ranged from raves to occasional revulsion. Highlights of any given observer's spring depended on being at the right place at the right time. With an efficient network of rare bird alerts and generous, timely communication links from active birders, many of the rarities were seen by hundreds, perhaps even thousands of gleeful observers.



ABBREVIATIONS — Anahuac = Anahuac Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge; Attwater = Attwater Prairie Chicken Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge; Bentsen = Bentsen Rio Grande Valley State Park; L.R.G.V. = Lower Rio Grande Valley; Santa Ana = Santa Ana Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge; U.T.C. = Upper Texas Coast.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Two Arctic Loons were at Offat's Bayou in Galveston Apr. 29 (BW, DW *et al.*), the same location where a pair had been seen most of last spring. Six unidentified storm-petrels were seen briefly May 23 at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R. (JD, LM). A very early frigatebird was seen Mar. 23 at Port Aransas (WP). All early (or out of season) frigatebirds should be carefully identified as to species, as a recent report of a possible Ascension Island Frigatebird in this Region attests (in press). Many observers felt that Least Bitterns were more common than normal, with single-party counts of 15+ reported by many, especially at Anahuac.

WATERFOWL — Fulvous Whistling-Ducks have been somewhat scarce in recent seasons, but 120 at Attwater Apr. 26 (HM) was an encouraging number. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were reported regularly in moderate numbers throughout the Region into May, including 40 in Uvalde County May 7 (DW), considerably w. of their typical range. Two Mottled Ducks in Zavalla County May 5 (DW) probably established a new county record, quite far w. and inland for the species. Four Masked Ducks (two males, two females) were reported at Santa Ana Mar. 19 (*vide* SL).

RAPTORS — Ten Ospreys were counted at Falcon L., Mar. 30 (G & BL). There were 3 reports of Am. Swallow-tailed Kites Mar. 10-26 at coastal locations, a poor showing. Mississippi Kites were very sparse Regionwide with 250 at Santa Ana Mar. 23 (SL) the only sizable flock noted. The newly hatched Bald Eagle mentioned in the winter report appeared fully grown by Mar. 10 (CC). The Broad-winged Hawk migration peaked Mar. 29-Apr. 1. The close-site study in the L.R.G.V., organized by the Hawk Migration Association tallied 16,000 Broad-wingeds Mar. 31; another 27,275 were seen rising from the woodlands at Santa Ana the morning of Apr. 1 (GD, VS *et al.*). Another major push was noted Apr. 6-9 along the coast and in Austin. An early Swainson's Hawk was seen at San Bernard N.W.R., Mar. 1 (RH), and 50+ were seen in Wilson County Apr. 14-15 (WS). Swainson's were common in the L.R.G.V., May 18-21 (PM). A Zone-tailed Hawk at L. Bastrop May 4 (AP) & May 11 (SR) added to the increasing number of Austin area records. Unusually late for the Region were Ferruginous Hawks at Corpus Christi Apr. 20 (RS) and near Uvalde May 8 (DW). The individual at Uvalde was patrolling the entrance to a bat cave, repeatedly catching bats in company with six different Red-taileds. A very late Am. Kestrel was at Falcon Dam May 20 (PM).

RAILS THROUGH SANDPIPERS — A Yellow Rail flushed from underfoot at Santa Ana Apr. 7 (SB) was noteworthy. Purple Gallinules numbered 40 on L. Gonzales in late May (PH), apparently the largest inland gathering of the species in the Region. Well-described "Caribbean Coots" were reported by many observers at Santa Ana and near Rockport, however most observers do not regard the bird as a true species. Eighteen Whooping Cranes departed Aransas N.W.R. before Apr. 3, and 51 more left Apr. 3-9 on favorable S winds. The few remaining birds were gone by May 3 (TS). Lesser Golden-Plovers were more numerous than usual in Austin, San Antonio, and the U.T.C. At Mitchell L., in San Antonio, three small curlews were heard and glimpsed under poor conditions Mar. 11 (WS). Sekula considered Eskimo Curlew the most likely identification of the birds. As many as 20 Hudsonian Godwits were at Austin May 12-15, a notably high count for the area. Flocks of up to 250 Hudsonians were reported from the U.T.C., during late April and early May. Several observers commented on the scarcity of Red Knots this season. Amos has censused the birds of Mustang I. almost daily for 6 years and considered the species "drastically down" this spring. In contrast, the editors counted 150+ Red Knots Apr. 29 between High I. and Sea Rim S.P.

Amos also observed a dramatic increase in the number of oiled Sanderlings this spring on Mustang I. The incidence of oiling had appeared to diminish with time since IXTOC oil first showed up on Texas beaches in 1979. This spring, however, Amos saw "the greatest number of oiled birds since IXTOC; on one day 200+ Sanderlings were oiled, the 2nd



Sanderling, Mustang I., Tex., May 13, 1984. The color bands mark this bird as one banded in November 1983 in Peru, as part of the Pan American Shorebird Program. Photo/A.F. Amos.

highest daily total of the 6-year survey." Amos photographed a partially oiled Sanderling May 13 that was color banded. The bird had originally been banded Nov. 16, 1983 at Villa, Peru, as part of the Pan American Shorebird Program (*vide* JPM). Texas observers should be alert for marked shorebirds. Most "peep" species were numerous on the coast and at inland sewage ponds. White-rumpeds numbered in the several hundreds at Austin during May and Baird's Sandpipers were easier to find than normal on the U.T.C. (DW *et al.*). A Purple Sandpiper was sighted at Port Bolivar Apr. 19 (†MM). A **Curlew Sandpiper** found by Jonsson on Bolivar Pen., Apr. 28 was seen by hundreds of observers and photographed by many (TE, GL, JB *et al.*). This established the first documented Texas record after several sight records over many years. The bird was last seen May 8. A Ruff showed up at the same location May 13-14 (ph. TE). The overwintering Reeve in San Antonio was last seen Mar. 15. A Short-billed Dowitcher at L. Alice Mar. 22 provided a first Jim Wells County record (RA). A Red Phalarope was photographed at Bolivar Flats Apr. 20 (WEH *et al.*), and another was at San Antonio May 6 (†WS).



Curlew Sandpiper, Crystal Beach, Bolivar Pen., Tex., Apr. 29, 1984. First documented Texas record. Photo/Ted Eubanks.

LARIDS — A sub-ad. Pomarine Jaeger was on Mustang I., May 17-21 (TA). A first-winter **Little Gull**, widely regarded as a different individual than the Freeport bird reported in the winter, was discovered on Galveston I., Apr. 7 (†TE). The bird, establishing the 3rd documented state record, was well photographed and was last seen Apr. 20. An ad. California Gull was found near Anahuac Mar. 22 (KP). A well-described first-winter Thayer's Gull near High I., Apr. 21 (VEm *et al.*) provided a 3rd U.T.C. record. Unfortunately, a small, bleached, heavily worn first-winter Herring Gull was in the same area in subsequent weeks and was widely misidentified as "the Thayer's." All detailed reports (and even a set of photos) of a "2nd-year Thayer's" in late April near High I., appeared to have been based on this small Herring. Lesser Black-backed Gulls continue to be observed with increasing frequency



Little Gull (in transition from first-winter to first-summer plumage), Galveston I., Tex., Apr. 7, 1984. Third documented Texas record. Photo/Ted Eubanks.

in the Region. The individual reported at Port Aransas during the winter was seen until Apr. 14. Amos photographed a striking adult Mar. 14, also at Port Aransas, which he believed to be of the nominate race (*Larus fuscus fuscus*). Another sub-adult was at High I., Apr. 21 (†JL, VEm, JR). The Kemah Great Black-backed Gull was seen periodically into late April. The diversity of larids near High I. during late April included an ad. Black-legged Kittiwake Apr. 18 & 21 (VEm, JR, CE *et al.*). A possible Roseate Tern was observed at Bolivar Flats Apr. 20 (BH, WEH, EG). Written details suggest the identification is correct, but are not conclusive for this very rare species in Texas. Charlie Clark continues to monitor Com. Tern populations on the coast and has noted that this species is far more common on the U.T.C. than on the c. coast near Corpus Christi. Four Sooty Terns were seen on an island in the Laguna Madre just e. of Corpus Christi Apr. 8 (LJ).



Adult Lesser Black-backed Gull, Mustang I. beach near Port Aransas, Tex., Mar. 14, 1984. Although judging from photos is difficult, this was possibly L. f. fuscus or L. f. intermedius; the vast majority of North American records are thought to pertain to the paler-backed L. f. graellsii. Photo/A.F. Amos.

DOVES THROUGH PARROTS — A small population of Ringed Turtle-Doves has been discovered in Oak Hill near Austin (*vide* EK). The birds have apparently been coming to feeders in the area for several years. A few White-winged Doves were seen regularly in suburban areas of San Marcos and Austin at the n. limit of their range. Two reports were received without details regarding single Ruddy Ground-Doves, one at Bentsen and one at Santa Ana, both during late March. Any sighting of this accidental species should be thoroughly documented. A single Green Parakeet was seen Mar. 5 at Santa Ana, and a few parakeets were periodically reported "up and down the valley" (*vide* SL). Labuda considers that reports of this species, as well as the Red-crowned and Yellow-headed parrots, may reflect a mix of naturally occurring vagrants and escapees. With substantial ongoing disruptions of habitats in n.e. Mexico and a continuing market in legal and illegal parrot importation along the border, confusion on the origin of such birds will remain.

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A “drastic decline” of all owl species on the U.T.C., due to the harsh winter weather continued to be noted into the spring (DD). A special nightbird survey Apr. 11 at Santa Ana, however, turned up remarkable numbers including two Com. Barn-Owls, 43 E. Screech-Owls, 19 Elf Owls, and one Long-eared Owl (SL). A pair of Ferruginous Pygmy-Owls was seen and heard regularly at its familiar haunts below Falcon Dam in April and May (MA, m.ob.). A Lesser Nighthawk was seen Apr. 27 on Bolivar Pen. (BW), a very rare migrant on the U.T.C. Buff-bellied Hummingbirds returned in substantial numbers during mid-April after last winter’s devastation. As many as 10 were seen between Raymondville and Sarita May 1 (DW), and one showed up at Port Aransas May 17 (WP). By late May “about one out of every four” hummingbirds in the Corpus Christi area was a Buff-bellied (KM). A Pileated Woodpecker at High I., Apr. 20 (BB) was at an odd locality.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH MIMIDS — A N. Beardless-Tyrannulet at San Ygnacio May 18 (PM *et al.*) was new for Zapata Co. and the first to be recorded outside the L.R.G.V. proper.

S.A.

A *Myiopagis* flycatcher was discovered at High I., May 20 (JM, LF). The bird was later netted (T & VE, M & RB), measured, and photographed in the hand. It was identified as a **Greenish Elaenia** (*Myiopagis viridicata*) and released. The identification of this bird setting this first United States record was confirmed by several museums from the hand-held photos and measurements. The bird was seen by many observers through May 23. Details will be published elsewhere.



Greenish Elaenia (*Myiopagis viridicata*), High Island, Tex., May 20, 1984. First United States record. Photo/Ted Eubanks.

A Tropical/Couch’s Kingbird was found at High I., May 6 (LW). Vocalizations, which would have aided specific identification, were not heard. A Couch’s was seen and heard in Del Rio May 9 (DW), a location n.w. of that species’ regular range. A single Mexican Crow was at Santa Ana Mar. 22 where the species is very rare (JL). Equally rare was a Chihuahuan Raven at Palacios Mar. 25 (SW). Ruby-crowned Kinglet numbers did not increase substantially after the harsh winter; one has to wonder how badly the species may have suffered. All thrushes were in

short supply with no large concentrations reported. One or two Clay-colored Robins were seen periodically at a residence in Brownsville through the period. A White-throated Robin (*Turdus assimilis*) was reportedly seen well by observers familiar with the species, Mar. 13-15 at San Benito (*vide* TP). To date, however, we have received no written details. If documented, this would provide a first United States record. Curious was a N. Mockingbird near Bastrop singing “a perfect Bell’s Vireo [song] as well as daily repetitions of a Groove-billed Ani” (JT), neither of which occur regularly in that area.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — A Bell’s Vireo was a good find on Galveston I., Apr. 28-30 (LJ, m.ob.), providing a 4th U.T.C. record. All of the expected migrant vireos were seen in most areas of the Region, but generally in small numbers.

S.A.

An unfamiliar vireo was captured in a mist net Apr. 28 near Crystal Beach on Bolivar Pen. The bird was later measured, photographed in the hand, and identified as a **Yucatan Vireo** (*Vireo magister*) (JMa, JM, T & VE, LW). The bird was released at the 5-acre woodlot of coastal scrub where it had originally been captured and was subsequently seen by 1000+ observers through May 31. The identification of the bird was confirmed from photos and measurements by several museums and represents the first United States record. Details will be published elsewhere.



Yucatan Vireo (*Vireo magister*), near Crystal Beach, Bolivar Pen., Tex., Apr. 29, 1984. First United States record. Photo/Ted Eubanks.

The warbler migration was generally considered quite dull Region-wide. All expected species were seen, but very few large concentrations were noted. Observers wandered the woods at High I. and other migrant traps all spring waiting for the big fallout that never came. The few noteworthy warbler records included an early Blue-winged at High I., Mar. 25 (WG), and a high count of 250+ Yellow Warblers at Sabine Pass Apr. 30 (GL, CS). The unstable weather of Apr. 30-May 1 on the U.T.C., brought down moderate numbers of Yellows, Chestnut-sideds, and Bay-breasteds (m.ob.) for perhaps the best warbler wave of the season. Strangely, Cape May Warblers were far more common than usual during most of April and early May on the U.T.C. and elsewhere.

Easley counted five at High I, Apr 23, and Morgan reported numerous sightings from other U.T.C. locations. Two were seen in Austin May 19 (RF), a very rare bird there. At least three Cape Mays were in Port Aransas during early May (WP, B & LT). A Black-throated Gray Warbler was unusual at Aransas Pass Mar. 4-5 (JW). Late Blackpolls were seen May 24 on the U.T.C. (MA) and at Port Aransas (WP). A MacGillivray's Warbler provided a 5th U.T.C. record when one was found in Jefferson County Apr. 28 (†BB).

TANAGERS THROUGH SISKINS — Summer and Scarlet tanagers appeared in most areas in modest numbers, but the rare W. Tanager seemed common at times. There were perhaps 15 individuals at various U T C. locations during April. Single birds appeared in Brownsville Apr 17 (WEH), Port Aransas May 1 (B & LT), and Corpus Christi May 13 (DWi, *vide* CK). A pair of Blue Buntings was reported at Rancho Santa Margarita Mar. 15 (NP, *vide* TP). A Lazuli Bunting was observed at Port Aransas Apr. 16 (B & LT), and a Varied Bunting was seen with a flock of several hundred migrating Dickcissels at Padre I., Apr. 22 (*vide* KM) White-collared Seedeaters continued to be seen at San Ygnacio during the period; Harper observed a singing male there Apr. 16. Unexpected was the appearance of singing seedeaters May 25 at the Border Patrol check station near Sarita (*vide* TP). A Cassin's Sparrow singing at Attwater Apr. 30 (DW) was well e. of its typical range. A **Golden-crowned Sparrow** was a rare find in Orange County May 23-24 (ph. MC, LL, BC *et al.*). Hooded and Audubon's orioles were seen in the

L R G V more frequently this spring than in recent years. Small numbers of Pine Siskins remained in Austin until May 21, a new late date for the area.

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NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION

/Helmut Grünberg

After a mild winter and an early spring in many parts of the Region, the spring season seemed to have been generally cool. Precipitation as rain was also fairly high. Some early migrants appeared earlier than usual while later ones arrived "on time" or even a bit late. A total of 202 species was observed this season. Some of the unreported species were Swanson's Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Gyrfalcon, Surf-bird, Northern Hawk-Owl, and Mountain Chickadee. This was partly due to the fact that some of the major contributors to this report apparently did not meet the deadlines.

GREBES THROUGH COOTS — Pied-billed and Red-necked grebes were seen in increased numbers as compared to previous years near Fort St John (hereafter, F.S.J.) by CS. Peak numbers of 1850 swans, the great majority being Tundra Swans, were counted at M'Clintock Bay of Marsh L., s. Yukon, Apr. 24 (BH, *vide* PH). A single Snow Goose was seen in this area May 5 (H & SK, HG), the same date the first Snow Geese appeared at Inuvik (MBen). A ♂ Cinnamon Teal was first reported from Swan L., 20 km n. of Whitehorse, by TMc May 6 and thereafter seen by 6 observers throughout May. Near F.S.J., the 'annual' ♂ Cinnamon Teal was observed May 2+ (CS). Three Am. Coots were seen at Swan L., May 13 (HG, TMu *et al.*) while at least two were noted at a lake 8 km s. of Pelly Crossing, c. Yukon (HG, JN).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Two Am. Avocets appeared near F.S.J., May 24 for a 3rd record for the Peace R. district, B.C. (CS). On May 18, CS discovered and photographed a **Willet** on the beach of Charlie L., near F.S.J. It was also seen May 19 (JJ, CS). This represented the first Peace R. area record and about the 15th for British Columbia. Up to two Whimbrels were observed in the N Fork Pass, Ogilvie Mts., c. Yukon May 18-20 (HG, TMc *et al.*). A large flock of 26 Hudsonian Godwits was seen near F.S.J., May 2 (CS). The first observations of Ruddy Turnstones at Inuvik were made May 18 (MBen). A W. Sandpiper appeared here May 15 (MBen), and another one was seen near F.S.J., May 29 (CS). The rare White-rumped Sandpiper was recorded twice near F.S.J., May 18 & 27 (CS). Stilt Sandpipers were reported at Inuvik May 16+ (MBen) while three were seen near F.S.J., May 27 (CS). A Short-billed Dowitcher was identified at

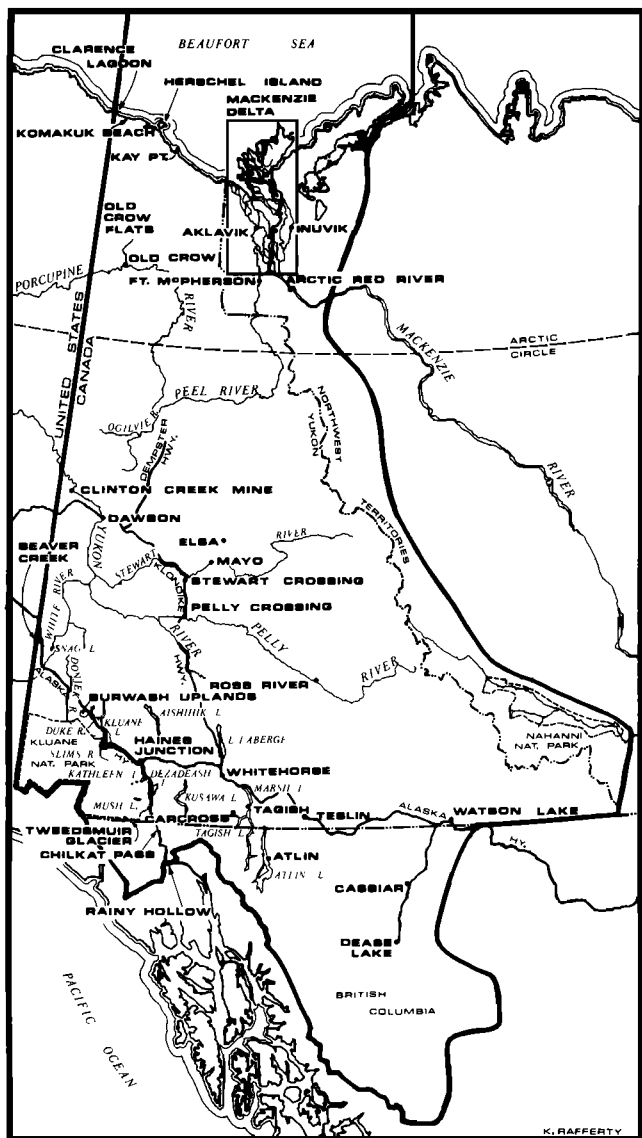
Shallow Bay, L. Laberge, s. Yukon, May 5 (TMu); at least 10 were counted at Swan L., May 13 (HG, TMu *et al.*); and two or more were observed at Swan L., May 27 (EB, HG). Wilson's Phalaropes were encountered in substantial numbers at Swan L.: two May 13 (HG, TMu *et al.*) and 21+ on May 27 (EB, HG).

Boreal Owls were heard in good numbers in the Yukon and n. British Columbia (m.ob.). The **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was established as a Peace R. area bird as two were heard calling in 2 different areas near F.S.J., B.C., Mar. 18 & 23 (CS). The first Rufous Hummingbird was seen at Graham Inlet, Tagish L., n. B.C., Apr. 30, and a pair was observed May 8-9 (MBr). A Pileated Woodpecker was heard and seen at Liard Hot Springs Apr. 20-22 (HG, TMu), and one was heard near F.S.J., May 27 (CS).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GROSBEAKS — A Hammond's/ Dusky Flycatcher was reported as far n. as km 74 Dempster Hwy, in the last patch of trees before the N. Fork Pass of the Ogilvie Mts., c. Yukon, May 21 (HG). The observation of a Horned Lark at Inuvik May 21 was somewhat unusual (MBen). Steller's Jays were reported at feeders in the F.S.J. area in March (CS). A N. Wheatear was seen on top of Sheep Mt., Kluane N.P., May 27 (MH). A Gray-cheeked Thrush was heard near Marsh L., in late May (CO). A rare Eur. Starling was encountered at Inuvik May 16 (MBen); this was probably the 2nd record for that area. A Warbling Vireo was heard and seen at Swan L., May 27 (EB, HG). One ♂ Cape May Warbler was seen and another one heard May 25, and two were heard May 30, in the F.S.J. area (CS).

A singing Le Conte's Sparrow was encountered near F.S.J., May 23 (CS). The first Harris' Sparrow near Inuvik was recorded May 22 this year (MBen). A probable Brewer's Blackbird was identified at Shallow Bay, L. Laberge May 5 (TMu). A Brown-headed Cowbird was seen as far n. as Inuvik May 27 (MBen). Another cowbird was noted at Shallow Bay, L. Laberge, among some horses May 29 (ND, HG). At least two Evening Grosbeaks were observed at Liard Hot Springs Apr. 21-22 (HG, TMu).

CORRIGENDUM — The sentence on fulmars (AB 37: 1005) should read: "A small colony up to an estimated maximum size of 20,000 N Fulmars was reported from Cape Vera, Devon I. (R. W. Prach *et al.*, *vide* C. Harris)". These and other observations at Cape Vera were made by a Canadian Wildlife Service team under the direction of project

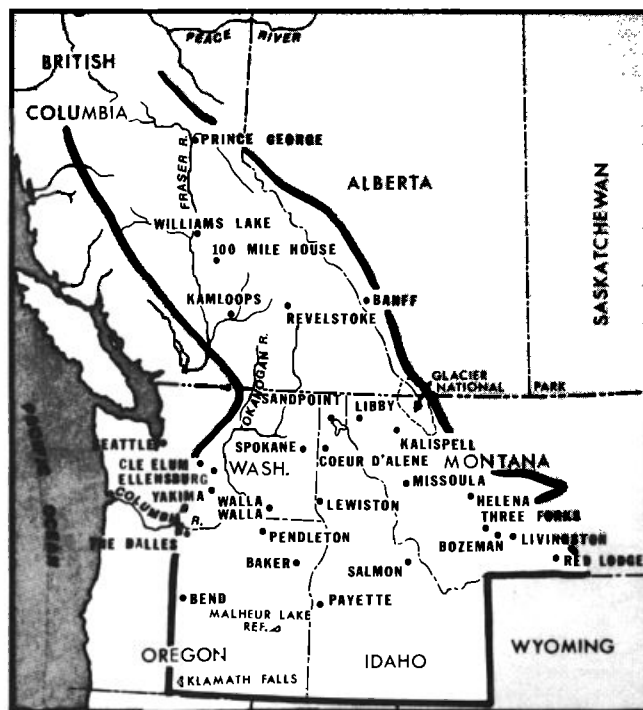


NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

Although it is difficult to generalize about so huge a Region, it is fairly safe to say that overall it was a cold, wet spring. March, however, although wet in most areas, was abnormally mild, encouraging an early migration. April turned cold, and varied from wet to normal in various subregions. May was dry except for northeastern Washington and southern interior British Columbia, but was unseasonably cold. Migrants were delayed in some areas but appeared not to be affected in others. In some cases migrants were "bottled up" by adverse conditions and showed conspicuous concentrations of some species. Waves of warblers were noted in a few instances. Flooding was prevalent in southern Idaho and at Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, causing some species to shift nesting locations, either to wetter or drier locations; e.g., Savannah Sparrows were nesting in wheat fields in southern Idaho. Black-necked Stilts in record numbers in central Washington probably were encouraged by the abundance of ponds.

ABBREVIATIONS — N.F. = National Forest; ref. pers. = refuge personnel; R.S. = ranger station; W.M.A. = Wildlife Management Area.



leader R. W. Prach. This was part of a 5-year study of seabirds and a nearby polynya made possible by the generous support of Polar Continental Shelf Project.

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LOONS AND GREBES — Three Com. Loons were on Mountain Home Res., Ida., May 5 for apparently the first record there (KBP) and five in breeding plumage on small lakes in the Preston, Ida. area were considered potential nesters there (CHT). Horned Grebes, mostly singles, appeared in several localities in s.w. Idaho, where they are rather rare migrants. A Red-necked Grebe, even more unusual in s.w. Idaho, was sighted at C.J. Strike Res., e. of Grandview (MRC, ECC, A & HL) and probably eight to 10 pairs were nesting at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida. Three W. Grebes, Clark's form, were on Strike Res., Mar. 14 (MRC) and three of that form were swimming in flooded sagebrush (!) at Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., Apr. 6 (TC).

PELICANS AND CORMORANTS — American White Pelicans had built up to 2000+ birds at Malheur by May 29 but no nesting had taken place. Nine soared over Salmon, Ida., Mar. 31; they are rare there (HBR). Four of this species appeared on Coeur d' Alene L., just n. of Harrison, Ida., May 11 (JN) and one was on Medicine L., to the e., May

28 (PZ) An estimated 600 pairs of Double-crested Cormorants, the largest number ever recorded in the Harney Basin, were nesting in trees on and near Malheur N.W.R. Those nesting in bulrushes were forced by rising waters to relocate. Four Double-crested at Mountain Home Res., Apr 28 may have been the first ever recorded there (KBP) and two at fishless Hatfield L., Bend, Ore., May 10 were totally unexpected (CM).

EGRETS THROUGH IBISES — A Great Egret at Lewiston, Ida., May 19 was the first there in many years (LL, CV, VB). Another flew over O'Sullivan Dam s. of Moses L., Wash., May 17 (JRR). The only Cattle Egret reported was one near Pocatello, Ida., Apr. 19 (CHT). Several colonies of Black-crowned Night-Herons at Malheur were destroyed by rising waters. One Black-crowned flying over Mountain Home may have been the first ever there (KBP). An estimated 900 pairs of White-faced Ibises were nesting in the Harney Basin. A White-faced Ibis just n. of Helena, Mont., Apr. 20 provided seemingly a latilong first (JJa) One of these birds was at Metcalf N.W.R., Stevensville, Mont., the latter part of May (RT).

WATERFOWL — Calispell L., near Usk, Wash., was the stopping place for an estimated 4000-6000 Tundra Swans the weekend of Mar. 10, among them was a bird collared in the Cold Bay area of Alaska. Two thousand Tundra Swans were on the lake at Ennis, Mont., Apr. 1. Nine pairs of Trumpeter Swans were nesting in the Blitzen Valley at Malheur. A Trumpeter at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., was incubating 7 eggs, a lone male and last year's cygnet remained there also. A single Trumpeter was with Tundra Swans at Noxon, Mont., Mar. 23 (K.B.C.). Richland, Wash., had five Greater White-fronted Geese Mar. 3 (REW) and St. Andrews, Wash., had two Apr. 14 (BW). A field e. of Burns, Ore., contained 3000 Snow Geese, including one "Blue." With them were 500 Ross' Geese (TC, CM). Two Ross' Geese were photographed at Hubbard Res., Ada Co., Ida., Mar. 28 (MRC, ST) and singles of the species appeared with swans and Canada Geese at Calispell L., Mar. 10 (MJ) and on the Albion, Wash., sewage pond May 6 (GDem). Three Ross' visited Mountain Home Res., along with 16 Snow Geese Apr. 21 (KBP). "Thousands" of Canada Geese paused in fields s. of Minidoka N.W.R., Rupert, Ida., Mar. 7. The species peaked at 7000 at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., and numbered 8000 on Mar. 10 at Calispell L. Predation was severely limiting goose production at Malheur. The same was true at Kootenai N.W.R., where 69% of known nests were destroyed, mostly by avian predators. Canada Geese suffered a 50% nest loss due to raven predation at McArthur Lake W.M.A., Boundary Co., Ida. (MB), and goose fledging at Metcalf N.W.R., Stevensville, Mont was 30-40% below average. Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., reported excellent nesting success for Canadas, however. At Calispell L., puddle ducks and divers together were estimated at 20,000 on Mar. 10. Kootenai N.W.R.'s ducks peaked at 8000, down from last year's 10,000.

A phenomenal rarity was an ad. ♂ **Garganey** photographed at Penticton, B.C., May 23-24 (SRC, m.ob.). Gadwall numbers reached 1462 at Turnbull and 350 at Columbia N.W.R. A few Eur. Wigeon, mostly singles, appeared in n. and s.e. Idaho, n.c. Oregon, e. Washington and s. interior British Columbia, with more sightings than usual in the latter locality. A male and two females of this species on Bull L., s. of Troy, Mont., were the first recorded for the latilong (K.B.C.). Canvasback reached 150 at Columbia N.W.R. Malheur had a Greater Scaup Mar. 18 and one was sighted at the mouth of the Deschutes R., Sherman Co., Ore., Mar. 30 (RG). Two pairs of Harlequin Ducks were frequenting the Lightning Cr.-Spring Cr. area near Clark Fork, Ida. (JSc), and one was found on the Lochsa R., 50 mi e. of Kooskia, Ida. (HC, FK, RW, m.ob.). Single Oldsquaws were seen near Kamloops, B.C., May 12-19 (RH) and at Vernon, B.C., Mar. 24 (JGr). A Surf Scoter on the Columbia R., at Trail, B.C., made the observer's first spring record of the species in 40 years (ME). Common Goldeneyes peaked at 2600+ at Turnbull. A ♀ Com. Goldeneye with five small young was sighted at the sewage pond at Colville, Wash., May 13 (DS). Three pairs of Red-breasted Mergansers were on the Snake R. near Lewiston, Ida., Apr. 22 (RN)

VULTURES AND HAWKS — A strange sighting was that of a Turkey Vulture alighting on a tree in Richland; the species is rare in that area (REW). One of this species, rare in Boundary County, Ida., was

sighted at Hall Mt., Apr 19 (PRS) The pair of Bald Eagles at Kootenai N.W.R. that began nest building last fall, hatched two young, the first in the refuge's history (LDN). A pair in Lincoln County, Mont., was rearing two eaglets (K.B.C.) as was a pair at Wasa Sloughs near Kimberley, B.C. (MVW). Hebgen and Quake L., near W. Yellowstone, Mont., had three nesting pairs (JS). A Bald Eagle roost count in the Harney Basin came up with 155 birds Mar. 19-20. Some hawk totals for the Region were: Sharp-shinned three, Cooper's 12+ and "common," N. Goshawk four, Ferruginous four and "a few," Merlin three, Peregrine Falcon two and Prairie Falcon three. An incubating Golden Eagle was at Naches and another at Oak Creek W.M.A., n.w. of Yakima, Wash. Nine of 24 Golden Eagle nest sites at Malheur were successful. Most remarkable was the sighting of a Crested Caracara near Montpelier, Ida., May 30. Photographed at close range, the bird was not tame and had no obvious signs (jesses) of having been captive (GDe *et al*)

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS — A White-tailed Ptarmigan was discovered in the Caribou Cr. area near Yaak, Mont., Apr. 17 (CW). Sage Grouse numbered 60 at Yakima Firing Range and a lek 20 mi n. of the Utah state line in s.c. Idaho contained 20 males. The lek near Millican, Ore., had up to 35 Sage Grouse, and 5 leks near Bend showed increased numbers. The Oregon State Fish and Wildlife Dept. added about 20 Wild Turkeys to the flock n.w. of Sisters, hoping to reduce inbreeding in the flock introduced in the 1950s. Gambel's Quail were noted at Boise and Ft. Boise W.M.A., near Perma, Ida. (MRC, JL, ST, m.ob.).

CRANES — Greater Sandhill Cranes were experiencing low nesting success at Malheur as the result of predation. A color-marked Lesser Sandhill observed there had been marked as a fledgling at Nushagak Bay in Alaska last year. Three flocks of Lesser Sandhills totaling 400-500 passed over Richland Apr. 21 (REW) and Conconully L., Okanogan Co., Wash., had 5000-6000 Sandhills flying over Apr. 16 (AP). Three Sandhills were observed flying over the Continental Divide w. of Philipsburg, Mont., in early May (PLW).

S.A.

Sandhill Crane nests at Grays L., Ida., had 32 Whooping Crane eggs placed in them and at least 9 eggs had hatched. Six older Whoopers had returned, two more than last year, but no pairing or nesting occurred. There is still a shortage of older females there. Other older Whoopers summered in e. Idaho and w. Wyoming (ECB).

SHOREBIRDS — The only Black-bellied Plovers reported were one at Malheur Apr. 19 and one at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Ore., just n. of the California line. The Snowy Plover was observed at Hubbard and Indian Creek reservoirs, Ada Co., Ida. (MRC, JL, ST) and at Lower Klamath (PL). The species was not recorded at Malheur; high water levels had eliminated suitable nesting habitat there. Semipalmated Plovers appeared at Malheur, Lower Klamath, Weston and Rufus, all in Oregon. Black-necked Stilts appeared in a number of unusual places. The most remarkable sighting was that of at least six at Swan L., Vernon, B.C., May 14-25 (IB, m.ob.). One at Mann's L., e. of Lewiston, was apparently n. Idaho's first (REJ, JR). Up to five were sighted at Reardan, Wash., and three stopped at St. Andrews, Wash., Apr. 14 (BW). Up to eight appeared at Hatfield L., Baker, for the 2nd county record (TC). An astonishing number showed up in the Winchester Wasteway-Dodson Rd. area s.w. of Moses L.; about Apr. 20 a group of 13 was at one pond and 15 at another (JT). Ponds n. of Frenchman Hills Rd., in that area held 15 stilts, two of which were on eggs. One nest checked contained 4 eggs. A small island in the n. part of Potholes Res had two pairs of stilts; behavior of the birds indicated at least one nest (RF).

A few Am. Avocets showed up at Bend for the 2nd county record (TC). At Kootenai N.W.R., where the species is rare, one avocet appeared Apr. 10 and two May 19 (LDN). The only Solitary Sandpipers reported were singles at Genesee, Ida. (MK, LL, PP), and w. of Reardan (BW). A rare sighting of a Whimbrel was made at Malheur May 1 (ref. pers.). Two migrating Long-billed Curlews at Bonners Ferry May 12 were distinctly on the rare side (PRS). This species again appeared in small numbers in the Eureka, Mont., vicinity (CW). Four Marbled

Godwits, also rare at Malheur, appeared there Apr. 25 (ref. pers.). Two were at Mann's L., Lewiston, Ida., May 5 along with four Sanderlings (RN). A Sanderling at Mountain Home Res. provided a latilong first (KBP) as did two at Otharp L., s.w. of Eureka (CW). Eight Baird's Sandpipers, rare at Bend in spring, were counted there Apr. 15; this could be an extremely high number even for the fall migration there (TC). One or two Dunlins at Hubbard Res., and Dry L. ponds, Canyon Co., Ida., were noteworthy (MRC, ECC, CS) and one near Umapine, Ore., May 5 was unusual (SM, PD). Rufus had four Short-billed Dowitchers May 4 (RG), one was photographed near Boise May 8 (MRC) and one was at Bend May 3 (TC).

GULLS AND TERNS — Unusual were four Franklin's Gulls at Hubbard Res. and a Bonaparte's Gull at Davis Res., e. of Cascade, Ida. (MRC, ST). A Franklin's Gull, rare in s. British Columbia, was at Nakusp May 30 (RH). At least 1000 Bonaparte's were on Salmon L., s. of Kamloops, B.C., May 5 (JW). One was at Lewiston May 5 (RN) and two were on a pond at Genesee, Ida., May 6 (C.B.). Single Herring Gulls were at Rufus Apr. 6 (RG) and at Malheur Mar. 7 (ref. pers.). Birds identified as W. Gulls were reported at C.J. Strike Res., Feb. 10 and near Boise Mar. 28 (MRC, ECC, NS, CS). This species is virtually unknown inland; these records, if correct, would be the first for Idaho. Two Caspian Terns, rare in s. interior British Columbia, appeared at Tranquille May 17 and one was at Chapperon L., s. of Kamloops, May 12 (RH). Two were at Lewiston May 6 (C.B.). Several "Black Terns" at American Falls Res. in s. Idaho May 3 proved to be Com. Terns (CHT). Single Black Terns were sighted at Hubbard Res., Marsing and Ft. Boise W.M.A. Millcreek Res., e. of Walla Walla had one May 28 (CF), and two at Fortine, Mont., May 15 were the first there in the last 6 years (WW).

DOVES AND OWLS — A Band-tailed Pigeon was sighted at Malheur Apr. 1 and another appeared at Montour, Ida., May 12 (A & HL, G.E.A.S.). Slate Creek R.S., s. of White Bird, Ida., had one May 3 (SW). At least 25 Com. Barn-Owls frequented cliffs at dusk near Clarkston, Wash., May 21 (MK). Five Flammulated Owls were calling at various places in the Kamloops area May 18-24 (RH) and three were heard near Kelowna, B.C., May 26 (JB). Two were calling at Diamond L., Wash., May 28 (BW). A pair of Snowy Owls that reportedly wintered in the Cascade-Donnelly, Ida., area were last seen Apr. 10 (*vide* MRC). Owl censuses in Boise N.F., Valley Co., Ida., in March and April counted one W. Screech, up to eight Great Horned, up to 14 N. Pygmy, one Great Gray (+ five in adjacent areas), two *Strix* spp., two Boreal and three N. Saw-whet owls (G & PH).

SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS — An estimated 1000 Black Swifts were over Swan L., Vernon May 21 (PMcA). A kayak trip on the Owyhee R., below Rome, Ore., May 27 yielded three Black Swifts in association with many White-throated Swifts (BN). A single White-throated was sighted near Asotin, Wash., May 25 (MK). An exciting observation was of a ♂ *Costa's Hummingbird* at Bend, Ore., May 11+ (G & CR, TC). This furnished the Region's first record.

WOODPECKERS AND FLYCATCHERS — Few Lewis' Woodpeckers were reported except at Malheur, where the birds were rather common through May 16. Two W. Flycatchers on Scout Mt., s. of Pocatello, May 31 were suspected of nesting (CHT). A report of an Ash-throated Flycatcher at Cranbrook was apparently the first for interior British Columbia (*vide* MVW). Eastern Kingbirds were reported as much more numerous than usual in e. Oregon, outnumbering the ordinarily more common W. Kingbird. A W. Kingbird, a rarity at Kootenai N.W.R., was observed there May 21.

SWALLOWS THROUGH WRENS — A ♂ Purple Martin showed up near Mountain Home Apr. 21 (CS) and perhaps the same bird appeared with swallows near Boise Apr. 25-26 and near Hubbard Res., May 12 (MBE, MRC). The Blue Jay that wintered near Fortine was last seen May 5 (WW). The mountains along the w. side of Cascade Res., Valley Co., Ida., had three Chestnut-backed Chickadees Mar. 20. Local residents reportedly have seen them 20 mi to the n.e. of there in summer (MRC). Hull's Gulch Nature Trail, Boise, had three Plain Titmice May 27 for apparently the first spring record for that area (ECC). Bewick's

Wren was reported still increasing in the Walla Walla area and nearby along the Snake and Columbia rivers (SM).

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS — A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher again appeared at Boise-Barber pools of the Boise R., Apr. 28 (MRC), and two pairs were building nests at Malheur. Migrating Mountain Bluebirds numbered 85 at Bickleton, Wash., Mar. 6 and a flock of 35 was seen near Cataldo, Ida. May 6. Boise had a visit from a N. Mockingbird May 16 (PPh, PB). The Brown Thrasher that wintered near Genelle, s. of Trail, B.C., was last seen Mar. 5 (ME, m.ob.). A Loggerhead Shrike, very rare in s. British Columbia, was sighted at Osoyoos Apr. 5 (SRC). "Phenomenal" waves of vireos and warblers were encountered in the Boise vicinity Apr. 21-May 21, coinciding with an erratic storm pattern to the e. Included were two **Bell's Vireos** described May 16 for apparently Idaho's first (MRC, PPh, PB). A ♂ Blue-winged Warbler at Pocatello May 8 apparently provided Idaho's 2nd record (CWe, *vide* CHT). Tennessee Warblers were unusually common at Vernon in mid-May (PMcA) and one was observed at Pocatello May 16 (CHT *et al.*). A Tennessee was near Page Springs, Ore., May 5. Malheur had a Black-throated Gray Warbler Apr. 25, a Black-throated Green May 11, a pair of Blackpolls May 19 and a ♂ Black-and-white May 22+ (ref. pers.). A molting ♂ "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warbler was seen at Mountain Home May 18, and a Com. Yellowthroat May 14 made the first record there (KBP). That oasis for birds and birders, the Davenport, Wash. cemetery, provided a Palm Warbler May 12 (BW). A Black-and-white Warbler at Tumalo S.P., May 11 was Deschutes County's first and another was at Fields, Ore., May 27 (TC, JG, RS, HN). An Ovenbird was near Fields May 27 (ref. pers.) and one caught by a cat at Pocatello May 25 was banded and released. The cat owner said he had seen another in his yard (JJ).



Ovenbird banded by Joe Jeppson at Pocatello, Idaho, May 25, 1984. Photo/C. H. Trost.

GROSBEAKS THROUGH GRACKLES — Helena had a ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak May 26 (GH) and a female June 1 (AS). A Lark Sparrow at Kimberley May 17 furnished that area's first record (MVW). A Black-throated Sparrow at Metcalf N.W.R. was the 3rd ever reported for w. Montana (HH). The Malta, Ida., area had two Lark Buntings May 3 (WHS). Grasshopper Sparrows were found in the Boise area at Ft. Boise, Kuna, and Black's Creek Res. (MRC, JL, ST), and in the vicinity of Eureka, Mont. (CW). The species was also reported at the N. Potholes (Y.A.S.) and near Wallulla, Wash. (SM). Single Harris' Sparrows were reported at Rogersburg, Wash., May 5 (AM), at Boise feeders and along the Payette R., Ida., Mar. 1-Apr. 26 (MRC), and one at Klamath Falls was seen again Apr. 16 (PL); College Place, Wash., had two immatures Mar. 3 (B.M.A.S.). The lakeshore at Nakusp, B.C., hosted the phenomenal rarity of two ♂ **Chestnut-collared Longspurs** in full breeding plumage May 29-30 (GDa, FKl). A breeding-plumaged

♀ Snow Bunting photographed at Donnelly, Ida., Mar. 16 furnished a latilong first (MRC, JL, ST). Bobolinks seem to have become regular summer residents at Prairie, Ida.; two males were seen in that vicinity May 26 (KBP). A few Com. Grackles appeared in the Boise and Mountain Home vicinities (MRC, A & HL, J & RS, m.ob.).

OBSERVERS CITED — Patricia Baker, Ian Barnett, Eugene C. Barney, Marc Bechard (MBe), Vivian Bellemere, Jack Bowling, Blue Mountain Audubon Society (B.M.A.S.), Mel Branch (MB), Steve R. Cannings, Canyon Birders (C.B.), Helen Carlson, E.C. Cleaveland, Mark R. Collie, Tom Crabtree, Priscilla Dauable, Gary Davidson (GDa), Gerald Deutcher (GDe), Gay Demmer (GDem), Maurice Ellison, Chris Flanagan, Ron Friesz, Golden Eagle Audubon Society (G.E.A.S.), Roy Gerig, Jeff Gilligan (JG), James Grant (JGr), Harvey Hackett, Greg & Pat Hayward (G & PH), George Holton (GH), Rick Howie, John Jancic (JJa), Joe Jeppson (JJ), Richard E. Johnson, Martha

Jordan, Frances King (FKi), Florence Knoll (FK), Merlene Koliner, Kootenai Bird Club (K.B.C.), Al & Hilda Larson, Louise La Voie, Paul Lehman, Jim Lyons, Pat McAllister, Craig Miller, Alice Montag, Shirley Muse, Larry D. Napier, Harry Nehls, Ron Neu, Jerry Neufeld, Barbara North, Peggy Pedigo (PP), Polly Phillips (PPh), Ambrose Priestley, Kerry B. Provance, James R. Rees, James Reichel, Hadley B. Roberts, Gary & Carol Routh, Don Schmaldt, Ann Scofield, John Scott (JSc), W.H. Shillington, Paul R. Sieracki, Jack & Ruth Smith (J & RS), Richard Smith (RS), Nettie Smoot, Jim Sparks (JS), Coleen Sweeney, Jim Tabor, C.H. Trost, Scott Tuthill, Robert Twist, Laura & Maurice Vial, Carol Vande Voorde, Cheryl Webb (CWe), Winton Weydemeyer, Bart Whelton, Mildred V. White, Ruth Wirtanen, Susan Wise, Carl Wolf (CW), Robert E. Woodley, John Woods, Philip L. Wright, Yakima Audubon Society (Y.A.S.), Pete Zager.—**THOMAS H. ROGERS, E. 10820 Maxwell, Spokane, WA 99206.**

MOUNTAIN WEST REGION

/Hugh E. Kingery

Generally contributors described an uneventful spring migration, with the land birds concentrated into ten or fifteen days. Snowstorms punctuated the Colorado and Wyoming spring: one each weekend in March and April, with the last two—April 20-22 in Colorado and April 25-29 in northern Wyoming—turning into real corkers. They generated bizarre observations like a Burrowing Owl which perched 50 feet up in an elm tree in Sheridan, Wyoming. Southern Nevada and southern Utah had a drought going, with high winds and hot temperatures (108°F in Las Vegas May 29) through much of the spring.

The inexorable rise of the Great Salt Lake has inundated Utah's productive wildlife refuges. Counts of waterfowl and shorebirds have plummeted, and nesting habitat for many species, from pelicans to Short-eared Owls, has gone awash.

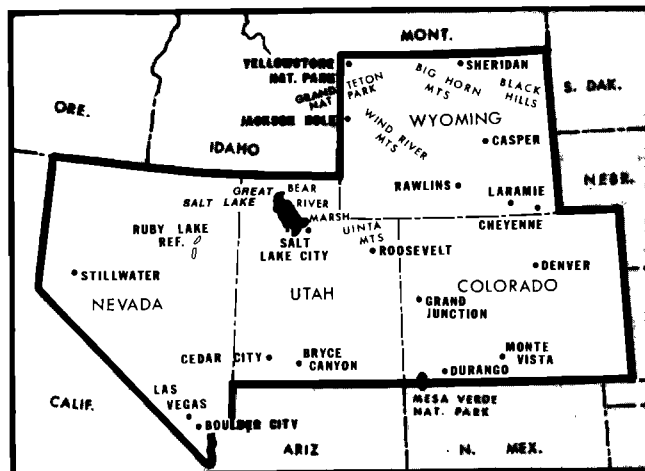
Two banders viewed the season through different nets. Mildred Snyder has banded birds in her Aurora, Colorado, yard for 22 years. Last year she banded 97 birds of 26 species; this year she banded only 31 birds of nine species. On the other hand, in Ogden, Utah, Merlin Killpack banded huge numbers of birds, comparable with previous years: 449 Lazuli Buntings, 173 Dark-eyed Juncos, 72 Pine Siskins, 65 Black-headed Grosbeaks.

First arrival dates of several species came quite early—but several of those first arrivals were loners; no others of their kind were seen for three or four more weeks. The significance of early arrival dates, so revered by bird watchers, probably is very limited. Examples of early birds without companions for some weeks: two Violet-green Swallows at Yellowstone National Park April 14, no more until May 14; House Wrens April 22 at Logan, Utah, no more until May.

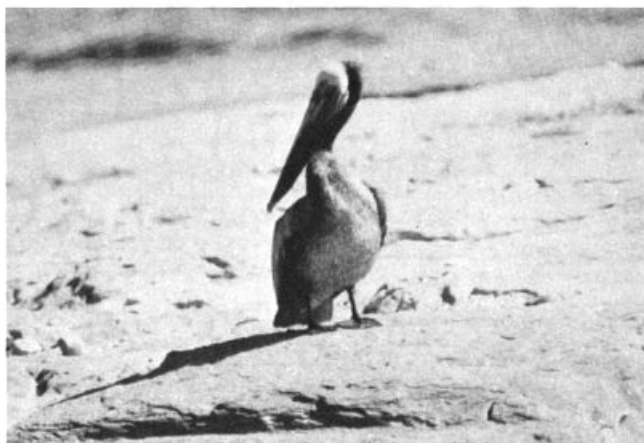
The Region reported an average number of species for the Spring—371. Nevada had 284 species, 35 above average, but the other states had average variety: Colorado 326, Wyoming 255, and Utah 249.

ABBREVIATIONS — †† = written description submitted to C.F.O. Records Committee; # = no written description; L/L/B/L = Longmont/Lyons/Berthoud/Loveland area, Colo.

LOONS TO IBISES — The 188+ Com. Loons reported included a peak of 40 at Cedar City, Utah, Apr. 8; the dates stretched from early March at Las Vegas to May 25 at Fish Springs N.W.R., Utah. They arrived in n.w. Wyoming at Bedford May 26. Ruby Lake N.W.R., Nev., attracted 400-600 Pied-billed Grebes in May (CE). Two contributors in n. Colorado reported different experiences with Horned Grebes: a peak of 40 Mar. 20 at Boulder identified as relatively low (LHa) and the 187 counted Mar. 11-Apr. 22 at L/L/B/L three times last year's count (F.A.C.). The 41-observer report from L/L/B/L may rest on a more consistent data base, or may show that the grebes used different reservoirs this year. Rare Red-necked Grebes stopped at Penrose, Colo.,



Apr. 7 (††RW) and Reno, Nev., Apr. 8 (†MR). Observers fear that the rising waters of the Great Salt L. will inundate the Am. White Pelican nesting colony—3000 pairs strong—perhaps destroying 700 eggs and young (JKa). Meanwhile Wyoming had a new colony at Pathfinder Res., with 245 nests with eggs or young June 15 (SF). Lake Powell, in s.e. Utah, attracted a **Brown Pelican** Apr. 4-8, for the first state record verified by photograph. It had adult plumage except that it lacked the black belly (S. Scott ph., †E & RS).



Brown Pelican on Lake Powell, Utah, Apr. 4, 1984. First documented Utah record. Photo/Steven Scott.

Ruby L. estimated 300 Am. Bitterns on the refuge, and a surprising one visited Rock Springs, Wyo., May 25-26 (FL). A Least Bittern stopped at Provo, Utah May 29-30 (†MW) and one was reported from Ruby L., May 26 (†JMN); last year we also had one report each from Utah and Nevada (#). Last spring the Region counted eight Great Egrets; this year, 16. Little Blue Herons reportedly visited Brush, Colo., May 5 (††LHa) and Boulder, Colo., Apr. 30 (#). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron again built a nest among the Black-crowns at Denver's City P.; it did not appear to have a mate, however (HEK). White-faced Ibis numbers appeared healthy—equal to or greater than last year's. Best count came from Grand Jct., Colo., with 326 Apr. 19 (A.S.W.C.).

WATERFOWL — Utah's waterfowl counts in March dropped to one-half of last year's; half of the 8 Great Salt L. refuges did not turn in counts—salt water has inundated most of them. The peak came Mar. 16-30 with 99,741 ducks, a far cry from the 336,185 reported in 1981. Tundra Swan counts also plummeted, the peak being 1726 Mar. 1 *cf.* 25,021 in 1981 (U.D.W.R.). Some waterfowl may have visited inaccessible areas of the lake or refuges where no counts occurred (including Bear River); however the rising salt waters destroyed not only habitat but also food. The San Luis Valley, Colo., refuges—Alamosa and Monte Vista—tallied 37,000 ducks, twice the usual count; the peak came 10 days later than usual (JK).

Tundra Swans may have dispersed from the Salt L. Valley. Kirch W.M.A., at Lund, Nev., counted 117 Mar. 5; it had none last year (CS). Swans stopped at Logan, Utah, 35 mi n.e. of Great Salt L., Mar. 10-Apr. 3, a maximum of 50. Small groups of two to 10 occurred at Reno, Nev., Provo and Ogden, Utah, Durango, Penrose, and Denver, Colo., and Rock Springs and Sheridan, Wyo. These dispersed reports totaled 198 swans, compared with eight last year. Observers report more Ross' Geese each year, probably due to improved field identification information. Top counts came from w. Colorado, with seven at Grand Jct., Mar. 18 and 11-33 at Delta Mar. 2-19 (MJ); the bird examined for 1½ hours Mar. 17 at Ruby L., and the four at Lund Mar. 12-26 (CS) filled in e. Nevada to the Ross' range (†CE, CS). Wood Ducks provided 2 notable breeding records: At Grand Jct., seven young were seen with parents May 6, establishing the first W. Slope breeding record (MHu—*1st Lat*), and at Sheridan May 10, one was seen entering a nest hole in a cottonwood tree (MWa). A bird resembling an Am. Black Duck stopped at Rock Springs Apr. 14—it reportedly met all criteria except that it had white borders on the speculum (FL). Greater Scaup reports included 16 at Delta Mar. 7 (MJ), two probables Mar. 24 at Rock Springs (FL), two at Cheyenne Apr. 8 (AA), and one at Kirch W.M.A., May 21 (CS). An Oldsquaw stopped at Fernley, Nev., Apr. 11-14 (JB). Common Goldeneyes lingered to the end of the period in Logan (KD, MT).

RAPTORS — Osprey observations increased by 40% this spring, in all 4 states. They included urban visitors—taking goldfish from a subdivision pond at Carson City, Nev. (BP) and flying over the U. of Colorado campus at Boulder (DW), and two at Garrison, Utah, May 13 (LN—*1st Lat*). Colorado had an Am. Swallow-tailed Kite for the 2nd straight spring, one May 12 at Bonny Res. (#VZ, JRe). Reports of all 3 *Accipiters* increased over last year. Northern Goshawks continued their winter visitation to the e. Colorado plains, including one Mar. 24 in Denver's City P. (BA). A Com. Black-Hawk visited Davis Dam, Nev., Apr. 9 (GA, *fide* CL). Colorado had 11 reports of Broad-winged Hawks, half last year's total. Utah had its 10th report, one seen Apr. 7 at Capitol Reef N.M.; four hawks nearby may have been of the same species (E & RS). The 35 reported Peregrine Falcon observations matched the number seen in 1983. A pair of Peregrine Falcons took up residence on the ledges of Salt Lake City's Hotel Utah for 3 weeks. The female, only a year old, had been released in Idaho; the male was from Ogden, Utah in 1981. Hotel officials were ready to close off the wing of the hotel where the birds appeared likely to nest. Maybe next year. Gyrfalcons visited Logan Mar. 4 (J & TB, *fide* MT) and Sheridan Mar. 21 (BO).

CHUKAR TO CRANES — The severe winter impacted severely on populations of the various grouse. But a Chukar enlivened Snyder's dull spring banding program: May 31 it lit "up on the very tip of the roof, acting like a weathervane!" Ruby L. reported low counts on Sage Grouse leks (four and six—CE) but 2 Walden, Colo., leks had 80 and

125 Apr. 10 & May 5 (F A C). The two Virginia Rails at Evanston, Wyo., provided a first Latilong record May 11 (CK). Common Moorhens visited Cedar City, Utah, May 1 (SH—1st county record) and Grand Jct., Colo., May 2-7, (†RL, MJ, A.S.W.C.—*1st Lat.*). On Mar. 1 the San Luis Valley counted 8000 Sandhill Cranes and Lund, Nev., had 1450. Observers did not report any other large flocks except 330 at Delta, which also had one Whooping Crane (MJ). In March, 26 Whoopers stopped in the San Luis Valley; three died from collisions with powerlines and fences, two stayed and apparently summered, and the rest moved N, most to Idaho, but two returned to Daniel, Wyo. (JR)

SHOREBIRDS — Habitat conditions—high water, no mud flats—kept shorebird observations down. At the Great Salt L., many fed in wet pastures since their favored marshes were under water. Best counts, paltry compared to typical Bear River Refuge Counts, were 500 Black-bellied Plovers, counted near Farmington May 5 and Layton May 22 (JN). A Lesser Golden-Plover stopped at Las Vegas Apr. 22 (J & MC). The Snowy Plover at Riverton, Wyo., May 30 provided a *1st Lat.* record (SF). Whimbrels visited e. Colorado in unusual numbers: flocks of one to 29 occurred Apr. 29-May 12, and Cheyenne and Casper reported one each. A Ruddy Turnstone rested on a sand bar near Riverton, Wyo., May 12 (†SF). From 15 to 200 Red Knots fed with Black-bellied Plovers in pastures at Farmington, Utah May 5-22 (JN, MW). At Denver, D.F.O. reported eight knots Apr. 29. At Delta, two W. Sandpipers stopped Mar. 22—the day the ice went off the lake (MJ). The 32 Dunlins included 18 at Las Vegas Apr. 18 and seven to eight at Kirch W.M.A., Apr. 23-30 (CS), two at Delta May 1-3 (MJ), and singles at Grand Jct., Loveland, and Casper. The only sizable flock of Stilt Sandpipers, 79, was at Huntley, Wyo., May 19 (FL). Thirteen Short-billed Dowitchers stopped at Platteville, Colo., Apr. 30 (JW, identified primarily by call) and six in s.e. Colorado May 12 (#RB). Kirch W.M.A. reported the top count of Long-billed Dowitchers—600 May 7 (CS). A Com. Snipe probed around a seeping spring Mar. 3 in the High Uinta Mts. of e. Utah—the surrounding snow was 3 ft deep (CK). At Sheridan Apr. 25, Oelklaus heard one winnowing as he tried to shovel 4 ft of snow in his driveway. Strong counts of Wilson's Phalaropes included a total of 3794 Apr. 24-May 12 at L/L/B/L, 205-387 at Denver Apr. 28-May 6, and 300 at Fontanelle, Wyo., May 12 (JR). Counts of Red-necked Phalaropes were dismal, except for a spectacular 1300 at Rock Springs May 21 (FL).

GULLS TO CUCKOOS — A Laughing Gull hunted over the shallows of Cheraw Res., Colo., May 25 (††LHa ph., D & JW). Spring observations of Bonaparte's Gulls doubled, topped by 10 at Kirch W.M.A., May 14 (CS) and nine at Grand L., Colo., May 12 (DJ). Logan's complement of gulls included a Thayer's Mar. 17-19 (#MT). The Glaucous Gull at Goodrich, Colo., Apr. 26 was late (JCa). A description of a Great Black-backed Gull at Longmont, Colo., the same day will undergo scrutiny by the C.F.O. Records Committee (††LHa). Zion's first White-winged Dove spent Apr. 23-27 on the lawns and trees around the Driftwood Lodge (JG *et al.*); the bird occurs commonly 40 mi s.w. Denver's Monk Parakeet built a stick nest around a hole in a maple tree, where it stayed all spring; no mate joined it (UCK). A surprising 10 Yellow-billed Cuckoos were found in May, the earliest in Denver May 7 (PE).

OWLS TO WOODPECKERS — Flammulated Owl reports came from Las Vegas (C & PG), Beaver Dam Wash, s.w. Utah (MW, netted), and the San Luis Valley, Colo. (JJR). Observers in all 4 states saw N. Pygmy-Owls; a pair in Bedford, Wyo., inspected a nest hole Mar. 13, but did not stay (SS). At Cheyenne an early Burrowing Owl got caught in a chimney Mar. 22; rescued with hook, tended for a week by a veterinarian, and then returned to its burrow, it had a mate the next morning (LO). A Burrowing Owl flushed from junipers in a Denver city park during the Apr. 20 blizzard, and lit 50 ft up in an elm tree (UCK). A pair returned to last year's probable nest site near Monte Vista, Colo., May 8 (JJR). On Mar. 23 a Short-eared Owl flew around another Denver neighborhood, with eight or 10 Blue Jays mobbing it (DS).

Cameron Pass also had 13 N. Saw-whet Owls during the period (two in 1983—DP) and the San Luis Valley had N. Saw-whets in at least 5 locations (JJR ph.—*1st Lat.*). A few Com. Nighthawks had arrived by the end of May; first arrivals came to Grand Jct., May 8 (A.S.W.C.) and

Ft Morgan May 15 (JCR). Hedges reported a probable Chimney Swift at Cedar City, Utah, May 2; he noted the features which distinguish it from the Vaux's Swift. Utah has one specimen and one sight record—both from the n. part of the state. Chimney Swifts have become regular in most Colorado plains towns; Hargreaves noted 25 in Wray and Holyoke May 8. A motley crew of six N. Flickers was courting at Sheridan Apr 22: they included at least two Yellow-shafted and one Red-shafted (PK).

S.A.

Reports of **Boreal Owls** exploded this spring. At Cameron Pass, Colo.—the first Regional and 2nd lower-48-state nesting site—Palmer found 25 singing males Mar. 1-May 31, and found two nests. Last year he counted only nine birds there. He explains that the best time to find them is mid-March to late April, during the full moon. Forty-five to 60 mi s., in Boulder County, Boreals called at Caribou, Brainard L., and Coal Cr. Canyon during the full moon Apr. 4-5 (DH, DB, PH). Rawinski reported five Boreals at Creede, Colo., in April and May, including one singing and feeding on a vole; this moves the records and possible nesting sites 225 mi s.w. from the original Cameron Pass location (*1st Lat.*).

FLYCATCHERS TO SWALLOWS — At least two Least Flycatchers were calling at Bonny May 12-13 (VZ); since none called there May 26-27 (HEK), the earlier birds may have been migrants. Black Phoebes had hatched and left the nest by May 3 at Zion (LP). The Denver area had E. Phoebes May 4 & 26 (WWB, D.F.O.). Boulder had a Great Crested Flycatcher May 19-23 (VZ, PH) and Julesburg had one May 13 (VZ). The eight Brown-crested Flycatchers at Beaver Dam Wash May 21 showed an increase of 30% over last year (SH). At Reno Mar 24, a W. Kingbird arrived 10 days earlier than the normal arrival time in Las Vegas (JWa). Eastern Kingbirds strayed W to Las Vegas, Dyer, Nev., Provo, and Cortez, Colo., in May. Denver's Spring Count May 13 turned up a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (D.F.O.). Purple Martins were reported Apr. 29 at Denver (D.F.O.) and May 5 at Pueblo (RB). The first Tree Swallows arrived at Reno Mar. 10 and Kirch W.M.A., Mar 11. They had reached Yellowstone N.P., by Apr. 19 (JZ). The first swallows, Violet-greens, arrived at Zion Mar. 4 (LP); Yellowstone had two Apr. 14 and then no more until May 14 (JZ). Counts of 300+ Bank Swallows came from Cheyenne and Ft. Collins in May. Cliff Swallows face an uncertain future when they nest around homes and condominiums; owners dislike their droppings and resort to various means, from brooms to garden hoses, to dislodge them. At Eureka, Nev., where Eyre doesn't mind them, the tale of 7 nesting pairs seemed to follow the script of "the perils of Pauline: they failed to finish one. House Sparrows took 3, Starlings destroyed one, and 2 survived."

WRENS TO THRUSHES — A colossal count of migrating Rock Wrens came from Pawnee Grassland: 500 on May 11 (PR). Denver Field Ornithologists found a Bewick's Wren on the Denver Spring Count May 12, and B.A.S. reported one from Boulder Apr. 28. House Wrens arrived early Apr. 9 at Big Piney, Wyo. (JR), and Apr. 22 at Logan (KD); however, the rest arrived in May as usual. On Apr. 6, in a one-mi stretch of Pine Cr. Canyon near Las Vegas, the Cressmans found all 6 western wren species including a Winter Wren. Other unusual Winter Wrens were reported from Zion Apr. 5, Boulder May 12, and Evergreen May 21. Pueblo reported the one species missed by the Cressmans—Sedge Wren May 5 (††DJo). Ruby-crowned Kinglets mostly slipped through unnoticed, although at Ogden Killpack banded 19 (none ever before). Eastern Bluebirds put in w. appearances: one to two at Pueblo Mar. 10 (VT), Ridgway, Colo., Mar. 31 (†JRG), Denver and Boulder Apr. 22 (F & JJ, D & JW), Laramie Apr. 23 (SFr), and Glenwood Springs May 10-12 (VZ). April saw flocks of 10-20 W. Bluebirds along the Front Range from Denver to Loveland, and one Apr 28 graced Pawnee Grassland (D.F.O.). Mountain Bluebirds arrived late and remained late and in high numbers on the plains; L/L/B/L counted 858 Mar. 2-May 6 *cf.* 140 last year (F.A.C.). Gray-cheeked Thrushes may well migrate through e. Colorado and Wyoming in small numbers—Colorado has a couple of recent specimens—but sight observations still require detailed supporting descriptions, which were not

received for the 3 turned in this spring (from Two Buttes and Fleming, Colo., and Casper). Except for flocks of 75-150 May 12-15 in the e. tier of Colorado, observers found few Swainson's Thrushes—the Denver Spring Count tallied only one.

CATBIRD TO VIREOS — Gray Catbirds were found May 26-27 at Provo (MW), Yellowstone (TM), and Dyer, Nev. (†JL). In Carson City a N. Mockingbird appeared Mar. 10-11, possibly blown in by high winds in California (BP). A pair nested at Eureka, a rare occurrence (*fide* JE). The Sage Thrasher in a Cheyenne yard Apr. 1-2 & 16 came unusually close to the city (H.P.A.S.). Brown Thrashers strayed into the mountains May 5-6 at Alamosa, Radium, and Indian Peaks, Colo. (JK, DJ, DH). Bendire's Thrashers nested 60 mi s. of Eureka (*fide* JE) and one was w. of Grand Jct., May 4 (††VZ). The frequency of reports of Curve-billed Thrashers near Ft. Morgan, Colo. (one May 27—JRE) suggests that those birds must be going somewhere. Denver reported two May 5 & 13 (D.F.O.). Zion had its first Crissal Thrasher May 24 (JG); they occur commonly about 40 mi s.w. Bohemian Waxwings stretched out their winter presence; flocks of 100-500 occurred in March along the Front Range from Denver n. to Sheridan, and into the mountains at Radium and Indian Peaks. The fewer Cedar Waxwings did include 200 at Las Vegas in May, feeding on ripening mulberries, six to 40 in March-April at Carson City, and flocks of 50-200 May 12-26 at Bonny. A roadside count from Denver to Ft. Morgan Apr. 29 tallied 75 Loggerhead Shrikes; a similar count on the same highway May 5 counted 19 (LHa). A Yellow-throated Vireo visited Boulder May 19-20 (#VZ, PG, m.ob.). Fontanelle, Wyo., sported a Red-eyed Vireo May 28 (FL—*1st Lat.*).

WARBLERS — Three Colorado Spring Counts turned up fewer warbler species and lower numbers than usual—10-14 species, 303-515 individuals. The spring's rarities included: a Blue-winged Warbler at Limon, Colo., May 20 (††RW); a singing N. Parula at Las Vegas May 12-15 (VM); Nevada's 3rd spring Chestnut-sided Warbler at Las Vegas May 27 (VM); May Magnolias at Las Vegas, Laramie, Wyo. (DM), Boulder, Holyoke, Fleming, and Crook, Colo.; a Cape May at Two Buttes, Colo., May 24 (††JW); different Black-throated Greens at Cheyenne May 13 (†AK) & May 19 (†FL); a Blackburnian at Boulder May 14 (††DW); a Bay-breasted at Alamosa, Colo., May 23 (†JRG—*1st Lat.*); a Blackpoll at Big Piney, Wyo. (ED—*1st Lat.*); Nevada's 3rd Prothonotary at Las Vegas May 26 (J & MC, †VM); a Worm-eating Warbler at Boulder May 18-19 (D & JW); and an Ovenbird at Las Vegas May 27-June 9 (VM).

Semi-rarities included 21 Tennessees, 10 Nashvilles, two Virginia's which strayed N to Jackson, Wyo., May 16 (BPe); three N. Parulas in Colorado including the first one in the San Luis Valley (††JRR), three Chestnut-sideds in Colorado including one at McCoy May 14 (ME), only one Black-throated Blue Warbler at Denver, 10 Black-throated Grays in n.e. Colorado and e. Wyoming; one Hermit Warbler at Las Vegas; a Grace's at Rye, which for the first time in 5 years did not nest there (DJo); four Palm Warblers in e. Colorado; 11 Blackpolls in Colorado, a low number but including one in the San Luis Valley (JRR); eight Black-and-white Warblers; and N. Waterthrushes at Blanding, Utah (E & RS) and Rock Springs (FL).

TANAGERS TO SPARROWS — Longmont, Colo., reported a Summer Tanager May 13 (†KB). The masses of W. Tanagers that have appeared some years did not materialize this spring; top counts were 36 by 8 parties on the Denver Spring Count May 12-13 and 35 at Las Vegas May 15. A N. Cardinal stayed in Casper through Apr. 5, and at least three were reported from various yards in Denver. The Region reported only 41 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, a drop from the 144 found in 1983. Ogden continued as the Lazuli Bunting capital: Killpack banded 449 and would have banded more had he not run out of bands—he banded 604 last year. One Lazuli appeared early at a Sheridan feeder during the Apr 29 blizzard (MRT). A Dickcissel, the first since 1979, visited Las Vegas May 25-29 (VM). At Denver sparrows peaked May 5-6 when one D.A.S. Birdathon group counted 110 Chippings and 110 Vespers; May 12 in the same place they found two Chippings and eight Vespers. (The Denver Spring Count May 12-13 tallied 276 Chippings and 57 Vespers altogether.) In contrast, the Boulder and Ft. Collins Spring Counts May 12 respectively counted 444 and 862 Chippings. Observers found Clay-

colored Sparrows at Las Vegas May 13 (VM) and Bluff, Utah May 22 (†PL—1st Lat.).

Unusual Black-throated Sparrows strayed N to Logan—two Apr. 20 and one May 1 (AS, KW, KD)—and to Denver May 12 & 26 (D.F.O., BA). Denver had rare Sage Sparrows—two Mar. 23 and one Mar. 24 (MJS, HEK). Lark Buntings seemed scarce at Cheyenne, but a roadside count from Denver to Bonny tallied 915 May 25 cf. 688 last year. An early one appeared on Cody's main street Apr. 15, feeding with House Sparrows (JW), and one to 10 were at Yellowstone May 4-13 (JZ). Sheridan recorded a top count of Savannah Sparrows—153—on its Spring Count May 19; the prior average was 27. Observers in Boulder and Longmont reported six Baird's Sparrows; the three at Boulder May 2, and one May 14, came with good descriptions (†LHa). Grasshopper Sparrows do not appear as numerous this year as last, with only four reported—one at Las Vegas and three in e. Colorado. A Chestnut-collared Longspur stopped at Las Vegas Apr. 15 (J & MC, KWa). After the winter abundance of Snow Buntings, only Cheyenne reported them this spring: five Mar. 12 and one Apr. 22 (H.P.A.S.).

BLACKBIRDS, CARDUELINES — Western Meadowlarks suffered with the spring storms. At Eureka, Nev., 150 fed by a highway during a 6" snow. Sheridan reported high mortality during the late April storm: a riparian survey in May which usually tallies 21-27 counted none (HD). They arrived late and nested late in Cody and Bedford, Wyo. (UK, SS). Great-tailed Grackles continue their relentless expansion; to Zion, Cedar City, Kanab, and Bluff, Utah, and Kirch W.M.A. (up to 25 counted in May) and Lida, Nev. Evanston, Wyo., May 16 hosted two Com. Grackles, probably expanding as efficiently as their cousins. A Hooded Oriole came to a Reno home for the 2nd year (JB, ph.). A N. (Baltimore) Oriole stopped at Kirch Apr. 30 (CS). The Boulder Brambling (see previous report) stayed until Mar. 14 (MFo). Typical large flocks of Rosy Finches spread into atypical places, especially in Wyoming. Cheyenne had an unprecedented influx, with, e.g., 600 Apr. 1, some roosting in a horse trailer, and the last seen May 15 (H.P.A.S.). Cody had 400 during the late April storm—Kepler fed them 5½ pounds of seed/day. Buffalo, Casper, and Rock Springs reported flocks of 200-300. Several Pine Grosbeaks strayed to plains locations in May, the first time Regional observers have reported such a springtime phenomenon: two to Casper, one to Cheyenne, seven to Lyons, Colo., and eight to Loveland, Colo. In the Indian Peaks w. of Boulder, observations declined slightly from last spring; the observations reflect the comments from Figs in the preceding Winter Report. Cassin's Finches occurred in normal numbers, except for large flocks which assembled at L/L/B/L feeders during the Apr. 20-21 blizzard. Few people reported Red Crossbills, although the Indian Peaks Spring Count found 163 (four last year). The Indian Peaks had flocks of five to seven White-winged Crossbills on 4 days during the season (DH). Pine Siskins staged their usual spring invasion, although comparative numbers seemed hard to assess. Killpack banded 72, cf. 160 last year; Grand Jct. had few, but in e. Colorado the numbers seemed high—Ft. Collins had 367 on its Spring Count and L/L/B/L counted 811 during the season cf. 467 last year. L/L/B/L and Indian Peaks had substantially more Evening Grosbeaks during the season, respectively 151 and 167 (cf. 57 and 10 last year).

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SOUTHWEST REGION

Arizona, Sonora

/David Stejskal and Janet Witzeman

The first half of the spring was characterized by very dry weather, which was a continuation of conditions during the winter. There was no precipitation in most areas of the state from early January through late April, at which time the drought conditions were ended by a cold storm front originating in the Pacific followed by warm, wet weather from the south in early May—weather more typical of July and August. The heavy rains probably had something to do with the preponderance of reports of singing Cassin's Sparrows in the southeast. This species is not usually detected in any numbers until July when the usual summer rains commence.

As for the other birds, this spring's migration was generally thought to be below average, with usually common species passing through virtually unnoticed or in reduced numbers. There was a fairly good variety of the rare-but-regular migrants and an above-average number of vagrant wood warblers. Arizona also recorded two vagrants from Mexico that will probably make listers across the continent drool.



LOONS THROUGH HERONS — Arizona's 7th **Red-throated Loon** was found in Prescott May 27-28 (†CT). This established the 3rd spring record for the state and the first for the Prescott area. Common Loons away from the Lower Colorado River (hereafter, L.C.R.) were three on May 3 on Ashurst L., and one May 4 on Upper L. Mary, s. of Flagstaff (both JSh).

Completely unexpected was the imm. **Red-billed Tropicbird** found in an agricultural field s. of Camp Verde Apr. 7 (fide DT, ph. K.

Ingram). The bird, exhausted and dehydrated, was brought to the Ariz. Game and Fish Dept., in Phoenix, and was subsequently transported to Sea World in San Diego for rehabilitation. Unfortunately, the bird died in early June (*to U. of Ariz.). There were 2 previous records for the state: Apr. 10, 1905 near Phoenix and Sept. 15, 1927 near Dos Cabezas, Cochise Co.



Immature Red-billed Tropicbird found in exhausted condition s. of Camp Verde, Ariz., Apr. 7, 1984. Third Arizona record. Photo/Kathy Ingram.

Single Double-crested Cormorants were noted near Show Low Mar. 30 (M. Larson) and near St. Johns Apr. 29 (BH). Double-crested Cormorants are sparse in n. Arizona. Both Double-crested Cormorants and Great Blue Herons were found nesting at Picacho Res., Mar. 30 with one and 15 nests noted, respectively (D & MSy). This is a new nesting locality for both species. At least 350 Cattle Egrets at Quigley Ponds n. of Tacna May 26 was a high concentration for the state (DT). Cattle Egrets in n. Arizona, where uncommon, included four on Apr. 21 at Cottonwood (A. Greene) and one at Prescott Apr. 17-20 (CT). A bit more exciting was the ad. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** found near Dudleyville on the San Pedro R., May 8-25 (O. Scott, D. Lee *et al.*, ph. GM, JSa). There had been 2 previous undocumented sightings for the state, both in spring.

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS — Fulvous Whistling-Ducks have become exceptionally rare in the state in recent years, with the last report of a wild bird in 1978. So, unexpected was the individual reported May 30 at Prescott (†H. & A. Gaither). This represents the first record for the Prescott area this century. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks appeared in larger than usual numbers in the s.e. and s.c. portions of the state, with 75+ individuals reported. A flock of eight "Black" Brant at Punto Cirio, Sonora May 26 was late for the Gulf of California (ph. D. Brown).

An early Turkey Vulture was seen near Palominas Mar. 4 (GM, D. Fischer). The expansion story of the decade continues to be that of the Black-shouldered Kite. No fewer than 30 individuals were reported, mostly from the southeast (24), but also from c. Arizona (five) and one from the L.C.R. Most of the reports pertain to individual birds but no fewer than five pairs were noted including one pair copulating n. of Marana.

The desert-nesting Bald Eagle population on the Salt and Verde Rivers fledged a record 15 young. The previous high of 14 was set last year and in 1981. The Bill Williams Delta Com. Black-Hawk returned Apr. 5 for the 6th consecutive year (DK). A Crested Caracara seen at the Sonoita Cr. Sanctuary Apr. 7 was unusual, as the species is rarely encountered outside the Papago Indian Reservation (RBa *et al.*)

SHOREBIRDS — The only Black-bellied Plover reported was one Apr. 30 w. of Tucson (JB *et al.*). Much rarer was the Lesser Golden-Plover at Willcox May 23-29 (RS, †J. & A. Price *et al.*). This may have been the same individual reported last year in May at Willcox. There have been only 6 previous spring records for the state and only about two dozen overall. Two Snowy Plovers at Many Farms L., May 17 (GM)

represented only the 3rd record for n. Arizona.

Black-necked Stilts had been unrecorded in n.e. Arizona until this spring when two were found at Ganado L., May 19 (DSj, CH). An incredible concentration of 96 Whimbrels was seen Apr. 28 near Yuma (PN *et al.*). This was by far the largest single-day number ever recorded in the state. The Marbled Godwit is an uncommon spring migrant throughout the state but is particularly sparse in the n.e., so of interest were individual birds seen at St. Johns Apr. 21 & 27 & May 5 (all BH). Even rarer in spring are Semipalmated and Pectoral sandpipers. A Semipalmated was found w. of Tucson Apr. 30 (JB, †SSu), and a Pectoral was at Willcox Apr. 14-18 (JSa, JB). Short-billed Dowitcher is also quite rare in spring in Arizona, so of interest were three w. of Tucson Apr. 27 (KK, DSj). The Red-necked Phalarope is at best an uncommon spring migrant in the state with individual birds and occasional small flocks being noted mostly in the first half of May. Unusual was a flock of 30+ at Ganado L., May 19 (DSj, CH) and 20 at Willcox May 25 (GM). A Red Phalarope w. of Tucson Apr. 29-30 provided the 5th spring record for the state (KK *et al.*).

GULLS AND TERNS — More Franklin's Gulls were reported this spring than is usual with three in Prescott Apr. 7 through mid-April (CT), one at Sierra Vista Apr. 26 (GM), five on Lower L. Mary May 4 (JSh), and four at Willcox May 10 (JD *et al.*). California Gulls are uncommon away from the L.C.R., and rarely reported in n.e. Arizona, so a 2nd-year bird at Ganado L., May 19 was noteworthy (CH, DSj). A bird reported as a Herring Gull (age?) was at Patagonia L., Apr. 13 (D. Fraser *et al.*) and two ad. Herring Gulls were at Prescott Apr. 14 (CT). One-to-two Caspian Terns at Prescott Apr. 11-22 were in an area where the species is considered to be unusual (CT). An ad. Com. Tern at Many Farms L., May 24 established only the 4th spring record for the state (PL). An ad. Forster's Tern the same day at Ganado L. provided about the 3rd spring record for n.e. Arizona, the paucity of records probably owing to a lack of observers.

CUCKOOS THROUGH NIGHTJARS — A Yellow-billed Cuckoo s.w. of Phoenix May 6 was about 3-4 weeks earlier than usual and may represent the earliest arrival date ever for the state (DSj, CH). Several Ferruginous Pygmy-Owls in n.w. Tucson were first noted in mid-March (m.ob.) and another was noted at Organ Pipe Cactus N.M., Mar. 11 (P. Warshall). A juv. Long-eared Owl, an uncommon breeder in the state, was found at Silvercreek Ranch n.e. of Douglas May 21 (RS). Exciting was the discovery of one-to-three or more N. Saw-whet Owls on Mt. Bigelow in the Santa Catalina Mts., n. of Tucson, Mar. 10+ (JSa, FH *et al.*), and another found at Rose Canyon in the same range Apr. 23 to mid-May (LD, FH). There had only been 2 previous records for the Santa Catalinas. Buff-collared Nightjars returned to Aravaipa and Guadalupe Canyons and were first detected May 8 & May 20, respectively.

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH KINGFISHERS — A ♂ White-eared Hummingbird in Madera Canyon, Santa Rita Mts., May 24-30 (JSa, JB) furnished the 2nd believable record for that range. A Violet-crowned Hummingbird, also in Madera Canyon, arrived on the very early date of Apr. 20 (P. MacKenzie, m.ob.). A ♂ Magnificent Hummingbird at a Payson feeder May 23 was n. of that species' usual range (JW *et al.*). Four Lucifer Hummingbirds were noted during the period with a female at Portal Apr. 11-25 (W & SSp), two males also in Portal Apr. 14-30 (B. & M. Schaughency), and another male at Ramsey Canyon, Huachuca Mts., May 15 (†J. Arvin *et al.*). A ♂ Costa's Hummingbird was in Portal Mar. 23-31 (W & SSp, RM). This is e. of the species' normal range. A possible ♂ Green Kingfisher was seen in the Sonoita Cr. Sanctuary Mar. 19 (†N. Haverlack). This species has been recorded relatively infrequently in the state in the past decade, due possibly to flood damage to its habitat on the Rio Magdalena in n. Sonora, the likely source for most Arizona birds.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — A Least Flycatcher was carefully observed May 20 at Petrified Forest N.P., by observers familiar with this and similar species (†DSj, †CH). Another *Empidonax* observed and heard calling at Becker L., n. of Springerville, May 19 was thought at the time to be an **Alder Flycatcher** (†DSj, †CH). Unfortunately, the bird was not collected and its identification remains tentative at best. If correct, it would represent a first state record. Unexpected was a Buff-breasted Flycatcher on Sonoita Cr., Apr. 29 (RTS). This

species is rarely reported during migration below 5000'. The only previous record for the area was on Mar. 30, 1927. A possible Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was observed near Helvetia on the n. side of the Santa Rita Mts., on the incredible date of Mar. 6 (†IR). If valid, this would represent either a very early migrant or a bird that wintered locally. There are no winter records for the state. One of the Tucson Cave Swallows returned for the 5th year Mar. 19 (T. Huels, m.ob.; see *AB* vol 38:281-283, 1984).

JAYS THROUGH THRUSHES — Two Black-billed Magpies were found at Many Farms L., May 17 (GM). This is the extreme s. limit of the species' normal range in the state at this time of year. One of a pair of Mountain Chickadees found earlier this year was seen again Mar. 24 in Chiricahua N.M. (RT). This species was unrecorded in the Chiricahuas until the winter of 1981-1982. A ♂ Black-capped Gnatcatcher in Florida Wash (just e. of Chino Canyon) Mar. 3 was at a new locality for this species (†L. Galloway). The only Rufous-backed Robin to be reported this winter/spring was one in Guadalupe Canyon on the late date of May 20 (RS, H. Morris). This was only the 3rd or 4th found in the state later than mid-April. The Varied Thrush, which staged a minor invasion this year in the state, was reported from Phoenix Apr. 4-6 (C. Merrill, *vide* RW) and from the Southwestern Research Station in the Chiricahuas Mar. 10-12 (*vide* W & SSp).

THRASHERS THROUGH VIREOS — A Gray Catbird in Portal May 11-13 furnished the 7th local record for the species (RT, G. Montgomery *et al.*). The Brown Thrashers that spent the winter in Elfrida and in the Sonoita Cr. Sanctuary remained until Apr. 21 & Apr. 14, respectively. Surprising was a Curve-billed Thrasher at Petrified Forest N.P., May 20 (CH, DSj); this furnished the first record in Arizona n. of the Mogollon Rim. The flock of Bohemian Waxwings in Flagstaff first found in February built up to 150+ in March with one seen as late as Apr. 10 (JC). Another Bohemian Waxwing was seen in a flock of Cedar Waxwings in Prescott Apr. 8-16 (CT). This represented the first record for Yavapai Co. Large numbers of Phainopeplas in Portal during the last week in March, and s.w. of Phoenix late April+, were unusual (W & SSp, RM, DSj). The only Red-eyed Vireo reported was one in Madera Canyon May 5-25 (D. Lee, †O. Scott, m.ob.).

WOOD WARBLERS — The assortment of e. warblers this spring was somewhat better than average with 13 species reported, including the rare-but-regulars. Three Tennessee Warblers were found with one s.w. of Phoenix Mar. 10 (DSj), one at Patagonia Apr. 21 (B. Sutton), and another in Kayenta May 22 (PL). The March bird had probably wintered locally. The N. Parula found in February at Tucson remained to at least Mar. 7 (m.ob.) and another was found n. of Tucson at Cortaro Rd., Apr. 15 (†FH). The Chestnut-sided Warbler that wintered at the Boyce Thompson Arboretum near Superior was seen as late as Apr. 3 (TCI). A ♂ Magnolia Warbler was found at Ganado May 24 (†PL), representing one of the few spring records for the state. A ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler observed in Ramsey Canyon Mar. 19-Apr. 12 (†L. Brand, †C. Jones, †M. Shepard *et al.*) undoubtedly wintered locally. Two Black-throated Green Warblers were reported with one very early male in Prescott Apr. 7 (CT, A. & H. Gaither) and another male in Miller Canyon, Huachuca Mts., Apr. 29 (†TM). Quite unexpected was Arizona's first record of a "Yellow" Palm Warbler with one seen s. of Flagstaff Apr. 27 (†TCO, J. Babcock): this also provided the 6th spring record for the state for this species. Amazingly, *three* Prothonotary Warblers were reported with two in Nogales May 16 (†IR, F. Piersol) and a female in Littlefield in extreme n.w. Arizona May 19 (†PL). Only one Ovenbird was reported in the state, at Teec Nos Pos May 24 (†PL). A total of five Hooded Warblers was reported (all males) with one Apr. 13 in Sonoita Cr. Sanctuary (†R. Ridout, P. Tufts, D. Fraser); one at Page Springs near Sedona (as last spring/summer) May 2+ (A. Greene *et al.*); one at Dudleyville on the San Pedro R., May 15 and another at Kino Springs May 17 (both RS *et al.*); and yet another in the Sierra Ancha n. of Globe May 19 (RF *et al.*). Two Black-and-white Warblers, two Am. Redstarts, and three N. Waterthrushes were reported, all from n. Arizona in late May.

S.A.

Completely outclassing all of the e. vagrant warblers were the two Mexican vagrant warblers found this spring in the Huachuca Mts. On Apr. 28, a singing ad. **Crescent-chested Warbler** was found in Ramsey Canyon with a *second* individual found shortly afterward (†JB, LD *et al.*, ph. N. Bock). The apparent pair remained to at least May 17, but no evidence of nesting could be found. This provided the 2nd record for both Arizona and the United States. It is interesting that this record came so soon after the first United States record, from Sept. 1983, also in the Huachuca. This species does not normally occur n. of e.c. Sonora. Only slightly less exciting was a singing **Fan-tailed Warbler** found May 24 in upper Garden Canyon (ph. & †T. Strong, †J. Huntington, J. Cardell). Unfortunately, the bird could not be relocated the following day in spite of intensive searching by numerous observers. This was the 3rd record for the United States and for Arizona. Interestingly, the Fan-tailed Warbler found last year in Scheelite Canyon was in an area less than one mile from this year's bird. All 3 Arizona records plus the record for extreme n.e. Sonora have fallen within the narrow time span of May 19-28.

PYRRHULOXIA THROUGH LONGSPURS — A pair of Pyrrhuloxias at New River n. of Phoenix Apr. 3 was n. of that species' usual range in Arizona (H. Dahnke, *vide* DT). A total of 12 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks was reported for the period with seven in s.e. Arizona and five in the n. one-half of that state. Indigo Bunting records for the n.e. corner of the state are surprisingly few, so of interest was a singing male at Ganado May 20-24 (DSj, CH, PL) and another male at Sanders May 20 (DSj, CH). Cassin's Sparrow had a fairly impressive spring with numbers of singing birds noted in the s.e. part of the state during late April and May, and also single individuals noted in some unusual localities. A singing bird was noted Apr. 14-15 about 10 mi n. of *Puerto Peñasco*, Sonora in the dunes behind the beach (R & JW). This was the first record for the area and possibly the first for coastal n.w. Sonora. Another singing bird was found near Chandler May 3 (D & MSy), which is n. of the species' usual range. Even farther n., a bird was found in Oak Cr. Canyon near Sedona May 5 in roadside brush (JSh). A Clay-colored Sparrow was netted near Tucson Apr. 18 (R. Bowers). A Five-striped Sparrow returned to Chino Canyon on the early date of May 6 (B. Hallett). The only Fox Sparrow reported was one (*schistacea*) in Guadalupe Canyon Mar. 25 (TCI). The Golden-crowned Sparrow found at Saguaro N.M. this winter was last seen during the last week of March (m.ob.). The Harris' Sparrow reported earlier in Tucson remained until Apr. 17 (R. Chapin). The flock of McCown's Longspurs found earlier near McNeal was present until at least Mar. 2 (GM *et al.*). The Lapland Longspur in the same area was seen again Mar. 4 (AM).

ICTERIDS THROUGH FINCHES — A ♂ "Baltimore" N. Oriole was found near Portal May 9 (JD *et al.*). This race is extremely rare in Arizona. The impressive numbers of Purple Finches in and around Prescott this winter persisted until March with a few remaining until early April (CT *et al.*), thus ending the most significant flight ever in the Prescott area. Red Crossbills continued to experience a successful breeding season in the Prescott area with juveniles noted in the Bradshaw and Sierra Prieta Mts., in mid-April (CT). Two Evening Grosbeaks at Teec Nos Pos May 22 were late for that locality (PL).

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New Mexico

/John P. Hubbard

GREBES THROUGH HERONS — Two light-phase W. Grebes were at Bluewater L., Apr. 9, and up to four Double-crested Cormorants were on the Zuni Reservation Apr. 7-10 (JT); both are infrequent in the general area. A new locality for breeding Great Blue Herons was the lower Pecos Valley s. of Carlsbad, where up to 10 nests were found Apr. 12-13 (S. van Velsor); the species was again nesting near Alma, Catron Co., Apr. 8 (JH). An ad. Little Blue Heron was on a nest near Belen Apr. 29 (WH), which is the 3rd area of the state where the species has been found breeding; an adult at Tesuque, Santa Fe Co., Apr. 21-29 (JD) was a northerly vagrant. The greatest spring influx ever of Cattle Egrets occurred beginning in mid-April, with birds present from the Pecos Valley w. to the Gila Valley and n. to Zuni, Tesuque, and Las Vegas (v.ob.). In addition, 2 nests and six adults were present near Belen May 31 (WH). Unusual were two Green-backed Herons at Zuni May 24 (JT) and an ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in s. Dona Ana County May 14 (JDo, BZ).

WATERFOWL — A ♂ Wood Duck near Bernardo May 24 (WH) was late. "Mexican-like" Mallards included single males at Bernardo May 24 (WH) and Bosque del Apache N.W.R. (hereafter, Bosque N.W.R.) May 5 (RT), plus two w. of Hatch May 19 (JH); at least two hybrids with northern Mallards were at Holloman Lakes, Otero Co., Apr. 29 (RH). A scattering of Canvasbacks, Ring-necked Ducks, Lesser Scaup, Com. Goldeneyes, and Buffleheads lingered into late May as far s. as Zuni, Bosque N.W.R., and Bitter Lake N.W.R. (v.ob.). An aberrant ♂ Ruddy Duck at Zuni May 5 had an all blackish head (JT) and might have been mistaken for a Masked Duck by a less careful observer.

RAPTORS — A "hawk watch" in the Manzano Mts., Feb. 22-May 13, yielded the best such spring count ever for the state, with 1640 individuals of 17 species recorded (S. Hoffman *et al.*). Some of the highlights included: 391 Turkey Vultures, with the first Mar. 17 and the peak Apr. 4; 35 Ospreys in April, with the peak of 13 on Apr. 11-13; 39 N. Harriers Mar. 14-May 5; 261 Sharp-shinned and 284 Cooper's hawks, with the peak Apr. 14; 181 Red-tailed Hawks Mar. 10-Apr. 1, the peak Mar. 16; 141 Golden Eagles Feb. 22-Apr. 23, the peak of 34 on Mar. 8-10; and 124 Am. Kestrels Mar. 15-May 5, with the peak of 35 on Apr. 14. Two Mississippi Kites were near Belen May 16 (WH) and seven at Roswell May 27 (PL), both areas where nesting is suspected but unproven in recent years. The only lowland report of the N. Goshawk was of one at Bosque N.W.R., Apr. 21 (PB), while stragglers were an ad. Com. Black-Hawk near Belen Apr. 29 (WH) and a Harris' Hawk in s. Dona Ana County May 14 (BZ *et al.*). An ad. **Red-shouldered Hawk** was reported at Randals Pool, s. Dona Ana Co., Apr. 15 (JDo, BZ); although the photos do not appear definitive, the description makes this the most credible record yet of the species for the state. A Zone-tailed Hawk over the Sandia Mts., May 3 (WH), was apparently the first recorded in that range.

RAILS THROUGH PHALAROPES — Ten Soras at Sacramento L., Otero Co., May 9 (HM *et al.*) was a high count for the area. Somewhat e. of the usual Rio Grande migration route were 14 Sandhill Cranes over La Cienaga Mar. 11 (PI, H. Voetberg). Somewhat late were single Black-bellied Plovers at Zuni May 5-7 (JT) and Deming May 10 (KF); a possible Lesser Golden-Plover was at Bosque N.W.R., May 27 (WE *et al.*) West of the usual range was a Snowy Plover at Morgan L., San Juan Co., May 23 (PL), while the earliest Mountain Plovers were three near Bernardo Mar. 8 (RT *et al.*). One hundred Am. Avocets at Clayton Apr. 29 and 63 on May 5 (AK *et al.*) were high counts for the area. A rare Whimbrel was reported at Corrales May 6 (DS), while two likely ones were at Holloman L., Apr. 29 (RH). Some 400 Long-billed Curlews at Anthony Mar. 28 (SW, BZ) were both early and a high count, while w. of the usual range was a bird at Zuni Apr. 7-11 (TR, JT). A good count of Marbled Godwits was 30-50 at Bosque N.W.R., Apr. 27 (RT), while also notable were three at Zuni May 6 (JT). West of the usual range were single White-rumped Sandpipers at Morgan L., May 23 (PL) and Bosque N.W.R., May 27 (WE *et al.*); also notable were eight Baird's Sandpipers at Zuni May 5-7 (JT). The first well-substantiated report of **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** for the state was of one at Bosque N.W.R., May 26 (PL, *fide* R. Edens, Jr.). The only Red-necked Phalarope reported was a single bird at Zuni May 7 (JT).

GULLS THROUGH DOVES — The state's 2nd **Heermann's Gull** was a probable 2nd-winter bird photographed at Vado, Dona Ana Co., Apr. 1 (KZ). The only previous acceptable record was of an adult found dead in the mountains near Silver City Mar. 20, 1919! A high count of Ring-billed Gulls was 800 near Anthony Mar. 28 (BZ), while the only reports of Californias were nine at Morgan L., May 23 (PL) and one-to-two at Zuni Apr. 9 & May 5-7 (JT). The Forster's Tern is infrequent in the Gila Valley, where three were reported near Cliff Apr. 29 (RF). A first for the upper Rio Grande was a **Least Tern** at Española May 13 (JD, BL), while also notable was another near Loving May 28 (PL). Early White-winged Doves were singles at Truth or Consequences (hereafter, T or C) Mar. 9 (DM) and Mangas Springs, Grant Co., Mar. 24 (RF); on May 29 two were at Deming (KF), where infrequently reported. An Inca Dove at T or C Mar. 3 (DM) was an apparent straggler.

OWLS THROUGH SWIFTS — Noteworthy was a Com. Barn-Owl at Zuni Apr. 4 (JT), while a N. Pygmy-Owl in the Burro Mts., Grant Co., May 10 (BZ, KZ) may have been the first reported from that range. A Short-eared Owl at Zuni May 26 (JT) was very late and could possibly have been breeding—which is unprecedented in the state. Also notable at Zuni was a N. Saw-whet Owl May 27-28 (JT), almost certainly representing a nesting bird. Hundreds of Lesser Nighthawks were at Bosque N.W.R., May 10 & 26 (BZ *et al.*), and a northerly bird was at Bernardo May 24 (WH). Also northerly was a Whip-poor-will in the Zuni Mts., May 28 (JT). Apparent Chimney Swifts made an excellent showing in the state, including one at Roswell May 27 (PL) and nine-to-ten in the Rio Grande Valley—between Albuquerque and the Belen area—Apr. 29-May 25 (WH *et al.*). More usual were reports from Clayton, where the first bird was recorded May 5 and up to seven were seen through May 31 (AK *et al.*).

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Lucifer Hummingbirds were again present in Post Office Canyon in the Peloncillo Mts., Hidalgo Co., where three birds were seen Apr. 24 (RH). A ♂ Costa's Hummingbird was seen near Cliff May 5 (W. J. Shaul *et al.*), near where another was seen in the spring of 1983—that being the first since 1876! Single ♀ hummingbirds thought to be Calliopes were seen at Zuni May 25 (JT) and in Karr Canyon, Sacramento Mts., May 9 (HM *et al.*); however, this species is extremely rare in spring in New Mexico, and the details for these identifications were equivocal. Also a very rare species in spring is the Rufous Hummingbird, but an ad. male reported at Socorro Apr. 21-23 (PB) was well and convincingly detailed. A Belted Kingfisher was at an apparent nest hole near Cliff Apr. 29 and three birds were there May 5 (RF). Others of this species that may have been nesting included one at Zuni as late as May 29 (JT) and another at Caballo Dam May 18-19 (JH *et al.*). One or two Acorn Woodpeckers at Zuni May 22 (JT) were apparently the first for the immediate area. Only two Gila Woodpeckers were counted in the Cliff area May 5 (RF *et al.*), a very low total there. Southerly records of Downy Woodpeckers were one at Socorro Apr. 24 (PB) and two at Bosque N.W.R., Apr. 29 (WE).

FLYCATCHERS — Northern Beardless-Tyrannulets were conspicuous May 19 in Guadalupe Canyon (WE, WH); the species is perhaps not present in the upper (New Mexico) section of the canyon every year. The only Greater Pewee reported was one in the Pinos Altos Mts., Apr. 14 (RF). Apparently the same Dusky/Hammond's Flycatcher from last winter was the one still present near Caballo L., Mar. 3 & 16 (KZ *et al.*). The phoebe situation in the Upper Pecos Valley, between Ribera and Villanueva, May 2 revealed six Blacks *cf.* only two Easterns (JH), suggesting that the former species has displaced or is in the process of displacing the latter. Up to seven Black Phoebes were present at Zuni Apr. 7-May 26 (JT), and a nest was observed May 26 & 29 (TR). A Great Kiskadee was reported at Rattlesnake Springs May 8 (HM *et al.*), for the 2nd and most reliable report for the state. Only minimal details have so far been received on this latest report, which remains to be thoroughly evaluated.

SWALLOWS THROUGH DIPPER — Unusual was a Purple Martin Apr. 25 at Tesuque (JD), where a vagrant at best. Lower than usual was a Clark's Nutcracker near the Gila Cliff Dwellings May 5 (BH, BR). American Crows fledged young in the Belen area in late May (WH), while other peripheral reports of the species were of three near El

Pueblo, San Miguel Co., May 2 (JH) and 11 on Blue Cr., Grant Co., May 29-30 (BH). Six nests of Chihuahuan Ravens near Belen contained eggs and/or small young May 16 (R. Precek). Numbers of Black-capped and Mountain chickadees were only 20% as high as those of 1983 in the Belen area this period, with a total of only seven pairs located (WH). Three Bridled Titmice were in the Caballo L. area Mar. 3 (KZ *et al.*) & May 13 (RH), further suggesting the presence of a resident population there. One-to-two Winter Wrens were present near Bosque, Valencia Co., Apr. 14 & 19 (WH), for the only reports for the period. One-to-two Am. Dippers were present at Zuni, with an active nest there May 23-29 (TR, JT); this is the first positive breeding record for the area.

THRUSHES THROUGH WAXWINGS — A Swainson's Thrush was singing in Albuquerque May 26 (WH, PL), which was unusual. Migrant Gray Catbirds in areas where infrequently reported were one-to-two at Zuni May 23-24 (JT) and in s. Dona Ana County Apr. 30 (SW, BZ). A N. Mockingbird was at about 8200' in the Sandia Mts., and the species was more common than usual in the foothills of that range in the spring (HS). There were two Bendire's Thrashers Apr. 10 near Cotton City (JH), where local. A fledgling Curve-billed Thrasher at Glenwood Apr. 29 (B. McKnight) was early, and a nest at Owen's Farm, March to May, was one of the few recent ones in that area of s. Dona Ana Co. (BZ). Cedar Waxwings were relatively widespread in the period, including e. to Clayton and s. to the Texas line (v.ob.).

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS — A northerly report of Bell's Vireo was of one at Bosque N.W.R., May 27, while fledglings were seen in Guadalupe Canyon May 19 (WH *et al.*). A detailed record of a **Black-capped Vireo** at Rattlesnake Springs May 11 (G. Parker) was the first report for New Mexico. Surveys for Gray Vireos in the Glenwood area revealed at least 11 birds Apr. 10-19 (D. McKnight), and at least two were still present May 20-21 (JH). A Yellow-throated Vireo was present near Bosque, Valencia Co., May 16 (WH), while three Red-eyed were reported in the Rio Grande Valley May 12-25 (BZ *et al.*). Northerly Lucy's Warblers included one-to-two near Bernardo Apr. 14 & May 24 (WH) and at Three Rivers, Otero Co., Apr. 10 (RH). Reports of the less common warblers in the period included seven Am. Redstarts May 16-25 and nine N. Waterthrushes Apr. 29-May 25, plus a few Tennessee and Black-and-white warblers and N. Parulas (v.ob.). Among the real rarities were a Cape May Warbler at Bitter Lake N.W.R., May 2 (K. Wood) and a probable Louisiana Waterthrush—which would furnish only the 2nd record for the state—at Owen's Farm May 7 (BZ). Also notable were a Chestnut-sided Warbler at Cochiti L., May 17 (BL, W. Turner), a Worm-eating Warbler in s. Dona Ana County Apr. 10 and a Kentucky there May 26 (BZ *et al.*), an Ovenbird s. of Santa Fe May 10-11 (C. Schaafsma), a Painted Redstart at Bosque N.W.R., Apr. 29 (WE), and four Hooded Warblers in the Rio Grande Valley Apr. 20-May 30 (BZ *et al.*).

TANAGERS THROUGH EMBERIZINE FINCHES — A Hepatic Tanager was reported May 13 at Espanola (PI *et al.*), where a straggler at best. A ♂ N. Cardinal near Mesilla, Dona Ana Co., Mar. 24 (RH *et al.*) was out-of-range. Early-breeding Pyrrhuloxias were feeding young at Las Cruces May 7, with a nest with an egg there May 22 (EW). At least 15 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported over the state Apr. 29-May 29 (v.ob.). An apparent hybrid Indigo x Lazuli bunting was at Zuni May 23-26 (TR, JT). Up to eight Varied Buntings were in Guadalupe Canyon May 19 (WE, WH), while a Painted Bunting near Caprock, s.e. of Roswell Apr. 29 (RH) was somewhat out-of-range. Single Dickcissels were at Santa Fe May 14-16 (PI) and Rattlesnake Springs Apr. 23 (J. Egbert). Unusual for spring were two singing Cassin's Sparrows at Cochiti L., May 9 (WE) and a Rufous-crowned Sparrow at El Pueblo May 2 (JH). Rather late was an Am. Tree Sparrow at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Apr. 14 (PI *et al.*), while the only Clay-colored acceptably reported were up to three *singing* in s. Dona Ana County Apr. 20-May 30 (BZ *et al.*). Song Sparrows lingered at Bernardo (WH, S. Zack) and Mangas Spring, Grant Co. (RF) until May 6, while very late was one at Zuni May 23—with a singing Swamp Sparrow there the next day (JT)! One Golden-crowned Sparrow was at Glenwood Mar. 1-3 (R. Skaggs) and two were there Apr. 20 (E. Estes), while the only Harris' Sparrow report was at Socorro (PB).

ICTERIDS THROUGH CARDUELINES — A ♂ Bobolink was at

Socorro May 17 (PB). Up to seven E. Meadowlarks were at Zuni Apr. 7-May 28 (JT); one was at Socorro May 2 (PB) and a flock was present through the period in s. Dona Ana County (BZ)—both being localities where the species is infrequently reported. Out-of-place Great-tailed Grackles included two at Dulce May 5 (DS), four near Caprock Apr. 15 (PI *et al.*), three near the Gila Cliff Dwellings May 5 (BH, BR), and one on the McGregor Range, Otero Co., Apr. 10 (RH); likely breeding birds included up to six at Zuni Apr. 24-May 25 (TR, JT) and 10 at Aragon Apr. 8 (JH). Common Grackles were again at Zuni, with seven on Apr. 8 (JT). East of the usual range were Bronzed Cowbirds in Dona Ana County, one at Las Cruces May 22 & 27 (EW) and another at Durling's Farm May 12 (BZ, SW); the latter, a female, was photographed and was apparently of the w. race, *loyei*. West of the usual range was an ad. ♂ Orchard Oriole at Aguirre Springs, Organ Mts., May 29 (Y. Medina, BZ). A ♂ "Baltimore" (N.) Oriole was at Bitter Lake N.W.R., May 10 (HM *et al.*), for the only spring report of this race. Notable Scott's Oriole records included two-plus at Los Alamos May 5-31 (M. Lewis) and single males at Corrales May 5 (WE) and Bosque Apr. 29 (WH).

A flock of Rosy Finches—form(s) not specified—lingered on Sandia Peak at least until Mar. 31 (B. Steel). Red Crossbills obviously bred at several stations in the state, although no nests or very small young were reported; localities where adults and streaked juveniles were seen were the Zuni Mts. (*i.e.*, Zuni and Cottonwood Gulch) May 19-28 (A. McCallum, JT), Sandia Mts. in Cienaga Canyon May 21 (HS), and the Burro Mts., May 10 (BZ, KZ). Five or more pairs of Pine Siskins nested in Albuquerque in the spring (WH), but apparent nonbreeders lingered in several areas into late May—including Clayton (AK), Zuni (JT), Roswell (PL), and San Simon Cienega (JH). American Goldfinches also lingered in several areas into late May, including most notably at Zuni (TR, JT) and Rattlesnake Springs (PL). Three Evening Grosbeaks at Kirtland, San Juan Co., May 23 (PL) were late for that low a site, while the last at Santa Fe were May 12 (JH) and the only one at Zuni was Apr. 7 (JT). Montane records of the species included three in the Sandia Mts. on Mar. 3 and 35 on May 12 (PI *et al.*), and 10 in the Sacramento Mts., May 9 (HM *et al.*).

ADDENDUM — Received late was an extraordinary but well-detailed report of five-plus **Cassin's Kingbirds** around a beehive near Redrock, Grant Co., Dec. 10, 1983 (S. Williams III *et al.*).

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Anna's Hummingbird/Drawing by Hillary Hulén

ALASKA REGION

/D. D. Gibson

Spring 1984 was generally cold and late throughout the Region. Arrival timing of migrants in much of Alaska south of the Brooks Range was a mixed bag, however, with most species late or at the late end of normal, but with many early exceptions. It was a spring of many exciting records, including one new species for Alaska. Because of circumstances of timing and locality, it was inferred that several interesting records of Palearctic birds this spring were of individuals returning north after wintering in *North America*, not individuals reaching Alaska as direct migrants from Asia. These birds (see Common Black-headed Gull, Siberian Accentor, Brambling) either accompanied Nearctic congeners or Nearctic species whose habits or migration timing were similar to their own.



WATERFOWL — Two Trumpeter Swans at Kodiak Apr. 15-23 (†RAM, †JBA *et al.*) provided the first record for that archipelago. A collared Trumpeter Swan at Fairbanks Apr. 30 (†BAA) proved most interesting. Collared Aug. 11, 1983, at Minto Lakes, w. of Fairbanks, the bird was also carrying a transmitter. It had spent winter 1983-1984 in n.w. Washington, had been seen at Delta Cr., Alaska, Apr. 16, and on May 5, still transmitting, it was on a nest at Minto Lakes (RJK). A **Spot-billed Duck** studied well at Adak I., c. Aleutians, Mar. 25 (†CFZ *et al.*) provided only the 4th Alaska record. The only Cinnamon Teal reported this spring was a male at Juneau May 16 (RJG). Three ♂ Gadwalls together at Prudhoe Bay June 11 (DDG *et al.*) established the 4th n. Alaska record of the species. A ♂ Eur. Wigeon at Kodiak Apr. 1 (RAM) was record-early there; maximum at Kodiak was six males Apr. 23 (RAM, JBA); elsewhere, maximum was 22 at Attu May 26. Common Pochards were widespread in small numbers in the c. and w. Aleutians: three arrived at Attu May 16 and maximum there was five May 20; two females were seen at Shemya I., May 24-26 (DWS, GVB, JLT); and a male and two females were at Adak May 28 (CFZ *et al.*). Canvasbacks, Redheads, and Ring-necked Ducks were widely reported in C Alaska this spring; of these species, Canvasback occurred in impressive numbers, maximum reported was a flock of 117 at Fairbanks May 4 (DDG), and it was recorded as far w. as St. Paul I., Pribilofs (three May 12-15—WER), and Kotzebue Sound (pair at Deering May 30—JDW). Tufted Ducks were also present in small numbers in the Aleutians; up to 12 at Adak from March to mid-April (CFZ *et al.*) was the maximum this

season. Up to five ♀-plumaged Smews were present at Shemya the last week of May (DWS *et al.*), and up to three (May 24) were seen at Attu. Widely-separated pairs of **Ruddy Ducks** were reported: on the e. Copper R. Delta May 15 (BC); on the Yukon-Kuskokwim R. Delta May 31 (JIH); and at Yarger L., e. of Tok Jct., June 13 (PI). The species is casual anywhere in Alaska.

EAGLES TO RAILS — In 1984 White-tailed Eagles did not breed at the 1982-1983 nest site at Attu; only one bird, an adult, was seen in the area in May and June. A ♂ **Eurasian Kestrel** at Attu June 3-4 provided Alaska's 5th (2nd spring) record. An Am. Coot at Anchorage Apr. 24 through at least May 1 (MH, TGT) was the only one reported this season, although, as an indicator of other prairie-displaced birds, this species was widely sought.

SHOREBIRDS — Four Com. Greenshanks arrived at Attu May 21 (m.ob.), and up to four were seen at Shemya May 24-25 (DWS *et al.*); one at St. Paul May 26-29 (†WER) was a casual visitant in the Pribilofs; and one greenshank observed at Gambell May 31-June 1 (LJ, †JLD *et al.*) provided the northernmost Alaska record and the first from St. Lawrence I. Two Greater Yellowlegs at St. Paul May 13-14 (WER) were out of place. Two Spotted Redshanks at Attu May 23 & one May 26 were of interest; this species is known to be regular in spring at no other location in Alaska. Wood Sandpipers occurred in low numbers in the w. Aleutians this spring—maximum 18+ on May 26 at Attu—but at least three displaying birds remained on territory there, where the species had bred in the past, through the observers' departure on June 9. A Solitary Sandpiper studied in great detail at St. Paul June 11-12 (†JLD *et al.*) provided a first sighting for this species on any of the Bering Sea islands.

Curlews were well reported. Both Whimbrel subspecies that occur in Alaska were seen this spring at St. Paul, which is off the main migration paths of either: two *variegatus* May 24-26 (†WER) and a lone *hudsonicus* June 9 (†JLD *et al.*). There are very few records of Nearctic *hudsonicus* on any of the Bering Sea islands. One Bristle-thighed Curlew was seen at Womens Bay, Kodiak, May 11 (RAM & JBA), and up to six/day were seen May 16-23 at Middleton I., Gulf of Alaska (ECM), where the species is a regular spring migrant. Single Bristle-thigheds were seen May 15 & 28 at St. Paul (†WER), where the species is very rare; one observed at Attu May 17 (TGT *et al.*) provided a first record for that island and only the 3rd for the w. Aleutians. Single **Far Eastern Curlews** were observed at Attu May 21 (NSP) and at St. Paul May 27-June 1 (†WER). This species is a very rare visitant in Alaska.

Single Black-tailed Godwits were noted at Shemya May 21 (RAW) and at Attu May 22-23. Earliest Hudsonian Godwits were reported Apr. 28 at Palmer (RLS); they were followed by a good passage in SC and C Alaska. A flock of 13 Marbled Godwits at Kalsin Bay, Kodiak, May 1 (RAM, DWS) and one at Womens Bay May 11 (RAM, JBA) were the only reports this spring, on time. A **Great Knot** accompanying a Surf-bird at the Nome R. mouth May 29 (†JLD *et al.*) furnished the 10th substantiated Alaska record, the 3rd at that very location. One **Little Stint** was closely observed at Gambell May 31 (†JLD *et al.*). The Alaska records of this bird, all recent, are no doubt related to its breeding in recent years at the tip of the Chukotsk Pen. (see Tomkovich and Sorokin 1983, "The bird fauna of eastern Chukotka." in: Flint and Tomkovich [eds.], *Distribution and systematics of birds*, Publ. Moscow University). Gray-tailed Tattler, Com. Sandpiper, and Rufous-necked, Temminck's, and Long-toed stints were all accounted for in small numbers in the w. Aleutians this spring. A ♀ **Wilson's Phalarope** was observed at the Mendenhall Wetlands, Juneau, May 20 (MWS), and a pair was observed with Red-neckeds at the Valdez sewage treatment plant June 6 (GJT). This species continues to be a casual spring visitant with no evidence of breeding.

GULLS TO SWIFTS — Common Black-headed Gulls were present in the usual small numbers in the Aleutians and Bering Sea: single adults at Attu May 18-June 7 (TGT *et al.*), up to 10 at Shemya May 24-26 (DWS *et al.*), one adult at Gambell May 29 (ST *et al.*), and an adult at St. Paul June 11 (JLD *et al.*). A first-summer Com. Black-headed Gull at Yarger L., Mile 1256 Alaska Hwy, June 15 (*DDG) was thought to be a bird that had arrived in C Alaska with the local-breeder Bonaparte's Gulls with which it was observed feeding. There is no previous Alaska record of this Asiatic bird away from the seacoast. A 2nd-summer

California Gull was seen Apr. 28 at Anchorage (DWS, TGT *et al.*), which continues to be a focal point for this species w. of SE Alaska. A N. Saw-whet Owl observed at Palmer May 28 (MTB, DO) was the first suggestion that this species' range extends N of Anchorage. Two **White-throated Needletails** observed at cross range and at length at Attu May 24 and singles May 25 & 27 (PI, †TGT *et al.*) furnished the 3rd Alaska record, all from the Near Is., and all in the 4th week of May.

OLD WORLD WARBLERS THROUGH ACCENTOR — An estimated 25 **Lanceolated Warblers** (*Locustella lanceolata*) observed at Attu June 4-9 (TGT *et al.*, ph.*) constituted the first Alaska record of this Asiatic species, which is a common breeder as close to us as Kamchatka, the Kurile Is., and n. Japan. Many were singing birds on territory, and at least one was seen carrying nesting material, but all moved on by late June without breeding. Two ♂ **Red-breasted Flycatchers** arrived at Attu May 25, another was seen there June 5, and single males were seen at Shemya May 26 & 27 (DWS, GVB); there had been 4 prior Alaska records, all since 1977. A Gray-spotted Flycatcher May 25 at Attu was also record-early; maximum was two May 27 at Attu, when one was seen at Shemya (DWS) also.

Two Siberian Rubythroats at Attu May 27 and two more there June 8 provided this spring's records of the species. A ♂ Bluethroat at Deering May 27 (†JDW) was one day off the arrival record (see AB 37:903); single passage males were singing at Gambell May 29 & 30 (JLD *et al.*). Mountain Bluebirds were newsworthy on 2 fronts. At least eight were recorded in the Fairbanks area, where the species is a casual spring visitant, Apr. 18-24 (m.ob.), and one male was seen briefly on a year-old burn w. of Fairbanks May 24 (RHA). Elsewhere, a lone ♂ Mountain Bluebird observed at Middleton I., May 20-21 (ECM, BR) was an amazing at-sea record—to my knowledge the first bluebird ever recorded on Alaska's Pacific seacoast. A Townsend's Solitaire at Fairbanks Mar. 8-10 (BM, DAW, DRH) and, some weeks later, in song in the same area through Apr. 13 (m.ob.) was probably a bird that had wintered not far away. A few Eye-browed Thrushes were seen at Agattu (CFZ, JLT) and Attu May 25-28; a Dusky Thrush at Agattu May 31 (JLT, CFZ) was the only one recorded this season.

S.A.

Accompanying one of the first small flocks of Am. Tree Sparrows and juncos to arrive in the Fairbanks area this spring, a **Siberian Accentor** at a seed feeder in Ester astounded observers early on Apr. 17 (†DDG, †RHD, †PDM). Providing the first inland record of the species in Alaska, this Asiatic bird, like the Anchorage Brambling (*q.v.*), doubtless had wintered in the New World. It was not seen again.

SHRIKES THROUGH FINCHES — A **Brown Shrike** seen briefly at Attu June 4 was Alaska's 4th. An **Ovenbird** singing vigorously in aspen woodland near Fairbanks May 31 (RBW, JSW, BK, DDG) provided Alaska's 2nd record this century (see AB 36:208). The elusive bird was apparently present in that area for weeks, since it was heard again all day June 11 (JSW), but not subsequently. Few Rustic Buntings were seen this spring; arrival date was May 25 (late) at both Attu and Shemya, and maximum was eight at Shemya the same day (GVB, DWS). Smith's Longspurs on the Canning R., N Alaska, May 24 (ERW) were on schedule. Like spring 1983, spring 1984 was not a 'finch season' in the Aleutians. One Brambling at Attu May 21-22 (TGT *et al.*) and five at Shemya May 24 (DWS *et al.*) were the only ones recorded. A female at Gambell May 31 (JLD *et al.*) and a male there June 2 (LJ) provided the 5th record there. A ♂ Brambling with migrant Savannah, Golden-crowned, and White-crowned sparrows in an Anchorage yard at intervals all day May 13 (†LLC) was undoubtedly a bird that had wintered in North America, where scattered individuals were reported from California to Minnesota in winter 1983-1984. (None was reported in Alaska this past winter.) White-winged Crossbills were common and breeding in C Alaska this season, and Reds were numerous in SE Alaska; crossbills were essentially absent at Kodiak this period, however. A single Pine Siskin observed with redpolls at Gambell June 4 (JLD *et al.*) was St. Lawrence Island's 2nd and, indeed, only the 2nd recorded for all of w. Alaska!

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NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/David Fix

Spring 1984 in the Region was characterized by mild, moist weather which served to ground waves of passerines. This effect was most noticeable April 13-18 and April 24-26. Migration through interior valleys was noted as excellent in many areas. Coastal migrations were fair-to-poor, with numbers of some common species dramatically low onshore. Western Oregon hosted a record invasion of Black-necked Stilts, while the entire Region saw a generally early arrival of summering landbirds.

ABBREVIATIONS — N.J.C.R. = north jetty of the Columbia R., Wash.; S.J.C.R. = south jetty of the Columbia R., Oreg.; V.I. = Vancouver Island, B.C.



LOONS THROUGH HERONS — Arctic Loons staged their usual concentration around Active Pass, s. British Columbia, with 650-800 there Apr. 7-19 (J & RS, M & VG). Northward passage of Arctics off Oregon beaches continued through the end of the period (m.ob.). Fol-

lowing last winter's 14 ± Yellow-billed Loons, five were seen Mar 6-24 in s. British Columbia and n. Washington. The wintering bird at Yaquina Bay, Oreg., remained until late April (VT *et al.*). Eared Grebes were seen in the usual small numbers, with the exception of a flock of nine on Meares L., at Tillamook Bay, Oreg., Mar. 30 (HN). Western Grebes were reported in low numbers typical of the past 10 years in the s. half of the Region. This contrasted with the raft of 6000 on Saanich Inlet, V.I., Mar. 12 (VG). A light-phase "Clark's" W. Grebe was on the Columbia R., near Skamokawa, Wash., Apr. 11 (†AR), and one was found inland on the sewage ponds at Forest Grove, Oreg., Apr. 25 (DI, JGi). Dark-phase birds greatly outnumber "Clark's" in the Region.

Wahl's boat trip out of Westport, Wash., May 6 encountered low numbers of most species. Forty-four Black-footed Albatrosses were seen, and no N. Fulmars. The 44 Pink-footed Shearwaters was also below average. Two Flesh-footed Shearwaters were found. The 6224 Sooty Shearwaters off Westport and 4000 at the S.J.C.R., May 25 (HN) were near expected totals. However, "perhaps a million or more" Sooties May 12 just off the S.J.C.R. (RS, *fide* HN) was a high spring concentration for this favored location. The only storm-petrels noted this season were 24 Fork-tailed out of Westport (TW), and a single Leach's seen Mar. 17 in Canadian waters s. of Victoria (KT, J. Wilson).

Brown Pelicans returned early once again. Two were at Tillamook Bay May 19 (JK, *fide* DI), and four were at nearby Netarts Bay May 21 (JK). One of the Great Blue Heron colonies near Eugene, Oreg., was about to be displaced by gravel dredging—an important threat to riparian sites in the Willamette Valley (DF). A count of 66 Great Egrets was tallied Mar. 24 in the Coquille Valley s.e. of Coos Bay, Oreg. (JGa). The presence of a Great Egret near the huge Bachelor I., Wash., heronry in late April was intriguing (HN); this species is presently only a casual breeder in the Region. Two Snowy Egrets in the Rogue R. Valley at Medford, Oreg., May 11 were out of place (OSw), but the Snowy at Bowerman Basin on Grays Harbor, Wash., Apr. 22 (M. Hatheway) was truly surprising. Three Black-crowned Night-Herons on the Skagit Flats Game Range, n. Wash., Mar. 11 may have been wintering birds noted earlier in the year (*fide* PM). The immature that wintered at Reifel Ref., near Vancouver, B.C., was last reported Mar. 28 (refuge staff, *fide* MF).

WATERFOWL — The bulk of the wintering Tundra Swans had departed by the end of March (v.ob.), but one adult lingered until at least late May w. of Florence, Oreg. (BC *et al.*). The Barney L., Wash., Trumpeter Swans had left by mid-March (DP). Greater White-fronted Geese were widely reported this season. Evidence suggests that many flocks travel from the interior NW across the s. Willamette Valley, thence N up the outer Oregon and Washington coasts. Nehalem Bay near Tillamook hosted 315 on Apr. 28 (VT), and hundreds passed Ocean Shores, Wash., Apr. 21-29 (DP). Three birds late at the S J C.R., May 31 "appeared to be Tule Geese" (HN). A Bean Goose at Nisqually N.W.R., near Olympia, Wash., from March until at least Apr 6 (B. Harrington-Tweit *et al.*) was considered an escapee. A subad. **Ross' Goose** stayed May 2-6 at Burnaby L., B.C., for only the 3rd Vancouver area record (†J & HM, †MF *et al.*). An Emperor Goose was at Sandspit, Queen Charlotte Is., B.C., Mar. 2 (M. Morris), and one was at Race Rocks, Metchosin, V.I., Apr. 19 (P. Griffiths). The imm. Emperor that wintered in Portland, Oreg., parks remained through the period, as several such individuals have done in the recent past (DI *et al.*) Canada Geese of varying origin breed locally throughout the Region. The first of 4 nests at Ft. Lewis, Wash., had hatched out by Apr. 17 (J. Beall, *fide* TB), while the first young were noted May 4 on Metchosin Lagoon, V.I. (N. Marcus).

Seven 'Eurasian' Green-winged Teal were found, about average for the spring period. A strongly-marked hybrid ♂ Eur. x Am. Green-winged Teal was at Stewart Pond, Eugene, Oreg., Apr. 29 (BC, †DF, †SH). About 14 ♂ Eur. Wigeon were scattered through the Region, with the last one in Victoria May 5 (VG). A hybrid Eur. x Am. Wigeon was there as well May 3-4 (J & RS). An ad. ♂ **Tufted Duck** was discovered 3.7 mi n.w. of Coquille, Coos Co., Oreg., Mar. 11 (†G. Keller, LT) for the 4th state record. Reinforcing the thought that the Columbia Gorge may be an important inland station for Greater Scaup was the report of 150 at Starvation Creek S.P., e. of Cascade Locks, Oreg., Mar. 25 (DA). Harlequin Ducks are scarce and elusive breeders

in the Oregon Cascades. In addition to one report each of a few birds in the Hood R., McKenzie R., and upper Willamette R. drainages in April (v.ob.), an ad. female was found May 28 on the headwaters of Deer Cr., Yamhill Co., on the e. slope of the n. Oregon Coast Range (TL, *fide* HN), an area where the species is practically unknown. Six Oldsquaws that wintered at Yaquina Bay remained until late April, the only concentration in Oregon (m.ob.).

VULTURES THROUGH CRANES — Reports of Turkey Vultures mentioned mostly pairs and singles from many locations Mar. 3+ There was little concerted movement apparent this spring. All reports indicate that populations of Ospreys in the Region continue to thrive. As expected, only a few Black-shouldered Kites lingered into the season. Singles were at Finley N.W.R., s. of Corvallis, Oreg., Apr. 22 (B Altman, *fide* EE), and on Leadbetter Pt., Wash., May 31 (RW). A modest number continued resident in Tillamook County, Oreg., with a pair probably nesting again at the Tillamook airport (HN *et al.*). Numbers of the smaller accipiters were normal, and a typical count of nine N. Goshawks was seen. An imm. goshawk captured a crow at the Tillamook dump Mar. 24 (DI *et al.*). The usual few resident Red-shouldered Hawks were noted on the s. Oregon coast. However, one in the Coquille Valley Mar. 24 (JGa) was farther n. than the species is generally suspected to breed. Aside from numerous and scattered s. V.I. reports (*fide* VG), only a few Golden Eagles were seen. Two near McMinnville, Oreg., in late March were near last year's nesting location, and one was seen harassed by a Red-tailed Hawk over Centralia, Wash., Mar. 17 (J Skriletz). About 17 Peregrine Falcons were seen, slightly fewer than is now expected. A Gyrfalcon in Vancouver, B.C., Mar. 2 (T. Plath) constituted the only report for the period.

Eight Soras calling from a marsh near Tillamook May 12 (DI *et al.*) was a surprising count for a coastal location. Bizarre, but believable, was a Sora sitting atop an outdoor phone kiosk at 6020' in Crater Lake N.P., Apr. 27, surrounded by 10-ft snowbanks (J. Bartl). Sandhill Cranes peaked at 1100 on Mar. 3 on Sauvie I., Oreg. (*fide* HN). A flock of 300 spent Apr. 14-22 near Neah Bay, Wash., and Apr. 14 a flock of 93 crossed the Strait of Juan de Fuca from Neah Bay into s. British Columbia (C. Commeree). Two pairs were nesting by period's end on Porcher I., s.w. of Prince Rupert, n. B.C., for a new Regional breeding site (Mr. & Mrs. Ostrom).

SHOREBIRDS — The 500 Black-bellied Plovers in dairy pastures near Tillamook Apr. 24 was the high count for the Region this spring (DI). Lesser Golden-Plovers made an exceptional showing. Possibly 12 occurred in Washington Apr. 21-May 25, five being *P.d. fulva* (G & WH, DP, RW, J. O'Connell), and eight to 12 were in n. coastal Oregon, at least one being assigned to *fulva* (*fide* HN). Seven were in pastures near Tillamook Apr. 25 (DI, JGi *et al.*), a magnetic location for large plovers. One at Boundary Bay, Delta, B.C., Apr. 29 (BK) was a rare spring sighting for the Vancouver area. Up to three Snowy Plovers were seen in April and May at Catala Spit, Ocean Shores, Wash., their n. limit for breeding on the Pacific Coast (PM *et al.*).

S.A.

The spring of 1984 will be remembered by w. Oregon observers as the season Black-necked Stilts invaded. A few stilts straggle more or less regularly into the area in spring and early fall. This year, however, was exceptional. Between Apr. 14 and May 4 about 120-130 birds appeared, at 11 locations between Medford and Tillamook (m.ob.). The largest concentrations were 40 at Fern Ridge Res., w. of Eugene Apr. 17 (SH, DI, DF), 38 at Medford Apr. 17, with 19 there the previous day (OSw), 17 at Helmick S.P., Polk Co., Apr. 14 (D. Bucy, *fide* EE), and eight on Sauvie I., Apr. 15 (DR). A single bird at Tillamook Apr. 28-May 2 (DI *et al.*) was the only one reported from the coast. The lone sighting for Washington was of three near Stanwood, Skagit Co., Apr. 17 (C. Evans). Perhaps surprisingly, none was reported after May 4. Some were in plausible breeding habitat, although most were found in seasonally wet fields. It seems reasonable to correlate their incursion with record floodwater levels in the n. Great Basin.

The only Am Avocet was at Medford May 9-15 (OSw) Solitary Sandpipers were nearly routine in Oregon. At least 16 were found, with as many as seven near Banks, w. of Portland, on several dates (JGA *et al.*). Four to six on s. V.I., and three in the Vancouver, B.C., area (*vide* VG, DK), brought the Regional total to more than 23 birds. The Willet that wintered at Ediz Hook, Wash., was seen to Apr. 3 (DS). Two Willets were at Bowerman Basin, Grays Harbor, Apr. 26 (DH, ER), and two were a surprise at Medford Apr. 30 (OSw). Twelve Long-billed Curlews was an above-average count for spring, and they were widely scattered. Singles Apr. 8 in Vancouver, B.C. (MP) & May 21 at Iona I. (G Thomas) were rare locally, while one at Finley N.W.R., May 17 (SH, DR, MH) was early for an inland location.

A winter-plumaged Bar-tailed Godwit at the S.J.C.R., Apr. 27 (†HN) sustained a vague recent pattern of West Coast-wintering Bar-taileds returning N in spring. Single Marbled Godwits, unusual in spring in British Columbia, were on Sea I., May 14 (JI), at Saanich May 16 (B. Whittington, KT), and on Blackie Spit Apr. 26 (W. Weber) and May 20 (D Jensen). The high count for Ruddy Turnstones was of 200 at Ocean Shores May 13 (P. Evans, D. & L. Lindstrom). Red Knots were considered scarcer than usual this season at Ocean Shores (G & WH), possibly owing to heavy use of nearby Willapa Bay, where 800 were counted May 1 for the peak number reported (AR *et al.*). A Red Knot inland at Medford Apr. 30, and ten there May 11 (OSw) were unexpected. A Semipalmated Sandpiper at Saanich Apr. 23 (†J & RS) and another at Padilla Bay, Wash., May 6 (†S. Johnson) were detailed. About 13 were reported from Iona I., B.C., May 6-30 (*v.ob.*), and four at Leadbetter Pt., Willapa Bay, May 31 (RW). Both are areas where the occurrence of Semipalmateds has been well demonstrated in the past. Western Sandpipers concentrated in favored Bowerman Basin on Grays Harbor, with 40,000 the last week of April being fewer than usual (DP *et al.*). As expected, token Baird's Sandpipers showed up. Singles were at Saanich Apr. 30 (J & RS), at Finley N.W.R., Oreg., May 5 (J & RK, *vide* EE), and on Iona I., May 15 (DAI). A Pectoral Sandpiper was at Iona I., May 20 and two were there the following day for the only reports this spring (*vide* DK). Most surprising was the **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** at Leadbetter Pt., May 31 (†RW), an unseasonal occurrence for anywhere in the West. A flock of 50 Long-billed Dowitchers appeared briefly in Seattle May 12 before flying off high to the N (L. Stevens), 274 were in Medford May 11 (OSw), and 30 were on Iona I., May 19 (JI).

At least 21 Wilson's Phalaropes appeared Apr. 30-May 29 (*m.ob.*). Six at Tillamook Bay, May 28 (DF, DI, MK) was the high count. This above-average showing contrasted with the dearth of pelagic phalaropes throughout the Region. Few Red-necked Phalaropes were seen along the coast until late May. The boat trip out of Westport May 6 found only 14 (TW). No Red Phalaropes were reported.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — Two Pomarine Jaegers off Westport May 6 (TW) and a dark-phase bird at Yaquina Bay, Oreg., Apr. 18 (J Evanich, VT), along with two Parasitics passing Ocean Shores May 25 (G & WH) made for a poor showing. Another **Little Gull** was found in the Region in spring, this time an adult Apr. 8 off Orcas I., in Washington's San Juans (TW, ph.). Exemplifying a generally poor migration along the outer coast was the striking scarcity of Bonaparte's Gulls in the s. one-half of the Region. They were seen only occasionally in Oregon and Washington until about May 25. One hundred at Port Townsend, Wash., Apr. 14-15 may have been the largest gathering onshore there during mid-spring. Only *two* were seen at Ocean Shores in April and May (G & WH, DP). Yet in inland waters to the n., 5000 were seen at Active Pass, s. V.I., Apr. 7, and 300 were in Richmond, B.C., May 14 (MF). The anticipated onshore N migration of Herring Gulls was noted on the coast of Oregon and Washington, with 50 +/hr. flying up Sunsest Beach near the S.J.C.R., May 2 (DI, MK). Most ad. Thayer's Gulls appeared to depart in late March, while immatures hung on longer, with 24 still on Sauvie I., Apr. 8 (DI). A few Thayer's at Ocean Shores Apr. 29-May 6 were the last ones noted (DP). The last of the 34+ Glaucous Gulls reported this spring was at Ocean Shores May 25 (G & WH). DP remarks that there was clear evidence of a small coastwise migration of Glaucous there Apr. 25-May 6.

A bird identified as a 2nd-winter **Iceland Gull** was discovered Mar. 10 at the landfill on Lulu I., Richmond, B.C. (†MF ph., †BK, T. Plath, MP). The gull was intimately described and thoroughly discussed, with convincing separation made from abnormally-pigmented Thayer's Gull

and other aberrant possibilities. All features noted on the Richmond bird are consistent with a typical "Kumlien's", including light barring on the tertials, inner greater secondary coverts, and undertail coverts; high, rounded head shape; bill size and shape; and marked extension of wing-tips beyond tail. This is the 2nd photographically-documented record of this form for British Columbia, coming on the heels of a first-winter bird found at the Vancouver landfill earlier this year.

Four Sabine's Gulls out of Westport May 6 (TW) were the only ones seen. Caspian Terns continue to do well in the Region. Following the first northbound arrival Mar. 23 at Bandon, Oreg. (MH, SH, DR), high numbers were seen coastwise. Both Common and Arctic terns were in lower than average numbers, although 18 Arctic were encountered off Westport, and a small flock was seen at the N.J.C.R., May 19 (BM). An Arctic Tern at Gilbert Beach, Richmond, May 14 (MF) was unusual for the Vancouver area.

Thirteen Marbled Murrelets Apr. 9 off West Pt. in Seattle (DB, DH) was a high count there. The only Ancient Murrelets reported were three at Active Pass Apr. 7 (RS). Wahl termed the 11 Cassin's Auklets May 6 off Westport "pathetically low". Only seven Tufted Puffins were at Cape Meares, Oreg., May 2, causing concern about repeated poor showings there (HN). Many fewer than usual were at nest rocks off Pt Grenville, Wash., in early May also (PM).

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Two Com. Barn-Owl nests on s. V.I. were both in broken-top douglas-firs (MN *et al.*). The only Snowy Owl reports were of singles Mar. 11 on the Skagit Flats, n. Wash. (*vide* PM), and Mar. 25 in Delta, B.C. (P. Yorke). A Barred Owl nest was again found in Seattle's Discovery P. (DB), and another individual was seen Apr. 22-May 7 on nearby Mercer I., in L. Washington (W. Crill *et al.*). Adults seen in E. Sooke, V.I., all spring were thought to be nesting. There were no Oregon reports for the period. Four Long-eared Owls in w. Washington County, Oreg., in April and May were in an area where poorly known (*v.ob.*). A Com. Poorwill road-feeding in wet conifer forest just n. of Marblemount, n. Wash., May 3 (†P. Stoddard, S. Hiebert) was dramatically out of normal range and habitat. The only sightings of Black Swift, aside from undetailed April reports, were of one at Queen Elizabeth P., Vancouver, B.C., May 15 (DAI), and eight at Langford, V.I., May 24 (RWm). The spring flight of Vaux's Swift was excellent everywhere, "unprecedented in both numbers and extent" on s. V.I. (VG), and "bundles of migrants" in Portland (DI). A few in Portland (TC) and 20 over Eugene (DF), both Apr. 13, were a few days early. A total of 400+ was tallied May 9 on s. V.I., with 200 using an Oak Bay chimney (*vide* VG).

Twenty-three Anna's Hummingbirds were defending territories in Discovery P., Seattle, during early March (DH), and up to six were watched on the Univ. of Victoria campus through the spring. A ♂ Costa's Hummingbird in Portland May 11 (JK, *vide* DI, HN) provided about the 12th Oregon record. A ♂ Calliope Hummingbird at a Saanich feeder Apr. 27 was only the 4th for the Victoria area, and the first since 1966 (M. Jamison, C. Blankendaal). This species is apparently undergoing a range expansion into the lower mountains of w. Oregon (*m.ob.*). A ♂ Allen's Hummingbird Mar. 23 in the lower Coquille Valley s.e. of Coos Bay was the northernmost one reported this season (MH, SH, DR). Underscoring the virtual disappearance of breeding Lewis' Woodpeckers from the Region was the reported season's total of just *three* birds: singles on s. V.I., in Seattle, and at Finley N.W.R., Oreg., all in mid-May. A "Red-naped" Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Apr. 28 at Upper Table Rock in the Rogue Valley of s. Oregon furnished a notable migrant record (MR).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — Two Olive-sided Flycatchers Apr. 21 in Metchosin, V.I., were slightly ahead of schedule (KT). Hammond's Flycatchers were more widely noted than ever in the lowlands during April and early May passage, following the first bird Apr. 14 at Corvallis, Oreg. (EE). Arrival was generally 2-3 days early. Increased awareness of Hammond's distinctive but easily-overlooked call note has probably caused an increase in reports, especially in the s. Willamette Valley, where more than 50 were located (*v.ob.*). The only Dusky Flycatcher reported was near Yamhill, Oreg., May 18 (JGa). Two **Gray Flycatchers** strayed across the Cascades. One was in Corvallis, Oreg., May 12 (†F. Ramsey, *vide* EE), and one was in Seattle May 28 (†DB) for the 2nd w. Washington record. A W. Flycatcher singing

on Orcas I, Wash., Apr. 14 (GJ, FS) was slightly earlier than expected. Oregon's northernmost known Black Phoebe persisted, with a pair under the Hwy. 101 bridge at Euchre Cr., Curry Co., May 6 (BC, DF). The first of seven Say's Phoebes this season was in Seattle Mar. 11 for King County's earliest ever (DB). Western Kingbirds enjoyed a most remarkable surge into the Region this spring, with reports of unusual numbers and locations too numerous to list. At least a dozen were in w. Washington, near-record numbers were found in much of w. Oregon, and there were six sightings at Vancouver, B.C., where it is quite rare (m ob.).

Alan MacLeod's Eur. Skylark survey on the Saanich Pen. of s. V.I. totalled 45 singing larks at 18 sites during the spring. This indicates an approximately stable population in that area. Purple Martins were little noted, but seemed in normal numbers at Fern Ridge Res., w. of Eugene (v ob.). Northern Rough-winged Swallows arrived about on time in mid-to-late March, with the exception of a very early bird Mar. 10 at Quick's Bottom, Saanich (KT). At least five Bank Swallows were found. One was at Nehalem, Oreg., May 9 (TC, HN), and one visited Seattle's Montlake Fill May 13 (DB). One to three were at Iona I., May 20-26 (BK, MF *et al.*). A lone Cliff Swallow at Nisqually N.W.R., Wash., Mar. 21 was very early so far n. (*vide* PM). Widespread arrival took place 2-3 weeks later.

JAYS THROUGH WAGTAILS — Following a major lowland-coastal incursion last fall, Steller's Jays made what may have been a return showing. Thirty-five were at one location in Saanich Apr. 17 (L. Alexander), 31 were in Discovery P., Seattle, Apr. 25 (DH), and 48 were there May 6 (DB). The Blue Jay that wintered at L. Sammamish, Wash., was last seen May 11 (B. Johnson), while the McMinnville, Oreg., bird disappeared after early March (TL). The fall influx of Mountain Chickadees into the west-side lowlands also appeared to have an 'echo' effect, with a revisitation of feeders widely noted in w. Oregon (v ob.). Ten Bushtits May 10 at Hot Springs I., in the Queen Charlotte Is., n.w. B.C. (E. Lofroth), were very far n., and may have provided a first Islands record. A Bewick's Wren at Kitimat, B.C., Apr. 25 (P. Ward) was also far n. of its known range in the province. Several thousand Ruby-crowned Kinglets massed on Tatoosh I., Wash., Apr. 15 (B. Paine). They were watched making short flights up and back at dusk, preparing for night migratory flight.

Western Bluebirds appeared stable. Twenty-five pairs were settled at Ft Lewis, Wash. (J. Beall, G. Walter). Single Mountain Bluebirds were on the Skagit Flats Mar. 31 (E. Smirnov), at Cadboro Bay, Saanich, Apr. 22-25 (M & RM-G *et al.*), and at Iona I., Apr. 23 (T. Moore, R. Jones). The species is very scarce at these locations. The rapid settlement of clearcuts across much of the Region by Townsend's Solitaires continues, and probably contributes to the increase in sightings of lowland migrants. High numbers were seen this season in particular. A Veery at Sequim on the n.e. Olympic Pen., May 21 (†D & SS) was a straggler. A few early Swainson's Thrushes were detected as usual, the first being a bird at Philomath, Oreg., Apr. 8 (J & RK). During the night of May 18-19, 40-50 calls/minute were heard overhead in Eugene (DF). Night calls were also heard over Portland May 22 (DI). Most surprising was a fully-fledged juvenile Am. Robin Mar. 1 in downtown Portland (JGi, *vide* DI), product of an aberrant early nesting. A Gray Catbird at Pitt Meadows, near Vancouver, B.C., May 26 (BK, MF) continued a trend of increased sightings at this past breeding location. Only two N. Mockingbirds were seen this season. The bird at the Medford, Oreg., airport continued resident (OSw), and one was found in Portland May 20 (Osc, *vide* HN). The Brown Thrasher that wintered near Colton, s.e. of Portland, was not observed after Apr. 27 (K. Cooper, *vide* HN).

The first-winter **Black-backed/White Wagtail** that wintered at Crockett L., Whidbey I., Wash., was seen often during April and was last reported May 5 (T. Weir *et al.*). Beginning in April, the bird underwent an incomplete molt in which it acquired partial black on throat and neck, a thin black eyeline across a white face, a narrow white band above the bill, and a narrow black band above that. At last report no detectable change had occurred in the wing pattern. Plumage characters cited by Morlan (*Continental Birdlife* 2:37-50, 1981) suggest that our current knowledge does not allow for identification of such an individual in the field, and possibly not in the hand. PM comments that this may be an instance in which excellent photographs, written descriptions, and the presence of the bird through an entire molt may not be sufficient for specific identification.

WAXWINGS THROUGH BUNTINGS — Several Bohemian Waxwings May 23 in Portland were very late (SJ, *vide* HN) Cedar Waxwings arrived in most areas in mid-May, later than expected (v.ob.). A singing N. Shrike in Seattle Apr. 14 was the last reported, although a shrike (sp.) in n. coastal Lane County, Oreg., Apr. 28 was late regardless of species (DF). Solitary Vireos arrived slightly early, with singles at Corvallis, Oreg., Apr. 5 (EE), Langford, B.C., Apr. 6 (G. & T. Briggs), and Redmond, Wash., Apr. 11 (R. Rockle) being the initial state and provincial sightings. A Warbling Vireo in Eugene Apr. 20 was ahead of schedule (DF). Returnees elsewhere were about on time. Red-eyed Vireos arrive here in late May and June. Only one was found during the period, in the Malahat Land District of V.I., May 26 (MN).

April saw a staggering and protracted passage of Orange-crowned Warblers through w.-c. Oregon (m.ob.). About 150 were on Skinner Butte, Eugene, Apr. 13, and 225 were massed there Apr. 26 (DF, SH) On Apr. 29, huge numbers were encountered in coastal Oregon clearcuts, with flocks of up to 20 warblers swarming in the salal everywhere (BC, DF, SH). More than 200 were in Stanley P., Vancouver, B.C., May 8 (BK). Nashville Warblers appeared slightly early and in good numbers. The first was in Eugene Apr. 11 (S. Gordon). Four were found in the Vancouver, B.C., area, three were seen in lowland w. Washington, and another three were on the Oregon coast where among the scarcest regular warblers (v.ob.). Single Yellow Warblers at Vancouver, B.C., Mar. 29 (*vide* DK), at Dungeness Spit on the n.e. Olympic Pen., Apr. 8 (BM), and Apr. 23 at Saanich (J & RS) were early. A pair of 'Myrtle' Yellow-rumped Warblers appeared to be building a nest Apr. 29 on Sidney I., s.w. B.C. (TZ). Black-throated Gray Warblers also showed up early, and in impressive numbers. One in Corvallis Apr. 6 was the first reported (*vide* EE). A heavy movement of Black-throated Grays was noted by many w. Oregon observers in mid-April. About 80-100 were on Skinner Butte, Eugene, Apr. 17, and 110+ were there Apr. 26 (DF, SH). Seven were seen on s. V.I., May 21 (RWm, A MacLeod), near the n.w. limit of their breeding range. Eighty Townsend's Warblers were on Skinner Butte Apr. 7, and a flock of 50 was in a yard on Bainbridge I., near Seattle, May 13 (GG). The first returning Hermit Warblers were two in Portland Apr. 18 (RS). An imm. ♀ Hermit in Eugene Apr. 7-21 had probably wintered there (DF *et al.*). A ♂ Black-and-white Warbler in Oregon City, Oreg., Apr. 20 (†R. Ferguson) was unexpected, especially so early in the season. A MacGillivray's Warbler in Eugene Apr. 13 (SH) was the first reported. A Com. Yellowthroat Mar. 23 near Coquille, Oreg., was the first arrival noted (MH, SH, DR). Arrival of Wilson's Warblers was early in many areas. One was at LaPush, n.w. Olympic Pen., Apr. 8 (M. Egger). On Apr. 16 one was at Olympia, Wash., for G & WH's earliest ever there, ten were found in Tillamook County, Oreg. (JGi *et al.*, *vide* DI), and singles were at Cape Alava, Wash. (GG) and in Saanich (J. Holt) as well.

Two W. Tanagers on s. V.I., Apr. 15 were first arrivals for the Region (*vide* VG). A Black-headed Grosbeak in Portland Apr. 26 (M Houck, *vide* HN) was the first reported. A Lazuli Bunting Apr. 15 near Grants Pass., s. Oreg. (P. Lehman), was about 10 days earlier than expected. Accurate arrival dates for this species seem difficult to obtain. The ♂ **Dickcissel** that spent the winter on Puget I., s.w. Wash., was enjoyed by many before it was last seen on Apr. 14 (G. Exum, C Carver).

Two Brewer's Sparrows were found: singles at Sauvie I., Oreg., Apr. 11 (†HN), and atop Upper Table Rock, near Medford, Oreg., Apr. 28 (†MR). A Vesper Sparrow on Sea I., Richmond, B.C. May 20 (†J & HM) was a rarity. The first arrival reported for Vesper was Apr. 14 near Eugene (SH). One singing on Cape Blanco, Oreg., May 7 was part of the highly fragmented s. coastal population (BC, DF). A Lark Sparrow just n. of Eagle Cove, San Juan I., Apr. 26 furnished the 5th spring record for w. Washington (GJ, FS). Black-throated Sparrows appear as rare, irregular spring overshoots in the Region, mostly in w. Oregon. This season saw an amazing showing, with no fewer than 13 birds found, all in May. Eleven were in w. Oregon, five coastally and six in interior valleys. Two on Cape Blanco May 23 (*vide* HN) provided a rare multiple occurrence. None was reported from Washington, but a **Black-throated Sparrow** at Pitt Meadows, B.C., May 20 (P. Cook, †F Walker) and another at White Rock May 28 (†J. Sarles *et al.*) provided 3rd and 4th provincial and Canadian records. Also making news were two Sage Sparrows, both in Oregon. One was on Sauvie I., Apr. 2 (SJ), and one was just s. of Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene, Apr. 14 (SH) A

Lincoln's Sparrow in Oaks Bottom, Portland May 27 (DI) was a month behind the main movement. Two Swamp Sparrows were seen. An immature was in Langford, B.C., Mar. 4 (KT, C. Harper), and one was at Reifel Ref., near Vancouver, B.C., Mar. 5-10 (J & HM, †D. Jensen). At least 25 White-throated Sparrows were reported. A well-marked White-crowned x Golden-crowned Sparrow was seen at Westport, Wash., May 5 (TW). "Thousands" of White-crowns were massed around the w. end of the n. Olympic Pen., May 5-6 (M. Carmody). Four Harris' Sparrows were noted. Single Lapland Longspurs, both very late, were seen May 22-24 in Jericho P., Vancouver, B.C. (MF, BK, J. Vanderlinde), & May 25 at the S.J.C.R. (JGi, HN).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES — At least a few Tricolored Blackbirds had returned to their 1983 nesting outpost in n. Portland by Apr. 28 (SJ). A W. Meadowlark carrying food at the Victoria airport May 13 was intriguing, as there have been no s. V.I. nesting reports for years (H. Hosford, *vide* VG). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were scattered in modest numbers over much of the Region's interior. Small numbers showed once again at the Montlake Fill in Seattle without evidence of breeding (m.ob.), while a tenuous colony at the Forest Grove, Oreg., sewage ponds expanded this spring to 8-10 pairs (DI). An ad. ♂ Hooded Oriole stayed May 3-11 at a hummingbird feeder s. of Dallas, Oreg. (F. Gilchrist *et al.*) for a rare spring sighting of this occasional wintering species. Northern Orioles arrived on schedule. The first report was of one at Canby, s.e. of Portland, Apr. 29. One in s. Seattle May 5 (J. Dodson) and one in Saanich May 7 (KT) were respective first arrivals for Washington and British Columbia.

Three unusual reports of Rosy Finches were received. Two were at the 2400' summit of Mt. Constitution, Orcas I., Apr. 10 (J. Horder), one was in Discovery P., Seattle, Apr. 30 (DH), and yet another individual was on Mt. Erie, 1300' on Fidalgo I., s. of Anacortes, May 30 (*vide*

PM), all sites in Washington. They do not breed at these locations. Three about the Silcox Hut at 6900' on Mt. Hood, Oreg., May 27 were at a known nest site (DF). Three Cassin's Finches were discovered in the lowlands, where they are rare. One was in N. Vancouver, B.C., Apr. 21-23 (†G. Poynter) for the first documented record from that area, one was in the Columbia Gorge at Cascade Locks, Oreg., Apr. 28 (DA), and the 3rd was netted from a small flock on Vashon I., near Seattle May 7 (J. Van Os, ph. on file at Burke Mus., U.W.). Red Crossbills were nearly absent through the spring except on s. V.I., where VG termed them common. Pine Siskins were common to abundant throughout the Region. A Lesser Goldfinch was a surprise Apr. 25 at Tillamook (DI). They are rare on the coast n. of Coos County. All reports point to a superlative Evening Grosbeak year, although some observers felt lowland arrival to be rather late.

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MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION /Ron LeValley and Kurt F. Campbell

The Region was warm and dry this spring, in continuation of late winter's conditions, with May temperatures generally 3-6°F above normal. As of June 2 cumulative precipitation for the year was 73% of



average in Eureka and 25-35% of average nearly everywhere away from the north coast. Northwesterly winds blew almost continuously along the coast through the period, disappointing vagrant-chasers and probably accounting for a lack of migrants at Southeast Farallon Island and on the coast. The winds were associated with long-overdue coastal upwelling that promised to bring nutrients to the surface and begin the recovery from the effects of El Niño. Sea surface temperatures along the immediate coast dropped from 11-12°C in March to below 9° in April and May, the lowest since spring 1981. Most landbirds migrated early, with nearly all first arrivals and last departures on time to two weeks early.

The dryness and warmth seemed made-to-order for the event of the season: an unprecedented, Regionwide irruption of dry-climate birds. Costa's Hummingbird, Black-chinned and Black-throated sparrows, and Lawrence's Goldfinches were most prominent in this regard with many individuals apparently breeding in new areas. The most exciting landbirds of the season, Bendire's Thrasher and Cassin's Sparrow, filled out what one observer called our "arid invasion."

ABBREVIATIONS — C.B.R.C. = California Bird Records Committee; C.V. = Central Valley; F.I. = S.E. Farallon Island; P.R.B.O. = Point Reyes Bird Observatory; S.F. = San Francisco; Gray Lodge = Gray Lodge State Wildlife Area, *Butte*; † = description on file; ph. = photo on file. All observations at Palomarin (near Bolinas, *Marin*) and F.I. should be credited to P.R.B.O. References to the *Gull* refer to Golden Gate Audubon Society's publication, whose observations column is written by S. F. Bailey. *Italicized* names refer to counties.

Following are selected arrival and departure dates of species away from areas of breeding; exceptional dates are indicated with italics.

First dates: Pink-footed Shearwater Mar. 22 Pigeon Pt., *San Mateo* (BS); Am. White Pelican Mar. 10 Indian Tom L., *Siskiyou* (SFB); Blue-winged Teal Mar. 17 L. Earl (GL); Osprey Mar. 17 Crescent City (GL) & Mar. 30 Sacramento (*vide* TM); Swainson's Hawk Mar. 13 Stockton (DY); Caspian Tern Mar. 2 Seacliff Beach, *Santa Cruz* (GS); Pigeon Guillemot Mar. 17 Crescent City (GL); Tufted Puffin Mar. 28 Castle

Rock, *Del Norte* (GL), Lesser Nighthawk Apr 1 Sutter Buttes (WA), Vaux's Swift Mar. 26 Mt. Diablo S.P. (JRI) then Apr. 12 *Santa Clara* (fide WB); Black-chinned Hummingbird Apr. 9 *San Joaquin* (fide DY); Costa's Hummingbird Mar. 21 Redding (B&CY); Calliope Hummingbird Apr. 3 Yreka (RE); Rufous Hummingbird Mar. 4 *Santa Clara* and *Del Norte* (fide WB, RAE); Olive-sided Flycatcher Apr. 13 Stevens Creek County P., *Santa Clara* (WB); W. Wood-Pewee Apr. 15 Stevens Creek County P. (WB); W. Flycatcher Mar. 21 Pacific Grove (DR); Ash-throated Flycatcher Apr. 8 Carmichael, *Sacramento* (fide TM); Swainson's Thrush Apr. 23 Annadel S.P., *Sonoma* (DE); Solitary Vireo Mar. 27 *Sonoma* (KFC); Warbling Vireo Mar. 17 Palo Alto Foothills P. (WB); Orange-crowned Warbler Mar. 5 *Sonoma* (KFC); Yellow Warbler Apr. 13 Stevens Creek Co. Park (WB); MacGillivray's Warbler Apr. 12 *Trinity* (fide JS); Wilson's Warbler Mar. 19 Inverness (RS); Black-headed Grosbeak Mar. 28 *Placer* and *Contra Costa* (BB, LF); Lazuli Bunting Apr. 14 Rockpile Rd., *Sonoma* (BDP); Blue Grosbeak Apr. 28 Gray Lodge (BED); Black-chinned Sparrow Apr. 21 Corral Hollow, *San Joaquin* (DY); Hooded Oriole Mar. 5 Alamo, *Contra Costa* (JRI), the next Mar. 20 *Santa Clara* (WB); N. Oriole Mar. 20 *Contra Costa* (LF).

Last dates: Pied-billed Grebe May 6 Bodega Harbor (KFC); Horned Grebe May 19 Bodega Harbor (KFC); Red-necked Grebe May 24 Crescent City Harbor (RAE); Eared Grebe May 1 Petaluma *Sonoma* (KFC); Tundra Swan Apr. 5 L. Earl (fide GL); Greater White-fronted Goose Apr. 12 Gray Lodge (BED); Wood Duck Apr. 28 Monterey (DR *et al.*); Blue-winged Teal Mar. 18 Charleston Slough (fide WB); Am. Wigeon May 27 Camanche Res. (DY); Ring-necked Duck Apr. 28 Gray Lodge (BED); Black Scoter May 10 Bodega Bay (KFC, NTC); Com. Goldeneye Apr. 28 Moss Landing (DR *et al.*); Bufflehead Apr. 18 Auburn (BB); Rough-legged Hawk Apr. 1 Big L., *Shasta* (B&CY, BV); Peregrine Falcon Apr. 30 F.I. (P.R.B.O.); Lesser Golden-Plover Apr. 29 Pt Reyes (fide Gull); Greater Yellowlegs May 19 Big L., *Shasta* (B&CY); Lesser Yellowlegs May 13 Cader Lane Ponds (KFC); Surf-bird May 26 Fish Rock, *Mendocino* (KFC); Rock Sandpiper Apr. 17 Bodega Head (KFC); Com. Snipe May 12 Fairhaven, *Humboldt* (KVR); Ruby-crowned Kinglet Apr. 30 Gray Lodge (BED); Water Pipit May 8 Sutter Buttes (WA); Fox Sparrow May 8 Oak Grove P., *San Joaquin* (DY); Lincoln's Sparrow May 2 *Del Norte* (RAE); Golden-crowned Sparrow May 11 Gray Lodge (BED); White-crowned Sparrow May 30 Dinuba, *Tulare* (RG).

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — A concentration of 400 Red-throated Loons was found staging at the Russian R. mouth, *Sonoma* Apr. 5 (KFC). Peak movement of Arctic Loons was thought to be around Apr. 26 when 3000+ migrated N by Fish Rock, *Mendocino* in one-half hr (KFC, DE). Notable inland concentrations of Com. Loons were 13 at L. Yosemite, *Merced* Apr. 21 (RB) and 14 on L. Almanor, *Plumas* Apr. 23 (DAA). An unusual inland occurrence of a Red-necked Grebe in Petaluma Apr. 13 (LCB) fit the pattern established by this and other coastal species: most inland records are from migration periods. An extraordinary concentration of 2000-3000 W. Grebes on L. San Antonio, *Monterey* Mar. 24 was particularly interesting as most coastal birds departed around Mar. 12 (AB). Western Grebes have returned to Clear L., *Lake* following their almost complete disappearance during the heavy pesticide usage of the 1950s. Forty were counted Apr. 27 and they were considered "nesting all around the lake" (HLC).

Black-footed Albatrosses displayed their usual spring abundance with 19 sighted from Pigeon Pt., Mar. 29 (BS), 25 in Monterey Bay May 19 (AB) and 25 near the Cordelle Banks, *Marin* May 19 (KFC, AB). Two Laysan Albatrosses were seen: one from Pigeon Pt., Mar. 29 (BS) and another at the Cordelle Banks May 19 (†KFC, †AB). More surprising though were two or three found on shore. One found with a broken wing at Foster City, *San Mateo* Mar. 8 was taken to a rehabilitation center where it subsequently died (fide Gull). Another found in Benicia, *Solano* Mar. 24 (fide Gull) was taken to the Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum who eventually released it near F.I., Apr. 2 (fide P.R.B.O.). A 3rd Laysan of unreported origin was also taken by the Lindsay Museum to F.I., for release Apr. 28 (fide P.R.B.O.). Perhaps this rash of onshore occurrences is due to some assistance from the crew of an unknown ship (or ships?), although there is an unexplained history of March records for Laysan Albatross from the S.F. Bay area (RAE). The only N. Fulmar report was of two near Cordelle Banks May 19 (AB). Although

Sooty Shearwaters did not reach their pre-El Niño numbers in Monterey Bay this spring they were still considered abundant in late April (AB) Unhappily, 205 drowned there in a fishing net set in 66 ft of water May 25 (fide AB). As more emphasis is placed on harvesting new resources or using new techniques to harvest traditional resources from the sea, the importance of considering the effect of harvesting on non-target, but ecologically important species will increase. The last Short-tailed Shearwater of the winter's good showing was reported from Pigeon Pt., Mar. 2 (BS).

Surprisingly 18 Am. White Pelicans were on Humboldt Bay Apr. 28 (fide JS). There are only a handful of records for the coast n. of *Sonoma*. An imm. Brown Pelican in Crescent City Harbor Mar. 17 (GL) was somewhat early. An Am. Bittern at Tule Lake N.W.R., Mar. 11 (SFB *et al.*) was probably an early arrival while 25 at Gray Lodge Apr. 16 (LCB) was a notably large concentration. A Great Egret flying N 6 mi at sea s of Crescent City Apr. 2 (GL) was certainly unusual as only small numbers occur n. of there, and those mostly in the winter. An ad. Little Blue Heron at Bolinas Lagoon May 19-27 (DDeS) was apparently joined by a 2nd at Audubon Canyon Ranch May 22 (fide Gull). Another adult was present all spring at the Alviso Heronry, San Francisco Bay N.W.R., for the 6th consecutive year (RWL).

WATERFOWL — A single Fulvous Whistling-Duck was at Merced N.W.R., Feb. 10 and again Mar. 7-Apr. 10 (RB) while another was at nearby Los Banos Wildlife Area Apr. 2 (JRI). Lower Klamath N.W.R. had 65 late Greater White-fronted Geese May 19 (PS). A normal, but always impressive, spring concentration of 140,000 Snow Geese at Tule Lake N.W.R., Mar. 10 contained one partial "blue" morph (SFB *et al.*). Coastally, Snow Geese were reported as follows: one at Moffett Field, *San Mateo* Mar. 25-Apr. 23 (WB *et al.*), one immature in Pacific Grove, *Monterey* Mar. 25 (JML), two at Castle Rock and the nearby McLaughlin ranch, *Del Norte* Mar. 25-Apr. 11 (fide RAE), and a late bird at Castle Rock May 23 (GL). A Ross' Goose, always rare on the coast, spent Mar. 9-Apr. 11 with the Aleutian Canada Geese around Castle Rock and L. Earl (fide RAE) while another was along the Hayward Shoreline, *Alameda* Mar. 18 (HLC). A typical spring gathering of 15,000 Ross' Geese at Tule Lake N.W.R., Mar. 10 included one "blue" morph (SFB *et al.*). Four at Lower Klamath N.W.R., May 19 (PS) were definitely late. March 22 was the first calm day at Pigeon Pt after many windy days and 22,527 Brant were counted migrating north (BS). The peak spring count of Aleutian Canada Geese at L. Earl was 3150 Mar. 29 (PS).

A ♂ Green-winged Teal of the Eurasian race was on the Hunter Liggett Military Reservation Mar. 24-Apr. 28 (†AB, BW, DR), we receive few reports of this form. Five hundred Green-winged Teal at Gray Lodge Apr. 16 (LCB) and 100 still there Apr. 30 (BED) were high numbers for so late. A ♂ Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal hybrid was at Merced N.W.R., Mar. 17 & Apr. 17 (RB, DY). Cinnamon Teal arrive on their n.e. California breeding grounds by mid-March as indicated by 100+ at Eagle L., *Lassen* Mar. 10 and 300+ at Honey L., Mar. 11 (DAA). Recent work has shown that these are typical arrival dates contrary to earlier beliefs. Wintering single Eur. Wigeons lingered into the spring as follows: Palo Alto Yacht Harbor Mar. 3 (fide WB), Golden Gate Park, S.F., Mar. 29 (KFC), Bolinas Lagoon into April (DDeS).

Redheads lingered near Fall River, *Shasta* through May 19 when 12 were noted (B&CY). A ♂ Tufted Duck was at the Stockton sewage ponds Mar. 17-22 (†DY, JRI). Four Greater Scaup on Big L., *Shasta* Apr. 1 (B&CY) were in an area where they are scarce. A ♂ Harlequin Duck was at Pacific Grove Mar. 8 (fide AB). Two Oldsquaws, one a long-tailed male, were at the Smith R. Estuary, *Del Norte* Mar. 10 (RAE, RS, DDeS) and a single was migrating past Pigeon Pt., Mar. 22 (BS). The Moss Landing Oldsquaw population increased to three until Mar. 24 and one bird lingered until Mar. 28 (DR, LCB, JML). The latest Oldsquaw was a female in Arcata May 12-17 (JS, PS). March 22 saw 10,924 Surf Scoters fly past Pigeon Pt., thanks to the calm day (BS) The wintering ♀ Barrow's Goldeneye at Moss Landing was last seen Mar. 10 (DR *et al.*). A very late ♀ Hooded Merganser was at Essex Pond, *Humboldt* May 20 (KVR); their nesting status on the n. coast is still uncertain. A ♀ Red-breasted Merganser at Big L., *Shasta* Apr. 14 apparently furnished a first county record (RE, CYO).

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES — An ad. **Mississippi Kite** was

seen over Pigeon Pt., Apr. 5 (†BS), if accepted by the C B R C, this would be the 5th Regional and earliest spring California record. Large numbers of Bald Eagles remained at Lower Klamath N.W.R. until at least Mar. 11 when 204 were counted (SFB *et al.*). High numbers of N. Harriers were also encountered Mar. 11 when 75 were at Lower Klamath N.W.R. and 40 were at the adjacent Tule Lake N.W.R. (SFB *et al.*) Both Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks were poorly reported this season, though few observers expressed concern for either species. An ad. N. Goshawk was being harassed by a pair of Cooper's Hawks at Henry Cowell Redwood S.P., Santa Cruz Mar. 22 (GS). This is far s. of any known breeding locality for goshawks and in an area from which there are few, if any, records. Goshawks are known to invade coastal areas in winter and this was likely a bird that had wintered out of range and was returning to ? Maybe even more surprising was Siskiyou County's first **Broad-winged Hawk** on Mt. Shasta May 6 (†RE, CYo, †MR). This established the first inland record and probably the first true spring migrant record for the Region. An ad. Ferruginous Hawk at Estero Lane, Sonoma Apr. 12 was late (KFC) but another in Surprise Valley, Modoc May 30 (BED) was not too far from known breeding localities outside the Region. Although the recent A.O.U. Check-list lists this species as "probably breeding" in n.e. California, the evidence appears to be only summering adults. A sub-ad. Golden Eagle in Klamath Glen May 27 established the first coastal *Del Norte* record (RAE). A Merlin at Lava Beds N.M., Modoc Apr. 29 (CYo, RE) was notably late.

Ruffed Grouse were reported from 5 locations in *Humboldt*, *Del Norte* and *Siskiyou*. Nine male and 25 ♀ Sage Grouse at the lek n. of Litchfield, Lassen Mar. 17 (JRI) were the best totals reported since 1977, but the number of males is still very low compared to counts prior to the 1970s. A Black Rail was heard calling throughout the period at Bolinas Lagoon (DDeS). An ad. Sora with chicks near Salinas in May provided *Monterey* with its first documented nesting record (*vide DR*). Common Moorhen chicks were seen in May near Salinas (*vide DR*) and Gonzales *Monterey* (RR) where they are quite rare as breeders. *Del Norte* County's first Sandhill Crane at Klamath Glen through Mar. 26 had apparently been present since January (RAE *et al.*).

SHOREBIRDS — The two wintering Lesser Golden-Plovers (*P. fulva*) at Lodi sewage ponds were last seen Mar. 26 (JML, DY). Notable inland concentrations of Semipalmated Plovers were 50+ in the Cosumnes R. floodplain, Sacramento Apr. 17 (T&AM) and in the Butte Sink, Sutter Apr. 20 (MRH). Black-necked Stilts staged an unprecedented mini-invasion to the n. coast. Two were first encountered in Eureka, *Humboldt* Apr. 14 (PS) and on the next day four were present there and 13 had arrived at L. Earl, *Del Norte* (GL, JAR). A maximum concentration of 35 was at L. Earl Apr. 19 (JAR) and two were in the Arcata bottoms (JS) on the same day. The last report was of eight at L. Earl Apr. 20 (GL). Prior to this only 2 *Del Norte* and a handful of *Humboldt* records existed. The wintering Solitary Sandpiper near Inverness *Marin* was last seen Mar. 14 (*vide Gull*). At least 11 spring migrants were detected along the coast and four were found inland Apr. 14-May 3, one of the latter near Jolon, *Monterey* Apr. 28 (*vide DR*) was the only one away from *Humboldt*, *Del Norte* and *Siskiyou*. Wandering Tattlers are unusual inside S.F. Bay so one at the Sunnyvale sewage plant, *Santa Clara* May 6 (*vide WB*) and up to seven at the Alameda Naval Air Station May 8-18 (SFB) were of interest.

The thousands of Marbled Godwits that depart Humboldt Bay in late April and early May apparently fly almost immediately inland as evidenced by their scarcity in *Del Norte*. This year only two on May 9 and one on May 11 were detected in Crescent City (RAE). The only Semipalmated Sandpiper found this spring was in Arcata Apr. 29-30 (JS, ph) A single Baird's Sandpiper at the Lodi sewage ponds Mar. 21 (†DY) was very early. It was followed by two there Apr. 17 (DY) and another at the Smith River estuary, *Del Norte* Apr. 19 (GL *et al.*). This species is now being detected annually in spring in very small numbers. A **Stilt Sandpiper** well-described from Moffett Field, *Santa Clara* Apr. 14 (†WB *et al.*) established only the 2nd spring record for the Region. A ♀ Ruff at Merced N.W.R., Mar. 7-12 (RB) may have been the same one that was in breeding plumage there Apr. 19 (RB). Wilson's Phalaropes occurred w. of their normal range with three in the Ferndale bottoms, *Humboldt* May 27 (RLeV, KVR, LD), one at Arcata May 28 (KVR, JS) and one near Ft. Dick, *Del Norte* (*vide RAE*).

GULLS THROUGH SKIMMER — The wintering Little Gull at the Stockton sewage ponds was joined by a 2nd bird Apr. 15 and both were last seen Apr. 28 (DY). The Com. Black-headed Gull there was last seen Apr. 9 (DY). Mew Gulls lingered late in the C.V. with one at the Stockton sewage ponds Apr. 15 (DY) and another present near Rio Vista, *Sacramento* through Apr. 17 (T&AM). A Glaucous Gull at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Mar. 3-17 (CYo, †RE, MR *et al.*) furnished *Siskiyou*'s first record. The wintering adult at Freshwater Lagoon, *Humboldt* was last seen Apr. 15 (†KH). A first-year bird was reported from Princeton Harbor Mar. 11 (*vide Gull*). Five Sabine's Gulls were near the Cordelle Banks May 19 (KFC, AB *et al.*).

Caspian Terns were absent from their breeding colony on Bair Island, S.F. Bay, where in 1983 there were about 400 pairs and in 1982 there were 800-1000 pairs (RWL). The reason for this drastic decline is unknown but it seems to be a local phenomenon. A Royal Tern in Pacific Grove Mar. 7-8 (†AB *et al.*) was only the 3rd or 4th in the Region in the last 15 years. Two Com. Terns were still present at Moss Landing at the late date of May 25 (DDeS) and an Arctic Tern, always rare onshore, was photographed at Pt. Pinos, *Monterey* May 9 (SS). Like the Caspian Tern, Least Terns did not return to their nesting colonies on Bair Island (RWL) and returnees at other n. California colonies were either absent or low in numbers and late (SFB). A Black Tern at the Pajaro River mouth, *Santa Cruz* May 14 was in an area where they are rarely observed (GS). Black Skimmers continued their presence in the Region with sightings of singles at the Pajaro River mouth May 11 (GS *et al.*) and at Moss Landing May 12 (*vide Gull*).

PIGEONS THROUGH OWLS — Coastal movement of Band-tailed Pigeons was evident, with peaks of 18 at Palomar and 55 at Bodega Harbor (KFC) Apr. 16 & 22 respectively. A Mourning Dove at Blodgett Forest Research Station, *El Dorado* May 30 (SAL) was at 4300 ft; they are rare on the w. slope of the Sierras, but May holds the most records. A Flammulated Owl heard May 27 at Peak 8, *Del Norte* provided a 4th county record (GL *et al.*). Long-eared Owl reports are always of interest; of 3 received, one of a bird heard at 2200 ft on Paper Cabin Ridge, *Tuolumne* May 15 & 23 (MG) was in a county from whence several spring and summer records have come in recent years. A single report of Short-eared Owl for the entire period (one, Mar. 11, Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Siskiyou*—SFB) highlights this once-common species' current plight in our Region.

SWIFTS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — The 4 Black Swift records fell in a short period: one each, May 20 at Dunsuir, *Siskiyou* (CS), May 22 over Lafayette, *Contra Costa* (JRI) and May 30 between Jenner and Ft. Ross, *Sonoma* (DE); two on May 24 were at the Pine Mt. Airport, *Tuolumne* (†MG). Two Vaux's Swifts n. of Orick, *Humboldt* Mar. 19 (GL) were the last of wintering birds there, and 15+ over Salinas Mar. 17 (GS) wintered in the state, however one Mar. 26 at Mt. Diablo S.P., *Contra Costa* (JRI) may simply have been a very early migrant from the species' more usual winter range.

A ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird appeared in Lafayette on Apr. 16 (LF), while a female at 3000 ft on Tassajara Rd., *Monterey* was where not known to breed, Apr. 21 (DR). Observers in *Sacramento* and *San Joaquin* commented on the paucity of Anna's Hummingbirds, while at Palomar they were considered abundant. Singles appeared at F I, where quite rare, Apr. 4 & May 28; the species first arrived at L. Almanor, *Lassen* Apr. 21 (DAA). The ad. ♂ Costa's Hummingbird which wintered in San Rafael, *Marin* was last seen Mar. 15 (*vide Gull*). The irruption of Costa's through the Region this spring was unprecedented: 9 reports were of 13+ clearly extralimital individuals. Far n were first county records for *Del Norte* and *Shasta*: a displaying male Apr. 14-27 in Crescent City (GL *et al.*) and three (2♂♂, one ♂) Mar. 21-May 31 (B&CY) in Redding. A male at Greenhorn Park, Yreka, *Siskiyou* Apr. 23+ (RE, MR) set an earliest county record. Additionally, many new locations near the edge of the species' usual range provided records. Breeding was suggested at new locations in *Monterey*, where breeding was first confirmed in 1981 (DR), and perhaps even *Marin* (!), where three to six birds took up residence Apr. 27+ at Rodeo Lagoon (*vide Gull*). Movement of Calliope Hummingbirds through the Region was also impressive. Three were in *Marin* Apr. 16-26 (P.R.B.O., DDeS), and a strong flight was indicated at low elevations in *Sacramento* and *Placer* (EH, TM *et al.*). The species is regular in small numbers

in the coastal ranges of S F Bay in spring (e.g., five males in Tilden P. Apr. 29, SFB *et al.*), however a report of 50-60 in the Corral Hollow area of *San Joaquin* Apr. 28 (no details) would be amazing if correct (DY). Of all hummers, the most widely reported as present in very high numbers were the *Selasphorus*; up to 45 were in one yard in Bolinas Apr. 25 (DDeS), most of which were felt to be Allen's.

KINGFISHERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — One ♀ Belted Kingfisher Apr. 4 at F.I. was par there for spring. A Lewis' Woodpecker May 5 at Colusa S.P. (WA) was a little late for the C.V. (where a few still breed?), while a "Red-naped" Sapsucker at Carmichael, *Sacramento* Apr. 1 (*vide* TM) was one of rather few C.V. reports ever received. Two White-headed Woodpeckers were at the previously unrecorded location of Alder Springs, *Glenn* in May (SE). Four "Yellow-shafted" Flickers were reported without descriptions (one, F I, Apr. 5; singles, *Del Norte*, Mar. 9-Apr. 19, RAE, GL), while the only(!) reported introgressant was a female on Sonoma Mt., Mar. 27 (†KFC).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — In a dramatic contrast to last spring's excellent flight of W. Wood-Pewees on F.I., they went nearly unrecorded there this season, with three, May 28-30 a striking low. They were unrecorded at Palomarin, and only one was noted at Bodega Harbor all spring (May 29, KFC). Presumably the consistent winds were a factor in their avoidance of the coast, however the only other comment on numbers was by TM, who noted them to be in "small numbers and generally late" in *Sacramento*. Despite this trend one was on Moxon Rd., *Humboldt* Apr. 21; it was felt to be about 2 weeks early for the n. coast (*vide* JS). Others reported a few on-time or slightly early arrivals. Willow Flycatcher passage began light and a little late (even for them!), with six migrants noted in the period, the first May 18 in *San Joaquin* (DY) and *Del Norte* (RAE). Second and 3rd *Monterey* records for Hammond's Flycatcher were established Apr. 21 in the upper Carmel Valley (†DR), with their lowland migration extending from that date to May 2. Dusky Flycatcher migration was noted Apr. 14-May 3. Although unusually numerous away from Great Basin areas, Gray Flycatchers were well down in numbers from last spring's invasion, as well as earlier (Apr. 7-May 8). The distribution however was similar, with 8 of 15 records from the n. coast.

Single wintering Black Phoebes departed F.I., Mar. 1 and Palomarin Mar. 14. Confirmation of nesting for 2-3 pairs of Say's Phoebes at Corral Hollow Rd. was a first for *San Joaquin* (DY). Ash-throated Flycatcher arrival was about typical, with 6 first arrival records Apr. 8-14, while four on the n. coast were termed "rare migrants:" one Apr. 30-May 2 and two on May 4, at Klamath Glen, *Del Norte* (RAE), and one May 20, Essex Pond, *Humboldt* (*vide* JS). A pair of Cassin's Kingbirds near the n. end of Mines Rd., *Alameda* Apr. 15 (BDP) was where the species has bred in years past, while 12-15 mi away along Corral Hollow Rd., where breeding was noted the last 2 years, the only sighting was of one Apr. 28 (DY). The first interior W. Kingbird was about on time Mar. 24 on Meiss Rd., *Sacramento* (*vide* TM), while the first coastward was a little early Apr. 1, s. of Petaluma, *Sonoma* (B. Burridge, *vide* KFC). Thirty-seven+ on the n. coast during the period was a large number (*vide* JS, RAE).

It appears normal arrival dates for Purple Martins are 2-3 weeks earlier in the C.V. than coastwardly; thus first arrivals for the C.V. in *Sacramento* Mar. 23 (B & HK) and coastwardly, w. of Ft. Dick, *Del Norte* Apr. 12 (*vide* RAE) seem usual. Records suggesting breeding at locales where not now known include eight at Salt Point S.P., *Sonoma* (DE), six+ in Big Basin S.P., *Santa Cruz* May 30 (GS) and a male and female together May 19 at Soldier Mt., *Shasta* (B & CY). The latter record is intriguing, as it is the 6th May-June record in as many years from e. *Shasta*, though breeding is apparently yet to be confirmed; they are quite rare in interior ranges. Northern Rough-winged Swallows were found to be effectively utilizing vertical drain holes in freeway overpasses for nesting, in areas as dispersed as *San Joaquin*, *Marin* to *Mendocino* and, apparently, *Plumas* (DY, KFC, DAA). How widespread is this habit, how old—and how important to the species? The Mar. 6 arrival of Bank Swallow at the King City colony (*vide* DR) set an early record for *Monterey* and nearly so for the Region. A colony with 30 nest holes on the Sacramento R., 2 mi below Colusa was apparently new (BED), while two at F.I., May 17 were quite rare there. Both Cliff and Barn swallows were lightly reported; Cliff Swallows were felt to be

in increased numbers after a 2-year slump at Lawrence Livermore Lab, *Alameda* (KH).

JAYS THROUGH WRENS — Reports of Scrub Jays from areas where they are rare included one near Westwood, *Lassen* Apr. 25 (*vide* DAA), three to six at L. Almanor, *Plumas* May 9 (DAA), and "up to seven" in *Del Norte* during the period (RAE); spring movement at both areas has precedents. American Crows were in "unprecedented numbers" at Palomarin with a high of six, Mar. 24 & 27, but went unreported elsewhere. Two Mountain Chickadees at the Folsom L. Peninsula, *El Dorado* Mar. 11 (EH) were extremely low at about 800 ft. The last seen of the n. coast's rare wintering Mountain Chickadees was one Apr. 17 at Klamath (RAE). Curiously, the next coastal records were two with the timing of vagrants: 22 May, Arcata Marsh, *Humboldt* (KVR, JS), and 29 May, outer Pt. Reyes, *Marin* (NTC, †KFC); the latter bird was apparently from a West Coast population, as expected. Red-breasted Nuthatches continued lowland movement well into May: two at Reichmuth Pk., *Sacramento* (TM) and one in Pacific Grove (DR), both May 8; one May 12, Los Altos, *Santa Clara* (*vide* WB), and one present at F.I. through May 27; three on outer Pt. Reyes May 29 had recent precedents (KFC). Brown Creepers were at "an all time low for Palomarin." A pair of Canyon Wrens at Corral Hollow Rd., Apr. 28 furnished the first confirmed breeding for *San Joaquin* (DY). House Wrens were reported in good numbers in *Shasta* and *Plumas* (B & CY, DAA), F.I.'s first-ever wintering bird apparently departed May 22. A Winter Wren on the C.V. floor at Ancil Hoffman Park, *Sacramento* Mar. 10-Apr. 7 (TM) was rare and a little late.

KINGLETS THROUGH WRENS — Ruby-crowned Kinglets departed about 2 weeks early throughout the Region. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher noted Mar. 5 at Palo Alto Foothills P., *Santa Clara* (WB) probably wintered in the Region. The wintering bird at Palomarin departed Mar. 7. A last Mountain Bluebird departed the Sutter Buttes Mar. 3 (BED), while the first reported on breeding grounds were in *Sierra* and *Lassen* Mar. 10 (JML). Townsend's Solitaires were reported in lowland areas in higher numbers than for any previous spring except the 1982 invasion. As in that year inland and coastal reports were equally split; the last records were of singles Apr. 26, n.w. of Ft. Dick (*vide* RAE) and Apr. 28 at Woodleaf, *Yuba* (BED). At least one of three+ Hermit Thrushes on outer Pt. Reyes May 29 (†KFC) appeared to be of the eastern racial group (*C. g. faxoni* etc.), based on size, dark color and brownish sides. This form is apparently previously unrecorded in the state. Varied Thrush provides a good example of the need for caution in interpreting departure dates. In an average spring (and this appears to have been one) most individuals depart the wintering grounds during March, with stragglers giving departure dates through April. A few are seen in May; even June records exist which appear to refer to stragglers far from known breeding areas. Thus this year's "departure date" was of a female at outer Pt. Reyes May 29+ (KFC); the next preceding it was one at Mt. Diablo May 1 (JRI). April 13 was an odd date for a Wrentit to be at 4300 ft; it was said to be the first in 3 years at Blodgett Forest Research Station, *El Dorado* (SAL).

THRASHERS THROUGH VIREOS — A Sage Thrasher noted Apr. 20, w. of Ft. Dick (GL *et al.*) provided a 2nd *Del Norte* record. A well-described **Bendire's Thrasher** on F.I., May 19 (†JP, ph. T. McElroy) was only the 5th individual for the Region—2nd for spring. The last N Shrike reports were both Mar. 17: an immature on Scott Rd., *El Dorado* (†EH) and one (age?) near Honey L. (JRI). A Loggerhead Shrike Apr. 9-14 was at Pt. St. George, *Del Norte*; they are rare on the n. coast (GL, RAE *et al.*). One singing Bell's Vireo May 25 was near Bradley, *Monterey*, where the species was noted breeding last year (DR). A singing Solitary Vireo May 1-June 8+ in Klamath (RAE) was unusually coastal for the n.w. part of the Region. Five "first arrivals" of Warbling Vireo in the S.F. Bay area Mar. 17-21 indicated a strong, early push there.

WARBLERS — A Tennessee Warbler at the Presidio, S.F., Mar. 4 to at least Mar. 21 (*vide Gull*) wintered locally; the only other report was of a singing male at outer Pt. Reyes May 27 (JM); none were at F.I. The recent (1979-1983) average for March to May is 3.6 on the mainland, and 6-8 for F.I. Orange-crowned Warblers may have nested at Ancil Hoffman P., *Sacramento*; one netted Apr. 27 had a possible brood patch, and a bird was seen carrying food at the same spot in May (TM)

The only C.V. precedent seems to be one carrying food at Blackberry I., *Tehama*, June 19, 1977 (SAL). A Nashville Warbler near San Juan Bautista, *San Benito* Mar. 23 (LCB) probably wintered in the state; one in Yreka Apr. 4 (RE) tied the Region's early spring record. A ♀ N. Parula was at Fairhaven, *Humboldt* May 29 (RLeV). Single Magnolia Warblers at F.I., May 28 & 30 and outer Pt. Reyes May 29 (†KFC) probably represent only one or two birds. Apart from one "Myrtle" Warbler on outer Pt. Reyes May 27 (JM), which was probably an eastern vagrant, the last reported were two at Mt. Diablo May 1 (JRi). The last clearly migrant "Audubon's" was May 3 at Gray Lodge (BED), while a female with nesting material May 15 at Klamath Glen established the 2nd coastal nesting record for *Del Norte* (RAE). The Black-throated Gray Warbler wintering in Arcata was last seen Mar. 28 (*vide* JS), and the first migrants arrived simultaneously on the early date of Mar. 31 in *Sacramento*, Palomarin, and Los Altos Hills, *Santa Clara* (TM; P.R.B.O.; *vide* WB). Townsend's Warblers were reported in high numbers away from the immediate coast (TM, DY, JRi), and absent at Palomarin; three were at F.I., May 19-30 (recent March to May average: 60').

An *albilora* Yellow-throated Warbler was at Pt. Lobos, *Monterey* May 24-25 (GS, †AB, †DR), closely matching last year's May 27 record in Pacific Grove. Tantalizing was a report of a probable Prairie Warbler heard singing repeatedly at Audubon Canyon Ranch, *Marin* Mar. 3 (EH). There are but 3 Regional winter records. The last of the four Palm Warblers reported (all from the n. coast) was one in Arcata Mar. 28 (*vide* JS). Of six Black-and-white Warblers in the period (five coastal), one furnished an apparent first *Merced* record May 19 at Merced N.W.R. (RB). No Am. Redstarts were reported, for the first March-May period since 1978. The only Ovenbird was singing at Fairhaven, *Humboldt* May 28-31 (JS, KVR), for a 4th county record. Once a common nester through the C.V., the Com. Yellowthroat has declined there in the last 40 years. Its current status is unclear. It is still at least locally common as a breeder in *Butte* and *San Joaquin* (BED, DY), while it is apparently absent or rare in most of the Valley as a breeder (but not as a migrant). A Yellow-breasted Chat at Salyer, *Trinity* Apr. 17 was said to be 2 weeks early (*vide* JS); both it and one that same day in Del Puerto Canyon, *Stanislaus* (JRi) were 3-4 days ahead of the average first arrival for the Region.

TANAGERS THROUGH LONGSPURS — The ♂ Summer Tanager wintering at Golden Gate P., S.F. was last reported Mar. 4 (*vide* Gull). A Mar. 15 W. Tanager noted at Henry Cowell S.P., *Santa Cruz* (GS) wintered in the state, while the subsequent 4 reports, Apr. 15-17, were average to a few days early as firsts for the Region. One feeding young May 15 at Stevens Creek County P. (*vide* WB) was certainly ahead of schedule! Three or four Rose-breasted Grosbeaks May 18-19 were average—a strong contrast to the usual numbers seen at this time on the deserts and coasts of s. California. Black-headed Grosbeaks were a week or so early through much of the Region. Perhaps due to the coastal winds, numbers were clearly low in *Marin* and w. *Sonoma* (DDeS, P.R.B.O., KFC). Lazuli Buntings arrived early and were present in above-average numbers. Several observers commented on the high numbers, although as is often the case, no comparative numbers were offered, making interpretation difficult. The only Indigo Bunting was a male singing in *San Mateo* May 20+ (*vide* WB); the 1979-1983 Regional average for March is 3.4.

Two Brown Towhees at Willow Cr., *Humboldt* during the period (*vide* JS) were near the n. limit of the species there. Pending acceptance by the C.B.R.C., a Cassin's Sparrow May 29 at the Little R. mouth, *Humboldt* (JS, †KVR) gave us a 7th Regional and first mainland record. Four of the past records (all F.I.) fell between June 2 & July 12, the other 2 in late September. A Rufous-crowned Sparrow 6 mi w. of Paskenta, s. *Tehama* May 15 (SE) extended the species' known range n. about 2 mi. First returning Chipping Sparrows were in *Sacramento* Mar. 31 (TM) and *Del Norte* Apr. 3 (RAE). Single Brewer's Sparrows Apr. 16 in *Sutter* (LCB) and May 8 n. of Stockton (DY) were rare C.V. migrants, but two to four singing at Big L., *Shasta* May 17-19 (B & CY) were in a region where the species probably breeds. One was on F.I., May 28. Impressive were reports of about 65 Black-chinned Sparrows at 18 sites, all but a few from areas where irregular at best. Birds were noted as far n. in Sierran foothills as Cohasset Ridge, *Butte* (TM—two males May 26), where the species was noted in 1974, and in the inner coastal

mountains to *Glenn* (SE—26 to 38 at 4 sites, April-May) Coastal records were of singles on Fairfax-Bolinas Rd., *Marin* May 6 (*vide* Gull) and on Sweeney Ridge Trail, Pacifica, *San Mateo* May 20 (*vide* Gull) One pair bred at Palomarin, with breeding probable at many other sites Vesper Sparrows were singing on territory both at Big L., *Shasta* (five on May 19—B & CY) and L. Talawa (eight+, May 14—DDeS), breeding has yet to be confirmed away from the Great Basin in the Region. Six + Lark Sparrows Apr. 30-May 12 in *Humboldt* and *Del Norte* (*vide* JS, RAE) were rare migrants for the n. coast.

Reports of Black-throated Sparrows at 5 sites were received; the first 2 are of vagrants, while the latter 3 probably indicate breeding: one Apr 22 provided a 2nd Sutter Buttes record (WA), while another was at Requa, *Del Norte* May 23-24 (RAE *et al.*) for a first county record (and 6th coastal spring record for the Region); two + near Yreka were noted May 17 where they are irregularly seen (RE, MR); up to 18 were near Folsom L. Peninsula, *El Dorado* May 21-23+ (JML, EH *et al.*) where they have not been noted before; one was on Cohasset Ridge, *Butte* May 26 (TM) where they were found May-June 1974. Sage Sparrows said to be breeding near Folsom L. Peninsula on May 21 (JML) extended northward the known range of the disjunct Sierran foothill population of *A. b. belli*, but one Apr. 1 on Riley Rd., near Aprno Rd., *Sacramento* (†B & HK) was *A. b. canescens* or *nevadensis*. At least five Lark Buntings appeared in the Sacramento Valley. One male was present near Sacramento mid-March through Apr. 23 (TM *et al.*); two (male and female) were at the s.e. edge of the Sutter Buttes Apr. 14-May 8 (WA, BED *et al.*); another male present Mar. 30-Apr. 21, 6 mi w. of Woodland, *Yolo* (ph. BM, †KH) may have been one of the two birds seen Mar. 16, 8 mi to the s.e. (JRi), as only one was seen at the latter spot Mar. 18 (*vide* Gull).

A Savannah Sparrow at 4300 ft at the Blodgett Forest Research Station Apr. 21 (SAL) was a very misplaced migrant; eight on May 8 at the Sutter Buttes (WA) were many for a last Regional report away from breeding areas. There appear to be but 2 January-February Grasshopper Sparrow records for the Region (Jan. 3, 1973 & Feb. 18, 1911); both are specimens and from the San Joaquin Valley. There are no known March records for the Region whatsoever. Thus a report of one Mar. 27 near Nicasio, *Marin* (*vide* Gull), ostensibly a very early migrant, must remain a tentative record, as no photo or documentation was apparently made. Early records otherwise were of one Apr. 5 at Hayward Shoreline Pk., *Alameda* (†HG) and another Apr. 6 just w. of Nicasio (JE). The number of sites at which this species is known to be routine continues to grow, as birders explore grasslands. The last of 14 White-throated Sparrows was one May 3, 2 mi s. of McCloud, *Siskiyou* (CS) which, amazingly, was said to be "acting as if nesting."—with White-crowned?! An "incredible fallout" of Golden-crowned and White-crowned sparrows involved "many 100s" of each, Apr. 30-May 3 in coastal *Humboldt* (RLeV) and *Del Norte* (RAE). A late ad. Harris' Sparrow was at Tracy, *San Joaquin* May 8 (*vide* DY). Seventeen "Slate-colored" Juncos were reported, to Apr. 10. A "Pink-sided" Junco (*J. h. mearnsi*) report lacked details, there are still no documented records for the Region, though it surely must occur. A Lapland Longspur in Hayward, *Alameda* to May 12 (BR) was only one day short of the latest-ever Regional date.

ICTERINES — More reports of Tricolored Blackbirds were received this spring than in the previous 3 spring periods combined; the largest number reported was 1500 on White Rock Rd., *Sacramento* Mar 17 (EH). Hopefully observers will continue to document this species' status. North of Orick, *Humboldt*, 30-40 were "unprecedented numbers for the n. coast" May 27-30 (JS, RAE). A female described from F I (†JP), Mar. 7-14, established only the 2nd record there away from fall Five coastal records of Yellow-headed Blackbird spanned Apr. 15-May 17. The Rusty Blackbird n. of Orick was last seen Apr. 8 (RAE), providing only the 2nd Regional record later than mid-February.

FRINGILLIDS — A Purple Finch Apr. 30 at Gray Lodge was the last for the C.V., and the first report at that spot in 8 years (BED). Red Crossbills were well reported throughout the period, both in the Sierras and coastwardly from Monterey to Gualala, *Mendocino*. Pine Siskins were clearly in much above average numbers through much of the Region despite rather few reports, as the reporters were widespread and unanimously enthusiastic; for instance, "hundreds were present this year on an annual census of the Kilgore Hills near Yreka where normally

none or, at best, a few are present" (RE, MR). An invasion of hundreds of Lawrence's Goldfinches into the Region this spring was unprecedented in size. The earliest report was of birds at the Sutter Buttes Mar. 11 (WA), with reports building steadily and apparently peaking in late May. No reports were received from the interior n. of Glenn or in Great Basin areas; coastwardly the northernmost records were of four on May 26 near Willits, *Mendocino* (AE, KH) and two on May 29 and "several days prior" at Cape Mendocino, *Humboldt* (JS, RLeV *et al.*); the latter were said to have been photographed for a 2nd county record. Two May 31 at Ackerson Meadow, *Tuolumne* (MG) were at the high elevation of 4500 ft. Notably, at least 3/4 of the reports were of one to six birds, and nesting was probable in many cases. The apparent dependence of this species on native annuals as a food crop, fiddleneck (*Amsinckia* spp.) in particular, may be an important clue in understanding the irruption (see also Bent, 1968, *Life Histories* . . .). "Huge flocks" of Evening Grosbeaks totalling 5000+ in the South L. Tahoe area Mar. 1-5 (RS) represented the largest number reported in the Region in 4 years.

CORRIGENDA — The wandering Sabine's Gull (AB 38:242) was at

Tule Lake N.W.R., *not* Lower Klamath N.W.R.

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SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

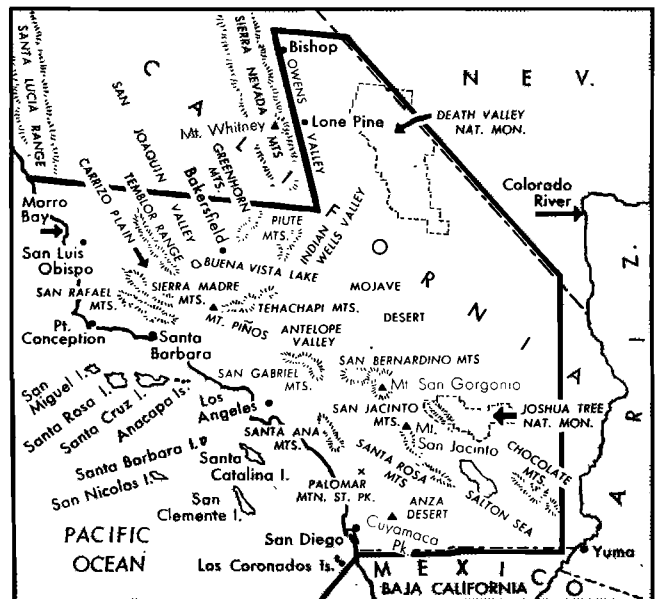
/Guy McCaskie

The dry weather of the winter continued into the spring with only a minimal amount of precipitation during March and April, and none thereafter, leaving us with the second driest January-through-June period on record.

The regularly occurring west coast migrants were most conspicuous during April and the first week of May, with average to above average numbers encountered along the coast, but below average numbers at most desert oases. After the first week of May migrants became unusually scarce throughout the Region, and this remained the situation into early June with fewer of the regular vagrants found.

ABBREVIATIONS — F.C.R. = Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley, Inyo Co.; N.E.S.S. = north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.; S.D.N.H.M. = San Diego Natural History Museum; S.C.R.E. = Santa Clara River Estuary, Ventura Co.; S.E.S.S. = south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial County. In the text following, place names in *italics* are counties. As virtually all rarities found in southern California are seen by numerous observers, only the observer initially identifying the bird is included. Documentation is on file for all rarities listed in the report.

The early arrival dates for some of our key migrants were: Wilson's Phalarope Apr. 15, Salton Sea; Red-necked Phalarope Apr. 28, Salton Sea; Elegant Tern Mar. 11, San Diego; Common Tern Apr. 14, Morro Bay; Least Tern Apr. 16, Bolsa Chica; Black Tern Apr. 18, Salton Sea; Lesser Nighthawk Mar. 20, Imperial Valley; Vaux's Swift Apr. 6, Venice; Black-chinned Hummingbird Feb. 25, Blythe (Colorado R. Valley) & Mar. 24, Los Angeles; Olive-sided Flycatcher Apr. 14, San Diego; Western Wood-Pewee Apr. 14, San Diego; Willow Flycatcher May 6, San Diego; Hammond's Flycatcher Apr. 1, San Diego County; Western Flycatcher Mar. 11, San Diego; Ash-throated Flycatcher Mar. 22, Orange County; Western Kingbird Mar. 17, Los Angeles; Swainson's Thrush Apr. 21, San Diego; Bell's Vireo Mar. 21, San Diego; Solitary Vireo Mar. 21, San Diego; Warbling Vireo Mar. 1, Orange County; Nashville Warbler Mar. 31, San Diego and Morongo Valley; Yellow Warbler Apr. 8, San Diego; Black-throated Gray Warbler Mar. 24, San Diego; Hermit Warbler Apr. 12, San Diego; MacGillivray's Warbler Mar. 30, San Diego; Wilson's Warbler Mar. 7, Orange County; Yellow-breasted Chat Apr. 8, San Diego; Western Tanager Apr. 8, San Diego; Black-headed Grosbeak Mar. 22, San Diego; Blue Grosbeak Apr. 29, Pt. Mugu; Lazuli Bunting Apr. 1, e. San Diego County; Black-chinned Sparrow Mar. 13, San Diego County; Hooded Oriole Mar. 3, Santa Barbara; Northern Oriole Mar. 21, e. San Diego County.



LOONS, GREBES — Red-throated Loons continued to be found far inland well into April as indicated by one-to-two on L. Perris, *Riverside* Apr. 11-15 (SC) and one on L. Henshaw, *San Diego* Apr. 16 (RH). Up to three Arctic Loons, casual inland, were on L. Perris Apr. 1-15 (SC) and another was on nearby L. Skinner Mar. 12 (RMcK). The imm. **Yellow-billed Loon** found on L. Perris Dec. 20 was last seen May 4 (SC). Two Horned Grebes, rare after the end of April, were on San Diego Bay May 13 (REW), one was still present on L. Perris at the end of the period (SC), and another was at N.E.S.S., May 5+ (REW).

ALBATROSSES — A Black-footed Albatross near Santa Rosa I., May 20 (LB) was in the Santa Barbara Channel where rare. The presence of a **Laysan Albatross** at N.E.S.S., May 21+ (SC) may not be as outlandish as it would initially appear, there being 3 previous records from this general area in May: one seen near Desert Hot Springs about 45 mi n.w. of the Salton Sea May 5, 1976 (*W. Birds* 8:27-28), one photographed in Yuma 75± mi s.e. of the Salton Sea May 14, 1981 (*Am. Birds* 35:798-799) and one found dead in Blairstown Valley about 40 mi w. of the Salton Sea May 28, 1982 (*Am. Birds* 36:893). Increasing



Horned Grebe, n. end of Salton Sea, Cal., May 6, 1984. Photo/Steven W. Cardiff.

numbers of these are being found around the tip of the Baja California Pen. (B. Pitman, *pers. comm.*), suggesting that the occasional bird is now finding itself "trapped" at the head of the Gulf of California after moving N from the "Cape Region" along the wrong side of the Baja Pen., and attempting an overland flight to continue its N migration.

BOOBIES, PELICANS, ANHINGA — A sub-ad. **Brown Booby** near Santa Barbara I., Mar. 25 (AS) was very likely the same bird seen in this general area Oct. 29, 1983. A **Brown Pelican** at N.E.S.S., Apr. 7 (REW) was more than 2 weeks ahead of the previous early arrival date for this inland locality, so eight at the same location Apr. 15 (GMcC)

were totally unexpected; 10 were present at the end of the period (REW). The ♀ **Anhinga** found on Lee L., near L. Elsinore, *Riverside* Jan. 29 was still present at the end of the period (SC) but could be difficult to find among the partially submerged trees.

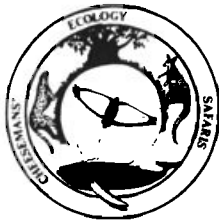
HERONS, STORKS — An ad. **Little Blue Heron** at S.E.S.S., May 27 (HK) was the only one found away from the San Diego area where a small population now appears to be resident. A **Tricolored Heron** still present near Imperial Beach, *San Diego* June 6 (M & DH) was apparently summering in that area. A sub-ad. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, rare-to-casual along the *San Diego* coast, was at the Santa Margarita R. mouth near Oceanside May 9 (LRH). Two ad. **Wood Storks** remained around Oceanside from the winter with one on Windmill L., Apr. 22 (LRH) being the latest sighting.

WATERFOWL — Two **Fulvous Whistling-Ducks** at N.E.S.S., May 12 (GMcC) constituted one of a very few records in *Riverside*. A wintering **Greater White-fronted Goose** in Santa Barbara remained to Apr. 30 (RAH), which was unusually late. As usual **Brant** were found inland during March and April with 688 on L. Henshaw, *San Diego* Mar. 14 (RH) being the largest concentration; 75 seen flying W over Yaqui Wells in the Anza Borrego Desert Apr. 19 (BW) were away from water, and single birds on L. Casitas, *Ventura* Mar. 24 (LB) and L. Tinnemaha, *Inyo* June 1 (REW) were at unusual localities. A light-bellied **Brant** (*Branta bernicla hrota*), casual in California, was seen off Goleta Pt., *Santa Barbara* Apr. 19 (JLD). A wintering ♂ **Eur. Green-winged Teal**, very rare along the coast of s. California, remained in Goleta through Apr. 14 (TW), and another in Barstow Apr. 13-28 (SC, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) was the first to have been found at a desert locality in this Region. A ♂ **Eur. Wigeon** in Ramona, *San Diego* Apr. 7 (REW) was somewhat late for s. California. Four **Black Scoters** migrating N off Goleta Pt., Apr. 11 (JLD) and two more at the same place Apr. 17 (JLD) were the only ones reported. **Migrant Surf Scoters** were seen on L. Henshaw between Mar. 12 & May 3 with a high count of 186 present Mar. 14 (RH). Two wintering **Hooded Mergansers** present in Goleta

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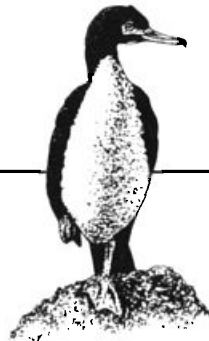
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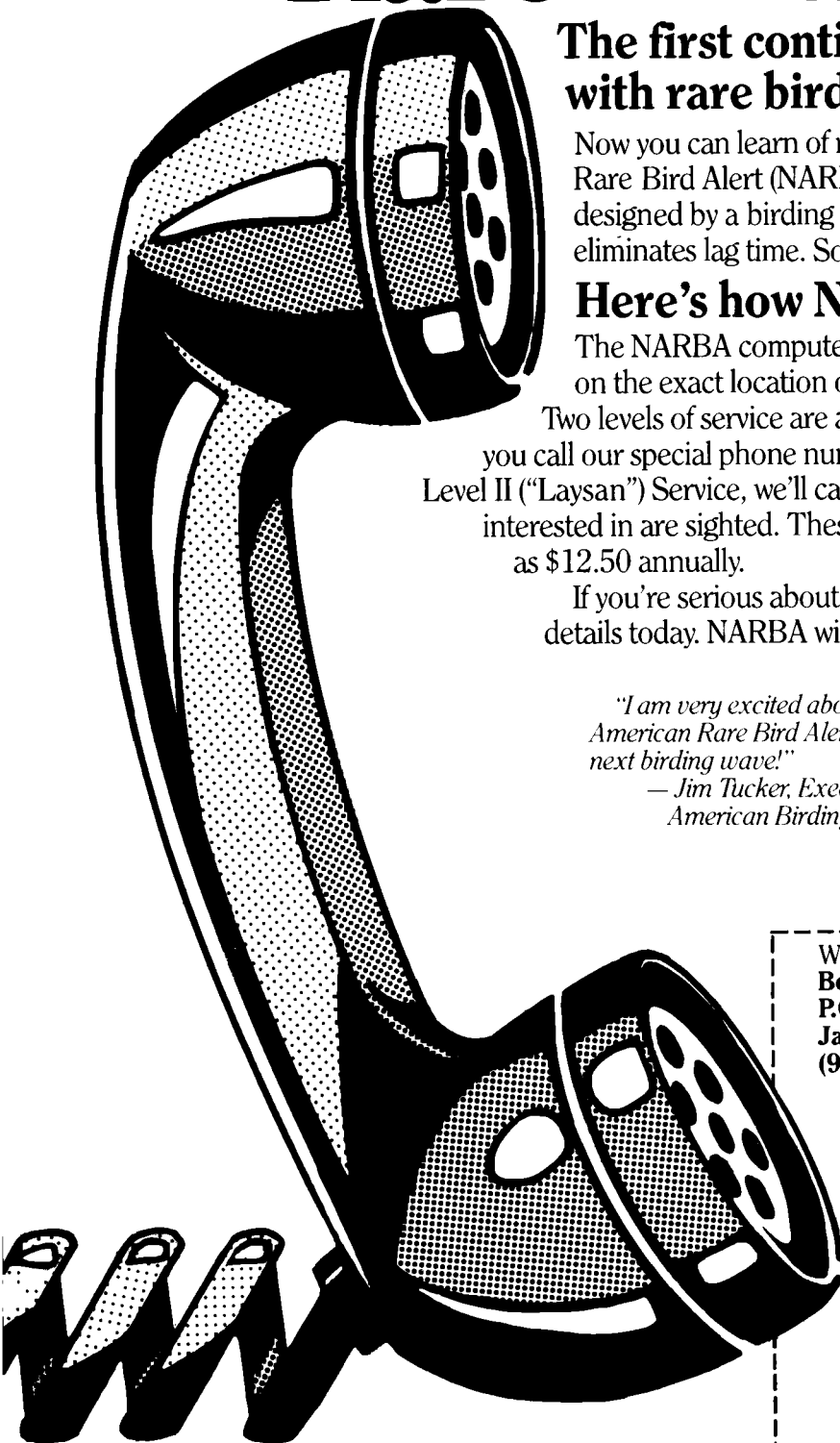
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through Apr 10 (NC) were late

HAWKS, FALCONS — A Black-shouldered Kite along the Colorado R., s. of Palo Verde, *Imperial* Mar. 20 (DKr) was at a most unusual locality. A sub-ad. Mississippi Kite, a species now found each year in late May or early June, was at Oasis, *Mono* June 1 (ML). A wintering imm. Bald Eagle present on L. Henshaw through May 4 (RH) was late. An ad. N. Goshawk on Mt. Palomar Mar. 22 (RH) was only the 3rd ever to be found in *San Diego*, and an immature at Oasis May 24 (JLD) was unexpected at this time of the year. An ad. Red-shouldered Hawk at Desert Center, *Riverside* Apr. 18 (RMck) was well e. of the species' range in California. The only Broad-winged Hawk reported was an adult near Mt. Pinos, *Kern* May 27 (DB). Swainson's Hawks continue to decline with one at California City, *Kern* Apr. 7 (MH) and another over Salton City, *Imperial* May 5 (REW) being the only migrants reported. A Merlin at Tehachapi, *Kern* Apr. 27 (MH) was quite late. A Peregrine Falcon at L. Henshaw Mar. 15 (RH) and another at L. Elsinore, *Riverside* Apr. 14 (GMcC) were both at unusual localities.

CRANES — A flock of 15 Sandhill Cranes flying N over S.E.S.S., Apr. 10 (FGB) were undoubtedly migrants moving N either from the small wintering population in the Imperial Valley or from w. Mexico, and established the latest spring date for s. California.

PLOVERS, SANDPIPERS — The only Lesser Golden-Plovers reported were all wintering *fulva*, and included six still present near Santa Maria, *Santa Barbara* May 6 (PS). A Solitary Sandpiper, rare in spring, was in Goleta Apr. 26 (JEL), another was in Mojave, *Kern* Apr. 27 (MH), two were at nearby California City May 1-4 (MOC), two more were in Victorville, *San Bernardino* Apr. 28 (SC) and a 7th was at Imperial Dam, *Imperial* Apr. 27-28 (JML); this was more than normally encountered at this time of year, and all within a very short period, suggesting a movement of these birds through the Region the last week

of April Three Wandering Tattlers, casual inland, were at Salton City May 5 (GMcC) with two still present May 6 (DLD). An Upland Sandpiper at F.C.R., May 29 (SC) was only the 9th ever found in s. California, but the 4th at this location in late May. Ruddy Turnstones were present inland on the Salton Sea between Apr. 15 & May 12 with a high count of 80 May 5 (REW). Red Knots reached peak numbers on the Salton Sea in late April with 300 at Salton City Apr. 28 (JO) A Semipalmated Sandpiper near Lancaster, *Los Angeles* Apr.15 (JLD) established the earliest date for this very rare spring migrant in California, and was followed by one in Victorville Apr. 28 (SC), up to six at N.E.S.S., May 2-6 (DLD), and a late straggler at S.E.S.S., June 3 (REW). A Baird's Sandpiper, rare to casual in spring, was near Lancaster Apr. 14 (JLD). A **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** on the Kern N.W R, *Kern* May 8-10 (JW, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) was only the 2nd ever found in California in spring. The only Stilt Sandpipers found this spring were 30 at S.E.S.S., May 5 (REW). The ♂ Ruff that wintered on San Diego Bay was last seen Mar. 26 (DKi). A flock of 320 Short-billed Dowitchers in Victorville Apr. 25 (SC) was an exceptional concentration for an inland locality away from the Salton Sea.

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMER — An ad. Pomarine Jaeger, accidental inland, on L. Elsinore May 18 + (DLD, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) and two more at N.E.S.S., June 4 (PEL) had undoubtedly reached these localities by way of the Gulf of California. One or two Parasitic Jaegers at N.E.S.S., May 27-29 (DV) were the first to have been found inland in s. California in spring. A 2nd-summer Laughing Gull on Morro Bay Mar. 24-May 4 (AMC) was along the coast where considered casual, a 2nd-summer bird at N.E.S.S., May 2 (DLD), another at Salton City May 12 (GMcC) and a 3rd at S.E.S.S. the same day (BB) were early for the Salton Sea. Migrant Franklin's Gulls included two at Arroyo Grande, *San Luis Obispo* May 31 (BS), one at F.C.R., May 25-26 (GMcC), another near Lancaster May 23 (JLD), one near Imperial Beach May 30 (CGE) and up to nine at N.E.S.S., May 21-June 10



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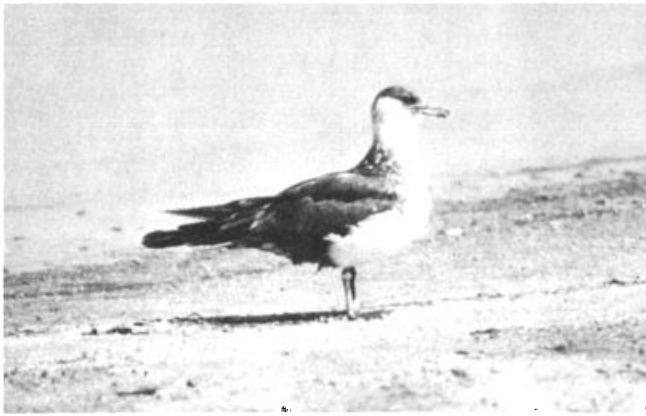
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Two pelagic or coastal birds inland at L. Elsinore, Riverside Co., Cal. Above: Pomarine Jaeger (adult or near-adult), May 18, 1984. Below: adult Heermann's Gull, May 4, 1984. Photos/Steven W. Cardiff.

(DLD, PEL). An ad. Heermann's Gull, casual inland, was on L. Elsinore May 4 (SC, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) and another was at N.E.S.S., May 23 (SC, ph. S.D.N.H.M.). An ad. Mew Gull at Salt Cr., on the Salton Sea Mar. 11 (DRW) was far inland. An ad. Herring Gull at California City Apr. 27 (JW) and another at F.C.R., May 19 (GMcC) were both in the desert where previous records are virtually nonexistent. A first-summer W. Gull inland on L. Elsinore Apr. 11 + (SC) was wearing color bands, having been banded as a chick on Santa Barbara I. Up to three Glaucous-winged Gulls at N.E.S.S. at the end of the period (GMcC) were far inland. A first-year Glaucous Gull, rare in s. California, flew N past Goleta Pt., Mar. 26 (JLD).

Two Gull-billed Terns at N.E.S.S., Mar. 11 (DRW) gave us the earliest spring arrival date for this species in California. An Elegant Tern at Carpinteria, Santa Barbara Mar. 23 (LB) was unusually far n. for so early in the year. An ad. Arctic Tern at N.E.S.S., June 9 (DLD) established the 7th record for the interior, all falling between June 1 &

13. A Least Tern, very rare to casual inland, was at Salton City May 6 (REW) and single birds were at N.E.S.S., May 6 & 23 (DLD). One to four Black Skimmers at S.C.R.E., May 4-6 (DB) were the only ones found along the coast north of San Diego.

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — One or two Band-tailed Pigeons at F.C.R., May 26-30 (JO, REW) and another at California City May 5 (MH) were at unusual localities. A migrant Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Oasis June 1 (REW) was the only one reported. One or two Com. Nighthawks at F.C.R., May 26-30 (DLD) were spring migrants at an unusual locality. As usual, a few Chimney Swifts appeared, with one at Deep Springs May 23 (JLD), three over Los Angeles May 29 (RMcK) and four at the Iron Mt. Pump Station in e. San Bernardino June 2 (H & PB). A Vaux's Swift on Pt. Loma June 2 (DP) was exceptionally late, as virtually all *Chaetura* seen along the coast of s. California in late May and early June are Chimney Swifts. A ♂ Magnificent Hummingbird seen for a short period of time in Ridgecrest, Kern Apr. 24 (JBr) when attracted to a lawn sprinkler will establish the first record for California if accepted by the California Rarities Committee. Calliope Hummingbirds were more numerous than usual during April, with 50 ± reported along the coast and a concentration of 10 near Lancaster Apr. 14 (JLD). A ♂ Broad-tailed Hummingbird at Tollhouse Springs in the White Mts., Inyo Mar. 21 (BWK) was early, and single birds at Corn Springs in e. Riverside May 6 (AS) and near Iron Mt. Pump Station Apr. 29 (RMcK) were away from areas of normal occurrence. An obvious ♂ N. (Yellow-shafted) Flicker at Deep Springs May 25-28 (JO) was exceptionally late.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — A Dusky Flycatcher, very rare along the coast, was on Pt. Loma May 3 (REW). Fifteen Gray Flycatchers along the coast between Apr. 14 & May 3 were more than normal. An E. Phoebe at California City May 4-5 (MH) was only the 2nd ever reported in May in s. California. The Dusky-capped Flycatcher found in Los Osos, San Luis Obispo Jan. 22 was last seen May 20 (GPS, ph. S.D.N.H.M.). For the 3rd consecutive year a Brown-crested Flycatcher appeared at F.C.R., being present May 27-30 (SC), and another at Ft. Piute in e. San Bernardino June 1 (SC) was the 2nd ever found in e. Mojave area. A wintering Tropical Kingbird remained in Goleta through Apr. 29 (AB). Three E. Kingbirds were found in the e. portion of the Region with one at Oasis May 27 (AS), another at F.C.R., May 29-31 (DRW) and one at Morongo Valley June 7 (KR). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, a casual straggler to California, was at F.C.R., May 28-30 (JBo). A ♀ Purple Martin over Brawley, Imperial Apr. 28 (GMcC) was at an unusual locality.

JAYS THROUGH VIREOS — A Scrub Jay at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley May 27-31 (DRW) was certainly lost. A Hermit Thrush on Pt. Loma June 6 (REW) was exceptionally late for a coastal locality. A Varied Thrush near Holtville, Imperial Apr. 12-13 (MJK) was unexpected, and single birds at Pt. Mugu May 6 (H & PB) and on Pt. Loma May 13 (B & MMcl) were late for along the coast. A Brown Thrasher, most unusual in spring, was at Scotty's Castle May 26-27 (B & MMcl). A Water Pipit along the coast on Pt. Loma May 21 (REW) and another on the desert at F.C.R., May 25-27 (JO) were both very late for these localities. A Bell's Vireo at Oasis June 1-3 (REW) was unexpected, and

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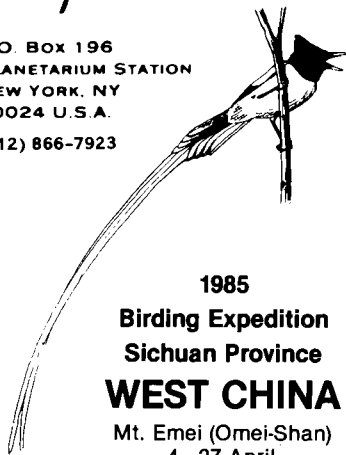
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was felt to be from one of the e populations because of its relatively
bright coloration. Three Red-eyed Vireos, rare but regular in late spring,
were reported with one at Corn Springs May 13 (OC), another in Cali-
fornia City May 28 (JW), and the 3rd on Figueroa Mt., near Santa
Barbara May 20 (LRB).

WOOD WARBLERS — A ♀ **Blue-winged Warbler** in California
City May 25 (JW) was only the 8th ever found in s. California A ♂
Golden-winged Warbler, one of the rarest wood warblers to reach Cali-
fornia, was in Carpinteria June 1-2 (TW). A Lucy's Warbler at Oasis
May 29-June 3 (DLD) was exceptionally far n. The only N. Parulas
were an early male at Pismo Beach, *San Luis Obispo* Apr. 1-5 (BS), a
female in California City May 15 (MOC) and another at Oasis May 30-
June 3 (JML). The wintering Chestnut-sided Warbler found in Hunting-
ton Beach, *Orange* Dec. 31 was last seen Apr. 3 (LRH), but a male at
Corn Springs May 13 (OC) was the only spring vagrant. Four Magnolia
Warblers was about an average number with a female in Barstow May
11 (SC, ph. S.D.N.H.M.), and single males at Thousand Palms Oasis,
Riverside May 17 (RMCK), Ft. Piute May 26 (REW) and Oasis May 30-
31 (JML). Two ♂ Cape May Warblers, casual in spring, were together
at F.C.R., May 19 (JO). A ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler near Ridge-
crest, *Kern* June 4 (HLJ) was only the 3rd to have been found in s
California in spring. The wintering Black-throated Green Warbler found
at Los Osos Dec. 17 was last seen Mar. 2 (LB) and the female in Costa
Mesa remained through Apr. 6 (LRH). A ♂ Yellow-throated Warbler in
Carpinteria June 2-3 (SC) was of the expected race *albiflora*. At least two
Grace's Warblers on Clark Mt., *San Bernardino* May 29 (TW) were
probably spring overshoots as none was found on subsequent visits, this
species nests in the nearby Charleston and Sheep Mts. of s. Nevada The
wintering Pine Warbler found in San Luis Obispo Jan. 9 remained
through Mar. 14 (CM); a singing male at F.C.R., May 31 (REW)
provided our first spring record. A ♂ Prairie Warbler, virtually unheard



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Male Blackpoll Warbler at Corn Springs, Riverside Co., Cal., May 13, 1984. Photo/Herbert Clarke.

of in spring, was in California City May 8 (MOC). A Palm Warbler known to have been present in Goleta since Dec. 17 remained through Apr. 26 (KB) and another in Los Osos May 8 (PA) could well have wintered locally, this species being exceptionally rare in late May when most other spring vagrants are found. The only Bay-breasted Warbler found was a male in Anaheim June 1 (DRW). A ♂ Blackpoll Warbler, exceptionally rare in spring, was at Corn Springs May 13 (HC, ph. S.D.N.H.M.). A ♂ Prothonotary Warbler, a casual stray to California, was at F.C.R., May 19-20 (HAG) and another was at the same location May 26 (JA). Eight Ovenbirds during May was about average, and

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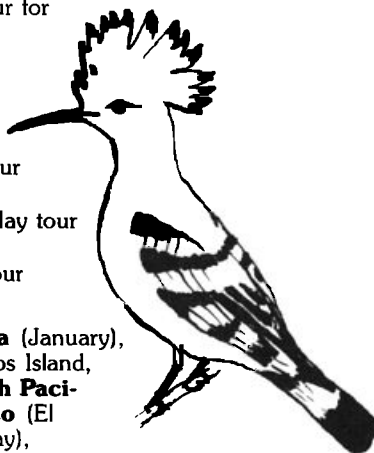
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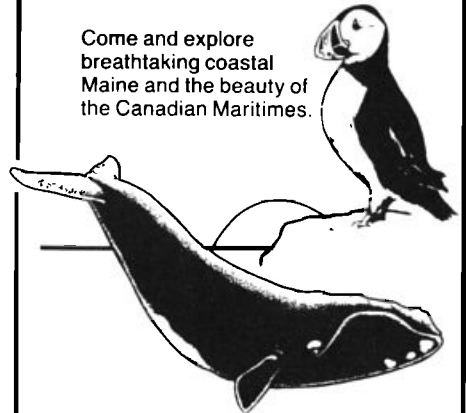
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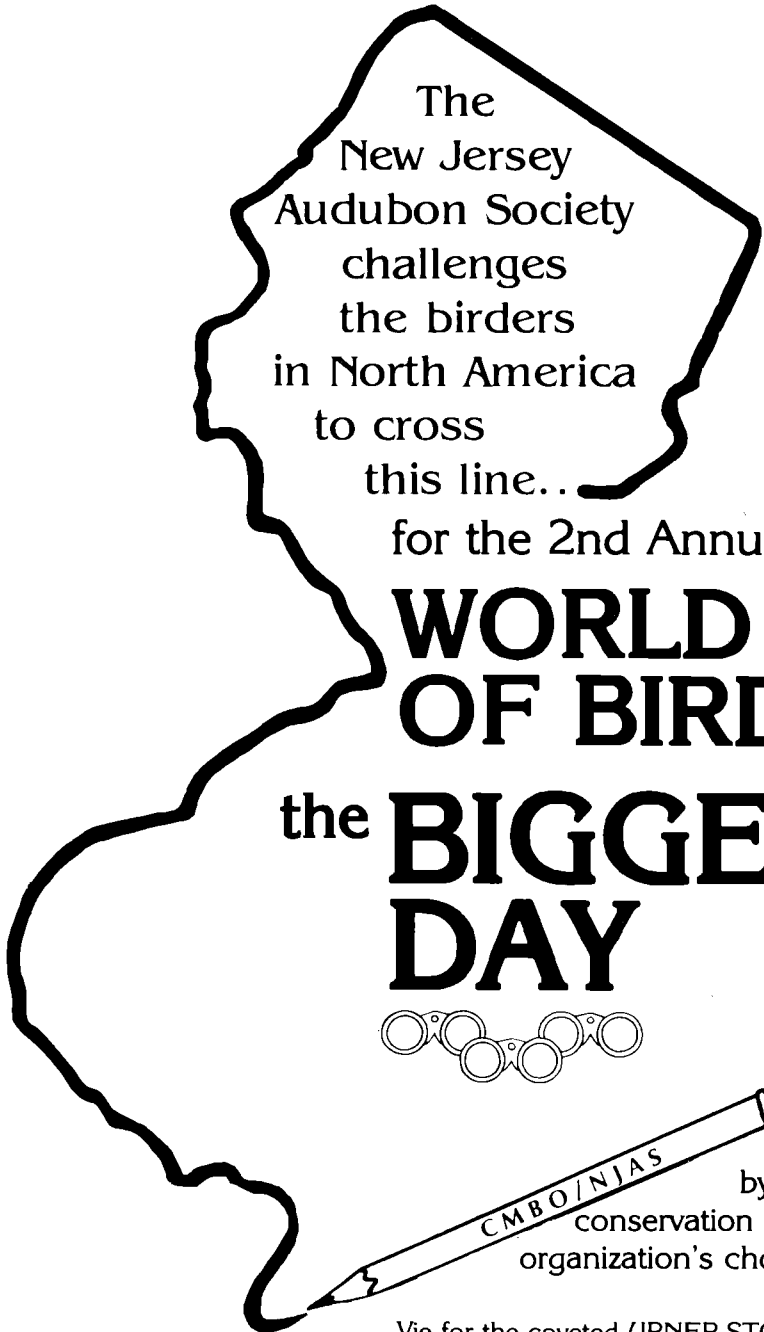
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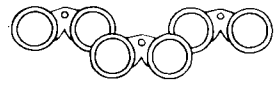


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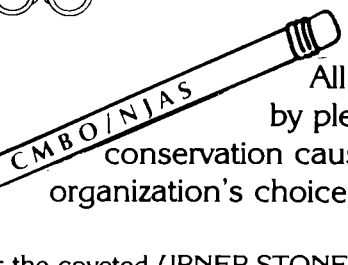
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included a somewhat early individual at Corn Springs May 5 (HC). The only Hooded Warblers found were a male on Pt. Loma May 12 (BF) and another in Tustin, Orange May 26 (V & WG).

TANAGERS THROUGH SPARROWS — The wintering Hepatic Tanager present in Santa Barbara since Nov. 25 was last seen Apr. 8 (VC), and a male at Corn Springs May 6 (AS) was one of very few found in spring away from a known breeding locality. A ♂ Indigo Bunting near S.E.S.S., May 5 (REW) and another in Barstow May 8 (DLD) were somewhat early for this rare but regular stray to s. California. A ♂ Dickcissel, casual in spring, was near Ridgecrest May 18 (HLJ) and another was found at Oasis May 27 (DLD). A Black-throated Sparrow on Pt. Loma May 30 (GJ) was along the coast where considered casual. A Grasshopper Sparrow at F.C.R., May 27 (SC) was at an unusual locality. A Swamp Sparrow near Imperial Dam Apr. 27-28 (JML) and another in Victorville May 3 (SC) were probably spring migrants. A White-throated Sparrow in Mojave May 18 (MH), another at Oasis May 19-20 (JO) and a 3rd at Mesquite Springs in Death Valley N.M., May 19 (HAG) were late. A Golden-crowned Sparrow on Pt. Loma June 7 (REW) was exceptionally late. A migrant Harris' Sparrow was in California City May 11 (JW).

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, FINCHES — Bobolinks were scarcer than normal in the e. portion of the Region with six reported May 13-June 2; but along the coast, where decidedly rare in spring, a male was seen in Irvine, Orange May 30 (RS) and another was found at Marina del Rey, Los Angeles June 1 (JS, ph. S.D.N.H.M.). A ♂ Tricolored Blackbird at Stovepipe Wells Mar. 25 (DS) and another at F.C.R., May 29-June 1 (SC) were both in the Death Valley area where far out of



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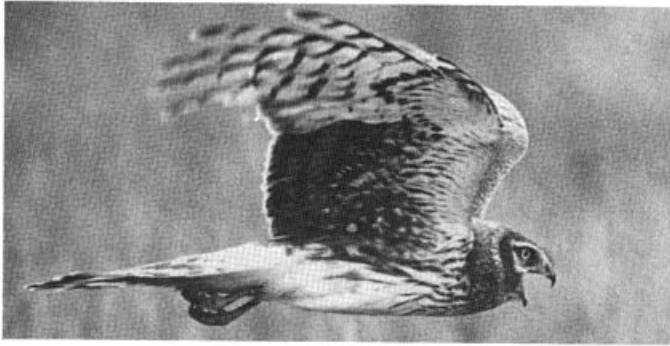
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range. Great-tailed Grackles continued to be found along the coast with a female at Pt. Mugu Mar. 24 (SJR) and another near Imperial Beach June 6 (M & DH). A Com. Grackle, a casual straggler to California, was in Baker May 24-30 (SC) and another was at Iron Mt. Pump Station May 23-29 (RMcK, ph. S.D.N.H.M.). A wintering ♂ Orchard Oriole remained in Goleta through Apr. 1 (HR) and another stayed in San Diego to Apr. 8 (LZ); a male at Pismo Beach, San Luis Obispo Mar. 3-6 (TME) could have been wintering in that general area, but a female in Caruthers Canyon of the New York Mts., May 9 (DLD) and another at Oasis June 3 (JML) were clearly vagrants. A ♂ Scott's Oriole at F.C.R., May 29 (ML) was at an unusual locality.

A Purple Finch at Desert Center Apr. 12 (SC) was in an area where very few have been found. A ♀ Lawrence's Goldfinch at Ft. Piute May 31 (SC) was unexpected. A ♂ Evening Grosbeak near Keystone Canyon in the New York Mts., May 14 (SFB) was the only one found.

CONTRIBUTORS — Pattie Alderbrook, Jon Atwood, Stephen F. Bailey, Larry R. Ballard, Dean Bazzi, Florence G. Bennett, Louis Bevier, Allyn Bissell, Jeff Boyd (JBo), Bob Bradley, Julius Breitenstein (JBr), Karen Bridgers, Hank & Priscilla Brodtkin (H & PB), Steve Cardiff, **Mark O. Chichister** (coordinator for Kern Co.), Herb Clarke, Olga Clarke, Virginia Collett, **Elizabeth Copper** (coordinator for San Diego Co.), Alan M. Craig, Nancy Crawford, Donna L. Dittman, Jon L. Dunn, **Tom M. Edell** (coordinator for San Luis Obispo Co.), Claude G. Edwards, Bob Florand, Virginia & Wayne Gochenour (V & WG), Helen A. Green, Robb A. Hamilton, Marjorie & Don Hastings (M & DH), Loren R. Hays, Matt Heindel, Roger Higson, Ginger Johnson, H. Lee Jones, Mark J. Kasprzyk, Brian W. Keelan, David King (DKi), Harry Krueger, **Dave Krueper** (DKr—coordinator for Colorado R. Valley), Jeri M. Langham, Paul E. Lehman, Joan E. Lentz, Mike Lippsmeyer, Curtis Marantz, Bert & Margaret McIntosh (B & MMcl), **Robert McKernan** (RMcK—coordinator for Riverside Co.), Jerry Oldenettel, Dennis Parker, Kurt Rademacher, **Sylvia J. Ranney** (coordinator for Orange Co.), Hugh Ranson, Don Schmoltdt, Rob Schonholtz, Brad Schram, Arnold Small, Greg P. Smith, Phil Swan, Jacob Szabo, Dick Veit, Bill Wagner, Richard E. Webster, Doug R. Willick, John Wilson, **Tom Wurster** (coordinator for Santa Barbara and Ventura Cos.), Linda Zarins. An additional 75 ± observers who could not be individually acknowledged submitted reports this season.—**GUY McCASKIE**, San Diego Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, P.O. Box 1390, San Diego, CA 92112.



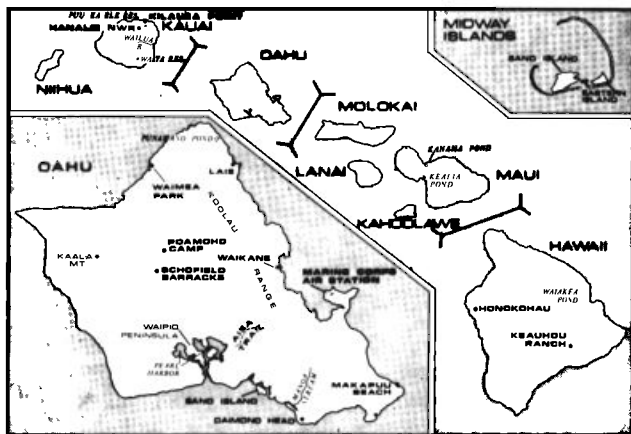
HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

/Robert L. Pyle

The acute shortage of rain continued through spring. Only twice before in this century (mid-1910s and early 1970s) have dry conditions approached the current drought in severity and duration. Higher windward mountain areas were receiving adequate rains, but leeward lowland areas west of the mountains on all islands were particularly hard hit. These included the official state climatological station at Honolulu airport, and the entire islands of Kahoowale and Niihau in the rain shadows of larger islands.

Access to Niihau Island, privately-owned with about 200 inhabitants, has for generations been denied to everyone including state government officials. Little is known of its birdlife. It has two large lakes which are known from occasional aerial surveys to have supported breeding populations of the Endangered Hawaiian races of American Coot and Black-necked Stilt, when water conditions were good. In June the Honolulu *Advertiser* newspaper sponsored a helicopter overflight of Niihau, which revealed starkly desert-like conditions across the island. A photo of one of the lakes showed it to have been long dry, with cracked mudpan pattern. The drought must have significant effects on the wetland breeding birds of the island, and perhaps on its landbirds too, although access to assess the situation is not feasible. An interesting second- or third-hand report from one of the island's owners to a state wildlife biologist (TT) was that many Lesser Golden-Plovers did not depart Niihau in April as they normally do. Could it be that they couldn't find enough food to prepare for the long overwater migration to their arctic breeding grounds (TT)?

ABBREVIATIONS — F.F.S. = French Frigate Shoals; H. = Hawaii I.; J.C.N.W.R. = James Campbell Nat'l Wildlife Ref., on Oahu; K. = Kauai I.; L. = Lanai I.; M. = Maui I.; O. = Oahu I.; P.H.N.W.R. = Pearl Harbor Nat'l Wildlife Ref., on Oahu.



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ALBATROSSES AND PETRELS — A Black-footed Albatross chick was found on Kaula Rock Apr. 16-18 (MM *et al.*) during the state survey of this isolated seabird breeding island 35km s.w. of Niihau I. The little group of Laysan Albatrosses seen often through the winter in the Kahuku area of Oahu remained until mid-April. At least three and possibly five were there Apr. 16 (PD, RD), two Apr. 19 (JB), none Apr. 21 or thereafter. Occurrence of several albatrosses over a period of months is unprecedented for Oahu in recent decades. At least 50 'U'au (the Endangered Hawaiian race of Dark-rumped Petrel), seen or heard May 26 near the fog drip station in the Lanai mts., was considered a low count because of windy conditions (PC). Nine occupied nests of Bulwer's Petrels, the majority with eggs, had been found by May 15 on Manana Islet off Oahu (JS).

TROPICBIRDS TO FRIGATEBIRDS — Also on Manana Islet, 8 active Red-tailed Tropicbird nests had been found by late May (JS). Previously, Red-taileds had been known to nest on Manana only irregularly, and no more than one or possibly 2 pairs in a single season. This correlates with more frequent sightings along the nearby Oahu coast this spring (*fide* JS). A "dark"-phase Red-footed Booby, in this case one that was pale brown above and below, was on a nest in the colony at Ulupau Head, O., Mar. 31 (RLP *et al.*). A bird of this color had been observed nesting in about the same spot in occasional prior years. Virtually all Red-footed Boobies nesting in Hawaii are of the white phase; most of those nesting s. of the Equator are darker brown. Observers on the Kaula Rock survey studied a partially albinistic Great Frigatebird soaring over the island Apr. 16-17 (MM *et al.*).

DUCKS — Two Fulvous Whistling-Ducks resident at Kii Pond, J.C.N.W.R., and adjacent Amorient Aquafarm, O., since June 1982 are presumed to be from a flock of six seen briefly in the same area 5 months earlier. These had been the only recorded occurrences of the species in Hawaii. Thus, it was stunning when a flock of seven was seen flying over Kii Pond Apr. 13 (RLP *et al.*). The seven were found again Apr. 16 and then were joined in the air by two more, totalling *nine* individuals (PD, RD). Up to half a dozen have been seen there since. Origin of these ducks is unknown: migrants from North America do not normally arrive in April. One conjecture is that the four original birds not seen after January 1982 found a hideout and raised a few more in the ensuing 2½ years. Another possibility is that this new group, and perhaps the original group too, might be escapes from an unknown captive flock here in the islands.

At least two Blue-winged Teal remained at Aimakapa Pond, H., after other ducks had departed in mid-April, but no evidence of nesting had been reported. Last report of the handsome drake Garganey at Kii Pond was Apr. 16 (PD, RD).

RAPTORS — An Osprey (occasional migrant to Hawaii) was at Kii Pond irregularly from March into June, and was observed catching a fish there (DW). This could have been the same individual that wintered at Wilson Res., in Wahiawa, O.

—S.A.—

Kauai's famous **Golden Eagle** first appeared in the wild Waimea Canyon region of that island in early 1967, and was identified then as a sub-adult. During the next 17 years it was seen irregularly in the central mountain areas of Kauai, mostly by the pilots of commercial sightseeing helicopters. Over the years the eagle became more and more antagonistic toward the choppers, often attacking those that came too close. Finally, in May of this year, the inevitable happened. The eagle dove at a helicopter from above, the pilot was unable to evade it, and the bird was shattered in the overhead blades. Thus ended, at the probable age of 21, the life of a magnificent bird that had become a legend on Kauai.

Are there any other cases on record where an accidental straggler stayed as long as 17 years in the same locale?

COOTS THROUGH TERNS — About 470 (Hawaiian) Am. Coots (Endangered) were at Waita Res., K., Apr. 29 (BJ). Late spring dates for shorebirds on Oahu I., included Lesser Yellowlegs at Kahuku Apr. 16 (PD, RD) and Waipio May 12 (RLP, LS). Pectoral Sandpiper at Kahuku Apr. 16 (PD, RD), and Ruff and Long-billed Dowitcher at Waipio Apr. 27 (RLP), the latter coming into good breeding plumage. Sooty Terns breeding on Manana Islet, O., had mostly large juveniles in late May, and the colony had enlarged to occupy some areas not used last year (JS). A White Tern chick and several adults observed in a large tree near Punahou and Wilder streets during March and April (PN) indicated another successful nesting by this species in the favored area on the e. edge of downtown Honolulu.

OWLS, SWIFTELETS — The Short-eared Owl that wintered at Tern I., F.F.S., was joined in early March by a 2nd bird, but both disappeared at the beginning of May (*fide* BE). It cannot be said with certainty that these vagrant Short-eareds turning up in the n.w. Hawaiian Is. are of the subspecies endemic to the main Hawaiian Is., because the one specimen collected out there (at Kure) was of the Holarctic race.

An arduous hike to the head of the N. Halawa Valley, O., June 2 was rewarded with finding more than 20 nests of the **Gray Swiftlet** (RS, DW). Swiftlets were introduced to Oahu in 1962. The nests were deep in a dead-end horizontal tunnel shaft dug into the mountainside many decades ago as a water well (unsuccessful). The Koolau Mts. survey found a few nests in this same tunnel shaft during the late 1970s. Numerous other abandoned horizontal shafts are still present in this section of the Koolau Mts., but most have not been explored for swiftlet nests. Incredibly, on the *same day* a Gray Swiftlet was reported flying over Haiku Valley in the e. foothills of the Koolaus (MS), directly opposite N. Halawa Valley on the w. side, and barely 3km from the nest tunnel. Swiftlets had never before been reported e. of the Koolau summit, and are rarely encountered anywhere outside N. Halawa Valley.

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PASSERINES — Eurasian Skylarks heard singing during most March and April visits to Waipio and to the Honouliuli and Waiawa units of P.H.N.W.R. (RLP *et al.*) indicated that this species is doing well in the Waipio Peninsula area despite extensive year-to-year modifications in land use by the sugar plantation there. A Japanese Bush-Warbler at the Turtle Bay Kuilima Pond near Kahuku, O., Apr. 16 (PD, RD) furnished an interesting lowland record for spring. A Kama'o (Kauai form of Hawaiian Thrush) observed along Pihea Trail at Kokee, K., around Apr. 23 (RD) was at least the 4th reported sighting in the last 4 years of this extremely rare and endangered bird in this same reasonably accessible area. Eight Greater Necklaced Laughing-thrushes were seen along Haiku Rd., near Puhī, K., in late April (RD). Five N. Mockingbirds in the public use section of Sand I. Park, O., May 12 (RLP, LS) was an unusually high count for one locality. The birds may have moved into this area from adjacent sections of the park recently cleared of keawe scrub, a preferred habitat for this introduced species in Hawaii.

Several Red-crested Cardinals were seen May 26-28 at Poipu Beach, a newly-reported locality for this species on Kauai (RLP). Two Laverder Waxbills in a yard in the heights above Kailua-Kona, H., Apr. 12 (RD) established a new locality for this species not too far from the Puu Waawaa area where a few still hold out. The Com. Waxbill, fairly recently discovered on Oahu I., is holding its own at 3 localities: 17 total at 2 places at Waipio Mar. 17 (MO, RLP), 12 at Turtle Bay Kuilima Pond Apr. 16 (PD, RD), and 11 near Waiawa Unit, P.H.N.W.R., Apr. 27 (RLP). A brilliant ♂ Red Avadavat at Niumalu Beach P., Apr. 28 (RD) may have been the first reported from Kauai. Ten Java Sparrows Mar. 18 at Upper Nuuanu Res., near the crest of the Koolaus, provided further evidence of the rapid expansion of this species in e. Oahu.

MICRONESIA — The U S F & W S Survey of Truk and Yap in the U.S. Trust Territories of Micronesia from March through May (JE, PP, DJ, JM) found populations of all of the native landbird species known from these 2 island groups. All of Yap's species are doing well, including the little-known endemic form of Cicadabird which was found to be uncommon but widely distributed. At Truk, only a few of the endemic form of Micronesian Pigeon were found. However, the Truk Greater White-eye—previously known only from the top of the highest islet of Tol—was also found on the highest parts of nearby Polle, Pata, and Onei islets. Total range of the species on the 4 islets is only about one square km. Other Truk species, including the Truk Monarch (previously considered uncommon), were found in good numbers and well distributed.

About 2 dozen new species of migrant waterbirds were recorded for the 2 island groups. Most would be expectable in these islands, which have not been thoroughly observed for migrants in the past. Highlights included Far Eastern Curlew, Great Knot and Ruff on Truk, and Marsh Sandpiper and Swinhoe's Snipe in both island groups.

CORRIGENDA — The reference to the honeycreeper 'O'u (not 'Ou, which is the Hawaiian name for Bulwer's Petrel) in the Alakai wilderness area in August 1983 (AB 38: 251) should be deleted. The 'O'o'a'a heard there (AB 38: 361) was instead of the 'O'u, not in addition to it

CONTRIBUTORS — Joanne Barta, Peter Connally, Reggie David, Peter Donaldson, Bruce Eilerts, John Engbring, Dave Jickling, Betty Joao, Walt Jones, Jim Moore, Marie Morin, Patricia Nevin, John Obata, Mike Ord, Peter Pyle, Rob Schallenger, Larry Spear, Maile Stemmermann, Jack Swenson, Avery Taylor, Tom Telfer, Dave Woodside.—**ROBERT L. PYLE, 741 N. Kalaheo Ave., Kailua, HI 96734.**

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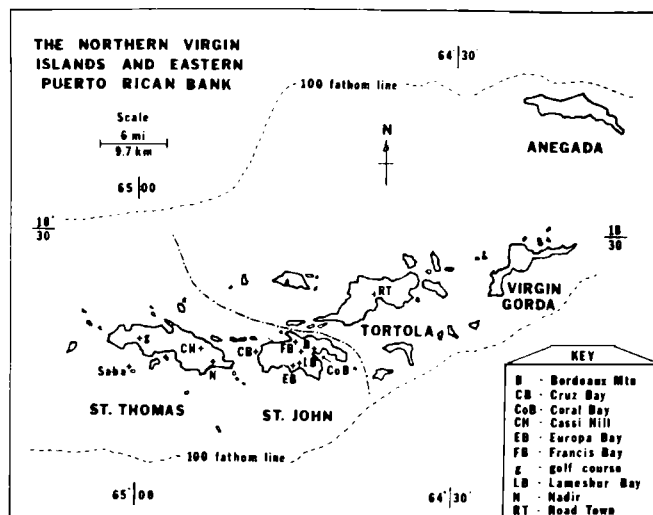
A lag effect of the 1983 El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) was the severe spring drought experienced in the eastern Caribbean. Hutt recalls that this spring was the driest he has witnessed in 30 years residency on Barbados. Puerto Rico, experiencing the driest April in 77 years (*San Juan Star*, May 8), had a 35% reduction from normal monthly rainfall as the drought entered its 13th week. El Yunque rain forest in Puerto Rico had two inches of rain on April 28, representing 89% of the week's total at that station. Weeks of dry weather on St. Kitts and Nevis were finally interrupted by 3.8 inches of rain during an eight-hour deluge on April 28 (*San Juan Star*, May 1).

March precipitation in Puerto Rico was about 50% below average while in the Virgin Islands it was down only 20%. Rainfall for April and May in the Virgin Islands, however, was down 53% and 58% respectively.

The effect of tropical drought and rainy periods controls the biology of frugivores and insectivores. Long dry spells may also influence the biology of marine avifauna as well, by limiting amounts of nutrients washed into bays which support local food webs. This phenomenon, although mechanically different from ENSO, has essentially the same results—influencing seabird dynamics in the Caribbean.

Local fishermen and yachtsmen (*i.e.*, from Barbados and the Virgin Islands) continue to make valuable contributions regarding movements of pelagic species in the Caribbean and tropical western Atlantic, which would not otherwise reach our attention. Two long voyages, one from the Lesser Antilles in January (GO) and another from the Virgin Islands in May (FS) to Bermuda (32°20'N 64°45'W), which lies about 840 nautical miles due north of the Virgin Islands, provided rough 'transects' of pelagic composition and distribution.

ABBREVIATIONS — B. = Barbados; G.T. = Grand Turk; P. = Providenciales; P.R. = Puerto Rico; St. C. = St. Croix; St. T. = St. Thomas; T & C = Turks and Caicos; V.I. = Virgin Islands.



SHEARWATERS THROUGH COOTS — A Cory's Shearwater was positively identified (FS) May 16 on a sailing trip between Antigua and St. C., representing one of the few reports from the Caribbean. On Apr. 6 a single Sooty Shearwater was noted about 15 mi n. of V.I. (JL) along the 100 fathom isobath. However, FS reported that Sooty Shearwaters were common from 300 mi n. of the V.I. to Bermuda, May 23-26. An Audubon's Shearwater colony was discovered on a small islet off Providenciales, T & C, Apr. 21 (*vide* BA). Wilson's Storm-Petrels were noted by JL and DR along the 100 fathom line s. of St. T. during the last 2 weeks of May while GO noted 50 off Palm I., Grenadines, May 7. Sladen reported a few Leach's among many Wilson's Storm-Petrels May 23-25. Furniss reported that 300-400 Red-footed Boobies were nesting at Desecheo I., P.R., Mar. 16. A Great Blue Heron

remained at T & C (BA) until May 6. Ten nests of Great Egrets were noted at Green Cay, St. C., Mar. 5 (FS) of which some already had chicks. The drought in B. no doubt reduced the number of Snowy Egrets and Little Blue Herons (*vide* MBH). The ad. **Western Reef-Heron** remained at Barbados until Apr. 13 (MBH, RD); the juvenile was last seen Mar. 8. BA and RSL recorded both light- and dark-phase Reddish Egrets at G.T., Apr. 8-22; it appeared there were 10 of each morph. Black-crowned Night-Herons appeared to have nested synchronously this year at least at B. (MBH, WPS) and St. C. (FS) based on sightings of juveniles Mar. 21 & 11 at the former and latter sites, respectively. FS counted 22 nests Apr. 18, some of which still had eggs. Two **Glossy Ibises** were noted at Grand Turk, T & C, Mar. 25, providing an unusual record outside of the Bahamas and Greater Antilles. Aldridge reported that Greater Flamingo was more numerous at T & C this year, with 25 noted at Providenciales Mar. 29 and six reported from G.T., May 6 (RSL).

A party of three Fulvous Whistling-Ducks was noted at B., Apr. 3 (MBH, AB), the first seen there for some time (MBH). A pair of Green-winged Teal remained at St. C. until Mar. 19 (FS). A ♀ N. Pintail first noted Mar. 11 lingered until May 12 at St. C. (FS), providing a rather late record for this area of the Region, and a ♂ Am. Wigeon was noted at St. C., Mar. 11 (FS). Breeding Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus ridgwayi*) were noted at P., Apr. 8, and at G.T. (BA, RSL). Oliver submitted a late report which included records of nesting *ridgwayi* at Conception I., Bahamas, Feb. 15 and Inagua, Bahamas, Feb. 22. A rudimentary nest of an Osprey ssp. was shown to me by FS on Apr. 12 at industrialized Krause Lagoon, St. C. A search for breeding Ospreys in the vicinity turned up two *carolinensis* (ER, JY, FS). Evidence that Ospreys nest or have nested in the V.I. remains inconclusive without absolute proof, *ie*, specimen of egg or chick, or photo of such. Peregrine Falcon(s) were last seen at Desecheo, P.R., Mar. 16 (SF), probably harrying young boobies, at Cabo Rojo, P.R., Mar. 26 (CS), and at St. C., two on Apr. 20 and four on Mar. 21 (FS *et al.*). Hutt reports that a pair of Caribbean Coots remained at Graeme Hall Swamp, B., until Apr. 18, but thereafter an Am. Coot was noted. At Hart Bay pond, St. John, V.I., Mar. 1, Am. Coots numbered seven, Caribbeans three, intermediates two, juveniles two, and chicks three. At Francis Bay pond, St. John, four Am. Coots were counted the same day (RLN).

PLOVERS THROUGH TERNS — Black-bellied Plovers were noted in breeding plumage during the 3rd & 4th weeks of April in T & C (BA,

RSL). A Black-bellied May 4 was late for B. (MBH). Snowy Plovers were recorded at T & C Apr. 6-May 13 (five, RSL) with a juvenile noted Apr. 15. Hutt noted a Snowy Plover at B., Apr. 25, for one of few spring records there. Wilson's Plovers were found nesting at St. C., Apr. 12 (RLN, FS). Killdeers were found nesting at St. C., Mar. 18 (FS). Aldridge noted as many as eight Willets at P., May 22, some of which may have been residents. Sladen, who has discovered Willets nesting at St. C. in the past, reported lower numbers this season (May 12). A Whimbrel seen at Water Cay, T & C (BA), Apr. 12-23 was considered rare in the Bahamas, whereas Whimbrels (10) seen at St. C. (FS) are regular passage migrants and occasional summer visitors. Bond (1979) considered the Red Knot rare in West Indies. Sladen has shown over the last several seasons that Red Knot is a regular passage migrant and occasionally a summer vagrant. In March, 16 knots were observed and only four in April with none seen into May (12th) at St. C. (FS). Regularity of visits to St. C. by Red Knots indicates habitat preference at least at this site during migration and that rarity is probably based upon lack of proper habitat and knowledgeable observers in the Region. FS also reported 10 Pectoral Sandpipers from St. C., May 12, which extends the spring late date (Bond 1979). Hutt reported the first records of Pomarine Jaeger (five) from waters adjacent to B. (*vide* RD), Apr. 17. On May 7 between Palm I. (Grenadines) and Tobago (off Trinidad), GO observed 30 ± Pomarine Jaegers. Sladen noted a jaeger sp. between Antigua and St. C., May 16, and several jaegers from 300 nau. mi to approximately 600 nau. mi n. of St. T., where a dark-phase ad. Pomarine and a light-phase ad. Parasitic Jaeger were noted May 24-25 at the latter distance. An imm. Herring Gull was seen Mar. 1 & 25, & Apr. 2 (no doubt inclusive) at St. C. (FS).

Gull-billed Terns were reported from Providenciales and Grand Turk, T & C (BA, RSL) from Apr. 8 (20) to Apr. 22 (max. 30), and six May 23. Two Caspian Terns were at G.T., May 16 providing one of the few records from the s. Bahamian Bank (RSL). Fewer than expected numbers of Sandwich Terns nested in the U.S.V.I.; only 10 nests were found at Cricket Cay, St. T., May 30 (RLN). The first Sandwich noted for the season in the V.I. was Apr. 13. Roseate Terns nested at Saba Cay, St. T., again this season (721 nests) and at Cricket Cay where 281 nests were counted (RLN). Approximately 200 nests were estimated for the Kalkun Cay, St. T., colony of Roseates. RSL noted that 30 Roseate Terns were seen May 20 at Grand Turk, T & C. Three Com. Terns were noted Apr. 26 at Providenciales, T & C (BA). Least Terns (28) were found nesting on an offshore cay at P. (BA) and perhaps 25 pairs were

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nesting in the vicinity of G T (RSL), May 20-22 (both sites) One of the most remarkable reports from the Region was an observation of two **Black Noddies** seen May 24 at Providenciales, T & C (BA). This date is of interest since Brown Noddies, a nesting cohort, are on territory if not incubating at many stations in the V.I., for example. Colonies of tree-nesting Brown Noddies should be carefully examined for *A. minutus* in the Region. This represents the first record from the Bahamas and the Region (Bond 1979).

DOVES THROUGH ORIOLES — White-winged Doves are apparently increasing in the T & C as reported by BA and RSL based on remarks that the species is abundant after April (75+ on the 14th). Aldridge recorded the first Com. Barn-Owl at Providenciales, T & C in 4 years on Apr. 8 & 20 which may represent a vagrant from Cuba or Hispaniola (RLN). A few late Com. Nighthawks were noted during late April and early May in the T & C. Antillean Nighthawks were noted at P., May 12 (four) and presumably thereafter as the species breeds in the area. Staicer noted that Antillean Nighthawks were common after Apr. 10 at Cabo Rojo N.W.R., P.R. Three Black Swifts were seen at Cabo Rojo as well on May 14 (CS). An **Eastern Kingbird** seen Apr. 15-17 at Providenciales provided the first record from the T & C (BA) and thus the most easterly record from the Region. A rare spring occurrence of N. Rough-winged Swallow was noted Apr. 12-14 at P. (BA). Cuban Crow is reported to be locally common in the T & C (BA, RSL). Robbins' belated report of four Scaly-breasted Thrashers near the summit of Paradise Peak, St. Martin, Dec. 1, 1983, was apparently the first for that island (Voous 1983). It is doubtful this thrasher has been overlooked in the past, but may be on the move to habitats providing fruit as a result of 2 successive droughts in the Region. A **Red-eyed Vireo** was observed May 14 at P. (BA) for the first record from the T & C. This date also extends the spring late record (Bond 1979). A truly remarkable record of a ♂ **Townsend's Warbler** was expertly documented Apr. 28 at Freeport, Grand Bahama (ph. AE). This was the first fully documented occurrence of this warbler in the West Indies. Hutt suggested that the drought may have forced an early departure of N. Waterthrush from B., as the last one was seen Apr. 13. A Blue Grosbeak was noted Apr. 30 at P. (BA). Grasshopper Sparrows were noted at Cabo Rojo N.W.R.,

P R, Mar 10-May 31 (CS) Northern Orioles made news in April at two widely separated sites: B., Apr. 12 (RD), representing only the 2nd record for that island (MBH), and on P., perhaps a routine occurrence, Apr. 18 (BA).

ADDENDUM — Late reports of larids seen during the winter deserve attention here. A great incursion of far-north, perhaps Palearctic, breeders into the tropical Atlantic and Caribbean indicated a massive movement prompted or aided by climatic conditions which lasted until December. Robbins reported that two **Common Black-headed Gulls** were present for a least a week (late November to early December and perhaps later—RLN) at the salt pans of Philipsburg, St. Maarten, Neth. Antilles. This was the first record of the species from the St. Martin Bank (Voous 1983). Oliver noted a **Bonaparte's Gull** at Abaco, Bahamas, Jan 1-3, and continued to document sightings of **Black-legged Kittiwake** from several islands in the Bahamas: Eleuthera, two on Feb. 11; Cat I, two on Feb. 14; Conception I., one immature Feb. 15; Long I., one immature Feb. 17; and Inagua, one immature Feb. 22. RLN observed two **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**, an adult and an immature, at San Fernando, Trinidad, Apr. 23 (out of Region), providing only the 2nd or 3rd occurrence for that island, which serves to emphasize the astounding breadth of the larid incursion in the West Indies during the winter of 1983-1984. Additional late reports involving land birds also support the theory of a climatic influence responsible for so many island and Regional records in late 1983 and early 1984. These include a **Wood Thrush** at New Providence I., Bahamas, Jan. 12 (GO); Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, **Black-throated Green Warbler**, and Prothonotary Warbler at St. Martin, all Dec. 1 (MR), all providing first island records (Voous 1983).

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