

The Spring Migration

March 1–May 31, 1986

NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

Bruce Mactavish

The spring of 1986 might best be described as routine. There were no strong opinions in favor of it being a very dull or very exciting season. Migration went fairly well on schedule with few extremely early or late dates.

March was characterized by unusually warm temperatures in the south with a remarkable 70°F recorded on March 26 in Rhode Island and 77°F on March 30 in Boston, Massachusetts. This warm tropical air mass resulted in the appearances of several over-anxious migrants including an amazing four Eastern Kingbirds.

April was cloudy and damp with little favorable weather for early overshoots, so characteristic of the Region.

May started off cool and cloudy with migrating warblers slightly behind schedule, especially in Nova Scotia. A brief period of warm southerly winds May 5–6 brought a good wave of warblers into s. New England but it was not until mid-month that the warm weather hit Nova Scotia and Newfoundland to allow the dammed up warblers to flood into their breeding grounds. May ended dry and warm across the Region.

As a first time Regional Editor, I am now aware of the great amount of time and effort required to put a seasonal report together. The greatest factor working against the



Regional Editor is time. The new tightened deadlines allow for no fooling around. This is fine, a week or two is enough time to write the report if you have the material to do it with. Here lies a serious problem.

Many contributors are not sending their reports to the Regional Editors fast enough. In order for a Regional Editor to meet his or her deadline he must have all reports by the 3rd week after the end of the reporting period at the latest. That means contributors should have their reports in the mail within 10 days after the end of the reporting period.

Newfoundland, St. Pierre et Miquelon and Nova Scotia are to be commended for sending complete reports on time. I received only partial information from all other areas and much of it was very late.

ABBREVIATION — S.P.M. = St. Pierre et Miquelon.

LOONS, GREBES — The only count of loons available from Pt. Judith, R.I., was of 33 Red-throated Loons flying east on March 29 (RLF); however 525 were migrating past Nantucket Is., Mass., on March 17 (JB). A pair was in courtship display on S.P.M., May 5 where a few pairs breed (RE). The highest concentration of Common Loons reported was 57, Jamestown, R.I., on May 11 (fide DLE).

Horned Grebes were said to be "plentiful" in eastern Maine during late April (WT), but were fewer than usual in Nova Scotia with 40, March 23 at Blanche being the largest concentration reported (fide CRKA). Red-necked Grebes were in low numbers on Cape Cod and S.P.M. with maximum counts of 35 (BN), and 153 (RE) respectively. In Nova Scotia, a count of 160+ at Cow Bay, May 1 was a good count (fide CRKA). A Western Grebe was at Winthrop, Mass., March 27–April 6 (fide RHS).

TUBENOSES THROUGH IBISES — Northern Fulmars were reported by fishermen to be in large numbers off Chatham, Mass. (fide BN) and 150–250, May 15 at Cox's Ledge, R.I., was the highest count ever from there (DF). Farther north at S.P.M. a count of 200 on April 16 was considered unusual (RE). One hundred Sooty Shearwaters had reached Nantucket Sound by May 30 (RH). An early Manx Shearwater was at Pt. Judith, R.I., March 29 (RLF) and two at S.P.M., May 7 were the earliest ever there (MD).

An impressive count of 400 Great Cormorants was made at Sakonnet Pt., R.I., on March 9 (DE). The conflict between the rapidly increasing Double-crested Cormorant and sport fishermen continues to grow. A proposal by the Prince Edward Island Fish and Wildlife Division to declare an open season on Double-crested Cormorants was defeated by quick action on the part of the P.E.I. Natural History Society. Instead, only "nuisance" individuals that feed on trout in freshwater ponds will be shot (fide BD)!

Hérons, big and conspicuous, are the easiest-to-detect vagrants in the northern parts of the Region. Numbers of vagrant herons were low to average. New Brunswick had one Great Egret, three Snowy Egrets, one Little Blue Heron and a Tricolored Heron (fide BD); Nova Scotia, four Great Egrets, four Snowy Egrets, one Cattle Egret, one Little Blue Heron, and three Glossy Ibis (fide IAM); Newfoundland, two Great Blue Herons, one Snowy Egret and one Little Blue Heron; and S.P.M., one Great Blue Heron and one Glossy Ibis. Unusual Yellow-crowned Night-Hérons were at Peabody, Mass., May 6 for a first local record (RSH); one well inland at Pittsfield, Mass., where a pair apparently nested last year (T. Tynning) and one at Isles of Shoals, Maine (DWH). Other Tricolored Heron reports were: three, Rhode Island; eight, Massachusetts; and one, Maine.

About 220 Glossy Ibis were reported from coastal Massachusetts and an encouraging 159 nests were at Big Gould Island, R.I. (RLF). The star wader was **White Ibis**, with an early adult at N. Truro, Mass., on March 27 (R. Everett). New Brunswick,

with only one previous record, had one inland at Sussex, April 11 and two at Saint John for several days around April 16 (fide BD) and Nova Scotia had its 5th record when one showed up at Cranberry Pt., May 30 (fide IAM).

WATERFOWL — Tundra Swans were a single at Woodbridge, Conn., March 15–28 (fide FM); five on March 17, Scarborough Marsh and one May 6–10, Mt. Desert Is., Maine (fide WT) and one, March 30–April 2 at Bloomfield, New Brunswick (A. Francis). A tired Greater White-fronted Goose of the Greenland race rested at L'Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland, and was well photographed on May 8 (Bruce Bradbury). It was about the 6th record for the province. Snow Geese were not reported in the high numbers of last spring, but 3026 were reported over w. Massachusetts, March 20–April 13 (fide SK) and 12 in s. New Brunswick (fide BD). The Barnacle Goose at Phippsburg, Maine, March 16–30 was quite possibly of natural origin (fide WT) but the Bar-headed Goose at E. Greenwich, Conn., March 31 was certainly of aviary origin.

There were four "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal in Massachusetts and one in Nova Scotia. Mallards continue to make inroads to Atlantic Canada. A female Mallard was seen copulating with a male Am. Black Duck in St. John's, Newfoundland, where the species is still a rarity and not known to breed (BM). There were four Eur. Wigeons in Connecticut (DV), a late one at S. Monomoy, Mass., May 29 (BN), and singles from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

A Lesser Scaup at St. Mary's, Newfoundland, on May 31, provided one of the few spring records for this rare species in the province (BM). Late King Eiders were singles at N. Scituate and S. Monomoy, May 17 and Nahant, Mass., May 28–31 (fide RHS). A Common Eider was unexpected inland at Turner's Falls, Mass. on April 21–29 (fide SK). Thirty-two Harlequin Ducks were at their s. New England stronghold, Sachuest Pt., R.I., on March 15 (fide DE). Late Harlequins were five, May 25 at Schoodic Pt., Maine (Bruce Hallett), and two, May 16–31 at Nahant, Mass. (L. Pivacek). The 30,000 Oldsquaw at Nantucket March 15 were not unexpected (JB). There were no April reports from Pt. Judith, R.I., when large numbers of scoters are known to migrate past there; however 750 Black, 200 Surf and 100 White-winged scoters flew east on March 29 (RLF). Nova Scotia had 10 reports of Black Scoter totaling 900 individuals (fide CRKA).

RAPTORS — The only Black Vulture was a northern one found injured along the side of the road at Whiting, Maine, on March 25 (fide CD). Turkey Vultures drew the comment "everywhere" from e. Massachusetts (RHS) and e. Maine (WT). Six in Nova Scotia was a good number for spring (fide IAM). Having three **American Swallow-tailed Kites** in the Region was remarkable! A very early one was photographed at Barnstable, Mass., on March 15 (G. Martin, R. Everett); another (?) was not far away at Chatham, May 19 (R. Hardy), and one was well documented at Monhegan I., Maine, May 19–25 (Tom Martin et al.) for a first state record. A well described ad. Mississippi Kite was at Truro, Mass., on May 6 (RH, BN).

April 20 was a big hawk flight day in Massachusetts with Granville setting four single day records, including 750 Ospreys, 63 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 1104 Broad-winged Hawks (fide SK). On the same day there were 73 Broad-winged at Mt. Wachusett and 63 at Mt. Watatic, Mass. (fide LET). An adult Red-shouldered Hawk at Canso, N.S., on May 15 was far east in a province where it has always been rare (fide IAM). Three Golden Eagles were reported from Massachusetts in March (fide RHS) and one was at Scituate Res., R.I., May 6 (fide DLE).

Even without May reports from e. Massachusetts, some 25 Peregrine Falcons were seen across the Region. Single Gyrfalcons were reported from Isle au Haut, Maine, March 9 (fide WT) and St. John's, Newfoundland, April 13 (RB).

SHOREBIRDS — Massachusetts had the monopoly on Black-bellied Plover with 900, May 10, N. Monomoy; 770, May

25, E. Boston, and 500, May 31, Newburyport (fide GWG) Single Lesser Golden-Plovers were at Napatree Pt., Rhode Island, March 15–29 and May 9 (fide DLE); Plum Is., April 19 (RAF); N. Monomoy, May 10–19 (BN); Martha's Vineyard, May 23 (JB), and Newburyport, Massachusetts, May 26 (G. d'Entrement). A count of 51 Piping Plovers from N. Monomoy, April 20 (R. Humphrey), was by far the largest concentration in the Region of this recent addition to the Endangered Species List.

An apparently healthy Greater Yellowlegs at a frozen pond in St. John's, Newfoundland, on the extraordinary date of March 7 was five weeks earlier than the previous earliest arrival date for the province. The earliest of several March Lesser Yellowlegs in the Region was one, March 12, Quonochontaug, R I (fide DLE). A Solitary Sandpiper on April 1, Essex, Mass., was early (RSH). A successful wintering Willet was last seen at Jerusalem, R.I., on March 17 (fide DLE). Sixteen nests were found on N. Monomoy, Mass., in May (BN). At the n.e. corner of their breeding range a count of six Upland Sandpipers, May 31, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, was encouraging (BD). Whimbrels were scarce with only two in Massachusetts and one in Nova Scotia. A Hudsonian Godwit was at Jerusalem, R I, May 29 (fide DLE) and a Marbled Godwit made a repeat appearance at Tatamagouche, N.S., May 31 (FLL). A typically large concentration of 2500 Sanderlings, May 31 was at N. Monomoy, Mass. (BN). Notable spring flocks of Semipalmated Sandpipers were 100, May 17, Cape Sable, N.S. (fide FS) and 3000, May 31, N. Monomoy, Mass. (BN). A Least Sandpiper on March 25, S. Dartmouth, Mass., was exceptionally early (R Marshall, fide GWG). Not to be outdone, an early White-rumped Sandpiper, April 1, Essex, Mass., was far more surprising (RSH). The next White-rumped Sandpiper was not until May 6 and by month's end as many as 75 had accumulated at N. Monomoy (BN). Pectoral Sandpipers were in good numbers in New England starting in the last week of March and continuing through April. Highest counts came from Massachusetts: 70, April 1, Essex (BN) and 114, April 5–13, w. Massachusetts (fide SK). Nova Scotia had single Pectorals at Hartlan's Pt., April 14 and Brier Island, May 19 (fide FS); Prince Edward Island had one, May 25 (BD) and Newfoundland had its second ever spring sighting with one at St. John's, May 29 (BM). An adult Curlew Sandpiper was at Newburyport, Mass., May 25 & 26 (GWG). There were three Stilt Sandpipers in Massachusetts during May (fide GWG). Very rare in spring was the Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Quonochontaug, Rhode Island, May 19 (J & RG, fide DLE). Five Ruffs were reported in the Region, four in Massachusetts and one in Nova Scotia, all falling between April 5–May 10. Two Long-billed Dowitchers were carefully identified at Plum Island, Mass., April 24 (RAF). Ten Wilson's Phalaropes were across the Region in May: eight in Massachusetts and two in New Brunswick, which was only slightly better than last year's poor showing. Four thousand Red-necked Phalaropes at Harbour Head Passage, Campello, New Brunswick, May 24 (CD) and 126 Red Phalaropes, Nantucket, Mass., May 12 (S. Perkins) were the largest number of each species recorded in the Region this spring.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — Due to the "landlubbing" nature of birdwatchers in general, only a fraction of the jaegers that enter our area are ever seen. Seven ad. Pomarine Jaegers in a tight flock were flying high, northward past Pt. LaHaye, Newfoundland, April 26 (BM) and nine were considered unusual at Cox's Ledge, R.I., May 15 (DF). Fourteen Parasitic Jaegers were reported from Cape Cod in the last half of May (fide GWG). The rarest jaeger, the Long-tailed was reported from Sable Island, Nova Scotia, May 28 (fide IAM).

Adult Laughing Gulls in Newfoundland at Trepassey April 26 and St. John's May 18 were about nine hundred miles n.e. of their closest breeding site (fide BM)! About 10 pairs of Laughing Gulls frequented the Fairfield County, Connecticut, shoreline in May, raising hopes that it might nest in the state for the first time (FWM). In contrast to the previous two springs there were no Franklin's Gulls. One Little Gull in Connecticut

and a minimum of seven in Massachusetts were all that were reported. From s. New England Common Black-headed Gull totals were: Connecticut 6, Rhode Island 5, and Massachusetts 11+. In Newfoundland a total of 120 at choice locations March to early May was normal (BM). As usual most of the adult Common Black-headed Gulls that overwinter in St. John's leave during March, presumably to head back to their European breeding grounds, since the Newfoundland coast north of St. John's is jammed with Arctic pack ice and is very inhospitable at the time. A first-summer Bonaparte's Gull was a rare visitor to Bellevue Beach, Newfoundland, April 21 (BM) and 60+ at Prince Edward Island, National Park, May 31 was a large number for spring (BD).

The Quincy, Mass., wintering Mew Gull was last seen April 8 (fide LET) and the departure dates for each of the three adults that wintered in St. John's, Newfoundland, were April 12, May 7 and 19 (BM). The first warm SW winds of the spring to reach St. John's, Newfoundland, on March 31 brought in 10,000 screaming adult Herring Gulls (BM). Top honors for Lesser Black-backed Gull go to Massachusetts and Newfoundland with five each, and Connecticut and Prince Edward Island had one apiece.

In s. New England where Caspian Tern is an uncommon migrant there was one in Connecticut, two in Rhode Island and nine in Massachusetts. Farther north in Prince Edward Island, where it stages before and after the breeding season, there were 17 (BD), and in Newfoundland where it is a locally common breeder on the coast there were seven, May 5 at Deer Lake indicating some inland breeding as well (fide BM). Unique this season was a Royal Tern at N. Monomoy May 20 and a more unusual Sandwich Tern at S. Monomoy May 30 (RH). Very rare and normally seen only after some hurricanes, a **Sooty Tern** put in a surprise appearance at Sakonnet Pt., R I, May 18 (DLE). Six migrant Black Terns in Massachusetts is considered a poor showing (fide GWG). Three Black Skimmers in Connecticut and ten in Massachusetts were more than expected and may have involved some returnees from those carried north by Hurricane Gloria last fall.

Breeding alcids are back at their breeding colonies in northern parts of the Region by late April and May; hence the lack of interesting alcid reports from this season. A Common Murre off Provincetown, Mass., March 4 was considered unusual (P Trimble) and three Dovekies at Bear Cove Pt., Newfoundland, May 31 were late (JW).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Ninety-five Mourning Doves at W. Pubnico, Nova Scotia, March 6 (J. D'Eon) and 50+, Indian River, P.E.I., March 9 (T. Clark) attests to their ability to survive the winter and to their population increase in the Maritime Provinces. A Common Barn-Owl was a rarity in w. Massachusetts at Hadley March 15 (fide SK). About 15 Snowy Owls were well spaced through the Region from Rhode Island to Newfoundland. The N. Saw-whet Owl that called incessantly through last summer at St. Catherines, Newfoundland, started this year on April 3 (BM). The chances of it luring in a mate may be remote since there are very few records for the province.

Two calling Chuck-will's-widows is about par for recent springs: one, May 19–22, Brewster, Mass. (R. Finch et al.) and a more unusual one May 20–June 1 somewhere in Maine (T Skaling). Far east of the known breeding range were two Chimney Swifts May 30 at S.P.M. (AD) and one, May 31, St. Mary's, Newfoundland (BM). Eighteen Red-bellied Woodpeckers, five in Rhode Island and 13 in Massachusetts, shows the increasing presence of this species in the southern part of the Region.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GNATCATCHERS — Acadian Flycatchers were reported in fair numbers; with three in Rhode Island and 14 in Massachusetts, including four at Plum Island June 2 (RAF). A record early Least Flycatcher was at Kingston, N.S., April 27 (J. Taylor). The exceptionally warm southerly winds of late March brought in a smattering of almost

unbelievably early Eastern Kingbirds one, March 23, Baccaro, N.S. (fide JSC); one, March 26, Barnstable, Mass. (fide LET); one, March 28, Great Swamp, R.I. (fide DLE) and one, March 30, Northport, Maine (fide WT). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at Harwich, Mass., on May 10 (P. Gove).

Arriving on the same air mass as the E. Kingbirds were early Barn Swallows: one, March 20, Napatree; one, March 22, Exeter, Rhode Island (fide DLE); and one, April 8, Round Hill, N.S. (fide JSC). A Bank Swallow, April 5 at Clarke's Harbour, N.S., was the earliest ever in Nova Scotia by two weeks (fide JSC). Vagrant swallows occurring in late May were a N. Rough-winged in Nova Scotia, two Cliffs and a Purple Martin in S.P.M., and a Cliff in Newfoundland.

Fish Crows continue to increase in w. Massachusetts where 21 were reported, almost three times last spring's total (fide SK). The Jackdaws are still with us. The Nantucket bird was present throughout the period (E. Andrews); a pair appeared for one day only, April 18 at S.P.M. (RE) and from a new location one, March 29–May 11 at Cape Sable, N.S. (fide JSC). Red-breasted Nuthatches were in good numbers from Massachusetts north to Nova Scotia. Winter Wrens were thought to be more numerous than in recent years in Nova Scotia (JSC). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers continue to be on the upswing in the southern part of the Region as Nova Scotians, well north of their breeding range, become blasé about them by saying "only one" was reported all spring (JSC).

THRUSHES THROUGH SHRIKES — Normally a fall vagrant at best to the Region, a **Northern Wheatear**, Sable Island, N.S., May 29, was the third spring record for this unique island. There was good news for E. Bluebird from the northern part of its range. In e. Maine it was said to be one of the best springs in quite a few years, with many pairs establishing territories in early May (fide WT) and in Nova Scotia, where the last confirmed nesting was in 1957, a pair was investigating a nest box (fide JSC).

Despite being a common breeder in Newfoundland, Gray-cheeked Thrushes are rare migrants in Nova Scotia where there was one May 11 at Quinan and on May 18 at Brier Island (fide JSC). A Wood Thrush on S.P.M., May 23 was a first for the French island (MD, fide RE). The bird causing the most excitement of the spring was a co-operative **Fieldfare** feeding with Am. Robins in a muddy field at Concord, Mass., April 6–14 (R. Richard et al.). A first for the state, it is natural to assume that this bird was part of the same movement that brought a Redwing and at least four Fieldfares to St. John's, Newfoundland, in late December 1985.

A Water Pipit at Cape Race, Newfoundland, on March 22 was a rare incident of successful overwintering rather than an early migrant (JW). After what must have been a record winter for Bohemian Waxwings in the northern part of the Region, there were very heavy spring left overs. In Nova Scotia 380 were seen March 5–April 7 (fide JSC). In Prince Edward Island they were common in flocks of 10–50 during March and a flock of 250 at Charlottetown dwindled to 12 by April 20 (fide BD). In e. Maine they were much in evidence through March with 100 in Monticello, April 8 being the largest flock reported (fide WT). The only flock south of Maine was 16 at Truro, Mass., on March 4 (P. Trimble). Twelve Northern Shrikes in Nova Scotia was considered a high total (fide JSC) but six in e. Massachusetts was considered low (fide LET). Almost lost from the Region, a Loggerhead Shrike at Marshfield, Mass., April 5–7 was the first spring report since 1984 (R. Abrams)!

VIREOS, WARBLERS — The only White-eyed Vireo beyond its breeding range was one at Isles of Shoals, Maine on May 25–26 (DWH et al.). It was out-distanced by a Yellow-throated Vireo at S.P.M. on May 31 for a second area record (RE et al.).

Forty Northern Parulas and 100 Black-and-white Warblers at Peabody, Mass., on May 6 was the only big concentration of warblers noted (RSH). Several species of warblers first arrived

across s New England on the May 6 wave. Reports of early warblers were surprisingly few with an Ovenbird April 22 on Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick, being an exception (fide BD).

A Blue-winged Warbler at Pubnico Pt., N.S., May 30 (J. Kearney), a Cerulean Warbler banded at Grand Manan Is., N.B., in mid May (J. Finne), and a Worm-eating Warbler photographed on Kyle Jones' shoe(!) aboard a boat near Matinicusc Rock, Maine, May 18 were well north of their respective breeding grounds. The four Orange-crowned Warblers in Massachusetts was about average for the Region. Regional totals for "southern" warblers were low: four Yellow-throateds, including one on Sable Island, N.S., May 15 (fide IAM); four Prothonotaries, 11 Kentuckys, including one banded on Isles of Shoals, Maine, May 24 (DWH) and 11 Hoodeds.

TANAGERS THROUGH SPARROWS — Fifteen Summer Tanagers in Massachusetts, three or four in Maine and one in Nova Scotia was up to recent high standards. A Western Tanager at a feeder in Eastam, Mass., March 22 was presumably a wintering bird (fide LET). The Region's 21 Blue Grosbeaks were rather oddly distributed with four in Connecticut, four in Massachusetts, 11 in Nova Scotia and two in Newfoundland! The Newfoundland birds, both ad. males at feeders; May 17–21 at St. Anthony (Lat. 50°25') and May 24–28 at St. John's, were the 2nd and 3rd provincial records (fide BM). Likewise most overshooting Indigo Buntings bypassed s. New England and were in good numbers (65) in Nova Scotia with the earliest on April 1 (fide DAC). The Painted Bunting from February stayed at the Salem, Mass., feeder to March 11 (C. Rhodes). Two Dickcissels in Agawam, Mass., one in March and one in May represented a winter and spring migrant (fide SK).

This spring's Clay-colored Sparrows were one, May 5 at Peabody, Mass., (RSH) one, May 24 at Monhegan Is., Maine, (D. Finch) and one, May 14 at Seal Is., N.S. (E. Mills). A Lark Sparrow at Quincy, Mass., on March 22 was unseasonable (S. Thomas). A male Lark Bunting put in another spring appearance, this time at Barnstable, Mass., May 16–19 (R. Pease et al.) Single Seaside Sparrows at Eastham, March 20 and Newburyport, March 22 were suspected of being overwintering birds (W. Ellison, RSH). The population of White-throated Sparrows increased ten fold overnight to 810 at Peabody, Mass., on the May 6 wave (RSH). Late Snow Buntings were singles at Monomoy Island, Mass., on May 10 (RH) and Sable Island, N.S., on June 4 (fide IAM).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES — An adult male Yellow-headed Blackbird sang at Marblehead Neck, Mass., on May 15 (RSH) and was the only one reported (vs. 4, 6 & 5 the last 3 years). The five ♀ **Boat-tailed Grackles** that wintered at Quonochontaug, R.I., were present through March (fide DLE) and two females at Newbury, Mass., were a first state record (RAF). These Boat-tailed Grackles were thought to have been brought to the Region by last fall's Hurricane Gloria. Four Orchard Orioles in Nova Scotia, May 15–20 was about average (fide DAC).

Bramblings are still in fashion as one turns up at Mosher River, N.S., March 6–8 (M. Bezanson, photo IAM) for a second provincial record.

Pine Grosbeaks were present in low numbers in Nova Scotia (fide DAC) and in e. Maine (WT). House Finches continue to be slow in colonizing the Maritime Provinces; six to eight on Grand Manan Is., N.B. (fide BD) and three in S. Nova Scotia (DAC) were all that were seen. Red Crossbills were fairly widespread in varying numbers throughout the Region. A nesting record at Cape Cod was very rare but not unprecedented (BN), and four nests found in Charlottetown, P.E.I., were considering unusual (BD). White-winged Crossbills were scarce across the northern portion of the Region. Common Redpolls were numerous in flocks during March from Nova Scotia southward to Rhode Island. Flock size ranged from hundreds in the north to a handful in the south. Pine Siskins were also widespread over the entire Region, especially in

discovered at Rimouski May 27 (JRP, YG). The seven Eur. Wigeon seen along the St. Lawrence R. were typical, but four at L. Saint-Jean were exceptional (LB, JM et al.). Unusually far w. were lone ♂ Com. Eiders at Longueuil Apr. 14–17 (RW) and on L. Magog May 7 & 9 (PBo). Three Surf Scoters were recorded early at Rimouski Mar. 18 (GGe, DRU) and an unusual number of migrating White-winged Scoters stopped on L. Magog, including 95 May 20 (PBo).

VULTURES THROUGH ALCIDS — Turkey Vultures, still rare in the Quebec City region, turned up at Saint-Raymond Apr. 20 (DGi), Cap-Santé May 3 (CA, MT), Saint-Aubert May 24 (two—GB), and Cap Tourmente May 27 (two—GB, LM, CV). One also reached the N. Shore at Sault-au-Mouton May 4 (ABa, EB, YD). Hawkwatchers at Valleyfield had their best count in 11 years of recording, with 2652 raptors (MM, BBa); the total of 231 Ospreys was almost twice the previous high for this site. Sharp-shinned Hawks were also tallied in good numbers with 359 at Valleyfield and 734 at Rimouski (fide YG). Five Gyrfalcons were observed, after a lacklustre winter for this species.

An Am. Coot was quite rare at Bonaventure May 1–4 (DGA) and single Sandhill Cranes were seen at Masson May 18 (TB) and in Gatineau P.P., May 27 (HB, LL). A Lesser Golden-Plover, rare in spring, was observed at Saint-Vallier May 8 (GB). Quebec's 10th **American Avocet** was in breeding plumage at Saint-Augustin, Portneuf Co., May 10 (LM). A Lesser Yellowlegs was record-early at Compton Apr. 2 (PF), as were five Ruddy Turnstones at Bic Apr. 19 (BBa). Two Ruddy Turnstones, seldom seen on the Gaspé Pen. in spring, stopped at Saint-Siméon, Bonaventure Co., May 16 (PP) and a major grounding of 300–400 occurred at LaSalle May 31 (PBA et al.). A Stilt Sandpiper at Cacouna May 21 (CGe, DRU) and two at Saint-Lazare May 24 (PS, MM, RY, Sch) added to the few spring records for this shorebird. A Wilson's Phalarope was encountered at L. Rouyn May 20 (JLp, DL) and an exceptional group of 10 was present at Cacouna the next day (DRU, GGe).

Five Parasitic Jaegers set a new early arrival date at Rivière-Ouelle May 10 (GB) and a Long-tailed Jaeger was identified from the Matane ferry May 31 (JPO, MLf). The only Franklin's Gull to be sighted was an adult at Lachine May 25 (BBa). The two Com. Black-headed Gulls spotted at LaSalle May 30 (FH) were in addition to five individuals reported in the Lower St. Lawrence River. Ring-billed Gulls continued their dramatic increase; a new breeding colony of 650± adults was established at Bromptonville Apr. 19 (GGr, VL). An ad. Thayer's Gull was well-described at Sherbrooke Apr. 22 (VL); all previous sightings were from October to January. A group of four Lesser Black-backed Gulls was reported at Hauterive Apr. 6 (YRo). An ad. Sabine's Gull was sighted at Bergeronnes May 22 (ABa, EB). This sighting was likely related to sustained E winds during May; there are very few spring records of this species in Quebec and, until now, none prior to June. An ad. **White-winged Tern** returned to Saint-Gédéon May 18+ (GSA et al.)—see AB 39:889. At Pointe-au-Père a Dovekie was killed and carried off by a Herring Gull May 1 (GGe).

WHIP-POOR-WILL THROUGH WARBLERS — Two Whip-poor-wills were located at Notre-Dame-de-la-Doré May 17–18 (DA, MLn et al.), a new site for this species along the w. shore of L. Saint-Jean, and one was heard at nearby Péribonka May 15+ (MS, DS, MR) where the species has been found since 1984. An ad. Red-headed Woodpecker wandered to Saint-Raymond May 22 (JC). The White-breasted Nuthatch reported from Sainte-Marguerite-Marie in the winter report was actually at Péribonka and remained until Apr. 1 (MS et al.). Other extralimital individuals were at Alma Mar. 30 (A) and Bergeronnes (ABa, EB).

Notable wrens included a Carolina at Greenfield-Park Mar. 15–23 (fide PBA) and a Sedge at Saint-Foy May 25 & 27 (PC). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers returned to Hull, where they nested last year (DSH), and a ♀-plumaged bird ranged to Cap Tourmente May 18 (CV). The Varied Thrush at Saint-Luc (see winter

report) was last seen Mar. 22 (MV). An extralimital Loggerhead Shrike at Rimouski Apr. 30 (GGe) provided the first sighting there since 1978.

S.A.

A surprising find at Westmount May 18 was an apparent "Cassin's" Vireo, *Vireo solitarius cassinii* (MG, PBA, GSe); this West Coast race of the Solitary Vireo has an olive-green instead of blue-gray hood, and its flanks are of a duller yellow. The presence of this bird in e. North America is certainly as exceptional as that of any western paruline warbler. It is interesting to note that the A.O.U. Checklist (6th edition) suggests that more than one species is presently included under the name Solitary Vireo. It would thus be appropriate that observers and editors keep tabs on the distributional records of well-marked races of the Solitary Vireo (these are illustrated in the National Geographic Field Guide).—MG

A ♂ **Blue-winged Warbler**, about the 8th for Quebec, was singing like a Golden-winged at Fitch-Bay May 18+ (FS, JS). Both Golden-winged and "Brewster's" warblers were discovered at this site last year. Notable Golden-winged Warblers included a female at Cap Tourmente May 17 (AC, CV et al.), and a male at Huntingdon May 31 (PBA et al.) that sang repeatedly like a Chipping Sparrow! A singing ♂ Blackburnian Warbler at Rimouski Mar. 20 (DC) was record-early by an astounding 5 weeks, and a Black-and-white Warbler at Abercorn Apr. 5 (fide PBA) was record-early by 2 weeks. The Region's 8th **Kentucky Warbler** was heard at Westmount May 20–21 (JHo, FH) and two different ♂ Hooded Warblers were seen at the same location May 9 (AL, ND, m.ob.) and May 20–21 (JHo, MA).

TANAGERS THROUGH GROSBILLS — A carefully-identified ♀ **Summer Tanager** on Westmount May 10 (CG, ND, MG et al.) was also Quebec's 8th, and extralimital Scarlet Tanagers were reported from Murdochville May 20 (M & MD, LR) and Douglstown in May (fide PP) on the Gaspé Pen. The following birds included in the winter report successfully overwintered: N. Cardinal at Boischatel (LGU), Chipping Sparrow at Beauport (CV), and Field Sparrow at Aylmer (fide DDA). A Rufous-sided Towhee wintered at Sandy-Beach (DRI) and a Field Sparrow was a rarity at Rimouski May 26 (GGe). An estimated 8000 Dark-eyed Juncos invaded Cap Tourmente May 3 (CV, JHa). An E. Meadowlark was found at Les Escoumins Mar. 31 (RG, AP) and a W. Meadowlark paused at Bic May 27–28 (GP et al.). A credible description of a ♂ **Brewer's Blackbird** at Cap Tourmente May 10 (JHa) may have provided only the 2nd acceptable provincial record. A ♂ Orchard Oriole visited Westmount May 24 (JHo) and N. Orioles were locally rare at Gaspé May 10 (HP) and Métabetchouan May 18 (DPI). Of particular interest among the many scattered House Finch sight-



Male House Finch at Alma, Que., May 4–8, 1986. First for the L. Saint-Jean area. Photo/Alain Jomphe.

ings were single birds that reached Rimouski Apr. 15–16 (JRP, RCo, AT) and Alma May 4–8 (A) et al.), both for the first time, and two to four that frequented a feeder at Rivière-du-Loup Apr. 23 to late May (YT et al.). An impressive *W* movement of 2000± Evening Grosbeaks was observed at Pointe-au-Père May 17 (YG, JLR).

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HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

William J. Boyle, Jr., Robert O. Paxton,
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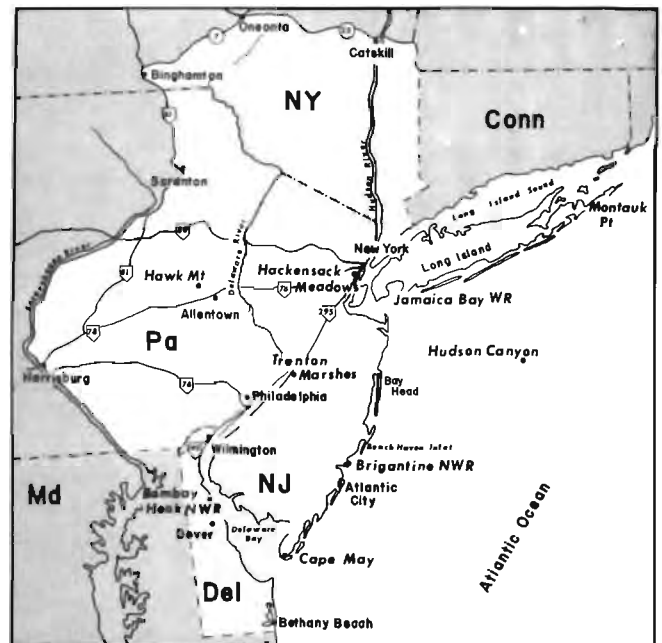
A warm, dry March and May were sandwiched around a mild, damp April that featured a freak snowstorm on the 23rd; most of the Region was blanketed with a thick carpet of wet snow that exceeded 20 inches in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains. Effects on birdlife were minimal, however, as the white stuff melted rapidly. Despite the generally dry conditions, there was no repeat of the dangerous fire hazard that forced the closing of many parks and state forests last spring.

The spring migration was characterized by an average waterfowl and shorebird flight and an excellent hawk passage. Assessments of the passerine migration ranged from terrible to good, but most observers felt that the season was average, with a good variety, but relatively low numbers of warblers and thrushes. A series of slow-moving cold fronts produced some major fallouts of migrants from late April to mid-May, but these tended to be localized, except for the flight of May 17 which produced good birding in the northern one-half of the Region. A modest number of rarities appeared and there were some remarkably early arrival dates for regular migrants.

ABBREVIATIONS — Bombay Hook = Bombay Hook Nat'l Wildlife Ref., near Smyrna, Del.; Brig = Brigantine Unit, Edwin B. Forsythe Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Atlantic Co., N.J.; J.B.W.R. = Jamaica Bay Wildlife Ref., New York City; Little Creek = Little Creek Wildlife Area, near Dover, Del.; L.I. = Long Island, N.Y. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — There were scattered reports of inland Red-throated Loons in April, and one lingered along the Delaware coast at Lewes to May 26 (MVB, JWR). Common Loons were found regularly along the coast into mid-May, but a group of six inland at Culvers L., Sussex, N.J., May 20 was notably late (FT). A very late Horned Grebe was at Green Lane Res., Montgomery, Pa., May 17 (DD, SSm). The modest showing of Red-necked Grebes included only 7 reports: one near Harrisburg, Pa., three in s. New Jersey, and three in the New York City area, the last lingering to May 1 at Rye, Westchester.

A May 18 pelagic trip about 30 mi off Indian R. Inlet, Del., produced a Manx Shearwater, well seen by all as it came in to a chum slick; it furnished only the 3rd state record. In con-



trast, the annual Delaware Valley Ornithological Club/Urner Club pelagic trip to the Hudson Canyon off Barnegat Light, N.J., May 24 was notable for the small numbers and variety of birds seen. Forty Sooty Shearwaters, numerous Wilson's Storm-Petrels, and a N. Fulmar were the only tubenoses found; Greater Shearwater, normally the most common shearwater at this season, was missed completely.

Five Brown Pelicans at Moores Beach, Cumberland, N.J., May 17 were the first of the season (DF); what were presumably the same five were at Reeds Beach, Cape May, the next day, when there were also six at Cape Henlopen, Del. (BF). The Delaware group was seen twice more in May, while a flock of nine flew by the state park at Cape May Point on May 29. Many others appeared in late June. Great Cormorants remained to late April at Cape Henlopen (one on the 21st, WWF) and at Staten Island (four on the 24th, AMo).

The slight increase in the number of Am. Bitterns [recently given "threatened" status in New Jersey] reported was encouraging, but this species is now distressingly scarce in the Region. An ad. Little Blue Heron at Wyoming, Luzerne, Apr.

14 was an excellent find for n e Pennsylvania (JHo) A Cattle Egret at Oldwick, Hunterdon, N.J., Mar. 10 was remarkably early for this inland location (RK), while a Green-backed Heron was very early at Highland Park, Middlesex, N.J., Mar. 27 (C Woodward). In Pennsylvania, an ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Minsi L., Northampton, May 7 (BSi) and an immature at Perkiomen Creek, Montgomery, May 25 (GLF, GAF) were far from any presently-known nesting colony. Three different White Ibises appeared at widely-separated locations; uncharacteristically, two of them were adults—a bird at Riverhead, L I, Mar. 28–29 (F. Allen et al.) and another at Minsi L., Mar. 30 (SB). An imm. White Ibis was at Wildwood, Cape May, Apr. 18 (fide PSu).

WATERFOWL — The annual spring staging of Tundra Swans in the Susquehanna R. off Washington Boro, Lancaster, Pa., numbered an estimated 10,000 in mid-March. The birds fed daily in nearby cornfields, where an apparently wild and very aggressive **Barnacle Goose** was discovered among them Mar. 12. The goose was seen daily around Millersville until the morning of Mar. 17, when it was observed departing with a flock of northbound swans (m.ob., ph. S. Lafrance). Four different reports of Greater White-fronted Geese did not include any obvious holdovers from the 6 winter reports. One was in S Orange, N.J., Mar. 3 (R. Ryan); another at Middle Creek W.M.A., Lancaster, Pa., Apr. 5 (BST); an adult of the Greenland race was near Mecox, L.I., Apr. 18–27 (PG, m.ob.); and the last was in Eastport, L.I., May 17 (fide JRu).

Many observers reported a good variety of migrant ducks during March and April in average numbers. A Green-winged Teal of the Eurasian subspecies was found at Cape May in early March (V. Elia, fide PSu). The spring's seven Eurasian Wigeon included four from s.e. New York, two in New Jersey (one at Mannington Marsh, Salem, Apr. 3 was in a new location; SF, E. Kramer), and a single at Little Creek, May 10 (JAC). The drake Tufted Duck at the Central Park, NYC, reservoir was last seen Mar. 16 (m.ob.). Ring-necked Ducks were widely reported, including an impressive flock of 100 at the Bashakill, Sullivan, N.Y., Mar. 29 (S.C.A.S.).

Late Com. Eiders included a pair at Rye, N.Y., Apr. 19 (only the 3rd record for Westchester), and an imm. male off Fortescue, Cumberland, N.J., May 22 in the area where the same 2 observers had a King Eider on that date last year (DKu, C. Phillips). The last King Eiders (two) were at Indian River, Del., Apr. 5 (WWF), while the last Harlequin Ducks (four) were at Montauk Pt., L.I., Mar. 16.

There were the usual scattered reports of scoters along the coast late in the season, but 2 small flocks of White-winged Scoters in n.w. New Jersey May 16 were part of an annual, but little-noted, mid-May migration (GH, JD, FT). A Hooded Merganser nest in Dutchess, N.Y., failed to produce young (T & P. Haight), while a pair at Flatbrookville, Sussex, N.J., May 13 may have been nesting (GH, EBl). The top concentration of Com. Mergansers this spring was of 1500 at Pt. View Res., Passaic, N.J., Mar. 22 (JBr).

VULTURES THROUGH CRANES — Black Vultures are now so routine throughout much of the Region that they merit comment only at their n. limits. Again this spring, they appeared in s.e. New York, with four at Mt. Peter Apr. 27 (D. Rogers) and two at West Point May 17 (E.A.M.B.C.). On e. L.I., two Turkey Vultures at Orient Pt. and three others at Eastport, all Mar. 26, were well out of range (PBe, D. Young); the species is uncommon anywhere on Long Island.

Kites put on an impressive show in May, mainly in New Jersey. Four different Am. Swallow-tailed Kites were seen: the first was at Mt. Kisco, Westchester, N.Y., May 5 (†G. Dremaux); one was in Cape May, May 19 (C & PSu) and another there May 24 (P. & K. Ward, m.ob.); the last was at Oradell Res., Bergen, N.J., May 28 (JCl). At least 16 Mississippi Kites were detected, with a minimum of 11 in Cape May between May 18 and 25, including seven together on the latter date. Others included singles at Harmony, Warren, May 4 (GH); Trenton

May 17 (RJB), Newport, Cumberland, May 25 (RB), and Bernardsville, Somerset, May 27 (RK). A well-described Mississippi Kite at Rye, Westchester, May 18 provided only the 2nd record for New York (†R. Lewis).

Bald Eagle reports continue to be very encouraging, although there was no nesting at Bombay Hook this spring. At least 36 were still in s. New York in mid-March, but most of them left shortly thereafter. About 2 dozen records of adults and immatures in Delaware, New Jersey, and s. New York in late April and May was well above recent spring tallies.

Several regularly-manned hawkwatches and a few irregularly staffed ones all had excellent seasons. Highlights included record totals from Morgan Hill, Northampton, Pa. (4063, DD) and Montclair, N.J. (4323, ABi), predominantly Broad-winged Hawks; 6,934 Sharp-shinned Hawks at Sandy Hook, N.J., including 2,297 on May 5 and 1,062 on May 6 (JM); and eight Merlins at Baer Rocks Apr. 20 (KKr). A mini-hawkwatch at remote Orient Pt., L.I., produced 322 birds in 20 days (44 hours) of counting, with 89 on May 1 (PBe).

Wintering Golden Eagles were last noted at Middle Creek W.M.A. and at Mongaup Res., Sullivan, N.Y., in late March Merlins inland at Green Lane Res., Apr. 26 (GLF) and Black River W.M.A., Morris, N.J., Apr. 27 (PBa, P Du, L. Mills), in addition to those noted from inland hawkwatches, were part of the increasing trend noted in the winter season. At least one-half dozen Merlins in Cape May, two others in Delaware, and two at Sandy Hook in mid-May were unusually late (v o) Two Wild Turkeys at Little Creek May 13 were at a new location for Delaware (MVB, JWR).

Black Rails were back in their usual haunts at Port Mahon, Del., Bombay Hook, Turkey Point, Cumberland, N.J., and Oak Beach, L.I., by mid-May, but there were no inland records this season. Individual King Rails at Hyper Humus, Sussex, May 9 (GH, JZ) and Great Swamp N.W.R., Morris, May 17 (KKa et al.), both in New Jersey, provided the only inland reports of this elusive species. The status of the King/Clapper complex along the Delaware Bayshore is unclear; many of the birds whose calls suggest King Rail appear on visual inspection to be Clappers. Others in the freshwater estuaries are apparently King Rails. Whether there is a local cline in the population of a single species as one goes from salt to fresh water, or whether there is simply a change in the percentage of two separate species present, certainly merits further investigation. At the moment, which form is where is still essentially unknown

A Sora in Green Lane Res. on Mar. 15 was extremely early (E. Burkhart, R. Barnes). The season's only Purple Gallinule frequented a residential section of Franklin Park, Middlesex, N.J., May 12–20 (E. Adams, fide RK), while a Sandhill Crane was a one-day-only visitor to Prime Hook N.W.R., Del., May 3 (B & SF, G. O'Shea).

SHOREBIRDS — A coordinated effort by state agencies in Delaware and New Jersey to acquire and preserve much of the shoreline along the Delaware Bayshore has been very successful. An estimated one-half million shorebirds of several species pause here on their northward migration in late May to feed upon horseshoe crab eggs and rest up for the remainder of their long journey.

Small flocks of Lesser Golden-Plovers were widely reported, mainly near the coast or in s.w. New Jersey, but most noteworthy was a flock of 10 in a flooded field near Turbotville, Northumberland, Pa., May 10 (PSa, AS). The 13 species of shorebirds found at this location in early May, along with two others at nearby Strawberry Ridge, made an outstanding spring total for interior Pennsylvania. For the 3rd year in 4, a **Wilson's Plover** was found in New Jersey. This year's was at Longport, Atlantic, May 13–14 (RM et al.); on the 2nd day the bird seemed very weak, was picked up and taken to a rehabilitation center, where it recovered and was later released.

An Am. Oystercatcher at Rye, Westchester, N.Y., May 1 provided a first county record (fide TWB), and one at Caven Cove, Jersey City, N.J., May 26 was new for that locale (RKA). Black-

necked Stilts (five) were back at Little Creek by Apr. 12 (MVB, JWR), while Am. Avocet concentrations were of 29 at Kitts Hummock, Del., Mar. 29 (DMN) and 51 at Bombay Hook, Apr. 20 (MO); neither species was detected n. of these regular spots.

Upland Sandpipers were found at most of their usual breeding sites by late April, and migrants were at Turbotville (two, PSa, AS), and Tunkhannock, Wyoming, Pa. (one, WR), on May 10. A breeding-plumaged Hudsonian Godwit at Brig, May 17–29, furnished a very rare Regional spring record (m.ob.). Two W Sandpipers along the Delaware coast Mar. 22 were probably wintering (MVB, JWR), but singles at Bombay Hook, Apr. 20, at Cape May and Brig in mid-May, up to seven at Bombay Hook May 10, and several at Moores Beach, N.J., May 21 were typical numbers for this uncommon spring migrant.

Pedricktown is always the Regional hotspot in spring for Pectoral Sandpiper, but the 621 counted there Apr. 7 was the highest tally ever (EM). In contrast, the single Curlew Sandpiper reported from Brig, May 12–18 (RM, m.ob.) made the lowest Regional total in recent memory. Stilt Sandpiper, until recently an almost unheard of spring migrant, was found at 4 different sites, including Struble Lake, Chester, Pa., May 13 (PH). Ruffs were present again at Pedricktown from Mar. 18 to Apr. 30; only five birds were seen this year, but they put on a good show for many observers. Elsewhere, there were two each in Delaware, New Jersey, and Long Island, plus a single at Tinicum Nat'l Environmental Center near Philadelphia, May 22 (J. Carroll). Several Long-billed Dowitchers were described in detail from Bombay Hook Apr. 20 (fMO); another was at Brig May 17 (DF *et al.*).

Reid reports that Am. Woodcocks in n.e. Pennsylvania were apparently wiped out by a hard freeze (3°F) in late March and were almost impossible to find thereafter (WR). Wilson's Phalaropes were surprisingly scarce, with only 8 reports, but one at Honeybrook, Chester, Pa., May 10 furnished a good local record (PH). Three Red-necked Phalaropes at Shark River, Monmouth, N.J., May 16 (JD, GH) and two at Jones Inlet, L.I., May 17 (PDe) were the only ones detected. Most unusual, however, were the two Red Phalaropes accompanying the two Red-neckeds at Jones Inlet (PDe).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — Single Parasitic Jaegers at Island Beach S.P., N.J., Apr. 21 (*fide* PSu) and on the May 24 pelagic trip (m.ob.), and one seen from the Cape May ferry May 28 (RC) were the only jaegers of the season. The decline in reports of Little Gull continued, with only three for the season: most noteworthy was one at Harrisburg, Pa., Mar. 31 (C Jones *et al.*); others were at Little Creek, Apr. 12 (MVB, JWR) and Great Kills Park, Staten Island, Apr. 25 (AMo), but there was none in New Jersey or on Long Island. Of the four Com. Black-headed Gulls, three were holdovers from the winter, but one at Highland Res. in Forest Park, NYC, May 12 was an apparent migrant (TWB). An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull was found in Hatfield, Montgomery, Pa., for the 2nd year in a row and was present Mar. 5–Apr. 12 (RG, m.ob.). Elsewhere, there were at least three in New York and six in New Jersey, including a yearling at Cape May as late as May 7–10 (RB, MG).

Gull-billed Terns were back at J.B.W.R., May 25 (TWB), near their n. breeding outpost. In addition to some April migrants at Mannington Marsh, Caspian Terns were found in May at Brig (a pair), where they nested last summer and at Cape May, where there were five on May 23 (JD, DS). Several migrants at Strawberry Ridge, Montour, Pa., Apr. 24 provided the first recent records of a species that was once a regular spring migrant in n.e. Pennsylvania (PSa). Royal Terns arrived in numbers earlier than ever, with 24 at Cape May Apr. 15 (*fide* PSu) and five at Mecox, L.I., Apr. 25 (PG).

Roseate Terns are always rare away from their Long Island breeding colonies, so two at Indian River Inlet, Del., May 10 (BR) for the 2nd year in a row and one at Reeds Beach May 21 (PAB, CSu) were noteworthy. An ad. Arctic Tern was a highlight of the May 24 pelagic trip (m.ob.). The 6 reports of Black Tern were all in the 2nd one-half of May, and included at pair

at Sandy Hook May 28 (KKa *et al.*) that lingered at a Com Tern colony into mid-June (see last summer's column [AB 39:893] for a similar happening on L.I.).

CUCKOOS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS — Cuckoos increased somewhat over the past 3 years, and Black-billeds were, surprisingly, more common than Yellow-billeds; one of the latter was unusually early at Rockland Lake, N.Y., Apr. 13 (RFD). A Barred Owl survey conducted by New Jersey Audubon Society for the N.J. Div. of Fish, Game and Wildlife found healthy populations on 2 of 17 routes in the n. part of the state, and Sutton located 37 pairs in Cumberland (CSu).

S.A.

Most surprising was the discovery of a territorial N. Saw-whet Owl in the Pequannock Watershed, Passaic, N.J., May 10 (RK, WW). Although the habitat is very suitable, the species had not previously been found there during the nesting season. The first individual remained through the end of the period; subsequently another territorial male and a mated pair were located within a few miles. Another territorial Saw-whet was discovered along the Mullica River, Atlantic, in May (F. Lenik) and the traditional Chatsworth site was also occupied (ABr). In addition, we belatedly learned of the presence of 3 pairs along a stretch of road in Lebanon State Forest, Burlington, in 1984 and 1985 (J. Stasz, *fide* J. Dunn). Whether these new sites represent a recent development or, more likely, a continued presence long overlooked, it is obvious that we have much to learn about the breeding distribution of this owl in New Jersey and elsewhere in the Region.

Two birds discovered nesting on a rooftop in downtown Philadelphia by elevator repairmen were identified as Peregrine Falcons. The story made the local television news and a short article appeared in the June 1 *Philadelphia Inquirer*, accompanied by a photograph of one of the birds—an excellent flight shot of a Com. Nighthawk (*fide* DAC *et al.*). A Chuck-will's-widow at Cresskill, Bergen, N.J., the week of May 12 was out of range (C. & M. Richberg); breeding birds were back at Oak Beach, L.I., May 18 and at Island Beach S.P., N.J., where a nest with eggs was found May 24 (G. & D. Guinan). Whip-poor-wills were common around Hawk Mt. in May (LG, JBT), and were apparently nesting at 4 locations in n. New Jersey, but Reid and others found them drastically reduced in n.e. Pennsylvania (WR).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES — Alder Flycatcher arrived at Long Bridge, N.J., as early as May 9 (J. Hayes) and was reported from numerous locales in the n. part of the state after the 16th. An Alder at Leaser Lake, Lehigh, Pa., May 29 provided a first county record (SSm, m.ob.), and many observers in n.e. Pennsylvania commented on the abundance of the species (*fide* WR). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at Moores Beach, N.J., May 13 for one day only (*fide* PSu).

Several swallows put in early appearances in New Jersey, a Purple Martin was in Morris Plains, Morris, Mar. 20 (DF); a N Rough-winged Swallow in Princeton, Mar. 23 (B. Norris); and a Cliff Swallow at Bivalve, Cumberland, Mar. 21 (DKu). Fish Crows have moved into the Bashakill, Sullivan, N.Y. (JPT), spread up the Susquehanna to Tunkhannock, Pa. (WR), and have expanded across n. New Jersey. Common Raven continues to spread s. and e. of the Appalachians in n.e. Pennsylvania (WR), and one was seen along the Delaware R. at Bull's I., N.J., May 17 (MB *et al.*).

An apparent Black-capped Chickadee seen and heard singing at Brandywine S.P., Del., Mar. 26 may have been a winter visitor, rather than a bird attempting to breed s. of the normal range (APE). A pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches nested in Princeton for the 2nd time in recent years (RB); others were

at Plainfield, Union, N.J. (D. Knowlton) and at Medford Lakes, Burlington, N.J. (JCo), through the end of the period. Brown-headed Nuthatches are now known to nest in at least 5 spots in Delaware, including Redden State Forest, now the northernmost location in the Region (fide APE, DAC).

Winter Wren went almost unreported, although a pair was at Minsi L., Pa., Apr. 20 (SB, RW). A Sedge Wren at Allendale, Bergen, N.J., May 2-3 furnished the only report of this now rarely-seen species (KKA et al.). Although some observers commented on the scarcity of migrant thrushes, the night of May 16-17 produced a spectacular flight in Delaware (H. Armistead et al., fide DAC) and in n. New Jersey (RK, m.ob.). Three Hermit Thrushes were on territory in the Wharton State Forest, N.J., May 28 (EM). The previously-reported N. Shrike lingered at Cape Henlopen to Mar. 28 (WWF), while one that wintered at Flatbrook W.M.A., Sussex, N.J., was still present Mar. 16 (ph. S. LaFrance). A N. Shrike was found by refuge personnel at Great Swamp N.W.R., N.J., in early March and another, or perhaps the same, was seen in a different part of the refuge Mar. 16-Apr. 9 (WJB et al.).

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES — A White-eyed Vireo at Penn Forest Res., Carbon, Pa., May 11 provided only the 2nd local record (RW). Six reports of Philadelphia Vireo were received, all in mid-May; one each from Delaware and New Jersey, 4 from New York City. None was accompanied by the details warranted by such a rare spring migrant, so it is difficult to assess their accuracy.

The warbler waves of late April through May 17, as noted above, brought a good variety of species, but for the most part no large numbers of individual species. An Orange-crowned Warbler at Prospect Park, Brooklyn, Mar. 29-31 may have wintered nearby (J. Mario), but one at Cape Henlopen May 24 was a late migrant (MVB, GKH et al.). Prairie Warblers at Oradell Res., Bergen, Mar. 30 (JCl et al.) and at Mt. Olive, Morris, N.J., Apr. 7 (C. Kelly) were very early, as was an Am. Redstart at Cape May Mar. 31 (fide PSu). An exception to the comment above was a tally of 100 Bay-breasted Warblers at High Rock Park, Staten Island, May 17 (AMo), an impressive tally for a normally-uncommon species. A Connecticut Warbler, very rare in spring, was reported without details from Wilkes-Barre, Pa., May 24 (JHo). A Mourning Warbler was in Bernardsville, N.J., on the record-early date of May 7 (S. Kuitems), and others were only a bit later at Hawk Mt., May 10 (LG, Jbt) and Princeton May 11 (JHy). Normal numbers were found later in the month. The ♂ Summer Tanager that wintered in Medford Twp., Burlington, N.J., was last seen May 2, by then in full adult plumage (E. Woodford). Elsewhere, more than one dozen reports from the New York City area were a bit above average.

The ♂ Black-headed Grosbeak that wintered in Wilmington, Del., was last seen Mar. 25 (E & SSp). In keeping with the pattern of early arrivals, a ♂ Indigo Bunting at Hope, Warren, N.J., Apr. 7 was well ahead of schedule (JE). A pair of Dickcissels was at a Trenton area feeder Apr. 17 (fide RJB); the only other reports were of a pair at Sandy Hook May 16 (MF) and one at Cape May on May 18 (DHa, WW).

An Am. Tree Sparrow in Orange, N.Y., May 17, was very late (†L. Dumont, fide JPT), while a Clay-colored Sparrow returned to Sandy Hook, N.J., for the 3rd straight year, May 11-17 (MF et al.). No Henslow's Sparrows could be found at their former haunts in Luzerne, Pa., but the species was located at 4 sites in Susquehanna (fide WR) and returned to the Galesville Airport, Ulster, N.Y., May 18 (fide TWB). Far more reports of Lincoln's Sparrows than normal included several that came to feeders for a few days. The Harris' Sparrow that wintered at Frech's feeder in Lewes, Del., stayed until May 4, by which time it had assumed full ad. plumage (WWF).

An E. Meadowlark at Piermont Pier, Rockland, N.Y., Apr. 20 furnished the first local spring record in 3 years for this declining species (C. Harten). An imm. Yellow-headed Blackbird visited a feeder in E. Northport, L.I., Mar. 7 (B. Benjamin), and another was at the Allendale, N.J., Celery Farm, Apr. 26 (m.ob.). The last Pine Grosbeaks left over from the winter influx



Black-headed Grosbeak near Centreville, Del., present late November 1985 to late April 1986. Photographed Dec. 17, 1985, to establish first confirmed record for Delaware. Photo/S.B. Speck.

were at Black River W.M.A., Mar. 29 (DH), while the last three Com. Redpolls were at a feeder in Woxall, Pa., Apr. 23 (fide RGR). Ten Red Crossbills were at Montauk Pt., L.I., Mar. 4-16 (PG, PBe) and two White-winged Crossbills bathed in a S. Nyack, N.Y., brook May 31 (D. Deed). There were many reports of Evening Grosbeak in May from all parts of the Region, the last sizeable group being a flock of 70 at Wyalusing, Bradford, Pa., May 27 (E. Deebe, fide WR).

EXOTICS — The Eur. Goldfinch previously noted at Hellertown, Pa., remained until Apr. 7 (D. & E. Mease). A ♂ Hooded Siskin visited a Franklin Park, N.J., feeder for several weeks in April (fide C. Leck).

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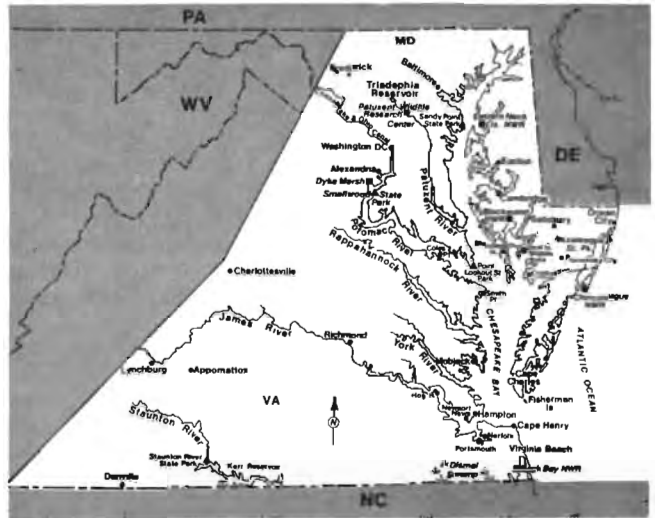
Henry T. Armistead

Following a February of nearly normal temperature and precipitation, March was dry and warm. April was drier and close to normal temperatures, and by May the drought was firmly entrenched. Deviation from normal of temperature: February -0.18°F ., March $+1.8^{\circ}$, April $+0.2^{\circ}$, May $+1.57^{\circ}$; of precipitation: February -0.03 in., March -0.64 , April -0.89 , May -2.01 . Spring reporting was excellent for fish-eating birds, waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds, larids and pelagic species. Passerine migration was lack-luster. Good general flight days were March 15–16, April 26–27, May 8, and May 16–17. Perhaps the most interesting aspect of this spring was the widespread occurrence and reporting in late March of species that normally are little-noted then, such as Whip-poor-will, various swallows, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, White-eyed Vireo, and several warblers.

ABBREVIATIONS — Assat. I. = Assateague Island, Md.; Balt. = Baltimore, Md.; the Bay = Chesapeake Bay; Black. = Blackwater Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Md.; C.B.B.T. = Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel, Va.; Chinc. = Chincoteague Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Va.; Craney = Craney Island Disposal Area, Portsmouth, Va.; Fish. I. = Fisherman Island Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Va.; D.C. = Washington, D.C.; Deal I. = Deal Island Wildlife Management Area, Md.; F.S.P. = Ft. Smallwood Park, Md.; Hart = Hart & Miller islands, Md. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Red-throated Loons were seen at 7 locations in May, a high number, the most notable being singles at D.C., May 9 (DC), Balt., May 11 (RFR), L. Anna, Va., May 23 (MRB), Jug Bay, Patuxent R., Md., May 31–June 1 (EM, GK, *fide* EMW), and Assat. I., May 31, with two Com. Loons and a Horned Grebe (GG). Several notable counts of Com. Loons were made, such as 186 at Fish. I., Mar. 15 (HTA), 200 at F.S.P., Apr. 8 (HLW, WK) and 225 at N. Beach, Calvert, Md., Apr. 19 (JLS, RFR), the latter concentrated in a long line formation 2 mi offshore. Also in Calvert were peak Horned Grebe counts of 400 Mar. 16 at Scientists Cliffs and 600 in the last week of March at Chesapeake and N. Beaches (JLS), while 130 were at Bellevue, Talbot, Md., Mar. 27 (HTA). A W. Grebe was seen at Kerr Res., Va., Mar. 17–Apr. 16 (AB, BP *et al.*), in company with a Red-necked Grebe Mar. 22 (MRB *et al.*), and another was at Pohick Bay Regional P., Va., Mar. 27–28 (VK, EMW, RAA, JMA *et al.*), perhaps the same bird reported at nearby Mt. Vernon, Fairfax, Va., Oct. 30, 1985 (DFA), all of these seen well enough to eliminate the less likely Clark's Grebe.

Pelagic coverage was above average including 5 spring trips out of Ocean City, summarized in the table below, obviating much further commentary out of consideration to space. Most of these birds represented unsurprising numbers or dates except as noted in the winter season report. However, the previously unreported Feb. 8 totals for N. Gannet, Great Black-backed Gull, and Black-legged Kittiwake were exceptionally high. Gannets lingered in very high numbers into May with 50 on the 10th at Ocean City (MO *et al.*), 39 at Chinc., May 1–2 (CPW), and three at C.B.B.T., May 17 (DFA). Always notable on the Bay, one was at Smith I., Md., Mar. 6 (VP, *fide* BPK), two very late individuals were at N. Beach May 2 (JLS), and five adults were off Oxford, Md., Mar. 29, not only far up the Bay but actually 7 mi e. of the Bay proper in the Choptank R. (HTA, GLA). Lone Am. White Pelicans were at Lynnhaven Inlet, Va., Mar. 8 (HCI) and at Chinc., March to Apr. 11 (CPW, MER *et al.*). Brown Pelicans were first reported Mar. 15 when seven adults and nine immatures were at Fish. I., most of these in trans-Bay migration (HTA), 18 were at Chinc. from May 17 (CPW, DK *et al.*), and in Maryland, where they still cannot be



taken for granted, two were at Assat. I., May 3 (MER) and seven to eight were there May 29–31 (LDB, GG).

A Great Cormorant was semi-late/unusual at Chinc., Apr. 3 (CPW). Double-crested Cormorants migrated across the Bay all day long at C.B.B.T., Mar. 15, totalling at least 6760 (HTA), but 1200 were already at Craney Mar. 6 (TRW). Inland counts of 34 May 12 and 15 May 24 at Kerr Res., Va. (AB, JBB) and four at Sugarloaf, Frederick, Md., May 17 (DHW) were of interest. Good totals up the Bay or its tributaries were 700 at Elliott I., Md., Apr. 12 (MO, GG), 60 at Hunting Creek, Va., May 31 (JMA), 26 in D.C., Apr. 14 (DC), 156 at Poole's I., Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., Apr. 1 (JG), and 275 at Hart May 25 (RFR), as the species continues to boom. Unique was an Anhinga at Stumpy L., Virginia Beach, May 18 (BP, MRB).

American Bitterns were somewhat more noticed than usual



An American Bittern in unusual surroundings at Watts Branch Park, Rockville, Md., May 4, 1986. Photo/Michael O'Brien.

with two in D C , Apr 26 (DC), up to three at Huntley Meadows Co Park, Fairfax, Va. (JMA, DFA), one along a wooded stream at Rockville, Md., May 4 (MO, ph.), an astronomical five at Deal I., Mar. 28 (MO, GG), where three were keeping company with 110 Black-crowned Night-Herons and 73 Glossy Ibises Apr. 6 (MO, PO), and two at inland Howard, Md., May 3 (JS). Least Bitterns materialized again May 3 at Big I., Amherst, Va., where the first confirmed state Piedmont breeding occurred in 1985 (TD). Great Blue Herons may be more widespread as breeders in small inland colonies than is generally realized. Two more such sites were found, including 16 nests e. of Bowie but in Anne Arundel, the only known county nests (EG), and several nests w. of Federalsburg but in Dorchester (AJF), Md. Great Egret, Cattle Egret, Snowy Egret, and Green-backed Heron numbers in the c. Bay area were depressed with respective totals of only 14, two, four, and six on May 3, and 21, 11, 18, and three on May 10 in Dorchester, Md., the results of intensive all-day, two-party counts in an area with much marsh and water (HTA, EMW et al.). Earliest reports of this tribe included singles of Cattle Egret at Black. (GG, MO) and Glossy Ibis at Fish. I. (HTA) Mar. 15, and a Green-backed Heron at James R. Park, Va., Apr. 3 (PB). Five Tricolored Herons in Calvert May 17 were notable for the w. side of the Bay (JS, RFR). Two Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were at Huntley Meadows Co Park during May where a pair fledged one young in 1985 (JMA).

WATERFOWL — Two Greater White-fronted Geese were at Shirley Plantation near Williamsburg Mar. 3 (BS, fide TK). Two Canada Goose nests were found on a 45-ft cliff on the Potomac R. at Turkey I., Md., Apr. 6 (JBB), an unusual site even considering the rapid increase of the species as a Regional Piedmont breeder. Notable for Piedmont Virginia were 12 N. Shovelers at Elm Hill W.M.A., Mecklenberg, Mar. 17 (AB). A Eur. Wigeon was at Sunken Meadows, Clarendon, Va., Mar. 5 & 8 (DB, BS, fide TK). Redheads made a good showing in some areas where they are usually scarce, with 11–15 on a pond in

Gaithersburg in early March (RH, LDB, MO) and 30 at Piney Run P., Carroll, Mar. 15, in company with 25 Red-breasted Mergansers (MO, LD, GG) and 200 Ring-necked Ducks (RFR) Lesser Scaup peaked in Balt. at 6400 Mar. 23, dropping to 285 a week later (RFR). At Ocean City five ♀ King Eiders were seen Apr. 13, one still present May 3–4 (RFR), and an imm. male at N. Beach represented a rare find for the Bay May 20 (JLS, ph.) A pair of Harlequin Ducks spent March around the C.B.B.T (v.o.). In the Choptank R. off Bellevue, Md., 2700 Oldsquaws massed Mar. 28, together with 450 Buffleheads and 750 Lesser Scaup, but were down to 2100 by Mar. 30 (HTA). Divers lingered later than usual including numerous May Com. Goldeneyes, 70 Buffleheads in Sinepuxent Bay, Md., May 3 at Assat. I. (MER), and a very late one at Locustville May 23 (GR), 40 Red-breasted Mergansers in Sinepuxent Bay May 10 (MO) and two at Kerr Res., Va., May 27 (AB). There were many more May records of Am. Wigeon and Canvasbacks than usual.

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES — Good coverage of F.S.P. (HLW, WK, EB, RFR et al.) resulted in counts of 6593 raptors Mar. 9–May 6 on 28 days during a total of 137.5 hrs, for an average of 4.9 hrs./day or 236 hawks per day (48 hawks per hr.). Highlights were 181 Turkey Vultures, 54 Cooper's Hawks, 38 N. Harriers, and 234 Am. Kestrels Apr. 8; 56 Red-shouldered Hawks Mar. 15; 762 Sharp-shinned Hawks Apr. 27 and 586 May 2; 42 Cooper's Hawks May 2; 31 Ospreys Apr 21; and seven Merlins Apr. 26. For raptors as well as other birds, Mar. 15–16 and Apr. 26–27 were especially good flight days here and elsewhere. Notable F.S.P. season totals were 953 Turkey Vultures, 186 Ospreys, 112 N. Harriers, 3875 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 279 Cooper's Hawks, 163 Red-shouldered Hawks, and 512 Am. Kestrels. At Rockville five Ospreys, 93 Broad-winged Hawks, and a Merlin were seen Apr. 26 (MO), and ten Ospreys were also in D.C. (DC) and 20 were in sight simultaneously at Quantico Creek, Va., at the Fall Line feeding on herring Apr. 30 (LM, fide CPW).

At Black., Ospreys nested on 18 of 23 nest structures, con-

Selected Species Totals, Pelagic Trips off of Ocean City, Md., 1986 [courtesy of R. Naveen, H. Wierenga, W. Klockner]

	Feb. 8	Apr. 25	Apr. 26	May 4	May 11	May 15
Common Loon	7	69	172	31	41	4
Northern Fulmar	6		1		2	11
Sooty Shearwater			19	2	1	2
Manx Shearwater	1		1			1
Wilson's Storm-Petrel			194		399	110
Leach's Storm-Petrel						1
Northern Gannet	6276	69	19	26	37	2
Red-necked Phalarope				5	23	57
Red Phalarope	1	4	65		189	125
phalarope (sp.)		8				
Pomarine Jaeger					2	
Parasitic Jaeger		1 ad.	1 ad.	1 ad.	4	
jaeger (sp.)		1				
Franklin's Gull	1					
Bonaparte's Gull	19	11	6			
Herring Gull	1409	198	77	197	63	19
Iceland Gull	1					
Great Black-b. Gull	1114	17	1	42	2	
Black-legged Kittiwake	2278		2			
Common Tern		41	59	187	53	157
Arctic Tern				1?		1
Black Tern				17		
tern (sp.)				54		1
Dovekie	3					
Razorbill	76					
Atlantic Puffin	13					
large alcid (sp.)	47					

tinuing to increase in that area (HN), and 9 nests were on Wallops I., Va., up from only 4 in 1972 (CRV). Bald Eagles also did well with preliminary results showing about 160 active nests with 180 young, 160 of these banded, in the greater Bay area (JMA et al.), the nest at Great Falls n. of D.C. representing the first Maryland Piedmont breeding in some 30 years (RFR). In Dorchester, Md., 14 nests had 27 young (HN) and 24 birds were seen in a non-nest census of that stronghold May 3 (HTA, SD). Even more encouraging perhaps is that single or small numbers of eagles were more widely reported in the less usual areas for them than usually happens during the spring. Extremely late (?) was a Sharp-shinned Hawk in Chesapeake, Va., near Dismal Swamp May 31 (GW) and latish were four Rough-legged Hawks in Dorchester, Md., Apr. 12 (GLA, PRS, HTA). Martin reported Red-shouldered Hawks had the best breeding season of the last 5 years in the Patuxent R. area, well above the average for his 16-year study. Peregrine Falcons fledged three young from a Bay area site but another nest there was believed to have had its 6 eggs stolen (HN), the heartening side of this being that these were not man-assisted breeding efforts.

A count of 17 Wild Turkeys at Stratford Hall Plantation, Westmoreland, Va., May 10 was unusual, representing one of the higher Regional coastal plain counts on record (JE). Black Rails were closely monitored at Elliott I., Md., starting with three record-early ones Apr. 12 (PRS, GLA, HTA, MM), 14 (plus 72 Virginia, three Clapper, a Sora, and three King Rails, plus six Least Bitterns) May 10 (HTA), and an impressive total of 35 May 28 (WK et al.). One was also in the marshes of Saxis, Va., May 17 along with 25 Virginia Rails (DFA, RA, BP). Out of place so far up the Bay was a Clapper Rail at F.S.P. that flew into and then away from a chain link fence Apr. 27 (HLW, RFR, WK). Piedmont railids included a Virginia Rail at Elm Hill W.M.A., Apr. 4, a Sora and a Com. Moorhen at Virginia Fibre sludge ponds Apr. 30 plus a Sora at Big I., Apr. 25 and a moorhen dead on the road at Monroe Apr. 16, these latter all in Amherst, Va. (BP). Nine hundred Am. Coots were at Deal I., Mar. 28 (MO, GG). The Sandhill Crane seen off and on at Wallops I., Va., remained until at least Mar. 10 (CRV).

SHOREBIRDS — The drought helped to concentrate waders at Chinc., where Wilds conducted 9 (and Bjerke one) thorough surveys Mar. 27–May 30, 9 of these being, as usual, 2-day surveys. Selected peak counts were: 25 Long-billed Dowitchers (a new Virginia spring high), 24 Stilt Sandpipers (a new spring high for Chinc.), and 12 W. Sandpipers (probably a Regional record for spring) all Apr. 17; 13 (only) Piping Plovers and two Black-necked Stilts May 1–2; 1632 Semipalmated Plovers (close to a record Virginia count), 367 Whimbrels, 69 Greater and 41 Lesser yellowlegs, 3510 Least Sandpipers, 1815



Black-necked Stilt inland at Kerr Res., Va., Apr. 28, 1986. Photo/Allen Bryan.

Short-billed Dowitchers, and 8682 Dunlin, May 8–9 (last 5 counts all record highs for these spring surveys); a Red and a Red-necked phalarope May 15–16; 45 White-rumped Sandpipers, 20,410 Semipalmated Sandpipers (record count for any season for these surveys), and one Marbled Godwit May 22–23; and 2161 Sanderlings May 29–30. Other birds of interest here included two to nine Stilt Sandpipers Apr. 24–May 23, a W. Sandpiper May 22–23, 10 Com. Snipe (unusual for here in spring) Apr. 11, one to four Am. Avocets Mar. 23–May 13, and a Curlew Sandpiper May 17–27 (6th straight year). Also at Chinc. was a Wilson's Phalarope May 11 (TF), and one was at Craney May 16 (BP, PEM).

At Black., two Lesser Golden-Plovers Apr. 6 were notable (MO, PO), and five were reported from Jug Bay, Md., Mar. 23 (AH, fide CPW). A Semipalmated Plover at Fish. I., Mar. 15 was anomalous, and at nearby Mockhorn I. the next day 510 Black-bellied Plovers, 115 Willets, three Whimbrels, 61 Marbled Godwits, and 8100 Dunlin made good early spring counts at this key area (LH, HTA). Eight Piping Plovers at Grand View, Hampton, Va., May 31 furnished a good total for there (BT), but Vaughn found only 2 pairs on Wallops I. this spring. Three extraordinary Black-necked Stilt records were of singles at Kerr Res., Apr. 28 (AB, ph., first Virginia record away from the coast), an adult at Cove Pt., Calvert, Md., May 11 (JLS, ph.), and an apparent imm. bird at Hart May 25 (HK, RFR et al.). Deep in the Virginia Piedmont and scarce there these species were therefore notable: at the Virginia Fibre sludge ponds, 68 Least Sandpipers May 6, a White-rumped Sandpiper May 8 & 15, and a Dunlin May 12–13 (BP), and two Sanderlings at Kerr Res., May 24 (JBB). In Virginia, Upland Sandpipers were seen at Nokesville (RAA), Lucketts (EMW), and near Dulles airport (DFA), and in Maryland at Rockville (MO) and Beltsville (WS), an average showing. The first Pectoral Sandpiper report was of one at Curles Neck, Henrico, Va., Mar. 16 (PB), and 35 were at Black., Mar. 29 (HTA). A Ruff was at Hog I., Surry, Va., May 4–7 (BT, HCI). There was a flurry of Red-necked Phalarope sightings, such as four at Craney May 16 (BP, PEM et al.), one near Cheapside, Va., May 12 (HG), and one off Virginia Beach May 21 (BT et al.), more than usual.

One of the highlights of the season was the excellent birding at Hart (RFR, EB, HK, RD), including these results: 125 Semipalmated Plovers, 75 Lesser Yellowlegs, a ♀ Ruff, and two Wilson's Phalaropes May 10; the stilt mentioned above (first Balt. record), eight Am. Avocets, 30 Spotted Sandpipers, eight Whimbrels, 75 Ruddy Turnstones, six Red Knots, 20 Sanderlings, 600 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 200 Least Sandpipers, 30 White-rumped Sandpipers, 700 Dunlin, 40 Short-billed Dowitchers, and a Wilson's Phalarope May 25. These were superb totals for the upper Bay.

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — A Parasitic Jaeger and two Arctic Terns were reported off Virginia Beach May 21 (BT et al.). At Hart, big counts of larids were 230 Caspian Terns (record spring Balt. count) and six Royal Terns (first Balt. spring record?) Apr. 20; 4000 Herring Gulls and an imm. Thayer's Gull May 10; and 6000 Ring-billed Gulls, an imm. Glaucous Gull, and a Black Tern May 25 (RFR, EB, RD, HK). On May 25 some 117 Herring Gull nests and one of Great Black-backed Gull were found here, representing a range extension of over 60 mi up the Bay from their previous recent uppermost Bay breeding site at Barren I., although Herring Gulls had bred at Sharps I., 40 mi to the s., in the 1950s before it completely eroded away. In 1985 the supervisor of this area had found one Herring Gull nest (ph., fide RFR). At Back R. Sewage Treatment Plant e. of Balt., a Little Gull was seen Apr. 5–12 (PO), one to two Com. Black-headed Gulls were here Mar. 22–Apr. 12 (MO, PO, EB, RFR, ph.), and 400 Bonaparte's Gulls here were considered a "mediocre high" Apr. 6 (RFR). A Little Gull was also at N. Beach Apr. 6, with five there 4 days later (JLS). An unusual number of Bonaparte's Gulls lingered until the end of May in various places, mostly singles (v.o.); 78 inland at Kerr Res., Apr. 9 were noteworthy (AB). Rounding out the



Common Black-headed Gull in first-summer plumage at Back River Sewage Treatment Plant, Baltimore, Md., Mar. 25, 1986. Photo/Michael O'Brien.



Common Black-headed Gull at Baltimore, Md., Mar. 25, 1986. The white patches on the head probably mean this is an adult that has not finished the molt to alternate (summer) plumage, but it could be a two-year-old bird that will not develop the complete dark hood. Photo/Michael O'Brien.

rarer gull reports, an Iceland Gull was near Williamsburg, Va., Mar. 3 (BS, fide TK), another was at Ft. McHenry, Balt., Mar. 9 (RFR et al.), a Glaucous Gull was at C.B.B.T., Mar. 15 (HTA), and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at their favored localities of Ft. McHenry, C.B.B.T., and Ft. Hunt, Va. (RFR, JE, JMA). In Maryland, 18 Caspian Terns were seen as early as Apr. 5 in Balt. (RFR), and up to 104 were at Sandy Point S.P., Apr. 24 (WK). Royal Terns made a good showing on the upper Bay and one was at Pt. Lookout, Md., Mar. 24 (EMW) while 14 were already at Fish. I., Mar. 15 (HTA). Found at Hart were 10 Common and 11 Least tern nests (RFR, HK, EB, RD), the Commons a new breeding species for this locale, May 25.

CUCKOOS THROUGH SHRIKES — Once again Yellow-billed Cuckoos arrived very late, many active observers not encountering their first until mid or even late May. Crepuscular species drew scant notice but 13 Great Horned Owls in Dorchester, Md., May 10 made a good late spring total [cold May nights often get them calling again; HTA], two Short-eared Owls were in Amherst, Va., Mar. 3 (MRB), and Chuck-will's-widows on the edge of their usual range were at Rockville May

16 at Watts Branch P. (MO, PO, PP) and Patuxent May 3 (EM). Also, the first March Whip-poor-wills in some time were at Sparta, Va., Mar. 28 (BPK) and Sparks, n. of Balt., Mar. 31 (RD). There were no March Chimney Swifts, the first one reported being a single in D.C., Apr. 1 (RH), and the first Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were not especially early, Apr. 18 & 19 on the Maryland w. shore (RRR, JLS). The York, Va., Red-cockaded Woodpecker was seen again at Dare Rd. in Yorktown Mar. 10-19 (D & MM, HCL). Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported from 7 places [v.o.] May 12-30, a bit better than average. Otherwise woodpeckers and flycatchers drew little commentary, as usual.

Swallows in March are always a treat and this year seven Barns and two extremely early Cliffs were at Kerr Res., Mar. 22 (MRB et al.), a N. Rough-winged and a Barn were seen here even earlier on Mar. 17 (AB), and a N. Rough-winged plus two Purple Martins were already at Richmond, Va., Mar. 19 (PB). Barn and N. Rough-winged swallows were much more widely reported during late March than is usually the case [v.o.]. On Apr. 26, a fine flight day, Czaplak saw all six swallow species within the limited confines of D.C., and the next day Ringler witnessed a flight of 670 Blue Jays at F.S.P. Quite a bit farther s. and e. than normal was a Com. Raven in Fairfax, Va., Apr. 9, being mobbed by crows (SE). Red-breasted Nuthatches were very widely reported in small numbers in early May [v.o.]. A pair of Brown Creepers was feeding young at Huntley Meadows County P., s. of D.C., May 10 near where they had nested in 1985 (JMA) and one was near the Pocomoke R., Md., May 30 (RFR).

Sedge Wrens were seen at 6 localities, more than usual, with two early singing birds at Elliot I., Apr. 12 (PRS et al.) and one off the beaten track at Rockville, Md., May 2 (MO, ph.). Ruby-crowned Kinglets lingered into early May in larger numbers than usual [v.o.]. An early Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was feeding on flies on the beach at Fish. I., Mar. 15 (HTA), and another was near Ocean City Mar. 28 (MO, GG). Eastern Bluebird success was mixed, with "best ever" reported from Chesapeake, Va. (GW), but a poor season so far in Stafford, Va. (ETM). May 16-17 was the time of another good flight period, and in D.C., five Gray-cheeked and 54 Swainson's thrushes were reported May 17 (DC) plus 57 Gray Catbirds. Remarkable that late in the season were 40 Water Pipits seen at Nokesville, Va., May 7 by Wilson and three still at the Virginia Fibre sludge ponds May 13 (BP). After a ripsnorting winter, Cedar Waxwing numbers were unexceptional this spring. In Mecklenburg, Va., Bryan found 2 pairs plus two other individual Loggerhead Shrikes in widely separated areas in May, but otherwise shrike news continued to be unencouraging.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — Philadelphia Vireos were reported only 5 times, including an early one at Salisbury, Md., May 2 by Dyke. Always rare, a "Lawrence's" Warbler was at Rockville May 25 (JCw, fide EMW) and at least two Orange-crowned Warblers were also there Apr. 27 & 28 and May 5 (MO) and another was in Maryland just n. of D.C., May 6-8 (MP, fide CPW). While canoeing on the Nottoway R. in Southampton, Va., Williamson encountered an entire spectrum of early arrivals Mar. 31 including Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Louisiana Waterthrush, N. Parula, and Yellow-throated Warbler, plus a Swainson's Warbler Apr. 6 where this river flows under Rt. 653. Another early Swainson's Warbler was at Dismal Swamp N.W.R., Apr. 5 (DFA), where Portlock found five Yellow-throated Warblers as early as Mar. 26. Louisiana Waterthrushes were much more widely reported than usual on early dates, the first birds appearing Mar. 18 along Corapeake Ditch, Dismal Swamp N.W.R. (GW), but with several other records elsewhere Mar. 28-30. Few high counts of warblers were received, most from D.C., where 55 Blackpoll Warblers were tallied May 17, and 12 Black-throated Blue, 11 Bay-breasted, and seven Canada warblers May 10 (DC). A rather early Mourning Warbler was at Huntley Meadows May 8 (EMW) and less usual late migrant warblers included a Magnolia and a Blackburnian at Ocean City May 31 (RFR). The

consensus was that 1986 was somewhat better than 1985, which was also a lackluster warbler spring. Many observers' impressions of individual species abundance were contradictory, making generalizations impossible.

BUNTINGS THROUGH FINCHES — An early Indigo Bunting was at Hampton Apr. 14 (TK) but as usual they remained hard to find until after the first week in May. A Lark Sparrow remained at Denton, Caroline, Md., Mar. 1–25 (RH, DK, RFR, RAA), another turning up at Loch Raven, n. of Balt., Mar. 3–9, which many only heard as it sang buried resolutely within a dense brush pile (PNe, RFR, HK et al.). Two Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrows at Fish. I., Mar. 15 were the only ones reported (HTA). Two Henslow's Sparrows were at Saxis, Va., May 17 (DFA, BP et al.) and seven at Elliott I., May 10 (HTA). Resch had 27 Sharp-tailed Sparrows on Assat. I., May 3. Lincoln's Sparrows were reported from only 4 places. Dark-eyed Juncos lingered into early May in more localities than usual. In Virginia a ♂ Brewer's Blackbird was found at Dulles airport w. of D.C., Mar. 10 (MRB).

Purple Finches lingered into May in many places such as Frederick, Md., where 60 were seen May 3 [compared with only one on this spring count in 1985; DHW et al.]. House Finches set a new high on the D.C. spring count for the 4th straight year, with 158 May 10 (DC et al.); yet, amazingly, they remain scarce in some more remote, isolated areas, such as s. Dorchester, Md., where one found May 3 was the first ever on 38 spring counts conducted there (SD, HTA). A bright note in the n. finch situation was the presence of one to nine Red Crossbills in Arlington, Va., Apr. 16–May 29 (RAA, m.ob.), startling in view of this species' Regional absence all winter. Pine Siskins pulled another one of their long goodbyes, turning up all over the Region in May, the latest ones reported from

Virginia at Hampton May 18 (TK), Arlington until May 22 (RAA), and Williamsburg May 23 (BW). Evening Grosbeaks followed suit, being almost as widespread in early May, the last ones two at L. Anna, Va., May 14 and Summit Hall Turf Farm, Montgomery, Md., May 11 (RH).

OBSERVERS — D.F. Abbott, J.M. Abbott, Margaret Abbott, Robert Abbott, Terry Allen, R.A. Anderson, George Armistead, Maurice Barnhill, Ken Bass, J.B. Bazuin, Paul Bedell, John Bjerke, Eirik Blom, M.R. Boatwright, L.D. Bonham, Dana Bradshaw, L.J. Brindza, Allen Bryan, J.H. Buckalew, L.W. Coble, Janet Crampton, Jim Crowell (JCw), David Czaplak, Thelma Dalmás, Lynn Davidson, Doug Davis, D.A. Dewhurst, Robert Dixon, Sam Droege, S.H. Dyke, Stephen Eccles, W.D. Ellis, Ethel Engle, Tad Finnell, A.J. Fletcher, R.B. Fletcher, Hans Gabler, Ellen Gizzarelli, Inez Glime, Greg Gough, James Gruber, Alex Hammer, G.T. Harris, M.W. Hewitt, Jim Hill, Robert Hilton, Lynwood Horner, H.C. Irving, Ottavio Janni, J.E. Johnson, Hank Kaestner, Teta Kain, Greg Kern, Dennis Kirkwood, Val Kitchens, Kathy Klimkiewicz, Wayne Klockner, Alicia Knotts, H.E. LeGrand, Elwood Martin, Mike McCaffrey, E.T. McKnight, P.E. McQuarry, David Mehlman, Dorothy & Mike Mitchell, Lance Morrow, Ellen Mulvey (EMy), Ron Naveen, Heather Nicklas, Paul Nistico, Paul Noell (PNe), Marianna Nuttle, Michael O'Brien, Paul O'Brien, F.L. Parks, Brian Patteson, Elizabeth Peacock (EPk), Essie Pepper, Paul Pisano, Viva Pizer, Marie Plante, Bill Portlock (BPk), George Reiger, M.E. Resch, R.F. Ringler, Wilbur Rittenhouse, Barbara Ross, R.R. Runkles, Kurt Savoie, R.M. Schutsky, Bill Sheehan, Jo Solem, P.R. Spitzer, J.L. Stasz, Wally Sumner, Brian Taber, C.R. Vaughn, J.L. Walck, D.H. Wallace, K.H. Weber, H.L. Wierenga, Claudia P. Wilds, Jim Wilkinson, Bill Williams, Gary Williamson, E.J. Willoughby, E.M. Wilson, T.R. Wolfe.—**HENRY T. ARMISTEAD, 523 E. Durham St., Philadelphia, PA 19119.**

SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

The drought of 1986 continued throughout the Southeast, having begun late in the previous year. The weather resembled that of a typical fall—crystal clear skies, low humidity, and pleasant temperatures. Unfortunately, cold fronts and low pressure systems were rare; high pressure was all too frequent for the birder.

It should be obvious that the above weather scenario produces poor springtime birding. Pleasant weather day after day allowed migrants to pass overhead with little interruption. There were no major waves; there was no single day that observers agreed was excellent for migrants. Each observer seemingly had his peak day for migrants on a day different from that of other birders, a characteristic indication of a poor migration season. In general, warm weather in March meant many early arrivals in that month, but somewhat cool weather in April and May meant a good total of migrant records for the last one-half of May. Despite the drought, most lakes inland remained full, and shore-birding was just mediocre. Especially distressing was the absence of pelagic trip reports other than those taken by Forsythe off Charleston, South Carolina. Did pelagic birders simply fail to report? An abundance of trips are being taken now, but most are concentrated in July and August in search of rare storm-petrels, tropicbirds, and boobies. This increasing imbalance is bothersome because late May is generally the peak time for pelagic bird diversity in the Region, and because much is still to be learned about distribution in March, April, and early May.



LOONS THROUGH FLAMINGO — The Red-throated Loon present near Clemson, S.C., in February was last noted Mar. 30 (SG, CW). A good concentration of breeding Pied-billed Grebes inland was of 12+ pairs in s.c. Baker Co., Ga., Apr. 9–May 31+ (ML). Although a few Horned Grebes may linger into summer along the coast, one May 29 inland in Monroe Co., Ga. (TJ), was at least a month late. Forsythe's numerous (9)

trips off Charleston, S C , yielded single Black-capped Petrels Apr. 7 & 20, in addition to two Leach's Storm-Petrels May 16. Small numbers of Wilson's Storm-Petrels were seen from shore at Ocracoke, N.C., in mid-May, including a few in the harbor (Silver L.) at that town (GTH). North Carolina's earliest ever White-tailed Tropicbird was an adult seen from shore Apr. 19 at Hammocks Beach S.P. (RB). Although the bird was seen following a storm, the species is seldom noted from shore except after a hurricane. An Am. White Pelican was rare inland at L. Marion, S.C., Apr. 30–May 14 (CB, WP). Great Cormorants were seen as late as Mar. 28 at Charleston (DF) and Apr. 26 at Huntington Beach S.P., S.C. (RC, KKa et al.). Anhingas were again seen in a number of North Carolina locales outside the breeding range, most notably in the lower Piedmont near Raleigh Apr. 28 (RJH, TH) and near Jordan L., May 10 (GMac). Single Magnificent Frigatebirds, so elusive to most area birders, were reported near Beaufort, N.C., in May (*vide* JF) and farther n off Hatteras May 31 (C & GD, *vide* BW).

Late was an Am. Bittern near Chapel Hill, N.C., May 24 (BW, MW); whereas early and somewhat rare was a white-phase Great Blue Heron at Blackbeard I., Ga., Apr. 23 (LT). Snowy Egrets are seldom reported inland in spring; thus, of interest in North Carolina were two at Fayetteville Apr. 15 (PJC, JS), two more near Vass May 14 (JHC), and one near Greensboro May 24 (HH), plus another near Macon, Ga., Apr. 20 (TI). A few Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were reported inland, as usual, and nesting was suspected in a section of Charlotte, N.C. (NK), a city where nesting has previously occurred. Quite unusual away from tidewater was a flock of 50 Glossy Ibises in flight over Merchants Millpond S.P., N.C., Apr. 13 (FW). A few Roseate Spoonbills occur along the Georgia coast in summer and fall, but one was early May 25 at Andrews I. (BP). A Greater Flamingo was near Folly Beach, S.C., in late March (CWa et al.). Of course, the origin of all flamingoes in the Region is suspect.

WATERFOWL — The only report of Greater White-fronted Goose came from Dublin, Ga., where one was present Mar. 2–5 and perhaps a different bird Apr. 12 (TKP et al.). Ever since "Common" (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal was merged with Green-winged Teal over 10 years ago, birders seem to have stopped searching for the former in large flocks of the latter, but single ♂ "Commons" were found twice by Davis and LeGrand, at Pea I., N.C., Mar. 1 and at Cape Hatteras the following day. Observers should be aware that Mottled Ducks have been released at several locales on the South Carolina coast by wildlife personnel. It is not known how the species is faring, although 20 were seen near the mouth of the Santee R., Apr. 2 (RC). Among the few notable puddle ducks reported were two very late N. Shovelers at Andrews I., Ga., May 26 (BP) and a ♂ Eur. Wigeon near Davis, N.C., Mar. 4–8 (JFP, SC). A record count for the Atlanta, Ga., area was of 65 Redheads at Groover's L., Mar. 2 (PR), and somewhat late were two Greater Scaups at Huntington Beach S.P., S.C., Apr. 26 (RC, KKa). Seldom have two species of scoters been seen at the same time at an inland locale, but such occurred at Macon, Ga., Mar. 16 when single Black and White-winged scoters were noted (TI, PB). No other inland scoters were observed. A ♂ Com. Merganser was rare at Sunset Beach, N.C., Apr. 12 (PJC et al.), and a very late Red-breasted Merganser was seen May 29 at L. Juliette in c. Georgia (TI).

VULTURES THROUGH LIMPKIN — An excellent count of 175 Turkey Vultures Mar. 15 in a roost in w. Forsyth Co., N.C. (BHo et al.), was likely composed primarily of migrants, as the date is appropriate for northbound birds. Ospreys are now nesting at several Piedmont locales, a recent phenomenon begun only a few years ago, despite seemingly suitable habitat for several decades. Nesting was noted at 2 sites at L. Norman, N.C. (*vide* DB), where a hacking program has been operated by the Carolina Raptor Center, and another new site was at L. Juliette, Ga., where an active nest was noted Apr. 23 (T), AD).

Breeding continued in North Carolina at Jordan L. (4+ nests—KKu) and L. Townsend (HH). A very early Mississippi Kite appeared over the Oconee R. near Dublin, Ga., Apr. 12 (G.O.S.) Bald Eagle sightings keep increasing, mainly inland; however, because these birds are migrants and post-breeders, and because more and more habitat (large reservoirs) is available for foraging, it cannot be stated unequivocally that the overall population in the East is on the rise (based on Regional counts inland). No Peregrine Falcons were reported inland, and only 3 inland sightings of Merlins were noted (Clemson, S.C., Durham, and Falls L., N.C.).

A new location for Black Rail was noted in May, when up to six were heard calling at Pine I. Audubon Sanctuary on Currituck Banks, N.C. (SC). A good count of migrant Soras inland was five, noted n. of Atlanta May 3 (TM, PB, KB). Out-of-range Purple Gallinules, for one reason or another, are generally found dead or weakened, and such was the case with individuals at Ft. Macon S.P., N.C., May 5 (JF) and far inland near Winston-Salem May 29 (LS, RS). Likewise, a Com. Moorhen was found alive at a shopping center in Atlanta Apr. 20 and released the next day (GS). The first Regional sighting of **Caribbean Coot** was made at Savannah N.W.R., S.C., Mar. 6–8 (MC et al.). Full details were received. This species is considered valid by the American Ornithologists' Union (1983), but the birding community, in general, is dubious of the validity of the Caribbean Coot as a good species. Although South Carolina has a handful of **Limpkin** records, one seen Mar. 4, also at Savannah N.W.R. (BT), was apparently the first in at least a decade.

SHOREBIRDS — Despite the drought over the Region, most lakes and reservoirs remained filled; however, L. Hartwell along the South Carolina/Georgia border was a welcome exception. Black-bellied Plovers were found inland at 4 locales, with the best count being of 10 at Fayetteville May 12 (PJC) Lesser Golden-Plovers seemed to have staged a good flight into inland Georgia and South Carolina, where quite rare in spring Reports came from Clemson, Townville, and Pendleton in South Carolina (SG, CW, SW), and Dublin, Atlanta, and Gainesville in Georgia (TKP et al.). The best totals were five at the Gainesville airport Mar. 16–17 (JP) and 10–12 near Atlanta Mar. 21–23 (BP, TM, PM). Among notable counts of the more regular shorebirds inland were 55 Semipalmated Plovers May 19 at Jordan L. (RD), 60 Lesser Yellowlegs at Clemson Apr 26 (CW), and 85 Semipalmated Sandpipers May 19 and 55 Pectoral Sandpipers Mar. 27 near Townville (CW, SG).

Upland Sandpipers were very poorly represented, with just 3 reports, and the always-notable Long-billed Curlew was seen near Ft. Fisher, N.C., Mar. 22 (GM), presumably the same bird seen there in January. Davis found the only Ruddy Turnstones away from the coast—singles at Jordan L., May 10 and Falls L., May 11. Rather good White-rumped Sandpiper totals for South Carolina were 35 along the coast near Savannah, Ga., May 16 (MC) and 12 near Townville May 25 (CW). Another notable count for the Savannah area (in South Carolina) was of 38 Stilt Sandpipers May 6 (MC et al.), and 10+ were early in this area Mar. 5 (MC). Also at the s. tip of South Carolina was only its 3rd or 4th **Ruff**, described in detail May 16 (MC, ph.). Seen annually now in North Carolina, another Ruff was at Cape Hatteras point May 4 (SC). Rare inland in spring (but more numerous in fall) were a Stilt Sandpiper at Winston-Salem May 4 (JC, PC), two Dunlins May 10 at Jordan L. (KKn), and a Short-billed Dowitcher May 8 near Greensboro (HH, PF), with three more Short-billeds at Fayetteville Apr. 29 (PJC). A few Red-necked Phalaropes appear on coastal impoundments each spring; this season there were singles near Wilmington, N.C., May 17 (KK, JN) and Pea I., N.C., May 19 (JF).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — The only notable jaeger report involved two Long-taileds at Cape Lookout, N.C., May 25 (SP), apparently without any other jaeger species present! About the 5th record for Georgia was provided by a **Franklin's**

Gull at L. Hartwell May 11 (BP et al.). Solo reports for the season, both along the North Carolina coast, were of an imm. Com. Black-headed Gull at Cape Hatteras point Mar. 2 (RD, HL) and a first-winter Iceland Gull at Beaufort Mar. 14 (JF). Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen at 4 sites along the North Carolina coast, all in March, with three at Cape Hatteras Mar. 9 (SC, JFP) being the best count. It was a very poor spring for terns on inland lakes, most likely owing to the scarcity of storms; nary a Black Tern was noted inland, and there were just a few Caspian, Common, and Forster's reports. By far the most significant tern sightings involved possibly-breeding Sooties—one on a dredge island in the lower Cape Fear R., N.C., in April and early May (BB, SC, JFP, WG) and another in a tern colony June 4 at Cape Hatteras point (SC, MaL). The species has "nested" (= laid an egg) at each site in previous years, but there has been no known successful nesting n. of Florida. Forsythe also saw two Sooties off Charleston May 2; most offshore reports are from July to early September.

Likely the latest-ever Thick-billed Murres for North Carolina were several seen in the surf at Wrightsville Beach Mar. 22 (DW). I received good details on bill shape and size of a Thick-billed reported during the winter along the South Carolina coast (StC), as mentioned in the Winter Season issue. I had expressed reservations concerning the murre because the original report lacked details of the bill.

DOVES THROUGH VIREOS — A White-winged Dove seen in flight at Ft. Johnson near Charleston May 12 (PL) may have been South Carolina's first in a decade, and there are just a handful of previous state records. Black-billed Cuckoos were very rare in the Region this spring, and the large number of Atlanta birders encountered only one all season. One of the few ever banded in the Region visited Hilton's nets near York, S.C., May 10. Very early Com. Nighthawks appeared Mar. 21 in Wilmington, N.C. (KK) and Apr. 10 at Gainesville (GV). The



Fork-tailed Flycatcher at Cape Carteret, N.C., June 1, 1986. First North Carolina record. Note the frayed outer tail feathers, indicative of an adult in worn plumage; this timing of the plumage cycle suggests that this individual, like other Fork-taileds found in North America, came from the population breeding in southern South America. Photo/E. Wayne Irvin.

very rare Olive-sided Flycatcher was noted only once, along the coast—where casual in spring—at Nags Head, N.C., singing on May 30 (SC). Singing migrant Willow Flycatchers were detected seemingly late in their migration "window"—one at Butner, N.C., May 25 (HL) and five between May 26 and June 8 along the Currituck Banks, N.C. (SC). The 3rd sight record for South Carolina of Say's Phoebe was provided by one found along the S. Santee R., Mar. 15 (PN et al.). The annual visit of Gray Kingbird to the North Carolina coast was one noted by Fussell at Pea I., May 19. That state also had its first-ever Fork-tailed Flycatcher, an adult that appeared in Haberyan's yard at Cape Carteret June 1–7 (HHa, WI, JF, m.ob., ph.). This was the 2nd for the Region—South Carolina has a fall record—and one of just a few in the East during the spring.

Early records included Tree Swallow near Raleigh Feb. 22 (JM) and Cliff Swallow at Parr Res., Newberry Co., S.C., Apr. 4 (RC). Fish Crows were reported from the inland fringes of their range, although not necessarily breeding, at High Point, N.C. (five Apr. 7—BO), Athens, Ga. (Apr. 4—BP), Gainesville (Apr. 25–27—JP), and Atlanta (first ever confirmed, peak of 27 during spring at a landfill—PR et al.). A Brown Creeper was notably late May 11 at Cartersville, Ga. (JSw), as were 12 Water Pipits in c. Halifax Co., N.C., May 15 (FE). The thrush flight was below normal in most areas, but Pulliam's count of six Gray-cheeked Thrushes May 18 near Athens was quite impressive. Cedar Waxwings are usually quite common in the Region in April and early May, but they were mysteriously scarce (and completely missed on the Raleigh spring count) in most locales, just as they were during the winter. The only Warbling Vireo report was of one along the Chattahoochee R. north of Atlanta May 11 (RM, PR); it is regular but rare near this city.

WARBLERS — Although the diversity of warbler species seen—all the "regulars" except Mourning, plus the two Vermivora hybrids—was quite impressive, the general warbler flight for the 2nd consecutive spring was very poor. A ♂ Lawrence's hybrid was very rare and early at Long Beach, N.C., Apr. 17 (PBro), and a Brewster's hybrid was near Winston-Salem May 1 (PC). An "impure" Blue-winged Warbler, with yellow wingbars, was near Wilmington May 2 (JN); and not far away in Brunswick County was a ♂ Golden-winged Warbler Apr. 27 (GM), seldom seen near the coast in spring (unlike the Blue-winged, which is a regular migrant in this section). Hart had several notable warbler records at Crowders Mountain S.P., N.C.: an Orange-crowned Apr. 27, a Nashville May 2, and the elusive Connecticut singing on May 13. A good spring total of five Tennessee Warblers was in n. Greenville Co., S.C., May 4 (RC), and another Nashville was near Athens Apr. 28 (BP).

Apparently the 3rd-ever Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler for North Carolina was a male in partial breeding plumage Apr. 11 at Wilmington (KK). Many trans-Gulf migrating warblers are very rare on the coast in spring. Among such birds were Magnolias at Wilmington Apr. 25 (KK) and at Nags Head May 24 & 30 (SC); Blackburnians at Hilton Head, S.C., May 13 (MC) and Currituck Banks, N.C., May 29 (SC); and Bay-breasted at Nags Head May 14 (SC). A singing Swainson's Warbler may have been on territory near Athens Apr. 19–May 10 (BP). This city probably lies near the center of the narrow spring migration route of the Connecticut Warbler, as Pulliam had 3 records, on May 13, 15, & 23; another was singing n. of Atlanta May 11 (A.A.S.).

TANAGERS THROUGH CARDUELINES — A W. Tanager seen at a Beaufort, N.C., feeder in winter lingered to Mar. 11 (JF). An Indigo Bunting, seldom seen at Regional feeders, was at such a location in Wilmington Mar. 14–17 (KK), and six males were extremely early migrants Apr. 1 in Forsyth Co., N.C. (RS). A pair of Painted Buntings May 24–31+ at Macon, Ga. (TI, JA), might have been farther inland in that state than any other previous "breeders"; hopefully, nesting can be confirmed this summer. Dickcissels in Georgia near McDonough May 1 (CL) and Augusta May 3 (SGuy, fide AW) were consid-

ered probable migrants; however, territorial birds were reported at Raleigh (RD) and Kings Mt. (PH) in North Carolina, and Townville (CW) in South Carolina. Further details of breeding by these Dickcissels will be forthcoming in the Summer Season report. A Bachman's Sparrow was singing in the Piedmont near Metasville, Ga., Apr. 21 (BP); and Lark Sparrow migrants were in North Carolina near Raleigh Apr. 26 (GH), near Harlowe May 8 (JL), and at Cedar I., May 15 (JF). The elusive Lincoln's Sparrow was reported (not counting wintering birds) only 3 times—one banded at York, S.C., Apr. 12 (BH), one near Athens Mar. 30 and Apr. 5 (BP), and one near Atlanta May 11 (JCa).

Two imm. ♂ N. (Bullock's) Orioles were very rare in North Carolina at a feeder in Morehead City mid-March to Apr. 28 (CLi, JF). A few individuals of this "subspecies" (or full species?) likely occur at Regional feeders each winter, as females can easily be overlooked among the Baltimores. Completely unexpected, and almost as unlikely as the Fork-tailed Flycatcher, was a **Common Redpoll** at a feeder along the coast at Long Beach, N.C., on the ridiculous date of May 21 (CM, fide BO). Marsh had the perhaps unique opportunity of seeing a redpoll and a Painted Bunting at the same time! Unfortunately outdone was another Com. Redpoll at a feeder in Dunwoody, near Atlanta, Mar. 25 (EL, fide TM), one of just a handful ever for Georgia and the 2nd consecutive year a redpoll has been found near that city in March. The "winter finches" were disappointing in the winter, but Pine Siskins built up in numbers in many places this spring. Hilton banded 340 siskins in winter and spring at York, and one lingered until May 31. American

Goldfinches frequently increase over the Region to reach peak numbers in late April and early May, but truly amazing was a single-party count of 1250 along the Chattahoochee R. north of Atlanta May 4 (A.A.S.)

OBSERVERS — Jerry Amerson, Atlanta Audubon Society, Carroll Belser, Ken Blackshaw, Rich Boyd, Patrick Brisse, Bill Brokaw, Pat Brokaw (PBro), Dick Brown, J.H. Carter III, Robin Carter, Jack Carusos (JCa), Steven Compton (StC), Mike Cooper, Sam Cooper, P.J. Crutchfield, Jim Culbertson, Pat Culbertson, Ricky Davis, Andrew Denman, Clarence & Ginny Diersing, Frank Enders, Peggy Ferebee, Dennis Forsythe, John Fussell, Sidney Gauthreaux, Georgia Ornithological Society, Walker Golder, Steven Guy (SGuy), Henry Haberyan (HHa), R.J. Hader, G.T. Harris, Paul Hart, Herb Hendrickson, George Hervey, Bill Hilton, Jr., Bert Hollifield (BHo), Tom Howard, Wayne Irvin, Ty Ivey, Terry Johnson, Kenn Kaufman (KKa), Nicholas Kenney, Ken Knapp (KKn), Kitty Kosh, Kathy Kuyper (KKu), Carolyn Lattimer, Pete Laurie, Harry LeGrand, Eleanor Lehner, Janet Lembke, Charles Lincoln (CLi), Merrill Lynch, Marcia Lyons (MaL), Grant MacNichols (GMac), Robert Manns, Chris Marsh, Greg Massey, Peggy Moore, Terry Moore, Jim Mulholland, Jeremy Nance, Perry Nugent, Bob Odear, John Paget, J.F. Parnell, T.K. Patterson, Will Post, Skip Prange, Bill Pulliam, Paul Raney, Georgann Schmalz, Lynn Shaffner, Jim Sipora, Ramona Snavely, John Swiderski (JSw), Lydia Thompson, Bob Tucker, Gregory Valpey, Bill Wagner, Margaret Wagner, Steve Wagner, Charlie Walters (CWa), Anne Waters, Floyd Williams, Charlie Wooten, David Wright.—**HARRY E. LeGRAND, JR.**, 331 Yadkin Dr., Raleigh, NC 27609.

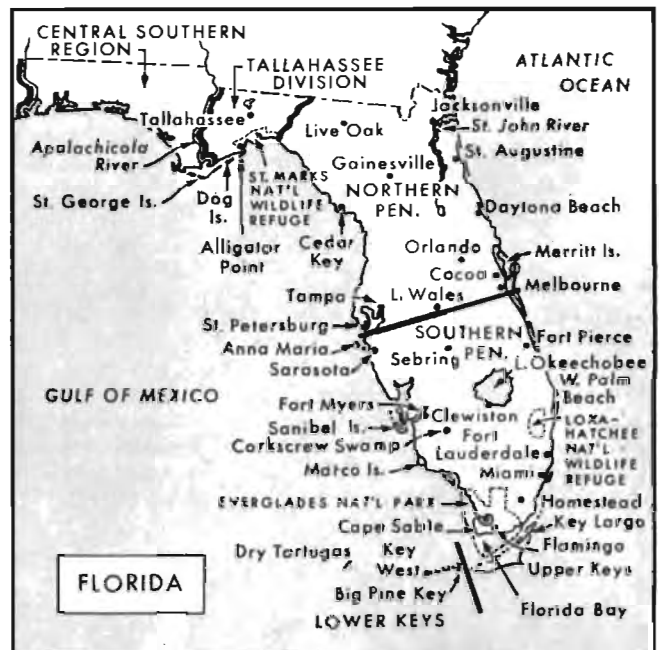
FLORIDA REGION

H. P. Langridge

There were encouraging indications of a substantial spring warbler migration the lower east coast when, on April 9, ten miles off the coast of Broward County, an experienced fishing boat captain reported seeing more warblers heading west toward Florida shores than he had ever seen on the ocean before (fide WG). On the next day, April 10, on Hypoluxo Island, Palm Beach County, a dry cold front produced a good warbler fallout, including six Worm-eating Warblers, a harbinger of an excellent Worm-eating and Swainson's spring on the lower east coast. However, this migration display collapsed as drought conditions with clear skies during April and May prevailed. Can one imagine—only two thrushes and no grosbeaks were reported from Broward and Palm Beach counties the entire spring season. Observers seemed sharply divided on whether the spring migration was relatively normal. A few observers on the Gulf Coast and in the middle of the state were satisfied with the spring migration, especially at Fort De Soto from April 19 to 28, but most area editors considered the migration "slow" or "a disaster."

The extraordinary news this spring season was the discovery of Black-shouldered Kites nesting in Broward County. Otherwise, a Bahama Mockingbird in Dade County, a Yellow-green Vireo in Pinellas County, or the wintering Townsend's Warbler in Polk County would normally have been the star attractions of the season.

ABBREVIATIONS — C.C. = Cape Canaveral; C.S.M. = Clear Spring Mine, Polk County; D.T. = Dry Tortugas; E.N.P. = Everglades Nat'l Park; F.O.S.R.C. = Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee; Lox.N.W.R. = Loxahatchee Nat'l Wildlife Ref.; S.G.I.



= St. George Island; S.T.P. = sewage treatment plant; Tally = Tallahassee Division. Place names in italics are counties.

LOONS THROUGH WADERS — Two Com. Loons at Conch Key Apr. 19 (HND) were unusual that far s., and one

was very late May 31 (JJ) at C C On May 17, some 10–25 mi e of C.C., were 27 Cory's Shearwaters and two Greater Shearwaters (JJ). One very early Wilson's Storm-Petrel was 25 mi e. of C.C., Apr. 20 (JJ *et al.*), with a high count of 37 there May 19 (JJ). First arriving at D.T., Mar. 6 (DOL), the White-tailed Tropicbirds lost intense interest in the gun ports in Fort Jefferson after mid-May when no quiet nesting corner could be found free of tourists. One White-tailed Tropicbird 5 mi e. of Dania, Broward, May 29 (BR) was an excellent find. An early Masked Booby flew by Lake Worth Pier Mar. 26 (TT). During April and May several pairs out of 32 Masked Boobies tried nesting several times on Middle Key, D.T., but the nests were washed out. Five Am. White Pelicans that appeared at Big Talbot I., Duval, Mar. 6 (RHC), and one at Myakka S.P. throughout May (BL) were unusual at those locations, but 150 at Tally May 28 (CSG) was a good count for that date. At Pompano Beach a Magnificent Frigatebird was pushed 5 mi inland by winds Mar. 15 (BH *et al.*).

A Least Bittern Apr. 28 (HPL, PS) at Garden Key provided only the 6th spring sighting for D.T., and one at St. Mark's Mar. 25 (JEC) was unusual. Immature white-morph Great Blue Herons May 4 near Big Cypress and May 18 near Clearwater were evidence of N dispersal of herons after breeding, and one nesting at the City Island Park rookery, Sarasota, Mar. 17 (LA, BA, AM) could have been the bird that appeared in Sarasota Bay the past few years. An imm. Reddish Egret appeared May 2 near Tamiami Trail w. of Ochopee (RTP). Thirty-seven Yellow-crowned Night-Herons grouped together at Big Pine Key and headed NNW Mar. 26, and 18 duplicated this behavior Mar. 31 (JO). A brilliantly-plumaged Scarlet Ibis visited Polk Mar. 22 (MC, m.ob.), and another was in n.w. Broward Apr. 14 (MR). Nesting at Wood Stork colonies was well below normal in Leon, Duval, and St. Johns; in the River Styx colony in Alachua there were only 25 active nests, whereas the normal number is 100–110 (JAR).

DUCKS THROUGH RAPTORS — Two Am. Black Ducks, very rare in Polk, were reported at C.S.M., May 22 (PJF, SCB, CLG). The plumage of a late Lesser Scaup near Moore Haven May 28 (HPL *et al.*) looked ragged; at least two remained at Tierra Verde, Pinellas, through May (LA *et al.*). A late Black Scoter rested in the intracoastal waterway at Hypoluxo I., May 8–11 (CBA *et al.*). A large flock of Red-breasted Mergansers gathered inland at Royal Palm Beach for a week or so and totaled 60 on Mar. 20 (CBA, AW), and C.S.M. had a late one May 31 (PJF). Between Big Pine Key and Stock I., there were 15 occupied Osprey nests this spring (MB, TW).

S.A.

For the first time in Florida since 1910, a **Black-shouldered Kite** nest was discovered Mar. 27 in n.w. Broward by Bob King of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Three young left the nest in late April for the first successful nesting ever recorded in the state! A 2nd nest was found Apr. 5, 2½ mi e. of the first nest, by Bill and Jan Bolte and Wally George, but unfortunately it was later found abandoned. Bob King reported a 3rd nest that produced young in the same general area Apr. 30. Details and photographs will be submitted to F.O.S.R.C., *Fla. Field-Naturalist*, and AB.

Because of falling water levels, only one of seven Snail Kites remained in an impoundment w. of N. Palm Beach May 31 (PL, GH). Rare in Duval and Palm Beach, two Am. Swallow-tailed Kites were w. of Jacksonville May 8 (JW) and one appeared to be on territory near Corbett W.M.A., Apr. 20 (BV) and May 30 (MR). Of 3 Bald Eagle nests in the lower Keys this spring (MB, TW), only one nest was successful with two young fledged. A late brown-plumaged N. Harrier was flying in Lake May 18 (PWS). Near Lake Placid during April and May (FEL, DRS),

Cooper's Hawks nested for the 4th consecutive year in the same woodlot. An ad. Red-tailed Hawk was rare on D.T., Apr 25 (BD). A late Merlin harassed Bobolinks near Gainesville May 11 (JCB). Hearteningly, an Am. Kestrel was observed nesting in Highlands Hammock S.P., May 8 (KA), and 2 other nests were found during May near Lake Placid (DRS).

RAILS THROUGH SKIMMER — At Lox.N.W.R., Yellow Rails deigned to show themselves: one Mar. 15 (FC, HPL) & 20 (RB) and two Mar. 16 (TT, CK, SB, JT). Others called in Palm Beach at Wellington Mar. 16 (HPL) and at Homeland Mar. 27 (RB). A Black Rail called at Paynes Prairie Apr. 9 (SN). Four vocal Clapper Rails were in mangroves at Dania, Broward, Mar 22 (WG, BH), still doggedly existing among the condominiums. Systematic surveys of sandbars near Marco I. in early spring revealed heavy plover use: Snowy Plover 20, Wilson's Plover 40, and Piping Plover 22 (TB). A nest of a Snowy Plover with 3 eggs in a Least Tern colony May 24 and a Wilson's Plover with chicks May 11 were on Casey Key (AS, SS). Impressive numbers of 16 Piping Plovers at Ohio Key Mar. 27 (MB, HND) and 17 Spotted Sandpipers at Delray S.T.P., May 11 (PWS) paled when compared to the 40,000 "peeps" that were estimated at C.S.M., May 11 (PJF) for the largest concentration of shorebirds ever in Polk. During migration, birds rest in the oddest places. A mashed Upland Sandpiper was scooped up from a street in residential Lake Worth Apr. 11 (AW), but one at Conch Key Apr. 18 (HND) was alive. A Whimbrel, rare on the Keys, flew over a boat and called near Conch Key Apr. 1 (HND). A spring rarity in Pinellas was a Long-billed Curlew at Ft. De Soto May 12–31 (AM, LA, BA), and eight was the largest number ever in Tally May 22 (JEC). On S.G.I., a photographed White-rumped Sandpiper was the earliest ever for Tally Apr. 21 (JMS) & 22 (JEC). A Pectoral Sandpiper in Tallahassee was early Mar 2 (GEM). There were some good phalarope sightings. At C.S.M. were one ♀ Wilson's Apr. 11 (TP) and six Red-neckeds, for a 2nd Polk record, May 18 (PJF, CLG, SCB). Lake Santa Fe, Alachua, had five Red-neckeds for a 2nd county record May 18 (THK).

Two ad. Pomarine Jaegers put on a show near a boat off Key West Apr. 28 (JLD, m.ob.), and a jaeger (sp.) flew by D.T., Apr 27 (HPL). Another was pursuing terns near Tampa Bay May 24 (RTP). Of a dozen ad. and imm. Pomarines and Parasitics just offshore of St. Petersburg Beach during May, one fed on a freshly-killed Laughing Gull May 11 (BA, DJD). Laughing Gulls are occurring inland with increasing frequency. Hundreds now feed regularly in plowed fields in s. Dade up to 15–20 mi inland. At Lake Placid, adult-plumaged birds flew over: one Apr. 23 and two May 1 (FEL). Others were nesting at Horseshoe Key Mar. 2 (KW, TW). Especially rare in spring, a winter-plumaged ad. **Sabine's Gull** was at Stock Island Apr 4 (DMF—details to F.O.S.R.C.). Although a Lesser Black-backed Gull at Dwyer landfill Mar. 9 (SH) was *Palm Beach's* first ever and one furnished only the 2nd sighting for D.T. on Apr. 22, 26, & 28 (HPL, m.ob.), the species is now a regular winter visitor. Some of the 11 seen at Pompano landfill this winter were still around Mar. 22 (WG). Another was visiting the Stock I. landfill Mar. 2 (JO) and perhaps the same bird was at Grassy Key Apr 3 (DMF). Great Black-backed Gulls penetrated as far s. as D T in late May and into June, and Stock I. landfill had four Mar 2, with one still present there Apr. 6 (JO).

A phenomenal 103 Caspian Terns were near Lakeland May 4 (PJF). Fifty-six Royal Terns perched on pilings at Key West Apr. 21 (JO), and one dyed blue was spotted at D.T., Apr. 26 (HK *et al.*). Two Sandwich Terns far from the coast were at C.S.M., Mar. 29 (PJF) for the first spring record in Polk. No nesting of Roseate Terns on Key West was reported this year although single birds were there Apr. 21 (JO) and May 26 (HPL *et al.*). A large flock of 562 Forster's Terns gathered at C.S.M., Mar. 9 (PJF). Fourteen Bridled Terns May 17 (JJ) 25 mi e of C.C. was the highest number reported. Brown Noddies and Sooty Terns arrived at D.T., Mar. 9, one week later than last

year At D T a Black Noddy was discovered on Bush Key Apr 25 (EC, m.ob.) and observed by many through May 1, and was probably the same bird that was perched on coal docks at Garden Key May 8 (C & JK, m.ob.). Black Skimmers were nesting early with eggs May 20 at S.G.I. (HMS, JMS).

DOVES THROUGH SWALLOWS — A White-winged Dove, common farther s., visited a feeder at Cocoa Beach Apr. 2 (BE), and another came to a feeder at St. Petersburg during February and remained through Apr. 3 (LH). The only Black-billed Cuckoo reported was at Tierra Verde Apr. 26 (PJF). Two Groove-billed Anis, always a good find, were at Orange Lake, Alachua, Mar. 26–29 (KV, ph. PM). On D.T., the Short-eared Owl Apr. 19+ (MK, TK, m.ob.) was joined briefly by another Apr. 21 (HPL). An early Antillean Nighthawk called on Garden Key Apr. 20 (HPL) and four called on Big Pine Key May 1 (JO). Through the years, Chimney Swifts have been slowly colonizing Palm Beach near the coast and now are seen in force regularly late in May there. A N. Flicker on Loggerhead Key Apr. 26–May 1 (HK, LA, m.ob.) furnished only the 5th spring sighting for D.T. The Red-cockaded Woodpeckers are holding their own in Corbett W.M.A. in Palm Beach with 26 colonies (MR), and a single colony was still present near Venus, Glades, in April and May (FEL).

An E. Wood-Pewee, rare in spring in Polk, was at Waverly May 6 (GC). A Great Crested Flycatcher arrived early at Tallahassee Mar. 18 (HMS). On Apr. 8 (DRS), a W. Kingbird, rare even in winter there, perched near Lake Placid. The Gray Kingbird was a little early on Plantation Key Mar. 9 (BM) and a week early at Delray Beach Mar. 16 (RB). However, others were late in arriving and nesting at E.N.P. (OB) and Ft. De Soto (LA). The flock of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers wintering at Key West was still there Apr. 20 (JO), but one s. of Jacksonville was unusual and late May 6–7 (JPC). A heavy swallow migration was evident over Conch Key Apr. 10 (HND) when 500+ Barn Swallows and 200+ Bank Swallows were counted, but an early Barn Swallow was pressing its luck at L. Alfred, Polk, Mar. 5 (CA). Barn Swallows were still moving at D.T., May 25+ (HPL, WBR). Pinellas' first nesting record was established May 31 (LH) when 2 active nests were discovered in a box culvert near Largo. The only Cave Swallow at D.T. this spring appeared early, Mar. 15–16 (JH). A straggling Cliff Swallow was late at Garden Key May 17 (AD, HPL).

NUTHATCHES THROUGH WAXWINGS — A Red-breasted Nuthatch, normally seen only in winter in Alachua, surprisingly appeared Apr. 18 (JCB) at River Rise S.P. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet was very late at Avon Park May 10 (CLG, HF, PJF), but two were extremely late (Apr. 26 was the previous late date for Alachua) at Ordway Preserve May 30 (CM). In Palm Beach and Broward on the lower e. coast there were only two thrushes reported the entire spring season, although Gulf Coast observers reported a good thrush migration except in Pinellas. At S.G.I., single Gray-cheeked Thrushes appeared early Apr. 22 and late May 22 (JEC). An Am. Robin in excellent plumage was very late at Homeland, Palm Beach, May 12 (GH, HPL). Two late Gray Catbirds at separate locations in n.e. St. Petersburg May 31 (LH, CB) suggested the possibility of nesting. A Bahama Mockingbird was singing on Elliott Key May 19, but could not be found May 30 (PWSm, SD—details to F.O.S.R.C.). Probably a first at Key West, nesting Brown Thrashers, discovered May 10 (JO), produced young by May 28 (FH). In the last few years Brown Thrashers have been increasing regularly during the breeding season in the s.e. coastal area. Twenty-seven Water Pipits at Tallahassee Apr. 18 (HMS) was a high number that late. Cedar Waxwings occurred at Key West Apr. 25 (JO) and were still present at Sarasota May 9 (EVM), at Hypoluxo I., May 13 (GH, HPL) and in Pinellas in late May (LA, BA). No waxwings were seen at Lake Placid during the entire season despite ripe mulberries awaiting them (FEL).

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — A singing Warbling Vireo, rare anywhere in the state, stopped for a few moments at Winter Haven Mar. 29 (PJF). Only the 2nd sighting ever in the peninsula, the **Yellow-green Vireo** form of the Red-eyed Vireo was spotted at Ft. De Soto Park May 11 (LA, LH, m.ob.—details to F.O.S.R.C.). A well-described Black-whiskered Vireo was at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, far from the coast, May 13 (GP). On Apr. 22 single Blue-winged Warblers appeared at Garden Key (HPL et al.), Casey Key (banded—AS, SS), and S.G.I. (JEC), one was on Mullet Key Apr. 25 (BS, MS), and at least six visited Ft. De Soto Apr. 5–27 (LA, LH). Rare in spring, several Golden-wingeds were at Ft. De Soto Apr. 21–26 (DJD, MW), and a female visited Garden Key Apr. 30–May 1 (MW, LA). A Nashville Warbler at Deland was noteworthy May 3 (NS, JM). A late Magnolia Warbler visited River Rise S.P., Alachua, May 10 (JCB). The wintering ♂ **Townsend's Warbler** was still at Street Nature Center near Winter Haven Mar. 6, 8, and 9 (BWC, m.ob.). A rare "Sycamore" form Yellow-throated Warbler was a surprise at Ft. De Soto Apr. 26–27 (BA, LA et al.).

A Worm-eating Warbler was banded 6 days early at Casey Key Mar. 23 (AS, SS). Spanish River Park in Boca Raton produced 37 Worm-eatings and 14 Swainson's Apr. 12–13 (BH, AG, MG); Hypoluxo I. had 23 Worm-eatings Apr. 10–13 (HPL et al.); and Birch S.P., Broward, recorded two Swainson's Apr. 9 (WG) and 30 Worm-eatings Apr. 22 (WG). This excellent show of Worm-eatings and Swainson's on the lower e. coast sparked considerable anticipation for the viewing of the upcoming migration. Great expectations fizzled there because of clear flying conditions. A late Worm-eating was at Tally May 1 (DCB) A Kentucky Warbler in Broward was a good find for the lower e. coast Apr. 13 (BC, TC, WG). Connecticut Warblers were scarce on the lower e. coast with only three reported, but Casey Key produced its greatest number ever with five banded May 10–16 (AS, SS). Fort De Soto had at least three May 7–11 (JBB, DG et al.). An early ♂ Hooded Warbler turned up at Hypoluxo I., Apr. 5 (PWS), and 18 established territories at San Felasco, Alachua, with fledged young near the end of May (RN). A Yellow-breasted Chat Apr. 22 (HPL, HR) at Garden Key furnished only the 5th spring sighting for D.T.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — A ♂ Scarlet Tanager was late at Casey Key May 25 (AS, SS). A good movement of Indigo Buntings occurred in Duval with 24 males and several females Apr. 21–24 (VMM), and a very late male was heard daily at Homestead until May 26 (B & WBR). A Dickcissel at Garden Key was a good find Apr. 22 (HPL et al.). There were some good sparrow sightings this spring. A late Chipping Sparrow visited Hypoluxo I., Apr. 4–5 (TT, PWS). Two Field Sparrows, rare for Lake Placid, were there Mar. 19 (RLM). Rare in spring in Tally, single Lark Sparrows showed up Mar. 1 and Apr. 2 (TAM). Four Grasshopper Sparrows were on their nesting grounds at Avon Park May 1 (HF, BWC, LFG). Another Lincoln's Sparrow was found wintering at Wellington, Palm Beach, Mar. 20 (HPL). A Swamp Sparrow, common elsewhere, finally wandered to Casey Key May 7 (AS, SS) and was the first ever banded there. A White-throated Sparrow was still attending a feeder in Delray Beach Mar. 15 (BH, FC). A White-crowned Sparrow lost its wintering field to a bulldozer w. of Boynton Beach, but it was last seen still pathetically trying to hide in one remaining sparse plant Mar. 15 (HPL). Two were at Winter Haven Apr. 20 (HF, m.ob.), and one occurred at Conch Key Apr. 15–18 (HND et al.). A Dark-eyed Junco stayed at a feeder in s. Jacksonville until Mar. 9 (JPC), and one was at the Research Station at E.N.P., Apr. 10 (OB, WBR).

A Brown-headed Cowbird at Garden Key Apr. 20 (HPL, MK) provided only the 4th spring sighting for D.T. Two wintering Lapland Longspurs were last seen at Ward's Bank Mar. 4 (ph BJR, PCP). A Yellow-headed Blackbird was unusual at Tallahassee Mar. 31 (Susan Hobbs). Pine Siskins were regularly visiting feeders in Jacksonville and Gainesville, and were last



Lapland Longspur at Ward's Bank, Fla., Feb. 23, 1986. Photo/Bob J. Richter.

reported in *Duval* May 16 (JW) and in *Alachua* May 17 (JD), the latest date ever there by a week. A Saffron Finch turned up at Hypoluxo I., Mar. 30 (HPL). So?

CORRIGENDA — AB 39:283b, delete lines 43–46, the sentence about Thayer's Gull, and add the following: On Mar. 10 at Pompano Beach landfill an imm. Thayer's Gull was photographed by WG, BH, and RF, and the photographs were tentatively identified as this species (LA et al.). Documentation has been submitted to F.O.S.R.C.

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ONTARIO REGION

Ron D. Weir

Unusually warm air spread over most of Ontario March 27–31 that brought a major influx of migrants, especially waterfowl, to the lower Great Lakes north to Algonquin Provincial Park and west to the Lakehead at Thunder Bay. Some early arrivals rode this weather system. Another system April 28–May 2 brought summer-like conditions well north to the Hudson and James Bay coasts and a big push of migrants resulted, including Painted Bunting and Golden-crowned Sparrow in the south and Indigo Bunting on James Bay. Ice broke up early nearly everywhere, thereby encouraging waterfowl not to linger late. Large numbers of passerines were grounded throughout the south May 5–6 and a strong reverse migration of 2400 birds per hour was detected May 5 as they moved southwest along Lake Huron past Brights Grove and Point Edward.

Heavy groundings were noted again May 12–13 at Thunder Bay, their best of the period, and at Prince Edward Point. Most of the action at Long Point took place May 10–15. The influx of "southern" herons and other overshoots was weak, except for Great Egret, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and Summer Tanager, which were in notable numbers. The return flights of Red-breasted Nuthatch and Purple Finch were very strong. Excellent numbers of several shorebird species appeared, but Whimbrel and Red Knot that normally migrate through in late May failed to appear in many areas and were in very low numbers where they did occur. Record early arrivals this spring compared with the numbers in 1985, with Algonquin Provincial Park leading the totals at about 26 species.

ABBREVIATIONS — M.I. = Manitoulin Island; Pelee = Point Pelee National Park & vicinity; P.E. Pt. = Prince Edward Point; P.P.P. = Presqu'île Provincial Park. Place names in italics denote counties.



LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Red-throated Loons appeared Mar. 29, record early at Pelee (AW), to May 31 and numbered 22, which included five fat birds found dead in the New Liskeard lagoon Apr. 19 (LT et al.). Whether detergents in this pond (shunned by other waterfowl) were responsible was unknown. A thin bird was washed up dead at P.P.P. in late May (RDM). The flight of Commons was heavy, led by 500 at Sarnia Apr. 16 (SAC), and thousands were migrating between Sarnia and Kettle Pt. in the period after dawn the same day (AHR). Other concentrations included 912 and 400 at P.E. Pt.,

Apr. 25 and May 4 (K.F.N.). Horned Grebes moved early throughout the south and peak numbers were 320 and 187 at Rondeau P.P. and Pelee Apr. 13 (JRC, GTH et al.) and 125 at P.E. Pt., Apr. 25 (K.F.N.). The only reported concentrations of Red-neckeds were 329 at the Mississagi Light, M.I., Apr. 18 (JCN) and 88 at Burlington Apr. 12 or 13 (fide MPW). The only Eared Grebe was in Wheatley harbour Apr. 27 (AW) and two W. Grebes were together near Penetang, Georgian Bay, May 15 (LI, WH, MS).

The Am. White Pelican at Guelph May 21 (NG) was the only one reported away from its usual haunts. Great Egrets totalled 19 birds away from the s.w. in the period Mar. 30–May 28 in Niagara, Luther marsh, Hamilton, Toronto, Peterborough, Tiny Marsh (Simcoe), Gravenhurst, P.P.P., Kingston (five!), and Otawa. The one well n. at Manitowadge May 11–19 (DL et al.) provided only the 3rd district record for Thunder Bay. Another early bird arrived at Pelee Mar. 19 (AW). Two Snowy Egrets were in Hamilton Bay May 24–31 and were seen carrying nesting material (KAM, RHC et al.). Single ad. Little Blue Herons were at Pelee May 5–20 (BL, CK et al.) and at Long Pt. May 8–12, their 4th in spring (fide DS). There have been 14 sightings in the past 9 springs. An ad. Tricolored Heron was seen to fly S from Squirrel I., situated next to Walpole I. in St. Clair May 4 (SAC, JAC), so that the same bird may have been at Stoney Pt., May 5 (EL et al.). The showing by Cattle Egrets was stronger than in the past several springs with 24 birds in all, but only three were away from the s.w., singles at Kingston May 14 (fide MH), near P.P.P., May 15–17 (GD, SR et al.), and on Amherst I., May 17 (RDW). The ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Pelee May 15–16 (MPW, SS et al.) was the only one reported, as is typical for spring. A single Glossy Ibis was photographed at the Strathroy lagoons May 24 (fide AWM) and a lone Plegadis (sp.) was at Pelee May 3 (MDF et al.).

Early arrivals were Pied-billed Grebes at Peterborough, Otawa, and Algonquin P.P., Mar. 11, 12, & 19 respectively (DCS, BMD, RGT), a Horned Grebe at Ottawa Mar. 19 (BMD, TH), Red-necked Grebe at Aldershot Mar. 2 (DG), an Am. Bittern at Minden Apr. 9 (RJP), and a Great Blue Heron at Virginiatown Apr. 6 (PWR).

WATERFOWL — Notable concentrations included 50,000 Canada Geese near Riceville, Prescott, Apr. 2 (BMD, RB), 1140 and 390 Am. Black Ducks at Wolfe I. and Pelee Mar. 29 & 26 respectively (VPM et al., AW et al.), 5000 N. Pintail near Riceville Mar. 29 (BMD), 27,600 Greater Scaup at Kingston Mar. 27 (K.F.N.), 1600 Lessers at Pelee Apr. 1 (AW), 10,000 Oldsquaw at P.E. Pt., May 4 (K.F.N.), 500 Hooded Mergansers at Washburn Mar. 16 (VPM), 7000 Red-breasted Mergansers at Pelee Apr. 15 (J & BH et al.), and 322 Ruddy Ducks also at Pelee Apr. 21 (AW et al.).

Greater White-fronted Geese numbered about 11, more than usual but fewer than last spring's unprecedented flight. At Thunder Bay an immature lingered May 10–June 2 (DBo et al.). In the s., seven adults were near Riceville Mar. 29 (BMD, RB) and singles were at Long Pt., Mar. 21 (DBe et al.), Wheatley Apr. 2 (AW), Amherst Pt., Essex, in late April (fide GTH), and P.P.P., Apr. 26 for a first record (DT, BK). Snow Geese were scarce in the s. and the 65 near Riceville (BMD, RB) was the largest number reported. They arrived on the Hudson Bay coast May 8, about a week late, and flocks passed for several days (KFA). Brant arrived on James Bay May 12, and passed all week (KFA). Their first arrivals in the s. occurred May 10 with 400, 300, and 14 at Kingston, Algonquin, and Ottawa, respectively (K.F.N., DO, BMD). The Barnacle Goose with Canadas at Long Pt., Mar. 28 was thought to be wild (BW, fide GMB). One adult of a pair of Canadas on Amherst I. wore a yellow neck collar and was accompanied by 16 chicks (K.F.N.). The ♂ Cinnamon Teal at Strathroy Mar. 29 (WRM) was seen again May 2 (WRJ), providing a first for Middlesex. Single ♂ Eur. Wigeon were at Pelee Mar. 26–Apr. 14 (AW, AJR et al.) and Whitby Mar. 28–29 (BH, J. Cooley), for an average total for spring. A strong flight of Canvasbacks was led by 9920 at Kingston Mar. 27–30 (K.F.N.) and a record count of 680 at Pelee Apr. 1 (AW). Singles at



Greater White-fronted Goose at Thunder Bay (Lake Superior), Ont., May 10–31+, 1986. Photo/Alan Wormington.

Eganville Mar. 19–23 (BK, JMB) and near Minden Mar. 30 (RJP) were rare. Two King Eiders lingered at Niagara-on-the-Lake to Mar. 30 (GBe). The two Harlequin Ducks at P.P.P., Mar. 25 (A. & M. Hill) and the single female at the Warton Lagoons May 21–25 (JWJ) were more than usual for spring. The record-early Black Scoter at Pelee Mar. 29 (RHC et al.) was noteworthy in that species' weak flight, and 2500 White-wingeds at Oshawa May 26 was the largest number reported (DVR). Five Barrow's Goldeneyes were more than double the spring average. Single females were at Sarnia Mar. 4 (DFR), P.E. Pt., Mar. 25 (BMD, SJO), and Ottawa in early April and Apr. 16 (BMD). A 2nd-year male was near Wolfe I., Apr. 13 (RDW).

Record-early arrivals were the Wood Duck and Green-winged Teal in Algonquin P.P., Apr. 3 (RGT), the same day a ♂ Green-winged appeared at Thunder Bay (NGE, BA), and three Blue-winged Teal at Pelee Mar. 11 (GTH, AW). The three N. Shovelers at Lakefield Mar. 22 were record-early by 15 days (FH).

VULTURES THROUGH CRANES — A Turkey Vulture at Marathon May 13 furnished only the 2nd local record (AW), and the peak of 119 at the Grimsby hawkwatch occurred Mar. 28 (fide WK). Early Ospreys were singles near Port Hope Mar. 25 (RDM) and at Pelee Mar. 29 (AW). Some 55 Bald Eagles were reported in the s., which is an increase, along with 5 nests, the adults and young of which are excluded from the total sightings. Wing-tagged Bald Eagles from the New York project were in Algonquin P.P., Apr. 2–3 (fide RGT), Wawa Apr. 4 (ERA), and Holiday Beach P.P., Mar. 13 (JL, MB). The last bird wore a yellow tag with a green center on its right wing. Peak totals for Red-shouldered Hawks were 245, 177, 79, and 75 at Grimsby Mar. 24, 31, 18, & 29 respectively, to contribute about 64% of their record 897 birds (fide WK). Late Rough-leggeds were two at P.E. Pt., May 17 (K.F.N.). The 10 sightings of Golden Eagle were about average for spring while the 25 Peregrine Falcons represented a levelling-off from their recent increases. The only Gyrfalcon report was in the n. at Shagama Lake Mar. 12 (CL).

The pair of Sharp-tailed Grouse at P.E. Pt., May 12 (NS, RBS) could portend a resurgence of this species, whose numbers plummeted following disastrous fires there several years ago. Northern Bobwhites continued to be scarce and only singles were noted at Brights Grove Apr. 13 (SAC), Sombra May 7 (YRT), Oshawa Apr. 27 (DDC), and Vineland May 26 (AS). A Yellow Rail was seen in daylight standing in a drained pond at the Brights Grove lagoon May 5 (GL). Another was heard calling at Thunder Bay May 14 (AW, NGE) and four were in the Richmond fen from May 24 to early June (fide BMD). The 15 King Rails in the extreme s.w. were normal numbers, but

Table 1. Hawk totals at Grimsby station, Spring 1986

Species	1986 ¹	6 year average
Turkey Vulture	789	731
Osprey	32	28
Bald Eagle	13 (high)	7
N. Harrier	141 (high)	112
Sharp-shinned H.	3429 (low)	4483
Cooper's H.	194 (high)	158
N. Goshawk	21	39
Red-shouldered H.	897 (high)	712
Broad-winged H.	3723	5780
Red-tailed H.	2820	3038
Rough-legged H.	43	67
Golden Eagle	5	6
Amer. Kestrel	125	104
Merlin	5	3
Peregrine	1	1
Unidentified	1483	503
Total	13721	15772

¹ (WK et al. Feb 22–May 30, 78 days)

observers noted that high lake levels allowed easier viewing. Away from these areas of usual occurrences was one King in the Tiny marsh, Simcoe, during spring (DH). Numbers of Sandhill Cranes were lower, at 39, of which 23 were seen from Rainy R. e. to M.I., seven in Grey-Bruce, six in the s.w., and singles e. to Oshawa May 3 (fide MJB), Delta May 8 (RDU), and P.E. Pt., May 24 (JHE et al.).

SHOREBIRDS — Record-early arrivals were a Black-bellied Plover at Pelee Apr. 13 (GTH), Lesser Yellowlegs at Pelee Mar. 19 (GTH), Pectoral Sandpiper at Pelee Mar. 16 (BHam, AW), Bourget, Russell, Mar. 28 (BMD), and Kingston Apr. 6 (RDW), Com. Snipe at Minden Mar. 31 (RJP) and Algonquin P.P., Apr. 5 (RGT), and Am. Woodcock in Algonquin P.P., Apr. 5 (RGT).

Largest numbers in the heavy flight of Lesser Golden-Plover were 1200 at Erie Beach May 7 (KJB) and 900 at Pelee May 4 (JBM). The lone report of Piping Plover was of a color-marked bird at Port Stanley May 7 (RJK) as the species clings by a thread to its survival in Ontario. The Am. Avocet at the Wark-



Willet at Thunder Bay (Lake Superior), Ont., May 14, 1986. Photo/Alan Wormington.

worth Lagoons, downed by heavy rains, stayed May 19–25 (BCO et al.). The 24 Solitary Sandpipers at Thunder Bay May 13 (AW) made a high count for this species. Willets (whose spring status appears to be changing) numbered 19, about triple the pre-1981 spring average, but lower than the extraordinary totals in 1982, 1983, and 1984. Occurrences were Apr. 29–May 24 and included 13 from the s.w., two at P.P.P., May 5–11 (RBo, LG, RH), two on Amherst I., May 7–11 & 18 (RKE, KFE, RBS), and singles at Wawa May 18–21 (J. Frey) and Thunder Bay May 14 (NGE et al.). Whimbrels at 154+ sightings were in the lowest numbers in over 10 years and their peak was 50 at Long Pt., May 28 (L.P.B.O.). The single Hudsonian Godwit at Thunder Bay May 13 (AW, NGE) was rare there, and two at Shrewsbury, Kent, May 18–20 (PT) raised the season's total to the 11-year spring average of three. The five Marbled Godwits were above the average of four and were singles at Carrsrad on the s. end of Lake-of-the-Woods Apr. 17 (DHE), Richmond May 9–10 (ph. ES et al.), Almonte, Lanark, May 10 (BMD), Thornbury, Grey, May 11–15 (LR), and Thunder Bay May 16 (AW). The 250 Ruddy Turnstones on Amherst I., May 31 was the largest group reported (JHE).

In spite of a poor flight of Red Knots, eight at Harrow May 18 (TP) made a record spring count for Essex and a Sanderling in Algonquin P.P., May 30 was the first ever in spring in the park (RHa). A W. Sandpiper was at Strathroy May 18 (GN). The total of 58+ White-rumpeds was identical to that of last spring and early arrivals appeared at Lakefield May 13 (RDM) and Thunder Bay May 14 (AW). Baird's Sandpipers, rare in spring, numbered four. Two were on Amherst I., May 11 (RBS) and singles turned up at Thunder Bay May 4 (NGE) and Oshawa May 19 (MJB). The flight of Pectoral Sandpipers was both early and heavy. Largest groups were 1000 at Walton, Huron, Apr. 6 (JBM), 700 at Aylmer, Apr. 13 (JRC), 600 at Tilbury Apr. 9 (AW), and 600 at Kincardine Apr. 8 (PAM). The only concentration of Dunlins reported was a flock of 2000 grounded on Amherst I., May 20 (A. Scott). The 25 Stilt Sandpipers at Port Stanley May 30 (MJB) accounted for most of the 29 reports. Three were at Harrow May 12–19 (fide GTH) and one in Oshawa May 19 (MJB). Ruffs numbered nine, second only to the record 11 in 1984, and all were in the s.w. A male with a white ruff and black mane stayed at Bright's Grove Apr. 13–27 (SAC, YRT) and two males with black ruffs and orange manes were with two females at Point Lambton May 3 where a male remained to May 20 (YRT). The singles included a female at Aylmer Apr. 26 (RS), a red male at Strathroy May 2 (WRM, WR), GN, and males at the Comber lagoons May 8–9 (TR et al.) and the Essex lagoons May 10 or 11 (fide GTH). The 47 Wilson's Phalaropes marked a further drop in numbers from their highs of recent years, but 15 nesting pairs on the Amherst I. property of the K.F.N. appeared to be flourishing. Single Red-necked Phalaropes were at the lagoons at Comber Apr. 12 (GTH, LGu et al.), Harrow May 19 (TP et al.), and Sudbury May 22 (JCN), comparing with an average of four per spring over 10 years.

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Three different Laughing Gulls were thought to have been in the Pelee area May 1–14 (fide AW) and another was on Amherst I., May 7 (RKE) for Kingston's first spring record since 1965. Nine Franklin's Gulls were up over the spring average of three. One was well n. at Moosonee May 6 (KFA, SM). An adult at Pelee May 9 (AW, JLD et al.) was joined by one in 2nd-summer plumage May 19–21 (DM, AG et al.), and these may have been the same birds as were seen in the Wheatley area (fide KJB). Three adults appeared at Long Pt., May 18 (JC) and single adults were at Amherst I. also May 18 (K.F.N.), Ottawa May 21 & 24 (BMD et al.), and P.E. Pt., May 24 (VPM). The 62 Little Gulls Mar. 27–May 31 represented a sharp increase and included 36 from L. Erie sites, 18 along L. Ontario, five at Niagara Falls, and singles at Kettle Pt., May 7 (AHR) and Ottawa May 21 (TH). Common Black-headed Gull numbers were over double their average of four. The adult at P.P.P., Mar. 29 (AGC et al.) and another

at Niagara Falls Apr. 21 (BMD) were the only ones away from the s.w. Three were at Pelee Mar. 19–May 11 (fide AW), three at Long Pt., Apr. 12–May 17 (fide DS), and one at Rondeau P.P., May 16 (PAW, PT).

Impressive concentrations of Bonaparte's Gulls were led by 30,000 at the Long Pt. roost Apr. 30 (L.P.B.O.), 15,000 at Rondeau P.P., May 10 (PAW, PT), and 10,000 at Niagara Falls Apr. 21 (BMD). Iceland and Glaucous gulls totalled 20 and 83 reports respectively with late single adults at Wheatley Apr. 21 (BMD) and Pelee Apr. 22 (AW). The 13 Lesser Black-backed Mar. 13–May 24 set a new spring high as their numbers increase steadily in all seasons. Birds were in the Pelee area, Long Pt., Maple, Bronte, Oliphant, P.P.P., Kingston, Ottawa, and Moosonee, and numbered 10 adults, one immature, and two not aged. Four Caspian Terns appeared May 17 at Thunder Bay, where rare (AW, NGE), and an ad. Common in Algonquin P.P., May 10 was both rare and early (DSt, RGT). An Arctic Tern at P.P.P., May 21 was that area's first ever (RDM). Numbers of Forster's Terns set a record high, and peak counts were of 300 at Long Pt., May 1 (L.P.B.O.) and 223 at Pelee May 2 (AW). Only eight were sighted away from the extreme s.w. Singles were on Amherst I., May 18 (K.F.N.), P.E. Pt., May 4 & 7 (K.F.N.), P.P.P., May 24 & 31 (RJP et al.), Oshawa area Mar. 30 and Apr. 29 (MC, JMS), and Bronte Apr. 1 (MWJ).

An E. Screech-Owl in a poplar cavity at Douglas, Renfrew, Mar. 28, where very rare in any season, was still there May 25–26 (CM). A pair of N. Hawk-Owls was found nesting at Moosonee Apr. 2 (KFA, AM) and an ad. Great Gray Owl was on her nest at Kashabowie May 13 (DHE). An extralimital Great Gray was near Pembroke Mar. 29, presumably enroute further n.w. (TF, CM). The Boreal Owl reported during winter at a Dwight feeder was present to Mar. 20 (RGT). Seen flying in off L. Ontario and landing was a Chuck-will's-widow at Long Pt., May 28 (DBe). The ♀ hummingbird that overwintered in a Parry Sound greenhouse only to die Mar. 11 (RLB) has been confirmed by R.O.M. staff as a **Rufous Hummingbird** (RDJ). A Belted Kingfisher nest at Pelee this spring was the first ever within the park boundaries (AW). Following last spring's poor showing, Red-headed Woodpeckers were both early and in good numbers. One in Algonquin P.P., May 12, earliest record by 4 days (TBr), and another n. at Neys P.P., May 20 (fide NGE) were rare. Peak counts were 15, 12, and 12, at P.E. Pt., Pelee, and Long Pt., May 18, Apr. 28, and May 7 (K.F.N., AW, KAM, L.P.B.O.) respectively. Red-bellied Woodpeckers irrupted into e. Ontario with singles at P.P.P., May 11 & 17 (RDM et al.), 14 sightings May 4–30 at P.E. Pt., where five different birds were present May 18 (K.F.N.), and singles at 2 Kingston sites May 6 & 15 (JHE, FA). The absence of any unusual influx along L. Erie and western L. Ontario suggested the source of these birds was e. New York state, perhaps via the Hudson R. valley. Record early Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers arrived at Pelee Mar. 26 (AW, AJR), Algonquin P.P., Apr. 4 (RGT), and Peterborough Apr. 7 (IS), and early birds were also at Whitby Mar. 27 (DMu, GAS), near Thunder Bay Mar. 31 (RT), and Ottawa Apr. 1 (BMD). Single Three-toed Woodpeckers were in Algonquin P.P., Mar. 1, 5, & 25, the first there since winter 1983 (RGT et al.) and a late male was in Ottawa Apr. 19 (WEG). Remnants of this past winter's irruption S of Black-backed were singles in Thorold to Mar. 2 (fide MEF), Oshawa Apr. 19 (DVR), Aberfoyle Apr. 20 (MDC, JEP), and Sparta, Elgin, May 2 (RJK, WJR). At P.P.P., 2 pairs stayed on for the whole period (RDM).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS—An Acadian Flycatcher at P.E. Pt., May 30 (RDW) furnished the only report away from s.w., where normal numbers were noted. Record-early arrivals included a Yellow-bellied in Algonquin P.P., May 21 (RGT), Least at Pelee Apr. 25 (AW, MW, BW), and Great Crested on M.I., May 18 (JCN). Record-early swallows were Purple Martin at Long Pt., Mar. 29 (L.P.B.O.), Cliff at Pelee Mar. 19 (AW), and Barn at Peterborough and Algonquin P.P., Mar. 31 and Apr. 17 (TB, RGT) respectively. A heavy return flight of Blue Jays was noted through P.E. Pt. from early May,

at Long Pt. where 2300 passed May 6 (LPBO), near Brights Grove where 4000 flew Apr. 27–28 (SAC, JAC), and at Thunder Bay May 17–28 (AW, NGE). The only extralimital Tufted Titmouse appeared in the Whitby area Apr. 25 and May 3 (WB, MJB et al.); The anticipated flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches materialized, reaching Pelee and P.E. Pt., Apr. 4, M.I., Apr. 27, and Thunder Bay Apr. 26. Carolina Wrens were in higher numbers than witnessed in the past several springs with three from Middle I., Essex, Apr. 23 (MJO) and singles at Rondeau P.P., May 8 (AR), Wheatley May 9 (AR), near Brights Grove May 10 (SAC), and P.E. Pt., May 18 (K.F.N.). Five were at Long Pt., Apr. 19–May 28, where one was recaptured from a banding there Aug. 21, 1985 (L.P.B.O.). The first reports of Bewick's Wrens in Ontario since 1984 were of singles at Rondeau P.P., Apr. 9–12 (JW, PAW) and Long Pt., May 8–9 (GW). Winter Wrens arrived early at Algonquin Mar. 29 (RGT), Ottawa Mar. 30 (BMD), and Thunder Bay Apr. 13 (AH).

Ottawa's first nest of a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was found



Male Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on nest near Ottawa, Ont., June 2, 1986. Photo/B.M. Di Labio.

May 15 (ph. CH, BMD et al.). Also at Ottawa May 12 was a ♂ N. Wheatear (ph. SJ, RJ et al.). There appear to have been only 5 prior spring records for Ontario and only one in the s. The ♂ **Mountain Bluebird** paired last spring with a ♀ E. Bluebird returned to Port Stanley by May 3 (AWM). The 500 Swainson's Thrushes in the grounding at Long Pt., May 19 made the largest concentration reported (L.P.B.O.), and one Wood Thrush appeared at Thunder Bay May 6, where rare (AH). Last dates for the overwintering Varied Thrushes at Ipperwash and Marvelville, Russell, were Mar. 14 & 25 (R. Sniderham, BMD), re-



Northern Wheatear at Ottawa, Ont., May 12, 1986. Photo/B.M. Di Labio.

spectively. The northernmost of an unusual number of N. Mockingbirds was a single at Thunder Bay May 29 (NGE, AW). A Brown Thrasher at Leamington Mar. 18 established a record-early arrival (PW). Bohemian Waxwings were racing back NW in late March following their winter irruption as hundreds passed Cochrane (LT). Some 350 were at Peterborough Mar. 29 (PB) and 300 at Atikokan Apr. 3 (TJN, DHE). Reports of Loggerhead Shrikes dropped to 14 birds as concern rises for this species' well-being in Ontario. White-eyed Vireo numbers were lower at Pelee and Long Pt., but singles wandered E to Bronte May 5 (MWJ), Garden I., Kingston, May 8 (DVM), and P.E. Pt., May 18 (RDW).

WARBLERS — Ten record-early arrivals were noted. These included Tennessee at Long Pt., Apr. 18 (MKM), Orange-crowned and Magnolia on M.I., Apr. 29 and May 8 (JCN), Yellow, Black-throated Green, and Mourning in Algonquin P.P., May 6, Apr. 28, and May 17 (RGT), Chestnut-sided and Prothonotary at Pelee Apr. 26 (J. Lamey et al.) and Apr. 21 (GTH), Cape May at Peterborough May 4 (DCS), and Pine at P.P.P., Mar. 1 (NM). Other earlier than usual birds were three Yellow-rumpeds at P.P.P., Mar. 28 (RH et al.), a Blackpoll at Rodney Apr. 27 (fide WRJ), two Ovenbirds at Pelee Apr. 19 (AC et al.), and Wilson's at Silver Islet May 13 (AW).

The season's only report of the rare Yellow-throated Warbler was at Long Pt., Apr. 30 (DBe). A territorial ♂ Pine Warbler was at Pelee for a first in decades (AW) and the park's 5th 'yellow' Palm appeared Apr. 26 (PDP). No extralimital Prothonotary Warbler was noted as all reports were from the extreme s.w. At least eight Worm-eatings were at Pelee Apr. 25–May 17, which are back to normal numbers (fide AW). Singles were in e. Elgin Apr. 28 (KF), Rondeau P.P. (no date) (fide KJB) and Long Pt. May 10 where 2 appeared May 11 (L.P.B.O.). Ontario's 3rd **Swainson's Warbler** ever stayed at Pelee May 10–14 (DLL, CLi et al.), where the previous two also occurred. Ten Kentucky were normal numbers at Pelee Apr. 17–May 24 (fide AW) and lone birds were at Long Pt., May 9 & 19 (L.P.B.O.), Rondeau P.P., May 17 (PAW) and Rock Point P.P., May 17 (MEF et al.). The only Connecticut reported e. of Long Pt. were singles in the Oshawa area May 19, 29, & 31 (MJB, DVR). Numbers of Hoodeds were also lower and the only ones e. of Long Pt., where five were banded (L.P.B.O.), were at St. Catharines May 7 (JB), Kingston May 9 (RWO), and P.E. Pt., May 17 (MCE) & 25 (RDW). Extralimital Yellow-breasted Chats were at Whitby May 7, 18, & 19 (DVR et al., GAS, MJB), P.E. Pt., May 7, 11, & 18 (K.F.N.), and Kingston May 28 (FA et al.).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — Higher than usual numbers of Summer Tanagers were recorded, led by 11+ at Pelee Apr. 27–May 25 (AW), three at Long Pt., May 12–22 (L.P.B.O.), two at Rondeau P.P. (no dates—fide KJB) and singles at Kettle Pt., May 9 (AHR), Bronte May 7 (MWJ), and P.P.P., May 10 for a 2nd ever (ph. RH et al.). The ♂ Indigo Bunting at Moosonee May 6 furnished that area's 5th record (C & NT). An ad. ♂ **Painted Bunting** at a suburban London feeder Apr. 29–May 1 (RP et al.) was in immaculate plumage and without a leg band. Its wariness, and its appearance during the weather system with very strong S winds that brought summer to Hudson Bay, left no doubt that it was an overshoot and wild to constitute Ontario's first. Three single Dickcissels (about normal spring numbers) were at Rondeau P.P. (HP, PAW) and Long Pt. (L.P.B.O.), both May 6, and at Pelee May 10 (JV). Windsor's overwintering **Green-tailed Towhee** remained to Apr. 24 (J & GL). A late Am. Tree Sparrow was still at Pelee May 11 (JR). Record-early Chipping Sparrows arrived at Pelee Mar. 26 (AW, AJR) and Algonquin P.P., Apr. 15 (RGT). Algonquin's earliest-ever Savannah appeared Apr. 1 (RGT). Five Lark Sparrows were more than usual and included the overwintering bird at Camden East to Mar. 22 (PG). The others were near Atikokan Apr. 16 (DHE, NEB), Springwater, Elgin, Apr. 19 (RJK, WJR), Leamington May 20 (PW), and Pelee May 22 (GM). Single Le Conte's Sparrows were at Long Pt., May 5 & 19 (DBe, JC et al.), Cobourg May 15 (BCO), Pelee May 19 (AWM),



Golden-crowned Sparrow at Toronto, Ont., Apr. 30, 1986. Photo/Glenn Coady.

and Washington, Oxford, May 31 (D & AE). Single Sharp-tailed were at Stoney Pt., May 9 (HGC, HE) and Pickering May 17 (DO). A breeding-plumaged **Golden-crowned Sparrow** spent Apr. 29–May 4 at an Etobicoke feeder (D. Bone et al.) and another was reported at Strathroy Apr. 30 (VP). Presumably, the weather system that brought the Painted Bunting was responsible for these as well. White-crowneds were early at Thunder Bay Apr. 19 (MK). The last of several late Lapland Longspurs was on M.I., May 18 (JCN) and late Snow Buntings were at Wawa May 1 (ERA).

A ♂ Bobolink was well n. at Moosonee May 10 (KFA) and another was record-early in Algonquin P.P., May 6, where a Brown-headed Cowbird was also record-early Mar. 27 (RGT). Easternmost W. Meadowlarks were two males at Oshawa Apr. 27–30, one of which lingered to May 9 (DVR et al.), and a male near Sillsville Lennox & Addington May 9–24 (VPM). The only unusual Yellow-headed Blackbird reports were of the male and female at Moosonee Apr. 24 and May 13 (KFA et al.). First arrival was in Essex, Mar. 9 (fide GTH). Brewer's Blackbird may be continuing to extend its range east. A male and a female were on Amherst I., May 5 & 7 (A. Scott, RDW) and a pair at P.E. Pt., May 29 behaved as though nesting in the area (RWK). Orchard Oriole numbers remained high with one reaching Peterborough May 18 (PB), six at P.P.P., May 5–17 (fide RDM), and three at P.E. Pt., May 4 & 18 (K.F.N.).

The main exodus of Pine Grosbeaks from the s. occurred by mid-April with 12 late birds at Elgin, Leeds, May 9 (MH). Returning Purple Finches arrived nearly everywhere s. of Atikokan by the first week of April. Migrant House Finch numbers continued to rise at Great Lake lookouts. Some 60 were flying off Pelee's tip Mar. 26 (AW, AJR, GTH), and the species was passing P.E. Pt., Mar 30–May 11 (K.F.N.) in largest numbers ever. The only crossbills noted were five and nine Reds near Kingston and at Oshawa Mar. 2 & 28 (RDW, DVR), respectively, and single White-wingeds at Kirkland Lake in late March (LT), Peterborough Apr. 12 (HA), Burketon, Durham, May 17 (LRa), and Guelph May 26 (JEP). Redpolls departed from the s. by mid-April, although 15 clung to their food source at a Whitby feeder to Apr. 24 (MJB). Their main arrival on James Bay occurred Mar. 29–Apr. 1 (KFA). The return of Pine Siskins was strong in the s., Apr. 15–May 15, as was that of Evening Grosbeaks which were passing through Mar. 15–May 31.

CORRIGENDA — AB 40:106, column 2, line 20, delete "Am. Woodcock at Sibley Nov. 24"; p. 108, column 1, line 23, insert "Thunder Bay, Niagara".

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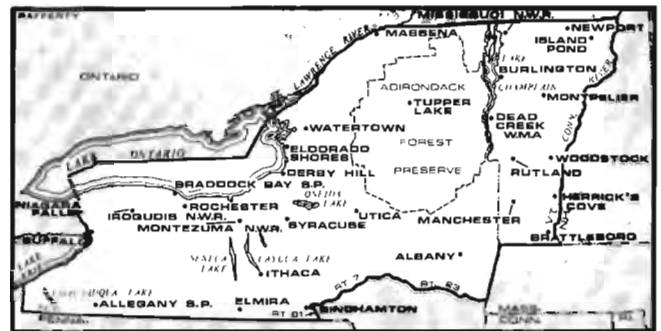
NIAGARA-CHAMPLAIN REGION

Douglas P. Kibbe and Cheryl M. Boise

Generally mild conditions hastened the departure of winter visitors and the return of migrants. Light late spring snowfalls drove birds to feeders but appeared to cause little mortality or disruption in return dates. Late (in many cases post-season) killing frosts had no perceptible immediate effect on birds, but will doubtless mean fewer fruits, seeds, and berries will be available later in the year.

The early spring had vegetation well advanced by the time the brunt of migration was upon us. Normally this creates suboptimal viewing conditions and brings a deluge of complaints bemoaning migration numbers in general. This year, however, grounding conditions (i.e., storms) must have coincided nicely with birder activity (i.e., weekends), for an astonishing array of species was amassed by observers in the Region. However, even this year, as the careful reader will note, sometimes you would have been better off going fishing. Not only was the number of rarities far above normal but counts of many migrants set new records. Although it is tempting to speculate that environmental, behavioral, or demographic changes are responsible, ever better coverage and more conscientious tallying are more likely causes.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — The early thaw and resultant rapid passage of waterbirds resulted in few tallies of note. One hundred Red-throated Loons at Hamlin Beach Apr. 13 (WS, DT) were rapidly dispersed by a fishing armada. Another dozen on the Hudson R., Apr. 26 (RD) made the only other concentration of note. Breeding Com. Loons on Upper and Lower Lakes W.M.A. in Jefferson County for the 3rd year were interpreted (KC, GS) as evidence that loons may be abandoning some Adirondack lakes (many of which have been rendered fishless by acidity) for lowland marshes. If the latter areas are still productive, however, what factors are responsible for the general decline in Pied-billed Grebes? This spring's maximum tally was of only five! Horned and Red-necked grebes were equally rare, perhaps due to Great Lakes fishing disturbance. An **American White Pelican** that flew over Hamlin Beach State Park May 29 (RE) was headed E, but eluded observers in the rest of the Region. Double-crested Cormorant counts continue to increase despite the fishing fleets. We anticipate new breeding sites will be established in the near future



and urge all observers to be cognizant of this possibility, so that this aspect of population growth can be monitored.

Southern long-legged waders put in a particularly fine showing this spring. Weather conditions in the southeastern U.S., where rainfall was more than a foot below normal, tempt us to speculate on causal relationships but we will refrain at least temporarily. Exceptional Am. Bittern numbers were noted on the Waddington Breeding Bird Survey (eight on the first 8 stops—KC), where high L. Ontario levels may have pushed birds out of lakeside marshes into more accessible areas, but most other areas reported only usual numbers. In addition to a host of Great Egrets (up to 25 at Iroquois N.W.R.), Snowy Egrets were found at Stockport Station (KD) and Tonawanda W.M.A. (DE), Little Blue Herons showed up at Sheridan (BC, TM, m.ob.), Pomfrey (JF), and Braddock Bay (fide RS), a Glossy Ibis apparently overflowed coastal breeding sites May 5 to arrive in Peter Scott Swamp, Oswego Co. (AT, fide PD), and an ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron appeared at Hamlin, Monroe Co., Apr. 13 (DT et al.).

Waterfowl produced little excitement this year, passing through rapidly as warm weather, exceptionally early this season, hastened their departure. Single Greater White-fronted Geese were found near Herrick's Cove in Vermont (m.ob.) and at Pond 100, Onandaga Co. (FS), and two each were at Braddock Bay (FN) and Iroquois N.W.R. (DE). Only a decade ago this species was considered very rare in the Region, most earlier records being attributed, probably incorrectly, to feral birds. The origin of the ♂ Tufted Duck on Saratoga L., Apr. 5–10 (RLF, m.ob.) was, as always, more questionable. Missisquoi N.W.R. maintained its reputation as the Region's Ring-necked Duck capital with 1200 birds in early April. Both King Eider and

Harlequin Duck could be found in the Buffalo/Niagara R. areas, the latter species lingering to Apr. 26.

HAWKS THROUGH CRANES — Diurnal raptors were responsible for a large share of the ornithological excitement this spring. Exceptionally favorable wind conditions produced record flights over the L. Ontario shore hawk watches, particularly at Braddock Bay. Totals for Derby Hill and Braddock Bay, respectively, were as follows: **Black Vulture** 0 and three; Turkey Vulture 2,139 and 5,293; Osprey 268 and 386; Bald Eagle 24 and 53; Northern Harrier 738 and 1,022; Sharp-shinned Hawk 5,685 and 14,022; Cooper's Hawk 466 and 1,423; Northern Goshawk 57 and 78; Red-shouldered 836 and 2,264; Broad-winged Hawk 14,845 and 32,103; Red-tailed Hawk 6,400 and 11,413; **Swainson's Hawk** 0 and two; Rough-legged Hawk 263 and 323; Golden Eagle 14 and 13; Peregrine Falcon two and five; Merlin 11 and 26; American Kestrel 287 and 1,180; and Total (including unidentified), 32,177 and 69,797. Normally, higher totals are expected at Derby Hill, which receives birds concentrated from the entire length of L. Ontario. The fact that totals at Braddock Bay were more than double Derby Hill's highlights the impact of local weather conditions on number of birds seen and the difficulty of drawing conclusions on population trends from this type of survey, given the number of variables that may affect tallies. Unrecorded at any hawk watch, a Gyrfalcon left Rensselaerville Mar. 26 (DS) for points north.

Not all the excitement was over migrants. New York's Bald Eagle hacking program produced the state's 3rd pair of breeding eagles, when two 4-year-olds of Alaskan extraction nested at Iroquois N.W.R. Although the Osprey hacking project on Allegheny Reservoir has yet to bear fruit, a male there constructed a nest and was wishfully courting females. Vermonters probably have New York to thank for the Osprey at a nest in the Champlain valley, their first in a decade. The hawk banding station at Braddock Bay enjoyed unprecedented success this spring, handling 688 hawks and 24 owls. An **American Swallow-tailed Kite** over Dansville Res., Apr. 25 drew the attention of at least one alert trout fisherman (DB) who cast his eyes on it. Another reported from Washington, Vt., three days later (AA, BD) could, we suppose, have been the same wayward individual. A Spruce Grouse was finally found in Vermont at Yellow Bog in Lewis (*vide* CA). A Chukar at S. Londonderry (HS) was an obvious release while the origin of the pair of N. Bobwhites at Catskill, Green Co., was more problematic.

Double sightings of King Rails, at Bergeson W.S. (DD) and Tonawanda W.M.A. (WD, m.ob.), were exceptional but not unexpected. This species probably breeds, at least sporadically, in the major marshes of w. New York. Persistent use of tape recorders might (no promise!) reward zealous observers. No fewer than 10 different Sandhill Cranes flew by the Braddock Bay hawk lookout between Mar. 28 and May 18 (FN *et al.*). Only a single sighting occurred at Derby Hill (*vide* GS), while another was seen in Pendleton, Niagara Co. (J & ML) and two were on the Retreat Meadows at Brattleboro, Vt. (DW). Although now recognized as a regular transient in the w. portion of the Region, the total set a new record and makes one wonder whether this season's passage was fortuitous or forecasts further range expansions by this increasing species.

SHOREBIRDS AND LARIDS — The appearance May 22-24 of an **American Oystercatcher** at Barcelona Harbor, N.Y. (MS *et al.*) was unprecedented and inexplicable. Conscientious record-keeping at Braddock Bay's hawk lookout (FN *et al.*) of non-raptors produced some interesting sightings and exceptional tallies including: an early Lesser Golden-Plover Mar. 7, over 520 Lesser Yellowlegs and 51 Solitary Sandpipers May 3, and a thousand Pectoral Sandpipers Apr. 12. The single ♀ Wilson's Phalarope found on Chase Walker pool (FN) was a marked reduction from numbers reported in recent years. A Red Phalarope was grounded at Herricks Cove by thunder showers May 23 (WN), long enough to provide that state's first spring record. It is unknown whether five Purple Sandpipers on Goat Island

in the Niagara R. overwintered there or were migrants concentrated enroute from farther w. on the Great Lakes. One photographed at Alburg, Vt., May 23 (RL) was particularly late. Could it have wintered on Lake Champlain?

Gulls were relatively mundane by recent standards. A **Parasitic Jaeger** seen briefly from a boat off Pt. Pleasant on L. Ontario May 14 (JK) was, however, exceptional. The Laughing Gull at Dunkirk Harbor continued through Mar. 21 (TM, m.ob.), and an "almost 2nd-year" Thayer's Gull frequented the Braddock Bay area through the season's end (FN, RGM *et al.*). Tern sightings were nearly as uninteresting. Only one Forster's Tern was reported and no concentrations of the more common species were noted. A tern described in considerable detail after it passed 50 ft above the Braddock Bay, N.Y., hawk lookout (FN) gave every indication of having been an **Arctic Tern**.

CUCKOOS THROUGH CROWS — Both cuckoo species were generally scarce, unless one was lucky (?) enough to be experiencing a tent caterpillar or gypsy moth outbreak. As the latter pest moves south it will be interesting to note whether cuckoos continue to be shortstopped. If so, they may become increasingly uncommon in the Northeast although relatively abundant farther south. A single Com. Barn-Owl was reported from N. Baltimore (RG). Two **Boreal Owls** reported were photographed, but only the one at Braddock Bay recognizably (*vide* KA, G.O.S., R.B.A.). Until far more field work is undertaken the Regional status of this species will remain a mystery. Whip-poor-wills are now rare throughout most of the Region. Causes for this decline, which occurred while the species was expanding its range in the South, are unknown. Observers will be heartened to hear that this spring birds could be found "(almost) everywhere" in Saratoga, Green, and Albany counties (RG). Perhaps the most exciting catch this season was a **Black-chinned Hummingbird** seen (yes, while the observer was fishing) in Huron, N.Y., May 25 (MT *et al.*).

Small wonder raptors are abundant around Braddock Bay in spring. They were accompanied (for their dining pleasure) by 13,000 Am. Crows Mar. 19, and 15,000 Blue Jays May 16 (FN). Common Ravens continue to expand their breeding range. A flight of 67 seen Apr. 13 from Little Haystack Mountain (TM) was noteworthy for both its size and the late date. Most ravens are assumed to be on nests by that time. Fish Crows are also expanding. Nesting is suspected in Rensselaer and Albany County areas and a single bird was recorded at Derby Hill (GS).

PARIDS TO WARBLERS — Only one extralimital Boreal Chickadee was found and the Black-capped flight was unspectacular. Some expansion of the Hudson Valley Carolina Wren population was noted (RG) but only a half dozen Sedge Wrens were found in the entire Region. A total of four Loggerhead Shrikes was sighted, all on the L. Ontario plains. The Varied Thrush at Chatham lingered through early March (RG). The only White-eyed Vireo was, surprisingly enough, at Herricks Cove (WN), far e. of the portion of the Region where we consider breeding incipient.

Overall, this was one of the best springs in recent years for warbler enthusiasts, with high diversity being the rule although total numbers were not spectacular. Blue-winged Warblers continue to creep insidiously N at the expense of Golden-winged. Orange-crowned Warblers were somewhat scarcer than normal, with only 5 sightings. Two "**Audubon's**" **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were found, one at Belmont (VP), the other at Riverville, N.Y. (LG *et al.*). The latter, at a suet feeder Jan. 28 through mid-March, was belatedly identified through photographs more than a month after its first appearance but remained for many to see. Yellow-throated Warblers, now to be considered potential breeders in many portions of New York, were found at 3 sites, at least 2 of them likely (one a known) breeding areas. Prairie Warblers seemed better reported than usual, probably reflecting continued population increases. This species has benefitted tremendously from clearcutting and pure pine stand forestry practices currently prevalent in the s e

United States, and we suspect the surplus from s.e. populations may have contributed substantially to increases in our Region's colonies in recent years. An excellent fallout of Palm Warblers occurred Regionwide in early May, the best tally being of 60 w. of Rochester (MC) on the 5th. There were 4 reports of Prothonotary Warblers [barely] outside known breeding locations. Only three Worm-eating Warblers overshot known breeding areas, and the colony on the Heldeberg escarpment in Thatcher State Park was apparently defunct. There were more sightings of Kentucky Warblers than usual and Yellow-breasted Chats put in their strongest showing in nearly a decade. One of the four Connecticut Warblers reported was banded.

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES — There were numerous records of Clay-colored Sparrows, including some heard only—which brings us to the Chipping Sparrow singing a Clay-colored song in Allegany County (R & VA). Hybridization between these two species is a proven fact and may become a widespread (although still rare) phenomenon as Clay-colored Sparrows continue to invade the Region. Several Dark-eyed Juncos were noted utilizing sapsucker drillings on a birch near Ferrisburg, Vt. (M & JID). A W. Meadowlark near Eldorado May 4 (GS, *fide* LC) was well e. of traditional Regional occurrences but was still within the L. Ontario plains. Other western representatives included at least two Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Braddock Bay (FN *et al.*) and another at Mayville plus at

least three Brewer's Blackbirds in the Rochester area (R.B.A., G.O.S.) and another in Kianton Twn. (RS, m.ob.). While Orchard Orioles appear well on their way to establishing a viable breeding population in the Champlain valley (one nesting area has now been occupied for 3 consecutive years), they disappeared from several long-time locations around Albany (RG). Over 400 Com. Redpolls were banded at Schenectady (RY, *fide* RG) but no one noted a strong spring return flight. Both crossbills and Pine Grosbeaks were very scarce.

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APPALACHIAN REGION

George A. Hall

After last year's poor spring migration almost any season would look good, and so it was. This year's migration, while not a great one, was nevertheless interesting. Most areas reported very dry, or even record-dry, weather verging on drought. The Pittsburgh weather station reported a rainfall deficiency of 3.95 inches for the period. At Knoxville the annual rainfall deficit was over 12 inches by May 31. All three months were above average in temperature. March and April were characterized by rapid and extensive shifts in temperature.

The warm March weather got the migration, which had been a little behind in February, underway and as it proceeded many species arrived at early dates, including some unusually early ones. After mid-April many of the migrants expected in May had arrived. The early May flight was good with a fine wave May 5-6 and another a week later. After May 15 temperatures rose and it remained hot for the rest of the month. Most of the migrants departed at this time. For example, Tennessee Warblers were numerous on my property from May 3 to May 15, but none was heard after that.

At Powdermill Nature Reserve, of 53 species analyzed, 30 were in numbers below the 10-year average, five at the average, and only 18 above average (RCL, RM). At Pittsburgh 23 species were listed in "notably high numbers" and only 13 in "notably low numbers" (PH).

Besides good numbers of most normal species, there were several rarities reported, such as the Snowy Plover, Black Rail, and Clapper Rail.

ABBREVIATIONS — B.E.S.P. = Bald Eagle State Park, Pa.; Ch.N.F. = Chattahoochee Nat'l Forest, Ga.; P.I.S.P. = Presque Isle State Park, Pa.; P.N.R. = Powdermill Nature Reserve, Pa. Place names in italics are counties.



LOONS THROUGH IBISES — There were more reports of Com. Loons than in recent years, but they were not numerous anywhere. Red-throated Loons were seen at B.E.S.P., Mar. 14 (B & FH) and at P.I.S.P., May 14 (JM). Single Red-necked Grebes were sighted at P.I.S.P., Mar. 2-Apr. 13 (m.ob.), at B.E.S.P., Mar. 8-Apr. 13 (m.ob.), and at Pymatuning L., Pa., Mar. 8 (RFL, ML). Horned Grebes remained at Elizabethton, Tenn., until Apr. 26 (GE, HF) and were fairly common at Huntington, W.Va. (TI).

The Double-crested Cormorant continues to increase in numbers in this Region with reports coming from throughout. An interesting report was of 23 cormorants flying past the hawk lookout on Tuscarora Mt., Pa., Apr. 23 (CG).

Reports of Am. Bitterns came from 8 locations, from North Carolina to L. Erie. Least Bitterns were lower in numbers at P.I.S.P. than in 1985 but still encouragingly numerous (JM), and one was calling at Guilford L., O., May 1 (WB). A Great Blue Heron nesting colony with 25–30 nests was located in Lawrence, Pa. (AM), and the colonies in Mercer, Pa., had a total of 577 adults and sub-adults (EB). A small colony of 15 nests there was abandoned for no apparent reason in mid-May and the few adults that survived the destruction of a colony by last year's tornado did not nest elsewhere (EB). The Great Egret continues to be reported more widely each spring, but the only reports of Snowy Egrets came from Boone L., Tenn., Apr. 16 (RK) and Stuart's Draft, Va., May 14 (AMi). The only report of a Cattle Egret came from B.E.S.P., May 21 (DB). More unusual were the **Tricolored Heron** (7th county record) at P.I.S.P., Pa., May 24 & 25 (B & JB) and a **Reddish Egret** at Harrisonburg, Va., May 17–18, for a first county record (R.B.C.). Green-backed Herons were unusually scarce at most places. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were reported from near Waynesboro, Va., May 12 (SR), P.I.S.P., May 15 (7th county record) (JH), and Crawford, Pa., May 18 (DD), and this species nested again at Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE, GW).

A Glossy Ibis was seen at Antes Fort, Pa., Apr. 19 (PS).

WATERFOWL — The N flight of waterfowl was somewhat heavier than last year but was still not very good, although some localities had good concentrations. The Tundra Swan flight was good with the largest concentration being of 1000 at Donegal L., Pa., Mar. 17 (E & MWa). Two at Shenandoah L., Rockingham, Va., Apr. 11 (R.B.C.) were quite late and somewhat out of the normal flight path. Mute Swans nested at Seneca L., O. (GP), and they were also seen in Wood, W.Va., Mar. 8 (JC), Huntingdon, Pa., Mar. 5–21 (ML), and Colyer L., Pa., May 11+ (RHa). Canada Geese continue to increase their nesting range, and broods of young were sighted throughout the Region. Snow Geese were seen at Waterford, Pa., Mar. 1 (six blue and six white—BM), and Pymatuning L., Pa., Mar. 9 (three white—JM) and Mar. 28–30 (four blue and one white—RFL). Fifteen Greater White-fronted Geese were seen at Kyger's Creek, O., Mar. 8 (TI). The Ruddy Shelduck reported from Kyger's Creek earlier was last seen Mar. 9 (TI) while the one that had been present for several years at Guilford L., O., disappeared after Apr. 3 (WB).

Dabbling ducks were generally low but there were more reports of Canvasback and Redhead than usual. Oldsquaws were seen at 3 lakes in Crawford, Pa., in mid-April, with a peak count of 36 at Woodcock L., Apr. 12 (RFL), but the only other report was from Latrobe, Pa., Apr. 17 (RCL, RM). All three scoters were unusually numerous in n.w. and c. Pennsylvania with most records in mid- to late April. The White-winged was present most of the period at P.I.S.P. (JM) and was reported in fair numbers from Crawford, Pa. (RFL), Centre, Pa. (DB), B.E.S.P. (PS), and Somerset, Pa. (RCL, RM). Black Scoters were reported from L. Arthur, Pa., Mar. 16 (PH), Woodcock L., Pa., Apr. 20 (RFL), and B.E.S.P., Apr. 20 (DB, AF), while Surf Scoters were at B.E.S.P., Apr. 20 (GB), and up to eight were at P.I.S.P., Mar. 13–May 21 (JM, LS).

VULTURES AND RAPTORS — A Black Vulture's nest was found near Fincastle, Va., for the first local nesting record (BK), a pair was seen in Huntingdon, Pa., in early May near the site of last year's successful nesting and four were seen in April elsewhere in that county (Tsm), and sightings were reported from Ona, W.Va., Mar. 20 (TI) and McDowell, N.C., Apr. 20 (RR).

The only spring hawkwatching was reported from Tuscarora Summit, Pa., where Apr. 20 with 716 birds was the peak day (CG).

Ospreys were unusually numerous and were reported throughout the Region. A record 61 were counted at Tuscarora Summit, Pa., Apr. 20 (CG). The only possible nesting report was from Beech Fork L., W.Va., where a pair was seen from

May 8 to the end of the period (TI). Migrant Bald Eagles were also in good numbers with a total of 26 birds reported from 12 locations. Eagles apparently nested at Mosquito L., O., but no information was available on the success (CB). No young were raised this year in the Crawford, Pa., nestings (RFL), but the pair nesting in the S. Branch of the Potomac Valley in West Virginia raised three young. Last fall's record-breaking floods made this nest somewhat more inaccessible. Northern Harriers were more widely reported than usual and nesting was suspected near Warren, Pa. (WH).

Accipiters were in somewhat lower than normal numbers, but 97 Sharp-shinned Hawks at Tuscarora Summit Apr. 20 (CG) were noteworthy. Northern Goshawks were reported from B.E.S.P., Mar. 11 (TS, JP), P.I.S.P., Mar. 22 (LS, JM), Moraine S.P., Pa., Mar. 23 (PH), Spartansburg, Pa., Mar. 29 (RFL), Colyer L., Pa., Apr. 8–9 (DP), and Tuscarora Summit, Pa., Apr. 20 (CG). A nest was found in McKean, Pa., May 30 (MO) and one sighted in Garret, Md., May 25 could have been nesting (MOB). At Tuscarora Summit, Pa., 500 Broad-winged Hawks were counted Apr. 20 (CG). Golden Eagles were reported from Huntingdon, Pa., Mar. 9 (ML), Ch.N.F., Ga., Mar. 28 (HD), Tuscarora Summit, Pa., Apr. 20 (CG), and 4 sightings in Highland, Va., in late March and April (LT). There are persistent rumors of possible nestings in this last area.

American Kestrels were doing well, and at Warren, Pa., 22 pairs nested in the 27 boxes of a new nesting project (WH). Merlins were reported from 9 locations from Knoxville, Tenn. (AH), to P.I.S.P. (m.ob.). Peregrines were reported from Waynesboro, Va., May 8 (SR) and Salem, O., May 18 (RB).

QUAIL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — The N. Bobwhite has been almost eliminated from the n. part of this Region, so a report from Huntingdon, Pa., Apr. 26 (HH) was encouraging. Two Wild Turkeys were killed in Cabell, W.Va. (out of the normal range) in April (TI) and a hen with young was seen in Johnson, Tenn., May 26 (ES).

Sandhill Cranes were unusually common at Dalton, Ga., where 180 were seen in 4 sightings (HD). More unusual were 2 sightings at P.I.S.P., Apr. 26 (TK) and May 22 (B & FH).

Two Black Rails were found in a marsh in Centre, Pa., May 25 & 31 (voice recorded), for the first county and 12th state record (JP). An exhausted **Clapper Rail** (ph.) was captured near Elizabethton, Tenn., Apr. 8. After care it was released Apr. 17 (fide GE). Virginia Rails were found at Fincastle, Va., Apr. 14 (CM), P.N.R., Apr. 21–23 (RCL, RM), Lock Haven, Pa., May 1–6 (PS), and Glenwood Swamp, Cabell, W.Va. (TI).

The shorebird flight produced mixed results. Those areas suffering from the drought had little suitable habitat, but some other areas did well. At P.I.S.P., a storm May 19 produced a fallout of 1073 shorebirds of 13 species with record numbers of Ruddy Turnstones (55), Whimbrels (331), Red Knots (485), and White-rumped Sandpipers (three) (DS).

A Lesser Golden-Plover was at Austin Springs, Tenn., Mar. 15 (RK). The record of the season was of a **Snowy Plover** at



Snowy Plover at Presque Isle S.P., Pa., May 17, 1986. Second Pennsylvania record. Photo/Eric Hall.

P.I.S.P. (ph.), May 17 (m.ob.), for the 2nd Pennsylvania record (the first was in 1886). American Avocets were reported from Cherokee L., Tenn., Apr. 28 (MSm) and from P.I.S.P., nine on Apr. 29 (first spring record for Erie) (JF).

Other noteworthy records were: Willet at B.E.S.P., May 1-4 (MW) and P.I.S.P., May 6 (JF) & 25 (TS); Ruddy Turnstone at Roanoke May 14 (HT, MD) and Bath, Va., May 30 (R.B.C.); Red Knot at Lyndhurst, Va. (first county record), Mar. 29-Apr. 2 (SR); W. Sandpiper at Austin Springs, Tenn., May 14 (RC), and L. Arthur, Pa., May 25 (PH); Baird's Sandpiper at Austin Springs, Tenn., May 21 (RC) and L. Arthur, Pa., May 25 (PH); Short-billed Dowitcher in Lycoming May 18 (SS) and 31 at L. Arthur, Pa., May 16 (MG); Wilson's Phalarope at Princeton, W. Va., May 5 (JPh) and Roanoke, Va., May 13 (MD, NM); and Red-necked Phalarope at Roanoke May 25 (MD, MP). White-rumped Sandpipers were more widely reported than usual.

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS—Lake Erie at Presque Isle Bay produced its usual good gull records: up to eight Glaucous Gulls Mar. 9, up to four Iceland Gulls Mar. 7 (BF, TS), a probable Glaucous x Herring hybrid Mar. 7 (TS), a Laughing Gull May 24 (SSt), and Franklin's Gull May 26 (LS, JM). A Laughing Gull was also seen at Fort Loudon L., Mar. 11 (AK). Bonaparte's Gulls were reported from 10 locations, with peak numbers of 400 at L. Arthur, Pa., April 13 (PH) and 300 at P.I.S.P., May 4 (RFL, ML).

It was a good year for terns, as Forster's (10 locations), Caspian (6 locations), and Black terns (6 locations) were more common than usual in this inland Region. At L. Arthur, Pa., 13 Caspians Apr. 26 (LC, MC) were noteworthy. However, the large number of reports of Forster's Terns, with few reports of Commons, leads to a suspicion of some misidentifications.

Both species of cuckoo were scarce everywhere. There was a remarkable number of reports of Com. Barn-Owls: Lock Haven, Pa. (CH), Centre, Pa. (TS), Clarksville, Pa. (RBe), Waynesboro, Va. (RS), and Rockingham, Va. (R.B.C.). Both roosts of Long-eared Owls reported from the State College, Pa.,



Chuck-will's-widow on nest in w. Botetourt Co., Va., May 17, 1986. Photo/Barry Kinzie.

area in the winter were occupied until late March (JP). Short-eared Owls were seen at P.I.S.P., Mar. 29 (N & EH), B.E.S.P., Mar. 1-18 (PS), and Westmoreland, Mar. 2 (BE). Reports of N. Saw-whet Owls came from Warren, Pa., Apr. 23 (HJ), State College, Pa., numerous all period (JP), Mt. Davis, Pa., in early May (AM), and Roan Mt., Tenn., above 5000 ft., May 17 (RK).

Whip-poor-wills continue to decline but Chuck-will's-widows seem to be expanding their range. They were reported from the Ch.N.F., Apr. 19 (HD), Lyndhurst, Va., Apr. 30 (fide RS), and Indiana, Pa., May 18 (M & RH), and nested near Fincastle, Va., for the first nesting in the Ridge and Valley section of Virginia (BK). The 51 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds banded at P.N.R. were 44% above the 10-year average (RCL, RM).

Five pairs of Red-headed Woodpeckers were nesting in Rockingham, Va. (R.B.C.), and the species was thought to be more numerous in Columbiana, O., than in recent years (WB). One was seen in Vienna, W.Va., May 4 (LR). Red-bellied Woodpeckers continue to show up in more locations in Erie, Pa., in the extreme north.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS—Olive-sided Flycatchers were more common than usual with reports from 6 locations. At P.N.R., the E. Wood-Pewee and all Empidonax flycatchers were in lower than normal numbers, but Alder Flycatchers seem to be increasing there (RCL, RM). Six singing ♂ Alders were found on Roan Mt., Tenn., above 5000 ft, May 17 (RK). Alder Flycatchers in Guernsey, O., May 20 (GP) were out of range unless they were singing during migration. Territorial Willow Flycatchers were in Fentress, Tenn., May 26 (CN). The Say's Phoebe reported in December from Monterey, Va., was last seen Apr. 10 (fide RS).

At Warren, Pa., 40% of the boxes in a "bluebird line" were occupied by Tree Swallows (WH). This species also nested at Knoxville (MA) and may have been nesting in Morgan, Tenn. (CN). Both areas are s. of the usual range. The Cliff Swallow is doing well with new nesting sites in w. Tennessee (CN) and an increase in s.w. West Virginia, despite the destruction of one colony (TI), but in Rockingham, Va., some colonies did not nest because of the drought-induced lack of mud.

Two nests of Com. Raven were found on the high walls of old strip mines in Somerset, Pa. (AM), and their behavior on Mt. Mitchell, N.C., May 4 suggested that they might be nesting there (fide RR). Fish Crows were again seen on the Susquehanna R. where 25 were at Lock Haven, Pa., May 12 (PS).

The Carolina Wren showed a small increase in the north but was still not back to normal. There were no reports of Bewick's Wrens. The House Wren attempted to nest near Swannanoa, N.C. (RR). The only report of Sedge Wren came from P.I.S.P., May 6 (RSw), and Marsh Wrens were seen at Salem, O., Apr. 27 (WB) and Tofrees, Pa., May 4 (TS).

The kinglet flight was good, and at Pittsburgh the numbers of Ruby-crowneds were the best in years (PH). Swainson's Thrush had a better migration than last year at P.N.R. (RCL), Morgantown, W.Va. (GAH), and Rockingham, Va. (R.B.C.), but in the Pittsburgh area they were scarce. At Warren, Pa., E. Bluebirds occupied 40% of the boxes in a bluebird project.

Water Pipits were more commonly reported than usual. Cedar Waxwings were almost absent from most places but late in the period large flocks moved in. Northern Shrikes were reported from P.I.S.P., Mar. 2 (JM), Edinboro, Pa., Mar. 9 (DS), B.E.S.P., present until Mar. 22 (TS, PS), and Indiana, Pa., Mar. 4-11 (MH). Loggerhead Shrikes were reported only from the Ridge and Valley region. A Virginia Game Commission project found 41 nests and banded 69 young in Rockingham and Augusta, Va., and located 2 nesting pairs near Blacksburg and 3 pairs in Highland. A nest was found near Petersburg, W.Va. (R.B.C.). Other reports came from Antietam Battlefield, Md., Mar. 2 (RRi), and two pairs were near Jonesboro, Tenn. (RK).

White-eyed Vireos continue to increase northward, and Yellow-throated Vireos showed a heartening increase in numbers. There were more than the usual number of spring reports of Philadelphia Vireos.

WARBLERS — Although some areas reported low numbers (including State College, Pa., and Waynesboro, Va.), there was general agreement that the warbler flight was much better than that of last year. At P.N.R., seven species were banded in above-average numbers, seven in average numbers, and five in below-average numbers (RCL, RM). Arrival was mostly on the early side and at Pittsburgh 26 species had been recorded by Apr. 30 (PH). The advent of very warm weather in mid-May sent most of the migrants on their way and few warblers were present in the last 2 weeks of the month.

It was universally agreed that Golden-winged Warblers were very scarce, and indeed this species is assuming Blue List status in this Region. Kentucky Warblers were also scarce at Morgantown (GAH) and P.N.R. (RCL). At Montoursville, Pa. (SS), Hopwood, Pa. (GC), and Morgantown (GAH), there was an unusually heavy flight of Bay-breasted Warblers, but at Monterey, Va. (LT), none was seen.

Prothonotary Warblers were confirmed to nest at P.I.S.P., after being present for several years (JM). Worm-eating Warblers were also found there (JM). Twenty-three singing ♂ Swainson Warblers were located in McDowell, W.Va., in late May (fide TI), but the prize warbler record of the season was of a Swainson's Warbler banded May 16 at P.I.S.P. (RFL, ML).

CARDINALS THROUGH FINCHES — Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found nesting in the Cumberland Mts., Morgan, Tenn. (CN).

There was a report of four Bachman's Sparrows near Fort Gay, W.Va., Apr. 5 (TI). A Clay-colored Sparrow appeared at a feeder in Erie, Pa., for the 4th consecutive year, May 2 & 3 (DBo). Chipping Sparrows were unusually common at Clarksville, Pa. (RBe), and at P.N.R., bandings were 186% above average, but Field Sparrows were generally in low numbers in the north. Savannah Sparrows were nesting near Lyndhurst, Va. (RS). There were mixed reports of Grasshopper Sparrows with some areas reporting them to be numerous, but Henslow's Sparrows continued to decline, although one in Murray, Ga., Apr. 23 provided a new record for the area (HD). A possibly new nesting area for Dark-eyed Junco was reported from the Ch N.F., Ga. (HD), and an "Oregon" Junco was seen in Butler, Pa., Mar. 20-29 (JE). A very late Snow Bunting arrived May 3 at P.I.S.P. after 2 days of NW winds (JM, DS).

Bobolinks were more commonly reported at Knoxville than usual (CN). A **Western Meadowlark** was found in Butler, Pa., at the same location as last year's birds (J & RBt). A **Brewer's Blackbird** was found at P.I.S.P., Pa., May 18, for a 6th county

record (B & JB). This is the most logical place to expect this species, which no doubt will start turning up all over the Region as time goes on, and indeed one was seen in Wood, W.Va., Apr. 1 (RJ, MS).

Purple Finches nested at Clarksville, Pa., for the first local record (RBe). Besides the seemingly permanent population on Shenandoah Mt., Va., Red Crossbills were reported from the Ch.N.F., Ga., Mar. 5 (HD), Waynesboro, Va., Mar. 7 (RS) and Watauga L., Tenn., Mar. 24 (RC). Common Redpolls were found at State College, Pa. (DB), and in the Pittsburgh area (fide PH). Pine Siskins remained in fair numbers well into May, although the distribution was spotty. Some of these late birds may actually have been nesting since at State College, Pa., a bird with a brood patch was banded May 13 (MW), the first indication of breeding in that area, and there were 2 reports of nesting which will be detailed in the summer season account. Evening Grosbeaks remained at most places well into May and a few were even present at Monterey, Va., May 31 (LT).

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WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

David J. Powell

The birds and the weather this season defy categorization across the Region. The weather was exceedingly variable in Minnesota—cold temperatures being followed by very warm periods throughout the season, with rain and fog liberally mixed in. This produced some good birding at times in the state. Wisconsin's weather was generally more stable—mostly warm in March, with some periods of snow; cool in early April, warm and windy in late April, producing many early arrivals. May was uneventful, although variably very wet and very dry in different areas of the state. Birders found the late April period quite interesting; but thereafter, the migration was very spotty. Michigan's weather was similar to Wisconsin's, except for a very warm spell in late March that produced a good movement and a cooler, wetter May. The late April and



May migration picture mirrored Wisconsin's, with a good movement April 25–27, followed by spotty distribution thereafter. The rarities during the season were quite good, with at least one first state record for each state.

ABBREVIATIONS — W.P.B.O. = Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, Michigan; M.W.S. = Muskegon Wastewater System, Michigan; U.P. = Michigan's Upper Peninsula; L.P. = Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — Red-throated Loons were seen in normal numbers in Wisconsin, but in above average numbers at Michigan's W.P.B.O., with 13 on 2 dates in late May (staff). Pacific (formerly Arctic) Loons are casual in Minnesota, but all records have been in the summer and fall, so this spring's 2 sightings were the first spring occurrences in Minnesota: one in winter plumage May 7 (KE) and one in breeding plumage May 24 (BL *et al.*), both in Duluth. Red-necked Grebes were seen in good numbers in the e. part of the Region, with nesting in 3 Wisconsin counties and a peak of 64 at W.P.B.O. on May 5 (staff). Eared Grebes were scarcer than normal, with only one Michigan and 3 Wisconsin sightings. Western Grebes were e. of normal in Minnesota and Wisconsin, with 3 sightings on L. Superior: Apr. 28 at Grand Marais (K & MH); May 7, four at Duluth (KE *et al.*) and May 25, two at Superior (DT, RH, MP). Another was seen May 11 in Chippewa, Wis. (*vide* JP). A good description of a **Clark's Grebe** (newly split from Western Grebe) was received: May 10, Ash L., Grant, Minn. (T & RF). If accepted by the Minnesota records committee, it would be the first state and Regional record. American White Pelicans were scarce this spring in Wisconsin, with only 3 sightings comprising 20 birds.

The s. herons were seen in increased numbers this spring throughout the Region, hopefully a sign that the recent trend of diminished numbers is being reversed. Snowy Egrets were seen at one Wisconsin and 3 Michigan locations. Little Blue Herons (in recent years the scarcest of the herons) were seen at 3 Minnesota, one Michigan, and 4 Wisconsin locations, representing 10 birds, the largest number in at least 5 years. Tricolored Herons were found at 2 Michigan locations, 2 more locations than in the entire Region last spring. Cattle Egrets were noted in all 3 states, with the "usual" breeding group in Green Bay, and more reports than usual in Minnesota. A Great Egret was seen Apr. 30 and May 28 at White Pine, Ontonagon in Michigan's U.P. (AM, JM), n. of normal. Two of the more difficult species to separate in the field are the *Plegadis* ibises, so the birders in Minnesota who got good enough looks to identify White-faced Ibises at 2 locations were fortunate: Apr. 26 in Martin (R) and Apr. 27–28 in Lac Qui Parle (GL *et al.*).

Greater White-fronted Geese were seen again in the Region in good numbers, although not so many as last year. The 200+ seen Mar. 22 in Nobles, Minn. (KE *et al.*) was thought to be the largest concentration ever for the state. A Ross' Goose was found in Ozaukee, Wis., Mar. 16–17 (RS *et al.*), one of the few for the state. A probable Ross' Goose was seen among the 1000s of Snow Geese migrating through s.w. Minnesota Mar. 22, but the diagnostic features of the bill were not seen (*vide* KE). The more easterly Brant was seen twice in Michigan, where it is uncommon, but regular: 12 Apr. 2 at W.P.B.O. (DE) and one Apr. 30 at White Pine, Ontonagon (JM). Canada Geese were seen in their best numbers in many years in Minnesota and Wisconsin, with birds pouring into Wisconsin in early March, and an excellent movement in s.w. Minnesota Mar. 21–22. In contrast to the geese, ducks were seen in low numbers and did not linger, particularly in Michigan and Wisconsin. Cinnamon Teal were almost common in Minnesota, with 6 reports from 5 locations, an unheard of abundance. Eurasian Wigeon were seen in both Michigan and Minnesota: Apr. 6 at Carlos Avery W.M.A., Minn. (RF) and Apr. 22–24 at the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary, Kalamazoo, Mich. (JJ, RA, DP *et al.*). Harlequin Ducks were seen a surprising 3 times in Michigan, Mar. 9 at Port Huron (HD), Apr. 16 at W.P.B.O. (RSa), and two May 24 at W.P.B.O. (DP, BB). All three scoters were seen in both Michigan and Wisconsin, but only

White-winged were seen in Minnesota, where one Apr. 13–14 in Scott (m.ob.) was considered quite interesting. The bulk of the observations came from W.P.B.O. as has been the norm in recent years. This year's peak was of 316 White-winged May 12 (staff). Male Barrow's Goldeneyes were found Mar. 28 and Apr. 3 (same bird) at Kensington Metropark, Oakland, Mich (JMc, JFe) and Apr. 2–6 at Rochester, Minn. (m.ob.).

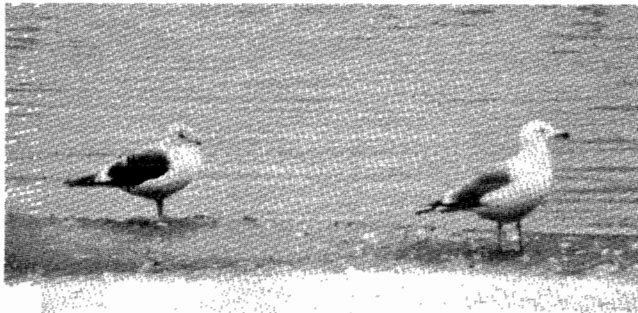
RAPTORS — **Mississippi Kites** are still accidental in the Region, so this spring's three birds were quite exciting: May 14 in Fillmore, Minn. (AP), May 20 in St. Paul (BL, RG), and May 25–27 at the Muskegon S.G.A., Mich. (JW, WWo, m.ob.), only the 3rd record for Michigan, and the first with more than one observer (10 observers). An Osprey in Wisconsin's Dane Mar. 25 (JS) was early. Northern Harriers peaked Apr. 19 at W.P.B.O. was 71 individuals seen (staff). The peak day for Sharp-shinned Hawks for W.P.B.O. was Apr. 27, when an impressive 1778 were counted (staff). A N. Goshawk nest in Lake, Mich. (CS) was s. of normal. The rare/regular Ferruginous Hawk was well represented with one Wisconsin and 2 Minnesota sightings: Mar. 15 near Hudson, Wis. (JMe *et al.*) (very few Wisconsin records); Apr. 26 Lac Qui Parle, Minn. (HK) and May 2 in Rock, Minn. (KL). Rough-legged Hawks were found surprisingly often in mid-late May, with individuals found at 4 Wisconsin locations as late as May 21 and at least two still at W.P.B.O., May 25. Golden Eagles were reported in average numbers in Michigan and Wisconsin, with six in Wisconsin and about eight in Michigan. Merlins continue to fare well in Michigan, with W.P.B.O. reporting excellent numbers, including five individuals on 3 different dates, and reports from at least 5 other locations. The only Gyrfalcons this spring were found in Michigan, with singles Mar. 1 at Sault Ste. Marie (DP, JMa, JG, PC *et al.*) and Mar. 16 (DE) and Apr. 8 (DE, DC), both at W.P.B.O., the latter bird of the white phase.

One of the most encouraging things in the Region in the last several years has been the comeback of the Peregrine Falcon. As recently as 1980, this magnificent raptor was a rare sight in the Region, with one-half dozen an average total for a spring season. Now, however, Peregrines are becoming merely uncommon, with 15 or 20 birds being found in each state of the Region in spring. This spring Minnesota observers found at least 20 individuals spread among 14 sites, and Michigan observers found them at at least 8 sites, with as many as four in a day seen at W.P.B.O.

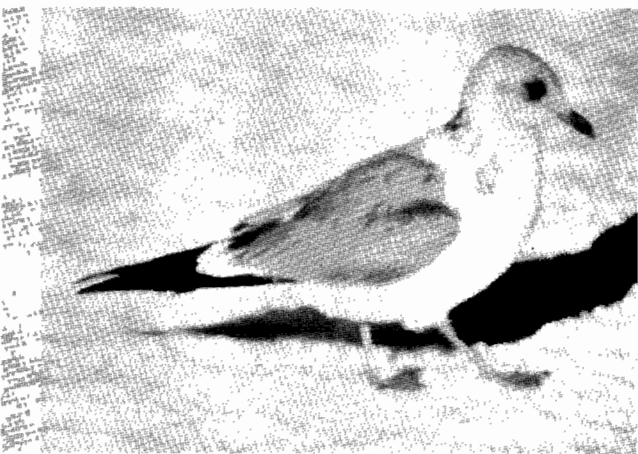
GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Spruce and Sharp-tailed grouse were noted in normal numbers in their U.P. haunts. A Yellow Rail was very early Apr. 23 in Chippewa, Wis. (JP). King Rails were found at 3 locations in Wisconsin, and encouraging numbers (about 30) were found in marshes in e. Michigan along Lakes Huron and Erie. A Com. Moorhen was found at the same far n. Minnesota location, Agassiz N.W.R., as last year, May 27 (PE *et al.*). Piping Plovers remain extremely scarce in the Great Lakes with only one report from Wisconsin and reports from only 3 sites in Michigan. American Avocets were reported from all 3 states, with 26 on Apr. 27 at the Erie Gun Club, Monroe, Mich. (JF, TH) an unusually large concentration for Michigan. Additionally, avocets were seen twice in n.e. Minnesota, where they are only casual. Wisconsin observers found both species of yellowlegs in very good numbers this spring, with hundreds seen at various locations. Willets were seen in good numbers in Wisconsin, with flocks of 30–60 seen in Milwaukee and Ozaukee Apr. 29 (DG *et al.*) Whimbrels were scarcer than normal in Michigan, but one May 23 at M.W.S. (BJ) was unusual because it was on the w side of the state, where they seldom occur. A flock of 110 May 26 at Manitowoc (DG *et al.*) was the largest group reported. Marbled Godwits were seen at one Michigan and 3 Wisconsin locations, fewer than average. Red Knots were scarce in Michigan and Wisconsin, with only 4 and 2 reports respectively, but in Minnesota, there were reports from 4 w. locations, where the species is considered only casual. Western Sandpipers were found at 2 Michigan and 4 Wisconsin locations, more than

normal for the spring. A White-rumped Sandpiper in Dunn, Wis., Apr. 27 (JP) was very early. Surprisingly, Baird's Sandpipers were found at 2 Michigan locations: May 26 at Grand Marais, Alger (DE) and May 27 at W.P.B.O. (staff). This species is much more commonly seen in the Region in the fall. Flocks of 1000 birds were found at 2 Michigan locations: Pectoral Sandpipers at Fish Point S.G.A., Apr. 19 (CF, TW) and Dunlin at Shiawassee N.W.R., May 6 (SS). Again this spring, the uncommon Stilt Sandpiper was seen in good numbers, with reports from one Michigan and 3 Wisconsin locations. A Ruff was in Martin, Minn., Apr. 19 (RG). Red-necked Phalaropes were late in Wisconsin, with all sightings coming May 31: one in Columbia (DC), five in Dane (DC), and two near Beaver Dam (CFe). Michigan's only report was May 10 at Port Huron (HD).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — Parasitic Jaegers are becoming almost commonplace at W.P.B.O. in the spring. After single birds the last 2 springs, no fewer than four were seen this year, all in the last 11 days of May (staff). Even more surprising than the Parasitic Jaegers was an ad. **Long-tailed Jaeger** seen at W.P.B.O., May 11 (DC, TM). This bird's central tail feathers extended a full 6 inches past the other tail feathers, making its sighting one of the few totally acceptable Long-tailed records for the state. [This point is not diagnostic by itself; I assume other characters were seen?—K.K.] Single Laughing Gulls were found May 9 at W.P.B.O. (staff) and May 27 at Milwaukee (DG), about average for this rare/regular species. Franklin's Gulls were found in above-average numbers in Wisconsin, with one Mar. 31 in Fond du Lac (WM) early. More intriguing was a flock of 15 that appeared in s. Columbia May 16. This group quickly expanded to 30 and all were still



Adult Mew Gull (with adult Ring-billed Gull) at Milwaukee, Wis., Mar. 2, 1986. First Wisconsin record. As compared to the Ring-billed, note the Mew Gull's smaller size, smaller, rounded head, shorter bill, and slightly darker upperparts. Photo/John Idzikowski.



Second-winter Mew Gull at Milwaukee, Wis., Mar. 2, 1986. Notice the very long wings in relation to body size, as well as the small bill and head. Photo/John Idzikowski.

present in early June. Little Gulls returned in mid-April to Manitowoc, earlier than usual, with about six seen consistently thereafter (m.ob.). More exciting was the first Minnesota nesting attempt of **Little Gull**, with a pair found with a nest at Heron L., Jackson, May 28 (RJ et al.). Amazingly, at the same lake, the same day, the same group of birders found an ad **Common Black-headed Gull**, the first known occurrence in Minnesota. Not to be outdone, Wisconsin birders also had a gull new to the state when two **Mew Gulls**, an adult and a second-year bird, were found at Milwaukee Mar. 1 (GD, JI). These birds remained for 2 days and were observed and photographed by many.

A California Gull was at Roseau, Minn., May 27 (KE et al.) Thayer's Gulls were seen at one Wisconsin and 3 Michigan locations, with one May 29 at W.P.B.O. (staff) quite late. Iceland Gulls seem much more common in Michigan than in the rest of the Region, making this spring's 3 reports about average. What was not average was that 2 of the sightings were in early May: May 3 at Bridgman, Berrien (WB, DS) and May 4 at the Erie Gun Club, Monroe (DP et al.). The latter bird was particularly notable, because it was the same individual seen there in late March (DP, BB, TWe et al.). A species that, while still rare in the Region, is definitely on the increase is Lesser Black-backed Gull. This season's report was from the Erie Gun Club, Monroe, Mich., Mar. 24–29 (TWe et al.). Late Glaucous Gulls were found May 26 at Manitowoc (DG) and May 31 at Grand Marais, Minn. (K & MH). Great Black-backed Gulls were found away from their normal e. Michigan areas in all 3 states: one Mar. 15–29 in the Duluth-Superior harbor (LS, m.ob.), one Apr. 20 at Two Rivers, Wis. (RH), and one May 21 at W.P.B.O. (staff). The only Arctic Tern of the season (who would have thought 10 years ago that we would ever make that statement?) was one in Chippewa, Mich., May 31 (TH). Two Forster's Terns were seen in Berrien, Mich., on the early date of Apr. 4 (RSm).

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES — A **White-winged Dove** seen by numerous observers May 10 at W.P.B.O., was the first for Michigan. Again this spring both species of cuckoo were scarce. A Snowy Owl May 30 at Ashland, Wis. (DV), was very late. The overwintering Northern Hawk-Owl remained until Mar. 1 in Chippewa, Mich. (DP et al.). Great Gray Owls were seen in good numbers in their traditional nesting areas in Minnesota's Aitkin and Roseau and were reported 3 times in Michigan's Chippewa. Long-eared Owls were very scarce in Wisconsin and not very common in Michigan. Short-eared Owls were seen in larger numbers than last year in all 3 states, although they remain scarce in Michigan and Wisconsin. Boreal Owls were found in their normal numbers along the Gunflint Trail, Cook, Minnesota. Other Boreals were found Apr. 24 at W.P.B.O. (staff), May 2 at Murphy L., Lake, Minn. (BR), and May 2–3 just n. of Isabella, Lake, Minn. (SSc, SW/MS). A Chuck-will's-widow was in Polk, Wis., May 10 into June (JSc). A Chimney Swift Apr. 17 in Bay, Mich. (RAn), was early. A Red-bellied Woodpecker Apr. 27 in Cook, Minn. (WP), was well n. of normal. Following last winter's invasion, Three-toed Woodpeckers were seen at several locations: one Mar. 8 in Sherburne, Minn. (RJ); five in Taylor, Wis. until mid-March (SR et al.); and four in Douglas, Wis. in March (RJo, LS et al.) Black-backed Woodpeckers also were seen more commonly than usual in Minnesota and Wisconsin with individuals farther s. than normal.

An E. Wood-Pewee was very early Apr. 7 in Ashland, Wis. (DV). A W. Kingbird was at W.P.B.O., May 27 (staff). Eastern Kingbirds were amazingly early in Bay, Mich., with two on Apr. 6 (JZ). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was found May 17 in Grand Marais, Minn. (K & MH). Common Ravens are extending their range s. in Michigan's L.P., now being seen regularly as far s. as Wexford. Boreal Chickadees were more common than last year at W.P.B.O., but still were few in number (staff). Carolina Wrens remain abysmally low in the Region, with only 3 reports, one from Michigan and 2 from Wisconsin. A Bewick's Wren found in Olmsted, Minn., Apr. 27 (JB) lingered into May (m.ob.). This species is now only casual in the Region. Blue-

gray Gnatcatchers were early in both Michigan and Wisconsin, with two Mar. 30 at Marquette, Mich. (in the U.P.) the earliest (R & DP). Gnatcatchers seem to be extending their range n. and w. in Minnesota, with sightings May 12 at Blue Mounds S.P. (TT), May 14 in Crow Wing (RJ), and May 18 in Wilkin (RJ) lending further support to the theory. The *Catharus* thrushes were down throughout the Region during migration, with numbers below even last year's sparse counts. Varied Thrushes were reported from one Michigan and 2 Wisconsin locations.

MIMIDS THROUGH WARBLERS — Northern Mockingbirds were widely reported in Michigan and Wisconsin, with 7 sightings in the U.P. of Michigan. Surprisingly, despite considerable searching, none was found this spring in Berrien, Mich., in what had been their primary stronghold in the Region. A **Sage Thrasher** seen and photographed May 16 at W.P.B.O. (JBU, DEd, DC, DE) was the first for Michigan and only the 3rd or 4th for the Region. Water Pipits were very common in Wisconsin, with flocks of 10–100 "all over s. Wisconsin," often with Lapland Longspurs. A **Sprague's Pipit** found May 25 at W.P.B.O. (DP, BB, RSA *et al.*) was only the 4th for Michigan. Bohemian Waxwings lingered into mid-April in both Wisconsin and Michigan. The Loggerhead Shrike picture in the Region was decidedly mixed, with Minnesota observers finding the species in larger numbers again this year, with no fewer than 24 reports, from as far n. as Grand Marais (K & MH); on the other hand, Michigan observers found only three individuals, none of whom stayed more than one day, despite concentrated effort to locate the species in its habitat in the state. Wisconsin was somewhere between Michigan and Minnesota, but closer to Minnesota, with reports of 4–6 nesting pairs in May. White-eyed Vireos were reported from all 3 states, with more reports than average (six to 10 birds) in Wisconsin and one May 9 in St. Paul (KB); the species is only casual in Minnesota. Bell's Vireos were at their favored sites in the s. one-third of Wisconsin during May. They also were seen at 2 locations in Michigan, one more than in the last several years. A Yellow-throated Vireo was found on the incredibly early date of Mar. 29 in Warren Woods, Berrien, Mich. (RSm, WB *et al.*), earliest ever for the state. A Red-eyed Vireo Apr. 27 at W.P.B.O. (staff) was also very early.

The warbler migration this year fell into two categories: 1) Minnesota, where there was a good to very good migration in most places; and 2) Michigan and Wisconsin, where with the exception of a general wave Apr. 25–27 and a more localized wave May 6–7, the migration was as bad as last year. The only place in Michigan where warblers were consistently found in decent numbers was along the shore of L. Michigan in Berrien. A Blue-winged Warbler was well n. and w. of normal May 12 in Moorhead, Minn. (TD). A Magnolia Warbler Mar. 30 at Madison (JS) was the earliest ever for Wisconsin. During fog and rain May 12 in Duluth, Eckert found 73 Cape May Warblers. Since this species is uncommon in the spring, this was certainly the largest number ever for the state (KE). A Yellow-throated Warbler found Apr. 13 at the traditional nesting site in Berrien, Mich. (DP, JPi) was the earliest ever for Michigan. This species was first found in Minnesota only 5 years ago, but is fast on its way to regular status with yet another sighting this year, May 4 in Freeborn (RG). Prairie Warblers remained exceptionally scarce in the Region with only 3 sightings, one in Michigan and 2 in Wisconsin. Two Prothonotary Warblers were found n. of normal May 29 at Shiawassee N.W.R., Mich. (SS). Worm-eating Warblers were reported from all 3 states: one in Michigan, two (low) in Wisconsin, and three in Minnesota, where the species is now considered regular instead of casual. A Louisiana Waterthrush Apr. 5 in Berrien, Mich. (RSm, NL) was early. Kentucky Warblers were seen in all 3 states, with Wisconsin observers finding them quite numerous in wooded ravines in the s.w. quarter of the state. Another very early bird was a Com. Yellowthroat Mar. 31 in Milwaukee (WW). Both Hooded Warblers and Yellow-breasted Chats were seen less often than normal in Wisconsin.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — Summer Tanagers were found at 2 Michigan, one Wisconsin, and 4 Minnesota locations, with one Apr. 30 and May 4 at Escanaba in Michigan's U.P. (CT), quite unusual. Western Tanagers were seen a surprising 4 times in the Region: May 1–3 near Hudson, Wis (MW); May 10 in Morrison, Minn. (LR); May 16 at Two Harbors, Minn. (*vide* KE); and May 20 near Plymouth, Wis. (HKO). The overwintering **Black-headed Grosbeak** at the Hernday feeder in Butler, Wis., remained until Mar. 30. Another was found May 24 at Blue Mounds S.P., Minn. (MM). A ♂ **Painted Bunting** May 18 in Nobles, Minn. (ND) was only the 4th for Minnesota. Dickcissels were more common in Wisconsin than in recent springs. Lark Sparrows were e. of normal Apr. 28 in Kent, Mich (JW) and Apr. 29 in Duluth (KE), as was a Lark Bunting May 6 in Duluth (KE). Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found May 9 in Mackinaw, Mich. (CT) and May 23–24 at Crex Meadows W.A., Wis. (RJo *et al.*). Thousands of White-throated Sparrows were seen Apr. 20 and hundreds of White-crowns Apr. 29, both in Milwaukee (BC). A Harris' Sparrow was e. of normal May 6 in Muskegon, Mich. (GW). Lapland Longspurs were seen in abundance in Wisconsin in late April until mid-May, with observers commenting that "the fields were literally crawling with them." A flock of 3000+ longspurs was found Mar. 16 in Clinton, Mich. (JR). The only large group of Snow Buntings was a flock of 3000 Mar. 28 at the Fish Point S.G.A., Tuscola, Mich. (TW).

Western Meadowlarks were reported more frequently than in the last several years in Michigan, but their numbers remained low. House Finches continue to make news in the Region. Michigan populations continue to grow with thousands now present in the state and breeding occurring in many places. Individuals were reported as far n. as Wexford (BA) and a banded individual was found dead in the same suburban Detroit yard in which it was banded 3 years, 11 months earlier (EC). In Wisconsin, where several hypothetical sightings have been made in the past, **House Finches** suddenly were everywhere: at least seven beginning in early April with several remaining into June in Milwaukee (MD), three Apr. 14–20 in Sheboygan (D & MB) and several in Madison commencing in late April with confirmed nesting in late May (FF *et al.*)—so, the first "official" state record and then some! In Minnesota, 2 sightings of this still "accidental" species were made: Apr 7–8 at St. Cloud (NH) and May 6–8 in Fergus Falls (S & DM). White-winged Crossbills were quite scarce, with none reported in Wisconsin and only a few in Michigan, but they lingered into late April-mid-May in the Detroit area, which is very unusual. Common Redpolls lingered into late April in Wisconsin and until May 11 at W.P.B.O. (staff). The largest count was of 690 Apr. 13 at W.P.B.O. (staff). Hoary Redpolls were found at 2 feeders in Wisconsin in late March in Price (MH) and Superior (RJo).

CONTRIBUTORS — This editor thanks the many individuals who submitted reports for this summary. The nature of the summary precludes listing every individual who sends in a report, therefore, only those observers with cited records are listed below (State editors in boldface.) Ray Adams, Brian Allen, Ron Annelin (RAN), Karl Bardon, Jerry Bonkoski, Walter Booth, Bill Bouton, David & Margaret Brasser (D & MB), Jeff Buecking (JBU), David Cedarstrom, Phil Chu, Bill Cowart, Ellie Cox, T. Dahlen, Harriet Davidson, Gerald DeBoer, Nelvina De Kam, Mary Donald, **Kim Eckert** (Minnesota), Dudley Edmundson (DEd), Paul Egeland, J Fesko (JFe), Chris Fewey (CFe), Tammy & Roger Field (T & RF), Jim Fowler, Jr., Chip Francke, Frank Freese, R. Friz, R. Glassel, Jim Granlund, Dennis Gustafson, Maybelle Hardy, Tom Heatley, Loretta Hernday, Nestor Hiemenz, Ken & Molly Hoffman (K & MH), Randy Hoffman, John Idzikowski, Robert Janssen, Bunny Johnson, Joe Johnson, Robby Johnson (RJo), Harold Koopman (HKO), Henry Kyllingstad, Ken La Fond, G. Larson, B. Litkey, Norman Loewe, Alan Marble, Jim Markham (JMa), Jane McAlonan (JMc), Joe McDonnell (JM), Joe Merchak (JMe), Steven & Diane Millard (S & DM), William Mueller, M. Mulligan, Mark Peterson, R. & D. Pe-

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MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

Bruce G. Peterjohn

From many aspects, this year's migration closely resembled that of 1985. Weather patterns became established during the latter one-half of March and remained unchanged during the remainder of the season. Temperatures averaged above normal in all months, and during several unseasonably warm periods in late March and early April they soared into the 80s in all states. Precipitation varied considerably but was generally above normal in the western states and below normal in the east. The season was noted for the absence of strong frontal systems although a cold front in mid-April produced snow in portions of Iowa and briefly reduced temperatures to record lows.

The unseasonably warm weather produced a myriad of early arrival dates. However, the bulk of the migration seemingly occurred during the expected intervals. With the generally favorable conditions, most migrants did not linger and only the northern areas experienced much migratory movement after May 20. The weather conditions also caused vegetation to be advanced by several weeks and most trees were fully leafed out by late April.

It was another spring that was favorable for the birds but not for the birdwatchers. The combination of favorable weather conditions and dense vegetation produced a disappointing passerine migration with only a few local concentrations during early May. Movements of waterbirds and shorebirds also tended to be local. The few scattered rarities did not really compensate for a generally lackluster spring.

ABBREVIATIONS — Spfld. = Springfield, Ill.; O.W.R. = Ottawa Nat'l Wildlife Ref., O. *Italicized place names are counties.*

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — The loon migration was lackluster for the 2nd consecutive year. Red-throats were detected only in Indiana with singles at L. Lemon Apr. 29 (DW, †LS) and Port of Indiana May 18 (RG, GJ). No more than seven Com. Loons were reported from any location. The grebe migration was equally unimpressive. No sizable flocks of Pied-billed Grebes were noted while Horned Grebes were generally scarce except for 3 flocks of 47–69 in c. Indiana plus a remarkable 606 in Summit and Portage, O., Apr. 12–13 (LR). A late Horned Grebe lingered through May 24 in Louisa, Ia. (P). The 4 Red-necked Grebe reports were normal with singles at Decatur, Ill., Mar. 2 (RP), Crab Orchard N.W.R., Ill., Mar 6 (†DR), and Summit L., O., Apr. 13 (LR et al.), plus two at Little Wall L., Ia., May 1 (†SD, †MP). A maximum of 14 Eared Grebes appeared in Iowa with smaller numbers in Missouri and Illinois. They are casual spring migrants in Ohio where one was studied in Lucas Mar. 18 (†TK). Single W. Grebes wandered E to Port of Indiana, Ind., May 10–12 (†KB et al.) and Ottawa, O., May 11 (†DO, JG) where they are casual migrants. They also appeared at 2 w. Iowa locations. American White Pelicans were restricted to Iowa and Missouri where the largest flocks totalled 500–795. Double-crested Cormorant numbers were not particularly impressive, with flocks of 200–280 in Missouri and Illinois, but



240 in Fulton Apr. 6 (BP) was an exceptional total for Kentucky.

Increased Am. Bittern reports were encouraging with at least 52 sightings Regionwide, including eight at Big Wall L., Ia., May 10 (SD, EM) and six at Indiana Dunes, Ind., Apr. 20 (BSq). Least Bitterns were normal with 16 reports. Eleven at Mentor Marsh in late May made a large number for Ohio (JT, fide DC). Numbers of most other herons were representative of recent springs. Snowy Egrets returned to Spfld. (H) and Ottawa, O. (KA) by Apr. 5, and appeared at a total of 13 locations in all states. The largest reported flock was of only four. One at Indiana Dunes Apr. 19 provided n.w. Indiana's first record since 1959 (HD, JW). An early Little Blue Heron returned to Union County W.M.A., Ill., Mar. 29 (TF, DR). Away from their Mississippi R. nesting colonies, only four or fewer were reported from widely scattered sites in all states. It was a good spring for Tricolored Herons. In addition to the w. Lake Erie marshes, singles were discovered at Cleveland Apr. 6 (†LR, m.ob.), Kankakee River S.P., Ill., Apr. 16 (†BGI), Atterbury W.M.A., Ind., May 8 (JW, m.ob.), and Henderson, Ill., May 17 (†LM, Mba). Cattle Egrets returned to most states during the first week of April but their numbers were uniformly poor. The largest reported flock was of only 40 in Illinois. A Green-backed Heron near Bolckow, Mo., Mar. 23 was an early migrant (JHi). Their numbers were thought to be declining in most states. Seven Black-crowned Night-Herons were unusually early migrants at Sioux City, Ia., Mar. 17 (BH). The earliest Yellow-crowned Night-Heron returned to Oakwood Bottoms, Ill., Mar. 22 (TF). A total of 34 sightings from all states constituted an above-average number for recent years. The only Glossy Ibis was satisfactorily documented from O.W.R., May 8 (†KA). White-faced Ibises were noted only in Iowa with two in Greene Apr. 23 (†RM), six in Dickinson May 20–21 (†JD, SD), and one in Cherokee May 29 (†DB, MB). Unidentified *Plegadis* ibises were also noted at one Ohio and 4 Iowa locations.

WATERFOWL — The waterfowl migration was well underway by early March but the mild weather allowed most species to move rapidly through the Region. It was a poor year for Tundra Swans with only small flocks along w. Lake Erie plus a few reports elsewhere along its regular migration corridor. Extralimital sightings included a maximum of seven at

4 c. Illinois locations, two in s.w. Ohio, and one in Mississippi, Mo., Mar. 14 [Haw]. A flock of 500 Greater White-fronted Geese at Forney L., Mar. 9 (L & BPa) was unusually large for Iowa. However, last year's invasion of the e. states was not repeated. Normal numbers included a maximum of 20 at 6 Illinois sites, 4 Indiana reports with a total of 10 at Atterbury W.M.A., Mar. 2-5 (BC, fide CK) and a bird thought to be of the Greenland race at Kankakee W.M.A., Mar. 15 (KB et al.), two at 2 Ohio locations, and a single bird in Kentucky. Ross' Geese reports are increasing, probably as a result of population increases as well as closer scrutiny of the large flocks of Snow Geese. Three w. Iowa reports included a remarkable 13 at Forney L., Mar. 14-15 (SD), while singles in Mississippi Mar. 13 (†Haw) and Duck Creek W.M.A., Mar. 15-23 (†SDi) were unusual in s.e. Missouri.

Puddle duck numbers were not impressive although 1500 Green-winged Teal congregated in Riverton W.M.A., Ia., Mar. 28 (RC, FM). A Mallard x Gadwall hybrid was unusual in Ottawa, O., Mar. 15 [AW, RR]. However, it was a good year for Cinnamon Teal, which are apparently increasing as spring migrants through the Region. Singles appeared at 3 Iowa locations where they are rare but regular migrants, while 2 Missouri reports included two at Duck Creek W.M.A., Mar. 15-17 (SDi), where they are unexpected in the s.e. corner of the state. Farther e., single males were discovered at Keyesport, Ill., Mar. 28-Apr. 9 (DJ, †m.ob.), Evanston, Ill., Apr. 30 (DD, fide RB), and Delaware W.M.A., Apr. 19-26 for Ohio's 5th record (AG, †m.ob.), while one in Allen, Ind., Apr. 20 exhibited a trace of Blue-winged Teal ancestry (†Haw et al.). The only Eur. Wigeons were detected along w. Lake Erie where as many as two males at 3 locations Mar. 15-31 constituted a normal number of reports for recent springs.



Male Cinnamon Teal (front) with male Blue-winged Teal near Keyesport, Ill., Mar. 31, 1986. Photo/Joe Milosevich.

Diving ducks received mixed reports although sizable flocks appeared at a few localities in most states. Noteworthy concentrations included 5000 Canvasbacks in Henderson, Ill., Mar. 2 (MBa) and 30,000 Lesser Scaup on the Mississippi R. near Keokuk, Ia., Mar. 4 (RC). The expected numbers of Greater Scaup included stragglers in Illinois and Ohio through May 7-19. Oldsquaws improved somewhat with a maximum of 68 along L. Michigan. Inland sightings totalled 9 in Iowa, Illinois, and Ohio, with Apr. 13 flocks of 24 in Summit and Portage, O. (LR) and 14 at Killdeer Plains W.M.A., O. (GO, fide J). Black Scoter reports consisted of six at Port of Indiana, Ind., Mar. 19 (RG) and one at Spfld., Apr. 3 (H). Single Surf Scoters were noted at 2 L. Michigan locations while inland sightings of two at Mark Twain N.W.R., Ill., Mar. 15 (SR), one at Princeton Marsh, Ia., May 15 (†P, m.ob.), and two at L. Rockwell, O., May

19 (LR) made a good number of spring reports. White-winged Scoters remained inexplicably scarce with Great Lakes maxima of six to eight and only single inland records from Iowa and Ohio. Common Goldeneyes were noted in fairly good numbers with a few lingering into May. The latest sightings were May 31+ at Dunbar Slough, Ia. (SD), and June 2+ at Lockport, Ill. (JM), and Spfld. (H). Barrow's Goldeneyes are probably casual visitors to Ohio, where a female was closely studied at Eastlake Mar. 8-9 (MG, †J et al.). The bird had an entirely orange bill, suggestive of the western North American population. A total of 658 Buffleheads in Summit and Portage, O., Apr. 13 (LR) was an exceptional inland concentration.

HAWKS — The hawk migration was universally poor. Either the favorable conditions allowed the birds to trickle through in small numbers, or the large flights were elsewhere. The only extralimital Black Vulture appeared at Stockton L., Mo., Apr. 27 [JSo]. Ospreys were widespread, but only in groups of three or fewer, while Mississippi Kites were confined to their normal nesting range along the Mississippi R., n. to the St. Louis area. Bald Eagles are becoming more numerous. For example, 47 at Sanganois W.M.A., Mar. 1 (RP) was a rather large total for c. Illinois, while Mar. 9 groups of 18 at Monroe Res. and three at L. Lemon were exceptional for Indiana, where multiple sightings were unheard of until very recently (DW et al.). The return flight of N. Goshawks consisted of 11 reports from Iowa, Indiana, Ohio, and Illinois through Mar. 31.

The Buteo migration was very poor with no concentrations of Red-shouldered or Broad-winged hawks reported from any state. Extralimital Swainson's Hawks were noted only in Illinois, where singles at Spfld., May 17 (H) and in Whiteside May 25 (†LJ) were away from the state's only nesting location. The only sizable Red-tailed Hawk movement totalled 216 in DuPage, Ill., Mar. 30 (DY). Nine Golden Eagle reports from Iowa, Kentucky, Ohio, and Illinois were indicative of its slowly increasing numbers in the Region. Merlins were scarce, with only 8 sightings this spring, while a total of 21 Peregrine Falcon reports was normal. Single Prairie Falcons were documented from St. Louis, Mo., Mar. 27 (†CP) and Monroe, Ill., Apr. 9 (†RG), where there were few previous records.

RAILS THROUGH CRANES — Rails were generally noted in normal numbers. A Yellow Rail at Sangchris L., Ill., Mar. 6 (H, TT) was exceptionally early. Single Yellows were also detected Apr. 21-May 7 at 3 Iowa locations where they are probably rare but regular migrants. Two calling Black Rails were unexpected at Bigelow Marsh, Mo., May 26 (MR). King Rails appeared in comparable numbers to 1985 with sightings from 14 locations in all states. Virginia Rails arrived on time but in generally small numbers. In contrast, a Sora at Duck Creek W.M.A., Mo., Mar. 17 (BR) was early while concentrations of 53-60 were reported from Iowa and Ohio. A Com. Moorhen at Wolf L., Apr. 8 was early for n. Indiana (KB). They returned in reasonably good numbers, climaxed by 65 at L. Calumet, Ill., May 10 (JL, CM). Along their normal migration corridor, few Sandhill Cranes were recorded in Kentucky while groups of 65 or fewer were scattered across n. Illinois. Other reports included a maximum of 20 at 3 Iowa locations Mar. 9-30 and only a single bird in Ohio, while one at Anna Apr. 5-6 (†RP) was unusual in extreme s. Illinois.

SHOREBIRDS — The shorebird migration was rather disappointing except in Illinois, where a few rarities compensated for the absence of large flocks. As expected, the mild temperatures produced many early sightings such as a Black-bellied Plover in Porter, Ind., Apr. 6 (KB), and Lesser Golden-Plover at E. St. Louis, Ill., Mar. 3 (RGo). The latter species was well reported from the n. states, especially Indiana, where an incredible 40,000 were estimated in Benton and Newton Apr. 20 (HE), and Ohio, where 1400-3000+ massed at 3 w. locations.



Snowy Plover at Lake Springfield, Ill., May 7, 1986. First Illinois record. Photo/Dennis Oehmke.

A **Snowy Plover** was closely studied at Spfld., May 7 (†H, m.ob.), providing the first record for Illinois. It was a good spring for Semipalmated Plover in Illinois and along w. Lake Erie, while 115 in Henderson May 6 was a large flock for Kentucky (BP). Reports of four Piping Plovers at Monroe Res., Ind., Apr. 28 (†B & JHC) and three in Gibson, Ind., May 4 (†JC, ph.) were unprecedented for recent springs. One or two migrant Piping Plovers also appeared at single locations in Missouri, Iowa, and Illinois, Apr. 17–26.

American Avocets were numerous only in Iowa where "many" reports Apr. 26–27 included a maximum of 50+ in Fremont and Mills (RM et al.). The only other reports were of one or two at 3 locations in Illinois and 2 in Missouri Apr. 17–May 18. A **Black-necked Stilt** was thoroughly studied near Havana May 18 (†RP, m.ob.), providing only the 4th record for Illinois. Both yellowlegs were widely reported during the first one-half of March but only Lessers appeared in numbers, with concentrations of 250–575 reported from w. Lake Erie, w. Kentucky, and Iowa. The earliest Solitary Sandpipers returned to Chicago Mar. 29 (DPo) and O.W.R., Apr. 1 (RHa). Willets were unusually numerous in Iowa, beginning with an early migrant in Hamilton Apr. 3 (SD), and showed Apr. 26 peaks of 72 at Coralville Res. (T) and 85 from several c. locations (SD). Elsewhere, as many as 15 appeared at a total of 19 sites in all states. Early Spotted Sandpipers returned to Indiana, Ohio, and Illinois Apr. 6. An Upland Sandpiper at Springfield, Mo., Mar. 25 was unusually early. They were widely reported from most states including the Joliet, Ill., arsenal where 134 congregated May 6 (BGl). As many as four Whimbrels were noted at single L. Erie and L. Michigan sites May 13–18, while inland singles appeared in Wabash, Ill., May 7 (†LHa) and Barberton, O., May 26 (LR). Hudsonian Godwits staged a large movement through the w. states with maxima of 200 at Riverton W.M.A., Ia., May 13 (T), 144 in Greene, Ia., May 18 (SD), and 54 near Bolckow, Mo., May 13 (JHi). Elsewhere, as many as three appeared at 5 Illinois sites May 7–28 while one was noted May 10 in Porter, Ind. (PG et al.) where they are casual migrants. Marbled Godwit sightings consisted of six or fewer at 5 Iowa locations plus singles in Illinois and Ohio Apr. 15–May 11, a normal number of reports for recent springs. Few Ruddy Turnstones were noted along the Great Lakes while the expected small numbers appeared inland with a maximum of 31 at Peoria, Ill., May 26 (LA).

Red Knots were restricted to the Great Lakes where only

one or two appeared at 3 locations May 11–18. Early Sanderlings returned to Cleveland Apr. 12 (LR, RHn) and Big Creek S.P., Ia., Apr. 20 (SD), while six in Ballard May 26 provided one of few spring records for Kentucky (BP). A flock of 1000+ Semipalmated Sandpipers at Barberton, O., May 27 (LR) was a large inland concentration. The expected small numbers of W. Sandpipers were reported from Illinois, Ohio, and Iowa, Apr. 27–May 28. Early Least Sandpipers were noted at Big Creek S.P., Ia., Mar. 14 (SD) and Monmouth, Ill., Mar. 29 (MBA). White-rumped Sandpipers appeared in unprecedented numbers in Iowa where 1000 were estimated in Fremont May 13 (FM, T, TS). They were widely reported elsewhere with a maximum of 52 in Madison, Ill., May 20 (RGo, SR). The earliest Baird's Sandpiper returned to Big Creek S.P., Ia., Mar. 25 (SD). There were few sightings from Iowa, while 6 Illinois reports Apr. 18–May 25 included a maximum of 15 near Havana May 5 (RP). An early Pectoral Sandpiper returned to Cone Marsh, Ia., Mar. 9 (T), with the only sizable concentration along w. Lake Erie where 2300 gathered Mar. 29 (KA). Early Dunlins were noted in Ohio and Illinois Apr. 6 while a maximum of 1500 congregated along w. Lake Erie during May. A **Curlew Sandpiper** appeared in the Region for the 3rd consecutive spring. This year's bird was closely studied in Vermilion, Ill., May 16–19 (†SB, †m.ob.).

The earliest Stilt Sandpiper appeared at Springfield, Mo., Apr. 1, where the largest flock totalled 30 on May 15 (LK). They appeared in all states but were widespread only in Illinois. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were restricted to the w. states with one or two at one Missouri and 3 Iowa locations May 10–18. The 3 Ruff reports were normal for recent years with singles in Allen, Ind., Apr. 26 (†Haw et al.), Spring Lake W.M.A., Ill., May 6 (†H et al.), and L. Calumet, Ill., May 14 (†RB et al.). Short-billed Dowitchers were widely reported beginning with an early migrant in Ottawa, O., Apr. 19 (KA). Small numbers of Long-billed Dowitchers were discovered at 11 locations in Illinois, Kentucky, and Iowa. The earliest migrants returned to Bays Branch, Ia., Mar. 23 (SD), and to Illinois and Kentucky by Apr. 3–5. Common Snipes were numerous with maxima of 85–235 in Ohio, Iowa, and Kentucky. The earliest Wilson's Phalarope was noted at Louisville Mar. 30 (†DN) although they were also noted in w. Kentucky and Illinois by Apr. 4–6. Only small numbers appeared in all states, except for 50 at Riverton W.M.A., Ia., May 13 (T et al.). Red-necked Phalaropes were noted at 6 locations in Iowa, Ohio, and Indiana, May 14–June 1. Most noteworthy were a flock of eight at Barberton, O., May 27+ (LR) and one in Gibson, Ind., May 17 (JC, ph.).

GULLS, TERNS — The gull migration appeared to be normal. Increased numbers of Laughing Gulls included reports from 3 Kentucky locations, where five gathered at Kentucky Dam May 26 (BP), and 5 inland Illinois sites, with a maximum



Adult Laughing Gull (with Ring-billed Gulls) at Chicago, Ill., May 9, 1986. Photo/James Landing.

of three at Rend L., May 16–17 (†DR, TF). There were also 3 reports from the Great Lakes. The expected numbers of Franklin's Gulls appeared in all states, although 125 at Keokuk May 19 was a large flock for e. Iowa (RC) and 48 at Spfld., May 17 was an unusual spring concentration for Illinois (H). An inland Little Gull was unexpected at L. Rockwell, O., Apr. 13 (†LR) and one also appeared at Chicago Apr. 2–3 (HR). This winter's Mew Gull was relocated at Carlyle L., Ill., Mar. 1–8 (m.ob.). A 3rd-year California Gull was carefully identified at W. Alton, Mo., May 18 (†RGo), providing the 5th St. Louis area record since 1975 but the first during spring. The winter gulls were still quite evident during the first one-half of March but generally disappeared rapidly with the advent of warm weather. Most were observed along the Great Lakes and the Illinois R. Lingering gulls included an ad. Thayer's at Louisville Apr. 10–11 (†BP), an immature at Waukegan, Ill., through May 21 (RB, LBi), an Iceland at Michigan City, Ind., Apr. 15 (LH), single Glaucous Gulls at Waukegan, Ill., May 10 (RB, MBi) and Michigan City May 11–12 (KB et al.), and an immature Great Black-backed Gull in LaSalle, Ill., Apr. 20 (†JHm). A total of seven Great Black-backed Gulls at Chicago Mar. 2 (JL) was indicative of their increasing numbers on L. Michigan.

Tern numbers remained low in many areas. Caspian Terns peaked with 150 at Oregon, O., May 27 (KA), while reports of 34–38 represented relatively good numbers for Kentucky. Common Terns were distressingly scarce with virtually none along L. Erie. The only large flock totalled 700 at Waukegan, Ill., May 18 (CM, JL). Forster's Terns returned to many states during the first week of April. They continued to slowly improve with counts of 30–55+ from w. Kentucky, Illinois, and L. Erie. As many as 10 Least Terns were reported from their regular range along the Mississippi R. and in w. Iowa. The only extralimital report was of two at Louisville May 28 (BP). Black Terns were described as scarce in most localities although 700 congregated in Henderson, Ill., May 17 (MBa) and 460 at Keokuk, Ia., May 19 (RC).

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Both cuckoos were scarce in most states with few reports before the end of May. The only early migrant was a Yellow-billed in Lawrence, Ind., Apr. 15 (JCa). The Greater Roadrunner appears to be re-covering in Missouri, where eight were reported from 5 Taney locations (PMa) and singles were noted near Willard May 15 (fide CT) and near Joplin (C & BMi). The only Com. Barn-Owl reports consisted of a migrant at Euclid, O., Mar. 29 (RHn) and a possible nesting bird in Pulaski, Ill., through May 31 (TF). Only two Snowy Owls were detected during March, one in n.w. Indiana and one in Sangamon, Ill., Mar. 15 (VK). The other migrant owls were generally noted at their wintering locations. Long-eareds were reported from 12 locations in Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, and Missouri, while Short-eareds were primarily found in Illinois. Northern Saw-whet Owls were restricted to the n. states where 10 reports included a lingering bird in Brown, Ind., through May 11 (LS, DW) where nesting was suspected. Several Com. Nighthawks were reported during late March but without convincing details. Most arrived during late April and May, including migrant flocks of 70–100 in Iowa and Illinois. Observers should realize that early goatsuckers are most likely to be Whip-poor-wills, which returned to Buffalo, Mo., Mar. 23 (JHa), Pope and Saline, Ill., Mar. 30 (TF, KP), and all other states except Iowa by the first week of April. Other early migrants included a Chimney Swift at Carbondale, Ill., Mar. 30 (DR) and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in Missouri at Buffalo Apr. 5 (JHa) and Forsyth Apr. 7 (PMa). The woodpecker migration elicited few comments. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were only reported in small numbers plus a late bird in Grayson, Ky., May 10 (fide KC). The only sizable N. Flicker movements totalled 100–115 in Chicago Mar. 29–Apr. 5 (JL).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CREEPER — Flycatchers largely passed through the Region on time and in expected numbers. Alder Flycatchers are obviously widespread late May



Vermilion Flycatcher (probably subadult male) at Chicago, Ill., Apr. 16, 1986. Photo/Joe Milosevich.

migrants throughout the Region, with maxima of four to eight reported from most states this spring. The most unusual record was of an imm. ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher that was closely studied at Chicago Apr. 15–22 (KH, †m.ob.), providing the 4th record for Illinois. A Great Crested Flycatcher along the Rough R., Ky., Mar. 19 was exceptionally early (KC). Expected numbers of W. Kingbirds were noted in w. Iowa and w. Missouri. Illinois sightings consisted of the pair returning to the Alton nesting site plus singles at Chicago May 19 & 31 (CM, MBi), and one in Jo Daviess May 16 (†RCh). An E. Kingbird at Eubank, Ky., Apr. 7 was very early (JE). Migrants were numerous throughout Illinois May 10 while 50+ migrated along L. Erie at Euclid, O., May 11 (DC). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers also returned early, appearing at Springfield, Mo., Mar. 12 (BD). Extralimital birds wandered N to Bureau, Ill., May 27–29 (MBr, LA) and near Gilbert, Ia., Apr. 27 (fide JD) and E to near Crawfordsville, Ind., Apr. 14–15 (fide AB) and Crawford, Ill., May 22 (FW).

The swallow migration produced a number of early records but few sizable concentrations. Purple Martins returned to most states Mar. 15–23 while the earliest Tree Swallow was noted at Mermet Lake W.M.A., Ill., Mar. 8 (TF). Only Tree Swallows appeared in large flocks with 1400–2000 in Ohio and Indiana. All other early swallows were discovered in Illinois with a N. Rough-winged in St. Clair Mar. 21 (TF), Bank at Union County W.M.A., Apr. 5, Cliff at Crab Orchard N.W.R., Apr. 6 (DR), and Barn in Saline Mar. 5 (TF). The Blue Jay migration around w. Lake Erie peaked May 6 when 10,000+ were reported (KA). Along the Mississippi R., small numbers of Fish Crows returned to Hickman, Ky., Mar. 31 (fide BP) and wandered slightly N of their normal range to Mark Twain N.W.R., Ill., Apr. 13 (RGo). They are very unusual in s.w. Missouri where three were reported from Branson Apr. 5 (AS). The return flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches produced only small numbers in most localities. Brown Creepers were generally scarce with a maximum of 16 at Chicago.

WRENS THROUGH SHRIKES — Bewick's Wrens were thought to be declining in Missouri. Elsewhere, sightings from 5 locations in Kentucky, 4 Illinois reports N to Charleston (BH) and Spfld. (H), and one in Burlington, Ia., Apr. 11–23 (†EC, m.ob.) constituted relatively good numbers for recent years. An early House Wren returned to Spfld., Mar. 31 (H), while Winter Wrens were rather scarce in most localities. Sedge Wrens appeared in all states except Kentucky but only Iowa supported good numbers. One at Granite City, Ill., Apr. 6 (RA) was early, as was a Marsh Wren at Chicago Mar. 25 (RD). Kinglets received mixed reports; maxima of 62–80 Golden-crowned

in Ohio and Indiana plus 100 Ruby-crowneds in Illinois were fairly normal. The earliest Blue-gray Gnatcatcher returned to Pomona, Ill., Mar. 28 (KM).

Good numbers of E. Bluebirds were noted in most areas, including late migrants along L. Erie at Euclid, O., through May 27 (DC). Townsend's Solitaires are casual migrants in Iowa, where one appeared in Webster May 5-6 (†EM, SD). The *Catharus* thrush migration apparently bypassed the Region or went undetected. Several reports indicated their migration occurred primarily May 15-25. A Swainson's Thrush was early at Louisville Apr. 12 (KC) while one lingered at St. Louis through June 7 (RK). A total of 41 Hermit Thrushes in Ledges S.P., Apr. 14 (SD) was unusual for Iowa. An early Wood Thrush returned to Shakertown, Ky., Apr. 9 (BA). Migrant catbirds and thrashers received mixed reports but were apparently most numerous in Illinois. Flocks of 100-200 Water Pipits were reported only from Ohio while a late migrant lingered at Michigan City, Ind., May 28 (DP). The March Cedar Waxwing migration was most pronounced in Missouri, where 2100 congregated in Taney Mar. 10 (PMA), while May migrants were numerous in most areas, peaking with 1000 at Louisville May 19 (BP). This winter's invasion produced 18 N. Shrike reports in Iowa through Mar. 15, while the latest of 3 Illinois sightings was at Wadsworth Mar. 27 (SH). Loggerhead Shrikes may have increased somewhat with "good numbers" in Iowa, 8 sightings from c. and n. Illinois, and 2 reports each from Ohio and Indiana.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — The unusually warm weather during late March and early April produced a plethora of early migrants. However, the bulk of their migration occurred on time during May. The largest movements occurred at several localities between May 5 & 12, but there were no large Regionwide flights for the 2nd consecutive year. Since the vegetation was very advanced upon their arrival, migrant vireos and warblers were rather difficult to detect and few large concentrations were reported. In addition, favorable conditions during late May allowed the late migrants to move rapidly through the area and brought an early termination to this year's migration.

Vireos were generally recorded in normal numbers although White-eyes continued to expand in n. areas. The earliest White-eyed returned to Dayton, O., Mar. 30 (C & BB) with several reports from s. areas during the first week of April. A Bell's Vireo in Richland, Ill., Apr. 29 (LHa) was early, and small numbers continued to be found regularly in e. portions of the Region. Other early vireos included a Solitary at Anchorage, Ky., Apr. 6 (BM), Yellow-throated at Pomona, Ill., Apr. 10 (KM), Warbling near Dayton, O., Apr. 4 (DNo), and Red-eyed at Madisonville, Ky., Apr. 13 (JH).

An early Blue-winged Warbler returned to Dayton, O., Apr. 13 (BSt) while Golden-wingeds were reported in normal numbers. A total of 14 Brewster's Warblers was discovered this spring but the only Lawrence's appeared in Indiana and Illinois. Tennessee Warblers arrived early, by Apr. 17 at Carbondale, Ill. (DR), and Apr. 20 at Sweet Marsh, Ia. (FM). These states also hosted large numbers with May 11 peaks of 170 at Ames, Ia. (PM), and 200+ in Piatt, Ill. (RCh). An Orange-crowned Warbler at Giant City S.P., Ill., Apr. 6 (DR) was early, as was a N. Parula in Cook, Ill., Mar. 29 (†VB), although the latter species returned to all other states except Iowa during the first week of April. A Magnolia Warbler in Taney, Mo., Apr. 13 (GD) was also early. Cape May Warblers are becoming more frequent in Iowa, where as many as three appeared at 6 locations. However, Black-throated Blues remain rare in Iowa, where only two were discovered May 11-13. Other early migrants included Black-throated Green Warblers in Alexander, Ill., Mar. 25 (†ID), Lima, O., Apr. 5 (DS), and Ames, Ia., Apr. 8 (BS); Yellow-throated Warblers at Crab Orchard N.W.R., Ill., Apr. 3 (DR) and Dayton, O., Apr. 8 (PF); Pine Warblers N to O.W.R. by Mar. 15 (m.ob.); and Prairie Warblers in Monroe, Ind., Apr. 5 (LS) and Giant City S.P., Ill., Apr. 6 (DR). An early

Palm Warbler returned to Lima, O., Apr. 5 (DS), and good numbers along w. Lake Erie peaked at 300 May 6 (KA). A ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler was absurdly early at Spfld., Apr. 3 (H), and early Ceruleans returned to Pomona, Ill. (KM), and Charleston, Ill., Apr. 10 (SS).

Black-and-white Warblers returned to Kentucky and Illinois by Apr. 6, while Prothonotaries were described as "common" at Reelfoot N.W.R., Ky., on the same date (BP). A Prothonotary at Sioux City May 28 (BH) was unusual in w. Iowa. Early Worm-eating Warblers returned to Mammoth Cave N.P., Ky., Apr. 6 (LRa) and Pere Marquette S.P., Ill., Apr. 12 (RA), but there were relatively few overflights this year. The only Swainson's Warbler was reported from a traditional s. Illinois nesting site. An Ovenbird was early at Dayton, O., Mar. 30 (M & DL) as was a N. Waterthrush at Chicago Apr. 9 (HR et al.). The latter species peaked with 45 along w. Lake Erie May 6. The earliest Louisiana Waterthrush returned to Mingo N.W.R., Mo., Mar. 17 (BR) with reports from all other states by the end of the month. Oporornis warblers were noted in expected numbers. A Connecticut at Laurens May 30 was unusual for w. Iowa (RH). A Wilson's Warbler in Rockcastle May 31 (FL) was late for Kentucky. Yellow-breasted Chats were generally found in good numbers, beginning with an early migrant at Giant City S.P., Ill., Apr. 6 (DR).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — Few Summer Tanagers wandered N of their normal range. A ♂ Western Tanager was described from Decorah, Ia., Apr. 22-24 (†H & DH); there were 4 previous spring records from Iowa. An early Rose-breasted Grosbeak was noted at a Mode, Ill., feeder Apr. 19 (KF). Moderate numbers passed through most states. A ♀ Black-headed Grosbeak was widely viewed at a Lexington



Black-headed Grosbeak (with Com. Grackles and N. Cardinal) at Lexington, Ky., March 1986. Photo/Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

feeder, providing Kentucky's 3rd record (RMO, †m.ob.). While the bird initially appeared in mid-January, it was first identified Mar. 17 and remained through Mar. 23+. Blue Grosbeaks returned to s. Illinois Apr. 27. Extralimital birds wandered to Allen, Ind., May 13 (†Haw), two in Newton, Ind., May 17 (KB), and two in Knox, Ill., May 26 (MBa). A ♂ Lazuli Bunting was documented near Larrabee, Ia., May 16 (†MB). There were 11 previous records from the state. An early Indigo Bunting returned to Jackson, Ill., Apr. 3 (DR). A Painted Bunting was reported from within its normal s.w. Missouri range while a male wandered to Hornersville Apr. 19 (†HS), providing one of few records from s.e. Missouri.

The sparrow migration was uneventful. Few sizable movements were reported. The only Bachman's Sparrow noted was at the regular location near Hamlin, Ky., May 3 (MM). Clay-colored Sparrows wandered to single locations in Ohio and Indiana, while as many as four appeared at 8+ Illinois sites. An early Lark Sparrow returned to Lakin Slough, Ia., Apr. 7 (JS). The expected numbers were reported from most states, and one in Holmes Apr. 28 (†ES) was unusual for e. Ohio. The only Lark Bunting report was of a male near Monticello, Ill.,

Apr 18 (fRAp) They are casual migrants through Illinois. The grassland sparrows returned early such as Grasshoppers in Vermilion, Ill., Apr. 4 (SB) and Warren, Ia., Apr. 10 (JS) plus a Henslow's at Cleveland Apr. 5 (RHn). Normal numbers of Henslow's Sparrows appeared in Ohio and Indiana, and they were noted at 6 Illinois sites where they are considered to be rare migrants. Le Conte's Sparrows passed through Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois in normal numbers. One was closely studied May 10 at Headlands S.P., O. (†DC et al.), where there were very few previous spring records. Sharp-tailed Sparrows were reported only from Chicago and Cleveland May 17–25. Noteworthy sparrow concentrations included 68 Fox Sparrows in Polk, Ia., Mar. 30 (SD) and 256 White-crowns at Chicago May 10 (HR et al.). Harris' Sparrows wandered E only to Illinois, with "several" in the Chicago area during early May and single birds at Spfld., Mar. 23 and Apr. 28 (Ff). Lapland Longspurs formed local concentrations such as 1200–2200 at 2 c. Illinois sites Mar. 2, 4000 near Larrabee, Ia., Mar. 13 (MB), and 625 in Mercer, O., Apr. 13 (J et al.). Smith's Longspurs were widespread in Illinois with a maximum of 120+ in Mason Mar. 15 (MBa et al.). Only small numbers were reported from Iowa, and three were described Apr. 6 at Cleveland (†RHa) where there are few previous records. Chestnut-collared Longspurs apparently staged a small movement through w. Iowa during mid-April when 11 were found in Woodbury Apr. 15 (†DB) and four or more at L. Manawa Apr. 16 (†BPa). All were males. There are very few previous records from Iowa and no reports of flocks. Snow Buntings remained along L. Erie through Apr. 6 at O.W.R.

Western Meadowlarks may be increasing e. of the Mississippi R., judging from reports from Illinois and Ohio. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were largely restricted to their traditional breeding range Mar. 3+, including maxima of 19–24 at 2 n. Illinois locations. The only extralimital report was of a male that established a territory at Big Island W.M.A., O., May 4+ (J, m.ob.). Brewer's Blackbirds were widely observed in Illinois but few were found elsewhere. Great-tailed Grackles are expanding through Iowa with as many as 12 reported from Forney L., Guthrie, Greene, Big Wall L., and Lakin Slough this spring. The earliest Orchard Oriole returned to Land between the Lakes, Ky., Apr. 6 (DN, m.ob.), while a N. Oriole near Dayton, O., Mar. 14 (NC) had probably overwintered in the area. Northern Orioles staged an impressive migration in several areas including 122 at Michigan City, Ind., May 6 (KB) and 70+ at Euclid, O., May 11 (DC). In addition, a female of the race *bullockii* was closely studied at Fort Kaskaskia S.P., Ill., May 3 (†RGo).

The return flights of most finches were less than impressive. Surprisingly, the only Pine Grosbeak report was from s.e. Missouri where nine were documented at a Farmington feeder Mar. 24–25 (GW, †BR et al.). Purple Finches were generally observed in small numbers. House Finches are increasing rapidly in Illinois and have become locally "numerous". They are apparently becoming established in the w. states. Small numbers appeared in Iowa at Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, Daventon, and Swaledale, while Missouri sightings consisted of

two at Springfield Mar. 21 (LB), three in Iron Apr. 5 (MLa), and one at Columbia May 13+ (GWy). The only crossbill report was of a Red in Crawford, Ill., through June 3+ (DSc et al.) Small numbers of Com. Redpolls were observed across the n edge of the Region through Apr. 11. Pine Siskins were widespread in all states but generally in flocks of 30 or fewer. As expected, a few remained through the end of May. American Goldfinches staged impressive movements along both Great Lakes May 5–6 with counts of 1000–4000 from Ohio and Indiana. Evening Grosbeaks were also regularly encountered in all states until early May. Largest flocks totalled 20–75.

CONJECTURAL REPORTS — A Crested Caracara was adequately described near Fremont, Mo., Apr. 20. The bird behaved normally and exhibited no apparent indication of previous captivity. The A.O.U. has dismissed all previous extralimital records as escapes, which may be true for this bird as well. However, this record should be re-evaluated if a pattern of vagrancy is ever established for this species.

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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

Thomas A. Imhof

This spring the universal opinion of observers was that, like last spring, the migration of landbirds, especially of warblers, was dull! Most of the Region was warm and dry with southerly and southeasterly winds, especially on the coast. This was partly due to the Bermuda High being too far west, but last year a mid-Gulf low also aided the situation. This High has remained virtually in this westerly

position for over a year now, preventing much air, especially moisture-laden, from entering half of the Region. It was alleviated last fall only by drenchings from three hurricanes which, undoubtedly under the power of this High, wavered in place for several days while millions of people sweated them out!

Much of the Region had below-normal rainfall this year, especially the coast, but in Tennessee and most of Alabama it was almost a drought. Birmingham, for instance, had



only ten of its normal 27 inches of rainfall for the first five months of this year. The token rains that finally fell after mid-May eased the wildfire hazard and the pollen and pollution content of the air. But with a 17-inch shortage, the situation on farms, creeks, lakes, wells, and such that need an abundance of water, was very poor.

Observers were unanimous in reporting favorable migration conditions, especially for landbirds, but not for seeing these birds on the ground. This produced lists with regular species missing, some early records, but this year some very late northern species: Red-throated and Pacific loons, Common Merganser, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Fox Sparrow, Purple Finch, and Evening Grosbeak. Owen Fang and Bob Duncan (Pensacola) noted a big fallout April 12 all along the coast. On that day, Bob and his son, Scot, were on Dauphin Island at about "1:30 p.m. in a rain storm with a brisk NE wind. Out on the west end there was a steady stream of migrants flying east along the north shore of the island headed for the wooded part. A corridor of tanagers, orioles, warblers, and vireos about 100 feet wide passed us at eye level or below. Scot and I could identify them without binos, and could have reached out and touched some. The corridor extended west as far as the eye could see, some still coming off the Gulf. It was colossal!"—RAD.

Greg Jackson (Mobile) figured it was better for migrants this year than last. From New Orleans, Ronald Stein called it a very slow season, and David Muth called it a bore, where the very dry conditions did not break until the second week of June. Cameron Parish had a good fallout April 20 (DMu). Inland, the situation greatly improved after May 15 for Tennessee (SJS), the Tennessee Valley of Alabama (GNP, TA) and central Alabama (TI). Several observers referred to Birmingham's May 10 Spring Count as a Breeding Bird Survey. In the Tennessee Valley, GNP and TZA noted that the bare shorelines were excellent for shorebirds. All agreed that migrant warblers were scarce.

Transients can usually be seen in fair weather on the coast in the seven days either side of May 1 by sheer numbers. They find sanctuary then in small patches of woods that are undisturbed and private. Such an area is Cow and Tiger islands, Cameron Parish, where entrance is restricted so that it remains a sanctuary. After seeing loads of migrants wandering around beach developments looking for something to eat, the value of these coastal woods to landbird migrants becomes more evident!

ABBREVIATIONS — A.B.A. = American Birding Association, A.A.S. = Arkansas Audubon Society; A.O.S. = Alabama Ornithological Society; A.O.U. = American Ornithologists' Union B.A.S. = Birmingham Audubon Society; L.S.U.M.Z. = Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology; N.M.P. = National Military Park; T.B.C. = Terrebonne Bird Club; Centerton = Centerton Fish Hatchery, Benton Co., Ark.; C.C. Ref. = Cross Creeks Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Tenn.; D.R.U. = Duck River Unit, Tennessee Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Tenn.; P.R.M. = Pascagoula River Marsh, Jackson Co., Miss In place names, counties and parishes are in italics.

LOONS THROUGH STORKS — A Red-throated Loon was at Lakeshore, Hancock, Miss., Apr. 10 (JT, DKi). A Pacific Loon on Dauphin I., Apr. 20 (TSS, A.B.A. Tour) was, except for the throat patch, in almost full alternate plumage—4th for the Alabama coast. The A.O.U. has recently separated as distinct species the Eurasian birds as Arctic Loon and Americans as Pacific Loon. Pacific seems like a poor choice of names, because some nest in Ontario and Quebec and apparently winter directly to the s. in small numbers in the Gulf of Mexico—most recently in this Region Jan. 1, 1986 at Perdido Bay, Ala.—Fla Common Loon showed at least 5 inland records in Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee, the latest June 1 in basic plumage at L. Purdy, Shelby, Ala. (MHu).

Pied-billed Grebes with chicks were noted in Vermilion, La., Mar. 16 (KVR, CEQ) and in Jackson, Miss., May 19 (JT, DKi), quite a long breeding season. Northern Gannets again got as far as Cameron, La., an adult Mar. 2 off Rutherford Beach (KVR, SHA); and a late one was at Ft. Morgan, Ala., May 1 (GDJ, CDC). The highest of many reports of Am. White Pelicans was of 1350+ in E. Baton Rouge, La., Mar. 29 (PMcK, CF). Brown Pelicans nesting on Queen Bess I. near Grand Isle, La., Mar. 14 totalled about 1500 pairs in stages from eggs to young several months old (ph., JPO, CWF). Quite a few reports of Anhingas from Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee reflected an increase noted almost throughout the Region in recent years. Encouraging reports of Am. Bittern included one at Centerton Apr 26 (MMI, BSa), and the latest of several in middle Tennessee, four on May 18 at Bear Creek W.M.A., Stewart (JCR). Snowy Egret also showed an increase in this area in both Davidson and Stewart, May 4–18 (CGD, JCR). A Little Blue Heron in Jefferson Mar. 14 was the earliest in Alabama n. of the coastal plain (TI). An early Green-backed Heron was at L. Weddington, Washington, Ark., Apr. 10 (MMI) and a good count was of 51 in Rockefeller Ref., Cameron, La., Apr. 18 (PMcK, RiM). At the Bordeaux heronry in Davidson, Tenn., Apr. 13 an estimate of 175–325 nests (PBH) checked well with last year's count of 600 birds. Records this spring illustrated the transition in this Region between e. Glossy and w. White-faced ibises: 18 Glossies Apr. 19 in Allentown, Santa Rosa, Fla. (BiB, m.ob.); five Glossies May 5 at Wheeler N.W.R., Ala., 3rd spring record, first in May (DCH); one Glossy in a flock of 10 White-faced near Johnson's Bayou, Cameron, Mar. 2 (KVR); and three more Glossies in Cameron Apr. 26 (BMM, RDP, CL). Five breeding-plumaged **White-faced Ibises**, at L. Hamilton Fish Hatchery, Garland, Ark., Apr. 20 (ph. H & MP) provided a 3rd state record—Arkansas has about 10 *Plegadis* sp. records, and Glossy, the more common inland, has bred there (fide JN). Eight Wood Storks were near Bayou Lacassine, Cameron, May 31 (PPM, MMS).

WATERFOWL — A tight flock of 22 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks on Dauphin I., Apr. 26, was a large number for Alabama (GDJ, JVP, m.ob.). Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks may be breeding in the Lacassine N.W.R. area; present since last August with a juvenile in September, 10 were there Mar. 21 and 2 pairs May 19 (PY, S & LH). Reports of Greater White-fronted Geese were of 200 Mar. 2 at L. Fayetteville, Washington, Ark (T & LH) and nine May 9 at C.C. Ref. (JCR). A pair of Green-winged Teal was near Bayou Lacassine, Cameron, May 31 (PPM, MMS). A very late Am. Black Duck was at Gallatin Steam Plant, Sumner, Tenn., May 25 (DT & JPC). Up to eight Mottled Ducks were noted on Blakely and Dauphin Is. in April

(GD), m.ob.); but at Lakeshore, Hancock, Miss., Apr. 27, three adults had broods of seven and ten (JT). At Spanish L., Iberia, La., Mar. 23 was a ♂ Cinnamon Teal (MJM); and in a fish pond at Pecan L., Vermilion, Mar. 21, another male was successfully protecting an unidentified female (Blue-winged or Cinnamon) from a ♂ Blue-winged Teal.

Lingering ducks are rather common into summer in this Region, especially tip-up ducks and pochards. This spring we had a N. Shoveler in Cameron May 23 (DMu); Canvasback Apr. 13, also in Cameron (PMcK, MMS, TD); Redhead, two at Guntersville May 25 (A & AM); Ring-necked Duck in Grenada, Miss., May 17 (MD, GK) and in Birmingham June 8 (MHu, TI); Lesser Scaup in Birmingham May 19 (TI) and at Bonnet Carré Spillway May 31 (RJS, MW). A Greater Scaup at Pass Christian, Miss., Apr. 22 (PL, LB) was very late. A Harlequin Duck at Port St. Joe, Gulf, Fla., Mar. 2 & 4 provided the 6th record for n.w. Florida (JMS, HMS, JEC). North of Horn I., Miss., 35 Oldsquaws remained Mar. 31 (JT, MHo). A Bufflehead was in Cameron Apr. 13 (PMcK, MMS, TD). Hooded Mergansers at Bobb Kidd L., Washington, Ark., Apr. 13 (MMI) and on Barnett Res., Madison, Miss., May 16 (JMcG) may have been breeding locally. Last report of Com. Mergansers at Tennessee N.W.R. was at D.R.U., 17 on Mar. 1 (JCR); one nonflying apparently injured female, noted in February, has since been noted at Sardis Dam, Panola, Miss., Apr. 16 and May 3 & 12 (MD). Late Ruddy Ducks were reported from Hancock, Miss., May 2 (JT, DKi, CR) and L. Fayetteville, Washington, Ark., two May 15 (MMI).

HAWKS — On the Mississippi R. Levee in E. Baton Rouge, La., 4 observers (PMcK, CF, JK, KP) from Mar. 15 to Apr. 27 spent 62 hrs. and counted 1493 hawks as follows: Black Vulture, 49; Turkey Vulture, 100; Osprey, six; Am. Swallow-tailed Kite, five; Mississippi Kite, 59; N. Harrier, one; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 52; Cooper's Hawk, four; Red-shouldered Hawk, 20; Broad-winged Hawk, 1134 (687 of them Mar. 29); Red-tailed Hawk, 33; Am. Kestrel, one; unidentified buteo, 14; unidentified hawk, 15. Majority of hawks flew E or NE. Ospreys seemed to be widespread; nesting was certain in Escambia, Fla.; Baldwin and Mobile, Ala.; Jackson, Miss.; Iberville, La.; nest built in Davidson, Tenn., but nest blew down; other birds in Louisiana and Arkansas lingered late enough to expect developments soon (SG, OF, TI, JT, DBC, RVM, H & MP, MMI, m.ob.). American Swallow-tailed Kite had an exceptionally good migration this spring. At least seven were seen in Alabama (GJ, TSS, TI, m.ob.); 11 on May 29 at Pascagoula, Miss. (JT, m.ob.); 10 in Louisiana (PMcK, m.ob.); and between Hampton and Calion, Calhoun (CMi), the first Arkansas record since about 1949 (JN)! We have no present information on the Bald Eagle nests built in Humphreys & Coffee, Tenn., but in Stewart, at C.C. Ref., three young were produced in late March for the 4th consecutive year of nesting at the refuge (SMM). Two young were seen at a nest in Harrison, Miss., Mar. 11 (JSp). A bird as late as May 2 in Newton, Ark. (TSc, BSa, JMD) brought hope there. Northern Harriers were late at Gum Cove Rd., Cameron, La., Apr. 25 (DLD, KVR, TSS, DMu) and at Lakeland Farm, Perry, Ala., Apr. 27 (GJ); but extremely late were birds May 17 at Grenada L., Miss. (MD, GK) and at Whitleyville, Tenn. (SDB, RLP). In Middle Tennessee, 20 reports of Sharp-shinned Hawks were received for the period and 18 for Cooper's (fide SJS), quite a contrast to the Louisiana Hawk Survey.

Two ad. light-phased Swainson's Hawks were on Gum Cove Rd., Calcasieu, La., Apr. 25 & 26 (DLD, R & MN, m.ob.); but two other **Swainson's Hawks** near Fayetteville Apr. 8 produced the first nest for Arkansas, still active in the 2nd week of June although no young were reported; a 2nd nearby nest was suggested by one to two birds at and near Bentonville, 25–30 mi away, through May 23 (MMI, m.ob.). A light-phased **Ferruginous Hawk**, probably in its 2nd winter, seen Mar. 4, 6, 8, 11, & 18 in Calhoun, 19 mi s. of Blountstown and 22 mi e. of Panama City (ph. JEC, HMS, m.ob.) was the 4th for Florida. Immature Golden Eagles were seen at Springdale, Ark., Mar. 8 (MMI, BSa, RJ) and at Land-between-the-Lakes, Tenn., Apr. 5 (DWB). Three Crested Caracaras were at Gum Cove, La.,

Apr. 20 (DBC, JLa, m.ob.). At least eight Merlins were reported from the coast Mar. 2 to Apr. 26, Cameron to Ft. Morgan (KVR, PL, m.ob.), but only two inland, in Stewart and Davidson, Tenn., Mar. 27 and Apr. 26 (DWB, CGD). An ad. Peregrine Falcon wintered into March in Cameron (m.ob.) and migrants were recorded there Apr. 20, 26, & 27 (DLD, PL, m.ob.); one at P.R.M. on Mar. 5 (JT, DKi) appeared to be a locally-wintering bird also. In coastal Alabama probable migrants were listed for Mobile Apr. 24 (PL); Blakely I., Mobile, May 1 (GJ, CDC); and Ft. Morgan, May 4 (GJ, DJ). Inland birds were seen at C.C. Ref., Mar. 13 and May 5 & 15; and the latest May 21 at Centerton "stooping on shorebirds" (CMi, MMI).

RAILS THROUGH TERNS — On Blakely I., spontaneous (unprovoked) calling of the Black Rail in mid-morning in August, 1985 was repeated from the same place this May 1 (GJ, CDC); when you consider 18 coastal records since Apr. 23, 1965, eight of them in April and May, or about one record per year since 1970, we are beginning to make a case for breeding in coastal Alabama. Fair numbers of rails were reported, but the only really noteworthy ones were a Sora at C.C. Ref., Mar. 9 (JCR), and an ad. Purple Gallinule at nearby Bear Creek W.M.A., May 18–31 (JCR, m.ob.). Sandhill Cranes were reported from their usual place near Byrdstown, Tenn., 300+ Mar. 1–10, but two more were reported late on May 13 & 18 near Ft. Pillow Prison Farm, Tenn. (RPF).

The following ricefield shorebird figures appear to be an excellent guide to the spring occurrence of these birds throughout the Region. The first figure is the 215-mile count on Apr. 13 in 4 parishes w. of Lafayette (JVR, KVR, GR, PPM). The 2nd and 3rd figures are the peak date and count of 9 30-mile counts (KVR) in March (4), April (3), and May (2) in this same area (Jefferson Davis, Acadia, Lafayette, & Vermilion). Lesser Golden-Plover, 1311, Mar. 23, 595, Mar. 30, 585; Semipalmated Plover, 95, Apr. 23, 150; Greater Yellowlegs, 100+, Apr. 6, 400, Apr. 13, 390; Lesser Yellowlegs, 11,210, Apr. 6, 4490; Solitary Sandpiper, 17, 0, 0; Ruddy Turnstone, 1, 0, 0; W. Sandpiper 1000, 0, 0; Least Sandpiper, 1065, 0, 0; White-rumped Sandpiper, 0, May 9, 360; Pectoral Sandpiper, 985, Apr. 23, 605; Dunlin, 3125, Apr. 13, 1760; Stilt Sandpiper, 1263, Apr. 23, 1720; Buff-breasted Sandpiper, 302, Apr. 6, 355; dowitcher, sp. (nearly 99% Long-billed), 7625, 0; Wilson's Phalarope, 18, 0, 0. (Many inland occurrences are close to these peaks.)

Interesting Black-bellied Plovers were an early one Mar. 15 in Lawrence, Tenn. (DJS) and 40 late ones May 29 in Cameron (JVR, JG, KVR). The only Snowy Plovers reported were a pair on Rutherford Beach, Cameron, Apr. 26 (SWC, CNM, m.ob.); [JA] failed to find them after 2 months' search of the Mississippi coast. An early Wilson's Plover was in Cameron Mar. 8 (DLD, SWC); in P.R.M. there were 2 nests with eggs on Apr. 26 ([JA]) and 10 adults May 19 (JT, DKi); but the best news was the first Arkansas record of **Wilson's Plover** at Centerton May 18–21



Wilson's Plover at the Centerton Hatchery, Benton Co., Ark., May 21, 1986. First record for Arkansas. Photo/Charles Mills.

(ph NB, THa, JN, m ob) Two Alabama records, one May 16-18, 1973 at Wheeler N.W.R. and the other at Eufaula N.W.R. on Sept. 2, 1974 (Hurricane Carmen) are, it seems, the only other inland records for the Region. A high number of Semipalmated Plovers inland was 30 seen Apr. 29 and May 3 at Sardis L., Lafayette, Miss. (MD). The most Piping Plovers were 20 Mar. 8 in Cameron (DLD, SWC), and the latest May 4 also in Cameron (DLD, m.ob.).

Black-necked Stilts continue to increase in the Region; 15 in Bienville Mar. 18 (PWD) were the first for the Shreveport area; two at Cape San Blas, Gulf, May 20, were very rare for n.w. Florida (HMS, JMS); one was at Morganza Spillway, Pointe Coupée, June 2 (DWG); 10 good-sized chicks were seen May 19 in P.R.M. (JT, DKi) and 200 were estimated on Blakely I., Apr. 8 (TI, WN). Also at Blakely Apr. 8 were 160 Am. Avocets (TI, WN), and at P.R.M., Apr. 22 there were 150+ (JT, m.ob.). Four were at Caye's Bend, Sumner, Tenn., May 4 (DRJ, DT & JPC).

Inland Willets were one Apr. 27 in Davidson, Tenn. (DFV), six Apr. 19 at Centerton (NB, MNB, MML), and a high of 50 Apr. 24 at L. Wedington, Washington, Ark. (MML). The highest of 5 coastal reports of Whimbrel was of 21 Apr. 24 at E. Jetty Woods Beach, Cameron (PMcK, RiM). Hudsonian Godwits were seen in Vermilion, 10 on Apr. 25 (PL); one May 6 at Blakely I., Ala. (LRD); three in Arkansas on May 11, one in Lonoke (H & MP) and two at Centerton (TH, NB); and one in Acadia, La., May 31 (PPM, MMS). Marbled Godwits were all in Alabama, one on Dauphin I., Apr. 9 (GJ), and on Blakely I., one Apr. 16 (G, TSS) & 28 (TI, A & GG). An early Ruddy Turnstone was at Lewis Pond, Sumner, Tenn., May 3 & 4 (GRJ, DT & JPC); another was at Centerton May 18-26 (NB, m.ob.); but the presence of 51 May 29 in Cameron (JVR, JG, KVR) indicated a migration peak.

The only Red Knots reported were four Apr. 24 at E. Jetty Beach, Cameron (PMcK, RiM). A Sanderling at Centerton May 17 (JN, MML, m.ob.) was the first in spring for n.w. Arkansas. Two Baird's Sandpipers were at Springdale Sewage Ponds, Benton, Ark., May 18 (MML), and four each were in Sumner, Tenn., May 14 & 30 (JP & DTC). On Mar. 9 in Town Cr., Colbert, Ala., 28 early Pectoral Sandpipers were counted (GNP); and on Mar. 28 w. of Lafayette, La., a maximum of 725 was counted (SWC, DLD, JVR). The earliest of several Stilt Sandpipers was one in basic plumage Mar. 5 at P.R.M. (JT, DKi), one inland was on May 11 at Town Creek, Colbert, Ala. (GNP), and late ones were at Centerton, two on May 24 and one each on May 26 and June 2 (BSa, m.ob.). A good inland high for Short-billed Dowitchers was 70 May 15 at Centerton (DAJ).

Near the mouth of Calcasieu Pass, Cameron, La., two ad. alternate-plumaged Franklin's Gulls were seen May 4, late for spring for a species rare anywhere in the Region. At Sardis Dam, Panola, Miss., Bonaparte's Gull peaked higher, 200 Mar. 22, but disappeared earlier, zero Apr. 26 (MD). In Harrison, Miss., a Lesser Black-backed Gull was last noted Mar. 18 and was thought to be the bird present since Oct. 29, 1985, making its 4th winter appearance (JT, m.ob.). Our friend, "Ole one-foot", most likely a Lesser Black-backed x Herring Gull hybrid, has been around since Oct. 24, 1977 when first seen as an adult by many of us, and is at least a 13-year-old; it was last seen May 7 on the Pensacola waterfront (RAD). A Great Black-backed Gull was on Dauphin I., Apr. 21 & 26 (RAD, RMu, OF, GJ, JVP). The A.O.U. in its Check-list, 1983:218, states that the complex of 11 species from California Gull through Great Black-backed Gull poses "one of the most complex problems in ornithological systematics to-day." So, if you see any of these 11 out of range, out of season, or out of habitat, get all the proof you can and make sure your photographs show relative size. A Laughing Gull in alternate (breeding) plumage was at Waterloo, Lauderdale, Ala., May 11 (GNP).

Two early Gull-billed Terns were at Lakeshore, Hancock, Miss., Mar. 28 (JT, MHo, CD). Caspian Terns were noted inland in Colbert, Ala., two on Apr. 13 & two on May 11; and in Lauderdale, Ala., three on May 11 (GNP); in E. Baton Rouge, La.,

May 22 (PMcK); one on L. Wedington, Ark., May 11 (MML), and in Lonoke, Ark., three May 22 (DAJ). Inland Forster's Terns were all Apr. 15, four at Wheeler N.W.R. (DCH) and one at Noxubee N.W.R. (JAJ). Inland Least Terns were three at C.C. Ref., May 18 (JCR); four 10 mi. s. of Helena, Phillips, Ark., May 17 (H & MP); and one at Centerton May 23-24 (MML).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — White-winged Doves in Cameron were on Apr. 20 (two), 23 (one), 26 (four), 27 (one), and May 4 (one singing) (PMcK, m.ob.). A Com Ground-Dove at Hickory, Newton, Miss., May 5-7 may be the first reported from the county (JMG); others were reported from Mer Rouge, Morehouse, La., Mar. 3 & 4 (K & JA, DTK, m.ob.), and Reserve, most six on Mar. 22 (RJS). Five Black-billed Cuckoos were seen on Cow I., Cameron, Apr. 22 (PMcK, RiM, RH). A Greater Roadrunner was seen near Pottsville, Ark., Apr. 23 (DA, WS, MP)—not often seen in Arkansas lately. The only anis noted were two Groove-billeds along Peveto Beach, Cameron, Apr. 27 (JH, PL). The only Short-eared Owls listed were five to seven at D.R.U., Mar. 23-30 (JCR, CKC).

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were first noted in Baton Rouge on Mar. 8; built up to a figure of 75+ (only three females), then declined until on May 2 there was only one bird (PMcK)! It seems that Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) draws the birds away from feeders, but blooming faded in May so that by May 31 the feeder count was 100+ (PMcK). In most places in the Region, such as Birmingham, Trumpet-Creeper (*Campsis*), Jewelweed (*Impatiens*) and many other blossoms help fill what little gap there is in honeysuckle blooming. In the Cameron area on Apr. 20, Paul Lehman counted 300 Ruby-throateds. One imm. ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird remained in Baton Rouge from Nov. 7, 1985 to Mar. 6, 1986 (M & RD), and was banded (NLN) in December 1985. Another ad. male remained at the same place from Oct. 26, 1985 through Apr. 4, 1986 and upon capture was found to have been banded on Dec. 11, 1984 at the same place (NLN, m.ob.). Two imm ♀ Rufous Hummingbirds remained in Baton Rouge, December 1985 to early April 1986; an ad. female banded Dec. 3, 1984 was recaptured at the same place Oct. 11, 1985 and remained until Apr. 17, 1986, its 2nd winter at the same place (M & RD, NLN, m.ob.)! Late Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were singles at Leiper's Fork, Williamson, Tenn., May 3 (BHS) and in E. Jetty Woods, Cameron, May 4 (*L.S.U.M.Z., JVR). A Red-cockaded Woodpecker nest with young was found May 18 in Kisatchie Wilderness Area, La., in an area extensively cleared because of s. pine beetles (JA, RC, KH); and a pair was seen in a new area near Gilmore, Ala., in January, March, and early April (LNT).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — Olive-sided Flycatchers were noted as follows: Apr. 26 in Stewart, Tenn. (JCR); one May 10 in Birmingham (TI, PF); two May 19 in Cameron (GR, WH); and four (very high) May 24 in Overton, Tenn. (SJS, BHS). An E. Wood-Pewee Apr. 3 at Gulf Shores (TI) was the earliest ever for the Alabama Gulf Coast, but one Apr. 1 at Tusculumbia, Colbert, 400 mi farther n. (GNP), was earliest ever for the whole state! A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was at L. Fayetteville, Ark., May 15 (MML). Alder Flycatchers were heard singing in Peveto Beach Woods, Cameron, two on Apr. 19 (DBC, JL, m.ob.); also 10 in Cameron May 19 (GR, WH); and nine in Washington and Benton, Ark., May 18-27 (MML) A very early Willow Flycatcher Apr. 20 near Dover, Tenn. (DWB) presaged a deluge of at least 23 birds in 7 counties in middle Tennessee May 11-31 (m.ob., fide SJS). In one of the few coastal records for Alabama, GJ and CDC listened to the dawn song at Ft. Mims, Baldwin, May 1. Two were calling at L. Bentonville, Ark., May 23 (MML). Least Flycatchers were heard Apr. 25 & 27 in Cameron (PMcK, PL, *L.S.U.M.Z., SWC); in Fayetteville Ark., May 1 (MML); and May 26 near Gainesboro, Jackson, Tenn., a possible local breeder (SJS, DJS). For Vermilion Flycatcher, seldom reported in spring, we listed a female in Johnson's Bayou Cemetery, Cameron, Mar. 2 (KVR), a male on Dau-

phin I., Apr. 14 (DLM, m.ob.), and one at Gulf Breeze, Fla., Apr. 23 (LRD). Great Crested Flycatchers were more abundant and widespread this year—one result an early date in Baton Rouge Mar. 24 (JPO). Western Kingbirds, usually rather rare in spring, were noted Apr. 20 in Cameron (PL, m.ob.) and May 3 in Benton (CMi). A very early E. Kingbird was in Williamson, Tenn., Mar. 14 (CKC). Two Gray Kingbirds were at Grand Isle, Jefferson, La., Apr. 10–19, for the 2nd year in a row (ph. F & GB, T.B.C.). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported from Centerton Mar. 29 (MMI), Tuscaloosa, Ala., May 23 (MJB), and Cameron May 31 (PPM, MMS).

Horned Larks were spotted 5 mi s. of Crowley, Acadia, La., Mar. 30, a probable pair but with no vocalizations nor courtship activity (*L.S.U.M.Z., SWC, GHR). In May, Tree Swallow breeding was noted in Lawrence, Maury, and Stewart, Tenn. (m.ob., fide SJS). Northern Rough-winged Swallows nest in a great variety of cavities; at Celina, Tenn., May 25, 3 pairs were nesting on the underside of semi-trailers (DJS, SJS). This reminds the writer that in A.H. Howell 1928, *Birds of Alabama*, is an account of birds that nested in the Guntersville-Hobbs I. Ferry in 1913, and followed the boat daily taking care of their young. Some 3150 Cliff Swallows were in Cheatham, Tenn., May 3–4 (CGD); the species breeds in Stewart, Dickson, Jackson, Hickman, Perry, and Lawrence, Tenn., and seems to be expanding. An early Cliff Swallow was at Waveland Lagoon, Hancock, Miss., Mar. 18 (JT). A **Cave Swallow** found dead on Horn I., Miss., Mar. 25 (TSi, RTP, JT, TB, m.ob.) was the first ever for Mississippi; the bird was skinned but no mention is made of where the specimen went.

NUTHATCHES THROUGH VIREOS—Not the biggest nor the latest flight, Red-breasted Nuthatches pushed into coastal areas the last week in March, reaching Jackson, Miss. (MHo, JT, CD) and E. Baton Rouge, Jefferson, and Acadia, La. (PMcK, DBC, SWC, m.ob.); last bird was May 3 at Ft. Negley, Davidson, Tenn. (CGD). Unusual was a Brown-headed Nuthatch on the L.S.U. campus in Baton Rouge Apr. 17 (JVR, TD). Evidence of the nesting of Brown Creeper in W. Tennessee again cropped up; birds were in Fayette, Madison, Lake, and Henry, May 1–23, some of them singing (RPF, fide BBC). Single Bewick's Wrens were found in 7 places in as many counties in middle Tennessee this April and May (fide SJS); w. of the Mississippi in Washington, Ark., birds were pairing and singing (BSa, MP, MMI). An early House Wren was in Washington, Ark., Apr. 3 (MMI); in middle Tennessee birds were breeding in small cities and suburbs, and may be one of the reasons for the decline of the Bewick's Wren. A late Winter Wren was at Riverton, Colbert, Apr. 13 (GNP). A Golden-crowned Kinglet at Ft. Morgan Apr. 11 (JiH) was the latest ever for the Gulf Coast and tied the latest ever for Alabama. An early Swainson's Thrush was in Davidson, Tenn., Apr. 6, stunned at window (JE), while a very late Hermit Thrush was at Hurricane, Baldwin, Ala., May 1 (G, CDC). At least one pair of Am. Robins bred on the L.S.U. campus at Baton Rouge, building Apr. 12, fledglings May 16 (EG); but in Cameron, breeding is still only conjectural with birds lingering to Apr. 26 (PMcK, m.ob.). A Water Pipit remained through May 8 at the Cumberland City Steam Plant, Stewart, Tenn. (JCR). Although the Loggerhead Shrike appeared on a decline up to about a year or so ago, this season's information showed a solid increase. In the ricefield area w. of Lafayette, the same census techniques as used for shorebirds produced a figure of 1.4 birds per mi both on 30-mi and 215-mi routes (KVR, m.ob.). In Birmingham a figure that had reached a low of .08 shrikes per 10 party-hours in 1982, was this year 1.78, the highest in 20 years!

A Bell's Vireo was in Reserve Mar. 9 (RJS). Warbling Vireo this year was seen first at Centerton, two on Apr. 19 (MMI, NB, MNB); six were in Cameron Apr. 20 and one there Apr. 27 (PL, m.ob.); one was in Gulfport, Miss., May 3 (JT); and six more were seen in Cameron May 19 (GHR, WH). This is a pretty fair migration for a species virtually missing from the e. one-half of the Region—unrecorded on the Birmingham



Black-whiskered Vireo at East Jetty Woods, Cameron Par., La., Apr. 20, 1986. Like a dull-colored, heavy-billed version of Red-eyed Vireo, with a dark malar stripe. Photo/Paul Lehman.

Spring and Fall counts since 1976. This is a species definitely in need of watching; SWC has seen it only twice in Louisiana! Red-eyed Vireo was recorded early at Dunbar Cave S.P., Montgomery, Tenn., Mar. 31 (EJW). On Cow I., Cameron, Apr. 19, 100+ were counted (PMcK, RiM). A Black-whiskered Vireo at Perdido Bay, Escambia, Fla., Mar. 30 was the earliest ever for Alabama or n.w. Florida (OF); in Cameron, where the species was last recorded in 1976, four to five were seen Apr. 20–27 (ph. PL, *L.S.U.M.Z., SWC, m.ob.)—apparently not of the s. Florida race, certainly different from what this writer has netted on the Alabama coast. Finally, one was at Ft. Morgan May 6 (AL & ADM).

WARBLERS—An early Blue-winged Warbler was in E. Baton Rouge Mar. 28 (PMcK); three or four were in Pea Ridge N.M.P., Benton, Ark., May 3 (EN, A.A.S.); another in Boyd Mill P., Williamson, Tenn., May 4 was singing a typical Golden-winged song (SJS, BHS), so it pays to check out the singers in this group. Their hybrids are not scarce, although this spring all were in Cameron! A ♀ "Brewster's" was on Cow I., Apr. 19 (PMcK), another "Brewster's" was in E. Jetty Woods Apr. 20 (KVR), and a 3rd was at Johnson's Bayou Apr. 26 (BMM), while a ♂ "Lawrence's" was on Garner Ridge Apr. 13 (TD). A very early Golden-winged was near Dover, Tenn., Apr. 9 (DWS); one on Cow's I., Apr. 19 was singing a typical song (PMcK); two were in Washington, Ark., Apr. 26 (KMG, BBr, DLC) and May 3 (CKE, BSa, KW). An early Tennessee Warbler was at Ft. Donelson N.M.P., Stewart, Tenn., Apr. 12 (JCR) and the largest number was 350 Apr. 20 in Cameron (PL). Four early Nashville Warblers were in Cameron Apr. 20 (PL); the maximum was nine at Thompson, Ark., May 2 (JN); and the latest was one May 21 near Oxford, Lafayette, Miss. (MD). When the Bermuda High was displaced westward, some Atlantic warblers probably rode the easterly winds around its s. side, for instance: Cape May at Big Lake N.W.R., Ark., May 10 (H & MP); another at Grand Isle May 15–16 (NN, GHR, DMu); and Black-throated Blues at Cameron Apr. 20 (SWC, m.ob.), Ocean Springs, Jackson, Miss., Apr. 26 (JT, DKi), and Limrock, Jackson, Ala., May 4 (JJ). A late Yellow-rumped Warbler was in Hancock, Miss., May 2 (CR, DKi, JT). An early Black-throated Green Warbler was in Jackson, Miss., Mar. 22 (JSp) and a late one May 28 in Durham, Ark. (DAJ). A late Blackburnian Warbler was at Centerton May 26 (MMI). At least six singing Yellow-throated Warblers were on territory in Logtown, Hancock, Miss., Mar. 14 (JT, SSP). Eight Cerulean Warblers were singing on Cow I., Cameron, Apr. 19 (PMcK). An early Worm-eating Warbler was at Leiper's Fork, Williamson, Tenn., Apr. 8 (SJS); two earliest were in Washington, Ark., Apr. 20 (THa); and four Worm-eaters were singing in the Louisiana State Arboretum, Evangeline, La., May

24 (PMcK) Swanson's Warbler was early at Gulf Breeze Mar 27 (RLB, m.ob.); tied the earliest for n.w. Arkansas in Franklin May 3 (DAJ, m.ob.); six were counted on Cow I., La., Apr. 19 (PMcK, RiM); five singing on the Mississippi coast included three May 22 in Hancock and two May 29 in Jackson (JT, DKi); and in Birmingham at least six were present daily from Apr. 13 into June, often with three to four others present for only about a day (TI, RRR, m.ob.). An Ovenbird in Cameron Mar. 9 (DLD) had probably wintered locally. On Apr. 19 on Cow I., Cameron, a record tally of 200+ Ovenbirds was made (PMcK, RiM). An early Louisiana Waterthrush was at Basin Spring, Williamson, Tenn., Mar. 14 (KAG). The only Connecticut Warbler listed was one near Cookeville, Putnam, Tenn., May 20 (RWS). The only Mournings were in the n. part of the Region, three in Arkansas (MML, H & MP) and four in middle Tennessee, latest May 30 (DFV, RWS, BHS, DWB). A ♂ Wilson's Warbler was on Cow I., La., Apr. 19 (PMcK, RiM). An early Canada Warbler was at Chumuckla, Santa Rosa, Fla., Apr. 19 (BiB, JO). On the Texas Flat Rd., Hancock, Miss., 63 Yellow-breasted Chats were counted May 22 (JT, DKi).

TANAGERS THROUGH ORIOLES — On Cow and Tiger Is., Cameron, 65+ Summer Tanagers were counted Apr. 18, and 60+ Scarlet Tanagers Apr. 19 (PMcK, RiM). An ad. ♂ Black-headed Grosbeak showed up briefly Apr. 8 at a feeder in Baton Rouge where one, most likely the same bird, had been present in January and February (F & AG). A ♂ Blue Grosbeak Mar. 4 in Harrison, Miss., could have been wintering locally (JSp). On Cow I., La., Apr. 19, 200+ Blue Grosbeaks and 1000+ Indigo Buntings were counted (PMcK, RiM). An early Painted Bunting was in Madison, La., Mar. 2 (HMo); four more were singing May 19 on Greenwood I., Jackson, Miss., in the same area as last year (JT, DKi), on the edge of the breeding range. A count of breeding Dickcissels in middle Tennessee in May showed 46 pairs in 7 counties (*vide* SJS). Bachman's Sparrow reports came from Hot Spring, Ark., five birds in March (H & MP); and Giles and Stewart, Tenn., 4 to 5 pairs in late April and May (DJS, JCR). Rufous-crowned Sparrow was found in a new area of Arkansas, Mt. Nebo S.P., Yell, Apr. 23 (DAJ, WS). Five Clay-colored Sparrows were counted in Washington and Benton, Ark., Apr. 26 and May 2 & 7 (MML, JAR, NB). Two very early Lark Sparrows were at Wheeler N.W.R., Mar. 28 (DCH) and a late one was at Gulf Breeze, Fla., Apr. 13 (RAD); one was in Lafayette, Miss., Apr. 24 (MD); two were at Gilmore, Ala. Apr. 23, 24, & 25 (LNT); and middle Tennessee breeders, at least 5 pairs in Wilson, Stewart, and Rutherford, were first noted Apr. 21 (RVM, JCR). Grasshopper Sparrows were reported first from Arkansas Apr. 20 at Siloam Springs, Benton (MML). The only Henslow's Sparrow report was of one Apr. 1 at L. Fayetteville, Ark. (MML). A Le Conte's Sparrow was reported from C.C. Ref., Mar. 9 (JCR), and two more from Wheeler N.W.R., Mar. 26 (DCH). Sharp-tailed Sparrow, a much later migrant seldom seen inland, was at Bear Creek W.M.A., Stewart, Tenn., May 18 (JCR, DWB). A very late Fox Sparrow was in Lawrence, Tenn., May 3 (DJS). The latest Lincoln's Sparrow was May 27 at L. Fayetteville, Ark. (MML). A late White-throated Sparrow was in Haywood, Tenn., May 18 (RWD, RPF). A very late Dark-eyed Junco was in Lawrence, Tenn., May 3 (DJS). On Mar. 8 at C.C. Ref., there were three Lapland Longspurs (DWB).

A W. Meadowlark sang near Johnson's Bayou, Cameron, Apr. 26 (F & GB). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were common on the coast, with reports Mar. 13 at Gulf Breeze, Fla. (RLB), Mar. 27 & 29 in Hancock (RRu), Apr. 12 in De Soto, La. (HGH, HHJ), Apr. 13 in Calcasieu (TD, MMS, PMcK), and Apr. 21 in Cameron (PMcK, RiM), and in Caddo, Shreveport, two were also seen Apr. 21 (LRa). Two Brewer's Blackbirds were seen in Lawrence, Tenn., Mar. 7 (DJS). Great-tailed Grackles expanded to the n. and e. in the rice-growing areas of Vermilion, Acadia, and Lafayette—the farthest advance seems to be 5 mi s. of Duson and 8 mi s. of Rayne (KVR). In Evangeline near Ferris and Mamou they reoccupied areas they formerly bred in 10 or more years ago (HDG), and in Benton and Washington, Ark., they established new nesting colonies, one in a cattail stand in a farm

pond (DAJ, MML, MB, WF) Boat-taileds, which should be on the coast itself, seem to occur also in numbers in the Louisiana rice areas, for instance, 60 were in Vermilion and Acadia Mar 16 (KVR, CEQ). The Bronzed Cowbird, in its 8th year as a breeder, seemed to be holding its own near Reserve, La., with seven to 10 birds seen daily in March, April, and May (MW, RJS). In the Cameron area Apr. 20, 325 Orchard Orioles were tallied (PL); and 50+ N. Orioles were also there Apr. 18 & 19 (PMcK, RiM).

FINCHES — A latest-ever Purple Finch was in Nashville May 18 (J & HR). The House Finch, increasing annually, was noted this spring at Gulf Breeze, Fla., a female Mar. 7, for the 3rd area record (RAD); in Biloxi, Miss., a female was at a feeder Apr. 28–May 11 (ph. G & JP); in Memphis, last seen Mar. 30, then a pair May 21–23, plus one pair breeding in s.e. Memphis (BBC); n. & e. of these limits the species is common in cities, especially in winter, and breeding at least as far s. as Montgomery, Ala. The Com. Redpoll was in Ft. Smith, Ark., Jan 25 to Mar. 16 (KMG, CW, BBr ph., DLC), and another at Thompson, Madison, Ark., Mar. 14 (JN)—at feeders especially filled with thistle; “been getting 1–2 yearly for past 4 years, usually at feeders with siskins, goldfinches, purple finches.”—JN. While the latest Pine Siskin for Arkansas was only Apr. 29 (JN), later birds were at Baton Rouge May 10 (PMcK, m.ob.); May 24 at Oxford, Miss. (MD); May 27 at Dover, Tenn. (DJS, MHe, JCR), and May 27, two at Riverchase, Shelby, Ala. (R & LW, *vide* HK) A Lesser Goldfinch, as of May 2, has been at a Gravette, Benton, Ark., feeder for 2+ years (AE, *vide* DAJ), ph. fall 1985). Rather late Am. Goldfinches were in Cameron Apr. 19 (*L.S.U.M Z, SWC, DLD) & 25 (PL). Evening Grosbeaks were widespread in the Region, even on the coast. They were last seen as follows Apr. 1, 12 in Hancock, Miss. (ND, *vide* JT); Apr. 5, nine in Baton Rouge (GR, *vide* JVR); Apr. 22, one, 9th year of past 18 in n.w. Florida (C & BK); Apr. 26, one female at Grand Chenier, Cameron, first parish record (PL, m.ob.); May 2, one at Covington, La. (JiH, JaH, m.ob.); May 3, 16 at Starkeville, Miss. (JA, BSJ), May 16, one at Murfreesboro, Tenn. (ALH); May 19, one at Riverchase, Ala. (Birmingham) (LW); and one female into June at Columbus, Miss. (REW).

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PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

J. Bernard Gollop

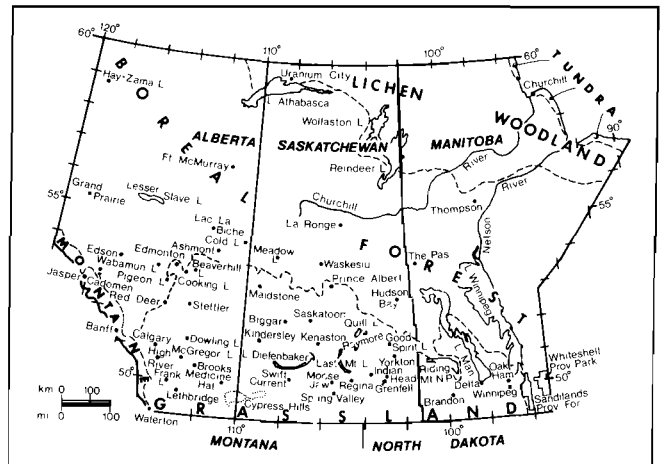
March was a warm month across the Prairies. However, snowfall was also above normal in many places, especially in central Alberta and across the north, while in the extreme southern Prairies it was as little as one-half normal. Record low temperatures were set just before the middle of April, while the second one-half of the month was warm, particularly in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Precipitation varied from 25% of normal in southern to 200% in central areas. The first one-half of May was cool and wet but thereafter it was hot and dry. Temperatures were $2^{\circ} \pm C$ above normal and precipitation was 100–200% above, much of the latter falling as rain on May 5 and 6 and as snow and rain May 13–15.

Ponds in the southern one-half of Alberta totalled 692,000, down 16% from 1985. In southern Saskatchewan there were 2,356,000 plus, 20% below last year, while in southern Manitoba ponds were up 92% to 956,000 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Canadian Wildlife Service).

Rudy Koes summed up migration for southern Manitoba (and at least some other areas) as "generally poor. Early migrants arrived both early and in large numbers in March, but migration slowed down after that. . . . Things were just 'dead' during the second half of May, when migrants zipped to the breeding grounds, without ever stopping." A few birds were found dead throughout the Region as a result of inclement weather.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL—A Red-throated Loon Mar. 17 on Wabamun L. was a rarity that may have wintered (RKL, RM). Flocks of 30 Com. Loons Apr. 27 at Natalie L., Man., and 14 Apr. 29 at Glenmore Res., Alta., were large for those areas (PT, AS). Western Grebes peaked at $600 \pm$ on Blackstrap Res., Sask., May 24 (BJ, MGo) and there was a single report of a Clark's Grebe: May 3 on Natalie L. (RP). American Bitterns were apparently up in some areas, with 18 being recorded around Saskatoon May 24 (PB, BG). There were reports of five single rare Great Egrets in s. Manitoba May 10–27 (GH, BS, MSi, KS, CD) and two at the n. end of Last Mountain L., May 31 (WH). Manitoba also had a Snowy Egret May 10 near Pierson and a Little Blue Heron May 13–17 at Hecla Is.; both species have been recorded fewer than 25 times in the province (RW, RN, RKz).

Swans identified as Trumpeters were reported from w. of Calgary—15 on Apr. 3 (RS, JPo)—and at Oak Hammock—an immature May 10–31 (RKs, m.ob.). What appeared to be a Blue x Greater White-fronted Goose was drawn Apr. 27 at Beaverhill L. (PM, RKL, AF). Canada Geese increased 55%, 31%, and 4% in s. Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, respectively (U.S.F.W.S., C.W.S.). Ducks, as a group, decreased 21% from 1985 in s. Alberta, equalled last year's total in s. Saskatchewan, and were up 78% in s. Manitoba. Among the 11 more common species, Region-wide, there were significant increases in Mal-



lard and Green-winged Teal with decreases in Blue-winged Teal and Redhead (U.S.F.W.S., C.W.S.). Cinnamon Teal in the Edmonton area are now considered "uncommon," rather than "rare" (PM), and more are appearing in Saskatchewan. The Eurasian Wigeon in Alberta may have reached the "rare but regular" status; it is not regular in Manitoba, where a male was present May 3–5 at Oak Hammock (PM, RT, m.ob.). Greater Scaup are also being reported more frequently in Saskatchewan. They were noted on at least 15 dates between Apr. 2 and May 24 at Regina (maximum of 30 Apr. 16), Duck Mountain P.P., Saskatoon, Prince Albert N.P., and Turtle L. (fide CA; SS, MGi; MSy; MC). Oldsquaws are even rarer in spring than fall on the s. Prairies; records came from Edmonton (a male Apr 25±—RKL), Calgary (six May 20—RS, MH, SA) and Saskatoon (one May 24—RKE). Barrow's Goldeneye is also particularly rare in spring in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, where the only record was for three males and a female near Weyburn May 17 (NP).

EAGLES THROUGH CRANES—Large spring concentrations of Bald Eagles for this area were 24 adults and 22 immatures migrating through the foothills w. of Calgary Apr 3 (RS, JPo) and at least 45 on the Rennie R., s.e. Manitoba, Apr 9 (PT). Northern Harriers were up significantly in s. Manitoba and Ferruginous Hawks continue to increase there with at least 7 reports, including 2 nests (RKs, MSi, CCu, DB). Peregrine Falcon observations were up, presumably because of released birds; the skyscraper-nesting pair in Calgary hatched 3 of 4 eggs (DC). Spruce and Ruffed grouse were up in the Saskatchewan boreal forest (WH). American Coots were down 30% from last year across the s. part of the Region (U.S.F.W.S., C.W.S.) A remarkable reverse migration of Sandhill Cranes was described by Wayne Harris: "during a cold spell the evening of Apr. 14, 1920–1955 h, 33,000 flew south; 1955–2040 h, approx 20,000 milling and congregating 4 mi s.w. of Raymore; 2040–2105 h, random landing after dark of $\pm 20,000$. Total seen in

less than 2 h estimated at 73,000!" There were 14 confirmed reports of Whooping Cranes Apr. 10–25, all from Saskatchewan; 36 "probable sightings" from the 3 provinces Mar. 4–May 23; and 33 other reports (*vide B*).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH OWLS — Four Long-billed Curlews were far n. of their normal range at Doré L., Sask., May 30 (RJ). The only W. Sandpiper was reported from Chap-pice L., n.e. of Medicine Hat, May 19 (RKL). Manitoba's 7th Ruff was found near St. Ambroise (MSi). Rare gulls for the areas reported included a Mew Gull photographed at Wabamun L., May 15 (DSe); one to three imm. and ad. Thayer's Gulls at Saskatoon Apr. 22–May 6 (SS), a 2nd-year bird at Seven Sisters, Man., Apr. 25–27 (PT), and 2nd- and 3rd-year singles at Calgary May 2 (AS). There was also an ad. Iceland Gull at Saskatoon Apr. 21–May 3 (SS), another photographed at Calgary May 11 (RS, WS, AS), and one near Winnipeg May 24 (DF, PT). Finally, there were up to 10 Sabine's Gulls on Doré L., May 28–June 4 (RJ). Other rarities included flocks of Black Guillemots through April offshore at Churchill (BC) and a Band-tailed Pigeon near Ft. McMurray Apr. 30 (BA).

A survey of E. Screech-Owls along the Souris R. between Estevan, Sask., and the U.S. border yielded 17 pairs and singles this year Apr. 21–24, compared to eight in 1985 (CA, SF). A late, small downy Great Horned Owl, blown out of its nest at Good Spirit L., May 10, was put in a box 2 m above the ground and fledged in mid-June (WJA). A N. Hawk-Owl was a rarity as far s. as Saskatoon Feb. 20–25 (JSS). Burrowing Owls continue to decline, with fewer correspondents mentioning them, and 5 reporting them as down from last year across the Region. A road-killed Great Gray Owl, apparently having adapted to high water levels near Pointe du Bois, Man., contained six wood frogs and a shrew (RN). Long-eared Owls were noticeably up in s. Saskatchewan as were Short-eared Owls in the s. part of the Region (WH, RKs, MO).

SWIFTS THROUGH WARBLERS — A pair of Vaux's Swifts appeared at the Information Center in Waterton N.P., May 23 and was photographed in early June (AW, SL). At least four Red-headed Woodpeckers were found in Saskatchewan—more than usual. A pair spent Apr. 2–23 in a farmyard near Melfort (FM); other records included one May 19 and two May 24 in Regina (*vide CA*), and singles on May 22 near Saskatoon (MGI) and Bromhead (CB)—the latter seen also May 23. A Steller's Jay was seen at Turtle L., May 22 & 25, with Blue Jays and ad. and imm. Gray Jays; there are fewer than 10 records of Steller's for Saskatchewan (MC). A rare nesting of White-breasted Nuthatch was found at Pike L., Sask., where an adult (or two) was seen carrying food into a tree-hole May 26 (FR, m.ob.). A Rock Wren at Brandon May 15 provided Manitoba's 8th record (BR). A westerly E. Bluebird had 6 eggs May 31 at Buffalo Pound L., n. of Moose Jaw (SW). A major migration of thrushes occurred in the Candle L., Sask., area Apr. 24 with >100 Gray-cheeked, >400 Swainson's, and >50 Hermit thrushes (WH, RMi). A Wood Thrush, rare for Manitoba, was discovered at Balmoral, n. of Winnipeg, May 23 & 24 (CT, RN, m.ob.). Snowstorms caused unusual concentrations of Am. Robins: in Winnipeg 600± in a field and 780± in a cemetery May 1, and at Sundre, Alta., "have never seen so many robins" May 13–15 (GH, DHt, FH). A Sage Thrasher singing n.e. of Calgary was carefully described May 19 and may have furnished the province's 3rd record (WW). Sprague's Pipits were very scarce in s.e. Manitoba this spring (RKs). Loggerhead Shrikes may be making a comeback, with no one reporting them down and 5 Saskatchewan observers finding more than last year (HP, JH, WH, DHy, BG).

There was a good early wave of warblers in s. Manitoba May 9–10 (RKs). Saskatoon's only wave was a weak one May 5–6; Moose Jaw had most of its warblers May 6–9; Estevan reported the most species—18—with a peak May 16–19, and the only real push at Ft. McMurray was May 23 when 12 species were seen (BG, LK, NP, JG). There are fewer than 10 records of Golden-winged Warbler for Saskatchewan and so one singing male,

if not two, May 29 and 30 in Duck Mountain P.P., Sask., was a find (SS, MGI, m.ob.). Single individuals of "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler were found in Saskatchewan at Francis May 24 (FB) and near the Manitoba border at Togo May 18 (SS). Another bird e. of its normal range was a Yellow-breasted Chat at Birds Hill P.P., May 31, providing the 2nd record for Manitoba in a decade (DK, m.ob.).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — Individuals of our three tanager species were reported far from their normal ranges. In Manitoba a ♂ Summer Tanager, Apr. 2–12, was photographed on snow at –10°C near Russell (JPu, m.ob.), and a ♂ Western was studied near Gladstone May 10 (JB, BRM). A ♀ Scarlet Tanager was seen in Weyburn, Sask., May 24 (RKr, CB). Fort McMurray had a ♂ Lazuli Bunting, found dead May 15; a ♂ Indigo Bunting May 23; and a ♂ Lark Bunting May 28 (JG). A ♂ Lark Bunting near Hecla Is., May 17 provided the most n.e. record for this species in Manitoba (DF, PT). Large numbers of Fox Sparrows were found, usually related to storms, on Apr. 12, >230 were counted at Pinawa, Man. (PT), and on Apr. 24, >100 at Candle L., Sask. (WH). There was an albino Harris' Sparrow May 18 at Pinawa (PT).

A McCown's Longspur was singing in a pasture near Turtle L., Sask., May 27; this was at least the 2nd year the species has been found so far n. of its main breeding range (MC). Carol Bjorklund described a Lapland Longspur migration near Bromhead, Sask.: "April 17—All day and into the night the birds flew over, so many that one could hear the rush of wings. They flew above treetop height, and in groups of at least 1000, with not really a break between groups, just a thinning out of birds. Wherever I looked with binoculars, there were Lapland Longspurs flying NW, no pausing or swirling or landing to feed. There were simply millions." Peak numbers for Snow Buntings were >12,000 at Beaverhill L., Apr. 9 (PM) and 10,000± at Churchill Apr. 24 and May 11 (BC). A pair of Bobolinks at Ft. McMurray May 23 (JG), a W. Meadowlark at Canoe L., Sask. (Lat. 55°06') in May (CCo), and a ♂ N. Oriole at La Perouse Bay, Man., May 11 (RR, m.ob.) were all n. of their usual breeding areas. There was a concentration of >92 N. Orioles around Blackstrap Res. near Saskatoon May 17 (BG). A ♂ of the Bullock's subspecies was seen in Moose Jaw, somewhat e. of its range, May 18 & 22 (PK, EK). A ♀ House Finch in Winnipeg Apr. 27 probably furnished the 5th record for Manitoba (LJ).

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NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Gordon B. Berkey

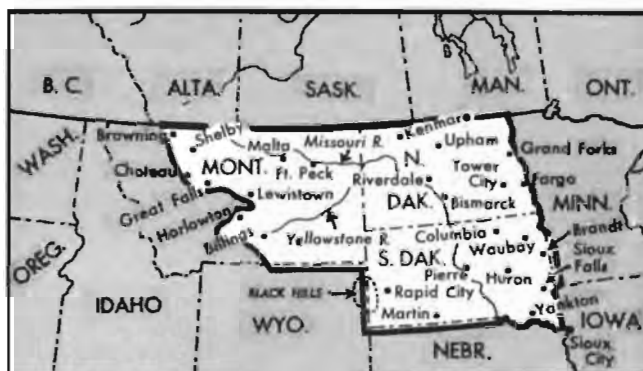
This spring was one of the wettest of the century over much of the Region. The eastern Dakotas saw prolonged flooding conditions, with the Red River still over its banks in early June at Fargo. Temperatures were above normal through mid-April, when a major storm struck with extreme cold, strong winds, and heavy snow. Bird mortality was noted over most of the Region, and tree leaves and leopard frogs suffered greatly in eastern Montana. The remainder of the period was cool in South Dakota and near normal elsewhere, with above-normal precipitation continuing. Water and grassland conditions were the best in some time, and the drought which had gripped the western one-half of the Region for several years has been broken.

The early warm weather pushed migration far ahead of schedule. In all, there were 67 earliest-ever (including ties) species records for the Dakotas. While the majority occurred before the storm, a significant number were in the following three weeks. Normally the editor would feel compelled to question records a week or more earlier than any previous one, but the tide is overwhelming, and I will merely report what has been given to me! Because of the large number of earliest state dates, the numerous very early (but not earliest) dates or earliest county dates have been omitted from the report. Many other records of interest had to be pared so that a complete picture of the breadth of early arrivals could be given.

ABBREVIATIONS — Place names in italics are counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Earliest state dates for Com. Loon were established by one in Yankton, S.D., Mar. 20 (WH) and six at Garrison Dam, N.D., Mar. 23 (RQ). While the latter was a rather high total for one location in the Dakotas, there were 38 at Ft. Peck, Mont., Apr. 25 (CC). Red-necked Grebes made a strong showing in e. North Dakota, with 13 at Grand Forks Apr. 16 (DL) and 20 at Crystal L., Apr. 30 (L & RM). An Eared Grebe at Long L., Apr. 6 (RQ) was the earliest for North Dakota. Clark's Grebe is proving to be regular, with at least two from South Dakota and five from North Dakota this season; the two singles at Minnewaukon Flats in North Dakota remained apart from nearby W. Grebes (SL). The W. Grebe in Minnehaha, S.D., Mar. 29 (GBL, MS) was the earliest ever. Sixteen Am. White Pelicans Mar. 31 (DB) and one Am. Bittern Apr. 19 (DGP) at Tewaukon N.W.R. were the earliest for North Dakota. Five Great Blue Herons at a rookery in Davison, S.D., Mar. 16 (RR, JM) also set an earliest state date. A Snowy Egret at Medicine Lake N.W.R., Mont., May 24 provided the first refuge record (CC). Little Blue Herons were at Waubay N.W.R., S.D., May 14 (RB) and in Divide, N.D., May 16 (TF). Cattle Egrets were seen in 10 different locations, including one at New Town, N.D., May 6 (BCH) and one that furnished a new latilong record for L10 in Montana (*fide* CC). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was seen in a flooded city park in Fargo, N.D., May 9 & 16 (GN, EW). A flock of 38 White-faced Ibises (SW) was at Sand Lake N.W.R.

WATERFOWL — A Tundra Swan at Tewaukon, N.D. (DGP), and two Greater White-fronted Geese in Charles Mix, S.D., Mar. 2 (D & MS) set earliest state date records. Most Ross' Goose reports have been in fall, when hunter kills increase the likelihood of the species being noticed. Sightings this spring included Mar. 17 in Turner, S.D. (LA), seven Apr. 6 and 15 Apr. 18 at Medicine L., Mont. (SM), and a probable total of 78 different birds on 6 occasions in n.c. North Dakota Mar. 29–May 10 (REM). The first date for North Dakota was, of course, a new earliest state record. It was observed that when Ross'



were mixed with Snows, there were very few Blues in the flocks; this might be an aid for observers wishing to search for this species, which is not as rare as believed. Nesting Wood Ducks are expanding in the Malta, Mont., area (DPr). A Mallard with 14 young in Walsh May 7 (RS) was the earliest-ever brood for North Dakota. Two ♂ Blue-winged Teal in Charles Mix Mar. 11 (DS) were the earliest ever for South Dakota. A hybrid Cinnamon x Blue-winged Teal in North Dakota (JH) and an albino N. Shoveler, paired with a male, at Bowdoin May 28 (J & KS) were both photographed. A Greater Scaup remained at Pierre until Mar. 15 (m.ob.), while one at L. Tschida Mar. 29 (D & CG) was the earliest ever for North Dakota; tens were at the Grand Forks lagoons at the normal peak spring migration period for this species Apr. 19 (DL). While Bufflehead has wintered in North Dakota at Garrison Dam, the bird at Lostwood N.W.R., Mar. 4 (RKM) provided the earliest-ever arrival.

RAPTORS THROUGH TERNS — Good records for comparisons of late dates are harder to find, but the N. Goshawk at Fargo May 21 (LF) would likely be a new late state date. A Red-shouldered Hawk present in Yankton, S.D., since December (WH) was observed carrying sticks in early March. More than 100 Broad-winged Hawks passed over Grand Forks in 2 hours the evening of Apr. 28 (DL), and a rare dark-phase bird was seen in McHenry Apr. 26 (REM). Three Broad-wingeds found unable to fly in Brookings Apr. 19 may have been poisoning victims (DT, NH), and two in Malta May 9 (DPr) continued the recent trend of regular sightings in e. Montana. Swainson's Hawks set earliest state dates Mar. 28 near Crosby, N.D. (TF), and in Codington, S.D. (JMG). A Rough-legged Hawk in Spink, S.D., May 11 (G & LC) was exceptionally late. It was hoped that the five May Peregrine Falcon sightings in the Malta area might have indicated nesting birds (JGr, KS). A ♂ Blue Grouse displaying in the Little Rocky Mts., May 19 represented a new probable breeding record for L19 (DPr). While the species probably wintered in Yankton, the Mar. 9 date for Am. Coot in Gregory (GS) set an earliest arrival date for South Dakota.

Shorebirds alone set 12 earliest state dates. Those for North Dakota were three Semipalmated Plovers at Gascoyne Res., Apr. 4 and a Long-billed Curlew n. of Lemmon Res., Apr. 6 (D & CG), Am. Avocet at Grand Forks Apr. 10 (DL, ties previous record), four Willets near Harvey Apr. 7 (MR), and Spotted Sandpiper Apr. 19 and Wilson's Phalarope Apr. 8 at Lostwood (RKM). South Dakota records were two Lesser Golden-Plovers Apr. 10 and Marbled Godwit Apr. 8 (ties previous) in Sanborn (RR), Semipalmated Plover in Brown Apr. 17 (GeP), Piping Plover in Yankton Apr. 13 (WH), and Upland Sandpiper and Long-billed Curlew in Custer Mar. 26 (MM). A search for threatened Piping Plovers in Montana revealed at least 5 pairs at Ft. Peck, Medicine Lake N.W.R., and Nelson Res. near Bowdoin N.W.R., with 3 nests found. The Whimbrel n. of Minot May 10 was North Dakota's first in 8 years, and Stilt Sandpipers

built up to 1300 at the Minot lagoons May 18 (GBB). The 68 Red-necked Phalaropes in L20 May 19 were a new latilong record for Montana. The Mar. 10 Franklin's Gull in Yankton (WH) was the earliest for South Dakota, Bonaparte's Gull set earliest dates for both Dakotas with 27 in Yankton Apr. 4 and two at Des Lacs N.W.R. one day later, and a California Gull at Garrison Dam Mar. 16 was the earliest for North Dakota (REM). California and Ring-billed gulls were each nesting at at least 3 South Dakota sites. Earliest terns for South Dakota were three Commons in Yankton Apr. 1 (KK) and Forster's in Turner Apr. 9 (LA, ties previous record). An S.D.S.U. student has initiated an intensive study of nesting Least Terns along the Missouri R. in South Dakota.

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A Common Barn-Owl was reported on a nest along the Missouri R. n. of Pierre, and a pair was at a Wood Duck box at Arrowwood N.W.R., N.D., one-half mi from last year's nesting, on May 15 (RH). The Burrowing Owl Mar. 27 in Davison (NW) tied the earliest South Dakota date. A Barred Owl was in Day, S.D., Apr. 6 (D & MS). A Long-eared Owl arrived at Lostwood Mar. 26 and was on eggs by Apr. 12 (RKM), a new early egg date for North Dakota. This nest was later abandoned, but 3 pairs were nesting on the refuge. Two Com. Nighthawks at Minot May 5, a new early date for the state, may have been in reverse migration as they were flying SE in a driving rainstorm with 40 mph tailwinds. It had been sunny and in the 80s the previous day (GBB). Another species setting 2 earliest state records was Chimney Swift, Apr. 15 in Brown, S.D. (EM), and Apr. 25 at Hettinger, N.D. (D & CG). The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Custer, S.D., Mar. 17 (MP) set a new early date. A Red-naped Sapsucker in Montana's Judith Mts., May 1 provided a new latilong record in L19 for this recently-split species (LMa). Sightings and diggings of Pileated Woodpecker in Roberts and Grant may indicate that the species is moving into South Dakota from neighboring Minnesota (BKH, JMG).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES — Earliest-ever flycatchers were E. Wood-Pewee Apr. 18 and Least Flycatcher May 1 in Codington (JMG), and W. Kingbird Apr. 16 in Bon Homme (KK), all in South Dakota, and Alder Flycatcher May 8 (LF) at Fargo, N.D. A Say's Phoebe at Fargo May 7 (MAB) furnished one of the easternmost observations ever. Earliest swallows in North Dakota were Tree Apr. 6 at Tewaukon (DGP), N. Rough-winged at Minot Apr. 23 (REM), and Cliff at Velva Apr. 26 (GBB, ties previous record). Blue Jays were calling at Malta, Mont., into May, indicating possible nesting (DPr). A Rock Wren in Faulk May 10 (MM) was e. of the normal South Dakota range. A Carolina Wren was studied carefully for 20 minutes in Deuel, S.D., May 9 (BKH). A Winter Wren in Beadle Apr. 3 (BJ) set a new early date for South Dakota, and one in Lewiston May 9 provided the first live record for L19, as the first was a road-kill (LMa). A Sedge Wren nest with 3 eggs was located in Richland, N.D., May 29 (DGP). A Marsh Wren Mar. 27 in Pennington (NW) was the earliest for South Dakota. Ruby-crowned Kinglets at Bismarck Mar. 25 (RQ) and in Minnehaha Mar. 27 (AH) set new earliest state dates. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were nest-building at Newton Hills S.P. in early May, but later abandoned the nest (MS). A Gray-cheeked Thrush in Minnehaha May 3 (MS) tied the earliest for South Dakota, while a Hermit Thrush Apr. 2 (TD) and Wood Thrush May 4 (GN) at Fargo set new North Dakota date records. There was an estimated 80% kill of a roost of 1500 Am. Robins in Gregory, S.D., during the storm of Apr. 14 (GS). The Gray Catbird at Fargo May 7 (MB) was the earliest for North Dakota. Cedar Waxwings apparently sitting by nests at Lostwood in late May (RKM) would have been about 2 weeks earlier than the recognized nesting period for this species in North Dakota. A N. Shrike at Lostwood Apr. 24 (RKM) was very late. Loggerhead Shrikes appear to be up in Ward; there were only 2 summer

observations last year, but about 10 territories and 3 nests had been located so far this year.

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES — Earliest state dates for vireos were provided by the Yellow-throateds at Fargo May 7 (GN, MB) and Philadelphia in Minnehaha May 8 (MS, ties previous record). Observers in the e. Dakotas reported the best warbler migration in years, with "thousands" in Oak Grove Park in Fargo May 9; on May 8 during a groundling that must have rivalled those of s. Texas, a South Dakota observer identified 12 species in one tree. In all at least 30 (and a possible 31st) species of warblers were reported from the Region. Earliest date records for North Dakota were N. Parula in McHenry Apr. 26 (REM), Yellow-rumped Apr. 2 (TD) and Bay-breasted warblers May 9 (GN) in Fargo, and Black-and-white Apr. 14 at Lostwood (RKM). A **Blue-winged Warbler** was in Brown, S.D., May 13 (DT, GeP). In addition to the early N. Parula, there were sightings of three in Fargo, one in Grand Forks, and one in Minnehaha, S.D. A Black-throated Blue Warbler was in Pennington, S.D., May 10 (MH), and a **Hooded Warbler** was in Brown, S.D., Apr. 30 (DT). Yellow-rumped peaked at Fargo at 750-1000 Apr. 30, and 1000+ May 9 (MB, GN). A possible Grace's Warbler was studied carefully at Ft. Peck May 20 (CC). Carlson will be going to Arizona this summer and hopes to see Grace's for comparison: if accepted, the Ft. Peck bird would provide a first Regional record.

A ♂ **Summer Tanager** was at Fargo May 16 (GN). A Black-headed Grosbeak near Bismarck May 3 was the earliest for North Dakota, and a **Blue Grosbeak** on the North Dakota capitol grounds May 18 was a rare sighting (DD). Four Brewer's Sparrow nests were found in Fall River, S.D., May 25 (RP). A Vesper Sparrow at Hettinger Mar. 30 (D & CG) provided an earliest date for North Dakota, the Lark Sparrow at Custer Mar. 8 (MP) beat the previous South Dakota record by more than a month, and the earliest-ever Lark Buntings for North Dakota were Apr. 26 at Lostwood (RKM). A flock of more than 50 Fox Sparrows was at Grand Forks Apr. 14 (DL). A Swamp Sparrow at Fargo Mar. 31 (TD) provided yet another earliest date. Peaks for White-throated and White-crowned sparrows were 250 in Minot May 6 and 120 at Upper Souris May 4, respectively, but most areas reported crowned sparrows down. "Slate-colored" Junco in Brown May 21 (GeP) and Snow Bunting in Codington Apr. 4 (DS) provided latest-ever dates for South Dakota. Twelve Smith's Longspurs were seen in South Dakota Apr. 15 (BKH), and six were near Dunseith, N.D., May 4 (DK). Earliest ever for North Dakota were Bobolink at Hettinger May 1 (D & CG) and Orchard Oriole at Fargo May 5 (LF). Up to 12 House Finches have frequented the Speisers' Pennington, S.D., feeder; perhaps they are moving E from the west also! Red Crossbills began showing at feeders in s.w. South Dakota in late March, after being nearly absent for 2 years. Widespread reports of Evening Grosbeaks from Apr. 5 through May 15 indicated movement in the Dakotas.

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SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Frances Williams

The weather was extremely dry and mild. Without rain and fronts, migration was "grim" and "disappointing" in much of the Region. The wind blew steadily, mostly from the south, so one assumes the migrants went over without stopping. Especially scarce were warblers and flycatchers. But the season was saved by the shorebirds, which provided much excitement.

ABBREVIATIONS — B.B.N.P. = Big Bend Nat'l Park, Texas; C B = Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Management Area, Kans.; G M.N.P. = Guadalupe Mountains Nat'l Park, Texas. Place names in *italics* are counties.

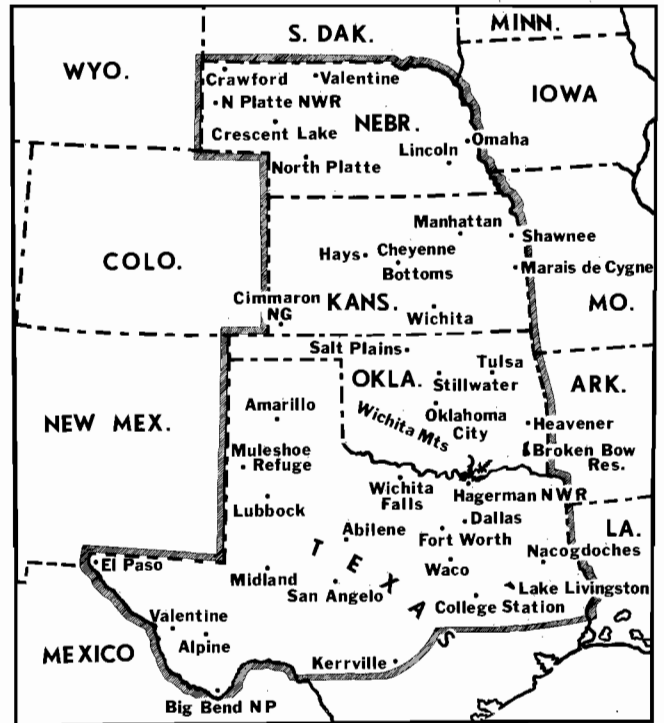
LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — Twenty-two Com. Loons were counted at Lake O' the Pines, *Marion*, Tex., Mar. 4 (FMW, LB), one lingered in *Rains*, Tex., May 5 (RK), and one was seen at Grand Island, Neb., Apr. 5 (MB, EB). A Horned Grebe was found in El Paso Mar. 11 (BZ, JD). Western Grebes were observed in *Pierce*, Neb., Apr. 15 and *Balmorhea* L., *Reeves*, Tex., May 31. The peak flight of Am. White Pelicans comprised 3500 birds at Hagerman N.W.R., Tex., May 8. Fifteen at *L. Ingram*, *Kerr*, Apr. 11 provided an unusual record for the "hill country" of Texas (OH). More than 1000 Double-crested Cormorants, in flocks of 50 to 100, flew over *Morris*, Tex., Mar. 4 (FMW, LC). An Olivaceous Cormorant was discovered in *Kerr* May 29 (E & KM), two were seen in *Tarrant*, Tex., Apr. 22 (CBH), and several remained in *Rains* Mar. 23–May 26 (RK). Two Anhingas arrived at the Ft. Worth Nature Center in early May and were possibly nesting.

Least Bitterns were found in B.B.N.P., Apr. 29 (CC), *Nacogdoches* Apr. 30 (JKE), and *Washington*, Okla., May 20 (ED, DG). Two Great Egrets and one Snowy Egret in *Keith*, Neb., Apr. 26 provided first spring records there (RCR). A Snowy Egret sitting beside U.S. 62–180 in *Hudspeth*, Tex., Apr. 17 was a long way from water (OVO). A Little Blue Heron at *Chadron* Apr. 25 provided a first record for the n. panhandle of Nebraska (RCR). Little Blues at *Midland* May 2 and *Hudspeth* May 27 were unexpected. A Tricolored Heron was found at C.B., May 11, and one in *Tarrant* May 3 provided the 2nd spring record there. An ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron stopped in *Boone*, Neb., Apr. 10 (WJM) and a pair was nest-building in *Rains* Mar. 31 (RK). Unusual sightings of White-faced Ibis occurred in *Tulsa* May 4 (JL, PS), *Marais des Cygnes* W.M.A., Kans., Apr. 26–May 5 (BF), and *Keith* May 17 (RCR, DJR). Seven Wood Storks visited the Big Thicket, *Hardin*, Tex., May 13 (JCK).

Thirteen Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks visited a pond in *Uvalde*, Tex., Apr. 3 (E & KM). Six Tundra Swans remained in *Jackson*, Okla., Feb. 8–Mar. 10 (JDT). Two Trumpeter Swans from the Minnesota flock were observed in *Cuming*, Neb., Mar. 13 (MB). Ross' Geese remained at *El Paso* until May 27 and *Midland* until May 18. Ross' Geese were seen at 8 Nebraska localities in March and April, and one was at C.B., Apr. 5. A Greater Scaup was discovered in *Boone*, Neb., Mar. 27 (WJM). Three Surf Scoters visited *Grand Island*, Neb., Apr. 5 (MB).

RAPTORS — There were fewer reports of Ospreys than in the past few springs. An Am. Swallow-tailed Kite graced *Newton*, Tex., Mar. 16 (JCK). Single Black-shouldered Kites soared over *Sutton*, Tex., Mar. 11 (NJ) and *Kendall*, Tex., Mar. 14 (S & EW). Mississippi Kite flocks comprised 38 birds in *Hardin*, Tex., Apr. 20, 18 in *Nacogdoches* May 6, and 20 in *Kerr* May 3. Of eight submitted descriptions of a supposed Com. Black-Hawk in B.B.N.P., only one was complete enough to eliminate the Zone-tailed Hawk. Why count tail bands instead of looking at wing-shape and soft parts?

A Cooper's Hawk nest with 4 eggs was discovered on *Kerr* W.M.A., Tex., May 25 (JAG). Northern Goshawks were seen



in Nebraska in *Dawes* Mar. 16 and *Keith* Mar. 30 (RCR, DJR), and in Kansas in *Rush* Apr. 4 (SS). A Harris' Hawk in *El Paso* Apr. 18 provided a 2nd record there (BZ). The largest flight of Broad-winged Hawks reported comprised 426 birds in *Nacogdoches* Apr. 20 and a late flight of 67 immature birds was seen there May 6 (DW). Broad-winged were sighted in Nebraska in *Keith* Apr. 27 and *Brown* May 4. Flocks of Swainson's Hawks comprised 30 birds in *Tarrant*, Tex., Apr. 30 and 81 near *Oklahoma City* Apr. 20. Five Swainson's Hawk nests were under construction in *Cherry*, Neb., May 3 (RCR). A Zone-tailed Hawk was observed in *Sutton*, Tex., Mar. 4 (NJ) and single birds were found in 3 separate areas of *Edwards*, Tex., Mar. 7 and May 18 & 23. A Red-tailed Hawk in *Hardin*, Tex., May 23 was very late (JCK). A Crested Caracara in *Tarrant* May 10 provided the first record there since 1977 (CBH). The only Merlin reported was in *Real*, Tex., Apr. 3 (E & KM). Peregrine Falcons were sighted at 9 localities away from their breeding areas in the *Chisos* and *Guadalupe* Mts. One at *Midland* May 13 was late. A nestling Peregrine in an aerie in G.M.N.P., June 1 represented the first confirmed successful nesting there since 1978 (OVO). A Prairie Falcon was located in *Black Gap* W.M.A., Tex., in late April (BMCK).

TURKEY THROUGH PHALAROPES — Wild Turkeys increased in B.B.N.P., *Black Gap*, and *McLennan*, Tex., but 20 released in the Ft. Worth Nature Center during the winter disappeared in March. Two Black Rails cavorted in a wet meadow at *Quivira* N.W.R., Kans., May 8 (JNe) and one called for 45 minutes in a field in *Knox*, Neb., May 25 (MB, EdB). Two Virginia Rails at *Bartlesville*, Okla., Apr. 22 were the first there since 1969 (MD). A King Rail in *Midland*, Tex., Apr. 28 provided a first county record (GW, BE). A King Rail visited B.B.N.P., May 14–28 (RAR, m.ob.) and one was found dead in *Comanche*, Okla., May 26 (RG). Four Purple Gallinules were found in *Bell*, Tex., May 26 (ML). At *Midland*, week-old Com. Moorhen chicks were observed May 3. A Com. Moorhen visited *Nacogdoches*, where it is a rare migrant, May 6 (DW). Two ad. Whooping Cranes stopped in *Blaine*, Neb., Apr. 7 (WJM).

Where proper habitat was available, shorebird migration was outstanding. They arrived early, came in good numbers, and stayed longer than usual. At El Paso, 15 species were still present May 31. Both Black-bellied Plovers and Lesser Golden-Plovers were widespread. A Lesser Golden-Plover at Marfa May 24 provided an unusual record for trans-Pecos Texas (JMi, PE). Six Piping Plovers ran along the shore of L. Hefner, Oklahoma City, Apr. 17 (JGN) and three were at Columbus, Neb., Apr. 8 (BJR). One in Sheridan May 10 provided only the 2nd record for the Nebraska sandhills (RCR, DJR). At Quivira, a Mountain Plover was found May 10. Black-necked Stilts were noted in Custer, Okla., May 5 (PWW), Oklahoma City Apr. 1 (EW, JGN), and Keith May 17 (RCR, DJR). A tight group of 120 or more Am. Avocets rested on a point of land at L. Hefner May 4. A **Northern Jacana** remained at Kerrville, Tex., May 11–31+. Unfortunately for the birding fraternity, it was on private land with restricted access, so only a few observers saw it (fide E & KM).

Willetts were recorded at 6 locations. One in Wheeler, Tex., Mar. 3 was extremely early (FC). Whimbrels appeared at Midland May 14, Randall, Tex., May 10, Oklahoma City May 9, Sequoyah, Okla., May 26, Tulsa May 15, C.B., May 10, and Keith May 17. A flock of godwits at C.B., May 8 was estimated to comprise 200 Hudsonian and 100 Marbled godwits (JNe). Hudsonian Godwits visited 7 other localities, and Marbleds were seen at 5, but with fewer than 20 individuals at each place. A Ruddy Turnstone was photographed at El Paso May 8 and 20 were tallied at C.B., May 13. Others were at Oklahoma City May 12–13, Tulsa May 17, Keith May 18, Pierce, Neb., May 19, and York, Neb., May 12.

It was a banner year for Red Knots at C.B., where 20 or more were present May 17. Sanderlings were sighted at Midland May 18 and Tulsa Apr. 19. White-rumped Sandpipers provided a first county record in Johnson, Tex., May 23 (CE) and were present w. to El Paso. Very early Baird's Sandpipers arrived at Nacogdoches Mar. 18 (DW) and El Paso Apr. 1 (BZ, JD). One provided an exceptional record at B.B.N.P., Apr. 27 (DW). A Pectoral Sandpiper was photographed in El Paso Mar. 25 (BZ). There were numerous sightings of Dunlins in the first 3 weeks of May, providing noteworthy records in Nacogdoches May 9 (DW), Johnson, Tex., May 23 (CE), and Keith May 18 (RCR, DJR). A ♀ **Ruff** was observed at C.B., Kans., May 12–24 (WH, m ob.). Unfortunately, one reported in Tom Green, Tex., did not remain long enough to be verified (GW). A flock of Buff-breasted Sandpipers comprising about 200 birds displayed in a field near Oklahoma City May 10 (JGN). Smaller numbers were seen at Tulsa, Hagerman, and Pierce, Neb. American Woodcocks were seen at Tulsa Mar. 1, Linn, Kans., Mar. 1+, and Holt, Neb., May 3. A female with three young was found in Saunders, Neb., Apr. 23 (BJR). Red-necked Phalaropes spun about at El Paso May 14 (BZ, JD), Tulsa May 17 (JWA, JCH), and Pierce May 19 (MB).

GULLS AND TERNS — An ad. Laughing Gull was photographed at El Paso May 19, providing the first documented record for the area (BZ, JD), and one was reported at Tulsa May 2 (JWA, JCH). Two Bonaparte's Gulls lingered well into June at El Paso. Adult California Gulls visited L. McConaughy, Keith, Neb., Apr. 26 and May 17 (RCR, DJR). An imm. Thayer's Gull was noted at L. Hefner Mar. 10–22 (JAG, fide JGN). The Lesser Black-backed Gull that arrived at L. Hefner in February remained through Mar. 4. Photographs of a bird identified as a fully ad. **Western Gull** at El Paso May 14 have been submitted to the Texas Bird Records Committee. If the identification is confirmed, as seems likely, it will provide a first state record (BZ, JD). A bird believed to be a Glaucous Gull was photographed in Platte, Neb., Apr. 4, and the pictures have been submitted to the Nebraska Bird Records Committee (TVH). Two adult Com. Terns sailed over N. Platte N.W.R., Neb., May 24 (RCR, DJR). Eleven Least Tern nests were found at Tulsa May 28. Migrant Least Terns were present at Balmorhea L., Reeves, Tex., May 21 and Howard, Tex., May 28.

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — White-winged Doves continued to expand their range and were summering, possibly breeding, in Kerrville, Temple, Big Spring, and Midland, Tex. Black-billed Cuckoos were reported only at Nacogdoches May 8 (DW) and Tulsa May 4 (A & FR). Large roosting groups of Com. Barn-Owls were found at El Paso and Midland 30 birds in the former, 18 in the latter. A Com. Barn-Owl was discovered Apr. 30 in B.B.N.P., where the species is apparently only a migrant. In Kerr W.M.A., Tex., 2 pairs of W. Screech-Owls had territories adjacent to E. Screech-Owls May 24 (JAG) In Kimble, Tex., a W. Screech-Owl was heard several times in March and April (NJ, DJ). A N. Pygmy-Owl rested in B.B.N.P., Apr. 28 (CS) and an Elf Owl bathed in the well-known pond "behind the store" in the park's Rio Grande Village. A Burrowing Owl was located in Knox, Neb., Apr. 29 (MB, EB). Long-eared Owls with young provided first nesting records in Riley, Kans., Mar. 8 (TTC) and Boone, Neb. (date not given, WJM) Short-eared Owls were found in Pierce, Neb., Mar. 13 (BJR) and Hamilton, Neb., Mar. 21 (BP, TB). Two N. Saw-whet Owls calling at Ash Hollow S.P., Garden, Neb., May 16–17 provided a first record for the L. McConaughy region (RCR). A N. Saw-whet Owl was also found at Norfolk, Neb., Apr. 6 (MB) A Chuck-will's-widow was sighted at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Tex., Apr. 27 (KS, FC, RSc). A Whip-poor-will called in a backyard in Ft. Worth Mar. 22 (MP) and one was seen in Nacogdoches Apr. 17 (DW). A Broad-billed Hummingbird was reported in B.B.N.P., May 7 (JS). Magnificent Hummingbirds arrived in G.M.N.P., Apr. 5 and one brightened B.B.N.P., May 4. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird in B.B.N.P., Apr. 18 provided one of the few spring records there (AB). Green Kingfishers are appearing in B.B.N.P. more frequently—the latest one found was May 19 (AB).

Red-naped Sapsuckers were present in El Paso in numbers Mar. 1–Apr. 15. A late report was received of a Pileated Woodpecker that provided a first county record in Woodward, Okla., Dec. 15 and Feb. 23 (VNP). An Olive-sided Flycatcher was banded in Cuming, Neb., May 24 (MBO). This species was extremely scarce in w. Texas, but one at Amarillo Apr. 12 was the earliest by 13 days (EWA). Two E. Wood-Pewees sang in Crockett, Tex., providing a new county record May 25 (WHH, GHR). Two Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were seen in Nacogdoches May 9 (DW). An Acadian Flycatcher provided a first county record in Riley, Kans., May 29 (TTC). Gray Flycatchers were noted at Black Gap May 5 (BMcK) and Hueco Tanks S.P., Tex., May 20 (BZ, JD). An E. Phoebe was photographed in Hudspeth, Tex., Mar. 24 (BZ). Say's Phoebes were somewhat e. of their usual range in Kimble Mar. 12 (DJ) and Cedar, Neb., Mar. 29 (MB, EB). A Vermilion Flycatcher provided a new county record in Wheeler, Tex., Mar. 15 (fide RDeA). Brown-crested Flycatchers were out of range at Medina, Tex., May 29 and El Paso May 3. Cassin's Kingbirds were found again in Banner, Neb., May 24 (RCR, DJR). A Thick-billed Kingbird was located in B.B.N.P., May 29 (K & JH, TA).

SWALLOWS THROUGH VIREOS — A Tree Swallow in G.M.N.P., Apr. 18 represented a new park record (VN, MG) Last year's small colony of N. Rough-winged Swallows in Ushur, Tex., was not inhabited this year. Fish Crows were present in 3 different Washington, Okla., locations Apr. 15 & 17 and May 1. Details of a sighting of three Fish Crows in Cherokee, Kans., May 3 have been submitted to the Kansas Records Committee (TTC, m.ob.). An ad. Carolina Chickadee fed two newly-fledged young May 8 in Palo Duro Canyon S.P., Tex. (KS). The "Black-crested" Titmouse found in G.M.N.P. in December was still present Apr. 13. Several Pygmy Nuthatches fed in the trees of an El Paso residential area Mar. 20. A Rock Wren trilled and bobbed at Tulsa Mar. 23. Carolina Wrens in Kansas and Nebraska are bouncing back from their low numbers of the past 2 years. A Carolina Wren singing in Crockett, Tex., May 25 was at the w. edge of the species' range (WHH). Bewick's Wrens that fledged three young May 15 provided a first breeding record for Finney, Kans. (LH). It was noted that the Bewick's

Wrens began nesting before the arrival of the first House Wren Winter Wrens skulked in Washington, Okla., Mar. 22 and Boone, Neb., Mar. 27. The seldom-reported Sedge Wren was found in Tarrant, Tex., May 10 (CBH) and Holt, Neb., May 4 (RCR, DJR), and one was banded at Lincoln Apr. 23 (MBO). Excellent details were submitted of an observation of an Am. Dipper in B.B.N.P., Mar. 12 (BP).

A pair of E. Bluebirds feeding nestlings Apr. 15 in Palo Duro Canyon S.P. provided a new breeding record there (DM, KS). There was a noticeable W dispersion of this species in w. Nebraska. A Townsend's Solitaire nest containing two young in Sioux May 31 was apparently the first found in Nebraska since 1900 (RCR, DJR). A Townsend's Solitaire visited Boone Mar. 27 (WJM). A Swainson's Thrush was noted in Comanche, Okla., May 20 (JMM) and a Wood Thrush sang there May 10 (JW). In Nebraska, N. Mockingbirds were sighted in Keith, Apr. 27 and May 18, and in Lancaster Mar. 2. A Sage Thrasher was observed in Comanche Mar. 29. Sprague's Pipits were tallied in Carson, Tex., Mar. 22, Rush, Kans., Apr. 28, Omaha Apr. 15, and Antelope, Neb., Apr. 21. A single Bohemian Waxwing was seen at Tulsa Apr. 19 (JL, PS), and the last of a wintering flock at Chadron was noted Mar. 13 (DJR).

White-eyed Vireos made unexpected visits to B.B.N.P., Apr. 18, Midland Mar. 28, Lancaster May 7, and Sarpy, Neb., May 3–20. Black-capped Vireos were located at 4 Texas sites that were 30 or more mi from any known breeding locality. Two of these, located by an out-of-state birder, were roadside parks on both sides of I-10 about 20 mi w. of Ozona—both parks are probably by-passed by dozens of Texas birders each year on the way to B.B.N.P. Reports from known breeding sites included 11 singing males in Lost Maples Natural Area, Bandera, Tex., Apr. 16, and 28 birds in various locations in Kerr (JM). Black-capped were numerous at Walter Buck W.M.A. and in many other Kimble localities, and usual numbers were present along Ranch Road 674 in Edwards. It is hoped that these localities will be visited later, when nesting success or failure might be determined. In Oklahoma, no new localities were discovered in spite of some searching, and cowbird parasitism was near 100% at the known localities (JAG). A Yellow-throated Vireo provided a first county record in Riley, Kans., May 29 (TTC). One at Midland May 28 was late. The uncommon Philadelphia Vireo was discovered at Hagerman May 11 (m ob.), Ingram, Tex., Apr. 17 (JM), Washington, Okla., Apr. 25 (ED), and Brown, Neb., May 4 (RCR, DJR).

WARBLERS — “There was nothing outstanding about the warbler migration except how low the numbers were,” wrote Babs Padelford of Omaha. “Slow and slim,” was Jeri McMahon’s observation in Muskogee, Okla. Similar comments were received from nearly all the Region, excepting only Lost Maples, Nacogdoches, and B.B.N.P. At the latter site, many “glamorous” warblers were sighted as well as good numbers of the common species. Where did they go when they left the park?

Blue-winged Warblers graced B.B.N.P., May 6, Nacogdoches Apr. 28 and May 8 & 10, Lost Maples May 13, and Arkansas City, Kans., May 10. Golden-winged Warblers were sighted at Lost Maples Apr. 24 (RKn), Nacogdoches Apr. 26 and May 8 (DW), and Riley May 10 (BW). An estimated 200+ Tennessee Warblers were at Nacogdoches May 1, but they disappeared after May 5. This species was noted at several localities on the Edwards Plateau and in w. Texas where it is unexpected. The Nashville Warbler was the only species that received comments of “good numbers”. A Lucy’s Warbler was found in B.B.N.P., Mar. 21 (RAQ), but there were no more reports until early May when at least four were present. A pair was feeding young May 12 (RAR, m.ob.), providing a first breeding record for the park. In Nacogdoches, 12 Chestnut-sided Warblers were counted May 1 (MW); single birds were at Ingram Apr. 29 (JM), Comfort, Tex., May 11 (LS), and B.B.N.P., May 9 (JA). Magnolia Warblers were far w. of their usual path at B.B.N.P., May 12 and El Paso May 13. A Black-throated Blue Warbler adorned

B.B.N.P., May 4 & 14. A Yellow-throated Warbler was mist-netted at Black Gap Apr. 17 (BMcK), and others were seen in Rush, Kans., May 1 (SS) and Marais des Cygnes Apr. 26 (MC, CH, MM). In Hardin, Tex., Kendall reported he found 2 Prairie Warbler nests and neither had been parasitized by cowbirds! A Palm Warbler at Tulsa May 2 was noteworthy.

Bay-breasted Warblers visited B.B.N.P., May 27–28 (m.ob.), Van Zandt, Tex., May 4 (RK), and Wichita, Kans., May 5 (DK). Blackpoll Warblers were seen at Nacogdoches May 5 (DW, MW), Tarrant May 3 (CBH, TR), Buffalo L., May 10 (KS, TJ, PSm), Rogers, Okla., May 3–15, and Oklahoma City May 10 (EW). Cerulean Warblers brightened Nacogdoches Apr. 28 and May 1. At Lost Maples, an Am. Redstart provided a not-unexpected first record May 8 (CB, AG), and one was at El Paso May 3 (BZ). Prothonotary Warblers adorned Lost Maples Apr. 15, Kimble May 23, and B.B.N.P., Apr. 12 and May 12. Single Worm-eating Warblers stopped at B.B.N.P., May 5 (CP) and Washington, Okla., May 9 (BG, MD). A Swainson’s Warbler was photographed in Tarrant May 3, providing the first documented county record (KO). An Ovenbird walked along a trail at B.B.N.P., May 4 (CRB, WS). Migrant Louisiana Water-thrushes stopped at Big Spring, Tex., Apr. 6 (SC), Ft. Worth Mar. 29 (JK), and B.B.N.P., Apr. 23 (CS), and one was found nesting in Riley (BW). Kentucky Warblers were observed at Lost Maples May 28 (JM) and B.B.N.P., May 24 (RH). Mourning Warblers were recorded in Llano, Tex., May 31 (KA) and Van Zandt, Tex., May 21 (RK). In Cedar, Neb., May 20, a Connecticut Warbler was seen and a MacGillivray’s Warbler was banded (MB). Wilson’s Warblers, usually very common, were scarce at many localities. A Canada Warbler was discovered at Lost Maples May 18 (HR). A Rufous-capped Warbler in B.B.N.P., Mar. 11 & 13 was well described, but could not be confirmed (DP).

CARDINALINES THROUGH FINCHES — Indigo Buntings in the w. included one at G.M.N.P., May 25 and one at Hueco Tanks May 3. A Varied Bunting was discovered at Lost Maples May 4 (GB), and 2 pairs were present in Kimble May 10 (NJ). A Lazuli Bunting provided a first county record in Pottawatomie, Kans., May 12 (TTC), and others were found e to Rogers, Okla., Linn, Kans., and Cuming, Neb. Dickcissels were abundant at McLennan, Tex., and Comanche, Okla., and one wandered to B.B.N.P., May 26. Many singing Cassin’s Sparrows were heard in Gove, Kans., near the n.e. edge of their normal range, May 31 (SS). A Grasshopper Sparrow at El Paso Apr. 1 was the first there in several years. Three Henslow’s Sparrows remained in Bell, Tex., Mar. 9–Apr. 6 (ML). The elusive Le Conte’s Sparrow was located only in Edwards, Tex., Apr. 3 (E & KM), Pierce, Neb., Apr. 12 (MB, EB), and DeSoto N.W.R., Neb., Apr. 27 (JT). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was also seen at DeSoto Apr. 27 (JT). A White-throated Sparrow was observed at G.M.N.P., Apr. 22. A Harris’ Sparrow was photographed at El Paso Mar. 19. About 1000 McCown’s Longspurs concentrated in a burned wheat stubble field Mar. 23–Apr. 3 in Pawnee, Kans. (SS). In Omaha Apr. 15, Lapland, Smith’s, and Chestnut-collared longspurs flocked together. A Smith’s Longspur in B.B.N.P., Apr. 29 provided a first park record (RS, m.ob.). Thousands of Chestnut-collared Longspurs lingered in Pawnee, Kans., mid-March to mid-April, and there was a heavy flight of this species with a late blizzard in Boone, Neb., Apr. 15.

A Bobolink visited Cleburne, Tex., May 2–4 (CE), 24 were counted in Muskogee, Okla., May 9 (JNo), and about 15 were at Oklahoma City May 4–19 (JGN). Red-winged Blackbirds were noted at G.M.N.P., May 25 and B.B.N.P., May 16. Two nests of **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** discovered in Texas, Okla., May 29 provided the first breeding record for the state since 1915 (JSS). Great-tailed Grackles moved w. in the N. Platte R valley into 3 new localities. Bronzed Cowbirds are gaining a foothold in El Paso and Hudspeth, Tex. There were 5 sightings of Audubon’s Oriole in Lost Maples Apr. 22–May 8 (fide JM). A “Baltimore” Oriole was discovered in Kerrville, Mar. 31 (L



Evening Grosbeaks at Keene, Tex., Mar. 1, 1986, holdovers from the major invasion of winter 1985-1986. Photo/Charles Easley.

& BW). Cassin's Finches visited a feeder in Chadron, Neb., in May. A House Finch came to a feeder in Brown, Kans., Mar. 30 (DN). The last Com. Redpoll of the season in Sheridan, Neb., was seen Mar. 22 (RCR). Two Red Crossbills lingered at El Paso until May 20 and one was found dead at Bartlesville, Okla., May 7. Evening Grosbeaks, which wintered in at least one dozen localities in the Region, lingered until Apr. 19 in Gilmer, Tex., May 11 in Bartlesville, and May 20 in Sarpy, Neb.

CORRIGENDA — The following Kerr, Tex., records should

have been credited to Judy Mason: AB 40:135, Com. Moorhen and Upland Sandpiper; AB 40:137, W. Tanager.

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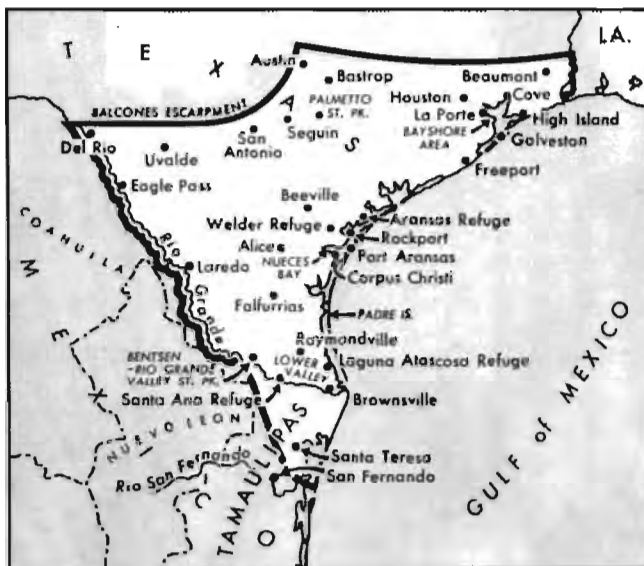
SOUTH TEXAS REGION

Greg W. Lasley and Chuck Sexton

March was dry for the entire Region, yielding little in the way of migratory concentrations. The Upper Texas Coast began getting wet fronts and migrant fallouts in April. Most of the Region did not follow suit until the first few days of May. Kingsville, Harlingen, and Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge began seeing wet weather and attendant migratory effects only very late, in the second one-half of May.

Out of the voluminous correspondence this season (a story in itself), keywords that jumped out at us ran the gamut from "fantastic" on the Upper Texas Coast through "spotty" on the Central Coast, to "dullsville" in the interior south. Few observers failed to find something notable about the season, but clearly the observers on the Upper Texas Coast had the most to rave about. Mike Austin dubbed it "the year the warblers returned" and Morgan described in detail the first really classic fallouts since May 7, 1982 (see below). Once again, however, even as reports chronicled the good diversity of passerines noted during fallouts, many observers commented that numbers of birds observed were still substantially below what has been documented in the past.

The migration of landbirds seemed protracted in a sense, with a parcel of new early arrival dates coupled with many new late dates and other late lingerers. On the Upper Texas Coast, for example, new early dates were established for Western Kingbird (April 20), "Traill's" Flycatcher (April 9), Least Flycatcher (April 9), and Tennessee Warbler



(March 20). Record late dates (or new May records) were established or tied for Groove-billed Ani (May 4), Philadelphia Vireo (May 20), Nashville Warbler (May 19), and Wilson's Warbler (May 20). Of great interest, Behrstock reported on a surprising diversity of North American migrants (e.g., a dozen species from Black-billed Cuckoo to Canada Warbler) still present in extreme southern Mexico from

May 18 to 29, suggesting a heretofore unexpected abundance of stragglers.

ABBREVIATIONS — Aransas = Aransas Nat'l Wildlife Ref.; Bentsen = Bentsen Rio Grande State Park; L.R.G.V. = Lower Rio Grande Valley; Santa Ana = Santa Ana Nat'l Wildlife Ref.; T.P.R.F. = Texas Photo Record File (Texas A & M Univ.); U.T.C. = Upper Texas Coast. Place names in *italics* are counties.

FALLOUTS — Early on April 9, a slow-moving front passed High Island. Heavy rains on the 9th and 10th grounded 200–400 warblers of at least 23 species (MB, MA, JM) along with many thrushes, vireos, and others (e.g., 315 Wood Thrushes and 405 Red-eyed Vireos on the 10th). Eubanks netted 17 species of warblers in a small woodland on Galveston Island on the 11th. The migrant grounding was evident along the central coast and lower coast as well, April 10–11.

Observers variously rated the April 20–21 or the May 1–2 fallout as the best, depending on their own findings. The former may have had the best diversity (e.g., 31 species of warblers) while the latter produced higher numbers of individuals. Morgan's notes May 1 catalogued a four-fold overall increase in migrant numbers from the morning to the afternoon, after early afternoon rain showers. For example, numbers of "brown-backed" thrushes increased from 45 to 166, Bay-breasted Warblers from 18 to 350, and Ovenbirds from eight to 110. The same weather system brought a smaller fallout to the central coast May 3–4.

Heindel's records indicated a modest migrant pile-up in San Antonio May 8–10, which was reflected also on the central and lower coast May 10–11. Heindel in San Antonio, Riesz in Victoria, and Pace in Harlingen noted a general fallout May 17–18 after a late cool front. The same weather system probably accounted for a dozen species of warblers at Aransas May 19–20 (TS). Other "best dates" cited by various observers were April 24 in Falfurrias (AO), May 2 in Austin (MG), and May 5–7 in Bastrop (DM).

RARITIES AND ODDITIES — In such a deluge of activity, there will invariably be a variety of extraordinary reports. The following species were reported by various observers and were accompanied by varying levels of written details: Laughing Falcon (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*), Antillean Nighthawk (*Chordeiles gundlachi*), Gray-collared Becard (*Pachyrhamphus major*), Rufous Piha (*Lipaugus unirufus*), and Melodious Blackbird (*Dives dives*). All of these species except the nighthawk (a new Texas report) would represent first records for the United States. The field identification hurdles within this set of species range from trivial (e.g., the falcon) to grave (e.g., the piha). We reserve judgment on the lot until the documentation can be appropriately reviewed. The details of these reports all contain at least a modicum of believability. We mention these simply to alert observers to the "possibilities", with a stern caveat that any such sightings should be documented in infinite detail, and super-human efforts should be made to enlist timely corroboration by other experienced observers (as some of these observers tried to do).

In the new-but-not-so-interesting category, a pair of Blue-crowned Parakeets (*Aratinga acuticauda*), of South America, apparently made a nesting attempt in Corpus Christi (HS, *fide* KM) and a Chestnut Munia (*Lonchura malacca*, a.k.a. Black-headed Mannikin, of Asia) feeding with Indigo Buntings surprised an observer at Aransas (JS, *fide* TS). A pair of Mute Swans inexplicably made a stopover in Austin in early March (m ob.); is anyone aware of previous reports of this species in the state?

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — The Texas City Dike was the spot to see loons in March. A Red-throated was present there Mar. 10–13 (†MB, m.ob.), and two Pacific Loons were seen regularly there Mar. 1–10 (m.ob., ph. to T.P.R.F.). A single Pacific Loon was also seen in Galveston Mar. 17 (MB, TT) A few late Com. Loons were noted in May on the U.T.C. and in Rockport. Least Grebes were easier to find than normal

in the Rockport area (C & HK) and were also noted in good supply in the L.R.G.V. An apparently injured **Sooty Shearwater** was found on the beach at Bolivar Apr. 27 (LF). The bird was turned over to wildlife rehabilitators and at last report was doing well. This was the 2nd U.T.C. and 7th state record. A flock of 150 Anhingas at the McFaddin Ranch near Corpus Christi Mar. 22 was the largest number Clark had ever encountered in that area. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons Mar 1 near San Antonio were 2 weeks earlier than normal (SH); by the end of the season Clark thought their numbers were way down in the Rockport area. A flock of 15–20 Brant was seen briefly flying over the surf at Port Aransas Apr. 7 (†BZ et al)

S.A.

Following on last spring's **Muscovy** sightings, two adults and one immature were again seen (and photographed) Apr. 11 at Rancho Santa Margarita in Starr (GL, BZ et al.). These birds (like those last year) were extremely wary of humans and would not allow close approach. The birds were seen by many through Apr. 30 and several additional in-flight photos were taken (AM, JPe). Complete written documentation and photos have been submitted to various local and national bird records committees.

A Greater Scaup was seen May 26 in San Antonio (MH), a late date for a species that is uncommon anywhere in the state. Many waterfowl species were noted on later dates than usual (into late May) in Austin, San Antonio, and elsewhere.

RAPTORS — Notable reports of Hook-billed Kites included five circling in a thermal over Santa Ana May 21 (B & EKe), and a report of a black-phase male Mar. 6, also at Santa Ana (†MB, CDC). This may have been the first record of this color phase in Texas. Seven reports of from one to three Am. Swallow-tailed Kites Mar. 24–Apr. 21 seemed about average, if there could be such a term for the migration of this species. A single Swallow-tailed was seen Apr. 17 at Driftwood in Hays (†NN) for a new county record. A spectacular flight of 600 Mississippi Kites over Uvalde May 4 (CB, WS) was the largest flock of the season. A probable N. Goshawk was seen near Alice Mar. 16, but could not be located later (†DA). Two early Broad-winged Hawks showed up in San Antonio Feb. 18 (C & SS). The annual spring hawk watch in the L.R.G.V. changed format this year. Rather than holding a single day far-flung event, Anzalduas Co. Park in *Hidalgo* was covered daily Mar. 26–Apr. 12. A modest 12,163 Broad-winged were tallied in those efforts (*fide* GD). No other large flights were noted in the L.R.G.V., but an impressive 10,000+ Broad-winged were counted over Falls City Apr. 3 (WS). A flock of 150+ Swainson's Hawks (mostly subad. birds) was seen in *Gonzales* May 31, a very late date (PH). Continuing a trend of recent years, one Zone-tailed Hawk was seen just n. of Columbus Apr. 5 (J & WR). Single Ferruginous Hawks Apr. 5 & 6 in Chambers and Harris (JK, MA) provided the U.T.C.'s first and 2nd April records:

PRAIRIE-CHICKENS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — After our hopeful news on Attwater's Greater Prairie-Chickens in winter 1984–1985 (AB 39:186), the species has declined precipitously. Despite an increase from 16 to 22 birds in the Aransas population, the overall population has dropped to only 880, down 39% from a year ago (TS). A proposal to establish a 2nd prairie-chicken refuge in *Victoria* now needs Congressional appropriation of funds to consummate the purchase of a large ranch from a willing seller.

Two Black Rails were detected on w. Galveston I., May 4 (MA), the 3rd spring in a row for this locality. The first 14 Whooping Cranes to leave Aransas departed about Mar. 25, at least one week earlier than normal (TS). On Apr. 26 Morgan and Eubanks scoured a 4-county area on the U.T.C. to find 36 species of shorebirds—a new North American single-day record—by basically tallying all expectable common and uncom-

mon species; no exceptional rarities were encountered in the effort. Shorebird concentrations were notable on the coast and inland on the next 2 Saturdays (May 3 & 10); as many as 23 species were observed in Austin on the latter date (BF). The impending loss of 2 of Austin's 3 major wastewater treatment pond systems may make such shorebird diversity a much rarer event in that area in the future. An ad. N. Jacana was found at Welder Refuge Apr. 11-22 (GB, fide CC) and one to two immatures were a surprise find at a pond in Refugio Mar. 14-31 (RD, fide EK, TS). Sixty Whimbrels in Beaumont Apr. 26 was a very large concentration for this Region (WG). Up to six Hudsonian Godwits near Riviera in May were the most ever seen in Kleberg by the Palmers and Bartels. A Marbled Godwit was a very rare find in Austin Mar. 30 (BF). Among the species noted in substantially increased numbers at inland locations were Lesser Golden-Plover, Sanderling, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Dunlin, and Wilson's Phalarope (m.ob.). Solitary Sandpipers were particularly numerous on the U.T.C. (MA). A White-rumped showed up at Rockport 2 weeks early on Mar. 31 (CC) and a new early arrival date was established by a Wilson's Phalarope at Texas City Mar. 4 (BB). One-half dozen Short-billed Dowitchers stayed around High I. until at least May 18 (JM). A cat deposited a mortally-injured Am. Woodcock chick on a doorstep in Manor Mar. 29 (fide PK). This apparently provided the 2nd confirmed Travis nesting record and one of the most westerly in the state.

JAEGERS THROUGH NIGHTHAWKS — The relatively high jaeger numbers encountered in the winter continued through April at various coastal locations. Three Parasitics and two unidentified jaegers were seen on a pelagic trip off Port Aransas Apr. 12 (SB, PP, CC et al.). A Pomarine Jaeger was on the beach at High I., Apr. 27-28 (ph. BF, DWi), apparently one of 14+ jaegers (two Parasitic, 12 unidentified) seen by several observers in that area Apr. 28. One of the wintering Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Port Aransas was still being seen Apr. 7 (GL, BZ). An ad. Great Black-backed Gull was described in detail by 3 observers Apr. 27 in Jefferson (LB, DWi, CM). The bird was studied as it followed a shrimp boat along the coast. There are few records of this species in the state. A Caspian Tern found Town Lake in Austin to its liking May 3 (CS), and two Caspians were at Mitchell L. in San Antonio May 10 (MH). This species is rare that far inland.

Both cuckoo species were said to be in very low numbers on the U.T.C. throughout the migration season. Morgan commented, "During the entire spring I did not even see 10 individuals of both species combined! In some past years I have seen more than 100 Yellow-billed Cuckoos in one day!" In contrast, Yellow-billed seemed well represented in proper habitat in c. Texas by late in the season. Up to eight Elf Owls were present in Bentsen Mar. 24+ (JP). Lesser Nighthawks, uncommon spring visitors on the U.T.C., were noted in Galveston Apr. 22 (†DWi) and Jefferson May 21 (†j & KH).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS — An Oll-sided Flycatcher June 11 near San Antonio was very late (WS), and an Ash-throated Mar. 7 in Victoria (CC) was a little early. A Great Kiskadee apparently opted for city life, taking up quarters around an urban swimming pool in Del Rio (VH). Both Western and Eastern kingbirds were in lowered abundance as migrants through the Falfurrias area (AO), but seldom commented on from other areas. Blue Jays were unusual sights at Weslaco Mar. 10 (fide TP) and in Kingsville Apr. 25 (JRo, HA). Two Mexican Crows were reported at the Brownsville dump May 22 (B & EKe) for a very late record. Late Red-breasted Nuthatches were noted in Bastrop May 5 (DM) & 15 (DMu). A Sedge Wren was netted Apr. 22 at Driftwood, near Austin, for the first Hays record (DC, GL). Gray-cheeked Thrushes seemed more common than normal both at Driftwood (DC), and at several U.T.C. locations in late April (m.ob.). The Clay-colored Robins at Bentsen continued to be seen through the period,



Connecticut Warbler banded May 3, 1986, at Driftwood, Hays Co., Tex., for the second confirmed Texas record. Photographed when it was recaptured May 8. Besides the bold white eye-ring and relatively thick bill, notice here the very long undertail-coverts. Photo/Don Connell. VIREO ABA-TX18-06.

but three upriver at San Ygnacio Apr. 12 (MH) represented an exciting find.

Morgan counted 35 Yellow-throated Vireos Apr. 10 at High I., a large number for the U.T.C. Nashville Warblers were in lowered abundance in the Austin area all season. A Yellow Warbler May 26 at Rockport (CC) was late. Blackpolls made an impressive showing on the U.T.C., especially during the period Apr. 27-29 (MA, BF). It was a good spring for Cerulean Warblers all over the Region, especially on the U.T.C., where MA and WC described it as the best spring ever for the species. The species was reported at numerous other locations throughout the Region during April, the most noteworthy being a singing male at Salineno Apr. 24 (BD et al.). A Worm-eating Warbler was banded at Driftwood Apr. 24 (DC, GL) for a rare Austin-area record. A Swainson's Warbler in Falfurrias Apr. 24 provided a new Brooks record. The Connecticut Warbler is a true rarity in Texas. We occasionally receive reports of this species without details, or lacking sufficient details. The species has been well-documented only once in the state (Sept. 1978 at High I., AB 33:195). Don Connell discovered a ♂ Connecticut Warbler in a mist-net at Driftwood, Hays, May 3. The bird was photographed in the hand, measured carefully, and released. Remarkably, the bird was recaptured in the same net May 8, 11, & 14, and was seen and photographed by several observers for the 2nd documented state record (ph. to T.P.R.F.). A MacGillivray's Warbler was found at High I., Apr. 20 (JM) for a rare U.T.C. record. The bird was later banded and was observed through Apr. 28 (ph. to T.P.R.F., CM).

TANAGERS THROUGH EVENING GROSBEAK — An ad. ♂ Scarlet Tanager was well-described from a private ranch in Live Oak on the very early date of Mar. 1 (SSh). A ♂ W. Tanager was below Falcon Dam Mar. 3, an unusual date and locality (MK). A pair of Black-headed Grosbeaks was seen sporadically at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., Mar. 3-Apr. 4 (TP, SL et al.). The wintering Blue Buntings at Bentsen were last seen Apr. 8. A few observers speculate that the birds may remain in the area to nest, but to date no singing or other breeding activity has been noted. A Painted Bunting arrived in Austin



Male Blue Bunting at Bentsen/Rio Grande Valley S.P., Tex., Mar. 27, 1986. Photo/John Pace.

on the early date of Mar. 29 (BF), but the bulk of this species seemed to arrive later than normal (CS *et al.*). Olive Sparrows were discovered on a brushy island at Aransas, a new location for the species (TS). White-collared Seedeaters continued to be seen at San Ygnacio through the period. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow May 18 on Bolivar Pen. was quite late (JK).

The "recovery trend" of the Hooded Orioles continued. They were frequently reported from several L.R.G.V. locations and at least six were present all season on the Texas A & I University campus at Kingsville (SB, N & PP). A ♂ N. "Baltimore" Oriole was seen just w. of Austin on the early date of Mar. 19 (†M & NC). Evening Grosbeaks continued to be seen into the spring



A male Evening Grosbeak on the late date of May 17, 1986, at Aransas Pass, Texas. Photo/Jim Covington.

season at a few locations. Especially noteworthy were a female banded Apr. 26 in Jefferson, virtually on the coast in an isolated stand of trees (RB), and a male photographed in Aransas Pass May 15-17 (A & JC, E & NA, ph. to T.P.R.F.) for the first area record.

CORRIGENDUM — J.V. Remsen and M. Swan of Louisiana State University have kindly examined photos of the Fork-tailed Flycatcher (initially thought to be *T. s. savana*) that was present in December 1984 and January 1985 in Willacy (AB 39, No. 2). Based on details of the coloration and molt of the bird and the season of occurrence, Remsen and Swan (pers. comm.) conclude "the photograph represents the first (to our knowledge) undeniable North American record (of the species) from a population that breeds north of southern South America, and that it is almost certainly *T. s. monachus*."

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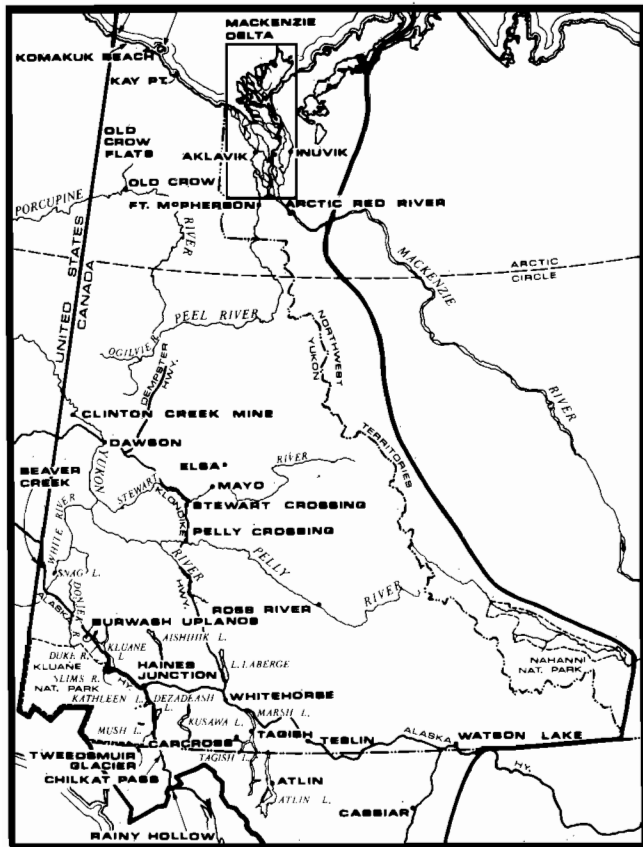
NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION

C. McEwen and W. G. Johnston

After a long winter with few avian species to see and enjoy, spring thaw and break-up is much anticipated by the residents of the north. Spring was 2-3 weeks late this year, suspended by unseasonably cold temperatures in April and May which brought new snow to some areas of the Region. In Whitehorse, the above-average snowfall remained on the ground well into April, along with freezing temperatures. Many passerine species, such as warblers, were up to 3 weeks late in arriving or not noted in abundance. Early passerine migrants, such as Snow Bunting and redpolls, remained longer in southern Yukon (Whitehorse), concentrated in snow-free areas. Other passerines, such as sparrows and juncos, arrived en masse while the ground was still covered in snow in late April.

ABBREVIATIONS — F.S.J. = Fort St. John; F.N. = Fort Nelson; Whse. = Whitehorse.

GREBES, WATERFOWL — Eared Grebe numbers seemed down with only 20 and 40 birds reported from Cecil and Boundary lakes, respectively, and no sign of breeding (CS). Trumpeter Swans, the harbingers of spring in s. Yukon, were first noted at Tagish Mar. 22. Traditional early open water sites in s. Yukon, created by lake water dynamics not completely understood, offer feeding and resting sites critical to migrant birds. These sites also offer unlimited pleasure to birders for their concentrated abundance of waterfowl. Prior to the arrival of hundreds of Tundra Swans, Trumpeter Swan numbers were reported at 448 on Apr. 13 (HG, CO). Swan numbers peaked in late April with thousands using the open water lake areas. An unusual sighting of seven Snow Geese, detained in migration by foul weather, was reported at F.N., May 6. In the Yukon,



700 Mallards and 800 N. Pintails were observed at McClintock Bay Apr. 29 (HG). Blue-winged Teal, rare but regular, were sighted on the Yukon R. near Whse., May 11 (HG) and Shallow Bay May 15 (HG, JH, MW, JM). A Cinnamon Teal, also rare but regular, was seen near Whse., May 11 (HG); two were observed near Whse. on the Yukon R. May 11 (HG), and two were at Shallow Bay May 14 (HG). An unusual sighting of Am. Black Duck at Cecil L. May 4 represented the second recorded sighting for the Peace R. area (CS). There were 2 sightings of Eur. Wigeon, a species seen irregularly in our area, at F.S.J. Apr. 3 and May 17 (CS). Rare vagrant Greater Scaup were noted with Lesser Scaup at F.S.J. sewage lagoon Apr. 27. Scoters arrived in the Yukon's open water areas mid-May. Six Surf Scoters at Shallow Bay May 19 presaged the movement through the area, as did three Oldsquaw at the same location (CM). Uncommon sightings of single Hooded Mergansers occurred at F.S.J., Apr. 17 and May 30 at the sewage lagoons (CS).

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES — Graham Inlet in n. B.C. reported a Bald Eagle Mar. 28 (MB). Northern Harrier and Sharp-shinned Hawk were seen in the Whse. area beginning Apr. 25 (HG, CM, GJ). Northern Goshawks remained rare in F.S.J. area (CS). Rare, but regular, a Broad-winged Hawk was sighted at Boundary L., May 17 (CS). Red-tailed Hawks made their first spring appearance at F.N., Apr. 12 (JB). Rough-legged

Hawk migration began in the F.S.J. area Apr. 5 and continued through May 3 with 34 seen Apr. 12 (CS). Golden Eagles were noted s. of Whse. at Primrose L., Mar. 30 (JM, HG) and at F.N., Apr. 3 (JB). Ruffed Grouse were heard drumming in the F.N. area by Apr. 22 (JB). Soras were scarcer than usual in the Peace R. area of F.S.J., only heard on 10 occasions. The first of the migrating Sandhill Cranes were noted at F.N. May 5 (JB). A sighting of two birds was made at Shallow Bay near Whse during May 13–19 (CM), where they are uncommon.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Upland Sandpipers were first recorded in F.S.J., May 10 with 3 additional sightings mid-May (CS). Twenty-nine Hudsonian Godwits were seen during migration at F.S.J., May 3–4 and singles were seen in late May (CS). Two Sanderlings were noted at F.S.J. sewage lagoon May 30 (CS). The arrival of a White-rumped Sandpiper was recorded at F.S.J. sewage lagoon May 22, with a maximum of 30 seen May 30 (CS). A Ruff, the first for the area, was photographed at F.S.J. sewage lagoon May 25–26 (CS). Fifteen Long-billed Dowitchers were reported on the Yukon R. near Whse., May 11 (HG). A N. Hawk-Owl was first noted calling in the F.S.J. area Apr. 2 (CS), a Great Gray Owl was heard calling Apr. 1 at the F.N. area (JB), and a N. Saw-whet Owl was heard in F.S.J. Mar. 24 (CS). There were two Rufous Hummingbirds at Graham Inlet May 10 (MB). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was eating suet at a feeder in F.S.J. during the cold snap in May (RD).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS — Gray Jay fledglings were seen in F.N., May 4 (JB). There were quite a number of interesting sightings from the F.S.J. area (CS). Mountain Bluebird is not a common spring migrant, yet a total of five were seen on 3 separate occasions during the cold snap in mid-May (BM, RD, EZ). A Gray-cheeked Thrush singing at Taylor and Boundary lakes May 17 provided the first record in over 40 years for n.e. British Columbia. A male Philadelphia Vireo appeared at the w. extremity of its range in Beatton Prov Park May 25. Two male Cape May Warblers, one at Taylor L. and one at Beatton Prov. Park, were seen in late May. A vagrant Golden-crowned Sparrow was seen at F.S.J. May 31 (CS). They were unusually common and in abundance near Whse. in late April. Large flocks of Fox Sparrows were noted near urban areas. Two sightings of Le Conte's Sparrow were recorded at Boundary L., May 11 (CS). The White-crowned Sparrow migration reached its peak at F.N., May 15. Lincoln Sparrow and Lapland Longspur numbers were down at F.S.J. Redpolls were noted in large flocks of up to 100 in Whse. during March and April (GJ). The first Snow Buntings in the F.N. area were seen Mar. 21 (JB); 37 were noted near Whse., Mar. 19 (GJ). Hundreds of Snow Buntings remained in the Whse. area as late as Apr. 14. There was a major influx of Dark-eyed Juncos, sparrows, and blackbirds during Apr. 25–29, when there was still 90% snow cover.

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NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

Thomas H. Rogers

The spring season's weather can best be described as erratic, as to both timing and distribution. Water supplies appeared adequate; no flooding was reported. March

in the Region was notably warm and in most areas dry, resulting in an early migration in more southerly parts. Waterfowl movement was reportedly accelerated in some places because of early thawing of ponds. April was, in general, cool and dry. May had about normal temperatures

and mostly light to normal precipitation, although the last week was very hot, reaching temperatures in the 80s and even the low 100s in a few localities. Some areas, principally more mountainous ones, noted a delayed migration, with mountain species lingering late. Several observers reported lower numbers of individuals than normal.

ABBREVIATIONS — C.G. = Campground; G.M.A. = Game Management Area; W.M.A. = Wildlife Management Area; W.R.A. = Wildlife Recreation Area. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — An ad. Com. Loon stopped at Beulah Res., n.w. Malheur, Ore., Apr. 12, and a subadult appeared at a gravel pit pond near Burns, Ore., Apr. 26+ [M & AA, GI]. Twin Lakes near Preston, Ida., hosted 110 migrating Com. Loons in late April-early May (CHT). A carefully described winter-plumaged Yellow-billed Loon at Sunnyside, Pend Oreille L. in n. Idaho Apr. 26 was the latilong's first [NB, PRS]. A Red-necked Grebe nest at Bull L. near Stryker, Mont., furnished only the 3rd record of breeding in that locality [WW]. Beulah Res. had a Clark's Grebe Apr. 12; the species was described as not difficult to find at Malheur N.W.R., Ore. [M & AA]. Four Clark's Grebes accompanied W. Grebes at Moses L., Wash., Apr. 26 [MK, J & DP, CVV, LLV]. What was apparently a mated pair of a Clark's and a W. Grebe was noted with at least 15 other Clark's on N. Potholes Res. near Moses L., May 25 [BHT, FM].

At least 3 Am. White Pelican nesting colonies were active on islands in Malheur L., Malheur N.W.R., by late May [GI]. Up to 43 of the birds stopped on Desert W.R.A., w. of O'Sullivan Dam, Grant, Wash., Apr. 29–May 11 [BHT, FM, DP, TS]. American Falls Res. in s. Idaho had 1800 of this species in late May; they were suspected of coming from the Great Salt L. nesting colony to feed on chub [CHT]. Up to 42 migrating Am. White Pelicans were noted at Vernon and Osoyoos, B.C., Apr. 20–May 18 [DC, MC] and 12 were sighted at the Walla Walla R. mouth, Wash., Mar. 1 [B.M.A.S.]. Five frequented the Pack R. flats n. of Sandpoint, Ida., Apr. 13 [PRS]. A Double-crested Cormorant at Ellensburg, Wash., Mar. 17 was unusual [Y.A.S.].

A Least Bittern was reported at Malheur N.W.R., May 26 [GI]. Great Blue Herons have started a heronry on the Walla Walla R. near Lowden, Wash., where there were believed to be 6 active nests [B.M.A.S.]. Several dozen Great Egrets were observed at Malheur May 9 [SM, PD, JJ]. Possibly the first sighting of the species for Yakima, Wash., was of one at East Selah May 17 [AS, SS], and one at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida., May 4 was apparently the 2nd ever there [RDC]. In s. Idaho a few were reported at Market L., Mud L., and American Falls Res. Snowy Egret numbers in this area were still low, not yet having recovered from the DDT problems of the 1970s [CHT]. Single Snowy Egrets appeared at Whitman Mission, Walla Walla, Wash., May 23–25 [DH, CS, BH, FH] and at Umatilla N.W.R., Umatilla, Ore., May 18 [BH, FH]. One at Metcalf N.W.R., Stevensville, Mont., May 8+ was noteworthy [CC, SC, CP, m.ob.]. Cattle Egret numbers, at 13, were up a bit at the American Falls Res. colony [CHT]. One to two of these birds appeared in the Burns, Ore., vicinity Apr. 30–May 4 [CDL, CCa, M & AA]. Black-crowned Night-Heron numbers remained low at the 3 colonies visited in s. Idaho; flight rate was 36/hour at American Falls Res., May 26 [CHT].

WATERFOWL — An ad. "Bewick's" accompanied a "Whistling" Tundra Swan at Jamieson L., Grant, Wash., Mar. 30 [BK, LH, JM]. The largest numbers of Tundra Swans were 325 at Metcalf N.W.R., Stevensville, Mont., and 350 over Asotin, Wash. Hayden L., Ida., had an apparently authentic sighting of three Trumpeter Swans Mar. 19 [PHu]. A Greater White-fronted Goose at Huston L., Prineville, Ore. [TC], was noteworthy, as were six in the Silvies R. valley n. of Burns [M & AA]. A surprising number of Snow Geese, 150, was at St. Andrews, Wash., Apr. 17 [BO, CO], and 47 were at Mann's L., Lewiston, Ida., Apr. 7 [RG]. A Snow Goose near Walla Walla apparently provided the first spring record there [MCO]. Six



"Blue" Snow Geese stopped at a pond near Mondovi, Wash., Mar. 9 [JA, WH] and one or two appeared near Burns [M & AA]. Three Ross' Geese at Huston L., May 11 were apparently the first for that area [TC], and one at Oden Bay on Pend Oreille L. was presumably the latilong's 2nd [PRS, RDC, NB]. A blue-phase Ross' was sighted near Burns Mar. 22 [M & AA]. Waterfowl pair counts at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., were very high, in part because of some new marsh projects. Conversely, the waterfowl migration at Metcalf N.W.R. was less than normal. Canada Goose numbers at Columbia N.W.R. rose to 5000 in April but dropped to 30 at the period's end. Canadas took over 6 Osprey nests along the Kootenai R. in n.w. Montana and the species was "extremely successful" at nesting at Kootenai N.W.R. The mill ponds at Burns had a flock of 60 "Cackling" Geese Mar. 29 [M & AA].

Vernon, B.C. had a ♂ Eur. Green-winged Teal Mar. 26 [PR]. A pair of Cinnamon Teal at Odell, Ore., was perhaps the first for the county [NE]. A sprinkling of Eur. Wigeons occurred in s. interior British Columbia, n. Idaho, e. Oregon, and e. Washington, the largest group three males and a female near Reardan Mar. 15 [JA]. Two ♂ Harlequin Ducks were sighted on the E. Fork of the Hood R., s. of Hood River, Ore., May 11 for perhaps a latilong first [DAA]. The only Oldsquaws reported were two at Riske Cr., B.C., May 25 [PR]. A pair of Surf Scoters appeared on Millcreek L. e. of Walla Walla Apr. 20 [SM]. Metcalf N.W.R. had a visit by a surprising 15 White-winged Scoters in late April [fide CP]. A ♀ Red-breasted Merganser at Malheur N.W.R., Apr. 5 was very unusual [M & AA].

HAWKS THROUGH CRANES — Ospreys were nesting in the Salmon, Ida., vicinity [HR]. Bald Eagle roost counts in the Harney Basin around Malheur N.W.R., Mar. 10 resulted in a record peak of 180 migrating birds. A pair again nested at Libby Dam, Lincoln, Mont., with two nestlings evident [DH]. The wintering pair at Kootenai N.W.R. hatched two young Apr. 14 but the nest on the Kootenai R. near Bonners Ferry, Ida., appeared to be unsuccessful [RDC]. A nest of the species found last year in Pend Oreille, Wash., was not active, probably because of a house too close [SZ]. Total falcons (besides Am. Kestrels) reported were Merlin five, Peregrine Falcon four, Gyrfalcon three, and Prairie Falcon two.

Ruffed Grouse drumming counts in Pend Oreille were back up to average after the record low of 1985 [SZ]. No more than

five ♂ Sage Grouse were found at the lek s of Creston, Wash. (CR, S.A.S.). The Omak, Wash., Sharp-tailed Grouse lek had up to 18 birds (m.ob.) and the Yakima Firing Range, Wash., 35–40 (Y.A.S.). Numbers of the species on 4 dancing grounds in the Kamloops, B.C., vicinity totalled 30+ (DJ). The only Wild Turkeys reported were two hens at Couse Cr., up the Snake R from Asotin, Wash. (IP, C.B.).

Two Virginia Rails were observed at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., Mar. 29 (J & DP) for the only report. Migrating Sandhill Cranes were noted in good numbers in e. Washington and s. interior British Columbia, the largest concentration 2000 at St. Andrews, Wash., Apr. 15. Six pairs appeared in the upper Blackfoot Valley n.e. of Missoula, Mont., where they are becoming more common (AB). A flight of 30 over Coeur d' Alene, Ida., Apr. 23 was unusual (SHS). The first of the older Whooping Cranes returned to Grays L., Ida., Mar. 31; seven are summering there. Fifteen Whooping Crane eggs were successfully placed in Sandhill nests there May 27 (ECB).

SHOREBIRDS — Shorebird sightings in the Region are usually sparse because of high water levels, so the following observations were of interest. A Black-bellied Plover at Oden Bay G.M.A., May 17 supposedly made the first spring record for the latilong (RDC, PRS). Two were observed near Burns May 5 and the species arrived at Summer Lake W.M.A., s.c. Oregon, May 8 (GI). Singles appeared at Metcalf N.W.R., May 8 (CC, SC) and near Granger, Wash., May 31 (AS). A remarkable 12 Semipalmated Plovers stopped at Hatfield L., Bend, Ore., May 3 (CM). In Oregon one was near Burns May 3 (M & AA) and one was at Summer Lake W.M.A. May 7 (GI). Oxford Slough, Preston, Ida., had one May 3 and another May 18 (CHT). In Washington single birds appeared at East Selah Apr. 19 (CD, DG) and s. of Ellensburg May 23 (BR) and three were sighted at the Walla Walla R. mouth, Wallula (FH). The only Black-necked Stilts reported were one at Metcalf N.W.R. (fide CP) and six near McNary, Ore., May 17 (TG). An Am. Avocet at Kootenai N.W.R., Apr. 19 was a rarity (RDC).

A few Greater Yellowlegs were sighted at Asotin, Wash. (C.B.). A Greater and two Lessers appeared at Huston L., May 11 and one of the latter was at Bend the same day (TC). Two Solitary Sandpipers visited the Burns mill ponds May 3 (M & AA) and one appeared at Robinson L., Boundary, Ida., May 7 (JMo). A Willet at the Yakima R. mouth, Richland, Wash., was Woodley's first in spring and his 2nd ever there. Upland Sandpipers were back in Logan Valley e. of Seneca, Ore. (AC, CCA, JL) and in the Spokane Valley e. of Spokane, Wash. (KW). At least 12 were back at Kleinschmidt Flat e. of Ovando, Mont., in late May (AB). A Whimbrel was sighted in pastureland s. of Thorpe, Wash., May 17 (DP, BHT). Nine Marbled Godwits stopped at the Walla Walla R. mouth Apr. 30 (TG) and two were observed at Malheur Apr. 27 (P.A.G.). Three of the species, rare in Montana w. of the Continental Divide, were sighted at Brown's L. near Ovando (JB). Two Ruddy Turnstones were observed at Malheur May 14 and one was there May 20–23 (GI). One was photographed at Bear River N.W.R. in s.e. Idaho about May 11 (GDe) and one at the Hood R. mouth in Oregon May 17 apparently furnished the county's first record (DAA). Sanderlings appeared at Malheur in late April (JG, GI). A flock of 20+ W. Sandpipers was sighted at Metcalf N.W.R., May 5 (CC, SC) and a flock again there May 8 (CP). Bend had a Dunlin May 3 (CM) and British Columbia had visits from three at Kamloops Apr. 25 (WWe) and one at Kelowna May 18 (MC). An outstanding find was a ♂ **Ruff** in nearly full breeding plumage near St. Andrews, Wash., Apr. 27 (JA, B & GR, TW, RW). A Short-billed Dowitcher at White L. w. of Okanagan Falls, B.C., May 18 was a rarity (GD, MF). Six appeared at Burns May 3 (M & AA).

GULLS AND TERNS — Noteworthy Franklin's Gull sightings were: 15 at Creston, B.C., May 16 (MF); one at Riske Cr., B.C., May 24 (PR); one at Vernon May 18 (WWe); one at Metcalf N.W.R., Apr. 19 (CC); two over Hardy Cr., n.w. of Yakima, May 24 (DB); one at Soda L., Columbia N.W.R., Grant, Wash. (BHT,

FM); two at the Walla Walla R. mouth May 18 (TG), one near Salmon, Ida., May 1 (HBR); and four at Kootenai N.W.R., May 22 (RDC). An adult and an imm. Bonaparte's Gull were sighted at Metcalf N.W.R., May 5 (CC, SC). Two subadults were over pastureland near Thorpe, Wash., May 17 (BHT, DP) and three appeared at Wenas Res. n.w. of Yakima May 23 (CD, DG). The species was migrating through Malheur Apr. 13–May 20. Vernon, B.C., had the only Mew Gull report, one Mar. 17 (PR). Kelowna was visited by 2000 California, one Thayer's, one Glaucous-winged, and two Glaucous gulls Mar. 25 (PR) and one Glaucous was seen at Osoyoos, B.C., Apr. 14 (DB). Single Glaucous Gulls also appeared at Lower Monumental Dam s of Kahlottus, Wash., and at Wallula in April (BH). Two imm Glaucous Gulls stopped at Kootenai N.W.R., May 16–17 for apparently the first spring record there (NB, RDC, PRS). A Western Gull in breeding plumage arrived at the identical spot near American Falls Res. where one, almost surely the same bird, has been seen the last 2 years (CHT, m.ob.). A Caspian Tern at Osoyoos May 31 was unusual (DC, KV), as were two at Oden Bay G.M.A., May 17 (RDC, PRS). A small colony of Forster's Terns has established itself at Columbia N.W.R. as a result of marsh improvement (JRR). Three of this species were sighted at Oden Bay G.M.A., May 17 (RDC, PRS).

CUCKOOS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — At least two Yellow-billed Cuckoos were in Blackfoot, Ida. (JT), and a window kill occurred in nearby Firth (CHT). The only Band-tailed Pigeon report was of one at Fields, Ore., May 24 (GI). Common Barn-Owl numbers in the Walla Walla area were believed to have declined, perhaps due to a series of harsh winters (SM). The Davenport, Wash., cemetery provided a resting place for two Flammulated Owls May 17 (JA, WH, AW). This made the latilong's first spring record and only its 2nd ever. Singles of this species were sighted at Panhandle L. w. of Newport, Wash. (EJL) and at Blewett Pass, Chelan, Wash. (GG, EH). Single Spotted Owls were heard in Skamania and Kittitas, Wash., in late May (GG, EH, PM). Several Boreal Owls calling on territory for extended periods in the Creston-Salmo, Kamloops and Penticton, B.C., area were a new discovery, suggesting breeding there (RH, DC, GD, LV, BK). Four nights of surveys in the Selkirk and Purcell Mts. of Boundary, Ida., found two Great Horned, two Barred, 15 Boreal, and nine N. Saw-whet owls (NB, RDC, PH, PRS). Panhandle L. had three Boreal Owls (EJL), Sherman Pass one (BS, MS), and Salmon N.F. one (LHa). A road-killed Boreal in Glacier N.P., Mont., provided w. Montana's first specimen (JJo) and the species responded to taped calls at and w. of the Idaho-Montana line in the Lolo Pass vicinity (DHo). The only Great Gray Owl noted was one calling in the Smith Cr. drainage, Boundary, Ida., May 14 (PRS).

Vaux's Swifts returned in great numbers to the Walla Walla vicinity in May, hundreds roosting in a chimney on Whitman College campus (B.M.A.S.). A ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird, always rare in the Tri-cities area, stayed at Richland May 18+ and a female appeared separately May 31 (REW). A ♂ Anna's visited a feeder at the Boise-Cascade C.G., n.w. of Yakima, May 24–27 (EJL, Y.A.S.). Supposedly the same Costa's Hummingbird returned to Bend Apr. 20 for the 4th year (G & CR). Two displaying ♂ Calliope Hummingbirds near Odell, Ore., May 11 were apparently the latilong's first (DAA). A ♂ Broad-tailed Hummingbird was reported near Fields, Ore., May 21 & 25 (fide GI). Very few Lewis' Woodpeckers were reported, except for the Sun Valley, Ida., area, where they were described as plentiful (WHS). What was suspected of being a Yellow-bellied x Red-naped Sapsucker hybrid was studied at the Davenport cemetery Apr. 5 (BH et al.). An albino Pileated Woodpecker, apparently mated with a normally-colored bird, visited a Libby, Mont., feeder throughout the period (DH).

A Least Flycatcher was identified at Roaring Springs Ranch s. of Malheur N.W.R., May 23 (M & AA) and one was calling at Malheur the next day (AC). Up to 1? **Gray Flycatchers** were found near Oliver, B.C., May 18–30 for apparently Canada's 2nd record. Photographs were obtained and songs compared

to tapes [DC et al.]. More expected were sightings near Glenwood, Wash. [B], [EH, PM], along the s. fork of Wenas Cr., n.w. of Yakima [LD, CD, DG], and among junipers near Pocatello, Ida. [CHT]. Highly unusual was the finding of a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** near Spencer, Ida., May 24–25 [AM, SR]. The only Ash-throated Flycatchers reported were five or more near Lyle, Wash., May 25 [EH, PM et al.].

JAYS THROUGH MIMIC THRUSHES — Colfax, Wash., had a Blue Jay February to May 11 [JB, FB], and the one that wintered at Robson, B.C., was still there May 26 [LV]. A Scrub Jay appeared in White Salmon, Wash., May 25–26 [EH, PM et al.]. A Boreal Chickadee was sighted at Panhandle L., Mar. 18 [EJL]. A Canyon Wren heard 3 mi up the Kootenai R. from Bonners Ferry May 17 was apparently the first for that area [RDC]. Two pairs of Bewick's Wrens were observed at Malheur May 6 [CDL]. The species was not observed in the Walla Walla vicinity after the spring season [SM]. House Wrens appeared to be on the increase in the Richland area, suggesting potential competition with Bewick's [REW].

Bluebird nest box projects in w. Montana produced a total of five fledglings in 1974, increasing to 5,519 in 1985. Of this, Mountain Bluebirds accounted for 4,761 and W. Bluebirds, 758 [AA, DHR]. Results for this year were still incomplete. In the Okanogan Valley, Wash., 249 young W. Bluebirds and 26 young Mountain Bluebirds have thus far been banded [GB]. A W. Bluebird was sighted at Richland in early March; the species, rare there now, is said to have nested in that vicinity before the coming of the Eur. Starling [REW]. A W. Bluebird in the Fortine, Mont., vicinity was the first in the past 20 years [WW], and a pair that appeared at Helena, Mont., was last seen May 2 [ASc]. One was sighted near Eureka, Mont., and later a pair was examining a nest box n. of there at the Canadian border [DH]. Western Bluebird sightings 20 mi n.w. of Salmon Apr. 4 and May 1 were Hadley Roberts' first since 1978 and his 2nd and 3rd ever. Three Gray Catbirds appeared at Sunnyside Dam on the Yakima R., May 24 [EH, PM, AS]. Southeastern Oregon was treated to an unusual number of N. Mockingbird sightings, at Fields [KC], Frenchglen [TC], Hines [TC, JG], Summer Lake [CM], and Malheur [TC, m.ob.]. The Brown Thrasher that wintered at Lumby, B.C., was last seen Mar. 3 [MC].

VIREOS, WARBLERS — A singing Philadelphia Vireo, seen well at Panhandle L., Apr. 23, made that vicinity's 3rd record [EJL]. A Red-eyed Vireo, rare in s. Idaho, was seen at Market L. about May 24 [BJa]. A **Cape May Warbler** photo-



Male Cape May Warbler at Malheur N.W.R. headquarters, Ore., May 23, 1986. Fifth Oregon record. Photo/Tim Crabtree.



Male Bay-breasted Warbler at Malheur N.W.R. headquarters, Ore., May 25, 1986. Sixth Oregon record. Photo/Jim Johnson.

graphed at Malheur May 23 was Oregon's 5th, and a **Bay-breasted Warbler** there May 25 made the state's 6th [AC, TC, JG, m.ob.]. Black-throated Gray Warblers arrived at Summer Lake W.M.A., Ore., May 11 and a male was reported at Malheur May 25 [GI]. Four Hermit Warblers along Wicky Cr., n. of Trout Lake, Wash., May 25 included one with coloration suggesting hybridization with Townsend's Warbler [EH, PM et al.]. Malheur had two Hermits May 15 (fide GI) and a ♀ Black-and-white Warbler May 16–17 [MA, TC]. A remarkable total of 30 Townsend's Warblers was observed on the N., Middle, and S. Forks of the Teton R., e. of Choteau, Mont., May 27–29 [LT]. A singing N. Waterthrush foraged along Potholes Res. near Moses Lake May 25 [FM, BT]. A well-seen singing Mourning Warbler appeared at Panhandle L., May 2 [EJL].

GROSBEAKS THROUGH FINCHES — A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak appeared at Malheur May 30 [GI]. A ♂ Indigo Bunting accompanied a flock of Lazulis near Pocatello May 5 [CW]. Clay-colored Sparrow numbers in general looked satisfactory with the exception of the Spokane Valley near the Idaho line, where very few were found. Boardman, Ore., reported a big



Male Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Malheur N.W.R. headquarters, Ore., May 30, 1986. Photo/Owen Schmidt.

increase in their numbers (RK). An ad. White-throated Sparrow visited a feeder near Missoula Mar. 18 (PLW) and an adult, *Deschutes*' 4th, was at Bend May 4 (TC). A Golden-crowned Sparrow at Burns, Ore., May 2 was the only one reported (M & AA). The White-crowned Sparrow migration in Washington's Columbia Basin showed high numbers and about 450 were banded in the Okanogan Valley, Wash. (GB). White-crowns in the White Salmon-Trout Lake, Wash., area were all of the race *pugetensis* (PM *et al.*). A few Harris' Sparrows were seen at Kaniloops (RR), Vernon (MC, PR), Pocatello (BJa), Pasco (TG), Richland (REW), Walla Walla (RL), and Clarkston, Wash. (MK *et al.*). Vernon had two Lapland Longspurs Mar. 22 (PR). Chaperon L. in the s. Okanogan Valley, B.C., was treated to 1000 Snow Buntings Mar. 4 (IB).



Male Great-tailed Grackle at Buena Vista Station, Malheur N.W.R., Ore., May 31–June 7, 1986. Photo/Owen Schmidt.

A Great-tailed Grackle was sighted at Hines, Ore., May 25 (GI); three appeared at Malheur May 30 (TC, M & AA), and another was sighted n. of Oxford Slough n. of Preston, Ida., Apr. 24–May 22 (TF *et al.*). A pair of Rusty Blackbirds was nesting at 5000 ft. elevation in the vicinity of Okanogan Falls, B.C., May 30 (DC, AP). One to two Com. Grackles, one carrying a fecal sac, were seen in the Ashton-Pocatello-Soda Springs, Ida., area in May (EC, CHT).

Purple Finches were described as numerous in the Salmon area in May (HR). Closely examined were single ♀ Purple Finches at Vernon Mar. 9 (PR) and at Kamloops May 24 (RRH).

White-winged Crossbills continued their extension into the Cascade Mts. A flock of 100 was sighted near Easton, Wash., Mar. 15 (BS) and at least two lingered there Apr. 19 (FM, TS). At least three were sighted along the Chinook Pass highway w. of Yakima Mar. 17 (BR), and Monastash Ridge w. of Ellensburg had 10 May 24 (Y.A.S.). In Oregon a male appeared at Lost L., n.w. of Mt. Hood, May 24 (DAA). Nine still lingered at Coeur d' Alene Apr. 1 (SHS). Pine Siskins were "abundant" in s. interior British Columbia, in "unusually high numbers" in the Fortine area, and "common" in Hood River, Ore. A fledgling was reported at Walla Walla (SM). A Com. Redpoll at the Oxbow Ranch on the Middle Fork of John Day R., Grant, Ore., Mar. 5 was notable (M & AA).

ADDENDUM — Two Solitary Sandpipers were identified at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., May 1, 1985 (JGW).

CORRIGENDUM — The owls reported for the winter 1985–1986 period for the Pocatello area were N. Saw-whet Owls, not N. Pygmy-Owls, except for one of the latter at Silent City of Rocks, s.e. of Oakley, Ida. (CHT).

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MOUNTAIN WEST REGION

Hugh E. Kingery

The Region reported good numbers and variety of shorebirds and warblers, and below-average numbers of other species. The weather played tricks on observers and birds—following a mild March, a series of snows stormed in during April to mid-May. Many species arrived early—as an example, Delta, Colorado, recorded six record-early dates (MJ).

The Region reported only 350 species: 312 in Colorado,

274 in Wyoming, 241 in Utah, and 239 in Nevada, all below average.

Good news and bad news from wildlife refuges: east of Reno, Nevada, the Lahontan Valley area, which includes Stillwater and Fallon national refuges, Fernley and Humboldt state wildlife areas, and Carson Lake, has opened up to the public for the first time. Anaho Island Refuge, with nesting American White Pelicans, is nearby. In the enthusiastic words of new Stillwater wildlife biologist Steve Thompson, "It is a true treasure that compares to places

like Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and Skagit Flats Very few people are aware of this area and its number of birds." The refuges have their headquarters in Fallon. Well, perhaps not as many birds as Klamath or Malheur, but still a lively oasis in the dry Great Basin.

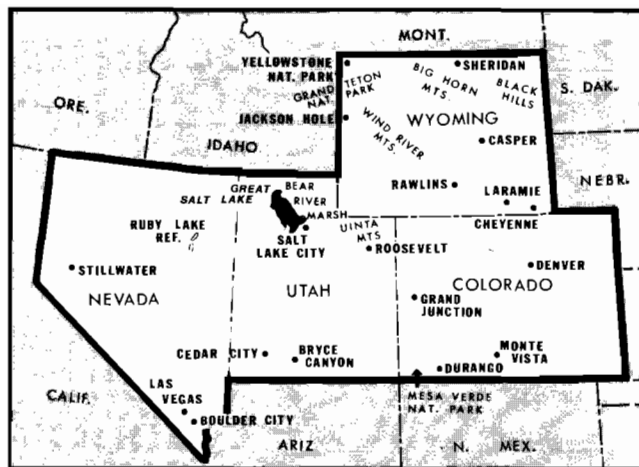
And probably not as many birds as Bear River refuge in Utah used to attract. The rising waters of the Great Salt Lake rendered the ultimate effect on Bear River refuge. Water has flooded the dikes and marshes, flooded the refuge buildings, flooded everything. This spring the Fish & Wildlife Service officially closed Bear River Refuge. The service will redevelop it when the Great Salt Lake returns to a lower level. "Perhaps a request in about five years will get a happier response." (PS)

ABBREVIATIONS — 1st Lat = first record in a latilong (that piece of geography outlined by latitudes and longitudes on each side); L/L/B/L = Longmont/Lyons/Berthoud/Loveland area, Colo.; # = no detailed description supplied by the deadline; † = written description submitted to state or local records committee.

GREBES TO IBISES — Pied-billed Grebes nested early at Stillwater: biologists discovered a complete clutch of eggs Apr. 25 (ST, LN). Although W. Grebe numbers generally seemed low, Chatfield Res. near Denver held 3500 Apr. 19 (D.F.O.). That collection did not contain any Clark's Grebes, but observers did find one to seven, Mar. 30–May 13, in Salt Lake City, Rock Springs and Saratoga, Wyo., and Delta, Penrose, Denver, Boulder, and Greeley, Colo. At Delta a pair was courting May 7–13. The 15,000 Am. White Pelicans at Anaho Island Ref had at least 7000 nests May 13: the nesting chronology varied from incubation to nests with young 3–4 weeks old (ST, LN) Anaho also had 2500 nests of Double-crested Cormorants and 135 Great Blue Herons. The Lahontan Valley refuges reported the following nests: 50 of Double-crested Cormorants, 280 of Great Blue Herons, 80 of Great Egrets, and 60 of Snowy Egrets, plus 30 ad. Cattle Egrets but no nests found.

Perhaps declining, Am. Bitterns were counted in quantities of one to four at 8 locations (6 in Colorado), plus a remarkable 23 at Bear Lake, Utah (CK). The roughly 30 Great Egrets reported in the Region included single birds Apr. 27 at Glendo and May 26 at Seedskaadee N.W.R., Wyo., in a state with fewer than 10 records (FL, JH). An ad. Little Blue Heron visited Turks Pond near Two Buttes, s.e. Colorado, May 22–24 (BD, C.F.O., 1st Lat). Cattle Egret reports included a record count of 24 at Zion N.P. (JG), and two 1st Lat records: one at Rock Springs, Wyo., May 17 (FL) and five at Eagle, Colo., May 1 (†JM). Ruby Valley, Nev., had a Green-backed Heron Apr. 28–May 1; Coloradoans found 18, all on the E. Slope from Ft. Collins to Rocky Ford, but including six at Penrose May 10, some of which stayed until May 19. Denver's Yellow-crowned Night-Heron returned to City Park May 1, and an unusual one flushed from marsh reeds at Two Buttes Colo., May 31 (BD, 1st Lat). An impressive Regional total of 2750 White-faced Ibis (none reported at Stillwater) bears out the comments by several observers of an increase in numbers. Top counts, all in April, included 114 at Kirch W.M.A., Nev. (CS), 400 at Salt Lake City (DJ), 350 at Ogden, Utah (JN), and 300 at Barr L. near Denver (LW).

WATERFOWL — Utah ducks increased over last year—at the peak time of Mar. 16–31, U.D.W.R.'s poll counted 82,856, including 34,753 Green-winged Teal and 12,229 Ruddy Ducks, compared with 49,223 last year. This does not come close to the numbers recorded before the Great Salt Lake consumed all the lakeside refuges. Sister refuges Monte Vista and Alamosa in Colorado recorded respective peaks of 23,000 (down 15%) and 10,000 (9,000 last year—RS). Fish Springs, Utah, recorded a peak of 2330 ducks (CND), and Kirch W.M.A. peaked at 6115 ducks including 1650 Canvasbacks (CS). Duck counts on Denver D.F.O. field trips dropped from 9585 last year to 2967 this



year; none of the Denver reservoirs attracted large numbers of waterbirds this spring.

Only Grand Jct., Colo., and Sheridan, Wyo., reported Tundra Swans (one each); in Utah, U.D.W.R. had a low count of 178 Mar. 1. Five Greater White-fronted Geese stayed at Fernley W.M.A., Mar. 1–Apr. 2 (ST, LN); in Colorado two visited Ft Collins Mar. 15 and Greeley Apr. 2. Julesburg, Colo., reported the largest flock of Snow Geese—6000 Mar. 27, with six "Blues" among them (JC). Observers continue to find Ross' Geese regularly, this spring at Carson L., Desert Lake W.M.A., Utah (†FL), Salida, Colo. (†JO, 1st Lat), and Colorado Springs and Weld Co., Colo. On Mar. 14 at Cheyenne, 5000 Canada Geese flew over. The nesting season for Canada Geese has already concluded at Stillwater; a sample of 50 nests showed 88% success (ST, LN). Production, helped by removal of 18 coyotes in March, also increased at Kirch W.M.A.—84 goslings cf. 27 last year. Wood Ducks continue to expand in the Mountain West. They definitely bred near Sterling, Colo. (MJ, 1st Lat), and showed evidence of breeding at Jackson, Wyo. (RD) and Stillwater (ST, LN). Eurasian Wigeons appeared for 1st Lat records at Vernon, Utah (†ES, †CB) and Greeley, Colo. (†JC). In the U.D.W.R. refuge count, Canvasbacks peaked at a paltry 97 Mar. 16–31. At Riverton, Wyo., on Apr. 22 an Oldsquaw dropped into a flock of coots, swam to two Buffleheads, and then flew off (†MA, 1st Lat). At Pueblo, Colo., an Oldsquaw stopped Apr. 3 (BM). A White-winged Scoter reportedly visited Yellowstone May 17 (TMc, ††).

RAPTORS TO CRANES — Two n.w. Wyoming locations reported their first Turkey Vulture observations in decades—Apr. 19 and May 4 at Yellowstone N.P. (JZ) and May 3 at Bonduant (BDO). Ospreys started nesting at a 2nd site in Nevada, at L. Tahoe (SW). A Black-shouldered Kite seen at Las Vegas Apr. 25–30 provided s. Nevada's 2nd record (JJ). The city park at Lamar, Colo., on May 17, boasted 55 Mississippi Kites, probably the highest count ever achieved in one Colorado location (DM). Two appeared at Pueblo May 18 (JJR). Ravens harassed a N. Goshawk May 23 at Lida, Nev., not a known breeding area (†DRo). In Wyoming, observers found three Broad-winged Hawks in May—Casper (JH), downtown Cheyenne (†FL), and Laramie (†EH). Sheridan saw an impressive spring flock of Swainson's Hawks—122 Apr. 24–25 and 200 Apr. 26 (HD, SJ).

Gray Partridge numbers have finally started improving at Sheridan, with 10–75 found in 5 locations (HD). A group of Wild Turkeys "migrated" through Sheridan, staying overnight at the cemetery and then progressing downtown and roosting on the Buick garage (B & JR). A Com. Moorhen had produced a brood at Ruby L. refuge by Apr. 26 (C & SB). Over Cheyenne, 150 Sandhill Cranes passed Mar. 21 (five flew over Penrose, Colo., the same day), and 100 arrived at Sheridan Apr. 27; two of those stayed to at least June 9. The San Luis Valley, Colo., had 28–30 Whooping Cranes in March and April. Strays were seen at Evanston and Cody, Wyo. (RDe, OT).

SHOREBIRDS — In the Lahontan Valley, Carson L. sported "incredible" numbers of shorebirds—50,000 Long-billed Dowitchers, 4000 Am. Avocets e.g. (ST, LN). Grand Jct., Colo., tallied good counts, e.g., 289 dowitchers and 34 Willets (CD). The Great Basin saw a healthy count of Snowy Plovers: 10–20 at Lund, Nev., during migration (CS), two at Zion N.P., Apr. 3 (4th record—JG), six at Great Salt L., Apr. 10 (CK), 14 at Fish Springs N.W.R., Utah, Apr. 26 (CND), and one at Rock Springs, Wyo., May 17 (FL, OKS). Grand Jct. had one to two May 13–17, the first in 10 years (A.S.W.C.), and Delta had 3 observations in April and May (MJ, 1st Lat). In s.e. Colorado, counts of Snowies ranged from one to eight. Kirch W.M.A.'s count of 41 Semipalmated Plovers May 5, and the 26 at Antero Res., Hartse, Colo., May 18, topped the Regional totals. Descriptions of Piping Plovers at Rock Springs, Wyo., Apr. 27 (AD) and Salida, Colo., May 17 (RA) may survive the scrutiny of state records committees. Thirty nesting pairs of Mountain Plovers had, by May 30, w. of Cheyenne, produced their first hatch (AK), but they seemed scarce not far away on the Pawnee Grassland (KC).

Carson L. had 1000 Black-necked Stilts Apr. 3, and they started to nest by Apr. 30. One stilt and a Greater Yellowlegs stopped May 5–6 near Eureka, Nev., fugitives from a late snowstorm (JE). An Upland Sandpiper at Clifton, Colo., May 12, photographed and observed for over an hour in a field of rye grass, extended that bird's Colorado range over the Continental Divide for the first time (†CD, ph., †MJ). Utah, Nevada, and w. Wyoming have a handful of records. Whimbrels spread out this spring—all in May except for two Apr. 13 at Las Vegas. Headed by nine at Sheridan May 18 (HD), they included one other in Nevada (Stillwater), three in Utah (Layton), 12 in Wyoming (Sheridan, Casper, Farson, and Gillette), and 12 in Colorado (Antero, Greeley, Lamar, Denver, and Ft. Collins). Single Hudsonian Godwits stopped at Loveland, Colo., May 24–25 (†AM, DL, D.F.O. et al.) and Grand Jct., May 29 (†CD ph., †MJ). Top counts of Marbled Godwits came w. of the Continental Divide, from Green R., Wyo. (61, Apr. 28), Salt Lake City (50, Apr. 20), Fish Springs (34, Apr. 6), Gunnison, Colo. (16, Apr. 19), and Grand Jct. (29, Apr. 27).

A surprising six Ruddy Turnstones turned up: two at Gillette, Wyo., May 29 (†MA, 1st Lat), and singles at Carson L. (HJ), Grand Jct. (†CD, ph.), Rocky Ford (DM), and Bonny Res., Colo. (DBr). Red Knots set record Colorado highs twice in 2 days: 12 at Grand Jct., May 15 (†CD, ph.) and then 28 at Longmont May 16 (JC, B & IP). Utah's high count was of five May 6, along the e. side of Great Salt L. (CK). Numerous reports of White-rumped Sandpipers included 12 in Wyoming (Gillette, MA—1st Lat, and Casper) and counts of two to 20 in e. Colorado May 15+. Colorado had one to six Pectoral Sandpipers, unusual in spring, at 3 locations in the Ft. Collins/Greeley area May 12–29. Observers continued to find Dunlins more frequently. The San Luis Valley had 12 Apr. 20 (JJR, 1st Lat); others stopped at Pueblo and Delta, Colo., and Stillwater and Kirch refuges.

Stilt Sandpipers massed in a record flock of 800 May 18 at Lamar (DM, DN, DS), and in a large count of 73 at Casper May 17 (FL, OKS). Four Short-billed Dowitchers visited Longmont Apr. 27 (††DS), and singles were at Logan May 7 (KA#) and Denver May 17 (D.F.O.#). Besides the 50,000 at Lahontan Valley, Long-billed Dowitchers set peaks of 458 at Kirch May 5 (CS), 210 at Fish Springs May 2 (CND), 289 at Grand Jct., May 15, and 150 at Greeley (JC). Wilson's Phalaropes peaked at 2000 at Lamar May 18 (DM, DN, DS), and on May 5, 1322 at Kirch plus another 1000–1500 in Railroad Valley, just to the w. (CS). Red-necked Phalaropes stopped in record numbers: 1100 at Delta May 19 (MJ), 500 at Fernley W.M.A., Nev., May 12, 360 in Weld Co., Colo., May 29 (PO), and 220 at Carbondale, Colo., May 17 (JM).

GULLS TO WOODPECKERS — An ad. Mew Gull in winter plumage stayed at Denver Mar. 6–15, for Colorado's 5th record (WL, ††JR, m.ob.). Wintering gulls had dispersed by the beginning of March, and numbers of the common species

dropped from those of last March (e.g., Denver had 536 Ring-billeds cf. 5062 last year). However, a D.F.O. field trip to n.e. Colorado Mar. 9 tallied 50 Herring Gulls, one Thayer's, and three Glaucous. A late Glaucous appeared at Denver Apr. 8–12 (WWB, JR). Of five Caspian Terns that appeared at Kirch Apr. 21, two remained to the end of the season. Colorado's W Slope reported its 2nd and 3rd Caspians: May 11 at Grand Jct (†CD, ph.) and May 16–22 at Delta (†MJ, 1st Lat). A Com. Tern at Seedskafee N.W.R., Wyo., May 26 provided a 1st Lat (FL). The W. Slope's 2nd Least Tern, dwarfed by nearby Forster's Terns, perched on a sandbar near Delta Apr. 29 (†MJ).

Denver's first White-winged Dove perched on a feeder table for 5 minutes, and then disappeared (†MJS). A Com. Barn-Owl perched in a Denver yard all day May 7; the observer showed it off to her neighbors (PSP). A pair of E. Screech-Owls probably nested in a Denver greenbelt, observed Mar. 16–Apr. 30 (AH, D.F.O.), and two were in Boulder Mar. 24 (SJ). Observers found W. Screech-Owls in Baca Co., Colo., May 24 (C.F.O.) and Sheridan Apr. 23–24 (PO, HD). Boulder Co., Colo., observers found four N. Pygmy-Owls and eight N. Saw-whets this spring. The only Regional Boreal Owl report came from Yellowstone Mar. 20 (MF, RS). No Colorado observers could find Boreals, despite searches in the usual places. Researchers speculate that mouse populations may have crashed and that therefore the birds failed to nest, since the technique for finding them involves birds calling at the nest hole.

Two Com. Nighthawks made their way to Salida, Colo., by the [unbelievably] early date of Mar. 22, and stayed through Apr. 10 (†RE). A Black-chinned Hummingbird strayed far N to Sheridan May 15–29 (†POL). An Anna's Hummingbird appeared in Carson City, Nev., Mar. 23 (BP). Red-headed Woodpeckers strayed W to Salida in late April (†JO), Evergreen May 28 (SR), and Laramie May 9 (P & KW). Red-naped Sapsuckers arrived Mar. 28, a month early, in the Indian Peaks w. of Boulder, Colo., and tripled in numbers on the spring count (.5/hr cf. .18/hr avg.—DB, DH). Williamson's Sapsuckers also arrived early—Mar. 23 at Evergreen (WWB) and Mar. 29 in the Indian Peaks—and tripled on Indian Peaks spring count to .3/hr (DB, DH).

FLYCATCHERS TO GNATCATCHERS — Least Flycatchers seem to have expanded along the Front Range: The Denver/Boulder area recorded seven (one banded), and Ft. Collins and Casper each reported one, all in May. A ♀ Vermilion Flycatcher hit a car at Ft. Collins Mar. 26 (GH, *D.M.N.H.), and a male fed actively in a river bottom near Denver Apr. 5–6 (SHA, †HK). After the nest found in n.e. Colorado in 1981 and other occasional observations, one wonders if a small colony may exist there somewhere. Ash-throated Flycatchers strayed to McCoy, Colo., May 23 (BRI) and Riverside, Wyo., Apr. 25 (EH, 1st Lat), and two Great Crested Flycatchers wandered W to Greeley May 11–12 (JC). Horned Larks dropped (down 80% at Cedar City, Utah, 33% at Denver and L/L/B/L), but they may have simply dispersed to the grasslands nesting areas due to the early spring.

Swallows set no pattern: early at Delta, late at Las Vegas and Durango; fewer at Las Vegas and Durango, more at Delta, Ruby Valley, and Eagle. The typical rainy day pattern brought 500–1000 Violet-greens to feed over Union Res. near Longmont May 16, and 5000 to Chatfield Res. near Denver May 18 (HK). Grand Jct. had its first Blue Jay in 2 years, Apr. 28–30 (A.S.W.C.). Two to three Pinyon Jays visited a Cheyenne feeder Mar. 1+ (BB). At Cedar City by early May they had fledged young, with 100 seen per day (SH). Strays appeared at Denver May 10–13 (D.F.O.). A flock of 1000 Am. Crows at Sheridan dispersed by mid-May (PW). Pygmy Nuthatches strayed onto the Colorado plains in May at Fountain and Pawnee Grassland. Downed on the Colorado plains at Eads and vicinity Apr. 22, a wave of Rock Wrens scurried about unlikely habitats like agricultural fields and fences bordering fallow fields (DL, 1st Lat, now recorded in all Colorado Latilongs). The Indian Peaks spring count tallied a large count of 174 Ruby-crowned Kinglets May 3. A pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was building a nest May 13 in

a foothills canyon near Denver, the 2nd year it has nested in that vicinity (AB).

BLUEBIRDS TO VIREOS — Eastern Bluebirds wandered W to Florence, Colo., May 10 [NP]. Observers carefully checking flocks of Swainson's Thrushes in e. Colorado reported four Gray-cheeked Thrushes, but only one sent in documentation—at Bonny May 12 (††C). Top count of Swainson's was 90 by D.F.O., May 18 in n.e. Colorado. Cheyenne and Ft. Collins each reported a Wood Thrush, May 12 & 16 (D & RP; DL, KC). A Varied Thrush sang without showing itself May 13 at Jackson (BR). Sheridan tallied 31 Gray Catbirds on its Spring Count May 18. A N. Mockingbird was at Farson, Wyo., May 24 (FL, MA, 1st Lat). At Fontanelle Dam, Wyo., Brown Thrashers acted, for the 2nd year, as if they might be nesting (seen May 24–31); however, the precarious nature of the dam makes confirmation unlikely (FL). Bohemian Waxwings stayed through March in Wyoming and n. Colorado—150 at Evanston, Wyo., Mar. 2–4 (CKe, RW), 35–50 at Ft. Collins Mar. 20 (DL). The last reports were of 30 in the Indian Peaks Apr. 4 (DB, DH) and a small flock at Logan Apr. 5 (JS). The Wynarno road survey at Sheridan showed an increase of Loggerhead Shrikes: the 1977–81 counts recorded an average of 1.4 and the 1982–86 counts averaged five (HD). A Yellow-throated Vireo was at Bonny May 20 (†LH), and six Red-eyed Vireos sang at Fontanelle, Wyo., May 31 (FL).

WARBLERS — Colorado tallied 31 species of warblers; Ft. Collins had the highest local count with 21 species, and reported "waves" (paltry by eastern standards but impressive out West) May 8–10 and 12–16 (DL). Of the common species, observers found fewer Orange-crowns at Cheyenne, Greeley, and Denver. Boulder counted 426 Yellow-rumpeds on its Spring Count May 10, but most observers reported fewer than usual. Las Vegas counted a notable collection of 150+ Wilson's Warblers May 4–6 (VM).

Of the regular but not common species: a Nashville Warbler at Fontanelle May 31 (†FL) plus two at Cheyenne and two in e. Colorado, and none in Utah; Chestnut-sided: one female at Seedskaadee N.W.R., Wyo., May 26 (†FL) and five in e. Colorado; 16 Tennessees in e. Colorado including six in one tree in Lamar May 17 (DM); two N. Parulas in Cheyenne and three in e. Colorado, plus a singing male in a Denver-area greenbelt May 14–June 16+ (PE et al.—a female, apparently unmated, had built a nest and tended it for a week in 1982—too bad they didn't get together); only one Black-throated Blue, at Boulder May 18; single Blackpolls at Cheyenne May 8 & 17 (H.P.A.S.), two at Monte Vista, Colo., May 16–20 (JJR), and eight in e. Colorado; one Black-and-white at Las Vegas May 9, one at Evanston May 25 (RWe), two at Cheyenne May 10–11, one at Gunnison, Colo., May 19 (JLe), and eight in e. Colorado; Ovenbird: Dyer, Nev., one May 16–17 (JML et al.), one May 26 at an isolated Great Basin ranch near Beryl, Utah (†ES), Yellowstone, its first May 22 (GA), Cheyenne May 9, Salida, Colo., May 17 (†RA, 1st Lat), and nine migrants in e. Colorado; N. Waterthrush, two in s. Nevada, one at Tooele, Utah, three in Wyoming plus 11 at Cheyenne May 7–17, two at Gunnison, Colo., and 45 in e. Colorado including 15 at both Greeley and Ft. Collins May 7–15 (JC, PO et al.); and a Painted Redstart at Las Vegas May 10 (R.R.A.S.).

Of the rare species: Blue-winged Warbler at Ft. Collins May 10 (†DL); Golden-winged Warbler: one at Casper May 18 (†FL, OKS) and one at Ft. Collins May 9 (†DL, ph.); Tennessee Warbler: Las Vegas May 4 & 9 (VM), two at Cheyenne May 11; Magnolia Warbler: for the 2nd straight year, one male at Fontanelle, on May 31 (†FL), singles at Sheridan May 18 (†MC), Jackson, Wyo., May 17 (#), Bonny May 14–17 (DB), and Denver May 17 (D.F.O.); Cape May Warbler: Denver's wintering male, gradually acquiring breeding plumage, appeared only on snowy days during March and April, but he put in a farewell appearance on a pleasant Apr. 16 (JA); Hermit Warbler: Las Vegas May 10 (VM); Blackburnian Warbler: female May 18 at Foun-



Golden-winged Warbler near Ft. Collins, Colo., May 9, 1986. Photo/Dave Leatherman.

tain, Colo. (BSp); Palm Warbler: Cheyenne May 8–11 (D & RP), Denver May 4 (KL), Ft. Collins May 8 (male, w. subspecies—DL), and L/L/B/L, May 10 (F.A.C.); Bay-breasted Warbler: Boulder May 5 & 13 (B.A.S., T); Worm-eating Warbler: Ft. Collins May 4 (RK, *Nat'l Mus.), Bonny May 18 (DBr), and Boulder May 28 (T); a possible Louisiana Waterthrush at Bonny May 20 (†LH); Kentucky Warbler: one at Las Vegas Apr. 26 (VM) and another May 11 (KW, J & MC, C & PG), and one at Fountain, Colo., May 11 (†BM); Hooded Warbler: Boulder May 9–17 and Bonny May 12 (JC).

TANAGERS TO BUNTINGS — A Summer Tanager came into a Cheyenne yard May 4–11, within 5 ft of the observer (†MM). Another first appeared on a swing set in a Salida backyard, but then stayed in shrubs and cottonwoods May 11–14 (†RE, 1st Lat). They also visited Fountain May 17 and Boulder May 18 (C.F.O., B.A.S.). The Region had 5 Scarlet Tanager reports: Cheyenne May 17 (K & KM#), Denver May 10 (†MJS), Julesburg May 14 (†JC), Boulder May 18 (†LH), and Sterling May 27 (MJ). Ruby Valley enjoyed more W. Tanagers than usual (C & SB), but the rest of the Region reported few observations; the largest number occurred on the Colorado Springs Spring Count, 15 on May 24 (A.A.S.).

Eastern Colorado had three N. Cardinals to report: May 15 at Holly (DBr), Two Buttes May 24–25 (JW, C.F.O.), and Crook May 31 (BA). Observers found four Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in Nevada, two in Utah, 10 in Wyoming, and 29 in Colorado. In Ogden, Killpack banded an intermediate number of Black-headed Grosbeaks—36, cf. four in 1985 and 70 in 1984. Blue Grosbeaks returned to their previous location at Green R., Wyo. (MA), but not to their previous nest site near Cheyenne (MH). Killpack banded 1198 Lazuli Buntings—half or less of those moving through his Ogden yard Apr. 20–May 23; also in Ogden, Nelson saw 25 lined up at his window feeder one May morning. A ♂ Painted Bunting came to a feeder in Lyons, Colo., May 9–10 (†MG).

SPARROWS TO FINCHES — A Black-throated Sparrow stopped at Denver Apr. 25 (††MGa). An incredible number of Savannah Sparrows surrounded Evanston, Wyo., May 10–15; with 75–100 in every meadow, the total may have exceeded 4500; only a few remained to homestead (RWe). A pair of Grasshopper Sparrows already had a nest with young May 25 in Baca Co., Colo. (MJ, C.F.O.). Top counts of Bobolinks were of 41 at Sheridan May 18 (HD) and 24 males larking and burbling at Denver May 18 (HK). An E. Meadowlark reported from s.e. Wyoming was identified on the basis of song (not call) and plumage compared with nearby W. Meadowlarks (RR); again we emphasize the distinctive call as a crucial diagnostic feature, since the Western species sometimes imitates the Eastern's song. A late Rusty Blackbird strolled in front of a beginners' bird-watching class Mar. 1 at Denver (HK). The Great-

tailed Grackle continued its apparently inexorable spread: a pair began nesting at Tooele, Utah [CK; only one other state breeding record, far to the s.]; one to two were at Ruby Valley Apr. 12–30 [C & SB]; and single males, both 1st Lat, were at Denver Apr. 22–May 11 [fUCK *et al.*] and Two Buttes May 31 [fBD]. Common Grackles spread W, now established at Jackson, observed in May at Yellowstone and Logan. Three “Baltimore” N. Orioles stopped at Cheyenne May 17 [B & SA].

“Black” Rosy Finches descended on Evanston May 11–16, a peak of 300 with at least 13 window kills; usually that s. Wyoming city sees Gray-crowneds [CK]. Eagle, Colo., had 100 Brown-cappeds May 16 [JM]. Often Rosy Finches move into the high country in early spring, and drop down to lower elevations during high country snowstorms in May and June. House Finches expand in the West, too. In the foothills around Golden and Evergreen, Colo., their populations have started to “explode” [WWB]. Cedar City had 200 Evening Grosbeaks Apr. 25+, with 50 staying into June—yet nearby Zion had only one observation, May 11–17. Evergreen’s population increased constantly, and gobbled up sunflower seeds voraciously, but the Indian Peaks had half as many as last year. At Durango, the Evening Grosbeak ranked as the most numerous bird on the Spring Count (but only one-third of last year’s count of 1471—EF).

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SOUTHWEST REGION

Arizona, Sonora

David Stejskal and Janet Witzeman

Weather across Arizona was milder throughout than in recent years. Precipitation was generally above average in March, and monsoon-like weather started in late May—about a month earlier than usual.

Again this season, more enlightening records were obtained from the northeastern part of the state, but it was sad to learn that Brad Jacobs had moved back to Missouri after the period, thus creating a birding vacuum in northeastern Arizona once again. Hopefully, this will encourage more birders from across the state to visit this productive area in his absence.

Elsewhere in the state, migration of common species was fairly unremarkable, but a couple of second state records at widely scattered points across the state provided some excitement.

ABBREVIATIONS — B.T.A. = Boyce Thompson Arboretum; L.C.R. = Lower Colorado River; P.R.D. = Painted Rock Dam; S.H.S.P. = Snyder Hill Sewage Ponds.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — A basic-plumaged **Red-throated Loon** at Willow L., Prescott, May 11 represented about the 9th record for the state and the 2nd for the Prescott region [fRTh]. A Least Grebe at the Sierra Vista sewage ponds Apr. 7 furnished one of the few records of this species during the past decade in the state and provided the first record for Cochise County [fB. & K. Jauch]. For the 2nd spring in a row, Horned Grebes were recorded in n.e. Arizona with nine breeding-plumaged birds at Many Farms L., Mar. 22 [Br]. Clark’s Grebes away from s.w. Arizona included one bird at Pena Blanca L., Apr. 28 [EH, NC, CW], and a group of three birds at Round



Rock L. in n.e. Arizona May 18–19 [Br]. The status of this species outside of the s.w. part of the state is still poorly known.

An imm. Olivaceous Cormorant was found Apr. 5 at Kino Springs and then at Guevavi Ranch n. of Nogales thereafter through the end of the period [JS, m.ob.]. A Least Bittern strayed to Quitobaquito Pond, Organ Pipe Cactus N.M., Apr. 19 [C. Stiles]. Two Snowy Egrets May 29 on the Blue R. in the White Mts. were unusual [TGa, RMe, AA]. Cattle Egrets in s.e. Arizona included 10 at Patagonia L., Apr. 20 [L. Moody], and two near Douglas at the Cochise College sewage ponds May 10 [AM, TD]. Cattle Egret is still quite rare in n.e. Arizona, so four at Tsaille L., May 15 were noteworthy [Br]. White-faced Ibises were reported to be more numerous than usual this spring in s.e. Arizona with 350+ at McNeal Apr. 23 being the largest flock reported [AM].

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS — A pair of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at the Gilbert sewage ponds s.e. of Phoenix May 6+ furnished one of the few spring records for the state (PB et al.). Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks began arriving in the state this spring by late March when two were reported from the Buenos Aires N.W.R., Mar. 24. By late April, flocks of as many as 40 birds were reported from the Nogales area and near Tucson. By the end of the period, Black-bellieds were reported from near Douglas n.w. across the state to the Gila R., w. of Phoenix. A flock of seven Ross' Geese at Many Farms L., Mar. 22 and what was thought to be a different flock of eight there Apr. 5 provided n.e. Arizona with 2 of its few records (Brj). A pair of seemingly wild Canada Geese hatched at least one young bird at Tsaile L., May 17, representing one of the few legitimate nestings for the state (Brj). Another late individual was found at Point of Pines L. on the Mogollon Rim May 29 (TGa, RMe, AA). The ♂ Oldsquaw reported this winter at McNeal remained until Apr. 9 (AM). Surprising were two ♂ Surf Scoters at P.R.D., Mar. 16 (TC). There was one previous March record for the state.

A flock of 16 Black Vultures Apr. 27 in Cananea, Sonora, were n.e. of their usual range (AM). Black-shouldered Kites were again widely reported, including at least four in the San Simon Cienega on the Arizona-New Mexico border from April on (J. Goehring, J. Hubbard), a pair near Bouse, Yuma Co., in early May (RBr), and an immature s.w. of Prescott Mar. 29 (†R. Houser et al.). This last represents the farthest n.w. that the species has been recorded in the state. A pair of Mississippi Kites was again reported from the Marana pecan grove n. of Tucson May 17 (TGa). Truly exciting was the discovery of an active Bald Eagle nest along the Rio Yaqui, Sonora, about 175 mi s. of the Arizona border in March (B. Brown, P. Warren, S. Anderson). The nest, built on an Hecho cactus, later failed in April, but represented the first Sonoran and first inland Mexico nesting record. Another new nest was found along Canyon Cr. in the Fort Apache Indian Reservation May 1 and contained one nearly-grown nestling. Twelve Bald Eagle nests along the Salt, Verde, Gila, and Big Sandy rivers fledged a total of 17 young, five fewer than last year (TGa, RMe).

Two Harris' Hawk nests were found in April on the s. side of Roosevelt L., where they were first discovered nesting last year (JPo). Far e. of the normal range was a pair of Gray Hawks at San Bernardino N.W.R., e. of Douglas, Mar. 29 (AM, RFi). Totally surprising was the discovery of a nest there May 6 (AM, TGu). The closest nesting area in the state is along the San Pedro R. about 50 mi to the west. Large flocks of migrating Swainson's Hawks are a fairly common sight during the fall in the state but are almost never encountered during the spring, so a flock of 100+ feeding on grasshoppers in a field s. of Bowie Apr. 19 was a surprise (F. Keim et al.). An early individual was at San Bernardino N.W.R., Mar. 27 (AM, DSi). A pair of Zone-tailed Hawks was discovered nesting at B.T.A., Mar. 28 (GM). This is apparently a new nesting area for this species.

GROUSE THROUGH GULLS — Blue Grouse droppings were found in the Chuska Mts. in n.e. Arizona Apr. 24, in the same area where a Blue Grouse was seen last year (Brj, P. Ryan). The status of Blue Grouse in this range is poorly known. Good numbers of Montezuma Quail continued to be reported in s.e. Arizona throughout the period (m.ob.).

Eight singing Virginia Rails and 10 singing Soras May 19 at the Tsaile sewage ponds might indicate breeding at this locality (Brj). The only other n. Arizona breeding locality recorded for Virginia Rail was at Pipe Springs N.M. in 1974. A basic-plumaged Lesser Golden-Plover at Willcox Apr. 30-31 provided about the 8th spring record for the state (†EH, NC, CW, M. Price). A very early (or wintering?) Snowy Plover was found at Wahweap Bay, L. Powell, Apr. 3 (GM). Extremely unusual was a Mountain Plover near Avondale, w. of Phoenix, May 11 (RBr). There had been no previous April or May records for the state. Black-necked Stilt is still quite scarce in n.e. Arizona, so one at Moaning L., s. of Chinle, Apr. 6 was noteworthy (Brj).

Seven Am. Avocets at Many Farms L., Mar. 22 may have established the earliest spring record for n.e. Arizona (Brj). At least one pair of Am. Avocets was found nesting near McNeal May 6 (AM, TGu). This is a new breeding locality for this species.

The only Whimbrel reported this spring was at S.H.S.P., w. of Tucson, Apr. 21-25 (JD, WC et al.). The shorebird of the season, without doubt, was the alternate-plumaged **Hudsonian Godwit** at Willcox May 24-27 (†BS, ph. JBa, m.ob.). The only previous verified record for the state was also here in May 1976. Sanderlings reported this spring included two at Willcox Apr. 27 (DJ), one at the Gilbert sewage ponds May 6 (PB), and another at Willcox May 25 (TC). Sanderling is much scarcer in the spring than it is in the fall. Twelve W. Sandpipers at S.H.S.P., Mar. 7 was a high count for that date, and probably represented birds that had wintered locally (GM). More Baird's Sandpipers than usual appeared this spring, including one at S.H.S.P., Mar. 6 (JBo), another there Mar. 30 (SSu), three near Avondale Apr. 27 (RBr), and another at Willcox May 26 (TC). Dunlin is unusual in spring in s.e. Arizona away from Willcox, so one Apr. 2 and another Apr. 23 near McNeal were of interest (AM). A breeding-plumaged Stilt Sandpiper at Tsaile L., May 12 provided the first spring record for n. Arizona (Brj).

A Long-billed Dowitcher at Tsaile L., Mar. 6 was very early for n.e. Arizona (Brj). Large flocks of Red-necked Phalaropes were again recorded this spring with the most notable being 115 at a pond on the Gila R. Indian Reservation s. of Phoenix May 17, 85 on Tsaile L. May 26 (Brj) and 40 at Willcox May 28 (GR). Red-necked Phalarope is usually a scarce spring migrant in the state. A Red Phalarope found at Ganado L., May 24 provided the first spring and the 2nd overall record for n.e. Arizona (ph., †CB, †Brj, Bu). Franklin's Gulls reported this spring included one at Willcox Mar. 22 (DD, TD, AM), one at Many Farms L., Apr. 5 (Brj), and 10-12 at San Carlos Res., s.e. of Globe, Apr. 22 (BeJ). The only California Gull reported away from the L.C.R. was an adult at Wahweap Bay, L. Powell, Apr. 3 (GM). A dark-backed ad. gull at Willow L., Prescott, May 2 (†RTh) was thought to be a W. Gull, which would provide either the 2nd or 3rd record for the state, but certain key features were not seen.



Red Phalarope at Ganado Lake, Ariz., May 24, 1986. Quite likely a one-year-old bird that will not attain full adult alternate (breeding) plumage this year. Photo/Charles Babbitt.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — An Inca Dove, a sparse visitant to the Portal area, was at a feeder through March (W & SSp). A Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl was heard at the border in Sycamore Canyon w. of Nogales May 18 (RNi). This bird's status in Sycamore Canyon is still not clear. One and possibly two Spotted Owls were heard and one was seen at Canyon de Chelly N.M., May 11 (CL, BrJ, R. Sigun). Spotted Owl had not been reported previously from this area. Long-eared Owl was again found nesting in n.e. Arizona this spring, with 3 nests being located: 2 at Moaning L. were found Apr. 6 and another nest at Many Farms L., Apr. 20 (BrJ). Apparently, only the Many Farms nest was successful, fledging two young. As many as four Buff-collared Nightjars were again found at the mouth of Madera Canyon in mid-May (m.ob.). The first apparent Vaux's Swift record for n.e. Arizona was established this spring with a well-described individual at the Rock Point sewage ponds May 19 (BrJ). All other *Chaetura* sightings for n.e. Arizona have been reported as Chimney Swifts.

The only White-eared Hummingbird reported was a ♀ bird that stayed only one day at a Portal feeder May 14 (W & SSp). An incredibly early Berylline Hummingbird was seen in Huachuca Canyon Apr. 22 (†T. Strong). This was about 6 weeks earlier than the earliest previous record. The Violet-crowned Hummingbird that wintered in Green Valley was last seen Apr. 2 (DG). There were only about 3 previous winter records for the state. A ♂ Blue-throated Hummingbird at Summerhaven in the Santa Catalina Mts., May 6 was unusual (GM). A ♂ Lucifer Hummingbird was at a Portal feeder May 10 and then again May 17+ (m.ob.). Another ♂ bird was reported from Guadalupe Canyon May 19 (†H. & P. Green). Anna's Hummingbird was found nesting for the first time in the Portal area this year, with the nest being found Apr. 25 (RTa, CG, JH). Rufous Hummingbird is rarely reported in s.e. Arizona during spring, so an ad. ♂ Rufous at Portal May 27–29 (W & SSp) and another one or two individuals at Globe Apr. 1–19 (*vide* BeJ) were noteworthy.

A complete surprise was the report of a ♂ Eared Trogon in S Fork, Chiricahua Mts., May 26 (†K. & J. Munthe). All previous records for the state had fallen between August and December. The only Green Kingfisher reported was in Nogales May 25 (S. Hoffman). An ad. Red-breasted Sapsucker was at Sycamore Canyon Mar. 15 (BrJ) and another was reported from "s. of the Grand Canyon" Mar. 18 (M. Kielb, S. Doehlert). A Downy Woodpecker at Cardenas Cr. in the Grand Canyon Apr. 12 was w. of that species' range (CT).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GNATCATCHERS

Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet was again reported from B.T.A., with one bird Mar. 28 (GM) and then a pair at a nest Mar. 30 (CB *et al.*). This species was first found here in August 1985, and this was the first recorded nesting for B.T.A. As in April 1984, a migrating Buff-breasted Flycatcher was found on Sonoita Cr., this time Apr. 12 (DD, TD, J. & B. Epler). Three E. Phoebes were reported: one n. of Phoenix at Sunflower Mar. 5 (m.ob.), another at Ft. McDowell e. of Phoenix Apr. 13 (TGa), and another at Patagonia May 5 (JS). The first two records represent birds that had wintered locally. Out of place was the ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher at Petrified Forest N.M. headquarters May 31 (GR). There are very few records of this species in n.e. Arizona. An E. Kingbird was found at Patagonia May 17 (R. Stallcup *et al.*) for one of the few records for s.e. Arizona.

A very early Barn Swallow was seen checking buildings at Navajo Community College at Tsaile Apr. 1 (BrJ). A nesting attempt by the Univ. of Arizona Cave Swallow with a Cliff Swallow was unsuccessful (TH).

The status of Black-capped Gnatcatcher in Chino and Sycamore canyons was a bit hazy this spring. A ♀ Black-capped was reported in Sycamore Mar. 19 (JBo, DSi), but none was found there after that in spite of several trips to look for the birds. In Chino, Black-cappeds were first reported in mid-April but only one ♀ bird could be found there May 14 (DS *et al.*). An unbanded pair was found farther up the canyon than usual

May 26 (RBr, CK). Observers should exercise extreme caution when identifying Black-cappeds: the outer rectrices are always entirely white in *Black-capped* and Blue-gray gnatcatchers. If there is any black in the outer tail feathers, the bird must be a Black-tailed or perhaps a hybrid.

THRUSHES THROUGH WARBLERS — A Veery was heard at the S. Fork of the Little Colorado R., near Springerville May 29 (GR). This is the only spot in the Southwest where this species is known to breed. A Varied Thrush was reported from the Kaibab Nat'l Forest s. of the Grand Canyon Mar. 17 (M. Kielb, S. Doehlert). A Gray Catbird was found at the S.W. Research Station near Portal May 29, providing about the 8th local record (*vide* SSp). Two Brown Thrashers were reported: one at Rio Rico Apr. 10 (R. Olsen, H. Hally, DG) and another in Phoenix May 23 (R. Ritchie *et al.*). Bendire's Thrasher was again found nesting in the Sulphur Springs Valley at Sunizona Apr. 21 (AM). The first nesting records for this valley were obtained in May 1985. Four Sprague's Pipits were seen near McNeal Mar. 2 (AM, CG). A late N. Shrike was reported s. of Flagstaff Apr. 5 (M.L. Rosegay).

Gray Vireo was again found at Redington Pass e. of Tucson this spring, with a singing individual there Mar. 29 (GG, JBo, JBa). This species seems to be becoming more regular in this area. Another Gray Vireo was seen in Chino Canyon Apr. 29, marking the first record for the Santa Rita Mts. and for Santa Cruz County (GM). A Philadelphia Vireo was a surprise at Guevavi Ranch May 10 (†A.N. Gulthelil). This was one of only a few spring records for the state. A true surprise was the singing ad. ♂ **Blue-winged Warbler** in Sycamore Canyon May 24 (†B. Lewis, R. Davis). This was only the 3rd record for the state, and the first for spring. A N. Parula was found in S. Fork, Chiricahua Mts., Apr. 19–20 (m.ob.). The Yellow-throated Warbler first found at the mouth of Madera Canyon in January was last reported Apr. 5 (DS, RFe). A Worm-eating Warbler was seen in Sycamore Canyon May 18 (†RNi). Four Ovenbirds were reported for the period: a singing ♂ bird was at Granite Cr., Prescott, May 13 (CT), another near Hereford on the San Pedro R., May 17 (†H. & P. Green), another in a Phoenix yard May 21 (R. Ritchie *et al.*), and yet another at S. Fork, Chiricahua Mts., the same day (RMo). Prior to this year, there were only 6 spring records for the state. A report of a Louisiana Waterthrush in Madera Canyon Mar. 20 probably represented a bird that had wintered locally (†R. Hadley). A Kentucky Warbler was reported from Huachuca Canyon May 31 (*vide* APR). One Black-and-white Warbler and three N. Waterthrushes were recorded for the period. A Painted Redstart Apr. 12 at Cardenas Cr. at the bottom of the Grand Canyon provided about the 4th record for that area (CT).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH FINCHES — Only four Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, all males, were reported this spring, evenly split between n. and s. Arizona. Out of place was the Black-chinned Sparrow at Puerto Lobos, Sonora, Mar. 1 (JBa, RBo). Five-striped Sparrow is rarely reported from the Baboquivari Mts., so five birds in Baboquivari Canyon on the w. side of that range May 10–11 were interesting (†W. McDowell, CG, R. Bailowitz). The Golden-crowned Sparrow first found frequenting a feeder in Portal during the winter was last seen Apr. 17 (W & SSp). One of the imm. Harris' Sparrows found earlier this year in Chinle Wash n. of Many Farms was seen again Mar. 23 (BrJ). Another Harris' Sparrow was reported from a Bisbee feeder in mid-May, quite late for the state (*vide* SR).

An ad. ♂ Rusty Blackbird was found at Willcox Mar. 2 (†JPr). There are still only about 2 dozen records for this species in the state. A Hooded Oriole at Kayenta May 12 provided one of the few records of this species in n.e. Arizona (CL).

With virtually no reports of montane finches in the lowlands during the winter period, it was surprising to learn of the reports of a few small flocks of Cassin's Finches appearing in March and April. At Tsaile, numbers of Cassin's built up to about 20 birds by mid-April at BrJ's feeder. A small flock of seven birds was at Canoa Ranch Mar. 28 (SSu), and large num-

bers were found at Cherry Cr., n. of Cordes Jct., Apr. 2 (SD et al.). The small flock of Evening Grosbeaks found in Portal during the winter was present through March (RMO).

ADDENDUM — A belated report was received of a Varied Thrush near Yuma Mar. 22–Apr. 7, 1985 (T. Whiteway).

CORRIGENDA — AB 40:150, the six Greater White-fronted Geese at Ganado L. were found Sept. 28, not Sept. 21 (Brj). AB 40:152, the Red-eyed Vireo in Keams Canyon was seen Sept. 14–15, not Sept. 21 (Brj).

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New Mexico

John P. Hubbard

ABBREVIATIONS — Bosque Refuge = Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Ref.; O.C.B.C. = Otero County Bird Club; T. or C. = Truth or Consequences. Place names in italics are counties.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — The only loons reported were six Commons from the Colorado line to the Zuni Mts., with one in March and the remainder in the period Apr. 16–May 20 (v.o.). The state's 2nd report of breeding Clark's Grebes was from upper Elephant Butte L. on May 16, with about 40 adults and 20 downy young counted (TM). Single adults were also at Storrie (RT), Bluewater (JT), and Caballo (RT) lakes in May. American White Pelicans were present in the period Mar. 3–May 3 (v.o.), with peripheral reports more frequent than usual—including 33 at Heron L. (D. Domenici), and small numbers at Weatherly L., Union, and near Clayton (WC), Tohatchi (DC), near Zuni (JT), and Bluewater L. (AS). An imm. **Brown Pelican** was photographed at Bitter Lake N.W.R., May 29 (L. Marlatt) for only the 2nd confirmed state record of the species. Another scantily-detailed bird was reported at Eagle Nest L., Colfax, May 16 (J. Cully, Jr.).

American Bitterns in areas where seldom reported were singles near Los Alamos (R. Rohwert), Zuni (JT), and near the Gila Cliff Dwellings, Catron (DSe et al.), Apr. 29–May 11. A Least Bittern near Cliff, Grant, May 3 (D. Henderson et al.) was also unusual. Great Blue Heron nesting colonies continue to prosper in the Gila Basin, with at least 5 along the Gila R. and another at Glenwood (RF et al.). New was a small colony at Snow L., Catron, May 4 (PS), while a nest near Navajo Dam Apr. 10–May 10 (G. Downer) may have been the first recorded for the San Juan Basin. Notable were single Great Egrets at Zuni May 21–27 (JT) and Alameda Apr. 24 (JP), plus two Snowies at La Cueva in the Jemez Mts. on May 1 (MS). Three Little Blue Herons were near Belen Apr. 29 (PS), and another was near San Marcial May 16 (TM). Very unusual at the latter site was a **Tricolored Heron** on the same date (TM), plus an-



Immature Brown Pelican at Bitter Lake N.W.R., N. Mex., May 29, 1986. Photo/L. B. Marlatt.

other at Bosque Refuge May 24 (PB). Cattle Egrets made a good showing in the state, reaching several n. and/or w. stations—including one to five at Tohatchi (DC), La Cueva (MS), Cochiti L. (F & RS), and Zuni (JT), Apr. 17–May 11. Also notable were single Green-backed Herons at Zuni May 21 (JT) and Sandia Park Apr. 30 and May 2 (HS).

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS — A Ross' Goose with two Snows at Holloman L., Apr. 17 & 25 (JM) may have been a first for Otero. Late Wood Ducks were 2 pairs May 1 at Percha Dam (PS, RT)—where the species has bred—plus two birds in the Gila Valley May 3 (RF et al.). Seven at Farmington May 10 (AN et al.) may have been at least partly of captive origin. Mexican-like Mallards in areas where unusual were a male at Bluewater L., May 10 (JT) and a pair at Rattlesnake Springs, Eddy, May 26 (WH). A female with a brood was seen near San Marcial May 25 (JH), while a male was reported at Percha Dam, Sierra, May 9 (DM). Notable was a ♂ Greater Scaup at Pescado Res., McKinley, May 11 & 21 (JT)—both rare and very late. Eight Hooded Mergansers at Santa Fe Apr. 26 (LH) made a high count for the area, as did 11 Red-breasteds at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Mar. 15 (fide KW).

A count of raptors in the Sandia Mts. from Feb. 11 to May 9 yielded 3129 birds of 18 species, up by two species and 11.4% more birds over a similar count in 1985 (JD et al.). Highlights included 24 Ospreys, 38 Bald Eagles, 58 N. Harriers, 481 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 709 Cooper's Hawks, 15 N. Goshawks, 31 Swainson's Hawks, 242 Red-taileds, and 435 Golden Eagles, plus very early Broad-winged Hawks Mar. 20 and Apr. 6 and Zone-taileds Apr. 10 & 20. Twelve Ospreys on the Jicarilla Reservation Apr. 17 (DSt) was a high count. Up to four Black-shouldered Kites were in the Rodeo-San Simon Cienega area Apr. 16–May 2 (J. Goering et al.), the highest count yet for the state. Two Mississippi Kites at Bosque, Valencia, May 29 (WH) and one near Mesilla May 4 (EW et al.) were the only ones reported w. of the Pecos Valley. Late was a N. Harrier near Tularosa May 16 (NH). An imm. Com. Black-Hawk near Bernalillo May 11 (L. Daly, SH) was outside the usual range, as was a Harris' Hawk near Alamogordo Mar. 5 (K & RJ). Rather early were one to two Swainson's Hawks near Clines Corners Mar. 23 (LH), near Roswell Mar. 30 (PS), and around Deming Mar. 29 (RF). Late was a Ferruginous Hawk near Alamogordo May 13 (JM) and a Rough-legged near Mule Creek, Grant, through May 5 (SW). Only three Merlins were reported, the latest being one in the Sandia Mts., Apr. 17 (JD).

GALLIFORMES THROUGH PHALAROPES — A ♀ Sage Grouse was at Farmington Apr. 9 and May 26 (AN, H. Volkerding); the nearly featherless tail and lack of recent records

ALASKA REGION

D. D. Gibson

Although with less tumult and precipitation than spring 1985, spring 1986 was also cold (e.g., a record -24°F for Apr. 7 at Fairbanks). Arrival timing was, for the most part, average or average/late. Many waterfowl, gulls, and shorebirds were on time or slightly late, while many passerines were late by from days to a week or more. Almost nothing was reported early, and few observers reported even locally-large concentrations anywhere, but there were many interesting records of birds seen in small numbers.

SWANS, GEESE, AND DUCKS — Annual mid-March arrival of Tundra Swans at King Salmon (RJW—in 1986, Mar. 14) likely reflects intra-SW Alaska movement of a resident population, which winters in the Unimak I.-Izembek Bay area. Earliest arrivals on the Gulf of Alaska coast, of birds coming from the e. and s., are a month later, in mid-April (e.g., in 1986, Apr. 24 at Kasilof, MAM). Whooper Swans were counted at Kiska I., w. Aleutians, at intervals in late winter-early spring: 21 on Mar. 24, a new Alaska high count of 40 Mar. 31, and five Apr. 4 (FGD, GTM). The U.S.F.W.S. spring 1986 aerial survey of Emperor Geese from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta to Unimak I., including both coasts of the Alaska Peninsula, yielded 42,228 birds, down 28% from the 1985 count of 58,833 (RJK, CPD).

Eurasian Wigeon in small numbers were widely reported on and near the Pacific coast from Juneau to Attu; a male at Kotzebue May 29–31 (†TJD et al.) added to few records n. of the Seward Peninsula. Regional rarities included a ♂ Falcated Teal at St. George I., Pribilofs, June 1 (LC, fide GVB); a ♂ Garganey at Adak I., May 11–17 (CFZ et al.); up to two ♂ Cinnamon Teal in the Juneau area May 5–31 (MEI, RJG, JMA, others); Com. Pochards at Attu I. (one May 18–19, MEI) and at St. Paul I., Pribilofs (six May 31, SZ, RH); and an imm. ♂ Smew at Adak May 14–17 (CFZ et al.).

As in recent prairie-drought years, Canvasbacks were widespread in small numbers in May and early June as far w. as King Salmon (KIW, RCK, DDM), the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta (BC, JIH), the Seward Peninsula (BC, JIH), and Kotzebue Sound (BC, JIH, JW), maximum 17 birds May 22 at Kotzebue (†TJD et al.). Maximum Attu count of Tufted Ducks this season was an unprepossessing 15 birds June 2. At Kodiak, where the species is casual, two were present at the Pasagshak River Mar. 15–Apr. 12+, while a female kept company with one of each scaup at L. Louise Apr. 5–25 (RAM). An ad. male accompanying scaup at L. Hood, Anchorage, May 14 (†RLS) provided the first record for upper Cook Inlet. A ♂ Lesser Scaup seen with Greater on a pond near L. Andrew, Adak, Apr. 26–May 26+ (†CFZ et al.) furnished a 2nd Aleutian record of the species; two males seen with Greater on a pond at Nome June 7 (DEW) were rare visitants at that peripheral locality.

PLOVERS TO TERNS — Not seen at Attu until June 1 (GFW, GBR), Mongolian Plover was late and scarce. Three Com. Ringed Plovers, two displaying males and a female, and a pair of Semipalmated Plovers were present in adjacent areas at Gambell, St. Lawrence I., in early June (†JLD et al.), and a pair of each may have remained to breed. A **Little Ringed Plover** was discovered May 18 at Alexai Pt., Attu (GFW), where it was seen through May 30 by many observers (†TGT). Alaska's only prior record was of one at Buldir in June 1974. Probably still on passage, a pair of Eur. Dotterels was observed at Sevokuk Mt., Gambell, June 6 (S & JW et al.), and a 2nd female was seen the following day (†JLD et al.).

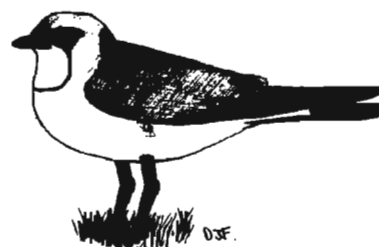


In a wholly unexpected sequel to last spring's first Alaska record of the species (see AB 39:339), a tired **Oriental Pratincole** was closely observed at rest and in flight at Gambell June 5 (HJD, WSD, †JLD, † and drawings DJF, et al.).

Wood Sandpipers were uncommon at Attu (maximum 15 birds May 22), but at least 2 pairs were on territory there through the observers' departure in early June (TGT). One was

Oriental Pratincole

Gambell
5/6/86



wine red coverts —
underwing

medium brown coverts — no white trailing edge
upperwing

Oriental Pratincole at Gambell, St. Lawrence I., Alaska, June 5, 1986. Second North American record. Drawing/David J. Fisher.

seen as far e. as St. Paul [June 8, KK, LHK], but none was reported from the n. end of the Bering Sea. West of the spring route of the bulk of the population, Bristle-thighed Curlews were recorded at Adak (two May 12–13 [FGD, GTM, CFZ et al.]), St. Paul (one May 26 [SZ]), and Attu (four overhead May 29 [TGT]). This spring's Far E. Curlews, two of them, were watched at Adak May 31–June 1 [TRE, CGE, MGZ, CFZ], and a single remained through June 6 [RAR]. Marbled Godwits were observed in the usual small numbers in the Chiniak Bay area, Kodiak I., May 3–13, peaking [late] with a total of 12 birds May 11 [RAM, DWM, JBA]. Elsewhere, a pair was seen at Seward May 7 [RLS], and three were seen very late at Eagle Beach, Juneau, May 24 [RJG] & 27 [RHA]. Unparalleled were three Black Turnstones at Galena, on the middle Yukon River, May 19 and 10 there May 20 [TOO], for the first spring records in the Interior. Two Surf-birds studied at Kotzebue May 20–23 (†WRM, RB) were of interest, since the species is hardly known in the Kobuk-Noatak region of W Alaska. White-rumped Sandpiper, which is confined as a breeder in this Region to the Beaufort coast, was recorded on passage only in the e. Interior, where a casual spring migrant: one at Eielson A.F.B., May 25 [JK] and at least two at Fairbanks the following day [DDG].

Almost every spring in recent years a Curlew Sandpiper has been seen somewhere in coastal Alaska. In 1986, however, the only record was of a lone bird inland, at Noatak village May 23 (†WRM, RB). A Still Sandpiper observed with dowitchers at Pt. Woronzof May 18–20 [DWS et al.; †RLS] was not only Anchorage's first, but provided the first spring record anywhere on the Alaska Pacific coast in over 20 years. Two **Spoonbill Sandpipers** observed at close range at Casco Cove, Attu, May



Spoonbill Sandpiper in breeding plumage at Casco Beach, Attu I., Alaska, May 31, 1986. Photo/Ed Greaves.



Double dazzler: two Spoonbill Sandpipers at Casco Beach, Attu I., Alaska, May 31, 1986. Photo/Ed Greaves.

30–31 (†, ph. EG et al.) provided one of the highlights of the season. Only one was seen there June 1, when a presumed 3rd bird was found some miles away at Alexai Point [GFW]. At least one bird remained through June 3. There have been only 2 other Alaska records in the last 72 years. A few, late Ruffs were reported, none earlier than May 31—scattered single females at Adak [TRE, CGE, CFZ, MGZ], Gambell [TJD, JLD et al.], and St. Paul [DEW et al.].

Furnishing the seasonally-earliest of Alaska's 6 records, all of summer-plumaged adults, a **Franklin's Gull** was observed at Buskin R. beach, Kodiak I., May 11 (†, ph. DWM, †JBS, †RAM et al.). An ad. Ring-billed Gull was seen at Anchorage Apr. 25 [DRH] to May 18 [HHS fide DFD, RLS], for the 2nd local spring record. A Ross' Gull seen 1 mi off Homer Spit May 10 [RC, fide GCW] and amid kittiwakes and Mew Gulls at Homer Spit May 14 [JGK, fide EPB] was distinctly out of place. There is only one other accepted report of this bird on the Alaska Pacific coast [see AB 37:903]. Two one-year-old Ross' Gulls at Gambell June 7 (m.ob.) were not out of place, but were of interest—as are all Ross' Gulls, of course. A pair of Caspian Terns amid gulls at Hinchinbrook I., Prince William Sound, May 14 (ph. RHA, PGM) provided the only report this season, the species' 6th consecutive year in Alaska. Five Aleutian Terns feeding just off Southeast Cape June 6 [KDS] provided the 2nd record at St. Lawrence I. [see AB 36:885].

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS TO PIPITS — Olive-sided Flycatcher was slightly late across the state. It was first reported at Twelvemile Summit, in the e. Interior, and at Anchorage May 26 [JK and DFD, respectively]; at Juneau May 30 [RJG, JMA]; at Galena, in the w. Interior, June 2 [TOO]; at Homer June 3 [GCW]; and at Kasilof June 6 [MAM]. Always the latest species to arrive in the Region, Alder Flycatcher arrived on average dates of June 6 at Fairbanks [DDG] and June 9 at Kasilof [MAM]. A singing **Least Flycatcher** found near Fairbanks June 4 [KLW; †DDG, PDM, BAC] and tape-recorded June 5 [LJP, KLW] provided the first record in Alaska's Interior. A weak Say's Phoebe observed on the beach at Deering, Seward Peninsula, May 20 [JW] probably reached its limit of range too early in spring 1986 to survive.

Eleven Arctic Warblers at Attu June 7 was the highest count ever in the Aleutians. At least two Red-breasted Flycatchers arrived at Attu June 6–7 [TLS et al.], in their 5th consecutive year in Alaska! Gray-spotted Flycatchers not only put in their annual spring appearance in the w. Aleutians, but provided a new high count June 6, when 14 were seen at Attu.

Siberian Rubythroat arrived on schedule May 30 at Attu; the maximum of 12 birds May 31 has been exceeded only by last year's numbers [AB 39:339]. A ♂ rubythroat at St. Paul June 10 [DEW et al.] furnished the 2nd Pribilof record [see AB 31:1037]. A record-early pair of Mountain Bluebirds at the Mendenhall wetlands, Juneau, Mar. 24 [DEM] numbered among few early passerine arrivals anywhere in the Region; a lone male was seen in that area Apr. 6, others over the ensuing 10 days [MEI]. The earliest bluebird report in the Interior, however, was of a pair Apr. 29 e. of Delta Junction [BM]; none was reported as far w. as Fairbanks this year. Eye-browed Thrushes were late and few, one at Attu May 30 the earliest. Few wagtails and pipits were seen in the w. Aleutians this spring, although most species known there were accounted for in small numbers.

WOOD WARBLERS TO FINCHES — One Tennessee Warbler was seen at Juneau May 31–June 1 [RJG, JMA], and a singing male was heard near Fairbanks June 3 [KLW], but not thereafter. A ♀ Yellow-rumped ("Myrtle") Warbler was seen at Gambell June 3 [JLD, WSD], for a 2nd St. Lawrence record [see AB 33:799]. This form is one of the few wood warblers ever recorded still farther w., in n.e. Asia. A singing Golden-crowned Sparrow at Gambell June 5 (†PR et al.) also established a 2nd island record (the first was June 3, 1980 [TGT]). Individual wintering White-throated Sparrows were present at least until Apr. 12 at Juneau [RHA] and through Apr. 17 at Homer [EPB].

Rustic Buntings were late (male at Attu May 31 was first) and few.

The two Juneau Bramblings (see Winter) were present at least through Mar. 26 (RBW), and one was seen as late as Apr. 20 (RJG); spring arrivals at Attu were late (May 20), and maximum there was only 14 birds (June 5). A flock of three to four **American Goldfinches** seen at the Mendenhall wetlands, Juneau, May 28–29 (†RJG) provided Alaska's 2nd unsubstantiated record, the first in SE Alaska. Records of casual finches this season included two Oriental Greenfinches at Attu June 7 (MEI); a ♀ Evening Grosbeak that visited a Douglas feeder May 12–13 (fide MEI), adding to few spring records of this irregular winter visitor; and at least two Hawfinches seen well at Attu June 2–7 (m.ob.).

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NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Philip W. Mattocks, Jr.

Spring came early in the Northwest. Late February to mid-April was warm and dry. Thereafter the season was cooler and much wetter than usual. The Vancouver (B.C.), Seattle, and Portland weather stations averaged about 5°F warmer than usual during March. May temperatures were normal, but about one-third more rain fell than the long-term averages.

There were numerous earlier-than-ever sightings in the first one-half of the season, and some noticeable grounding of migrants by late April storms. An analytical advantage of a narrow, north-south aligned Region is that a chronological mapping of arrivals will often reveal an ordered progression of spring migration, and equally as interesting, often it will not.

ABBREVIATIONS — S.J.C.R. = South jetty of the Columbia R., Ore.; V.I. = Vancouver Island, B.C.

LOONS TO IBISES — In addition to the usual concentration of Pacific Loons in Active Pass, V.I., totalling 700–1000 present Mar. 28–Apr. 14 (RP, BG), there were 800 off Grays Harbor May 10 (BHT et al.) and 500 around Iona I., near Vancouver, B.C., May 14 (DSo, MP, G. Sunderland). Six Yellow-billed Loons were reported, a normal number, including sightings Apr. 28–30 at the Chetco R. mouth, Ore. (RE et al.) for the first Curry County record, and a late individual May 22 off Waldron I., Wash. (F. Sharpe). The usual few Clark's Grebes were reported, all from Oregon: Mar. 10–mid-April at the Chetco R. mouth (RE, JR), Apr. 26 at the Bay City sewage ponds, Tillamook Co. (DL, PMu, B. Wong), and May 23 on Dexter Res., Lane Co. (SH).

A high count of 200+ Black-footed Albatrosses was made May 17 off Newport, Ore. (SH et al.). The highest-ever count of Black-footeds off Westport, Wash., in 25 trips during May over 19 years, has been 111 individuals (TW). Perhaps related to these high numbers were the unusual sightings from shore of two imm. Black-footeds May 6 at Newport (J. Dant, BvH) and one May 10 off nearby Boiler Bay (DFi, SH, JGi, D. Irons). A much rarer **Laysan Albatross** was observed Mar. 15 off the w. coast of V.I., about 40 mi s.w. of Cape Beale (P. Lambert, ph.).

Following last spring's extraordinary counts of N. Fulmars, the pelagic trip totals this year returned to normal, with fewer than 20 off Westport May 10 (BHT et al.) and about 50 off



Newport May 17 (SH et al.). By far the most exotic procellariid of the season was a bird identified as a **Murphy's Petrel** (*Pterodroma ultima*) seen Apr. 10 about 35 nautical mi off the mouth of the Columbia R., Ore. (†TW, †Larry Spear). Details will be published in a paper treating this and closely related species in the N. Pacific. Counts of 25 Pink-footed Shearwaters and 30 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels May 17 out of Newport (SH et al.) were normal numbers. Only two Fork-taileds were seen from shore; last year's dramatic incursion was definitely not repeated.

In 1978 and 1980 there were spring records of one to two Brown Pelicans in the Region. Since 1982 up to 2 dozen pelicans, presumably non-breeders, have arrived along the coast in late May. This year the first was found in Victoria, V.I., on the extremely early dates of Mar. 1–7 (M & VG et al.). The

seen as far e as St Paul (June 8, KK, LHK), but none was reported from the n. end of the Bering Sea. West of the spring route of the bulk of the population, Bristle-thighed Curlews were recorded at Adak (two May 12–13 [FGD, GTM, CFZ et al.]), St. Paul (one May 26 [SZ]), and Attu (four overhead May 29 [TGT]). This spring's Far E. Curlews, two of them, were watched at Adak May 31–June 1 (TRE, CGE, MGZ, CFZ), and a single remained through June 6 (RAR). Marbled Godwits were observed in the usual small numbers in the Chiniak Bay area, Kodiak I., May 3–13, peaking (late) with a total of 12 birds May 11 (RAM, DWM, JBA). Elsewhere, a pair was seen at Seward May 7 (RLS), and three were seen very late at Eagle Beach, Juneau, May 24 (RJG) & 27 (RHA). Unparalleled were three Black Turnstones at Galena, on the middle Yukon River, May 19 and 10 there May 20 (TOO), for the first spring records in the Interior. Two Surf-birds studied at Kotzebue May 20–23 (†WRM, RB) were of interest, since the species is hardly known in the Kobuk-Noatak region of W Alaska. White-rumped Sandpiper, which is confined as a breeder in this Region to the Beaufort coast, was recorded on passage only in the e. Interior, where a casual spring migrant: one at Eielson A.F.B., May 25 (JK) and at least two at Fairbanks the following day (DDG).

Almost every spring in recent years a Curlew Sandpiper has been seen somewhere in coastal Alaska. In 1986, however, the only record was of a lone bird inland, at Noatak village May 23 (†WRM, RB). A Stilt Sandpiper observed with dowitchers at Pt. Woronzof May 18–20 [DWS et al.; †RLS] was not only Anchorage's first, but provided the first spring record anywhere on the Alaska Pacific coast in over 20 years. Two **Spoonbill Sandpipers** observed at close range at Casco Cove, Attu, May



Spoonbill Sandpiper in breeding plumage at Casco Beach, Attu I., Alaska, May 31, 1986. Photo/Ed Greaves.



Double dazzler: two Spoonbill Sandpipers at Casco Beach, Attu I., Alaska, May 31, 1986. Photo/Ed Greaves.

30–31 (†, ph EG et al.) provided one of the highlights of the season. Only one was seen there June 1, when a presumed 3rd bird was found some miles away at Alexai Point (GFW). At least one bird remained through June 3. There have been only 2 other Alaska records in the last 72 years. A few, late Ruffs were reported, none earlier than May 31—scattered single females at Adak (TRE, CGE, CFZ, MGZ), Gambell (TJD, JLD et al.), and St. Paul (DEW et al.).

Furnishing the seasonally-earliest of Alaska's 6 records, all of summer-plumaged adults, a **Franklin's Gull** was observed at Buskin R. beach, Kodiak I., May 11 (†, ph. DWM, †JBS, †RAM et al.). An ad. Ring-billed Gull was seen at Anchorage Apr 25 (DRH) to May 18 (HHS fide DFD, RLS), for the 2nd local spring record. A Ross' Gull seen 1 mi off Homer Spit May 10 (RC, fide GCW) and amid kittiwakes and Mew Gulls at Homer Spit May 14 (JGK, fide EPB) was distinctly out of place. There is only one other accepted report of this bird on the Alaska Pacific coast (see AB 37:903). Two one-year-old Ross' Gulls at Gambell June 7 (m.ob.) were not out of place, but were of interest—as are all Ross' Gulls, of course. A pair of Caspian Terns amid gulls at Hinchinbrook I., Prince William Sound, May 14 (ph RHA, PGM) provided the only report this season, the species' 6th consecutive year in Alaska. Five Aleutian Terns feeding just off Southeast Cape June 6 (KDS) provided the 2nd record at St. Lawrence I. (see AB 36:885).

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS TO PIPITS — Olive-sided Flycatcher was slightly late across the state. It was first reported at Twelvemile Summit, in the e. Interior, and at Anchorage May 26 (JK and DFD, respectively); at Juneau May 30 (RJG, JMA); at Galena, in the w. Interior, June 2 (TOO); at Homer June 3 (GCW); and at Kasilof June 6 (MAM). Always the latest species to arrive in the Region, Alder Flycatcher arrived on average dates of June 6 at Fairbanks (DDG) and June 9 at Kasilof (MAM). A singing **Least Flycatcher** found near Fairbanks June 4 (KLW; †DDG, PDM, BAC) and tape-recorded June 5 (LJP, KLW) provided the first record in Alaska's Interior. A weak Say's Phoebe observed on the beach at Deering, Seward Peninsula, May 20 (JW) probably reached its limit of range too early in spring 1986 to survive.

Eleven Arctic Warblers at Attu June 7 was the highest count ever in the Aleutians. At least two Red-breasted Flycatchers arrived at Attu June 6–7 (TLS et al.), in their 5th consecutive year in Alaska! Gray-spotted Flycatchers not only put in their annual spring appearance in the w. Aleutians, but provided a new high count June 6, when 14 were seen at Attu.

Siberian Rubythroat arrived on schedule May 30 at Attu, the maximum of 12 birds May 31 has been exceeded only by last year's numbers (AB 39:339). A ♂ rubythroat at St. Paul June 10 (DEW et al.) furnished the 2nd Pribilof record (see AB 31 1037). A record-early pair of Mountain Bluebirds at the Mendenhall wetlands, Juneau, Mar. 24 (DEM) numbered among few early passerine arrivals anywhere in the Region; a lone male was seen in that area Apr. 6, others over the ensuing 10 days (MEI). The earliest bluebird report in the Interior, however, was of a pair Apr. 29 e. of Delta Junction (BM); none was reported as far w. as Fairbanks this year. Eye-browed Thrushes were late and few, one at Attu May 30 the earliest. Few wagtails and pipits were seen in the w. Aleutians this spring, although most species known there were accounted for in small numbers.

WOOD WARBLERS TO FINCHES — One Tennessee Warbler was seen at Juneau May 31–June 1 (RJG, JMA), and a singing male was heard near Fairbanks June 3 (KLW), but not thereafter. A ♀ Yellow-rumped ("Myrtle") Warbler was seen at Gambell June 3 (JLD, WSD), for a 2nd St. Lawrence record (see AB 33:799). This form is one of the few wood warblers ever recorded still farther w., in n.e. Asia. A singing Golden-crowned Sparrow at Gambell June 5 (†PR et al.) also established a 2nd island record (the first was June 3, 1980 [TGT]). Individual wintering White-throated Sparrows were present at least until Apr. 12 at Juneau (RHA) and through Apr. 17 at Homer (EPB)

Rustic Buntings were late (male at Attu May 31 was first) and few.

The two Juneau Bramblings (see Winter) were present at least through Mar. 26 (RBW), and one was seen as late as Apr. 20 (RJG); spring arrivals at Attu were late (May 20), and maximum there was only 14 birds (June 5). A flock of three to four **American Goldfinches** seen at the Mendenhall wetlands, Juneau, May 28–29 (†RJG) provided Alaska's 2nd unsubstantiated record, the first in SE Alaska. Records of casual finches this season included two Oriental Greenfinches at Attu June 7 (MEI); a ♀ Evening Grosbeak that visited a Douglas feeder May 12–13 (fide MEI), adding to few spring records of this irregular winter visitor; and at least two Hawfinches seen well at Attu June 2–7 (m.ob.).

CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS (SUB-REGIONAL EDITORS IN BOLDFACE) [Unattributed Attu Island obser-

vations are by **ATTOUR** (T.G. Tobish, N.S. Proctor, T.L. Savaloja, M.E. Isleib et al.) — J.B. Allen, J.M. Andrew, R.H. Armstrong, E.P. Bailey, R. Bunn, G.V. Byrd, R. Callis, L. Climo, B. Conant, B.A. Cooper, C.P. Dau, H.J. Davidson, W.S. Davidson, F.G. Deines, D.F. DeLap, T.J. Doyle, J.L. Dunn, C.G. Edgerton, T.R. Edgerton, D.J. Fisher, R.J. Gordon, E. Greaves, R. Hajny, D.R. Herter, J.I. Hodges, **M.E. Isleib**, K. Kaufman, L.H. Kaufman, J. Kelly, J.G. King, R.J. King, R.C. Kuntz, R.A. MacIntosh, P.D. Martin, W.R. Maynard, G.T. McClellan, D.E. McKnight, D.W. Menke, P.G. Mickelson, M.A. Miller, B. Morgan, D.D. Mumma, T.O. Osborne, L.J. Peyton, G.B. Rosenband, P. Rostron, R.A. Rowlett, T.L. Savaloja, K.D. Schafer, R.L. Scher, H.H. Scott, D.W. Sonneborn, J.B. Stern, **T.G. Tobish**, G.F. Wagner, J. Walters, G.C. West, K.I. Wilk, R.J. Wilk, R.B. Williams, K.L. Wilson, D.E. Wolf, J. & S. Wulkowicz, C.F. Zeillemaker, M.G. Zeillemaker, S. Zimmerman. Referenced details (†) and photographs (ph.) are on file at the University of Alaska Museum.—**D.D. GIBSON**, University of Alaska Museum, 907 Yukon Drive, Fairbanks, AK 99775.

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Philip W. Mattocks, Jr.

Spring came early in the Northwest. Late February to mid-April was warm and dry. Thereafter the season was cooler and much wetter than usual. The Vancouver (B.C.), Seattle, and Portland weather stations averaged about 5°F warmer than usual during March. May temperatures were normal, but about one-third more rain fell than the long-term averages.

There were numerous earlier-than-ever sightings in the first one-half of the season, and some noticeable grounding of migrants by late April storms. An analytical advantage of a narrow, north-south aligned Region is that a chronological mapping of arrivals will often reveal an ordered progression of spring migration, and equally as interesting, often it will not.

ABBREVIATIONS — S.J.C.R. = South jetty of the Columbia R., Ore.; V.I. = Vancouver Island, B.C.

LOONS TO IBISES — In addition to the usual concentration of Pacific Loons in Active Pass, V.I., totalling 700–1000 present Mar. 28–Apr. 14 (RP, BG), there were 800 off Grays Harbor May 10 (BHT et al.) and 500 around Iona I., near Vancouver, B.C., May 14 (DSO, MP, G. Sunderland). Six Yellow-billed Loons were reported, a normal number, including sightings Apr. 28–30 at the Chetco R. mouth, Ore. (RE et al.) for the first Curry County record, and a late individual May 22 off Waldron I., Wash. (F. Sharpe). The usual few Clark's Grebes were reported, all from Oregon: Mar. 10–mid-April at the Chetco R. mouth (RE, JR), Apr. 26 at the Bay City sewage ponds, Tillamook Co. (DL, PMu, B. Wong), and May 23 on Dexter Res., Lane Co. (SH).

A high count of 200+ Black-footed Albatrosses was made May 17 off Newport, Ore. (SH et al.). The highest-ever count of Black-footeds off Westport, Wash., in 25 trips during May over 19 years, has been 111 individuals (TW). Perhaps related to these high numbers were the unusual sightings from shore of two imm. Black-footeds May 6 at Newport (J. Dant, BvH) and one May 10 off nearby Boiler Bay (DFi, SH, JGi, D. Irons). A much rarer **Laysan Albatross** was observed Mar. 15 off the w coast of V.I., about 40 mi s.w. of Cape Beale (P. Lambert, ph.).

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In 1978 and 1980 there were spring records of one to two Brown Pelicans in the Region. Since 1982 up to 2 dozen pelicans, presumably non-breeders, have arrived along the coast in late May. This year the first was found in Victoria, V.I., on the extremely early dates of Mar. 1–7 (M & VG et al.). The

next was an immature at Yaquina Bay, Ore., May 8 (fide HN). Sightings of groups of three immatures were made at Brookings, Ore., May 15 (RE), at Newport May 16 (S. Gordon), and at the Ocean Shores jetty, Wash., May 24 (JGa). By May 28 there were 18 immatures at the S.J.C.R. (HN). The 2000+ Brandt's Cormorants gathered in Active Pass, V.I., Mar. 17–27 (AMa, E Lofroth, T. Geernaert) represented an increase back to normal numbers.

In contrast to the widespread reports of successful Great Blue Heron rookeries, the Colquitz R. heronry, southern V.I., was abandoned after 2 summers of heavy predation by Bald Eagles (fide DFr, RP). The winter roost of Black-crowned Night-Herons in Stanwood, near the Skagit flats, Wash., has increased steadily since 1981, reaching 31 birds this winter. By Mar. 14 only three remained and the last of these departed Apr. 4 (TMa, fide IU). The last of the three Black-crowned that wintered at Reifel Refuge, near Vancouver, B.C., departed Apr. 17 (JI). An ad. **White-faced Ibis** appeared in the town of Ocean Shores May 10+ (R. & F. Carlson *et al.*, m.ob.) for the 4th record for w. Washington. The bird was found injured later in the month, was captured by the Game Dept., and died in captivity.

SWANS TO QUAIL — An imm. Trumpeter Swan from the small wintering flock near Airlie, Polk Co., Oreg., was found shot Mar. 6 (C. Henny, L. Blus, *Oregon State Univ.). Heavy fog on Apr. 20–21 concentrated over 800 Greater White-fronted Geese into the southern V.I. area (M & VG *et al.*) Elsewhere small flocks were reported over the s. Willamette Valley and along the outer coast of Oregon and Washington during late April (DFi, VT, DP, LF). The large wintering population of Snow Geese at the Skagit flats, Wash., departed for Wrangel I. somewhat earlier than usual. The last few were seen there Apr. 14 (TMa, fide IU). A **Ross' Goose** was closely observed Apr. 12 at Ridgefield N.W.R., Wash. (†FB) for the 5th record for w. Washington. Another Ross' Goose appeared Feb. 5 at Finley N.W.R., Ore. (KB), perhaps one of the birds seen earlier this winter at nearby Ankeny N.W.R. It stayed through Apr. 13 (KB, †KR *et al.*) The Emperor Goose found this winter on Dungeness spit stayed with Brant there to Apr. 5 (D & SSm *et al.*). Nine "Dusky" Canada Geese, with red neck-bands, were seen Mar. 26 within a large migratory flock of Canadas near Blenkinsop L., Saanich, V.I. (L. Roberts).

There were reports of five "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal this season, slightly fewer than usual. Two of these spent March and April in Saanich, V.I. (†VG *et al.*). The others were sighted only once. The first Blue-winged Teal were reported Apr. 16 & 20 at Reifel I., B.C. (JI) and Finley N.W.R., Ore. (AMc). Widespread arrival was not until early May. The first few Cinnamon Teal were noted Mar. 5 at Reifel I. (R. Phillips) and Mar. 15 at Ocean Shores (DB, BMo, BP), with widespread arrival in late March. Three hybrid Eurasian x American Wigeon were noted during April at Beacon Hill Park, Victoria (RSa *et al.*). A ♂ Redhead x scaup hybrid was seen Mar. 15–Apr. 23 in Stanley Park (†BK). The first-year ♂ Tufted Duck was present on Green L., Seattle, Feb. 10–Mar. 30 (B. Meilleur, C. Wood). One of the two ♀ Tufted Ducks stayed at Stanley Park to Apr. 8. Two different males were present there in April (†BK) and one stayed through May 31 (BK *et al.*). The ♀ King Eider also wintering at Stanley Park was last seen Apr. 9 (BK, L. Taylor). A large gathering of 14,000 Surf Scoters was observed Mar. 30 along the n. shore of Barkley Sound, near Ucluelet, on the w. side of V.I. (M. Shepard).

Following sightings of a few scattered single birds, there were first arrivals or migratory groups of Turkey Vultures noted from all reporting areas of the Region Mar. 17–24. A pair of Black-shouldered Kites at Finley N.W.R. was present throughout the season and behaving as if territorial. The similarly-acting pair near Skamokawa, Wash., in February could not be found there Mar. 15 (FB). A migrating Swainson's Hawk was seen well April 25, 1985, near Sequim, Wash. (†Gene Kridler), for one of few spring records for w. Washington. Two pairs of Golden Eagles were nesting along the w. side of San Juan I. during May (ML).

The 29+ Merlins reported was about the normal number, and 27+ Peregrines was higher than the average of the last several years. Following a sighting by DFi, a group led by Dan Fenske found a Peregrine eyrie on a cliff face in the s. Oregon Cascades. The radio-tagged ♀ Gyrfalcon stayed around Dungeness spit, Wash., until March 1 (D & SSm). Other late Gyrfalcon reports were of singles in the Vancouver, B.C., area Mar. 24 (MP) and around Puget Sound Apr. 5 (B. Anderson, fide DP).

An ad. **Mountain Quail** was seen May 19 near the top of Mt. Tuam, at the s. end of Salt Spring I., n. of Sydney, V.I. (S. Johnson, P. Frank). This is the first report from the Gulf Is., and the first for the southern V.I. area since April 1983 (AB 37:904).

SHOREBIRDS — The highest count reported for Black-bellied Plovers was a relatively low 400 at Boundary Bay, Delta, B.C., Apr. 22 (WW). Only four Lesser Golden-Plover were reported, also fewer than usual. Of these, one was a ♂ *fulva* seen Apr. 26–27 at Ocean Shores, Wash. (DP, JE, LF), and the other three, subspecies not reported, occurred May 3–5 at Rath Trevor Beach, Parksville, V.I. (J. & G. Anderson), Delta, B.C. (B & MM), and Ocean Shores (M. Scuderi). The 2000 Semipalmated Plovers tallied May 3 in the Ocean Shores area was the observers' largest-ever count for Washington (DP, JE). The only other concentration noted was of 200 at Tillamook, Ore., Apr. 30–May 14 (HN). Very early Killdeer nests, each with 3 eggs, were located Mar. 15 on Bainbridge I., w. of Seattle (I. Paulsen) and Mar. 20 on Blackie Spit, Surrey, B.C. (J. Williams). The lone sighting of a Black-necked Stilt at the Medford sewage ponds May 17 (PMu, LW) was in striking contrast to the 2 previous invasion years for this species in w. Oregon. Fifteen Am. Avocets were noted, as if in partial place of the stilts. One seen Apr. 30 at Dungeness (†D. & D. Doss) and 10 May 3 in Auburn (TB *et al.*) provided about the 14th & 15th records for w. Washington. Another at Sea I., May 25 (†AS, GA) was about the 14th for the Vancouver, B.C., area.

The 100 Greater Yellowlegs at Reifel I., Delta, B.C., Apr. 16 (JI), 60 at Banks, just w. of Portland, Ore., Apr. 20 (VT), and 45 at Ocean Shores Apr. 26 (DP, JE) represented normal high counts. There were about one dozen reports of Lesser Yellowlegs, all typically of one to three birds. About 19 Solitary Sandpipers were reported, a normal number, with four at Banks, Ore., Apr. 25–28 (T. Shelmerdine, DA) the only group. The first Wandering Tattlers noted were six on schedule Apr. 26 at the Ocean Shores jetty (PM *et al.*) and one Apr. 27 at Boiler Bay, n. of Newport, Ore. (N. Letleby). Whimbrels also arrived on schedule Apr. 22–27 throughout the Region. The 17 Long-billed Curlews at Tokeland, Wash., Apr. 12 (TB, P. Knopp) were presumably wintering birds. Only one could be found there Apr. 20 (CC). There were 3 sightings of one to three Long-billed Curlews in the Vancouver area, where it is a rare transient. The 236 Marbled Godwits grounded at Ocean Shores by a storm Apr. 26 (DP, JE) set a record high count for the Region. About 140 were present the next day (DP, LF, PM *et al.*). Two Ruddy Turnstones Mar. 9–15 at Ocean Shores were unusually early (B. & G. Ramsey, DB, BMo, BP). One was still there Mar. 21 (G & WH) and another was on Ediz Hook, Port Angeles, Wash., Mar. 17 (J. Skriletz). The seasonal high count was of 50 Ruddies along the beach at Ocean Shores May 3 (DP, JE). A Black Turnstone at Ankeny N.W.R., Ore., May 13 (BB, JA, ph.) provided the first inland spring sighting for w. Oregon. A very large gathering of 850+ Surfbirds was noted on a small island near Port Alberni, V.I. (DFr *et al.*). This location is at the head of Alberni Inlet in the mountainous center of the island.

The 3000 Red Knots on threatened Bowerman Basin, Hoquiam, Wash., May 3 (GG) furnished the high count for the season. Counts of 500–550 Red Knots were obtained Apr. 26 also at Bowerman Basin (CC), May 3 at nearby Grass Creek (DP, JE), and May 10 at Bottle Beach, on the opposite shore of Grays Harbor (BHT). Flocks of 200–250 were found Apr. 20 (CC) and May 10 (R. Droker) on the n. shore of Willapa Bay, Wash. Thirty were seen at Newport, Ore., May 10 (SH *et al.*),

17 at Dungeness, Wash., May 10 (M. Moon), and elsewhere in the Region only five individuals were reported. Clearly the mud flats of Grays Harbor are of primary importance in the final staging of the N migration of the Red Knot (see also AB 37:905).

Reports of flocks of W. Sandpipers were much more widespread than for the Red Knot, but the numerical dependence upon Grays Harbor was almost as extreme. Peak numbers of Westerns this season at Bowerman Basin were 300,000 present Apr. 24–25 (M. Finger, *vide* CC). Elsewhere the high count reported was 16,000 on Roberts Bank, Delta, B.C., May 4 (CH). About 1000 Least Sandpipers at Tillamook, Ore., Apr. 30 (HN) furnished the high count for this species. A Baird's Sandpiper noted Mar. 28 in Delta, B.C., was extremely early (†AS). Three Baird's, also early, were found nearby at Iona I., B.C., Apr. 9 & 14 (MF, MB, WW). The only other Baird's reported was at Ankeny N.W.R., Ore., Apr. 22 (†BB). The 17 Pectoral Sandpipers reported were about half last year's total, but still twice the average of the preceding 5 years. The 48+ Wilson's Phalaropes found May 13 at Ankeny N.W.R. (BB, JA) made an exceptionally high count. Twenty were still there the next day, but only four remained May 28 (BB). About 24 Wilson's were reported elsewhere, all but two during May.

JAEGERS TO PUFFINS — A Parasitic Jaeger off the Ocean Shores jetty Apr. 11 was the earliest ever for Washington (G & WH). Ten Parasitics were seen off that jetty May 17 (G & WH). A Pomarine and a Long-tailed Jaeger, the rarest jaeger here in spring, were found on the pelagic trip out of Newport, Ore., May 17 (SH *et al.*).

An ad. Little Gull molting into breeding plumage was observed Apr. 18 & 22 with Bonaparte's Gulls at West Pt., Seattle (DB, M. Carmody). It or another Little Gull was seen May 3 off Crescent Beach, Surrey, B.C. (†BK). These were the 8th and 9th Regional spring records. Bonaparte's Gulls arrived on schedule in late March–early April. An imm. Heermann's Gull observed Mar. 8 on the dock at Rocky Pt., Sooke, V.I. (BW, AMa *et al.*) provided the first March record for the Victoria area. Whether this bird was a very early arrival of the contingent that summers in the Region, or a previously-undetected wintering bird, cannot be determined. Another imm. Heermann's was at the S.J.C.R., May 28 (HN). The last Herring Gulls noted were two May 3 on the beach at Ocean Shores (DP, JE) and one May 10 at Harbor, s.w. Oregon (RE). The last Thayer's Gull reports were Apr. 19–27. The only Iceland Gull report was of a first-year bird seen Mar. 16 at Iona I., B.C. (†BK). Eight Glaucous Gulls were reported, back down to the 1978–1983 spring season average. The 50+ Sabine's Gulls found May 17 out of Newport made a very high spring count for the Region (SH *et al.*).

The earliest Caspian Tern reported this season was, surprisingly, on Puget Sound at Totten Inlet, near Olympia, Wash., Mar. 29 (J. Buchanon, *vide* BHT). The next day one was noted at Copalis Beach, Wash. (C. Sheridan). Thereafter the species was widespread as usual, reaching Victoria, V.I., May 1 (RSa) and Roberts Bank, Delta, B.C., May 2 (MF, L. Vandamme). Common Terns passed through as usual during May, with 500 at Ocean Shores, Wash., May 3 (DP, JE, GG) & 23 (G & WH), and 100 at Gilbert Beach, Richmond, B.C., May 4 (DSo, MP, L. Lawrenson) the high counts.

The 44 pairs of Marbled Murrelets noted Apr. 15 from a boat along Alberni Inlet between Bamfield and Port Alberni, V.I., made a high concentration (DFr *et al.*). The usual spring gathering at West Pt., Seattle, peaked this year with a count of 21 birds present May 24 (DB). The Kittlitz's Murrelet found last fall at the Ogden Pt. breakwater in Victoria was last seen Apr. 12 (RSa). On Apr. 1 the wings were noticed to have become brownish (M & VG). Counts of about 50 Cassin's Auklets on trips out of Westport, Wash., May 10 (BHT *et al.*) and Newport, Ore., May 17 (SH *et al.*) were equal to the highest ever for May trips here. On the morning of Apr. 27, following very heavy rain the previous day and night, there were 48 Tufted Puffins

standing by burrows on the rocks off Pt. Grenville (PM *et al.*) This local high count is presumably due to the burrows being temporarily flooded and ocean feeding restricted so more of, or all, the birds were visible. Tufted Puffins appeared not to be nesting at Cape Meares, Ore., this year, but were doing so at the Haystack Rock colony at Cannon Beach (HN).

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — At 20+ mi due west out of Newport, Ore., May 17, a Rock Dove circled the boat and flew on (SH, BB *et al.*). Seven Monk Parakeets at the colony near the Portland airport were building 3 nests Mar 24 (DA). A Com. Barn-Owl nest with at least one nestling visible was found Apr. 26+ in a cavity about 4' below an active Osprey nest near Elma, Wash. (DP *et al.*). The last reports of Snowy Owls were of two Mar. 15 at Ocean Shores (DB, BMo, BP) and one in April on a rooftop in Campbell River, V.I. (D. Turnbull) The survey for Spotted Owls in s.w. British Columbia was continued this year (*vide* DK). The confidential report to the B.C. Wildlife Branch was said to indicate that an active nest was located. Barred Owls were reported from 7 localities, none in Oregon, but as usual, nesting was documented only at Discovery Park, Seattle (DB).

The first Com. Nighthawk was noted May 25 at Richmond, near Vancouver, B.C. (W. Diakow), and widespread arrivals were reported May 28+. Flocks of 1000–1500 Vaux's Swifts were seen Apr. 23 in Salem, Ore. (BvH), in early May over the Palace Theatre, Silverton, Ore. (R. Freeman), and May 12–14 roosting in the chimney of the Majestic Theatre, Corvallis, Ore. (A. Cromack *et al.*). A ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird found May 7 in W. Vancouver (†CH, E. Parsons) provided the 3rd documented record for the Vancouver, B.C., area. A ♂ Costa's Hummingbird photographed May 17 at Pitt Meadows was the first for the Vancouver, B.C., area (W. Robinson). A ♀ Calliope Hummingbird was also found May 16–19 in Queen Elizabeth Park, Vancouver, B.C. (†BK) for one of just a few spring records there. A ♂ Calliope spent Apr. 30–May 6 at a feeder in Eugene (T & AMi, *vide* SH), where the species has become almost regular. Reports of first arrivals of Rufous Hummingbirds were Feb. 27–Mar. 11 in Oregon, Mar. 2–9 in Washington, and Mar. 8–22 in s.w. British Columbia. These dates ranged from slightly early to about average. Allen's Hummingbirds were noted as usual at Cape Blanco and Port Orford, Curry Co., Ore (JR, D. Rogers, SH, DL).

A Red-naped Sapsucker sighted Apr. 10–14 in Corvallis (D Hall, ph.) furnished one of few Oregon records w. of the Cascades. There were 5 other reports Apr. 18–May 10, from V.I., n.w. Washington, and s.w. British Columbia, where the species is also a rare transient. Three Black-backed Woodpeckers were present at a burn in the n. Oregon Cascades n.e. of Breitenbush Apr. 18 (BB).

Olive-sided Flycatchers and W. Wood-Pewees often arrive quickly throughout the Region. This year the first Olive-sided reported was in Seattle Apr. 30 (SA). Otherwise first arrivals in Oregon, Washington, and southern V.I. were May 3–10, but were not until May 23 in the Vancouver, B.C., area. First arrival dates of W. Wood-Pewees were May 3–10 in Oregon and May 18–25 on V.I. and on s.w. mainland British Columbia. First arrivals of Hammond's Flycatchers throughout Oregon, Washington, and the Vancouver, B.C., area were concentrated Apr 17–20. In contrast, first reports of W. Flycatchers were Apr 13–27 in Oregon, Apr. 20–27 in Washington, Apr. 26 on southern V.I., and May 3 in s.w. mainland British Columbia. Single birds identified as Dusky Flycatchers, rare in the Region n. of s. Oregon, were found May 4–7 on Skinner's Butte, Eugene (SH), May 18 in Stanley Park, Vancouver, B.C. (†BK), May 21–29 at Lighthouse Park, W. Vancouver, B.C. (MF, †BK *et al.*), and May 29 on the U.W. campus, Seattle (†SA). A Gray Flycatcher was on Skinner's Butte, Eugene, May 4–6 for a first Lane County record and about the 5th record for w. Oregon (†SH *et al.*). A Black Phoebe also on Skinner's Butte May 4 was most unusual, and well n. of its regular range (T & AMi) A March movement of Say's Phoebes into the Region has become

regular This year single birds were in Sechelt, B.C., Mar. 15 (G. Smith), near Monmouth, Polk Co., Ore., Mar. 17 (JA, A. Banks), and in Seattle Mar. 29–30 (DB).

Western Kingbirds staged another impressive movement into the Region this May. Between Apr. 26 and May 3 there were six individuals sighted on the n. Oregon coast (SH *et al.*) and from Apr. 28 to May 15, about 13 along coastal Curry County (RE *et al.*). Four were in the Vancouver, B.C., area May 1–22, 12 were in Washington, primarily along the coast and around Puget Sound, May 3–24, an incredible 30 were counted in Chilliwack, B.C., May 22 (J. Hunter), and two reached southern V.I., May 27 (RSa). Between Salem and Finley N.W.R., closer to the breeding range in the Region, there were reports of about 15 individuals Apr. 27–May 4, and the species was stated to be unusually numerous (BB *et al.*).

SKYLARK TO SHRIKES — The 4th annual spring census of Eur. Skylarks on the Saanich Peninsula, V.I., located 31 singing males at 10 locations out of 22 surveyed (AMa, BW). This compares to 42 & 45 singers at 26 & 18 locations in 1985 & 1984. The observers point out that this spring was much rainier than usual, particularly on weekends, and that this could have affected the census effort. However, the decline may be real, as several major sites used in previous years were entirely vacant this season. An incomplete count of 12+ pairs was obtained May 17 for the satellite colony at American Camp, San Juan I., Wash. (ML), which compares reasonably well with the few recorded censuses of that population (Auk 91:832, 1974).

A pair of Purple Martins at a nest box on Fern Ridge Res., Eugene, Ore., Apr. 6 (DFi, T. Lund) was earlier than usual, as were several seen Apr. 14 at Johnson Marsh, Ft. Lewis, Wash. (J. Beall). Northern Rough-winged Swallows arrived on schedule Mar. 26–30 throughout Oregon, Washington, and southern V.I. The first Cliff Swallows were noted Mar. 29 at Baskett Slough N.W.R., Ore. (BB), on the Samish flats, Wash. (SA), and at Quicks Bottom, southern V.I. (J & RSa). Likewise, Barn Swallows arrived on southern V.I. (B. Hays, K. Morgan) and several Oregon locations (AMc, VT, DFi) Mar. 25–29.

The Blue Jay wintering at Gibsons, B.C., was last seen Mar. 22 (G. Smith). A Canyon Wren observed Mar. 15+ at the Toketee Ranger Station, e. of Roseburg, Ore., and another there Apr. 26 (DFi) added to the list of typically east-side species recently found in that area. A few Wrentits were noted at their outpost in Finley N.W.R., Ore., Mar. 22 (EE *et al.*) and May 17 (AMc). A pair was also still resident on the w. slope of the s. Oregon Cascades at Toketee R.S. (DFi).

An ad. **Black-backed Wagtail** found May 11 on the Ocean Shores Game Range (Jeff Wisman) furnished the 2nd documented single-person sight record for Washington. The first was of an ad. male seen May 17 of last year, along the Columbia R. n. of Chelan (AB 39:329). The back and nape of the 1985 bird were black, whereas the back of the 1986 bird was dark gray vs. a black crown and nape. Thus separate birds were involved. The latest N. Shrike reports were Apr. 17–19 at Discovery Park, Seattle (DB) and Apr. 28 at Kelso, Wash. (BK).

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — Very early arrival dates were set for Solitary Vireos: Mar. 29 just s. of Bellingham, Wash. (SA), Apr. 1 in Eugene, Ore. (SH), Apr. 2 on San Juan I., Wash. (CC, M. Sacca), Apr. 3 in Portland (RSm), Apr. 4 in Corvallis, Ore. (EE), and Apr. 5 in Saanich, V.I. (AMa). Arrival of Warbling Vireos was on schedule Apr. 30–May 5 throughout the Region. A Red-eyed Vireo found May 14 near Corvallis (FD. Middleton) was somewhat early. One seen in W. Vancouver, B.C., May 26 (AP) marked the normal arrival time.

A **Tennessee Warbler** closely observed May 4 on the Nisqually N.W.R. (†E. Spragg, †T. O'Connell) was the 8th for Washington. Another was seen May 13 in Oaks Bottom, Portland (†HN). This species is remarkably scarce here considering the proximity of its breeding range in central British Columbia.

However, over the years the vast majority of descriptions and photographs of birds believed to be Tennessee Warblers have proven to be of Warbling Vireos. Arrival of Orange-crowned Warblers was noted Mar. 18–29 at Oregon locations, and Mar. 26–30 elsewhere. In contrast to most species so far mentioned, the first arrival dates of the Black-throated Gray Warbler indicate a much more gradual pace to the forward edge of the migration. First reports were at Bandon, Ore., Mar. 28 (VT), Eugene Mar. 30 (T & AMi), Portland and Corvallis Apr. 3–4 (RS, EE), Vashon I., Wash., Apr. 9 (C. Elder), Vancouver, B.C., Apr. 21 (GA), and Saanich, V.I., Apr. 26 (K. Taylor, C. Harper). Hermit Warblers arrived in Oregon Apr. 23–30.

A **Blackpoll Warbler** seen May 26–27 in Saanich (B. Gates, H. Van Der Pol, T. Zurowski, ph., m.ob.) was the 4th for V.I. and the first in May. A Black-and-white Warbler found May 25 near Philomath, Ore. (†T. Finnell) furnished only the 3rd spring record for the Willamette Valley. The 2nd was of a singing male found May 23–24, 1985, at Scoggins Valley Park (JE, JGa). A Palm Warbler, presumably a wintering bird, was noted in Florence, Ore., Mar. 1 (JGi, M. Koninendyke). An imm. ♂ Am. Redstart, still a rare vagrant in most of the Region, was sighted in Wilshire Park, Portland, May 28 (JE).

The first MacGillivray's Warblers were reported from several Oregon localities Apr. 14–19 (TMi, DFi, R. Gerig), but arrival was not observed n. of the Columbia R. until May 3–10. Arrival of Com. Yellowthroats was early throughout the Region. First reports were Mar. 22 at Ankeny N.W.R. (BB) and Mar. 28 in Saanich, V.I. (A. Porcher). Five males were seen Mar. 30 near Seattle (DB), three Mar. 31 on San Juan I., Wash. (R. Wright), and 20 at Pitt Meadows, B.C., Apr. 6 (WW). Following a single Wilson's Warbler Mar. 29 at Arizona Beach near Port Orford (PM, LW), first reports in Oregon were spread Apr. 13–23. Thereafter arrival n. to s.w. British Columbia was Apr. 30–May 5.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES — Arrival of W. Tanagers throughout the reporting areas of the Region was Apr. 28–May 4. That of Black-headed Grosbeaks was May 1–4 in Oregon, May 10–12 in V.I. and Vancouver, B.C. A ♂ Lazuli Bunting at Toketee R.S., e. of Roseburg, Ore., Apr. 13+ was earlier than usual (DFi). Arrival elsewhere in Oregon was Apr. 30–May 9. A Chipping Sparrow had returned by the early date of Mar. 29 to Ft. Lewis, near Tacoma, Wash. (G. Walter), and a Vesper Sparrow seen Apr. 2 at the Montlake fill in Seattle (BS) was very early also. The first record for V.I. of a **Brewer's Sparrow** was obtained May 25 in Saanich (†MM, m.ob.). A **Lark Sparrow** found May 27–30 in Ambleside Park, W. Vancouver (†A & HP, T. Plath, MB) provided only the 3rd record for the Vancouver, B.C., area.

Only six migrant White-throated Sparrows were noted. Five were in Oregon, one in British Columbia, and all Apr. 18–May 4. The White-throated that wintered in Beaverton, Ore., was last seen May 11 (K. Kearney). The 16 reports of Harris' Sparrows were more than usual, with one at a feeder in Richmond Beach, Wash., from late November to May 7 (DB).

Groups of five to seven Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported from the Forest Grove, Ore., sewage ponds (VT, DL), Ridgefield N.W.R., Wash. (S. Ericson), and the Kent, Wash., sewage ponds (M. Hatheway, T. Mallory), but no evidence of nest-building was obtained. The small colony of Tricolored Blackbirds at St. John's landfill in Portland was active again this spring (JGi *et al.*). First reports of N. Orioles were from Oregon Apr. 30–May 6, and from southern V.I., May 10. A ♂ "Baltimore" N. Oriole was well described from Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene, May 27–June 6 (†SH) for one of few Regional records of this form.

Red Crossbills were abundant on southern V.I. and throughout w. Washington, with several broods being fed during May. Several large flocks of White-winged Crossbills were still present. There were 35 along the Gray Wolf R., Olympic Mts., Wash., Mar. 2 (CC), 100 just e. of the Cascade crest at Lake Easton S.P., Wash., Mar. 15 (BS), and 20+ at Silvertip camp-

ground, Skagit Valley, B.C., May 4 [MM]. Scattered sightings of one to three White-winged were noted Apr. 2-3 on San Juan I., Apr. 9 at Cape Flattery, Wash., May 30 in Lakewood, near Tacoma, and throughout the season in the Cascade Mts. near Packwood, Wash. (all CC), and Apr. 5 in the Coast Range e. of Kernville, n. of Newport, Ore. [JGi, J. Johnson] and May 24 at Lost L., near Mt. Hood, Ore. [DA]. Pine Siskins were extremely abundant in the Cascades of s. Washington and n. Oregon (CC, HN). An estimated 3000+ siskins were present at Callaghan Creek, n.e. of Squamish, B.C., Apr. 26 [D. Jensen, DK], and small flocks were widely reported on southern V.I. [fide DFr].

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MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

**Kurt F. Campbell, Alan D. Barron,
and Stephen F. Bailey**

Offshore waters were rather warm during early spring, as the annual upwelling of cold, nutrient-rich water began late. Therefore, the Farallon Islands seabirds laid their eggs late.

The season's unremarkable weather allowed an evenly paced, moderately early and rather unremarkable landbird migration, although for a number of species a few individuals were exceptionally early (especially in Monterey County). First arrival records still form the vast bulk of comment received on migration. The vagrant landbird season was at least average in quantity, overall, but marked by a lack of extreme rarities. Only two C.B.R.C.-reviewed landbirds were discovered this season (Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and Worm-eating Warbler).

ABBREVIATIONS — C.B.R.C. = California Bird Records Committee; C.V. = Central Valley; O.S.P. = Open Space Preserve; S.F. = San Francisco; W.M.A. = Wildlife Management Area; ph. = photo on file with the Regional Editors. *Italicized names* refer to counties.

All of the many records from Palomar, Marin, and S.E. Farallon I. (hereafter F.I.), should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory (hereafter P.R.B.O.). References to the Gull refer to Golden Gate Audubon Society's publication, whose observations column is currently written by Helen Green.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS — At least 14 Red-throated Loons appeared inland Mar. 5-25, distributed as follows: five in San Joaquin, one in Yolo, three in Contra Costa, one in Alameda, two in Santa Clara, and two in Marin. At Pigeon Pt., San Mateo, the peak loon migration day reported was Apr. 18, when 75 minutes of seawatching recorded 620 Red-throateds, 2700 Pacifics, and 825 Commons (all DSu). A Yellow-billed Loon at Eureka, Humboldt, Apr. 25-May 18 (CR, †RAE, ph.SS, †TCh, m.ob.) was very cooperative, but another at Waddell Cr. mouth, Santa Cruz, May 7 was seen only once (†DSu). Late grebes included single Horneds at Crescent City May 26 (RAE) and Pt. Reyes (JM), and two Red-neckeds to May 26 at Crescent City (RAE) and one at Bodega Harbor to June 13 (KFC, m.ob.). After very low winter numbers of Eared Grebes at F.I., the spring peak there was of only 60 Apr. 16. At Moss Landing, 55 Clark's Grebes represented 35% of Aechmophorus present Mar. 1 (DSu).

Another Laysan Albatross rode a freighter into Port of Oak-



land, Alameda, Mar. 13. It rested at the Rotary Natural Science Center in Oakland until it disappeared mysteriously Mar. 15 [DK, fide Gull]. Four Laysan Albatrosses were reported offshore Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Mateo Mar. 1-Apr. 25 (DLS & fide DLS), and one was offshore Humboldt Apr. 20 (GSL). Starling was the sighting of an unidentified albatross (silhouette only) flying over the trees of Atherton, San Mateo, May 1, 4 mi from S.F. Bay and 15 mi from the ocean (PJM). As the observer suggested, a ship-assisted Laysan was most likely. Northern Fulmars remained through the period, with up to 50 off Monterey and Marin in April, and 200 off Humboldt Apr. 20 (SWH).

Researchers cruising offshore reported 4 species of gadfly petrels (*Pterodroma*), but we have seen no details. Indirect reports indicate the following sightings [all fide Gull, fide REW]: One **Mottled Petrel** and one **Murphy's Petrel** 40 mi s.w. of Trinidad Head, Humboldt, Apr. 10 [TWa, LS], three **Murphy's Petrels** and 20 **Solander's Petrels** 15-20 mi s.w. of Cordell

Bank, Marin, Apr. 21 (DGA), and two Cook's Petrels plus two "Cookilaria" petrels 32 mi w. of Cape Mendocino, Humboldt, Apr. 10 (TWa, LS). These are the first reports of Murphy's Petrels for California, and no records are yet accepted for Solander's Petrel.

The Flesh-footed Shearwater following a boat for 2 hours Apr. 13 in Santa Cruz (and Monterey?) was believed to provide the first April record for Monterey Bay (DLS, MJL). Boat counts of Sooty Shearwaters fell far short of shore counts, the highest of which was of 75,000 at Santa Cruz May 20 (DSu). Fifteen Black-vented Shearwaters were found off Monterey Mar. 24 (DLS), but one Apr. 4 and two Apr. 11 flying N past Pigeon Pt., San Mateo (DSu), were the only others reported. A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel offshore Monterey May 11 (DLS) was the lone storm-petrel away from its breeding range.

The return of Brown Pelicans was unprecedentedly early and produced unseasonal maxima from Monterey Bay to S.F. Bay: 30+ offshore Monterey Mar. 24 and 80 there Apr. 13 (both DLS), four at Trinidad, Humboldt, May 2 (FJB), 200 on Alameda Naval Air Station, Alameda, May 18 (SFB), 550+ at Santa Cruz May 20 (DSu), 900+ at Moss Landing May 30 (DGe), and 18 at Alviso, Santa Clara, May 31 (PN). Flocks totalling 1000 Double-crested Cormorants were migrating up the San Andreas Fault-line and Tomales Bay, Marin, Apr. 8-9 (RS). An ad. Pelagic Cormorant May 3 at San Mateo Bridge was late for so far down S F Bay (PN, JMS, MDa).

During the warm water period in early March, multiple sightings of a **Magnificent Frigatebird** provoked assumptions of two or three birds, including at least one ad. female. Reexamining the descriptions and circumstances of the sightings leaves no evidence of more than one bird, an imm. female. The reports formed a linear sequence of locations consistent with one bird's movements: in s. S.F. Bay Mar. 6 (*fide* JMS), Alameda South Shore, Alameda, Mar. 7 (DBC), Pigeon Pt., San Mateo (EI), Ano Nuevo Reserve, San Mateo (CD, *fide* DLS), and Santa Cruz Wharf (WB), the latter 3 sightings 2-3 hours apart on Mar. 8, and again at Santa Cruz Wharf Mar. 9, when the frigatebird became tangled in fishing line and drowned (BLaB, RM, *Calif. Academy of Sciences).

EGRETS THROUGH HAWKS — Little Blue Heron reports, all of single adults, included birds at Los Banos W.M.A., Merced, May 23 (BaB) and at S.F. Bay N.W.R. near the Alviso heronry May 8 (LL, SF, KE, *fide* Gull) to establish a record of 7 of the last 9 springs for Santa Clara. A Green-backed Heron near Mammoth Lakes, Mono, May 26 (TCh) was noteworthy as this bird is listed as very rare at the Mono Basin. White-faced Ibis numbers were reported lower than last year's good showing with only three at Tule Lake N.W.R., May 7 (RE), and one at Arcata Bottoms, Humboldt May 25 (CJR) the only n. coast report.

The four ad. Trumpeter Swans wintering near Ft. Dick, Del Norte, were last seen Mar. 14 (RAE, ADB). A ♂ Eur. Green-winged Teal at L. Earl Apr. 28-29 (ADB, RAE) provided Del Norte's 2nd record. A ♂ Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal was near Palo Alto Mar. 30 (DSu). A ♀ Tufted Duck at Metson L., San Francisco, Mar. 1-4 (JM, †SFB, m.ob.) was thought identical to a Jan. 25 S.F. Zoo bird. Other Tufteds were a male at Arcata Marsh Apr. 13-May 3 (MH, FBr, †ADB, †RAE, m.ob.) and a male near Grenada, Siskiyou, Mar. 11-Apr. 12 (†RE, MR, †ADB, m.ob.) that frequented the same ponds as last year. A ♂ Tufted Duck x scaup sp. at Stockton sewage ponds Mar. 21 (†DGY) looked identical to one at Clements 40 mi away on Jan. 16-28, 1984 (AB 38:353), as DGY saw both birds. An imm. ♂ King Eider was at the Salinas R. mouth Apr. 27 through the end of the period (RFT, CT, TC, DR, m.ob.), and a female was at Pt. St. George Mar. 29-31 (DeR, †ADB, †SHe) for a first Del Norte record. Twenty-two Harlequin Ducks and 100+ Black Scoters were also at Pt. St. George Mar. 3 (ADB, JK).

Two N. Goshawks reported from coastal counties, where they are very rare, were one at El Toyonal Stables area, Contra Costa, Mar. 18 (†HG), and a report from Soledad Apr. 3 (DML)

which might furnish the first Monterey record (Roberson 1985, Monterey Birds). A Red-shouldered Hawk nest observed May 9 into June fledged three young in Castro Valley (AW, RAE) for a first Alameda nesting.

TURKEY THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Five eggs in a Wild Turkey nest observed Apr. 19 into May (ALE) near Mines Rd., Alameda failed but constituted the first breeding evidence for the county.

A Yellow Rail description from Pescadero Marsh, San Mateo, Apr. 14 was, like many of this rare bird, all too brief. This secretive bird always needs very careful and fully-detailed documentation. A new location for Clapper Rail was near Hwys. 80 and 36, Solano, Apr. 26-May 24 (RL, DK, BMa), while a bird at McInnis County P., Marin, Mar. 29 (DE, JBs) was at a little-known locale. A pair of Virginia Rails with five downy young was at Bodega Harbor Apr. 9 (DyH, m.ob.), confirming breeding on the immediate coast. A Sandhill Crane at Arcata Marsh Apr. 19 (JA) furnished a rare n. coast sighting.

Also rare on the n. coast, two Black-necked Stilts appeared at Arcata Marsh Apr. 23-24 (JA, GSL) and one there May 24 (MH). A stilt returned to the Vigo Street Marsh, Eureka, May 23-28 (GSL, RAE), a nesting site last year, and two were at the Crescent City Harbor May 18 (JK, RAE, ADB, SS), for a 3rd consecutive spring county occurrence. A flock of 20 peeps yielded a Semipalmated Sandpiper at the Stockton sewage ponds May 17 & 22 (†DGY) which was eclipsed by a **White-rumped Sandpiper** there May 17 (†DGY, SW, KH, KHo) for a 5th Regional and first C.V. record. A Rock Sandpiper flying N at Pigeon Pt., May 4 (PJM) beat the previous late county date by a day. Two identical, mostly-albino dowitchers (sp.?) were at Charleston Slough May 22-26 (JY, AL, LyT, PN, PMB) and probably were from the same nest. Two young Com. Snipes were found at Turlock Apr. 10 (HMR) for a first known Stanislaus nesting.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — Eleven Parasitic Jaegers were reported Apr. 4-May 15 along shore from S.F. to Santa Cruz (DSu), a large number for spring. An ad. Franklin's Gull at the Arcata oxidation ponds, Humboldt, Apr. 16-19 (ADB, GSL *et al.*) may have been the same as the one flying N past Mad R. Estuary, Humboldt, Apr. 19 (RLeV). At Stockton sewage ponds, San Joaquin, one ad. Franklin's Gull was found May 1 and two were there May 16 (all †DGY). An ad. Little Gull foraged a flooded field e. of Lodi, San Joaquin, Mar. 13. This may have been the 3rd ad. Little Gull found Mar. 18 with the two that wintered at Stockton sewage ponds. On Apr. 14-16, four ad. Little Gulls were seen simultaneously there. Two remaining Apr. 28 were gone by May 1 (all Little Gulls †DGY). Major flights of Bonaparte's Gulls were 6000 passing Pigeon Pt. in 100 minutes Apr. 4 (DSu) and 180/hour passing F.I. all day Apr. 30. Over 250 tarried at Salinas R. mouth, Monterey, May 30 (DSu). Eight Heermann's Gulls on a Cordell Bank trip, Marin & Sonoma, Apr. 19 (KFC) and 20 on Ano Nuevo I., San Mateo (PJM), were high spring numbers, and the big return was slightly early, with 156 between Santa Cruz and Capitola May 30 (DSu). These trends paralleled those for Brown Pelican but were less dramatic. Late gulls included an ad. Herring at Pt. Reyes May 16 (DAH, DDK) and a worn first-year Thayer's at Salinas R. mouth May 10 (DR). Up to 13 Glaucous Gulls were reported, only one later than Apr. 24. Up to five on the n. coast included one or two 2nd-year birds. Five on the central coast included one May 21 at Bolinas, Marin (†DDeS, PP *et al.*). Singles visited F.I., Adobe Cr., Santa Clara (PMB), and Davis sewage ponds (KS). Only six Black-legged Kittiwakes were reported, Mar. 2-Apr. 25 in Monterey and San Mateo. An unprecedented major migration of Sabine's Gulls a month early was witnessed at Pigeon Pt., as 350+ passed April 4 (†DSu). Singles offshore Humboldt Apr. 20 (GSL) and at Crescent City Apr. 23 (RAE, ADB, JK) were also early.

The **Royal Tern** at Salinas R. mouth May 9 (†DSu) may have been the same one seen just offshore Santa Cruz May 11 (†PJM, DLS *et al.*). Small numbers of Elegant Terns returned early to

Monterey Bay and vicinity, with the first being three at Pescadero Cr. mouth, San Mateo, May 3 (PJM). Six Least Terns at Alameda Naval Air Station, Alameda, Apr. 30 were the first arrivals (LDC). Adults at Crescent City May 13 (ADB, JK) and Stockton sewage ponds May 29 (†DGY) established the 2nd and 3rd consecutive years, respectively, for sighting of single adults at those locations. Peak numbers of Black Terns were 77 at Modesto sewage ponds, Stanislaus, May 8 (HMR) and 85 at Stockton sewage ponds May 9 (DGY). Three visited coastal Monterey May 9–10.

An albino Com. Murre off Monterey Mar. 2 was startling (DLS). A breeding-plumaged Marbled Murrelet flying SW past Pt. Pinos Mar. 23 (DAH, DDK) was leaving its species' normal range. A pair of Xantus' Murrelets 9 mi off Pt. Pinos Mar. 29 (SFB, DLS, PJM) was seasonally rare. One wonders whether the pair of ad. Rhinoceros Auklets at Pt. Reyes Headland May 16 (DAH, DDK) was prospecting nest sites. A Tufted Puffin flying past Bodega Head, Sonoma, May 31 (DAH *et al.*) was the only one reported away from known or suspected nesting grounds.

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS— Small, definitely breeding populations of Spotted Doves have been present in Bakersfield (just outside the Region) and Fresno for some years, and at Dinuba, Tulare since at least 1980 (RHG). One was discovered in Porterville, Tulare this Apr. 5 (JR; two to three there Apr. 6, RAB). It seems quite likely the population is expanding its range. A Greater Roadrunner on Morgan Territory Rd., May 22 (BR) furnished the "first (Contra Costa) record in many years." The expansion of the Barred Owl range into California (or our awareness of it) seems to have stalled a little. Although at least five were noted on the n. coast from March 1982 (when discovered) to June 1983, only one "new" individual has been noted in the subsequent 3 years; and this spring period the only one found, despite efforts elsewhere, was calling at the first-discovered spot (Howland Hill, Del Norte, Mar. 19–Apr. 19, ADB, JK). Only eight Short-eared Owls were reported in the period (most were migrants). Observers are strongly encouraged to make regular efforts to census our owl populations, as many appear to be in serious trouble (Burrowing, Spotted, Great Gray, Short-eared and ??) and all are very poorly known.

Four Lesser Nighthawks wandered coastwardly: Bay Farm I, Alameda, Apr. 14 (†RDH), Half Moon Bay Airport Apr. 24 (PJM, BS, *fide* HG), Gilroy Hot Springs Rd., Santa Clara, Apr. 26 (J. Cole *fide* DSu), and F.I., May 19. Two were called "probable" Lessers—a commendable but probably unnecessary conservatism, as Com. Nighthawks do not normally arrive until June (earliest record for the state: May 22, in s. California). Coastward Lesser Nighthawk records peak in June, with about 75% from F.I. A Com. Poorwill active along Corral Hollow Rd., San Joaquin, Mar. 5 (DGY) perhaps wintered in the area. A Black Swift over Las Trampas Peak, Contra Costa, Apr. 26 (BR) was exceptionally early, while 50+ at Burney Falls P., Shasta, May 8 (BVdM, BY) were exceptionally many.

Six Costa's Hummingbirds were discovered away from the expected range, Mar. 12–May 31. Four were coastward, Santa Cruz to Del Norte, while two were northward in the interior: Yreka May 9–31 (RE, MR) and Capay Valley May 19 (JMHu). Calliope Hummingbirds were very well reported. Most notably, the Corral Hollow area of w. San Joaquin is proving to be a dependable concentration point in spring migration; passage was noted there Mar. 22+, peaking at 20–25 on Apr. 28 and May 4 (DGY). A male n. of Crescent City May 11 (ADB *et al.*) was Del Norte's 2nd, with other singles well out-of-place in Pacific Grove Apr. 28 (RFT), on outer Pt. Reyes May 9 (RS), and inland on the C.V. floor at Lodi L., May 2 (DGY). A ♀ Allen's Hummingbird at Benicia State Recreation Area, Solano, May 3 (†MBG, RL) saved energy by using the same nest an Anna's Hummingbird had used earlier in the season. Hal Harrison (Field Guide to W. Birds' Nests, 1979) states, "Nest of Allen's resembles nest of Anna's more than that of Rufous."

WOODPECKERS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS— Lewis' Woodpeckers were reported in the usual tiny numbers, but 3 locales were unusual: four at Antelope Fire Station, San Benito, Mar. 17 (BLaB, DSr, *fide* HG), one near Mt. Bullion, Mariposa, Apr. 20 (BED), and another on outer Pt. Reyes May 8–9 (W Patterson, *fide* HG; RS). The **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** noted this winter near Nicasio (see last report) stayed to Mar. 15 (DAH, DDK), while a Red-naped Sapsucker that wintered in Golden Gate P., S.F., remained to at least Mar. 16 (DWi, ASH, *fide* HG). The only other records of the latter species were of singles Mar. 9–13 on Mines Rd., Alameda (ALE, BR, JR), and Mar. 22 in Henry Coe S.P. (†JY, AL). Olive-sided Flycatcher migration spanned Apr. 9 (very early; lower Gazos Cr. Road, San Mateo, DSu) through May 23. The first W. Wood-Pewee was also very early, Apr. 12 at Henry Coe S.P. (JY, AL). A mere eight Willow Flycatchers were reported this period (May 23 & 25). Observers are urged to report *each and all* Willow Flycatcher sightings in the Region. They may soon be vagrants only. The earliest-ever Hammond's Flycatcher for n. California was on F.I., Mar. 30 ("banded; I.D. unquestionable"—PP), but our knowledge of the timing and geography of all our Empidonax populations is still rather meager. Ten years ago few were identified in migration. Among Dusky Flycatchers (Apr. 20–May 3 in lowlands) the big news was of four "singing and apparently on territory" on Mt. Saint Helena, Sonoma (BDP). Gray Flycatchers had another great spring (Apr. 10–May 22), with 23 reported w. of the Sierran crest (they are common eastward). Amazingly, this species appears now to be the 2nd-most common Empidonax in the lowlands, in spring migration (after W. Flycatcher). Will this continue? Monterey received its first-ever Gray Flycatcher Apr. 19 (Old Stage Rd., e. of Salinas, KVV, BHG, ph.†DR), then their 2nd & 3rd May 9 (Pacific Grove, †DSu) and 4th May 15 (Big Sur R. mouth, †DGe)!

Except for a very early (or wintering) W. Flycatcher in Carmel Valley Mar. 2 (CHo), that species apparently had an unremarkable migration in the Region (Mar. 21+, after above record). Noteworthy, however, was a W. Flycatcher thought to be of the race *E.d. hellmayri* heard and seen at Ft. Dick, Del Norte May 3 (ADB). Rumors are strong that the A.O.U. Checklist Committee has already made an unofficial decision to split this Great Basin form from nominate Westerns. No rest for the "Empid"-weary! A Black Phoebe at Fall River Mills Apr. 5 (SB) was thought a "first ever" at that Great Basin locale. An E. Phoebe along the San Joaquin R. in Fresno Mar. 1 (†JLo, ZL) was notable inland, but most of the 8+ interior records are from the San Joaquin Valley area. A Say's Phoebe near Ft. Dick May 3 (ADB) was very late for the coastal district. Reports of six to nine Cassin's Kingbirds were impressive (Mar. 1–Apr. 22); all were in inner Coast Range foothills, Stanislaus to Monterey. Western Kingbirds also had a very strong migration (Mar. 16+), especially coastally, with 60± in coastal Del Norte the "best passage on record" (RAE, m.ob.). The two E. Kingbirds were at traditional locales: F.I., May 30, and outer Pt. Reyes May 31 (JM). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Smith River May 5–6 (†RAE *et al.*) furnished a 2nd Del Norte record.

SWALLOWS THROUGH VIREOS— Purple Martins were well reported coastwardly. The first, at Big Sur R. mouth Mar. 24 (JB, RFT *et al.*), was very early for the coast. Bank Swallows were late and poorly reported (only 9 reports, Apr. 10+). Two Gray Jays at Domingo Springs, Plumas, May 17 (JTr) were in "an area I've visited frequently in the past 15 years. . . (these are) the first I've seen here." A wily and/or hungry Steller's Jay on the campus of the Univ. of Calif. at Berkeley May 2 (DAH) was "watched hovering in front of a Cliff Swallow nest . . . at least three times. . . (It) could not hover long enough to effectively rob anything." A Black-capped Chickadee along the Salt R. at Ferndale Mar. 2 (LPL, GSL, *fide* RLeV) was "at the s. limit of their known distribution." Pygmy Nuthatches have been reported sparsely and very locally in the Berkeley Hills, Alameda and Contra Costa, since about 1900, with recent speculation that a small population breeds in the introduced

Monterey Pines. This Apr. 17–26, HG discovered a pair excavating and using a nest hole just inside Contra Costa. Coincidentally, six were noted during this same period on top of Mt. Hamilton, Santa Clara (Apr. 23, CB, BRb), a new locale. A Winter Wren at Lodi L., San Joaquin, May 2 (DGY) was exceptionally late. An Am. Dipper at Knight's Ferry, Stanislaus, was last seen Mar. 1 (R. Suggett, *vide* HMR); departure dates for wintering dippers are almost completely undocumented in our files.

After last spring's unprecedented irruption of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, this year's total number of reports (9, Mar. 11+), the fewest in 6 years, seemed all the more surprising. If gnatcatchers are increasing in the Region (and/or to our north) it seems an uneven climb. Single Mountain Bluebirds were identified coastally at Coyote Hills, Alameda, Mar. 9 (SLG, CSw, *vide* HG) and Bald Hills Rd., Humboldt, also Mar. 9 (JCS). Only one lowland Townsend's Solitaire was discovered: Tomales Bay S.P., Mar. 15 (RS). Swainson's Thrush migration seemed to typify the season: moderately early, with the earliest setting a new record for Monterey (Apr. 17, Salinas R. at Salinas, BHG) and strength of passage average-to-good.

Three Sage Thrashers were found away from the Great Basin: Yolo Bypass levee, Yolo, Apr. 17 (JMHu), Carson Ridge, Marin, Apr. 18 (†DAH, DDK), and Crescent City Harbor May 18–19 (ADB, SS, RAE, JKl), the latter furnishing a 3rd record for Del Norte. Water Pipits are rarely noted as migrants at middle Sierran elevations, and one at 3900-ft Big Meadow, Yosemite N.P., Mar. 29 (JLo) was early even for the small existing pattern. A pair of Phainopeplas with a nest in Hospital Canyon, San Joaquin, Apr. 19 labored, and brought forth that county's first nesting record for the species (with the assistance of DGY as observer). After a 2nd good N. Shrike winter we had a 2nd modest spring, with only one or two; the New Idria Rd. immature (San Benito's first record; see last season) remained through Mar. 17 (BLaB, JMD, DSR, *vide* HG), with another (?), also identified as an immature, on nearby Panoche Valley Rd., Mar. 15 (JCS). A singing Solitary Vireo at Lodi L., Mar. 5 was certainly early; on May 7 a pair was foraging together there. By May 20 the pair was attending two juveniles, establishing apparently the first-ever C.V. breeding record (all DGY). A pair of Hutton's Vireos was feeding two fledglings at Caswell S.P., May 10 (DGY), at a traditional nest area for this rare breeder in the C.V. The first Warbling Vireos appeared very early, with four in the first one-half of March: Mar. 8 in Upper Robinson Canyon, Monterey (DR), Mar. 9 at Monte Bello O.S.P., Santa Clara (PN), Mar. 13 in Robinson Canyon (CHO), and Mar. 14 at Corral de Tierra, Monterey (BHG). A Red-eyed Vireo rested at F.I., May 28–30.

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS — A Tennessee Warbler at Kennedy Grove Regional P., Contra Costa, Mar. 1 (JCS) surely had wintered in the area. More expected were singles at Lincoln P., S.F., May 4 (SFB) and F.I., May 28–June 1, two were noted on outer Pt. Reyes May 31 (JM). Wintering Nashville Warblers were last seen Mar. 4 in Golden Gate P. (one, DPM) and Mar. 9 in Smith River (two, ADB, JKl), and an unexpected one was 10–11 mi out over Monterey Bay Mar. 29 (PJM, SFB); coastward passage was otherwise on time (Apr. 10–May 5) but rather light (about seven individuals). The much stronger inland Nashville migration was apparently typical (Mar. 26–May 23; no comment on numbers). Northern Parulas were noted on outer Pt. Reyes May 9 (one, RS) and F.I., May 28–29 (one). A wintering Yellow Warbler at Mape's Ranch, Stanislaus, was last noted Mar. 6 (Eca), the passage otherwise unremarkable (Apr. 9+). All three Magnolia Warblers were found May 31; F.I. birds stayed (one each) to June 2 & 3, while the individual at outer Pt. Reyes (JM) was found one day only. An "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler at Mape's Ranch May 25 (Eca, HMR) was rather late for the C.V. floor. Three Black-throated Gray Warblers at American R. Parkway, Sacramento, on the early date of Mar. 13 (DoM) were impressive, and the species' migration was otherwise quite protracted in the Region (Mar. 26–May 21) as well. A Hermit Warbler near

Las Trampas P., Contra Costa, Mar. 11 (KGH) surely wintered there or nearby; the species was otherwise very lightly reported. A single Black-throated Green Warbler (F.I., May 30) gave us our quota, based on the average for the last 10 years, May–June.

A Blackburnian Warbler on F.I., May 31–June 4, was only the Region's 11th for spring, but four of these have been in the last 5 years. The Prairie Warbler that wintered at Neary's Lagoon (see winter report) remained to Apr. 5 (DGe). Eight coastal Palm Warblers, S.F. to Humboldt (last date?), were decidedly more than average. Only two Black-and-white Warblers made the lowest March to May total since 1975: a male at Lodi L., Apr. 10 and May 26 (DGY), and another male on outer Pt. Reyes May 30 (BiL). An Am. Redstart at Golden Gate P., Mar. 8–Apr. 6 (JM; ASH, *vide* HG) was extending a winter visit, while the two on outer Pt. Reyes May 31 (JM) had typical spring vagrant timing. A Worm-eating Warbler was on F.I., May 30–June 1 (†PP—P.R.B.O.). This was our first record in over 4 years, and the 19th Regional record. Three Ovenbirds toured F.I., one staying May 28–June 1, the others May 31 only. No N. Waterthrushes were recorded. Three Wilson's Warblers were noted markedly early: Sweetwater Creek, El Dorado, Mar. 8 (DoM), Robinson Canyon Mar. 11 (CHO), and Monterey, also Mar. 11 (DR). The latter 2 records were the earliest-ever spring arrivals for Monterey. A "bright red ♂" Summer Tanager was enjoyed in Carmel Valley May 8 (CHO).

EMBERIZINES — Five Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, all coastal May 22–June 2, were more than average. Blue Grosbeaks away from their interior range were noteworthy at Elkhorn Slough Estuary Sanctuary May 10 (male, K. Laslo, L. Jensen) and Jameson Cyn., Napa May 28 (imm. male, MFR). A Lazuli Bunting at Corral de Tierra, Monterey, Apr. 9 (BHG) was that county's earliest-ever, and nearly so for the Region. Another was in Garin Regional P., Alameda, Apr. 10 (BR). The imm. ♂ Indigo Bunting in Inverness this December (see last report) was noted again Mar. 17–Apr. 15 (RS). Five others were noted coastally May 8–31—a good showing. A Dickcissel was at F.I., May 31–June 2. A Green-tailed Towhee in Thousand Oaks P., Modesto, May 3 (†HMR) was said to provide a first Stanislaus record, while two on Loma Prieta Peak, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz, May 10 (KVV) were exceptional as spring coastal district vagrants.

A Rufous-crowned Sparrow e. of Covelo, Mendocino, May 10 (MR) extended their known range 30± mi west on its n.w. corner. Perhaps s. Trinity holds a few as well? The first reported coastward Chipping Sparrows (Apr. 9, 3 locales) were notably late. Brewer's Sparrows appeared on F.I. (three, Apr. 21–May 23), and one at Crescent City Harbor May 20 (ADB) provided Del Norte's 3rd record. After the Black-chinned Sparrow irruption in 1984, the number of reports has dropped each spring, most this year were at usual locales. "Several" on West Pinnacles Rd., Monterey, Apr. 13 (RFT, CT *et al.*) were not present later, and presumably furnished one of few migration records, it was thus less surprising that this appears to be the Region's earliest record. Two Vesper Sparrows at Big Meadow, Yosemite N.P., Mar. 29 (L. Hanes, B. Brock, GSL, LPL) provided one of few park records. A persistently singing Vesper Sparrow at Lanphere Dunes, Humboldt, Apr. 29 and May 7 was joined by a 2nd singer May 14, but no sign of nesting or females was had (K. Purcell, *vide* RLeV). They presumably breed no closer than L. Talawa, Del Norte. A singing Black-throated Sparrow on Canyon Rd., Apr. 25–27 (†DSu, PN) furnished a 3rd record for San Mateo. No others were reported in the Region.

I stated recently (AB 38:956) that there were no acceptable Grasshopper Sparrow records for the Region in March (and only 2 records for Jan.–Feb.). This March, Grasshopper Sparrows were noted in 3 areas. One was on San Juan Grade, Monterey, Mar. 17 (RFT, CT; three there Mar. 22, BHG), three were in Garin/Dry Cr. Pioneer Regional P., Alameda, Mar. 19–20 (BR; JSL, *vide* HG), and two more were seen well at Bishop Ranch Regional Open Space, Contra Costa, Mar. 21+ (†KGH), birds may have wintered at the latter locale as well. In addition,

a sight record for Mar 22, 1948, e. of Milpitas has been noted (Sibley 1952. *Birds of the South S.F. Bay Region*. Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society) and is here accepted. In light of these records I find the Mar. 27, 1984 sighting, by careful observers, also acceptable (see above AB citation). The opinion has been circulated that Grasshopper Sparrows may turn out to regularly winter in numbers (see Morlan's 1985-1986 C.B.C. summary in this year's Christmas Bird Count issue for a conservative version of this), but I am deeply skeptical. Observers should continue utmost caution in any Grasshopper Sparrow or other records outside established patterns.

Fox Sparrows departed the S.F. Bay area quite early (reported last dates: Mar. 28, Apr. 1, and Apr. 15, the latter at Palomar). The last of five Swamp Sparrows this spring (the most ever reported at this season) was on F.I., May 2-3, for the island's 6th spring record. Records of 18 White-throated Sparrows (indicating an average spring) included one straggling to May 23 at Sunnybrae, Humboldt (SWH, *fide* FJB). No Harris' Sparrows were reported—for the first spring since 1974! Only two "Slate-colored" Juncoes reported indicates a loss of information due to lack of observer interest, most likely. Lapland Longspur departure was well-documented, with last winterers and migrants as follows: one at Crescent City Harbor Mar. 21 (JKi), four at Bay Front P., San Mateo, Mar. 22 (DSu), and two at Hayward Shoreline Apr. 30 (BR *et al.*). Four Chestnut-collared Longspurs at Honey L., Mar. 29 (SFi, PhR) were exceptionally late—as far as we now know.

ICTERINES THROUGH FINCHES — A ♂ Bobolink along Pierce Point Rd., Pt. Reyes, was enjoyed May 27 (KW). Surprisingly, a small colony of Tricolored Blackbirds near Durham Ferry provided the first substantiated breeding for San Joaquin (DGY). Twenty-one Yellow-headed Blackbirds made the best coastal spring showing ever. One was in Pacific Grove Mar. 20 (THr) and the rest, Monterey to Del Norte, were Apr. 19–May 20. Amazingly, the pair of Great-tailed Grackles continued to be seen at Aquatic P. in S.F. (last mentioned in winter 1984–1985), through at least Apr. 26 (DPM, ASH). The female was found 6½ years earlier, the male nearly 8. Hooded Oriole records were received from an impressive 11 counties, Mar. 20+. The first "Bullock's" N. Orioles arrived on time as well, Mar. 20+. A Cassin's Finch sang on the San Joaquin Experimental Range, Madera, Mar. 25 (JLo) at 1200 ft, far below usual haunts. Red Crossbills were in usual numbers and locales, with 4 coastal reports totalling 13 birds; they were also "present" coastally around Yurok Experimental Forest, Del Norte, (RAE), and "fairly common" inland at Eagle L., Mar. 23 (BDP). Lawrence's Goldfinches were well-reported, with the only concentration being of 100 in Panoche Valley, San Benito, Mar. 1 (JMD, *fide* HG) and Mar. 9 (DWi, *fide* HG). No nesting was reported. A usual few Evening Grosbeaks were on the n. coast, the only other report being of a flock of 200± in Janesville Mar. 22 (BDP).

ADDENDUM — A significant late report is of a Pine Grosbeak nest discovered at Hart Lakes, Yosemite N.P., at 8640 ft, May 29, 1979 (C.W. Benkman). This is one of few discovered Sierran nests.

CORRIGENDUM — The Swamp Sparrow reported from Lava Lakes Nature Center last spring (AB 39:348) was studied Apr 26–27, not May 26–27; this is still quite late, but less amazing.

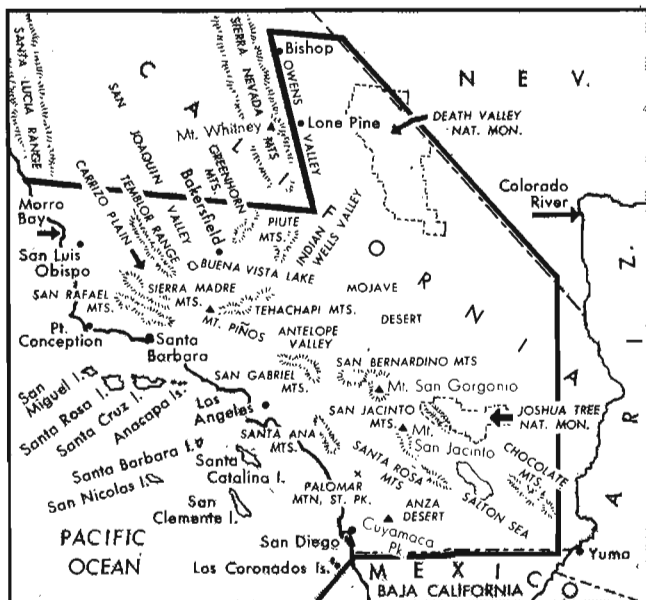
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SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Guy McCaskie

Most observers considered this spring to be one of the duller in years, with a noticeable lack of migrant landbirds, and the few vagrants that did occur remained only for short periods of time, being seen by remarkably few observers.

As previously pointed out (*Am. Birds* 37:911–912, 1983), large numbers of waterbirds that winter in the Gulf of California are assumed to migrate across southern California each spring, going undetected unless grounded by stormy conditions. On March 16 a major frontal system passed through southern California, bringing with it strong winds and rain. Robert McKernan was at Lake Perris, located in



extreme western Riverside County, that day, and encountered incredible numbers of waterbirds including 500 Horned Grebes, 90 Brant, 18 White-winged Scoters, 1000 Common Mergansers, 14 Red-breasted Mergansers, two Mew Gulls, and three Glaucous-winged Gulls, among the more expected waterfowl and gulls. As in previous cases where such numbers have been grounded by adverse weather conditions, virtually all departed as soon as the weather cleared, there being very few birds on the lake on March 17.

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.E.S.S. = south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial County. As virtually all rarities found in s. California are seen by numerous observers, only the observer initially identifying the bird is included. Documentation is on file with the California Bird Records Committee (c/o Don Roberson, 282 Grove Acre, Pacific Grove, CA 93950) for all rarities listed in this report, and records submitted without documentation are not published.

LOONS THROUGH STORKS — A Com. Loon in flight over Buckhorn Campground in the San Gabriel Mts., Los Angeles Co., Apr. 26 (KLG) was at 7000' elevation. A Laysan Albatross 40 mi w. of San Miguel I., Apr. 11 (TW) was over deep water where this species probably occurs regularly. The presence of seven N. Fulmars off San Diego May 17 (REW) suggested a few might stay through the summer in s. California waters this year. Most interesting was the report (without details) of four to five **Murphy's Petrels** (*Pterodroma ultima*) seen 40 mi n.w. of Pt. Conception, Santa Barbara Co., Apr. 11 by 2 seasoned pelagic birders (TW, LS); when viewed along with the reports of *Pterodromas* off central California this spring, one can only speculate as to how common and/or regular these birds are over deep water off California.

A Red-billed Tropicbird seen off San Diego May 17 (REW) was one of a very few ever to be seen in spring off s. California. A Brown Pelican at N.E.S.S., Mar. 21-30 (NBB) was exceptionally early for this inland locality, and seven were there June 1 (REW). An ad. Olivaceous Cormorant, a casual visitor to s.e. California, was at N.E.S.S., Mar. 23 (DRW) and Apr. 20 (BWK), and may have been the individual seen off and on at this location in late summer since 1982.

American Bitterns appeared to be nesting at Guajome L. near Oceanside in April with five seen there Apr. 6 (EC); nesting is unrecorded s. of Orange County, and nesting records for anywhere in s. California in recent years are few indeed. An ad. Little Blue Heron in California City, Kern Co., May 10 (RS,

ph.) and another at Seal Beach May 11 (LRH) were the only ones found away from San Diego County, and were part of an emerging movement of adults N in May and June. The wintering Tricolored Heron near Imperial Beach was last seen Mar. 23 (CGE). Up to two ad. Wood Storks, now considered casual to accidental along the coast, were present in the Oceanside/San Elijo Lagoon area Mar. 29-May 26 (NS) with one of these near Imperial Beach Apr. 25 (DHe); an adult at N.E.S.S., May 2 (AB) was exceptionally early for the Salton Sea.

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS — Three Fulvous Whistling-Ducks, now considered accidental away from S.E.S.S., were in California City May 16 (JWi, ph.). Two Black-bellied Whis-



Fulvous Whistling-Ducks in flight near California City, Cal., May 16, 1986. Photo/John Wilson.

ting Ducks near Imperial Beach May 24 (RoP) were probably escapees; however, this species appears to be on the increase in Arizona, and is now a casual visitor to the Salton Sea, hence it is worth noting all occurrences in s. California. A wintering Snow Goose that remained in Huntington Beach to May 18 (DRW) and an apparently healthy bird at F.C.R., May 22 (BED) were both exceptionally late, as were the two wintering Ross' Geese that remained in Long Beach through May 14 (BED). A ♂ Eur. Wigeon on L. Henshaw, San Diego Co., Mar. 14 (RHi) was the latest of the wintering birds. The ♂ Harlequin Duck at Bolsa Chica, Orange Co., was present through Mar. 29 (LRH). An Oldsquaw near Santa Maria Mar. 26 (PEL) was in a flooded pasture, a most unusual place for this species. A Surf Scoter at N.E.S.S., May 31 (REW) and another at nearby Salton City the same day (REW) were the only ones found inland. A ♂ White-winged Scoter on Quail L., Los Angeles Co., Apr. 19 (KLG) was far inland and the only one found inland away from L. Perris. Two Com. Goldeneyes on a small pond in Death Valley Junction, Inyo Co., May 25-31 (BED) were unexpected, especially at this time of year.

A Black-shouldered Kite near Westmorland, Imperial Co., Apr. 26 (GMcC) was outside the species' normal range in California. The presence of two ad. Bald Eagles on Santa Margarita L., San Luis Obispo Co., on the late date of May 25 (LD) suggested this may have been a pair nesting, or planning to nest, at this locality; Bald Eagles formerly nested at a few secluded locations in s. California up to the 1950s, but not since that time. Swainson's Hawks are now exceedingly rare along the coast; hence, one over El Capitan State Beach near Santa Barbara Mar. 30 (JLD) and another over San Diego Apr. 23 (GMcC) were of interest.

SANDPIPERS THROUGH SKIMMER — A Solitary Sandpiper, very rare in spring, was in Anaheim Apr. 6 (DRW) and another was in California City May 17 (JWi). A Wandering Tattler, casual inland, was at Salton City May 10 (JO). Ruddy



Semipalmated Sandpiper (rear bird) with Least Sandpiper at San Luis Obispo, Cal., between May 10 & 12, 1986. Photo/Gregory P. Smith.

Turnstones were scarcer than normal on the Salton Sea with eight there May 10 (GMcC) being the largest number found. A Black Turnstone, always much rarer inland than the previous species, was at Salton City Apr. 12 (GMcC). Ninety Red Knots at various localities around the Salton Sea Apr. 27 (RRV) was the largest number reported this spring, but smaller numbers were present from Mar. 30 (GMcC) to June 1 (REW). A Semipalmated Sandpiper at S.E.S.S., Apr. 26 (GMcC) was followed by two to three at N.E.S.S., May 4 (RRV) and three together at S.E.S.S., May 10 (GMcC); one in San Luis Obispo May 10-13 (GPS, ph.) was along the coast where most unusual in spring. A Baird's Sandpiper, very rare in spring, was at S.E.S.S. on the exceptionally late date of June 1 (REW). A Pectoral Sandpiper, another rarity in spring, was in Goleta Mar. 31 (PEL). The Rock Sandpiper that spent the winter at Avila Beach, San Luis Obispo Co., remained through Mar. 31 (CB). Stilt Sandpipers remained more numerous than usual around S.E.S.S. during March and April with an impressive 250 together there May 10 (JO); one at N.E.S.S., May 31 (REW) was quite late. The wintering ♀ Ruff was last seen at Goose L., Kern Co., on Apr. 11 (MOC), one was at Pt. Mugu Mar. 4 (AS, ph.), and a 3rd was near Santa Maria Mar. 26 (PEL). A Red-necked Phalarope near Santa Catalina I., Mar. 23 (KLG) may well have wintered locally, spring migrants not normally arriving in s. California before late April.



Female Ruff in basic (winter) plumage at Pt. Mugu, Cal., Mar. 4, 1986. Photo/Arnold Small.

Unprecedented was a flock of 27 ad. Pomarine Jaegers at N.E.S.S., Apr. 5 (LRH); these birds were seen approaching from the s. in a compact group, and upon reaching the n. shore of the Salton Sea broke up into small groups and settled on the water. A S. Polar Skua, rare but regular off s. California in spring, was near Santa Catalina I., Apr. 28 (BWK) and another was off San Diego May 17 (PU). An ad. Laughing Gull, a casual straggler to the coast of California, was at Bolsa Chica May 29 (CC). As usual, a few Franklin's Gulls were found in late April and early May with single birds near Lakeview, Riverside Co., Apr. 21 (AMC), near Palm Springs Apr. 30 (BCa), at Lancaster, Los Angeles Co., May 3 (JB), and in San Luis Obispo Apr. 24 (GPS, ph.), and up to two were in Malibu Apr. 30-May 9 (CF). A W. Gull at Salton City Apr. 12-26 (GMcC) was far inland, but increasing numbers appear to have been getting to the Salton Sea in recent years. A Glaucous-winged Gull at N.E.S.S., Mar. 23 (DRW) was the only one found on the Salton Sea this spring. A Glaucous Gull near Cayucos May 5 (TME) was quite late.

Two Gull-billed Terns present on s. San Diego Bay Apr. 29-May 8 (CGE) appeared to be a mated pair; one seen here July 15, 1985 (AB 39:962, 1985) was the first ever to be found on the coast of California. Elegant Terns arrived on schedule with the first seen in San Diego Mar. 10 (REW), but unlike in previous years, pushed on N up the coast as indicated by up to 19 at the Santa Clara R. mouth near Ventura Apr. 11+ (JSR), two in Goleta Apr. 10 (JLD), one near Morro Bay Apr. 21 (GPS), and two on Morro Bay May 13 (TME). An Arctic Tern at N.E.S.S., June 1 (REW) was one of a very few ever to be found inland, but all previous inland occurrences for s. California have been between June 4 and 13. One or two Least Terns at Tecopa, Inyo Co., May 23-25 (JWh) gave us only the 2nd inland record of this species away from the Salton Sea, but the previous record was of one at nearby F.C.R. on May 27, 1981 (AB 35: 863, 1981). A Black Tern at S.E.S.S., Apr. 12 (GMcC) was exceptionally early. Two Black Skimmers in Santa Barbara May 17 (JF) and up to three on Morro Bay Apr. 23-May 1 (G. McClure) were unusually far north.

DOVES THROUGH VIREOS — Single White-winged Doves on Pt. Loma May 2 (JWo) & 18 (REW) were the only ones found along the coast this spring. Up to six Chimney Swifts were over Exposition Park in downtown Los Angeles May 2+ (KLG), this species now occurring every summer at this location; another was seen going down a chimney in Big Pine May 24 (PJM), a location where nesting has been suspected since the summer of 1983. A ♂ Broad-tailed Hummingbird well seen in California City May 11 (JWi) was a little to the w. of the species' normal range, and a bird believed to be a ♀ Broad-tailed Hummingbird on Pt. Loma May 10 (REW) was well to the w. of the species' range. An Acorn Woodpecker at the Linda Mia Ranch in the Antelope Valley, Los Angeles Co., May 10 (A & JC) was away from areas of normal occurrence. A Gila Woodpecker at Corn Springs, Riverside Co., Apr. 5-May 10 (DK) was at an unusual locality. A Downy Woodpecker on Pt. Loma Apr. 12 (REW) was also out of range.

A Gray Flycatcher on Figueroa Mt. near Santa Barbara May 1 (PEL) and another in Los Osos May 9-11 (TME) were both close to the coast and n. of Los Angeles, where considered very rare. An E. Phoebe at F.C.R., May 23 (PDG) was only the 3rd ever to be reported in s. California in May. A ♀ Vermilion Flycatcher in California City May 17 (A & JC, ph.) was somewhat n. and w. of the species' range. For the 5th consecutive year a Brown-crested Flycatcher was found at F.C.R., this year's bird being present May 25-31 (BED). Single E. Kingbirds were at F.C.R., May 29-31 (BED), at nearby Emigrant Ranger Station May 28 (BED), and at Deep Springs May 23 (PJM); small numbers clearly pass through this area of California during late May each year. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, a casual visitor to California, was on San Clemente I., June 2 (DW).

A Veery well seen at Deep Springs, Inyo Co., May 17 (TME) was only the 3rd to be found in s. California and the 7th for

the entire state. A Varied Thrush near San Diego May 4 (FD) was quite late. A Gray Catbird, a casual straggler to California, was on Santa Barbara I., May 20 (GMF). A Brown Thrasher in Mojave May 6 (JLD) was the only one found this spring. Two pairs of California Thrashers at Thousand Palms Oasis located in the foothills at the s. end of the Little San Bernardino Mts. on the e. side of the Coachella Valley, Riverside Co., May 23 (DRW) were outside the known range of this resident species. California Thrashers are resident in Morongo Valley at the extreme n. end of the Little San Bernardino Mts. some 40 mi to the n.w. of Thousand Palms Oasis, and in the foothills of the San Jacinto Mts. some 15 mi to the w., but the latter place is across the Coachella Valley where Crissal Thrashers are resident. The only Red-eyed Vireos to be found this spring were a somewhat early individual in Huntington Beach May 21 (SGa) and a 2nd in California City June 1 (A & JC).

WOOD WARBLERS— Wood warblers were scarce throughout the Region, with most observers commenting on the lack of the regularly-occurring w. species during April and early May, and a poor showing of vagrant species in late May and early June. Eleven Tennessee Warblers between May 9 and June 8 were far fewer than expected. Only four N. Parulas were found with a somewhat early male in Orange Apr. 20 (SGa), a male in California City May 18 (JWi, ph.), another at F.C.R., May 25-30 (PJM), and the 4th at Ft. Piute, San Bernardino Co., May 25 (SFB). The wintering Chestnut-sided Warbler in Arcadia was last seen Apr. 13 (BCo), and a male in California City May 31 (NBB) was the only one this spring. Only three Magnolia Warblers were found with single birds in California



Male Magnolia Warbler at California City, Cal., May 26, 1986. Photo/John Wilson.

City May 26 (BED, ph.) and June 1 (A & JC), and the 3rd at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley May 28 (BED). A singing ♂ Black-throated Green Warbler in Glendale Apr. 7-12 (GB) was at least 6 weeks earlier than the previous earliest spring record, suggesting it may have wintered locally.

The presence of at least two ♂ Grace's Warblers on Clark Mt. in e. San Bernardino Co., May 23 (PDG) suggested this species may now be nesting at that locality. The Palm Warbler present at Dana Pt., Dec. 1+ was last seen Apr. 9 (BH) and another present in Santa Barbara Mar. 26-Apr. 2 (PS) had undoubtedly wintered locally. A ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler, a casual spring vagrant, was in California City May 23-24 (JWi, ph.). Black-and-white Warblers were remarkably scarce with only eight reported, and Am. Redstarts were even scarcer with only three reported. An Ovenbird in Morongo Valley Mar. 21 (NBB) was far too early for a spring migrant and must have been wintering locally; the only spring migrants were one in Kelso May 17 (EAC), and single birds in San Diego June 6 (EC) & 8

(REW). Nine N. Waterthrushes between Apr. 26 and May 25 were fewer than expected. A ♂ Mourning Warbler in California City May 16 (JWi) was the 6th to be found in s. California in spring. Three Hooded Warblers were found with a male in Glendale May 12-17 (GB) and single females in California City May 11 (JWi) & 24 (JWi, ph.). A Yellow-breasted Chat near San Diego Apr. 5 (AME) was a little early.

TANAGERS THROUGH ORIOLES— The ♀ Hepatic Tanager that wintered in Irvine was last seen Apr. 13 (DRW). Three Summer Tanagers along the coast May 20-30, along with six found in the n.e. corner of the Region May 17-28, were all believed to be vagrant *rubra* from the east rather than *cooperi* from the breeding population in s.e. California. A ♂ Scarlet Tanager in Capistrano Beach June 5 (MP) was about the 12th to be found in s. California in spring. A ♀ N. Cardinal was still present along the Colorado R. at the San Bernardino/Riverside Co. line May 10 (BWK). A Pyrrhuloxia in San Diego Mar. 17 (LaB) was the 2nd to have been found in this area, and added to an increasing number of spring sightings from well to the w. of the species' range. A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak in La Jolla Mar. 30-Apr. 8 (EHM) had undoubtedly wintered locally, and nine found between May 17 and June 6 were far fewer than expected. A ♂ Black-headed Grosbeak on Pt. Loma Mar. 16 (JO) was quite early. Only 11 Indigo Buntings were reported between May 17 and June 2. A ♂ Painted Bunting at Oasis May 23 (PJM) was the first to be found in s. California during the spring migration period. A ♀ Dickcissel, a rare vagrant in spring, was in Tecopa May 31-June 1 (JT). A singing Cassin's Sparrow at Bolsa Chica May 10-18 (BED) was only the 2nd to have been found on the coast of s. California, the first having been an individual present near San Diego in the spring/summer of 3 different years between 1970 and 1978, all other records having been during the spring/summer of 1978 when there was an "invasion" into the s.e. portion of the Region. A Swamp Sparrow in Tecopa May 19 (SGo) was late, but there are at least 3 previous late May records from the e. portion of the Region. One of the two Harris' Sparrows that spent the winter in Ojai remained to May 10 (JG) and another late individual was in California City May 18 (JWi, ph.). A ♂ Lapland Longspur at F.C.R., May 3 (DHo) was exceptionally late as was a ♀ Chestnut-collared Longspur at the same location May 18 (TME).

As usual a few Bobolinks occurred in the n.e. portion of the Region with two at Oasis May 24 (C & ES), one at Scotty's Castle May 24 (DR), and five at F.C.R. between May 24 and 31 (PDG, BED). A Great-tailed Grackle near Weldon, Kern Co., Mar. 7 (RHe), single birds at L. Casitas, Ventura Co., all spring (RM), in Ventura Mar. 13-19 (KPS), and at Santa Clara R. mouth



Male Lapland Longspur at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley, Cal., May 3, 1986. Photo/Don Hoechlin.

Apr. 17–27 [JSR], three in La Jolla Mar. 26 (J & DS), and another in San Diego Apr. 29 (RuP) were all away from areas of regular occurrence, but this species is still expanding its range. A ♂ Bronzed Cowbird in Brawley May 10 (JO) was w. of the Colorado R. but may prove to be regular in small numbers at a few select locations in the Imperial Valley. Single N. (Baltimore) Orioles on Pt. Loma May 11 (JO), in Ventura May 13–15 (VK), and at Scotty's Castle May 29 (BED) were the only ones reported.

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HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

Robert L. Pyle

Some welcome rains returned this spring to the southern islands of Maui and Hawaii where, at end of May, only eight of 18 reporting stations still had precipitation deficits for 1986 compared to 16 of 18 with deficits on March 1. However, in the northern islands of Kauai, Oahu, and Molokai, all 15 reporting stations showed 1986 deficits of 35% to 65% of normal rainfall at end of May, as they had on March 1.

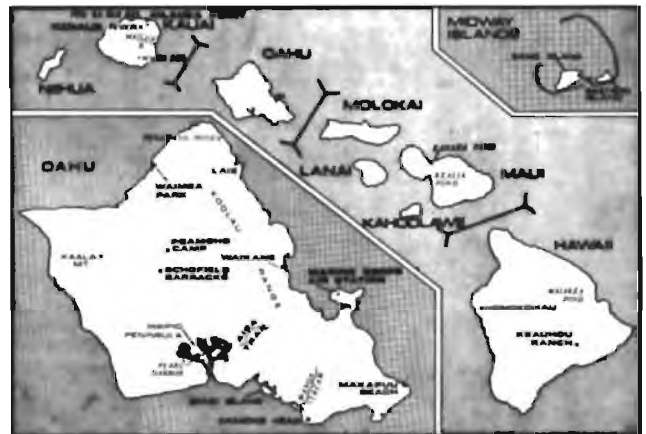
ABBREVIATIONS — H. = Hawaii I.; K. = Kauai I.; M. = Maui I.; O. = Oahu I.; E.S.F.P. = Endangered Species Facility at Pohakuloa, Hawaii I.; H.R.B.F. = Hawaii Rare Bird Documentary Photograph File; H.V.N.P. = Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Hawaii I.; J.C.N.W.R. = James Campbell Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Oahu.

ALBATROSSES — Non-breeding Laysan Albatrosses appeared on the n. shore of Oahu in greater numbers this spring than ever before. Most of the sightings were in the Mokuleia area from Dillingham airstrip to Kaena Pt., where counts of 10–15 on the ground and in the air were reported by several observers during March and April (BJ, DS, TS). Numbers decreased during May, with the last report being of a single bird flying over the airstrip May 25 (FS).

Of 22 Laysan Albatross nests started in December at Pacific Missile Range, K., 2 still had an active chick in June almost ready to fledge. Chicks from 4 other nests had to be moved to Sea Life Park, O., because of nearby airstrip activities or dog injury (DM). Failures of the other nests were attributed to youthful inexperience of the adults. Across the island, the 3 nests started at Kilauea Point N.W.R. each had a healthy chick in late June (DM). A pair that might have been nesting was seen on the ground at Ilio Pt. on n.w. Molokai Mar. 28 (MS).

No Laysan or Black-footed albatross were found breeding or roosting at Nihoa I., May 17. Laysans nest only irregularly on Nihoa, but Black-footeds normally have 30–70 active nests there each year (fide KM).

PETRELS THROUGH WATERFOWL — A Dark-rumped (Hawaiian) Petrel (Endangered) was seen flying near the 7000 ft level on Mauna Kea above E.S.F.P., Apr. 20 (FD). Also on Hawaii I., a Newell's Shearwater (Threatened) was heard calling overhead in Mountain View Apr. 24 (SM). These species are rarely recorded on Hawaii I. or, in fact, anywhere away from their major nesting areas in the high mountains of Maui (petrel) and Kauai (shearwater).



Although hundreds of fledgling Newell's Shearwaters come down on the coastal highways of Kauai each year in fall, adults too may occasionally fall victim to the same problem in spring and summer. This spring, in an unusual catastrophic event, 23 carcasses of ad. Newells were found in a quarter-mile stretch of highway near Anahola, K., one morning in May after a cloudy, rainy night (DM). A large, dark shearwater observed feeding with a flock of Wedge-tailed Shearwaters off Kaiwi Pt., H., Apr. 5 (RD) was identified (PP, RLP) from the observer's good photographs (H.R.B.F. nos. 474 & 475) as a **Flesh-footed Shearwater**. This was the first known report of this species within 100 mi of the Hawaiian Is.

Two Red-tailed Tropicbirds were reported Apr. 11 in Waimea Canyon, K. (CC), an unusual location. Also, three were in sight for many minutes during the Sierra Club trip to Ulupau Head, O., May 4. A **Great Blue Heron** at Kii Ponds, J.C.N.W.R., during the week of Apr. 14 (JK) could have been the same individual as was seen last season on Molokai and Maui. A wandering Cattle Egret was found on Nihoa I., May 17 (fide KM).

The "ring-necked" Canada Goose in the group wintering at Amoriont Ponds, O., has been identified from pictures as the Endangered Aleutian race by P. Springer of the Aleutian Canada Goose Recovery Team. The group stayed into May, but five of the six had departed before June 6. The one remaining, apparently a "Taverner's" (AE, RLP), may well have been the same individual that over-summered there in 1985. Six breeding-plumaged ♂ N. Shovelers and two females were at Kanaha Pond, M., May 15 (AE), an extremely late date.

FRANCOLINS THROUGH CROWS — A Black Francolin was heard calling high on the s. slope of the mountains of e. Molokai May 25 (LP), and an Erckel's Francolin was seen along Palehua Trail in the Waianae Mts. of Oahu during the Hawaii Audubon Society field trip Apr. 13. Both were at unusually high elevations. Gamebirds observed Apr. 5 during a traverse of the jeep road encircling Mauna Kea, H., near the 9000 ft level included numerous sightings of singles and pairs of Chukars, a ♀ Wild Turkey with half-grown chick, and several flocks of California Quail (RLP).

An ad. Com. Moorhen (Hawaiian Gallinule) with three young was seen in mid-April in a small marshy oasis along the shore of Pearl Harbor near the Waiau power plant in an industrial section of w. Honolulu, O. (WG). The observer has seen gallinules there occasionally during the past year, a remarkable locale for this *Endangered* species to nest.

An (Asiatic) **Whimbrel**, accidental in Hawaii, was observed carefully at Laysan I., Mar. 20–Apr. 22 (KM). Up to six dowitchers, four Dunlin, and two Bar-tailed Godwits were also on Laysan during that period, and a probable Red (possible Red-necked) Phalarope in winter plumage was seen there Mar. 11 only (KM). An imm. Laughing Gull was at Tern I., French Frigate Shoals, May 20–23 (PB). A Com. Barn-Owl roosting low in a tree on a schoolground in Manoa, O., Apr. 21 provided a rare and exciting wildlife lesson for the students (DB).

S.A.

This year's annual survey for the *Endangered* Hawaiian Crow ('Alala) on Hawaii I. was taken in mid-March. It was the most extensive survey since 1978, involving 84 man-days afield by state and federal biologists. But for the first time on these surveys, no visual observations of 'Alala were recorded. One or two birds were heard in the Hualalai district, and four to five were heard on the central Kona slopes of Mauna Loa. Some hopeful evidence of possible breeding was suggested by the persistence of a pair in one locality giving typical female nest-site calls and male territorial calls (SM). Three months later, on June 5, 3 sightings of an 'Alala were recorded in a half-hour period in an area of the central Kona forest above Honaunau which had not been covered on the survey. A 2nd bird was also heard in this area (FD et al.).

The 'Alala's plight is grim and getting grimmer. Although the California Condor's case is far more publicized, the 'Alala case has many parallels. The captive group of currently nine birds, roughly comparable to the estimated numbers in the wild, has produced young successfully only once since 1977. Compared to the Condor, natural range for the 'Alala still remains but is being steadily reduced by logging and other disturbing activities. Despite this urgent crisis, obtaining agreement between state, federal, private and landowner groups on an action plan to establish and protect an appropriate habitat preserve has thus far proven frustratingly unachievable.

BUSH-WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES — Many Japanese Bush-Warblers were heard calling and some were seen well in Haiku Valley, O., during the Hawaii Audubon Society field trip Mar. 9. Bush-warblers also were commonly heard May 24–26 in Kamakou Preserve in the mountains of e. Molokai (LP). The species was unknown on Molokai 8 years ago. 'Elepaio were observed breeding this spring in Thurston Lava Tube, a popular visitor attraction in H.V.N.P. (MK). An 'Oma'o (formerly Hawaiian Thrush) was observed for 40 minutes feeding in naio trees at E.S.F.P., May 3 (FD). This was a remarkable occurrence of this species in a disturbed open low forest habitat. Melodious Laughing-thrushes, now very scarce on Oahu, were heard singing in Haiku Valley several times during the Hawaii Audubon Society field trip Mar. 9. A pair

of Yellow-faced Grassquits was seen well and others were heard Apr. 1 on Manana Trail (PD), their traditional locale on Oahu.

HAWAIIAN HONEYCREEPERS —

S.A.

Outstanding event of the season was the discovery and close monitoring of 2 nestings by a pair of the super rare Po'ouli (*Endangered*) in the rain forest on the slope of Haleakala Mtn., Maui (CK, ME, AE). Nest-building was discovered Mar. 5 by the U.S.F. & W.S. survey party, and was monitored at intervals thereafter by F. & W.S. biologists. One chick was being fed until torrential rains for several days in late March caused the adults to abandon the nest and drove out the observers. The pair soon started another nest nearby. Two chicks were hatched and fed, and one was seen to fledge successfully May 31. Ironically, because of this unparalleled observational opportunity, much more is now known about breeding biology of the extremely rare Po'ouli than about any of the other native forest birds on Maui.

The Po'ouli is a monotypic genus first discovered and described in 1973. Initial population of the species was "guessed" at 400±, but subsequent estimates have decreased steadily. The current population is thought to be well under 100. Its total range of about 1000 acres is fairly well delineated at mid-elevation on the n. slope of Haleakala, but in rain forest very difficult to reach and to traverse.

Partly because of the Po'ouli nest, the F. & W.S. scheduled much more observational coverage of this remote Haleakala forest area this spring than ever before. The super-rare Maui form of Nukupuu (Maui Nuku-pu'u, *Endangered*) was sighted 3 times between March and May, following earlier sightings last November and January. Each sighting was of a single bird, within the same general area, but plumage differences indicated at least two different individuals were involved. Other native forest species seen daily when parties were in the area were, in order of abundance low to high: Maui Parrotbill (*Endangered*), Crested Honeycreeper (*Endangered*), Maui 'Amakihi, 'Tiwi, Maui Creeper, and 'Apapane. No Maui 'Akepa were found. The only introduced species regularly recorded were Red-billed Leiothrix and Japanese White-eye.

Several significant sightings of Hawaiian honeycreepers in unexpected localities were reported this season. A ♂ Palila was heard and seen well Mar. 27 at E.S.F.P. (FD), a remarkable locality for this *Endangered* species normally confined to a restricted range higher on Mauna Kea. Nine 'Amakihi (three singing adults and six juveniles calling frequently) were seen well June 1 in flowering silk oaks off of Round Top Dr. above urban Honolulu, O. (AE). A pair of 'Akiapola'au (*Endangered*) was watched feeding a juvenile in mamane parkland near Kanakaleonui, H., Feb. 27, suggesting that this species may still breed in the relict forest on the upper eastern slopes of Mauna Kea (TP). A Hawaii Creeper was seen and heard May 22 at 5500 ft elevation along Mauna Loa strip road in H.V.N.P. (SM), an unusual occurrence of this *Endangered* species in an area accessible to visitors.

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Robert L. Norton

Rainfall during the spring season continued to be scarce, as in winter. The pattern of drought ending with heavy downpours in late April and early May resembled that which characterized the 1982–1983 El Niño/Southern Oscillation, an event that affected birdlife as well as marine life in the Caribbean. The first tropical wave of the season brought heavy rains to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands April 27–29, and another wave brought destructive rains and flooding to Jamaica and the Dominican Republic for five days beginning May 28.

Precipitation measured (National Park Service records) at Cruz Bay, St. John, was 59% below average for March and continued at that pace, or 70% below April's mean, until April 27–29 when 8.25 inches fell; this set the pattern for May, which had rainfall 159% above average.

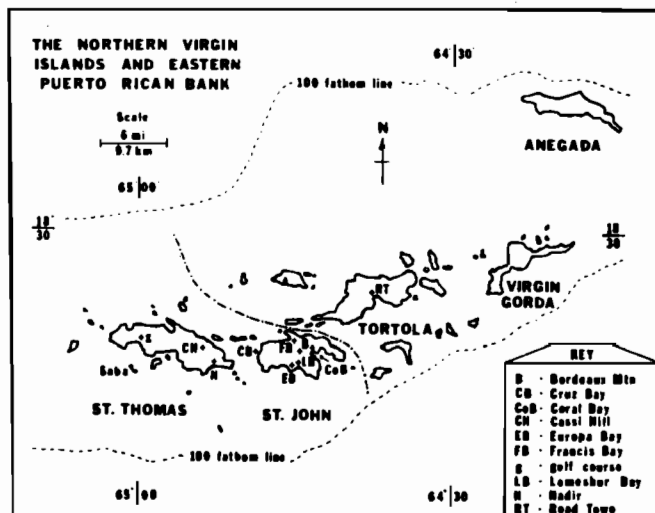
Concurrent with the drought in the eastern Caribbean was a massive die-off of sponges noted in mid-February at Pine Cay, Providenciales, in the Turks & Caicos islands (fide RG). Natural phenomena such as El Niño and hurricanes are tropical ocean and atmospheric in origin, and clearly affect many life-forms in the Caribbean. Residents of Pine Cay remarked (fide RG) that about 70% of the birdlife of that small, flat island had disappeared, presumably as a result of the 1985 hurricane season.

A number of interesting records are described below, including first occurrences from the Turks & Caicos, American Virgin Islands, and Cayman Islands. Sykes et al. provided fine notes on the birds of Eleuthera for the month of March during field studies of Kirtland's Warbler in the Bahamas. Finally, there seemed to be a great number of late migration dates—not only for individual islands, but for the Region as a whole—and shifting migration routes also seemed evident this season.

ABBREVIATIONS — C.I. = Cayman Islands; D.R. = Dominican Republic; P.R. = Puerto Rico; St. C. = St. Croix; St. J. = St. John; V.I. = Virgin Islands.

GREBES THROUGH TERNS — Eighteen Least Grebes were noted at Eleuthera Mar. 8 (PS) and four were at Providenciales during April (BA). A white-morph Great Blue Heron was seen at Eleuthera Mar. 12 & 28 (PS). Fifteen Olivaceous Cormorants at Eleuthera Mar. 9 (PS) extended the early date by 10 days. Two white-morph Reddish Egrets at Eleuthera Mar. 14–15 (PS) were apparently the first recorded there, and the discovery of Cattle Egrets nesting there Mar. 17 (PS, WH) also provided a local first. The threatened West Indian Whistling-Duck was recorded for the 2nd time at Eleuthera Mar. 26 (DT, PS, WH); the first record was in November 1978 (Connor and Loftin 1985). Another duck species of local concern, the White-cheeked Pintail, numbered three at Eleuthera during March (PS), seven at Providenciales Apr. 4 (BA), and 127 at St. C., Mar. 5 (FS). At St. C., a Green-winged Teal remained until Apr. 6 and a Ring-necked Duck was noted Mar. 7 (FS). Sladen observed two Merlins at St. C. throughout March and his last sighting, May 13, set a record late date for the Region. One to two Peregrine Falcons were also seen at St. C. during March and as late as Apr. 8 (FS). A Sora seen Mar. 21–Apr. 11 at Providenciales (BA) apparently provided the 2nd local record, the first being of one noted at Pine Cay in February (RG). A Com. Moorhen was at Providenciales Mar. 16–Apr. 11.

Table 1 provides a report of occurrences of certain shorebird species in the eastern Caribbean during spring migration. A **Hudsonian Godwit** at Providenciales Apr. 11 (BA) provided the first record there and perhaps the first spring record for



the entire Region. Bradley noted some interesting late migrants in the C.I.; of particular note were 160 White-rumped Sandpipers May 12, three Dunlins May 12, and seven Long-billed Dowitchers seen and heard Apr. 15. A Dunlin reported May 21 from Providenciales (BA) extended the known late date for the Region by a month. Sladen counted 149 W. Sandpipers Mar. 7 at St. C., and saw one White-rumped Sandpiper there May 8. At Eleuthera, a Long-billed Dowitcher seen and heard Mar. 11 provided a first record, and a Wilson's Phalarope seen during the winter remained until Mar. 16 (PS et al.).

A Pomarine Jaeger was noted 4 mi n. of Buck I., St. C., Mar 26 (FS) for one of the few records from the V.I. An ad. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at St. C., Mar. 8 (tentatively identified as the race *L. f. intermedius*) provided a first record for the V.I., perhaps only the 3rd or 4th for the West Indies. More details are expected elsewhere. Three **Caspian Terns** loafing with Royals at Sandy Point N.W.R., Apr. 20 (FS, RLN) provided a first record for the V.I.; two Gull-billed Terns were also seen Apr. 20 at St. C. (FS, RLN). At C.I., a Caspian Tern was reported

Table 1. The occurrence of migrant plovers and sandpipers (largest number—month/day) observed from the southern most reporting area (St. C.) to the northern (E.) during spring migration, March to May, in the eastern Caribbean.

Species	St. Croix (FS)	Turks & Caicos (BA)	Eleuthera (PS)
Black-bellied Plover	102—3/5	10—3/19	58—3/7
Snowy Plover	—	1—3/30	—
Semipalmated Plover	64—3/5	—	12—3/14
Piping Plover	—	—	14—3/10
Greater Yellowlegs	52—3/5	1—3/19	39—3/22
Lesser Yellowlegs	140—3/19	8—3/15	160—3/7
Willet	20—5/8	2—5/21	2—3/22
Spotted Sandpiper	12—3/31	3—3/16	—
Whimbrel	3—contin.	—	—
Ruddy Turnstone	65—3/19	6—3/16	37—3/10
Red Knot	19—3/5	—	—
Sanderling	8—3/31	2—4/6	35—3/18
Semipalmated Sandpiper	307—3/7	20—3/15	—
Least Sandpiper	114—5/5	—	17—3/14
Stilt Sandpiper	346—3/19	—	57—3/14
Short-billed Dowitcher	60—3/19	—	24—3/22

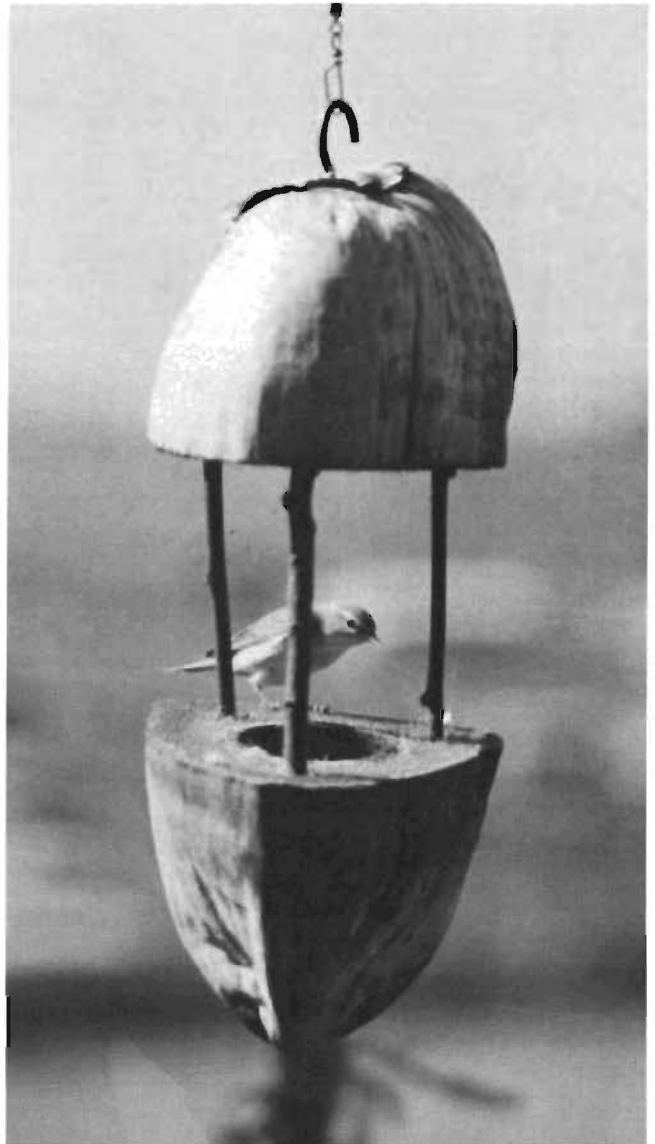
as having been present since December (PB). An ad. Common Tern seen near Salt River, St. C., May 20 added to speculation that Com. Terns may be nesting somewhere in the V.I. The first arrival date of Least Terns at St. C. was Apr. 11 (FS). Four Least Terns were noted at Providenciales May 5–16 (BA).

PIGEONS THROUGH ORIOLES — White-crowned Pigeons were noted at several locations in the V.I., including Vessup Bay, St. Thomas, where six were noted continuously at a small red mangrove from March to May (IC). Their numbers are slowly increasing since major habitat loss and poaching in the 1960s and early 1970s (Norton & Seaman 1985). Sykes recorded as many as 57 White-crowns at Eleuthera Mar. 11, and five were at Providenciales May 21 (BA). Two Key West Quail-Doves were observed Mar. 12 at Eleuthera (PS), and a 4th unconfirmed report of Ruddy Quail-Dove from St. C., Apr. 11 could suggest that an expansion is underway from the population at Vieques, P.R. Its status is considered hypothetical on St. C. (FS). A more definite range expansion involved the introduced Green-rumped Parrotlet on Jamaica, where it was noted Apr. 6–13 to be fairly common in the n.w. hills from Montego Bay to Negril, away from its stronghold on the s. side of the island (WM). Monk Parakeets are apparently established at Eleuthera, where a large colonial nest of up to eight birds was noted (PS).

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo seen May 22 at Providenciales (BA) was a late spring migrant. Two Com. Barn-Owls, resident in the C.I., were noted in courtship activity Mar. 20 (PB). A **Short-eared Owl** seen and photographed May 7 near Red Hook, St. Thomas (AS, CS) provided the first record for the V.I. This was the first documented occurrence of any owl described to species in the V.I. since a published account (Nellis 1979, *Wilson Bull.* 91:148–149) of a purported Puerto Rican Screech-Owl on St. C. The supporting details of that account were weak and should be reconsidered. Details of the present sighting are expected elsewhere. Aldridge reported that six Com. Nighthawks were seen May 18 at Providenciales, presumably separated from Antillean Nighthawk by the distinctive call. A possible Black Swift was seen briefly at C.I. among a huge flock of migrant swallows (PB, no date given). An Eastern Phoebe observed Mar. 7 at Eleuthera (PS) provided the 2nd record there since 1972 and only the 4th for the Bahamas. Bradley's notes on the huge migration of swallows finding refuge at C.I. described how exhausted some were, as they rested immobile on roads, even being run over like insects. Bank (25–30), N. Rough-winged (common), Cave (four), and Tree (50) swallows were noted among the thousands of Barn Swallows on passage. Among the Caribbean Martins at St. C., two Purple Martins were seen Mar. 23 (FS), indicating their migration is well e. of Hispaniola.

The first spring record of Am. Robin from Eleuthera was provided by one there Mar. 9 (PS). At Providenciales, two Gray Catbirds seen Mar. 19 and one Mar. 21 (BA) provided further evidence of extended wintering range well e. of Cuba. Cedar Waxwings appeared at Eleuthera Mar. 17 (two) and Mar. 21–26 (five) for record occurrences there (PS, WH, DT). Aldridge remarked that Thick-billed Vireo, a resident at Providenciales, was less common than in previous years—the decline may be related to habitat loss, as she has mentioned in previous reports to AB. A Yellow-throated Vireo was seen at Eleuthera Mar. 17 (PS, WH), a late date for that island. A Red-eyed Vireo seen May 22–23 at Providenciales (BA) was record-late and provided one of the few spring records for the Bahamas.

Several observations of Blue-winged Warbler on Eleuthera during March, the last Mar. 21, represented the first spring records for that island. At least one **Tennessee Warbler** (possibly two) appeared at a feeder at Cruz Bay, St. J., Mar. 17 (A & JH, RLN), providing the first record of the species e. of Hispaniola. One defended the feeder aggressively for lengthy periods, and was photographed. A record-late Tennessee Warbler was seen at Providenciales May 14 (BA). A Nashville Warbler observed Mar. 7 represented the first spring record at Eleuthera, and a migrant Yellow Warbler (*D. p. aestiva*) was noted there Mar. 12 (PS). A migrant group of warblers at Cayman Brac,



Tennessee Warbler at Cruz Bay, St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands, Mar. 17, 1986. First Caribbean record east of Hispaniola. Photo/Ann Hobbs.

C.I., May 12–14 (PB) included a Blackburnian Warbler as well as a Bay-breasted Warbler, for which there are few reports in the West Indies. Sykes reports that one Kirtland's Warbler remained at Eleuthera until at least Mar. 28. A Yellow-breasted Chat noted in February at Eleuthera remained until Mar. 8 (PS), extending the occurrence into spring. Two Painted Buntings were seen Mar. 30 at Providenciales (BA). A Grasshopper Sparrow at Eleuthera Mar. 21 (PS) extended the spring date there by 10 days. A N. Oriole was seen Apr. 4 at Providenciales, for one of the few records there (BA).

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Ross' Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*) is a circumpolar arctic species that breeds primarily in Siberia. This species occasionally occurs in the lower United States in winter. Pictured here are winter plumaged birds. Top center is an adult bird with a small remnant of the narrow black necklace present in breeding plumage. The black speckles above and in front of the eye create the impression of a very large-eyed bird. Bottom left is an adult bird which shows

the thin black leading edge of the wing formed by the outermost primary, and also the typical wedge-shaped tail diagnostic of the species, but not always obvious. At the lower right is pictured a first-year immature bird with broad dark feathers on the upper rump joining the black "zigzag" pattern across the whole continuous span of the wings and back, and obvious black feathering at the end of the tail. Drawn for *AMERICAN BIRDS* by David Sibley.

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