

The Spring Season

March 1–May 31, 1988

NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

Bruce Mactavish

The weather over the Region was generally cool and cloudy until mid-May. Most observers commented on a late and dull spring. Blair Nikula on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, claimed it "the worst spring I have ever suffered through." There were few waves of warblers in May, which birdwatchers look forward to each spring, and these were small. Early spring overshoots bypassed the New England states but were evident in Nova Scotia. Most noteworthy was a March 27 Summer Tanager and an April 1 Eastern Kingbird and on April 20 dozens of Indigo Buntings and a few Blue Grosbeaks.

The star event of the season was the biggest invasion of Eurasian birds to eastern North America since the 1927 Northern Lapwing incursion. Newfoundland was flooded with Greater Golden-Plovers.

Reports were complete from Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Maine, and Connecticut; partial from New Brunswick and Rhode Island; and almost nonexistent from Prince Edward Island, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts.

ABBREVIATIONS — S.P.M. = the French islands of St. Pierre et Miquelon.

LOONS TO HERONS — The largest concentration of Com. Loons was 55 Mar. 13 at Three Fathom Harbor, NS (fide PP). No significant flights of loons were observed at Pt. Judith, RI, unlike in recent springs. Horned Grebes were reported in healthy numbers, with 160 Mar. 3 at Sachuest Pt. and 114 Apr. 10 at Moonstone Bay, RI (fide DE); a total of 160 on 3 dates in March and April in s. Nova Scotia (fide PP); and 200 Apr. 1 at Sherwood Island S.P., CT (FM). There were mixed comments about Red-necked Grebes. In Nova Scotia, numbers picked up from last spring with 13 reports totaling 250 individuals (fide PP). In Massachusetts, numbers were low on Cape Cod, but there were some "good counts on the mainland" (BN). One hundred thirty at S.P.M. constituted just one-sixth of the exceptional counts of the early 1980s (RE). Sixty-five at Sachuest Pt., RI, Mar. 3 represented an unusually high local count (fide DE).

Five hundred N. Fulmars flew past Cape St. Francis, NF, during a raging NE gale Apr. 12 (BM). A "few" Greater Shearwaters and 100 Sooty Shearwaters were seen 200 mi southeast of S.P.M. on the earlier than expected date of Apr. 14 (RE). Another early Sooty was on Georges Bank, NS, Apr. 8 (RGG).

"Southern herons" were scarce north of their respective breeding ranges. At Cape Cod, MA, they were virtually absent. Snowy Egrets at the Appledore I., ME, heronry were in "absolutely tiny" numbers (DH). Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and St. Pierre et Miquelon had a low combined total of one Great Egret, seven Snowy Egrets, two Little Blue Herons, and three

Cattle Egrets. An all-white ibis in Connecticut was thought to be an albino Glossy Ibis (fide FM).

WATERFOWL — Most interesting was a "Bewick's" Tundra Swan at Lobstick, Labrador, about 40 mi northwest of Churchill Falls May 17 & 18. It was well observed and identifiably photographed as it fed with a migrant flock of 50 Canada Geese. One fortunate (?) flight photograph showed what appeared to be a metal band on one leg. This in itself does not weigh in favor of it being wild or an escapee. A much larger number of wild "Bewick's" Swans are banded on their wintering grounds in w. Europe than are kept in captivity in North America. Because they migrate NE from their wintering grounds to breed in n. Russia, they represent an unlikely spring stray to the w. side of the Atlantic Ocean. However, you can't disregard the mid-April storm that brought the biggest flight of Greater Golden-Plover in recorded history to Labrador and Newfoundland. It was wary. The verdict is still open. There is no precedent for the Region (AM, BMT).

A pair of Tundra Swans was unusual, especially in spring, at East Providence Res., RI, Mar. 1–26 (fide DE). A Greater White-fronted Goose at Mansfield, CT, Mar. 6–11 was believed to be of the Greenland race (W. Ellison et al.). Reports of four White-fronted Geese from Freeport, NS, and of "several" at Bathurst, NB, lacked details. A flock of 78 Snow Geese near Moncton, NB, in late April constituted an almost unheard of number for Atlantic Canada (fide ST). Eurasian Green-winged





An apparent "Bewick's" Tundra Swan, probably a straggler from Europe, at Lobstick, Labrador, May 18, 1988. Photo/Andrew MacFarlane.

Teal were one in Connecticut, two in New Brunswick, and three in Newfoundland. A flock of 200 Am. Green-winged Teal Mar. 29 at Milford Pt., CT, was considered an "incredible flock" (fide FM). A pair of **Cinnamon Teal** at Fredericton, NB, in late April was remarkable (Scott Makepeace, fide ST). Single ♂ Eur. Wigeons were in Connecticut (two) and New Brunswick (one). A pair of adults Apr. 21 at Kelligrews, NF, was interesting, since pairs are rarely observed in e. North America (JW). One hundred Lesser Scaup at New Haven, CT, Mar. 22 furnished a local high count (fide FM). Traditional wintering locations for Harlequin Duck, Isle au Haut, ME, and Sachuest Pt., RI, held 75 Mar. 20 and 36 Mar. 30, respectively (RM, JKM; fide DE). Late Harlequins were at Scarborough Beach, ME, with a female to May 7 and a male to June 13 (KD). A massive movement of sea ducks was witnessed at Petit Manan Pt., ME, Apr. 15, when from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 22,000 Black, 1200 Surf, and 100 White-winged scoters and 6000 Com. Eiders were counted (RW). In Rhode Island good counts of scoters were of 750 and 1400 Blacks at Pt. Judith Apr. 15 and Briggs Beach Apr. 30, respectively, and 800 Surfs at Warren's Pt. Apr. 16 (fide DE).

RAPTORS — A record early Mar. 31 Osprey was at Annapolis Royal, NS (fide IAM). American Swallow-tailed Kites made news again this spring with 3 Massachusetts sightings of quite possibly the same individual at E. Harwich May 3 (D. Houghton), at Yarmouthport May 18 (J. Aylward et al.), and on Martha's Vineyard May 26 (fide V. Laux). Another one was at Clinton, CT, May 24 (F. Scott), and yet one more was at Newcastle, ME, May 29 (fide WT). The Mississippi Kites recorded this spring were subadults: one May 28 at Provincetown (J. Aylward et al.) and one dead May 28 at Martha's Vineyard, MA (V. Laux). The only sizable raptor migration reported was of 66 Sharp-shinned and 39 Broad-winged hawks at N. Truro, MA, in 3.5 hours May 13 (BN). The **Eurasian Kestrel** seen by many around Minudie, NS, over the winter was last reported around mid-March (fide IAM). It is meaningless to compare the Regional total of 15 Peregrine Falcons with the totals of past springs because of incomplete reports from Massachusetts. The wintering New Haven, CT, gray-phase Gyrfalcon was last seen Apr. 7 (RS et al.).

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS — Reports of the uncommon King Rail were of one May 22 at Norwalk, CT (FM et al.), and

one May 28 at Rockport, MA (JB et al.). An early Com. Moorhen was at Barrington, RI, Mar. 29 (DE). An Am. Coot was out of place at Goose Bay, Labrador, May 18 (BMT). The wintering Sandhill Crane at Yarmouth, NS, left Apr. 15 (fide IAM). In the same province another was seen at Grand Pre May 12 (JWW et al.).

A **Northern Lapwing** was discovered at Yarmouth, NS, Apr. 8 and remained about a week. A review of weather maps did not show any obvious weather factor that would have brought this bird across from Europe at that time. It was more likely a winter-surviving fall vagrant. It also just came to light that several lapwings were at Goose Bay, Labrador, in mid-December 1987, thus indicating a small flight of them to North America last fall.

S.A.

The event of the spring was a remarkable invasion of **Greater Golden-Plovers** (*Pluvialis apricaria*) to Labrador and Newfoundland. Invasions of Greater Golden-Plovers have occurred in Newfoundland in four past springs, but the magnitude of this one separated it from the rest. At least 350 individuals were seen at over 20 locations Apr. 13–May 22. The actual number of individuals involved was probably in the low thousands.

The first exact dates of arrival were Apr. 13 (15 birds) at Goose Bay, Labrador, and Apr. 15 (12) at Cabot I., NF. At about the same time, more than 100 were seen at various communities in the L'Anse-aux-Meadows/St. Anthony area. Reports were most widespread Apr. 20–May 5, with numerous groups of five to 15 feeding on short grass fields, around buildings, or on crowberry barrens. The largest flocks were of 40–50 at L'Anse-aux-Meadows in mid-April and of 25 and 33 (same flock?) at Kilbride Apr. 26 and May 3, respectively. Reports ranged along the entire e. coast of Newfoundland, but there were large stretches of coast containing good feeding habitat where no information was obtainable. Thirty on S.P.M. off the s. coast of Newfoundland and seven at St. Paul's Inlet on the w. coast of the province showed that they were not restricted to the e. coast. The only report outside of Newfoundland, S.P.M., or Labrador was of two in late April near St. John, NB, which would provide a first provincial record.

The birds were in high breeding plumage and of the northern race *P. a. altifrons*, which includes Iceland as part of its breeding range. One road-killed specimen from Goose Bay was preserved, and about 40 individuals were identifiably photographed in the St. John's area.

The surface weather maps for the N. Atlantic Ocean showed the likely cause for the displacement of so many birds from the east to the west side of the Atlantic. A series of large, slow-moving low-pressure areas south and east of Newfoundland generated gale-force NE winds directly from Iceland to Newfoundland for 5 (!) consecutive days, Apr. 11–15. At the same time, Ireland, which provides wintering grounds for a large number of the Greater Golden-Plovers that breed in Iceland, was experiencing light variable and southerly winds, good migration weather. One can easily hypothesize that golden-plovers left Ireland on the favorable weather to migrate to breeding grounds in Iceland but got caught in strong NE winds as they approached it and went with the air flow until they hit Newfoundland (RB, PL, BMT, JW et al.). A more detailed account of this event will appear in *The Bullbird* 3, no. 3.

Other birds that were probably related to this weather system were a **Black-tailed Godwit** at Grand Barchois, S.P.M., late April to May 7 (RE et al.); a Ruff at Kilbride Apr. 26 (BMT, JW); and the previously mentioned pair of Eur. Wigeon and three "Eur." Green-winged Teal. A small shorebird with a Greater Golden-Plover at dusk Apr. 25 in St. John's unfortunately went unidentified.



Greater Golden-Plover at Kilbride, Newfoundland, April 26, 1988. Photo/Bruce Mactavish.

Nova Scotia's 4th-ever **American Oystercatcher** was at Three Fathom Harbor May 7 (fide FS), and almost as unusual was another at Reid S.P., ME, May 15 (EG). A Willet was north of its breeding range at S.P.M. May 24 (fide RE). A count of 25 Apr. 28 at Galilee, RI, was considered high (fide DE).

This spring's Whimbrels were one Apr. 16 at Little Compton, RI (fide DE); one May 10 at N. Monomoy, MA (BN); and a rare spring flock of eight May 24 at Milford Pt., CT (FP, JZ). Less than annual in the Region during spring a Hudsonian Godwit was critically identified at Lordship, CT, May 22 (FM et al.), and another was at Scarborough, ME, May 24 (KG). By spring standards 10 White-rumped Sandpipers at Lubec, ME, May 27 represented a large number (CD). Returning to normal (?), Pectoral Sandpipers were scarce with only ones and twos reported. An impressive count of 1500 Purple Sandpipers in 2 flocks was made at Isle au Haut, ME, Mar. 20 (RM, JKM). Sixty at Reid S.P., ME, May 22 provided a high number for late May (KD). Without any reports from Newburyport, MA, the only Curlew Sandpiper was an early one Apr. 28 at Grand Manan, NB (DC). Rare in spring a Stilt Sandpiper was at S. Windsor, CT, May 21 (PD). Ruffs were: one in Connecticut, two in Massachusetts, and one in Newfoundland.

JAEGERS TO TERNS — There were no reports of skuas, and the only jaeger report of interest was of an ad. Parasitic flying N over the treetops adjacent to the Connecticut R. in Connecticut on the early date of Apr. 9 (Sam Fried).

A Laughing Gull well northeast of the breeding range was an adult at S.P.M. Apr. 25–28 (RE). The spring's Franklin's Gull was an adult at St. John's, NF, May 8–11 (BMT et al.). The only Little Gulls reported were two singles in Connecticut, both in late March, and one May 27 at Scarborough, ME (KG et al.). Common Black-headed Gull totals from s. New England were: 12, Rhode Island; three, Connecticut; and three, Massachusetts. Seventy-three at Come-by-Chance, NF, Mar. 11 provided a high count for that location (BMT). Departure dates for two wintering "Common" Mew Gulls in Newfoundland were Mar. 5 at St. John's and Mar. 14 at Bellevue Beach (BMT). Lesser Black-backed Gulls numbered one (adult) in Connecticut, one (adult) in Massachusetts, two (one adult, one immature) in S.P.M., and five (three adults, one 3rd-summer, one first-summer) in Newfoundland. Most interesting was a 3rd-summer Lesser Black-backed Gull at Churchill Falls, Labrador, well inland May 16 (BMT). One hundred Ivory Gulls were seen during a NE gale Apr. 21 at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, NF, unusual for spring (Delena Anderson).

Caspian Terns outside of Newfoundland where they breed were: three in Connecticut, three in Maine, and one in Nova Scotia. A Royal Tern was at Westbrook, CT, May 24 (S. Mickens). A Least Tern at Eastern Passage, NS, May 1 was a rare and early vagrant (IAM et al.). There were 2 pairs of Black Skimmers on New I., Orleans, MA, in late May, but none returned to Monomoy (fide BN).

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS — A Mourning Dove was far north at Goose Bay, Labrador, May 12 (fide BMT). A Com. Barn-Owl was a rarity at Petit Manan N.W.R., ME, Apr. 22–May 25 (RW). Good numbers of Snowy Owls were present well into the spring after a very heavy flight last fall. One to four were reported from 15 locations in Maine with the latest being one May 15 at Cutler Naval Base (CD). A total of eight were reported in Nova Scotia with the latest being May 1 (fide IAM). Both S.P.M. and the St. John's, NF, garbage dump saw increases from the stable overwintering populations in late March. S.P.M. had a maximum of seven Mar. 25 with the last one May 30 (RE). The St. John's dump had 16 Apr. 1, 11 May 9, and six May 21 (Doug Phelan). Cape St. Mary's, Cape Race, and L'Anse-aux-Meadows, NF, also had Snowy Owls until the end of May. (See summer report for June sightings.) Ten active Barred Owl nests were found in nest boxes put out around Wolfville, NS (fide IAM).

A very early overshooting Chuck-will's-widow really overshoot when it ended up on S.P.M. on April 3. It was found dead the next day, specimen preserved (fide RE). One to two birds were at Suffield, CT, May 16–20 (SK, JWe), and more unusual was one May 23 at Petit Manan I., ME (RW).

An ad. Red-headed Woodpecker found dead in Sackville, NB, Mar. 27 was early and north of breeding range (fide ST). Overwintering Red-bellied Woodpeckers in Maine remained until Mar. 26 at Lincoln Center (Elsie Duplisea) and Mar. 19 at Cape Elizabeth (Joseph Kocknavate). Spring migrants in the same state were one May 16 at Lovell (EM) and one May 8 & 9 at Freeport (BNo).

FLYCATCHERS TO SHRIKES — The most northerly Acadian Flycatcher was at Provincetown, MA, May 27 (BN). An E. Kingbird was exceptionally early, but not unprecedented in the Region, Apr. 1 at Economy, NS (FS). A mateless ♀ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was sitting on a nest in s. Maine, far from its breeding range (fide WT). A very early Purple Martin arrived in Yarmouth, NS, Apr. 3 (S. Smith).

The **Eurasian Jackdaw** discovered at New Haven, CT, during the winter was last seen Mar. 13 (m.ob.). A Jackdaw reported in Sheffield, MA, turned out to be an aberrant Am. Crow. A Fish Crow at Burlington, MA, Apr. 1 was unusual (JB). A cemetery in Portland, ME, had a high count of eight May 5 and a nest that was destroyed by lightning (RRE)! Carolina Wrens continued to be in good numbers on Cape Cod (BN), and a



Adult Franklin's Gull at St. John's, Newfoundland, May 10, 1988. Photo/Bruce Mactavish.

suspected pair was at York Harbor, ME, throughout the spring (S. Barnette), another sang for a week in late May on Appledore I., ME (DH).

A Water Pipit successfully overwintered at a small sewage outflow in St. John's, NF (BMT). One hundred sixty Bohemian Waxwings in 8 flocks March to mid-April were in Maine. Two Bohemians Apr. 18 at Goose Bay, Labrador, provided one of the few sightings ever from Labrador (Betty Learning). Cedar Waxwings were notable by their scarcity throughout the Region. Upwards of 20 N. Shrikes were reported from Maine, with a late one banded Apr. 20 at Martinsville. Fairly good numbers were seen in Atlantic Canada as well. No Loggerhead Shrikes were reported, which is becoming the rule rather than the exception.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — White-eyed Vireos north of their breeding range in Maine were one May 16–18 at Portland (KD *et al.*), one May 8 on Monhegan I. (*vide* WT), and one banded May 30 on Appledore I. (DH). In Nova Scotia one May 29 on Brier I. provided a 3rd spring sighting (IAM *et al.*).

There were no noteworthy waves of warblers this spring. Northerly Blue-winged Warblers in Maine were one May 16 in Portland (KD *et al.*) and one May 21 in Augusta (GT). A Golden-winged Warbler was on Monhegan I., ME, May 28 (*vide* WT). Lawrence's Warblers were singles at Westport, CT, May 3–June 4 (Rob Winkler) and for the 2nd year in a row at W. Hartford, CT, May 8–31 (PD). Yellow-throated Warblers were one Apr. 22 at Scarborough, ME (KD, KG), and one Apr. 22–25 at Grand Manan, NB (*vide* ST). Two Pine Warblers overwintering at feeders at Charlottetown, PEI, survived until late March (*vide* JH). Three Cerulean Warblers were at Cape Cod, MA (BN), and one was north at Kezar Falls, ME (*vide* WT). Other warblers north of their breeding ranges in Maine were Worm-eating Warbler Apr. 20 at Blue Hill (J. Hamlin); one Prothonotary Warbler May 12 and one Hooded Warbler May 17, both at Kennebunk Beach (JF); and two Prothonotary Warblers Apr. 23 and a Kentucky Warbler May 21 on Monhegan I. (*vide* WT). One Hooded and two Worm-eating warblers were seen on Cape Cod, MA (BN).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES — Overshooting May Summer Tanagers were two in Connecticut; two on Cape Cod, MA; and three in Maine. Two early ones were in Nova Scotia: one ad. male Mar. 27–May 1 and one Apr. 9–May 1 (*vide* DAC). A ♀ Black-headed Grosbeak was reported from Bon Portage I., NS, May 22 (*vide* DAC). A storm Apr. 19 brought exceptionally large numbers of Indigo Buntings to e. Nova Scotia. On Apr. 20 in the Canso, NS, area 31 were seen, with many more there over the next few days (*vide* DAC). The report of 15 Blue Gros-

beaks the same day was not accompanied by details but could well have been true considering the high number of Indigo Buntings. This wave of overshooting Indigo Buntings was noticed to a lesser degree in w. Nova Scotia but nowhere else in the Region. Other totals for Blue Grosbeak were of two in Rhode Island; one in Connecticut; two on Cape Cod, MA; three in Maine; and two in Nova Scotia.

A winter Dickcissel sighting was of an ad. male Feb. 27 at Pubnico Head, NS (FL *et al.*). The only Clay-colored Sparrow reported was on Monhegan I., ME, May 11 (*vide* WT) The general impression Regionwide of White-crowned Sparrows was that it was a poor spring "flight." A W. Meadowlark Apr 28 & 29 at Little Compton, RI, was tape-recorded for a 2nd state record (DE *et al.*). Nine Orchard Orioles feeding on oranges on Monhegan I., ME, May 13 constituted a surprisingly high count (JWe). There were four other singles in Maine and two from Brier I., NS.

Red Crossbills were in evidence in New England with 3 sightings in April at Rhode Island, where none were seen over the winter. In Maine it was the "dominant woods finch" with frequent flocks of up to 25 (*vide* WT). Red Crossbills were scarce in Nova Scotia and almost nonexistent in Newfoundland. White-winged Crossbills were as far south as Wallum L., RI, Mar. 20 (*vide* DE), and a few were in Connecticut into March. The huge numbers of the winter returned to normal, i.e., flocks of 25 over the spring in Nova Scotia. After a poor winter for Com. Redpoll there was a slight influx in March to Maine and Nova Scotia with flocks of up to 300. Pine Siskins were abundant all spring in Maine and Nova Scotia and common in Newfoundland.

EXOTICS — A nesting colony of 12 Monk Parakeets was along the Bridgeport Coast, CT. A Chough, Apr. 3 at Southbury, CT, near where there have been sightings since fall, was of unknown origin (*vide* FM).

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QUEBEC REGION

Richard Yank, Yves Aubry, and Michel Gosselin

March averaged colder than normal in southern Quebec despite persistent southerly flows of warm air that prompted a number of early arrivals during the latter part of the month. Southern Quebec was mild in early April, but periods of cold and stormy weather hit the area around mid-month. May was warm and dry, as summer-like weather predominated during the first one-half of the month. Northern Quebec was milder and dryer than usual throughout the period.

GREBES TO WATERFOWL — The sighting of a breeding-plumaged **Eared Grebe** at Trois-Pistoles May 15 (MLr, JPO) provided our 2nd provincial record. A N. Fulmar spotted at Beauport May 3 (DM) was farther west than usual, and eight seen from the Matane ferry May 29 (JPO, MLr) followed the now well established pattern of late spring sightings. On May 16 the decomposed remains of an **American White Pelican** were found at Saint-Vallier (JLc, JYG), a popular spot with waterfowl hunters; the discoverers speculated that the bird had been shot last fall. A Great Cormorant, rare in the St Lawrence Estuary, was observed at Bergeronnes Apr 30

tonal grounding of 136 Purple Sandpipers at Saint-Fulgence May 24 (GSa), and a group of four at Rivière-Ouelle the previous day (CA et al.), may indicate a previously unsuspected overland migration. A winter-plumaged Dunlin at Baie-du-Febvre Apr. 10 (FBo, DJ) was record early by 4 days, and a **Curlew Sandpiper** in breeding plumage was an exciting find at Carleton May 23 & 27 (RC). Two different ♂ Ruffs were described at Pointe-au-Père May 5–7 (black-morph, JLR et al.) and Trois-Pistoles May 14 (red-morph, JPO, MLr et al.). Locally rare were lone ♂ Wilson's Phalaropes at Saint-Gédéon May 12 (GSa, CC), Plaisance May 21 (C.O.O.), and Saint-Fulgence May 24 (JI). Uncommon in the St. Lawrence Estuary in spring were two breeding-plumaged Red Phalaropes off Matane May 29 (JPO, MLr).

S.A.

A stray Am. Coot was reported from Nue I. in the Mingan archipelago May 24 (JCI); however, this bird was doubtlessly not double-checked to eliminate Eur. Coot. As is the case for many potential Eurasian vagrants, a close resemblance exists between the North American species and its Eurasian counterpart, but observers tend to assume that only North American vagrants are to be expected. Among the golden-plovers reported this spring, the eight at Blanc-Sablon May 10 (KB), two at Rivière-Portneuf May 28 (GCy, SMn), and one at Sept-Iles (date ?, *fide* BDu) were particularly suspect, considering the unprecedented late-April invasion of Greater Golden-Plovers into nearby Newfoundland (see the Summer report for further developments). Equally intriguing was the report of a Whimbrel at Rivière-Saint-Jean, on the extremely early date of Apr. 22 (GSi). Here, also, the European subspecies must be suspected.

JAEGERS TO OWLS — This Region's earliest-ever Parasitic Jaeger was seen at Rivière-Ouelle May 8 (CA). Laughing Gulls made a good showing; in addition to two reported from the Lower St. Lawrence, an adult traveled upstream to Baie-du-Febvre May 1 (CV et al.), and two were found on inland lakes: an adult on L. Osisko, Rouyn, May 18 (JLp) and an immature, which was later found dead (*N.M.N.S.), on L. Magog June 1 (PBo). A first-year Thayer's Gull, for which we have few spring records, was identified at Cacouna May 7 (JPO). A Lesser Black-backed Gull returned to Victoriaville Apr. 30 (MGr), and a 2nd-year immature appeared at Rivière-Ouelle May 7 (CA, BDe).

Throughout the day of May 16, while plowing his field, a farmer at Rimouski observed a small owl at the entrance to a groundhog burrow. The description matched that of a **Burrowing Owl**, but, unfortunately, area birders could not relocate the bird (*fide* DR). The northern owl invasion extended into March with six N. Hawk-Owls, 11 Great Gray Owls, and four Boreal Owls to be added to this past winter's totals. A Boreal Owl calling at Alma May 3–6 (JI et al.) was highly suggestive of local nesting; at the n. limit of its range was a N. Saw-whet Owl at Pointe-aux-Outardes Apr. 9 (RL, SMn, GCy).

FLYCATCHERS TO FINCHES — The province's 7th **Say's Phoebe** turned up at Chandler May 16 (JRL), furnishing only our 2nd spring record. Setting an early arrival record was a Barn Swallow at Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes Mar. 31 (GOu). A Tufted Titmouse was netted and banded at Pierrefonds May 3 (MBn, ph. ND), representing a first spring sighting for this casual fall and winter visitor. A noticeable movement of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers occurred in mid-May, as three to four reached beyond their s.w. Quebec breeding range: at Quebec City May 10–11 (MLr et al.), Cap-Tourmente May 13 (JPO, JPé) & 15 (JGu), and at Rimouski May 14 (JR, RPe).

A ♂ Blue-winged Warbler returned to Fitch-Bay for the 3rd

consecutive year, May 14–20 (FS et al.) But, although previously the bird sang like a Golden-winged, this year's bird gave a proper Blue-winged's song. On May 15 a Golden-winged Warbler was also seen at this site (PFg et al.). On May 19 a "Brewster's" Warbler was found at Cantley (DD, RF), where one had been located in 1984. A Pine Warbler at Saint-Eusèbe May 9 (MBu) was east of its normal range. The best warbler of the season was a ♂ **Kentucky Warbler** that paused at Westmount May 12 (MA, JH et al.). A ♂ **Summer Tanager**, Quebec's 8th, brightened Cap-Tourmente May 15 (JGu), and Indigo Buntings overshot their breeding grounds May 10–18 with single extralimital males noted at Jonquière (AC et al.), Tadoussac (YD, GOl), Sept-Iles (JS, SMr), Franquelin (C.O.M.), and Havre-Saint-Pierre (SP).

A ♀ Yellow-headed Blackbird strayed to Thurso Apr. 30 (LS, SMe), a male was watched by many at nearby Plaisance Apr. 30–May 1 (*fide* MLe), and on May 2 a male appeared at Beau-canton, where one had been seen Apr. 30, 1987 (JPe). Although none of these birds lingered, all frequented habitat potentially suitable for nesting; this was not the case with previous records of birds passing through the Region during the spring. A well-described first-spring ♂ Orchard Oriole ventured to Moisie May 21 (BDu, CB), and an ad. male sang at Saint-Esprit May 28 (JCa, v.ob.). The House Finch took another substantial step in its rapid range expansion, appearing for the first time along the North Shore, with lone males viewed at Bergeronnes Apr. 14 (AB, EB) and Sacré-Coeur Apr. 20–27 (GDe). Observers noted small numbers of Red Crossbills throughout the region. Four at Baie-Comeau Apr. 5 (RL, Rbb) and up to four more at Sacré-Coeur Apr. 9–27 (GDe) constituted rare North Shore sightings. A Eur. Goldfinch enlivened I. des Soeurs for the 2nd consecutive spring (*fide* PG).

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HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

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

Conditions this spring were essentially the reverse of last year's—a cool and very dry March and April were followed by a chilly, very wet May, during which rain fell in northern New Jersey on 19 of the 31 days, including 10 in a row May 16–25. As a consequence, the bulk of the passerine migration was late, but there were some very good flights during breaks in the weather at mid-month. Remarkably, some of the better days occurred on the weekends for a change.

The outstanding highlight of the season was the first Regional occurrence of Large-billed Tern, a species found only twice before in North America. Normal numbers of the more expected rarities were noted from all parts of the Region with a couple of interesting but unconfirmed reports. In contrast to last spring, pelagic birding was good, but not great, and the larger whales were completely missing.

ABBREVIATIONS — Bombay Hook = Bombay Hook Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, near Smyrna, DE; Brig = Brigantine Unit, Edwin B. Forsythe Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Atlantic, NJ; J.B.W.R. = Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York City; Little Creek = Little Creek Wildlife Area, near Dover, DE; L.I. = Long Island, NY; Sandy Hook = Sandy Hook Unit, Gateway Nat'l Recreation Area, Monmouth, NJ. Place names in italics are counties.

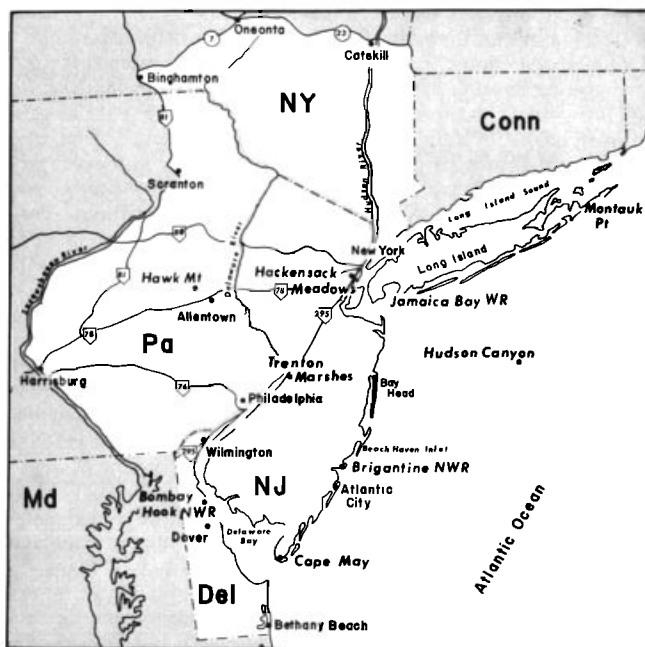
LOONS TO IBISES — Two Red-throated Loons in breeding plumage flying over Newark, DE, Apr. 30 were unusual there (APE, MVB, JWR). Elsewhere, the usual sprinkling of both species was recorded both inland and along the coast through the end of May. Inland Red-necked Grebes were at Cornwall Bay (two), Orange, NY, Mar. 19 (M.B.C.); Leaser L., Lehigh, PA, Mar. 26 (SSm); Budd L. and L. Musconetcong, Morris, NJ, Mar. 27 (BH); and Culvers L., Sussex, NJ, throughout April (FT). A good flight in w. Long Island Sound at Rye produced six Apr. 10, 15 Apr. 25, 58 Apr. 26, and 12 May 7 (TWB et al.). An individual in breeding plumage at Cape May on May 26 was extraordinary (TWB).

A dozen N. Fulmars were noted 63 mi east of Cape May on May 11 (T. Koebel), and two to three were found on a pelagic trip to the Hudson Canyon from Barnegat Light, NJ, May 28. The pelagic trip also located one Manx, several Cory's, and numerous Sooty and Greater shearwaters. Onshore, a Sooty Shearwater was off the beach at Cape May Pt., May 14–15 (m.ob.).

The now annual late-spring influx of Brown Pelicans began at Cape May, with three found there May 11 (L. Armstrong), followed by many more in the coming days and weeks. Lingering Great Cormorants included one at Nyack Beach S.P., Rockland, NY (PDe); six at Cape Henlopen, DE, Apr. 15 (WWF); and one at Cape May to at least May 21 (v.o.). More unusual was an immature flying by the hawk watch with migrating Double-crested at Morgan Hill, Northampton, PA, Apr. 26 (DD).

The usual scattering of herons and egrets occurred at sites remote from nesting areas; among them were a Little Blue Heron at Leaser L., PA, on the late date of May 21 (BLM, SSm, FB) and a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Budd Lake, NJ, Apr. 11 (BH). A White Ibis was over Lily L., Cape May Pt., May 19 (SM).

WATERFOWL — A Greater White-fronted Goose was in Dutchess, NY, Mar. 2 (MY, HM), and another adult arrived at Harmony, Warren, NJ, Mar. 23 with a small flock of migrant



Canadas and departed with them the next day (JE, GH, P. Finken). A Brant of the black-bellied western form was at J.B.W.R. Apr. 19 (T. Hook), for the first Regional report in several years.

Eurasian Wigeon were well represented with at least six in New Jersey and two on e. Long Island in March plus a drake at J.B.W.R. that remained through the spring into mid-summer (m.ob.). Ring-necked Ducks lingered very late at several locations: a female was near Frenchtown, Hunterdon, NJ, May 14 (fide PS); a drake was at Wild Creek Res., Carbon, PA, May 24 (TM, BLM, D. Brauning); and a pair was at the Honey Brook Treatment Plant, Chester, PA, through the end of the period (LL). The species has never been confirmed nesting in the Region.

A ♀ Com. Eider was still at Cape May on May 9 (JDo), and an imm. male remained there into the summer. Four Harlequin Ducks at Montauk, L.I., in March were left over from the small wintering flock, but a drake at Sandy Hook May 14 was unexpected (SM, M. Fahey, F. O'Sullivan). Diving ducks appeared as usual at scattered inland locations in March and April; among the more noteworthy groups were 43 Oldsquaw at Rummerfield, Bradford, PA, Mar. 26 (WR). Three Surf Scoters at Long Arm Res., York, PA, Apr. 30 were unusual for that location, as was the occurrence of all three scoters in Chester, PA, during April (PH, LL).

Hooded Mergansers again nested in Great Swamp N.W.R., Morris, NJ, where broods were noted in May (v.o.); other suspected nesting sites were in Passaic (GP) and Sussex (JZ), NJ. Budd L. again held the highest Regional count of Com. Merganser, with 1100 Mar. 16 (BH), but most interesting was a pair through the end of the period at Muddy Run, Lancaster, PA, where nesting has been anticipated in recent years but never realized (RMS, m.ob.).

RAPTORS TO RAILS — New Jersey had only its 2nd and 3rd confirmed nestings of Black Vulture, one in Upper Freehold Township, Monmouth (fide L. Soucy), and the other at West Portal, Hunterdon (PDu), but this species is now widespread and fairly common over much of the s. and n.w. parts of the

state Although there had been scattered sightings of wandering individuals in New Jersey for many years, it was just 10 years ago this summer that small numbers of Black Vultures first appeared and remained in the state. Southern New York had its now annual scattering of sightings, and it is only a matter of time before Orange and Rockland, NY, are colonized.

The strong comeback of Osprey was evident from totals at the various hawk watches as well as from counts such as of 43 along a 20-mi stretch from Mattituck to Orient Pt., L.I., Apr. 2 (Moriches Audubon Society). A pair started to nest along the Delaware near Portland, Northampton, PA, but abandoned the effort (TM); 2 pairs were nesting along the lower Susquehanna R., Lancaster, PA, in April (RMS). Five Am. Swallow-tailed Kites were noted this spring, for the highest total in recent years. Three in New Jersey were at Sandy Hook Apr. 22 (SM); Middle Township, Cape May, May 12 (fide RBA); and Brig May 22 (LD, PDU). New York had one at Brookhaven, L.I., May 12 (J. Clinton) and another at Ward Pound Ridge, Westchester, June 1 (T. Meyer *et al.*). Only about a half-dozen Mississippi Kites appeared in Cape May this spring, all May 22–30, with a maximum of four together on the 26th. More noteworthy were individuals at Morgan Hill, PA, Apr. 23 (AK, BLM, DD, FB), representing a first for the area, and a single at Forest Park, Queens, NY, May 24 (SW, A. Berland).

The burgeoning Regional population of Bald Eagles, largely due to captive release programs in New York and New Jersey, provided dozens of sightings throughout the season from all parts of the Region. A pair attempted to nest at Mannington Marsh, Salem, NJ, for the 3rd year in a row but again abandoned the effort; another pair at Rio Res., Sullivan, NY, was considered to be a possible nesting duo (P. Nye).

An increasing interest in spring hawk watching provided information from a half-dozen regularly manned sites in 3 states. The Montclair, NJ, watch, a traditional fall location, was monitored thoroughly for the first time this spring and surpassed Sandy Hook for total number of birds seen (5156 versus 4910). Broad-winged Hawks predominated at Montclair as well as at other inland sites, such as Morgan Hill, Mt. Peter, NY; Hook Mt., NY; and Boonton, NJ; Sharp-shinned Hawk and Am. Kestrel were the top migrants at Sandy Hook. A surprising number of Sharp-shinned (914), Kestrels (415), and even Merlins (40) were recorded at Montclair, which also had as many Peregrine Falcons (eight) as Sandy Hook.

Cooper's Hawk is considered a threatened species in New Jersey, but the recent increase in fall migrants is now being reflected in more reports of nesting birds. This spring, nests were found in Cumberland, Monmouth, and Sussex (2), and several other nests were suspected. No similar increase has been noted in neighboring Pennsylvania and New York, but the available habitat is much greater in those 2 states and the density of birders much lower; one nest was found in Dutchess, NY (W.B.C.). Several nests of N. Goshawk were found in n.w. New Jersey, and a nest was stoutly defended near Milford, Pike, PA, Apr. 23 (SD); a bird at the Bashakill, Sullivan, NY, May 20 could have been a local breeder (M.B.C.).

The season's only Golden Eagle was at Hawk Mt. May 9, an unusually late date (LG). A heavy flight of Merlins was observed at Cape Henlopen Apr. 24, when 24 were counted in one hour (J. White, MVB, JWR, JS). The numerous reports of Peregrine Falcon included several new nesting pairs, for which more detail will be provided in the summer report.

A search for Black Rails along the Delaware Bayshore in New Jersey produced a dozen sites with birds present in May (PK). Across the bay in Delaware, Black Rails were found at 2 new locales—Dragon Run Marsh, Delaware City (CP, HA), and near Thompsonville (AH)—as well as at the traditional Port Mahon, Bombay Hook, and Broadkill Beach spots. The Dragon Run birds were the northernmost in the state and the first for New Castle. A King Rail was heard Apr. 28 & 30 at Troy Meadows, Morris, NJ, where King Rails have been absent in recent years, but was not detected thereafter (DH, EPa). A Purple Gallinule was found at Pond Creek Marsh, Cape May, May 23 (PS); this is a potential nesting site.

SHOREBIRDS — The shorebird migration was generally unimpressive, especially at J.B.W.R., where numbers were 35%–50% lower than the 6-year average, and at Brig, where management practices seem designed to discourage both birds and birders. Lesser Golden-Plovers were again hard to come by; as in last year Bombay Hook had a few, including one as late as May 14. A **Wilson's Plover** was found on the bay side at Tobay Sanctuary, Nassau, L.I., May 3 (B. Hines), the first Long Island record in many years, although there have been several recent occurrences in s. New Jersey.

Black-necked Stilts arrived at Bombay Hook and Little Creek Apr. 24, with up to 40 at Bombay Hook the following week. This year several continued across the Delaware to New Jersey. Six were at McNamara W.M.A., Atlantic, May 13–15 (F. Lesser, m.ob.); three were at Moores Beach, Cumberland, May 13 (MG, B. Peterjohn); two were at Cape May, May 21 (PDU); and one was at Stone Harbor May 25–June 2 (R. Widmer). American Avocets, some of which wintered at Little Creek, were at Bombay Hook all spring; unlike their cousins, however, none were detected north of Delaware Bay.

Upland Sandpipers were back at most of their known breeding sites as well as at a couple of potential new locations by early May. Only one was seen at the traditional Sharptown, Salem, NJ, location, now threatened with development, and none at nearby Harrisonville (JKM). Four Marbled Godwits at Bombay Hook May 13 were unusual for the spring (D. Shoch). The Delaware and New Jersey Non-Game Projects jointly surveyed the Delaware Bayshore by air for shorebirds on 4 dates in late May and early June. Peak numbers were on June 1, with 280,000 birds about evenly distributed on both sides of the bay; these flocks consisted mainly of Semipalmated Sandpipers, Red Knots, Ruddy Turnstones, and Sanderlings (JTh).

Up to three W. Sandpipers at Struble L., Chester, PA, May 9–14 (LL) were noteworthy, as was a White-rumped Sandpiper at Spring Cr., Lehigh, PA, May 24 (RW), for the first county record in 30 years. Spring Cr. also had a Pectoral Sandpiper Mar. 19 and a Greater Yellowlegs the same day (SSm, BLM). Curlew Sandpipers were down a bit, with one at Brig May 14–20 (JTo, PAB, FGB); one in DeKorte S.P., Bergen, NJ, May 18–28 (KK, DK, B & JP); one at Little Creek May 28 (PN); and a final one at Kitts Hummock, DE, June 4 (B. Cooper). A Stilt Sandpiper provided a good spring record for J.B.W.R. June 4–9 (AMo).

In contrast to last spring, Ruffs made a poor showing in the Region, especially at the traditional hot spot Pedricktown, Salem, NJ, where only two to three different birds were found Mar. 17–Apr. 16 (JKM). A ♀ Ruff was at Brig May 22 (LD, PDU), and another was at Moores Beach May 29 (WJB, MN, v.o.). In Delaware a Ruff was at Bombay Hook Mar. 27 (fide Philadelphia Rare Bird Alert), and another was there May 16 (HA, CP, J. Sparks). Twenty-three Long-billed Dowitchers constituted an unusually high count for spring at Bombay Hook May 3 (C. Wilds *et al.*), and 24 Short-billed Dowitchers provided a good total for inland Hamburg, Berks, PA, May 21–22 (K. Grim *et al.*). Phalaropes were in short supply; Bombay Hook had up to four Wilson's, but there were only three in New Jersey and two in New York, all in May. A ♀ Red-necked Phalarope at Cape May on May 31 (JDo, RC) was the only other phalarope reported.

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS — An ad. Pomarine Jaeger was along the beach at Cape May, May 22 (LD, PDU), but the other jaegers were seen at sea. The May 28 pelagic trip had a Parasitic Jaeger, one to two Long-tailed Jaegers, and three to four S Polar Skuas. A Laughing Gull was at Muddy Run, Lancaster, PA, May 10 (RMS), and flocks continued to find their way inland in New Jersey as far north as Princeton, where there were dozens this spring. A probable ad. Franklin's Gull was photographed at Brig Mar. 12 (B & JP); unfortunately, the photos were not sharp enough to allow positive identification.

An ad. Little Gull was in the meadows at S. Cape May for most of April (v.o.), and three were in Jones Inlet, L.I., May 7

(SW), for a slight improvement over 1987. Five Com. Black-headed Gulls were reported, again for a slight increase from 1987, including an adult in Delaware Bay, Cumberland, NJ, Mar 24–25 (RBA); an immature at Sandy Hook May 14 (SM); two at Jones Inlet Mar. 20 (SW); and an immature at J.B.W.R. during April (m.ob.). An Iceland Gull was unusual up the Hudson R. at Esopus, Dutchess, Mar. 7 (EPI, FG, TH), and a few others were noted during March in the New York City area and at Sandy Hook; a late individual was in Queens May 14 (SW). At least eight Lesser Black-backed Gulls were in New Jersey, with four to five in the Cape May area, and two were in Rye, Westchester, NY (TWB), for most of the season.

Two Caspian Terns at the Bashakill May 21 were unusual away from the Hudson R. and late for migrants (JPT). A Roseate Tern was again found at Assawoman W.M.A., DE, May 14, for the 4th year in a row (E & SSp). Common Tern was noted in York and Chester, PA, and May 22 in Luzerne, PA, where it is quite rare (MB). A Black Guillemot, changing from winter plumage into breeding plumage, flew into Jones Inlet Mar. 13 and alighted on the water for a few minutes before flying off (TWB, B Kurtz).

S.A.

The bird of the season was the **Large-billed Tern** discovered at Kearny Marsh, Hudson, NJ, on the morning of Memorial Day, May 30. In spite of the holiday, word was spread in time for more than 50 observers to see the tern by nightfall (RK, ph. J. Golub, ph. PAB, m.ob.), but it could not be relocated thereafter. It was subsequently learned that the tern had also been seen May 27 but had been thought an aberrant individual of a North American species. Large-billed Tern, a denizen of the rivers of South America, has been recorded only twice before in the United States—once in Illinois July 15, 1949, and once in Ohio May 29, 1954 (see AB 33:727)—although the origin of these birds has been questioned (*The A.O.U. Checklist of North American Birds, Sixth Edition*). Details of this unusual record, together with photographs, will appear separately in *American Birds*.

OWLS TO FLYCATCHERS — Two Snowy Owls were still at Pt. Lookout, L.I., Mar. 7, with one remaining to the 16th (fide TWB). A Long-eared Owl at Dividing Cr., Cumberland, NJ, May 14 was well south of any known nesting location (DW), and two calling N. Saw-whet Owls near Culvers Gap, Sussex, NJ, Mar. 25 were in potential breeding territory but could not be located thereafter (FT). A Chuck-will's-widow entertained birders in Central Park, New York City, May 4–8 (m.ob.), and others were on e. Long Island at the n. limit of the species' range. Most unusual for New Castle, DE, was a Chuck found in daylight at woodland on Rt. 202, Wilmington, May 13 (DAC, et al.).

There were scattered reports of Red-headed Woodpecker from s. New York and Long Island, with confirmed nesting in Dutchess in May (W.B.C.). A pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers returned to a Tabernacle, Burlington, NJ, yard and spent most of a May day picking up dry dog food from a broken bag and storing it in a favorite tree (J. Baillet). One of the outstanding finds of the season was a ♀ **Black-backed Woodpecker** discovered flaking bark off a dead White Pine at Milford, Pike, PA, Apr 23; it could not be relocated later (SD). Two Pileated Woodpeckers in Bear Swamp, Cumberland, NJ, in March and April were in a new area for this species, which has only recently appeared in s. New Jersey (CS, PS).

A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at Higbee Beach W.M.A., Cape May, May 8 only (CS, PS, PKe), but a more unusual and more cooperative individual was discovered at Bombay Hook May 21–23 (B & NM, m.ob.).

CROWS TO WARBLERS — Fish Crow is increasing in numbers and spreading to all parts of the Region, it is now found nesting throughout New Jersey wherever there is water. A migrant flock of 22 at Middletown, Orange, NY, Apr. 5 (JPT) was indicative of the spread into s. New York, well away from the major rivers, as further evidenced by the presence of 2 pairs at the Bashakill, Sullivan, NY. Two Com. Ravens were at Bear Mountain S.P. Mar. 9 (E. Treacy), part of that species' continuing spread.

A pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches attempted to nest at Allentown, PA, in April but were evicted by a Downy Woodpecker. Better success was indicated by a family group in Bevan W.M.A., Cumberland, NJ, May 29, far south of any previously known nesting in the state (WJB, MN). The well-known pair of Brown-headed Nuthatches at Henlopen Acres, DE, was feeding young May 18 in this species' northernmost nest (WWF). Last fall's big flight of Winter Wrens was echoed this spring with an excellent return flight that generated far more reports than usual. Numerous nesting birds were located in n. New Jersey in mid-May, and the species was very common at all altitudes in the Catskills in early June.

A ♂ **Northern Wheatear** in full breeding plumage was an outstanding find at Milton Pt., Rye, NY, May 7 (L. Brinker, m.ob.). Eastern Bluebirds, recovering strongly in the Region, were already feeding young in a nest at Cape May County Park Apr. 17 (BM). A Gray-cheeked Thrush at Rehoboth, DE, May 14 (APE) and another at Bombay Hook the next day (D. Cleary) provided noteworthy records of a species seldom found in spring along the Delaware coast. A Hermit Thrush in song at Woodbine, Cape May, NJ, May 21–31, was well south of the species' southernmost known breeding limit in New Jersey, in the Pine Barrens of Burlington. A Varied Thrush near Branchville, Sussex, NJ, Mar. 26 represented an unusual spring occurrence of a species normally found only in late fall or winter (B. Case, D. Pegg).

A Loggerhead Shrike at Raritan Center, Middlesex, NJ, Mar 27 furnished the only report of the spring (DH). Eight reports of Philadelphia Vireo were received again this year, much to the dismay of veterans who have never seen a spring "Philly" in decades of birding. As in previous years several sightings were by experienced observers, and one record, of a bird at Higbee Beach, Cape May, May 23, was documented by photograph (ph. KK, DK). A Red-eyed Vireo at N. Cape May Apr 8 was extremely early (JDo).

In spite of (or perhaps because of) the cold and crummy weather, good warbler flights were noted May 12–14 and again May 21 over most of the Region, especially in the north. Both Blue-winged x Golden-winged warbler hybrids were well reported, with a dozen "Brewster's" and two "Lawrence's." Three Orange-crowned Warblers were noted again this spring: one was at Lum's Pond, Sussex, DE, Apr. 16 (fide APE), and two were very late at Tallman Mountain S.P. May 16 (fide TWB) and Emmaus, Lehigh, PA, May 17 (J. Horn). **Townsend's Warbler** is a Regional rarity at any season, and this spring there were two, both males. The first was in Institute Woods, Princeton, NJ, Apr. 28 (†PR), and the 2nd was followed for several hours at Forest Park, Queens, May 14 (H. Martin, †SW, J. Sanfillipo).

Yellow-throated Warblers had returned to Jakes Landing, Cape May, by Mar. 12 (DT), an unusually early date. Most puzzling was a Yellow-throated Warbler discovered at Ravine L., Somerset, NJ, Apr. 23 singing the song of Cerulean Warbler, a locally common breeder. It remained in the area through May and was joined by a 2nd Yellow-throated, also singing the Cerulean song (SSo, KK, v.o.). In Pennsylvania a Yellow-throated Warbler at Cedar Crest College, Lehigh, Apr. 23 provided only the 2nd county record (RW), and another at Tunkhannock, Wyoming, May 11 furnished a first for that county (WR).

A Prothonotary Warbler at Wild Cr. May 14 was a first for Carbon, PA (AK, K. Sieminski); as usual there were several reports from the New York City area and Long Island. A Swainson's Warbler, at the n.e. limit of the breeding range,

strayed across the Delaware-Maryland state line at Cedar Swamp, near Gumboro, Sussex, DE, May 14 (E & SSp, Evan Speck). Louisiana Waterthrush set an early-arrival date at Scherman-Hoffman Sanctuary Mar. 31 (RK).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES — A ♂ Summer Tanager near Millbrook, Dutchess, NY, May 14 (B. Butler, HM) was farther north than the usual spring overshoots, several of which were in the New York City area. A male and female seen separately at Sag Harbor, L.I., May 28 were in a potential nesting area (G. Tudor, J. Ash); the species has never bred in New York. Two ♂ Blue Grosbeaks near Huff's Church, Lehigh, PA, May 9 provided a noteworthy local record (C. Elwell). A Dickcissel visited a Staten Island feeder May 14 (fide TWB), and a singing ♂ Dickcissel was in Cape May for several days in late May (L. Simon, v.o.). The previously reported Green-tailed Towhee in Bucks, PA, was last seen May 2 after a 4-month stay (B. McNaught).

Two different Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at feeders in Morgantown, Berks, PA, in early April (ph. R. Cook), and two others were reported from New Jersey. The presence of 17 first-year ♂ Orchard Orioles at Brandywine Creek S.P., DE, May 17 must have been an impressive sight (B & NM).

Following the big invasion in winter, Red Crossbills were widely noted in e. Pennsylvania, the n. half of New Jersey, and s. New York from March to mid-May. Two pairs at Brookhaven, L.I., May 14 may have been nesting (JJR), and some of those that remained in New Jersey probably did so, as a few were noted in June. White-winged Crossbills were less widespread, but 20-30 were at Clinton Rd., Passaic, NJ, Apr. 8 (JK), and one was still there May 12 (PBa). The major invasion of Pine Siskins continued through the spring, with indications of nesting in New Jersey in the Pine Barrens, Passaic, Sussex, and Morris, where juveniles were banded and fledglings observed in late May (CK, BH). The species was common in e. and n.e. Pennsylvania through May and probably nested there as well (BLM, WR); a siskin was still at the Specks' feeder in Wilmington, DE, May 30 (E & SSp).

EXOTICS — The list of presumed escapees included Crested Myna on Long Island and Egyptian Goose, Chukar, Blue-crowned Parakeet, Ringed Turtle-Dove, Black-billed Magpie, and Eur. Goldfinch in New Jersey.

UNCONFIRMED REPORTS — A bird circling low over Little Ferry, Bergen, NJ, Apr. 26 was observed without benefit of binoculars but identified as an Anhinga by a birder familiar with the species (J. Hayes); there have been a few recent rec-

ords in s. New Jersey of this species, which is now reportedly nesting in s. Virginia. A peep studied at length at DeKorte S.P., Bergen, NJ, May 16, in the company of Least, Semipalmated, and Western sandpipers, was identified as a Long-toed Stint (N. Boyajian, †R. Ryan, J. Zygal, H. Stein). The bird could not be relocated later that day or on subsequent days. Although the description seemed accurate, none of the observers had previous experience with this difficult species, for which there are no confirmed records in e. North America.

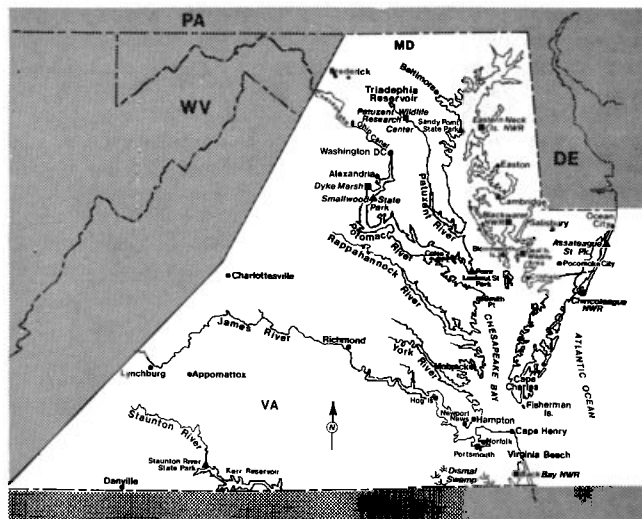
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MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

Henry T. Armistead

This was a cold, windy spring. North winds and, in May, rain hindered migration, and flights of raptors and passerines were poor. A warm March yielded some earlier than usual migrants. Departures from normal temperatures: March +1.4°F, April -1.6°, May -0.2°; precipitation: March -1.6 inches, April -0.04 inch, May +0.7 inch.

Whatever the highlights of spring in this account, they are diminished by our loss of Jackson M. Abbott. Jack won the Federal Duck Stamp competition in its early days. His association with places such as Dyke Marsh and Fort Belvoir spanned over 40 years. Just this spring he published a booklet on Fort Belvoir birds with his own illustrations. His devotion to the Chesapeake Bald Eagle survey drew major media coverage. Jack, we will miss you.



ABBREVIATIONS — Blackwater = Blackwater Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, MD, the Bay = Chesapeake Bay, C B B T = Chesapeake Bay Bridge & Tunnel, VA; Chincoteague = Chincoteague Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, VA; Craney = Craney Island Disposal Area, Portsmouth, VA; D.C. = Washington, D.C. Place names in *italics* are counties. Italicized dates indicate banded birds.

LOONS TO IBISES — Single Red-throated Loons were seen inland at Kerr L., VA, Apr. 23 (AB) and at Triadelphia Res., MD, north of D.C. in mid-April (*vide* JS). In Maryland peak Com. Loon counts were of 319 Apr. 15 and 300 Apr. 19 at the mouth of the Choptank R. (PRS). A survey by plane revealed but 145 from Smith I. north to the Choptank Apr. 23 (PRS, JM), and 250 were on the Bay off Pt. Lookout Apr. 17 (LD, HLW). In Virginia, at sea off Virginia Beach, nine were counted May 21 with five as late as May 30 (BP *et al.*). Pied-billed Grebes are scarcer here in spring than in fall, but Ringler found 28 at Loch Raven Res. north of Baltimore Apr. 2. Portlock had the best tally of Horned Grebes, with 700 south of Tangier I., VA, Mar. 7, demonstrating the advantage of birding by boat in remote areas. Normally this grebe peaks about a month after such a date. A deluge of reports was received of one to four Red-necked Grebes in the Hunting Creek–Alexandria, VA, area March to early April (DFA, RH, DC, RAA *et al.*), and three birds were in the Seneca, Montgomery, MD, area in early March (PO). Singles were at Piney Run Park, Carroll, MD, Mar. 6 & 12 (RFR); Patuxent Naval Air Station, St. Mary's, MD, Mar. 9 (MB); and Piscataway Cr., Prince Georges, MD, Apr. 4 (probably one of the Alexandria area birds) (EPW). Stasz detected as many as three Eared Grebes at N. Beach, Calvert, MD, on the Bay Apr. 9–23 (ph.).

A highly successful pelagic trip out from Virginia Beach May 30 found 239 Greater, 228 Sooty, 103 Cory's, 12 Manx, and an Audubon's shearwater plus 450+ Wilson's Storm-Petrels (NB, DFA, BP *et al.*). Most of these counts were reduced by 35% after plotting LORAN readings, but the totals for Greater, Sooty, and Manx still represented new state records. Truitt found a Wilson's Storm-Petrel at Machipongo Inlet, VA, May 24, and 52 were there June 1, including 40 well inside the inlet, many two-thirds of the way to the mainland. At C.B.B.T. a spectacular mass of 2100 N. Gannets, scores of them plunge-diving at any given moment, was seen Mar. 12 with 4000 Double-crested Cormorants, probably feeding on herring (HTA, JWS). In Virginia one to two Am. White Pelicans were seen at Wallops I. Mar. 14 (CRV), Metomkin I. May 19 (BTt), and at Chincoteague in April and May (VK, JFF), for probably a maximum of two birds; one was reported from the Severn R., MD, May 24 (GM). Brown Pelicans were widely reported at the mouth of the Bay in early March; for example, five were at Myrtle I. Mar. 8 (WSP), three were at C.B.B.T. the next day (RC), and one was at Ocean City, MD, Mar. 12 (GG). Most unusual far up the Bay was one at N. Beach Apr. 23 (JLS). Wolfe had 37 May 26 at Craney, where he had never seen them until Nov. 7, 1985.

A late Great Cormorant was at C.B.B.T. May 14 (EMW), and eight were at Lower Machodoc Cr., VA, Mar. 9 (JEJ). Dyke found 1000+ Double-crested Cormorants migrating over land in the Vienna-Hebron, MD, area Apr. 21, 82 were at Kerr Res. Apr. 23 (AB), and 1211 were at Craney Mar. 1 (TRW). Lee reported an Anhinga from Big Mill Pond, Welbourne, Worcester, MD, May 22. April storms damaged some coastal heronries, and 18 dead Snowy Egrets and three Tricolored Herons were found at Metomkin I. then (BTt). In Virginia Beach some colonies of Great Egrets were under the gun by residents tired of the noise, smell, and whitewash. Tactics included cutting large loblolly pines used as nest trees, setting off fireworks missiles, and firing blank guns supplied by the state agriculture department (*Virginian Pilot*, 12 April 1988, pp. D1 & 4). Abnormally early Least Bitterns were reported from Huntley Meadows County Park, Fairfax, VA, Mar. 28 (BL) and Apr. 2 (HE), and four Am. Bitterns were seen there Apr. 16 (DTS, BP). The first Cattle Egrets were one at Centennial L., Howard, MD, Mar. 13 (JS); three at Loch Raven Res. Mar. 26 (HF); and three at Bozman, Talbot, MD, Mar. 26 (EBs). The season's best heron

type was an ad. White Ibis at Blackwater Mar. 7–11 & 31 (RW, WN), DL, MLe, SEs), new for this refuge and a very unseasonal time for this species to be seen in the Region. At Deal Island W.M.A., MD, 25 Great Egrets and a Snowy Egret and six Tricolored and four Little Blue herons were seen Mar. 27, a good mix this early in the spring (MO).

WATERFOWL — Big flights of Tundra Swan took place Mar. 2–8 (v.o.). At Barren I., Dorchester, MD, 89 Mute Swans were seen, and 4 nests were found May 29 at their s. range limit on the Bay (GLA, CW, HTA). Unique was a Greater White-fronted Goose at Curles Neck southeast of Richmond, VA, Mar. 1 (MRB). At Ruthsburg, Queen Annes, MD, 12,000 Snow and 300 "Blue" geese were found Mar. 3 (JG, PG), and 1500 Snow Geese (mostly Blues) were at Blackwater Mar. 20 (RFR). Further reports of last big winter concentrations of geese included 2400 Brant at Wallops I. Mar. 2 with 490 still there Apr. 26 (CRV) Young Canada Geese were seen as early as Apr. 13 at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD (*vide* SD).

Single Eur. Wigeon were at Piscataway Cr. Mar. 15 (PP), Loch Raven Res. (HLW, HM *et al.*), and Hampton VA (WPS), all during March. At Piney Run Park, 460 Ring-necked Ducks Mar. 6 represented an excellent count (RFR). The Grubers' estimated 10,000 Lesser Scaup at Eastern Neck Island N.W.R. Apr. 19. Jetty ducks made a fine showing for spring. Up to 10 Com. Eiders were at C.B.B.T. during March (v.o.) with one still there Apr. 20 (WSP), 22 were at Ocean City Mar. 5 (CRV), and one was at Gargathy Inlet, VA, May 23 (BTt), a not unexpected carryover from a very strong presence last winter. As many as five King Eiders were at C.B.B.T. March–Apr. 24 (DTS, BP, HTA, JWS). One to two Harlequin Ducks were at C.B.B.T. in March and April (SR, VK, BP, DTS), but unexpected was a chronically late female nearby at Eastern Shore of Virginia N.W.R. May 16 (WSP, MLa).

Big concentrations of Oldsquaws in early spring are one of the great spectacles of the Bay. Garrulous and sociable, these appealing ducks then form great flocks offshore notable for their courtship displays. Their constant calling can be heard 4 mi away when it is calm. This year as many as 7000 were seen at Swan Pt., Kent, MD, Mar. 24 (JG) and 6700 in the Choptank R. Apr. 1 (HTA, DLM). Good Bay counts of Surf Scoters were of 885 off Nomini Cr. in the company of 6620 scaup (sp) Mar. 3 near Pope's Cr. and 800 in the Great Wicomico R. Mar. 7, these all in n.e. tidewater Virginia (WSP). Inland White-winged Scoters included four at Seneca Mar. 26 (MO) and several birds on Howard, MD, lakes Apr. 8 (JS, JF). A ♀ Hooded Merganser at Mattawoman Swamp, n. Charles, MD, May 14 may have been a breeding bird (PN). A huge concentration of 3500+ Red-breasted Mergansers was at C.B.B.T. Mar. 5 (MRB). The best count of Ruddy Ducks was of 1500 at Craney Mar. 9 (TRW). Exotics were three Egyptian Geese at Wye Mills, MD, Mar. 6 seen by Reese and five Ruddy Shelducks nearby at Ruthsburg by the Grubers', who reported others' sightings of up to 22 this year and 41 in previous years by game wardens. The shelducks have been seen only in winter.

RAPTORS TO CRANES — Flights of raptors at Ft. Smallwood Park, n.e. Anne Arundel, MD, were poor due to adverse winds and weather, but Murphy saw 154 Turkey Vultures there Mar. 12, plus 22 Red-tailed Hawks, and he had 76 Sharp-shinned Hawks there Apr. 26. Ospreys returned about a week earlier than usual, such as two at Mockhorn I., VA, Mar. 8 (WSP), and were widely reported by the weekend of March 12–13 throughout areas where they breed. An Am. Swallow-tailed Kite was at L. Drummond, Dismal Swamp N.W.R., VA, May 7 (GTH, RLA *et al.*), and one was reported just south of Selbyville, MD, in the Pocomoke Swamp area Apr. 30 (GH). Rarer still, a Mississippi Kite was at False Cape S.P., Virginia Beach, VA, May 20 (BP, PM, ph.).

Now that Bald Eagles are no longer being banded as part of the annual Bay survey of their breeding sites, information on their success will be more fragmentary. Unfortunately, the

news this spring was of as many as 12 or more being poisoned and at least half this many intentionally shot, many of these in their Regional breeding stronghold, *Dorchester*, MD. In spite of this, 33 were seen there Apr. 24 (JZ, PRS, HTA, JM) and 30 May 7 (HTA, GLA, JWS, MN *et al.*), optimal counts for that county, where there were 24 active nests this spring (WNJ). Six nests were at Aberdeen Proving Ground on the Bay in *Harford*, MD (*fide* DK), and 10 were seen on the lower *Susquehanna R.* just north of the proving ground Mar. 18 (RMS). A fine flight of raptors took place at Pt. Lookout, *St. Mary's*, MD, Apr. 17 featuring 29 N. Harriers; 243 Sharp-shinned, six Cooper's, and four Broad-winged hawks; 175 Am. Kestrels; and six Merlins (LD, HLW); this points out the need for more attention to this undervalued site as well as the incomplete knowledge of the Region's spring hawk passage. Three reports of single N. Goshawks were received: an adult in D.C. Mar. 1 (GGr, *fide* EMW), an immature at Piney Run Mar. 6 (RFR), and an immature near L. Anna, VA, Mar. 29 (MRB). Martin reported poor breeding success in the Patuxent R., MD, area for Red-shouldered Hawks perhaps because of adverse weather plus some predation of nesting adults by Great Horned Owls. A very late Rough-legged Hawk was at Swan Pt. May 1 (JG). Dyke saw an ad. Golden Eagle northwest of Ocean City, MD, at Showell Apr. 24.

Now that more attention is being paid to *Carroll*, MD, partly because Ringler has moved there and lives in the midst of some of its key areas, a much needed increase in Piedmont reporting has taken place, such as that county's spring bird count total of 68 Ring-necked Pheasants May 14 (versus only two N. Bobwhites), a species seldom reported at all in the time I have written this column. Black Rail totals were unimpressive: seven were at Elliott I., *Dorchester*, MD, May 14 (although one had been captured by 2 anonymous Finnish birders, the amenities not having included introductions [TRW, HTA]) with another seen there May 13 (DK), and singles were at Saxis, VA, that state's equivalent of Elliott I., May 14 (MRB, BP). Fourteen Clapper Rails were at seldom-visited Dameron Marsh, *Northumberland*, VA, May 19 (WSP), and a road kill at N. Beach Apr. 15 was surprising (EMW). Up to four King Rails, two Soras, and two Com. Moorhens were at Huntley Meadows County Park south of D.C. during April to the delight of the largely urban and suburban birders who frequent this prime freshwater marsh (EPW, RAA, EMW, MRB *et al.*). Good rail tallies elsewhere were of 40 Virginias, three Kings, and a Sora at Saxis the night of May 21–22 (SR, DTS, NB) and 19 Virginias, four Kings, and a Sora in Kent, MD, May 14 (FLP *et al.*). A Sora at Liberty Res. May 13 provided the 2nd record for *Carroll*, MD (RFR). A Com. Moorhen at Riverville, *Amherst*, VA, on the Piedmont May 15 & 18 was of interest (BP). The best Am. Coot totals were of 450 at Loch Raven Res. Mar. 25 with 400 there Apr. 2 (RFR). What constituted an outbreak of Sandhill Crane records for this Region included singles during May at Great Falls, VA (CT *et al.*); at Vienna, VA, May 17 (NBA); and at Upperville, VA, May 25 & 27 (SC, ph.); and four seen and heard at Mt. Holly, *Westmoreland*, VA, Apr. 27 (LC).

SHOREBIRDS — The dropoff in shorebird reporting for this and future seasons is due to the ending of Wilds' surveys of waders at Chincoteague. After having conducted these primarily 2-day censuses on the average of about every 10 days from late April until late October each year since 1974, Claudia has decided she has enough data and will devote her energies to other pursuits as well as enjoy a bit more freedom. *Sic transit gloria mundi*. Czaplak picked up some of the ensuing slack with a flourish on a Chincoteague survey of his own May 21–23, turning up 144 Semipalmated Plovers, 840 Ruddy Turnstones, 140 Whimbrel, 56 Red Knots, 64 White-rumped Sandpipers, two Stilt Sandpipers, 4333 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 10 W. Sandpipers, 1161 Sanderlings, and for the first refuge record, a Long-billed Curlew (May 22, ph.). Also seen there were one to two Am. Avocets Mar. 19–Apr. 9 (VK, MF), seven Black-necked Stilts May 14–15 (HD), a Long-billed Dowitcher

May 21 (SR), and two Wilson's Phalaropes Apr. 23 (PD) in company with six Stilt Sandpipers

Two Lesser Golden-Plovers showed up early at Summit Hall Turf Farm, *Montgomery*, MD, Mar. 26 & 28 (MO, LDB), and also premature were three Least Sandpipers with 80 Killdeer at Easton, *Talbot*, MD, Mar. 30 (JGR) and 11 Pectoral Sandpipers in a flooded field at King George, VA, Mar. 5 (HFD). Three Wilson's and 20 Piping plovers were at Metomkin I., VA, Apr. 24 (DTS, BP). Four pairs of Piping Plovers set up shop up the Bay at Grand View in Hampton, VA, and three had hatched young by mid-June (BW). The fight to shut off access to the Tom's Cove Hook-Fishing Pt. area of Chincoteague for the protection of this species has been a heated one. But there is plenty of beach left for people, and business is better than ever in spite of the expressed and incorrect fears of commercial interests.

Black-necked Stilts were widely reported with five to six at Deal I. in mid-May (MO, PP, LD); one to two at Blackwater in early May (GLA, JWS *et al.*); a rare appearance by one at Cove Pt., *Calvert*, May 8 (JLS); and two May 23–24 (NB) at Craney, where six Am. Avocets were also seen Apr. 28 (TRW). In the vast salt marshes out from Wachapreague, VA, Reiger estimated 375 Whimbrels Apr. 30. Highlights from the Thoms Cr flats east of Mockhorn I., VA, included 47 Marbled Godwits, two Whimbrel, 45 Willets, and 40 W. Sandpipers Mar. 13 (HTA, JWS, TRW, S & TY); 84 Marbled Godwits, five Whimbrel, 142 Willets, and 31 Short-billed Dowitchers Mar. 8 (WSP); and 320 Short-billed Dowitchers, 360 Black-bellied Plovers, and 31 Whimbrels Apr. 20 (WSP). Extraordinary in D.C. were 25 Red Knots May 30 (DC), for about the 7th record there, and 195 were at Wallops I. May 11 (CRV). Purple Sandpipers were noted later and more abundantly than usual on C.B.B.T., with 140 there Apr. 9 (SR, BP), 37 still there May 21 (SR), and an unspecified number May 23 (VK). Additional Stilt Sandpipers were one at Wallops I. Apr. 22 (CRV), one at C.B.B.T. May 14 (EMW), and six at False Cape S.P. May 20 (BP, PM). A very early Short-billed Dowitcher was at Blackwater Mar. 27 (MO). An ad. Am. Woodcock with one young was early at Greensboro, *Caroline*, MD, Mar. 27 (WS), and a Great Black-backed Gull was seen chasing an adult on C.B.B.T. Mar. 6 (BP). In recent conversation Gabler has stated that even Cooper's Hawks and Merlins flown by falconers have great difficulty taking these seemingly weak flying birds. A Red-necked Phalarope was seen at Craney May 18 (TRW), and at sea off Virginia Beach 33 were encountered May 21 and six May 30 (BP). No shorebird reports were forthcoming from the Hart-Miller I. area east of Baltimore due to access problems typical of this and other areas in control of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

JAEGERS TO SKIMMERS — A dark-phased Pomarine Jaeger was seen off Virginia Beach May 30 (NB, HFD, DFA *et al.*), and Virginia's first two **South Polar Skaus** were there the same day (BP, NB, HFD *et al.*, ph.). The skuas were seen in flight and sitting at ranges down to 50 ft. The first report of a Laughing Gull was of one at Thomas Cr. Mar. 13 (HTA *et al.*). Franklin's Gull singles were at D.C. May 19–20 (DC, RH, DFA, GG, for a 4th record) and Craney May 27 (BP, HFD). At Back River Sewage Treatment Plant east of Baltimore two Little Gulls were present Apr. 11–16 along with 250 Bonaparte's Gulls (PL, LD, LB, RMS). The rare Com. Black-headed Gull was at Ocean City Mar. 5–12 (GG, CRV, EMW *et al.*). Most remarkable was an ad. Thayer's Gull at C.B.B.T. Mar. 5–22 and Apr. 1 (MRB, BP, HFD, RLA, DTS, HaL *et al.*, ph.), for perhaps the first Regional record of an adult. Single Lesser Black-backed Gulls were firsts for Wallops I. Apr. 20 near a dead finback whale (CRV) and for *Westmoreland*, VA, Mar. 13–31 (JE, ph.), with reports from only 4 other localities. Single Glaucous Gulls were at Craney Mar. 17 (BC), Wallops I. Mar. 30 (CRV), and Virginia Beach Landfill Apr. 9 (SR).

The first Gull-billed Terns were individuals at Metomkin I. Apr. 24 (DTS, BP) and Wallops I. 2 days later (CRV). An early Caspian Tern was in *Howard*, MD, Mar. 31 (*fide* JS), and up to

54 were nearby at Triadelphia Res Apr 17 (MC), Ringler notes a trend for them to appear more often on inland lakes in the spring. Two Royal Terns at Fisherman Island N.W.R., VA, Mar. 12 were the first reported (JWS, HTA). A Sandwich Tern was at Chincoteague May 21-23 (DC), and a Roseate Tern was reported there May 15 (HeL, HaL, fide BP). About 300 pairs of Forster's Terns were found breeding at their Barren I. stronghold May 29 (CW, HTA, GLA). Williams indicated that the huge colony of Least Terns at Grand View had sustained a big decline, although he found about 250 birds there May 22. A dead Sooty Tern was found on Myrtle I., VA, May 29 (BTt). Four Black Terns were found inland on Centennial L., Howard, MD, May 1 (SA). Two Black Skimmers at Rio Vista, Talbot, MD, May 18-19 were unusual that far up the Bay (fide JGR), and 26 nests were at Barren I. May 29, still the only part of the Bay in Maryland where they nest, but the little marsh island they use will soon erode away (GLA, HTA, CW).

OWLS TO SHRIKES — Unique was a Long-eared Owl at Tuckahoe S.P., MD, Mar. 25 (WR). Single N. Saw-whet Owls were at the National Arboretum in D.C. Mar. 10 (GG) and Assateague I., MD, Mar. 5 (LD, HLW), and one to two were at McKee-Beshers W.M.A., Montgomery, MD, up until Mar. 15 (RAA, EMW). Short-eared Owls were reported only from Irish Grove Sanctuary east of Crisfield, MD, Mar. 19 (RFR) and Tappahannock, VA, Mar. 4 (WSP). Unusual was a Chuck-will's-widow in D.C. May 27 (DC), and for the 4th year one turned up nearby at Accokeek, MD, May 7 (PN). The first Whip-poor-will heard was at Sparta, VA, Mar. 30 (WSP). Rambo found an early Chimney Swift at Solomons I., Calvert, MD, Mar. 28, and 360 were in migration at Ft. Smallwood Park Apr. 28 (WLM).



Lewis' Woodpecker at Lucketts, Virginia, March 1988. This exceptional rarity, found in January, remained into early May. Photo/George M. Jett.

The incredible **Lewis' Woodpecker** at Lucketts, Loudoun, VA, was present until May 7, when it was seen by Hawk, who also saw it the day of its discovery, Jan. 2 (MH, m.ob.). An Alder Flycatcher was at Sandy Point S.P., MD, May 24 (LD). Six Willow Flycatchers were found May 14 by 34 observers spread over Carroll, MD (RFR et al.), yet one person found 23 in just the e. part of this county May 28 (RFR), perhaps an indication of just how late this and other embirds arrive. At Sparta, VA, one birder had six E. Phoebes follow as he plowed Mar. 22 (WSP). For one of the few Maryland records, a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was at Lilypons May 30-31 (MO, PO, EMW, ph.).

The first swallows included Purple Martins at St. Michaels, MD, Mar. 15 (fide JGR); a N. Rough-winged Swallow at Dyke Marsh, VA, Mar. 27 (EPW); and a Barn Swallow at Newport News, VA, Mar. 17 (JSr). At Ft. Smallwood Park, where almost



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Lilypons, Maryland, May 30, 1988. Photo/Michael O'Brien.

any bird can be assumed to be a migrant, flights of Blue Jays were again seen: 550 Apr. 26; 2980 in 4 hours Apr. 28; 308 May 9; 1421 May 12 (WLM). Several Com. Ravens at Lilypons during March were apparently wanderers from nearby Sugarloaf Mt. in s. Frederick, MD, marking one of their southern penetrations in the Maryland Piedmont (PO). Winter Wrens were reported from 4 areas Apr. 26 or later, an unprecedented situation (EMW, JG, PN). Single Sedge Wrens were seen at 6 sites (BP, HFD, JG). The thrush flight was poor, but Hermit Thrushes lingered longer than usual into May (v.o.). A Water Pipit at Greensboro, MD, May 14 was extremely late (MWH). Loggerhead Shrikes were seen at only 3 localities (AB, EMW, RFR).

VIREOS TO FINCHES — The warbler flight was lackluster, but some of the better days were May 1, 12, 15-16, & 21. Early arrivals were a N. Parula at Williamsburg, VA, Apr. 1 (BT); a Yellow-throated Warbler there Mar. 28 (BT); a Black-and-white Warbler in Prince Georges, MD, Apr. 4 (PN); a Louisiana Waterthrush at Rockville, MD, Mar. 28 (MO); and a super-early Blue-winged Warbler at Chincoteague Mar. 27 (DS). A Solitary Vireo at Mason Neck N.W.R., VA, Apr. 8 was also premature (EMW). At Potomac, MD, banding was conducted at Adventure Sanctuary Apr. 15-May 31, with 1587 birds tagged, including a Brewster's Warbler May 4, 81 N. Waterthrushes (10 on May 21), three Mourning Warblers May 15-28, and 44 Canada Warblers (seven on May 21; MD et al.). At Damsite, Tolchester Beach, MD, 629 birds of 60 species were banded on 15 dates Apr. 9-May 27, and a Brewster's Warbler was seen May 9 (JG). Brewster's were also seen at Baltimore May 10 (BY) and at Triadelphia Res. May 14 (PZ); a Lawrence's Warbler in Howard, MD, Apr. 30 provided a 2nd county record (SA). One to two Orange-crowned Warblers were at Newport News Jan. 23-Mar. 23 (BF, SRd et al.), and it was unusual to have 4 reports during May (v.o.). Good total were of 11 Bay-breasted Warblers at Rockville May 13 (MO), 37 Com. Yellowthroats on the C.B.B.T. May 21 (SR), and a single-observer count of 12 Cerulean Warblers in s. Carroll, MD, May 7 (RFR), demonstrating their abundance in some Piedmont areas in contrast to the coastal plain. Most Mourning Warblers were seen after May 20, and two were at Fairfax, VA, June 4 (EP).

The W. Tanager at Accomac, VA, remained at least until Mar. 14 (EMW, JFF et al.). The relative abundance of Blue Grosbeak on the coastal plain versus some areas of the Piedmont was shown by totals of 81 in Caroline, MD (WR et al.), and two in Carroll, MD (RFR et al.), May 14. Dickcissels staged a minor invasion with records from 8 widely spaced sites, all west of the Bay, such as three at Nokesville, VA, May 28 (RAA). Three Bachman's Sparrows were in s.e. Brunswick, VA, May 30 (AB), and one was there Apr. 30 (ML). Fine counts of sparrows were of 21 Vespers and 88 Grasshoppers in Carroll, MD, May 14 (RFR et al.). A singing Savannah Sparrow at New Design Rd., Frederick, MD, May 30 could have been a late migrant or

an unusual breeder (MO). Henslow's Sparrows were strangely scarce this spring at their Elliott I breeding areas (v o) A Seaside Sparrow at D.C. May 7 provided a first record there (DC, ph.). Late sparrows were a Fox in Fairfax Apr. 22 (EP), a Swamp at Adventure May 23 (MD), and a White-throated there May 21 (MD). Lincoln's Sparrow reports were all during May 8-21 with five banded in Baltimore May 20 by Ross. The sole Lapland Longspur seen was at Land's End W.M.A., King George, VA, Mar. 6 (HFD).

Bobolinks were scarce (v.o.). A Rusty Blackbird at Williamsburg May 12 was very late (BW). A ♂ Brewer's Blackbird north of Lovington, Nelson, VA, Apr. 2-4 established only about the 5th state Piedmont record (MRB, BP, DTS). A prime example of typical reversal in abundance of Northern and Orchard oriole in coastal plain versus Piedmont Maryland counties may be seen in the May 14 totals of 41 and 144 in Caroline and of 58 and 17 in Carroll, respectively (WR, RFR et al.). The 197 House Finches tallied by the Hampton Roads Bird Club count May 14 broke that count's record for the 5th straight year (TK et al.) as this species continued its increase in the Region. Up to eight Pine Siskins were in Bethesda, MD, May 10-31 (DH), and they were seen at 2 other D.C. area Maryland towns the weekend of May 20-21 (PN, JS); nearby at Laurel two females were captured in early May with eggs in their oviducts (MKK, SD), furnishing a 2nd Maryland breeding record of sorts. Evening Grosbeaks were very scarce this spring.

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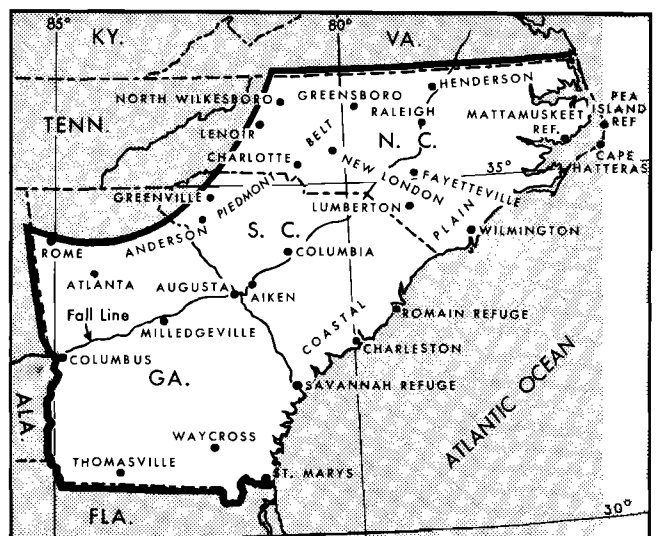
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SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

The weather for spring 1988 in the Region was rather uneventful, with no remarkably late snows, heat waves, or floods. The peak period of passerine migration (the first half of May) was quite cool, with considerable northwesterly winds.

Several observers mentioned that the spring migration was quite good in their local areas, but the great majority of birders again felt that the overall flights were disappointing. It appears that the deforestation of the tropics is further taking its toll on passerine migrants, such that the Region perhaps cannot expect flights of neotropical wintering species to approach those of 10 or 15 years ago. Added to this is the general mediocrity of the spring migration of songbirds in the Southern Atlantic states, even before "tropical deforestation" and "acid rain" became notorious. Pelagic birding was rather disappointing, in part because there were no trips taken (or reported) from off Oregon or Hatteras inlets in North Carolina. No state added a new



species, and to make matters worse, Georgia lost a species from its Official List because of a misidentified specimen.

LOONS TO SPOONBILL — An outstanding inland count of Com. Loons was of 300+ at L. Keowee, SC, Apr. 2 (DF *et al.*). Few pelagic trips were reported, and none was a blockbuster. Forsythe had a Black-capped Petrel, the only one of the season, off Charleston, SC, May 18; and Cooper saw all four common species of shearwaters (Cory's, Greater, Sooty, and Audubon's) off Carolina Beach, NC, May 31. Again this spring, birders maintained a vigil at Cape Hatteras point, NC, in hopes of catching the northbound flight of pelagic birds. The best flight occurred on stormy May 28, with totals of 65 Sooty Shearwaters (AS), three Greater Shearwaters (AS), and 200+ Wilson's Storm-Petrels (TP, DW). Lucky indeed were those (TP, DW) who watched an ad. White-tailed Tropicbird attempting to snatch bait from a boat railing on a trip off Morehead City, NC, May 31. Two other ad. White-taileds were noted off Charleston May 19 (RS, *vide* DF).

Great Cormorants are no longer unusual at several sites in coastal Carolina, and individuals are lingering later in spring. Three were rather late Apr. 26 at Ocracoke Inlet, NC (JF), and another was rare at a jetty near Charleston Mar. 30 (DF). Inland reports and numbers of Double-crested Cormorants continue to multiply, with remarkable counts of 400+ flying E near Goldsboro, NC, May 5 (ED) and 450+ at Falls L. near Durham, NC, Apr. 25 (RD). In inland Georgia, where not as numerous as in North Carolina, peak cormorant counts were of 40 at Rum Cr. near Forsyth Apr. 23 (DH), 24 at Augusta Apr. 21 (AW, VW), and 12 near Athens Apr. 23 (PY). Possibly the northeasternmost nesting ever for Anhinga was reported from Weldon, NC, this season, where 2 nests were found Apr. 30 at a site where adults had been noted for several years (ML, VM). Adults were seen in Great Blue Heron colonies at 2 lakes at Alligator River N.W.R., NC, Apr. 1-2 and may have been nesting (ML, DC). Previously, the n.e. edge of the breeding range was Croatan N.F., NC.

The increasingly scarce Am. Bittern was detected inland a handful of times, with an excellent count of seven or eight Mar. 26 in Laurens, GA (TKP). A notable inland total was of five Snowy Egrets near Macon, GA, Apr. 2 (TI), and one Snowy was far inland near Greensboro, NC, May 4 (HH, PF). The only inland sighting of Tricolored Heron was of one at Augusta May 21 (CB). Cattle Egrets are regular but scarce in the Piedmont region in spring, but unexpected was a flock of 21 at Falls L. near Durham Apr. 25 (RD). A surprisingly urban pair of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons nested in Hampton Park in downtown Charleston (DF). Always of interest inland is the Glossy Ibis; the only spring report away from the coast was of one at Goldsboro, NC, Mar. 29-Apr. 1 (ED, HL, RD). One of the highlights of the season was a Roseate Spoonbill found at Huntington Beach S.P., SC, Apr. 24-26 (JFi) and seen again shortly thereafter at the Santee R. delta in Georgetown (SG, CM, CaB, CP). There are at least 16 previous state records, but few are for the spring season.

WATERFOWL — A Tundra Swan on the Savannah R. at Augusta Mar. 8 (BD, BW) was notable, and locally rare was another Apr. 1 near Davis, Carteret, NC (RD, HL). The ♂ (**Eurasian Green-winged Teal**) seen at Goldsboro in February remained to Mar. 7 (ED); this was the first inland record for the Region. A ♂ (**Cinnamon Teal**) in breeding plumage Mar. 15-Apr. 16 at Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area near Darien (RW, m.ob.) furnished only the 2nd record for Georgia. The first Cinnamon occurred at Augusta during the winters of 1977-1980. A ♀ Cinnamon Teal specimen was reportedly found at Hunting Cr., Pamlico, NC, Mar. 20 (PJC); if verified, this would apparently be a first specimen for the state. Late in departing were a N. Pintail May 21 in Clayton, GA (PB), three Greater Scaup Apr. 19 at Sweetwater Creek S.P., GA (PR), and an apparently sick or injured Greater Scaup May 27 at Edisto Beach S.P., SC (LG). The flock of Common and King eiders that spent

the entire winter at Oregon Inlet, NC, was last reported Mar. 12, when there were still four Commons and a King (HL *et al.*) Always notable inland was an Oldsquaw at L. Keowee, SC, Apr. 2 (DF party). Additional late waterfowl included a ♂ Bufflehead at Cape Hatteras point May 22 (HJL, HLeH), a ♀ Com Merganser on the Neuse R. at Minnesott Beach, NC, Mar. 20 (JF), and a pair of Ruddy Ducks at Goldsboro through the end of May (ED).

HAWKS TO CRANES — As usual, Am. Swallow-tailed Kites were detected overshooting their breeding range. Surprisingly, there was just one record from the North Carolina coast, where there are often five or more reports in spring—one at Pea I., May 21 (HH *et al.*). Others outside the range were at Tarboro, NC, Apr. 9 (E & TMa) and near Athens, GA, Apr. 19 (RP). Likewise, there were several "overshooting" Mississippi Kites, all in a very narrow time span: at Raven Rock S.P., NC, May 13 (FW, PH), at Buxton, NC, May 14 (SC), and two along the Oconee R. near Athens May 13-14 (JWa, *vide* BD).

Bald Eagle sightings continue to slowly increase, in part owing (presumably) to hacking programs in many of the states in the East. As evidence of this phenomenon, an immature found dead in Long Beach, NC, in late April was hacked in Mississippi (*vide* SC). What was a Broad-winged Hawk doing at Atlanta, GA, on the ridiculously early date of Mar. 5 (RM)? This species is a non-breeder in this Region's Coastal Plain (except near the Fall Line), a fact that only the Robbins *et al.* field guide maps illustrate, and migrants are scarce there anytime. Cooper had 4 sightings in extreme s.e. North Carolina for the season, and others were seen near McClellanville, SC, Apr. 28 (DF) and near the Trent R., Jones, NC, Apr. 14 (BH). Inland sightings of Merlins, always of note, were at Goldsboro Apr. 20 & 27 (ED), near Clinton, NC, Apr. 21 (JHC, JH), in Oconee, GA, May 7 (PY), in c. Halifax, NC, May 15 (FE), and in e. Warren, NC, on the late date of May 28 (FE). Likewise, any inland Peregrine Falcon sighting makes a "red-letter day"; and individuals were seen Mar. 3 at Ft. Jackson, SC (BM), Mar. 7 at Goldsboro (ED), Apr. 30 in Dawson, GA (JP), and Apr. 30 near Gainesville, GA (G.O.S.).

All six rail species were seen this spring in the Region, a notable feat! The most effortless method of seeing a Yellow Rail is to observe one flying up from an advancing marsh fire, which is what Derb Carter did Mar. 2 east of Poplar Branch, Currituck, N.C. It would be important to know if the bird were on its wintering grounds, since the locale is farther north than the poorly known winter season limit in the Bodie-Pea Island area. The Black Rail is a very poorly known breeder in South Carolina, possibly owing to a lack of nocturnal work with tape recorders. Were individuals seen at Huntington Beach S.P., May 1 (CM, BT) and Pumpkinseed I., Georgetown, May 17 (CM, KB) migrants or breeders? The species perhaps nests in nearly all North Carolina counties with extensive brackish marshes, even on the mainland side of Pamlico Sound, the setting where Fussell heard four near Hobucken, Pamlico, May 29-31 and one near Gull Rock, Hyde, May 31. The Virginia Rail, whose breeding range in the Region is also imperfectly known, apparently nests in many or most of North Carolina's extensive brackish marshes, as they are turning up with Black Rails in many tidewater counties, including Pamlico, where two were heard May 29 near Hobucken (JF). Seldom seen on the North Carolina Outer Banks, a Purple Gallinule was at Pea I., May 29 (AS), and the species was seen at 3 sites in the extreme s.e. corner of the state, where Purples are rare breeders (PJC, KK, SC, JN). The peak flight of Sandhill Cranes over the Atlanta area occurred Mar. 2-3, somewhat earlier than normal (*vide* TM), and the wintering bird near Nebraska, NC, was present at least to Mar. 13 (HL *et al.*).

SHOREBIRDS — Inland Black-bellied Plovers were discovered Apr. 2-3 near Macon, GA (TI), and at Fountain Inn, SC, May 13 (PW). The Lesser Golden-Plover, which usually appears in spring only inland and in the western portion of the Region, again followed this pattern: one at the Gainesville,

GA, airport Mar. 18 (JP), two at the Anderson, SC, airport Apr 24 (DF, DWC), and one in a pasture in n Laurens, GA, Mar 13 (TKP). Filling in the apparent hiatus in the Piping Plover breeding range between Sunset Beach and Shackleford Banks, NC, were 2 nesting reports for the s. coast of the state—a pair and chick May 21 at Long Beach (CS) and a nest found at Ft. Fisher in late spring (TLQ).

A Black-necked Stilt was early at Darien, GA, Mar. 21 (RM), and two Willets furnished the sole inland report at the Silver Bluff Sanctuary, Aiken, SC, Apr. 28–29 (PK). The better counts of Upland Sandpipers were of 16 near Dublin, GA, Apr. 6 (TKP) and nine near Goldsboro Apr. 15 (ED). Rarely found inland, especially in spring, six Whimbrels were flying over L. Oconee, GA, May 8 (PY) and another was at Goldsboro May 20 (ED). Forsythe found a Long-billed Curlew just west of Folly Beach, SC, Mar. 16, and Cooper had a curlew at Ft. Fisher, NC, Apr. 10 and another (or the same bird) near Southport Apr. 15. Western Sandpipers, although often numerous on inland mudflats in fall, are rare inland in spring; thus, notable were one Mar. 26 at Augusta (AW), one near Greensboro Apr. 27 (HH, PF), and two in n. York, SC, May 7 (TP). Are White-rumped Sandpipers actually increasing, or are more birders afield shorebirding in mid- and late May and encountering the species? Of the many coastal reports, remarkable counts were of 375+ on the Outer Banks from Cape Hatteras to Bodie I., May 30 (RD) and 100+ at Eagle I. near Wilmington, NC, May 27–28 (SC); the best inland count was of seven at Clayton, GA, May 21 (PB). Five Pectoral Sandpipers were very early Feb. 27 near Wilmington (JN), and inland Dunlins were three near Durham Apr. 24 (WHW, MW) and one at Fountain Inn, SC, May 13 (PW).

The only inland Stilt Sandpipers, very rare away from the coast at this season, were one near Macon Apr. 3 (TI) and three in Clayton May 4 (DH). One of the most sought-after rarities in the Region, a ♀ Ruff was found at Eagle I. near Wilmington Apr. 22 (SC, HB). There were just 2 inland reports of Short-billed Dowitchers, but 2 coastal reports of Long-billed Dowitchers featured rather late birds at Bodie I., May 7 (JF *et al.*) and Eagle I., May 9 (SC). The only onshore report of Red-necked Phalarope was of two birds at Pea I., May 20 (HH, LM, PF); the lack of Wilson's Phalarope reports was a disappointment.

JAEGERS TO TERNS — The nearly all-day watch for pelagics at Cape Hatteras point May 28 yielded only two jaegers, a Pomarine and (most importantly) an ad. Long-tailed (TP, DW); no skuas were noted. Only a few Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers were seen on pelagic trips. Single Laughing Gulls were observed in inland North Carolina at Goldsboro Apr. 12 (ED), at Jordan L., May 8 (SB, *fide* BR), and at Roanoke Rapids May 21 in a mall parking lot (FE). Little Gulls are regular on the Outer Banks in March, although one must have patience in sorting through the Bonaparte's Gulls, which generally outnumber Littles by 1000:1. Seven ad. Littles were at Cape Hatteras Mar. 5 (JF, SC, JW), three adults were near Rodanthe Mar. 12 (HL, DC, MT, RD), and two adults and one immature were at Oregon Inlet Mar. 13 (HL, DC, MT, RD). An imm. Com. Black-headed Gull was reported at Ocracoke, NC, Mar. 13 (JF); Icelandic Gulls were seen, also in that state, at Wachese Mar. 9 (JF) and at Hatteras Inlet Mar. 6 (SC). Bonaparte's Gulls were late at Rum Creek W.M.A., GA, May 15 (TJ) and through the end of May at Wilmington (SC). Rare gulls are seldom found in spring south of North Carolina; thus, noteworthy was Galucous Gull thought to be in 2nd-year plumage Mar. 19 at Georgetown, SC (CM, PWi).

Caspian Terns were reported inland from all 3 states, with excellent totals of 29 at Falls L., Apr. 19 (RD) and 14 at nearby Jordan L., Apr. 22 (RJH). One of the very few pelagic highlights this spring was an Arctic Tern off Morehead City May 21 (HL, MT). Most of the spring records for the species in North Carolina fall within a few days of this date. This pelagic trip also had eight Bridled Terns and two Sooty Terns. One to two Sooties returned to the tern colony at Cape Hatteras point by late May, but again no nesting was noted (m.ob.).

DOVES TO FLYCATCHERS — A report was received of a Ringed Turtle-Dove near Cadwell, Laurens, GA, from late April to the end of May (TKP). Because of the specimen of Eurasian Collared-Dove from extreme s. Georgia this winter and the expanding populations of the species in s. Florida, observers are reminded to take a thorough look at all such "ringed/collared" doves; one day soon Eurasian Collared-Dove could become a regular member of the Region's avifauna. It is hard to believe, but there were just 2 reports of Black-billed Cuckoos—Apr. 25 on the Savannah River Plant, SC (PS) and Apr. 26 near Conway, SC (CM). Georgia's 4th **Burrowing Owl**, and first away from the coast, was at the Gainesville, GA, airport Apr. 14 (JP). Unfortunately, it could not be photographed, nor found by others on a later date. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was early Mar. 31 at Oriental, NC (DFoy), and the ♂ Rufous Hummingbird at a feeder in Greer, SC, this winter was still present in late April (PW).

Rare and early was an Olive-sided Flycatcher at Macon Apr. 30 (TI), but the only other Olive-sided was May 25 at Chat-tahoochee R. Nat'l Recreation Area, GA (GS). *Empidonax* flycatchers other than the breeding Acadian are always elusive (and scarce) in the Region in spring, with the only such reports this season being of Least near Raleigh (KKn) and Fayetteville (PJC). Along the w. edge of the Region, a Least Flycatcher was again on territory near Tryon, NC, in May and June (ST). Along the Fall Line, which happens to be the approximate edge of the E. Phoebe's breeding range in South Carolina and Georgia, nests were found May 7 at Augusta (AW, VW, CB) and in April and May at Lugoff, SC (LG). A Gray Kingbird photographed near Avon, NC, May 19 (BP) was certainly an overshoot migrant, whereas one at Jekyll I., GA, May 24–25 (TKP) may well have been on its breeding grounds.

SWALLOWS TO THRUSHES — Cliff Swallows, rather rare along the coast in spring, were seen at Huntington Beach S.P. May 6 (three birds—ST) and at Wilmington on the late date of May 28 (SC, JN). Fish Crows slowly continue to increase in the c. Piedmont, although actual breeding records for this province are very limited. A count of 21 at a roost in Greensboro May 24 (HH) was excellent, whereas in n.c. Georgia birds were reported at Morgan Falls Landfill (TM), L. Acworth (PR), Echo L. (EB), and Hall (JP). A Com. Raven at Tryon, NC, Mar 16–17 (ST) was notable, despite being at the edge of the mountains.

Practically nonexistent all winter was the Red-breasted Nuthatch, and the same could be said for the spring season, yet quite late was one at Jordan L., May 8 (RJH). Again this spring, the thrush migration was just a shadow of that of 5 or 10 years ago, and it is likely never to return to former numbers. Tropical deforestation appears to be the primary culprit, particularly as the Hermit Thrush, which winters north of the tropics, has not shown a decline in the Region. A Veery banded May 4 at Oriental, NC (DFoy, RF) was notable for the lower Coastal Plain, while a Gray-cheeked Thrush was early Apr 30 at Rocky Mount, NC (RD). Remarkable were 2 very late reports of singing, but not visually confirmed, Hermit Thrushed—at Wilmington May 16 (SC) and near Cary, NC, May 15 (JG).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — Solitary Vireos nest sparingly in much of the Piedmont, but few data are available on actual nesting efforts. Therefore, gratifying was an adult seen feeding a fledgling near Blaine, Montgomery, NC, May 22 (RMO). I received only one report each for Warbling and Philadelphia vireos, both of which tend to avoid the Southeast in spring migration. The Warbling was the same individual singing on territory, far from the usual range, for the 3rd consecutive year in e. Halifax, NC, May 7 (ML party); whereas the Philadelphia was detected May 3 at Jordan L. (RJH) for a very rare e. Piedmont spring record.

Notable one-party counts of Blue-winged Warblers were of 10 near Durham Apr. 24 (MG, DS), seven Apr. 30 near Weldon, NC (ML), and seven the next day near Enfield, NC (ML) "Brewster's" Warblers were encountered twice: at Paris

Mountain S P, SC, no date mentioned (PW) and near Atlanta May 11 (JGr) Hardly ever seen in the Coastal Plain in spring, a Tennessee Warbler was reported along the Pee Dee R. in s w. Horry, SC, May 1 (StT, BT). Notable for w. North Carolina were a yard-visiting Orange-crowned Warbler Mar. 29–Apr. 1 at Charlotte (HW), and a Nashville Warbler Apr. 25 at Tryon (ST), the only report for the season. The Outer Banks did not receive as much coverage of passerine migration this year as in Spring 1987, but a Cape May Warbler, seldom noted along the coast in spring, was found near Sanderling Apr. 30 (JF, JW).

A Yellow-rumped Warbler in winter plumage with a pale yellow throat was identified as an Audubon's, or perhaps an Audubon's x Myrtle intergrade, at Augusta Apr. 9 (AW, CB et al.). It may be difficult, however, to conclusively identify such an individual in winter plumage based solely on a pale yellow throat. Notable Coastal Plain records for trans-Gulf migrating warblers included a Blackburnian at Fayetteville May 10 (PJC, DHu), a Bay-breasted near Mt. Pleasant, SC, May 12 (DF), and Ceruleans at Beidler Forest, SC, Apr. 16 (WH, CW) and Wilmington Apr. 30 (JN, KK). Early returning to the breeding ground was a Cerulean Warbler Apr. 16 at Weldon, NC (RD), but the most significant Cerulean was one singing on territory at Raven Rock S.P., NC, May 22 and June 4 (PH). An Am. Redstart was quite late at Thomasville, GA, May 29 (RLC), and also in that state were Piedmont reports of singing Swainson's Warblers (on the breeding grounds?) in Oconee May 14 (PY) and at the Chattahoochee R. near Atlanta May 14 & 21 (A.A.S.). The very rare Connecticut Warbler was detected far east at Zebulon, NC, a female May 12 and a male the following day (EP). Just one report of Wilson's Warbler, a male at Charlotte May 7 (TP), sums up just how unexciting the spring warbler migration really was in the Region.

EMBERIZID FINCHES TO CARDUELINES — A ♀ Rose-breasted Grosbeak at a Gainesville feeder this winter was last noted Mar. 27 (GV), and another ♀ Rose-breasted was late near Atlanta May 26 (GS). The most surprising breeding record of the spring may have been of the pair of **Dickcissels** on territory at Mt. Pleasant, SC, hardly a mile from the Atlantic Ocean. The birds were first reported in early May (PN, STa), with positive nesting found in later weeks. The species is primarily found in the Piedmont, or extreme upper Coastal Plain, and even in those areas is rare and erratic as a breeder. Also in South Carolina, but at a site where previous nesting has been suspected, were as many as six singing males near Townville in late April and early May (C.B.C.). A ♂ Dickcissel appeared at Raleigh May 29 (JM) but was not seen thereafter. Other reports of the species will be detailed in the Summer Season report.

Bachman's Sparrow is somewhat restricted as a breeder in the Region, but in favored areas, especially longleaf pine forests that are burned frequently, they can be common. Dunning and Watts found about 80 Bachman's in 25 areas of the Savannah R. Plant, SC, this season, finding one nest. Cooper had 17 singing birds at Green Swamp Preserve, NC, May 12, a very good count for that state. A Lark Sparrow at Pea I. May 1 (JF, JW) was unusual for the season, although regular there in fall. Another Lark Sparrow near Emory, Montgomery, NC, May 15 (JHC, JL) might well have been a breeder, as the locale lies in the Sandhills where breeding has been noted in other nearby

counties Fussell flushed a Grasshopper Sparrow near Gull Rock, NC, Mar. 3 and two at the same site Mar. 11, this site is presumably near the poorly-defined northern limit of the winter range. The same site (a recent clearcut with a thick grass cover) had two Henslow's Sparrows Mar. 11 (AB, JF), even more surprising than the Grasshoppers. Whereas the preceding two species were likely on their wintering grounds, five ad White-crowned Sparrows at Wilmington Apr. 29 (SC, JFP, HB) were ambiguous, as the species generally is present in the local area mainly as a scarce fall migrant.

April 16 was a very early date for nine Bobolinks at Weldon, NC (RD). Always noteworthy, a first-winter Yellow-headed Blackbird was near Fairfield, NC, Mar. 3 (JF) for the only seasonal report. Patterson noted that a Brewer's Blackbird Apr. 2 in Laurens, GA, where regular in winter, was his latest ever for the county. This helps to emphasize the point that the Brewer's Blackbird, as well as the Rusty Blackbird, generally has departed the Region by the end of March or early April and that reports of either in late April or May are likely mis-identifications. A ♂ Red Crossbill seen in l'On Swamp, Francis Marion N.F., SC, Mar. 26 (PN) furnished the only report. Despite the scarcity of Red Crossbills, Pine Siskins were fairly common in many places well into late April and early May; late dates for the siskin were May 15 in Monroe, GA (TJ) and May 20 near Atlanta (TM). Evening Grosbeaks were less numerous than siskins, but were located by many observers, with a good count of 65 Mar. 23 at Watkinsville, GA (PWS). Two grosbeaks at Buxton, NC, May 6 (MaL) were notably late for a coastal town.

CORRIGENDUM — The reported specimen of Masked Booby found in coastal Georgia in February 1986 (AB 40:269) has been re-examined and determined to be a N. Gannet (fide Bill Pulliam) There are thus no specimens now for Georgia, and the sight records for the state span the period from May 3 to Sept. 2 (Annotated Checklist of Georgia Birds, 1986).

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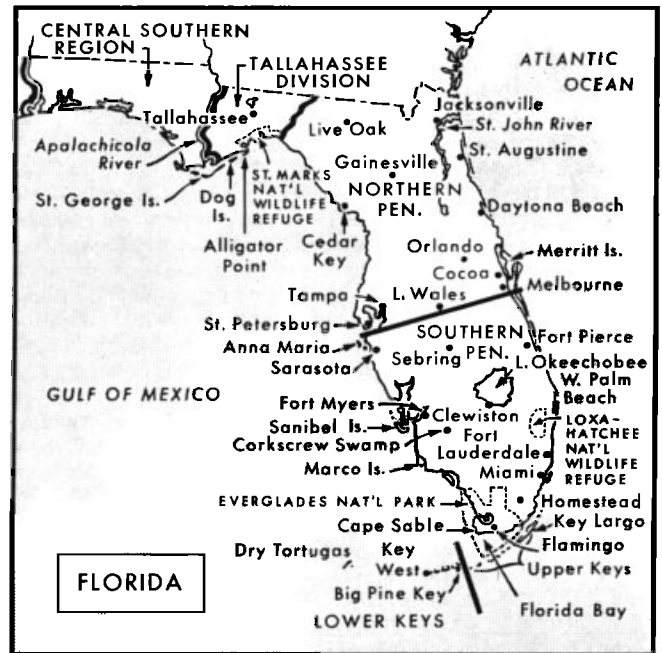
Rainy March posted many record low temperatures throughout Florida; April was dry and hot until the last few days; May was hot. Daily observations on the lower east coast revealed a steady migration despite a dry clear first three weeks in April, but on the Gulf coast it was considered "dismal" until late April, and even then there were "below usual numbers" of Cape May and Blackpoll warblers. Cold fronts in late April and early May created fruitful fallouts on the lower east coast, the Keys, and the Dry Tortugas. Wally George reported that cold fronts at the end of April at Ft. Lauderdale resulted in one of the most enjoyable migrations in recent years (600 warblers April 27). Greg Lasley, a Texas observer, wrote that the May 1 fallout following heavy rains on the Dry Tortugas equaled any fallout that he had experienced at High Island, Texas.

The number of Caribbean strays created considerable excitement among observers this spring season with a La Sagra's Flycatcher, Bahama Swallow, two Bahama Mockingbirds, Thick-billed Vireo, Stripe-headed Tanager, Bananaquit, and Black-faced Grassquit, but the Shiny Cowbird invasion was an event of historical importance with dire implications.

ABBREVIATIONS — Birch S.P. = Hugh Taylor Birch State Park, Broward; Cape Florida = Cape Florida Recreation Area, Dade; C.S.M. = Clear Spring Mines, Polk; D.T. = Dry Tortugas; Ft. De Soto = Ft. De Soto County Park, Pinellas; F.O.S.R.C. = Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee.

PETRELS TO WADERS — On May 4 (DS, †DF et al.) a Black-capped Petrel extended its range in U.S. waters south from off Boynton Beach to 12 mi off Islamorada, an extension of 130 mi. Southwest of Key West, a Cory's Shearwater Apr. 27 (WB, BB) and another May 9 (HPL et al.) were both flying WNW, which might explain the sightings and dead birds of this species found occasionally on the n. shore of the Gulf. The rare Manx Shearwater was seen 27 mi off Cocoa Apr. 11 (JJ, DH). Instead of visiting D.T. regularly during April, the White-tailed Tropicbird appeared briefly Apr. 22–May 1 (JH, m.ob.). By early May at D.T. the first successful nesting in the continental United States of the Masked Booby produced an adult-sized juvenile that was flying by May 31 (WBR, m.ob.). At Wakulla Springs Mar. 27 (DCB) 91 nests of Double-crested Cormorants were counted for the highest ever there, and a remarkable number for a small lake near Orlando was 250 Mar. 30–Apr. 8 (DWF).

The first nesting of Magnificent Frigatebirds on D.T. finally occurred this spring with 7 nests on Bush Key and 2 on Long Key May 31 (WBR, GEW, ph. GL, m.ob.). A female over the beach in n. St. Johns May 28 (PCP) was a good find. Colonies of Wood Storks in early March formed late with 220 pairs at Cuthbert L., Everglades N.P., and 650 pairs at Corkscrew in Collier (JCO), but by the end of May "low water" caused colonies throughout the state to be below average by 30% to 50% (JAR). A list of species that Cattle Egrets on D.T. tried to consume this spring follows (see photo): Barn Swallow; Veery, Swainson's, and Gray-cheeked thrushes; Gray Catbird; Tennessee, Yellow, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, and Bay-breasted warblers; Am. Redstart; Ovenbird; Kentucky Warbler; Com. Yellowthroat; Hooded Warbler; Summer Tanager; and Dickcissel. Twenty-five Glossy Ibises at St. Marks N.W.R. Mar. 16 (CSG) constituted the highest count ever for n.w. Florida.



DUCKS TO RAPTORS — Although a common nester near Belle Glade, about 45 mi northwest at Archbold Biological Station 12 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were found May 16 (RCT) for only their 2nd sighting, and one was a straggler at Everglades N.P. May 22 (BN). Curiously, near W. Palm Beach May 26 (CK, VM), an ad. Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was accompanied by an immature. A pair of tardy Mallards lingered in Tampa Bay until mid-May (RTP). A ♂ Am. Wigeon, first ever for D.T., flushed near Long Key Apr. 23 (JH et al.). Unexpected, a ♂ Oldsquaw visited Merritt Island N.W.R. Mar. 13 (JJ, MH), and a female remained very late in Tampa Bay Apr. 18 (FD) to May 21 (RTP).

Black-shouldered Kites were detected in Everglades N.P. Apr. 2 (BN, FB, JDC); subsequently a nest was discovered (JC), and two fledged young left the nest by the end of May (fide WBR), for only the 2nd year of successful nesting in the state this century (details to be published elsewhere). A Mississippi Kite, rarely seen in s. Florida, was flying over Anhinga Trail, Everglades N.P., May 17 (MW), and the first sighting in Pasco occurred May 5 (BP, PY). Another at Tallahassee Mar. 25 (DCB) was early there. The excellent number of 12 Bald Eagle young at St. Marks N.W.R. Apr. 20 (CSG) was good news. Cooper's Hawks nested again far south at Archbold Biological Station during April and May (JL, DRS). American Kestrels, scarce breeders in c. Florida, showed signs of a good season with a pair at Venus May 7 (FEL), 6 pairs this spring in Polk (fide CLG), and a pair with fledged young in Pasco May 31 (BP, PY). Two Peregrine Falcons dined on Cattle Egrets and Laughing Gulls at Key West Golf Course Mar. 1–18 (PB) and harassed golfers who ventured too close.

RAILS TO SKIMMER — A calling Black Rail near Long Pine Key, Everglades N.P., May 21 (BN) again raised the possibility of nesting in s. Florida. Thirty Soras near St. Augustine Apr. 11 (BJR) was an impressive count. Polk had its first Am. Coot breeding record May 16 (BWC). At the end of April, how did a downy young Sandhill Crane ever end up on a grassy median strip of a busy thoroughfare at U.S. 41 and Laurel Rd. in Nokomis? The young bird was "rescued" and fed by Sun-

coast Seabird Sanctuary until May 29, when it was adopted by an ad Sandhill Crane who fed it (*vide* AFS)

The good number of 119 Semipalmated Plovers was counted at C.S.M. and Bradley Jct., Polk, Apr. 28 (PJF). After so many sightings last spring, only one Lesser Golden-Plover was found this spring, in Franklin Apr. 28 (JEC). A Long-billed Curlew, rare in Tallahassee Division, was seen in Wakulla Apr. 28 (JEC). American Avocets must have been an impressive sight with 258 Mar. 20 (JJ) at Port Canaveral and with 112 Apr. 10 (PJF, CLG) at C.S.M. A ♀ Ruff was a good find at Port Canaveral Apr. 17 (†KL, DSi). Upland Sandpipers were unusually evident this spring with four on D.T. May 1–9 (m.ob.) and two May 31 (WBR) and a total of 19 at Key West during May (JO). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper, a rare spring migrant, was spotted at D.T. May 1 (†TC *et al.*). Three calling Long-billed Dowitchers were tardy at Sanibel May 26 (MW). Surprisingly, an Am. Woodcock continued its courtship flights nightly at Everglades N.P. Feb. 27–Apr. 1 (WEH, GN *et al.*). Single Wilson's Phalaropes, unusual in spring, were spotted in Leon Mar. 22 (JEC), at St. Marks N.W.R. Apr. 23 (DSa), at Venice May 1 (DB, B), and at D.T. May 1–3 (TC *et al.*). Rare inland, a Red-necked Phalarope in breeding plumage visited C.S.M. Apr. 10 (CLG, PJF).

At Bradley Jct. Apr. 28 (PJF) a Com. Tern was seen for only the 2nd sighting for Polk, and 12 Royal Terns, rare inland, constituted a remarkable number there. The Black Noddy, rare but regular at Bush Key, D.T., was located almost daily Apr. 23–May 8 (HPL, m.ob.). The impressive count of 340 Black Skimmers, uncommon inland, was unexpected at Bradley Jct. Apr. 28 (PJF).

DOVES TO FLYCATCHERS — A White-winged Dove far north at Jacksonville May 26 (KU) was wandering. Sandwiched between Dade and Palm Beach, where Eur. Collared-Doves are common to regular, Broward finally found a pair that displayed courtship behavior Apr. 6 (WG) and established residence, which was not surprising. However, over 12 calling in Jensen Beach, Martin, May 25 (HD, WD) meant a significant range extension northward. Rare, but regular, six Black-billed Cuckoos were reported: at Ft. De Soto May 2 (LA *et al.*), two at D.T. May 1–3 (TC, BB, m.ob.), at Alligator Pt. May 5 (CHW), at St. George I. May 5 (JEC *et al.*), and at Key West May 14 (JO). Two perched Lesser Nighthawks, very rare in Florida, tolerated close study of their primaries on Garden Key, D.T., May 2–6 (DS, †HPL, m.ob., † to F.O.S.R.C.). Antillean Nighthawks returned again this year to Florida City in s. Dade Apr. 12 (CM).

A few years ago Chimney Swifts colonized Palm Beach and now are moving S in earnest. In Broward two were breaking small twigs from a Casuarina May 15 (WG); in Homestead several birds were seen May 26–31 (JCO); and in Key Largo several were conducting courtship "pair flights" May 27 (JCO, MAB). Late last winter at a feeder in Tallahassee at different times, three ♀ hummingbirds caused considerable head scratching and conjecturing, and subsequently only one of the three mystery birds was identified. After reviewing audiovisual tapes, photographs, drawings, and field notes, Nancy Newfield, Paul Lehman, Jon Dunn, and Barry Zimmer all agreed that the call notes on the tape positively identified one hummingbird as an Anna's Hummingbird, the first for the state, subject to F.O.S.R.C. approval. The bird appeared Jan. 17 & 22 and Feb. 8 to mid-February (†JEC, †LH, m.ob., † to F.O.S.R.C.). Despite details, identifying the other two hummingbirds created no such unity among the experts. Visiting a feeder on Cedar Key Feb. 28–Mar. 3 (BP *et al.*, ph. BP, LA), a ♂ *Selasphorus* with a well-marked green cap, nape, and back was not identified with certainty despite photographs and videotapes because of the absence of details in the tail.

A xanthic Red-bellied Woodpecker with a brilliant yellow cap and neck and with some yellow on the belly was reported at Apalachicola N.F. May 21 (DCB). Seven Belted Kingfishers were found in sand mines near Lake Wales Apr. 26 (BWC) for the first breeding record for Polk. An early E. Kingbird arrived

at Loxahatchee N.W.R. Mar. 13 (RB) Despite concentrated coverage by 40 observers the next day, a calling La Sagra's Flycatcher, for the 4th U.S. sighting, was found at Birch S.P. May 14 only (WG, FJ, †BH, † to F.O.S.R.C.). The E. Wood-Pewee, rare on the lower e. coast in spring, was seen at Delray Beach Apr. 13 (BH) and at Lake Worth Apr. 20 (GH, HPL). Reported by many different observers, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were particularly numerous this spring in s. Florida.

SWALLOWS TO VIREOS — A Bahama Swallow joined nesting Cave Swallows in s. Miami May 18–31 (†MW, MP, †BH, †MG, m.ob., † to F.O.S.R.C.) to give observers a splendid opportunity to see this accidental. A Cave Swallow was spotted at D.T. Mar. 8–10 (SAS *et al.*), but others did not return to their nesting sites near Homestead until Mar. 27 (PWS). By the end of May excellent numbers were busy breeding at various sites in s. Dade for the 2nd straight year. A Veery landed in the water while crossing the narrow channel between Bush and Garden keys, D.T., May 3 (HPL *et al.*). Four Laughing Gulls immediately swooped in to pick the Veery up and drop it 8 times before the struggling Veery succumbed. The gulls then abandoned the lifeless floating Veery. Strangely, Gray-cheeked Thrushes far outnumbered Swainson's Thrushes this spring on D.T. until early May, when numbers were about even. A very late Am. Robin was singing all day at Everglades N.P. May 13 (JCO). Remarkable this far south, Gray Catbirds carried food repeatedly at Odessa, Hillsborough, in May (LHa), suggesting nesting. Near Flamingo, Everglades N.P., a brief view of a Bahama Mockingbird Mar. 9 produced the 7th sighting for the United States (JCO, † to F.O.S.R.C.), but another on Hypoluxo I. cooperated with observers by staying Apr. 21–May 4 (†HPL, m.ob., † to F.O.S.R.C.). A Brown Thrasher, good for D.T., appeared May 2 (HPL *et al.*). Establishing themselves north from Miami, Com. Mynas were seen feeding young in n. Palm Beach May 8 (CK, CP).

Seldom does the Patagonia effect prove fruitful in Florida, but while searching for the Bahama Mockingbird, observers spent 30–40 minutes "off and on" examining a Thick-billed Vireo on Hypoluxo I. May 6 (†TC, †DJK *et al.*, † to F.O.S.R.C.) for the 5th sighting in the United States. At Ft. De Soto, a Warbling Vireo, very rare in Florida, was reported with good details May 2 (LA, † to F.O.S.R.C.) and early on Apr. 16 (†PJF *et al.*). Philadelphia Vireos, rare in spring, were reported at D.T. Apr. 25 and May 1 (JH, DJK *et al.*), at Cape Florida Apr. 26 (ML, m.ob.), at Birch S.P. Apr. 27 (WG), and at Deering Estate, Dade, May 4–5 (VE). Despite good mangrove coverage this spring, not one Black-whiskered Vireo could be found in Tampa, Terra Ceia, Sarasota, or Roberts Bay (RTP), but Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen regularly.

WARBLERS — On D.T. a Golden-winged Warbler Apr. 22 (JH, m.ob.), two May 2 (WB, m.ob.), and three May 7 (WEH *et al.*) were unexpected. A Nashville Warbler, always a good find, appeared at Cape Florida May 2 (BN, PC). On D.T., 35 Yellow and 60 Magnolia warblers May 2 represented impressive numbers (JH, m.ob.). A Magnolia at Alligator Point May 26 furnished the latest date for the Tallahassee Division (JEC, HMS). For the 3rd sighting for the state in spring, a Yellow-rumped "Audubon's" Warbler visited Loggerhead Key, D.T., Apr. 30 (LK, KK, †GL *et al.*, † to F.O.S.R.C.) and May 1 (TC *et al.*). A ♂ and ♀ Black-throated Blue Warblers were seen sipping from a hummingbird feeder at Key West May 10 (JO). The rare Cerulean Warbler was reported at Key West Apr. 15 (CW) and May 6 (JO) and at D.T. May 1 (GL).

An imm. ♀ Pine Warbler—this species is viewed with skepticism on D.T.—was studied very carefully on the ground at Garden Key Apr. 27 (DLB, JH, HPL *et al.*). This sighting may indicate that some Pine Warblers may winter in the Antilles. A ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler, rare on the lower e. coast in spring, was spotted on Hypoluxo I. May 6 (WG *et al.*). The remarkable numbers of 80 Black-and-white Warblers, 125 Am. Redstarts, and 30 Worm-eating Warblers were counted during a fallout

at Birch S.P. Apr. 27 (WG). Kentucky Warblers turned up at Cape Florida Apr. 20–21 (ML) and at Matheson Hammock County Park Apr. 21 (ML) for the first sightings in over 30 years in Dade (*vide* BN); at Ft. Lauderdale Apr. 27 (WG); and at Plantation Key May 3 (JCO). Common Yellowthroats were on the ground at Cape Florida by the “uncountable hundreds” during the big front May 1 (BN *et al.*) and at Birch S.P. with 350 during the Apr. 27 front (WG). Two Wilson’s Warblers, always a good find, lingered at D.T. Apr. 30–May 9 (TC, m.ob.). Single Canada Warblers, very rare in spring, reached Loggerhead Key Apr. 23 (WB, m.ob.) and Key West May 1 (JO). Singing Yellow-breasted Chats on Paynes Prairie again this year during May (BM, SN) raised hopes of confirming a southerly extension of the breeding range, and farther south below Chiefland a pair were acting “aggressively” May 9 (DT), but nesting could not be confirmed.

BANANAQUIT TO SISKINS — Caribbean strays were a **Bananaquit** at Key Largo Apr. 10 (AS, † to F.O.S.R.C.) and a **Stripe-headed Tanager** at Cape Florida Apr. 28 (ML, †DL, PC, KS, SV, † to F.O.S.R.C.). Indigo Buntings were unusually common on the keys this spring (*vide* KSt) with one flock of 100 during early May at Key West (JO). They were doing well at the very s. edge of their range with 4 pairs on established territories in Pasco at the end of May (BP). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak surely was desperate when he ate sandspurs on Garden Key May 8 (MT). Difficult to find on the mainland but regular on D.T. each spring, Dickcissels increased to a high of five on D.T. May 1 (GL). At John U. Lloyd S.P. in Dania Apr. 17 an imm. **Black-faced Grassquit** was reported less than 2 mi from where one lingered last December in Ft. Lauderdale (†GK, RP, † to F.O.S.R.C.). Because of the details of the plumage, it was thought to be the same bird (*vide* BH). Over 500 Bobolinks at Port Canaveral represented a good number Apr. 23 (MH), but 2139 at C.S.M. Apr. 28 provided the highest count there for several years (PJF).

Clay-colored Sparrows, considered rare, are turning up regularly in s. Florida with one wintering bird still at Flamingo Apr. 3 (PWS *et al.*), five at Delray Beach Mar. 4 (HPL, GH) with numbers dwindling to one Mar. 26 (BH), and one at Lignumvitae Key Apr. 17 (WH). A Lark Sparrow visited Delray Beach Mar. 13–21 (HPL, BH), Boynton Beach Mar. 26 (BH), and Ft. De Soto Apr. 15 (SV, m.ob.). A Lincoln’s Sparrow, now regular in winter, tarried at Delray Beach until Mar. 21 (BH). Migrating Lincoln’s visited Ft. De Soto May 2 (LA) and Nokomis May 10 (SS, AFS). Two White-throated Sparrows, rare in s. Florida, were found at Key Largo Apr. 9 (PWS *et al.*). Scarce in s. Florida, one of the four wintering White-crowned Sparrows at Delray Beach was still present Mar. 26 (BH), and an immature was reported near Homestead Apr. 2 (BN *et al.*). Late White-crowneds were recorded at Key Largo Apr. 10 (AS, RS) and Jacksonville Apr. 25 (PCP).

In n. Dade a rare ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird consorted with Eur. Starlings Mar. 4 (SV), and another male was seen in Everglades N.P. May 5 (PCr, SR). A Com. Grackle, 2nd ever for

D.T., tarried at Garden Key May 3–31 (HPL, m.ob., ph. LS) **Shiny Cowbirds** invaded s. Florida with seven on D.T. Apr. 25–26 (JH, HPL, m.ob., † to F.O.S.R.C.) and a single male sporadically appearing until May 5 (ph. EG and HPL); a male at Flamingo, Everglades N.P., May 4 (TC *et al.*, ph. TC) & 17 (MW), with three males there May 27 (MW); one male at Big Pine Key May 19–21 (SF, MB, song taped by SF); and four males at Ft. De Soto May 25–31 (DJD, †LA *et al.*, ph. and † to F.O.S.R.C.), for the northernmost sighting so far. The good number of 21 N. Orioles Apr. 5 was the high count at the Haines City oriole roost that has been in use for 6 years (*vide* CLG), and one was seen 12 mi off the Cocoa coast Apr. 11 (DH, JJ). A ♀ N. “Bullock’s” Oriole was a rare visitor at Flamingo Apr. 2 (FB, †BN, JDC).

Invading Tallahassee in force for the first time last winter, House Finches, numbering 30, were still visiting a feeder Mar. 1, but by mid-April they had disappeared. On Apr. 25 a pair established residence there and copulated but were last seen May 13 (NW). Farther south a male was located on Cedar Key May 6 (DT, RH, BM), and much farther south, a red male and a yellow male, possibly escapees, attended a feeder at W. Palm Beach May 12 (ASm). The six wintering Pine Siskins at Flamingo stayed until Apr. 10 (BN, JB), and even farther south 20 were at Big Pine Key Apr. 16 (BF, SF), and, new for Collier, the same number was seen the very next day about 80 mi due north at Chokoloskee I. Apr. 17 (WBB, VB).

CONTRIBUTORS (subregional editors in boldface) — This editor wishes to thank Lyn & Brooks Atherton, Richard T. Paul, and William B. Robertson for reviewing early drafts. **Brooks & Lyn Atherton**, Doris Baldwin, Dick L. Ballman, Joe Barros, Benton Basham, Fred Baumgarten, **Ted H. Below**, V. Below, Mary Anne Biggar, Wes Biggs, Richard Bowen, Marge & Page Brown, Dana C. Bryan, W.B. Burkett, James E. Cavanaugh, Buck W. Cooper, Paul Coopmans, Troy Corman, Phil Cronin (PCr), John Curnutt, Joe DiConstanzo, **William & Helen Dowling**, D. Jack Dozier, Frank Dunstan, Virginia Edens, Paul J. Fellers, Davis Finch, Bert & Sue Frank, **Dot W. Freeman**, **Chuck L. Geanangel**, Wally George, Culver S. Gidden, Mark Ginsberg, Ed Greaves, J. Hallett, Lynn Hannon (LHa), W. Ed Harper, Mary Harrell, Dan Heathcote, R. Hoekstra, Wayne Hoffman, Brian Hope, **Larry Hopkins**, Gloria Hunter, Frank Jeter, Bill Johnson, **Johnnie Johnson**, Gary Karch, Lynn & Kenn Kaufman, Cecil Kilmer, Dave J. Krueper, Kenneth LaBarde, **H.P. Langridge**, Greg Lasley, James Layne, **Fred E. Lohrer**, David & Mitchell Lysinger, Cliff Miles, Victor Muller, **Barbara Muschlitz**, G. Neil, Steve Nesbitt, **Bruce Neville**, **John C. Ogden**, Joe Ondrejko, Marge Pamas, **Richard T. Paul**, Robert Pittell, Cynthia Plockelman, **Peggy C. Powell**, Bill Pranty, Bob J. Richter, William B. Robertson, James A. Rodgers, Sean Rowe, Dean Sandee (DSa), Rick Sawicki, David Sibley, David Simpson (DSi), David R. Smith, Alice Smith (ASm), P. Wm. & Susan A. Smith, Lee Snyder, Annette F. & Stanley Stedman, **Henry M. Stevenson**, **Karen Strobel** (KSt), Allan Strong, Kitty Suarez, Russ C. Titus, Mike Tove, Dave Trochelell, Katherine Umstot, Sharyn Van Horn, Noel Wamer, Charles H. Watt, Carl Weekley, Mickey Wheeler, Glen E. Woolfenden, Paul Young.—**H.P. LANGRIDGE, 1421 W. Ocean Ave., Lantana, FL 33462.**

ONTARIO REGION

Ron D. Weir

The migration of this spring was marked by paradox. Long periods of cold, dry weather accompanied by north or northeast winds predominated over much of the province for extended periods providing unusually few warm fronts to assist migrants. This phenomenon accounted for the low numbers of individuals observed and

the extensive overflights detected along the lower Great Lakes. However, a notable number of early arrivals was detected in the north. At Thunder Bay, 25 species, of which four and 15 occurred in the periods April 3–5 and 8–15, respectively, were record early. Farther south in Algonquin Provincial Park, 15 species, of which five and six appeared April 6–9 and May 3–10, respectively, set early marks. In spite of the poor migration weather, species diversity was

high. At the Grimsby hawk lookout, the flight of Broad-winged was missed, probably a result of adverse winds. The big flight of raptors occurred there March 26, when 2080 were tallied, led by 748 Turkey Vultures and 669 Red-taileds.

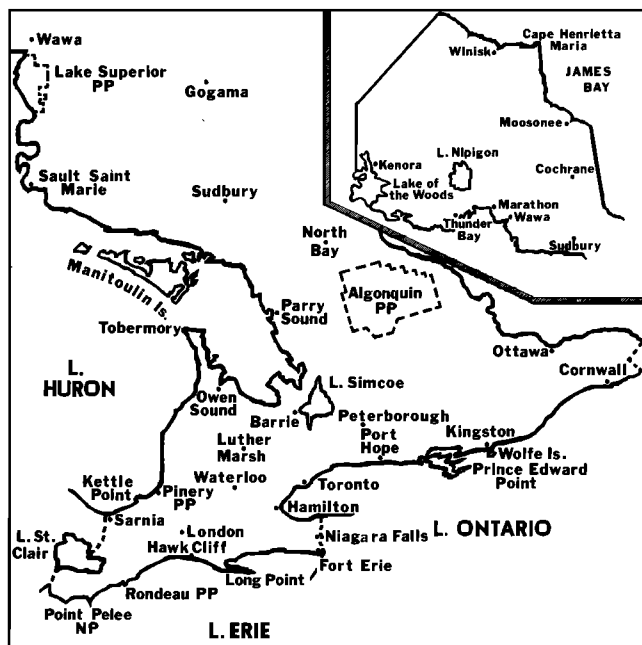
The poor to mediocre migration for the first nine weeks of the period was overshadowed by several days during May when the warblers poured in. May 20-23 brought the largest number of grounded migrants into the south, and some reporters considered the overall spring migration as the best in 25 years. The analysis from Long Point said much about the paradox. The usual pattern of arrival by adult males followed by adult females and in turn immature males and immature females broke down relatively quickly among the warblers. Immatures were present in the first major influx. Almost immediately, the samples netted had mixed sexes and ages. Even in late May, adult males were arriving in such numbers that the overall effect was of a "relatively patternless distribution of age and sex classes."

What trends emerged from this spring's migration? First, a strong flight of "southern" species came into Ontario, which included southern herons, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Summer Tanager, and Blue Grosbeak. The trend of rising numbers of Red-bellied Woodpecker continued; this species is always vulnerable to an especially severe winter that could knock it back again. Second, Brewer's Blackbird sightings rose, and the Dickcissel, a species that has been inconsistent in the recent past, put on a strong showing. Third, the itinerant Red Crossbill surprised observers with a strong immigration. On the down side, the Cattle Egret maintained its slide, and the Loggerhead Shrike continued its erratic showing.

ABBREVIATIONS — Pelee = Point Pelee Nat'l Park and vicinity; P.E. Pt. = Prince Edward Point; Algonquin, Presqu'ile, and Rondeau are provincial parks. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO HERONS — The 14 Red-throated Loons reported was an average number for spring; noteworthy were one in the Welland Canal at St. Catharines Mar. 4-31 (ph. KJR) and one in breeding plumage found dead at Presqu'ile May 27 (*fide* SML). Two **Pacific Loons**, which are rare in any season in s. Ontario, appeared at Pelee. One in first-summer plumage tarried May 19-28 (KAM, RLW *et al.*), and the other in ad. breeding dress was found May 21 (GTH *et al.*). Concentrations of Com. Loons failed to materialize along the lower Great Lakes, but 325 farther north at Lynn Pt., Manitoulin I., May 3 was a good tally there (JCN). The Red-necked Grebe at Thunder Bay Apr. 9 furnished a record early arrival (*fide* NGE). Single Eared Grebes were at Port Dover Apr. 21 (R. Bon) and Pelee May 8 (GTH). Four sightings of Am. White Pelican in the south involved singles at Erieau May 14-15 (ph. TNH *et al.*), west Toronto May 25 (LM), and Long Pt. June 5-9 (RF, DCB, JEB) and five in Algonquin May 31 (L. Carl) for a new park record. The Great Cormorant that turned up at Pickering Feb. 29 was seen there off and on until Apr. 7 (*fide* MJB), and this individual was thought to have commuted W to Hamilton Mar. 13-14 (B.K. Wylie *et al.*). The same bird or another was along Kingston's waterfront May 14 (RKE). The five Double-crested at Thunder Bay Apr. 5 were record early (NGE), and 144 at Erieau Apr. 17 was a high count for the Rondeau area at any time (KJB).

The early single Great Blue Herons at Toronto Mar. 15 (DP) and Manitoulin I. Mar. 22 (GG) were upstaged by a Great Egret at Pickering's power plant Mar. 1 (HGC, GS). Seven other Great Egrets, a respectable number, were found away from the extreme southwest. They were east to Amherst I. Apr. 7-10 and again May 3-18 (K.F.N.), Peterborough Apr. 24 (TBo), and



Presqu'ile Apr. 24 (JB). The six Snowy Egrets provided the highest number since spring 1983. Single Little Blue Herons appeared at the Rattray Marsh Apr. 4 (JS, GR), Cobourg Apr. 6-21 (AWi *et al.*), and Long Pt. May 12 (PM, DSh), which compares with the post-1976 average of two. An ad. Tricolored Heron remained on Amherst I. May 10-22 (AH *et al.*), and another was at Long Pt. May 19 (*fide* GEW). Some 19 have been found during the past 19 springs. Only four Cattle Egrets were noted: one at Tiny Marsh, Simcoe, May 21-25 (DH) and one and two at Pelee Apr. 29 and May 10, respectively (AW, PJF *et al.*). The stronger showing by the **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** since 1975 continued with 2 sightings. One adult sought refuge within the Black-crowned Night-Heron colony on Toronto's e. Headland from Mar. 31 to early May (GS, TD), and another was in Luther Marsh May 17-19 for Wellington's first (EY).

WATERFOWL — In general, lower concentrations than usual characterized the waterfowl migration as most arrived early and dispersed rapidly in response to a warm early spring. Record early arrivals in the south included a Wood Duck at Peterborough Mar. 9 (AGC) and two Blue-winged Teal in Algonquin Apr. 6 (RGT). In the north, however, 8 record early dates were set at Thunder Bay with two Tundra Swans Apr. 10 (WZ), two Blue-winged Teal Apr. 15 (PJ, RSe), two Gadwall Apr. 12 (BA), six Am. Wigeon Apr. 9 (NGE, BA), two Redheads Apr. 15 (WZ), 10 Greater Scaup Apr. 9 (NGE, BA), three Lesser Scaup Apr. 8 (AGH), and a Bufflehead Apr. 3 (AGH). Buffleheads at Kenora Apr. 10 (SRM) were also record early.

The most easterly Tundra Swans in their light flight were 10 and three at Cornwall Mar. 29 & 30 (BM *et al.*). Seven Greater White-fronted Geese were found, which was consistent with increased numbers noted since 1984. An adult was photographed at Aylmer Mar. 11 (W & CL *et al.*), and one lingered in the Garden Hill area, Northumberland, Apr. 1-8 (RSe *et al.*). The three at Bourget, Russell, Mar. 26 became one by Apr. 4 (RAB), and one appeared at Carlsbad Springs May 8 (BMD). In the far north, another was in Winisk May 25 (JCD). The 22 Brant at Bronte May 23 (WL *et al.*) constituted a good number straying W of their usual route. At least one **Cinnamon Teal** has been seen annually in Ontario since 1982, and this spring's bird was a male in smart plumage at Silver L. May 3 for the first record from Manitoulin I. (ph. JCN). The pair of Gadwall in Algonquin May 28 provided the park's 4th record (RGT).

Four drake Eur Wigeon was close to the post-1979 average of five. Singles were at Strathroy Mar. 28 (AWM), Whitby's Cranberry Marsh Mar. 30 (MJB, DDC), Townsend Apr. 30–May 6 (RAVT *et al.*), and Gore Bay, Manitoulin I., May 10 (DEB). High counts of Canvasback were of 8500 off Wolfe I. Apr. 1 (JHE, RDW) and of 1500 at both Port Rowan Mar. 3 and Long Pt. Bay Mar. 30 (L.P.B.O.). The Ring-necked Duck was the exception to the rule of scarcity as it occurred in greater than usual numbers which included 1470 at Long Pt. Mar. 30 (L.P.B.O.), 1000 off Amherst I. Mar. 24 (AS), 800 at Presqu'île Apr. 3 (RJ, TFM), and 450 on Buckhorn L., Peterborough, Mar. 31 (SO). The two ♂ Harlequin Ducks that overwintered off Toronto's lakeshore lingered to Apr. 16 (DP), and a female was near Toronto Is. Mar. 25 (RY). Another female remained in Tiny Marsh, Simcoe, Apr. 10–21 (RJP, DH). These four represented a sharp rise over the 1982–1987 average of one per spring. Lakefield's overwintering Barrow's Goldeneye remained until Apr. 5 (DCS *et al.*). Other single males were at Mallorytown Landing Mar. 27 during a waterfowl viewing day (AE *et al.*) and in Providence Bay, Manitoulin I., May 7 (GV).

VULTURES THROUGH CRANES — Ontario's 10th Black Vulture was near Port Dover Mar. 31 (JM). Six have been seen since 1981, two each in winter, spring, and summer. Meanwhile, Turkey Vultures continued their trend of earlier spring arrivals and a steady rise in numbers. Early birds returned to Manitoulin I. Apr. 2 (CTB) and Thunder Bay Apr. 12 (RB), and 2331 at the Grimsby hawk watch was more than double the previous high of 977 in 1987 (MEF). Record early Ospreys appeared at Peterborough Mar. 26 (WM), Woodstock Mar. 31 (JMH), Algonquin Apr. 9 (RDS, RGT), and Thunder Bay Apr. 14 (WDA). The **Swainson's Hawk** at Grimsby Apr. 21 (DG, DC, GM *et al.*) was Ontario's 9th and occurred 3 years to the day since the previous spring record, which was also at Grimsby. Nine Golden Eagles were in the south Mar. 17–Apr. 11, an average number since 1981, and one+ returned to Kenora Apr. 10; a record early Am. Kestrel appeared there Mar. 7 (SRM). Twenty-five Peregrine Falcons (a normal number since 1983) were in the south, and Sudbury's overwintering white-phased Gyrfalcon was last seen Apr. 1 (CGB). Record early arriving rails were the Virginia in Algonquin May 8 (RGT) and the Sora at Thunder Bay Apr. 24 (CEGa). One Com. Moorhen visited Glamis May 14 (JW), B & DN in a rare appearance for Bruce. Sightings of Sandhill Cranes increased in the southwest to 29 birds, and the 57+ in all were a respectable number. Singles were east to Peterborough May 1 & 4 (WM *et al.*), Lakefield May 8–10 (RJP *et al.*), Adolphustown May 21 (KH), Kingston May 31 (DSpe), and Carlsbad Springs May 8 (BMD).

SHOREBIRDS — The flight of Black-bellied Plover was strong along the lower Great Lakes, and 1215 at Pelee May 29 (AW) constituted a record high as did 122 Semipalmated Plovers there May 25 (AW). The 12 Willets were well below the average of 33 per spring since 1981. Away from Pelee, where seven appeared May 13–23 (*vide* AW), singles were at Stoney Pt. May 10 (RPM), Thunder Bay May 13–18 (WZ, NGE *et al.*), Long Pt. May 17 and June 5 (L.P.B.O.), and Port Perry May 27–28 (CEGo *et al.*). The vanguard of a heavy Whimbrel flight contained two early birds on Amherst I. May 10 (AH) with the 3000 at Toronto's e. Headland May 24 (UW) the largest group reported. One appeared at Moosonee May 22 (SM). The movement of Hudsonian Godwits was unprecedented with 32+ and 17 in the north and south, respectively; the spring average since 1973 has been only three birds for the entire province. The 28 at Thunder Bay May 13 led the flight there (WZ *et al.*), and two each arrived at Englehart May 14 (LT) and Moosonee May 16 (SM). In the south, the five at Stoney Pt. May 12 decreased to three by May 19 (MJ *et al.*); singles were at Pelee May 13, 19, & 29 (GC, DSpi, HHA, AW); and six and three rested at 2 sites on Manitoulin I. May 14–15 (CTB, JGL). The five Marbled Godwits were usual for spring and were made up of singles at Pelee May 11 (JBS *et al.*) and Embrun, Russell,

May 31–June 5 (RPH *et al.*) and of three at Thunder Bay May 17–24 (CR *et al.*).

A strong flight of Red Knots was noted in the Kingston area. The largest flocks were of 300 huddled on the gravel bar at the e. end of Amherst I. May 31 (PG) and of 75 passing over the Amherstview sewage lagoons May 24 (RDW), both sightings occurring just before dusk. The only W. Sandpiper was a single at Stoney Pt. May 10–11 (HGC, RY). In spite of the 306 Pectoral Sandpipers at Pelee on the very early date of Mar. 30 (AW), their flight was weak. Only the three on Amherst I. May 11 (DB) and the singles at Presqu'île May 14 & 25 (J & JT) were away from the extreme southwest. Ontario's 7th and 8th spring **Curlew Sandpipers** were singles at Stoney Pt. May 13–20 (RWW, RAVT *et al.*) and Long Pt. May 20 (*vide* GEW). The poor flight of Stilt Sandpipers was of only four at Blenheim May 21 (AW, STP) and one in Ottawa May 22 (RMP), comparable to the post-1981 average of 13 per spring. The first spring Buff-breasted Sandpiper since 1985 was one at Kingsville May 13 (MC). The six Ruffs were just below the species' 6-year spring average of eight birds. The single males were in white plumage at Jeanette's Creek, Kent, May 1–14 (IP *et al.*) and later at Comber (*vide* AW), in rusty dress near Wiarton May 22, reappearing in the Wiarton sewage lagoons May 28–31 (JWJ *et al.*), and in black feather in the same lagoons May 29–30 (D & DSe, MWD *et al.*). Single females were at McGregor, Essex, May 12 (AW); Lakefield May 13 (PB, FH); and Harrow, Essex, May 17 (JN). Thirty-five dowitchers (sp.) in basic plumage at Woodstock Apr. 8 were early for Oxford (JMH), and the 70 Short-billeds near Cobden, Renfrew, May 28 constituted a rare find there (MF, ML). Lone Red-necked Phalaropes appeared at Almonte, Lanark, May 17–18 (BP); St. Isidore de Prescott May 23 (BMD); Amherstview sewage lagoons May 23 (CT *et al.*), and Presqu'île May 28 (TSh *et al.*). A total of four has been the spring average, but it is unusual for all to occur in e. Ontario.

Among the early waders that set record arrival dates were Greater Yellowlegs at Aylmer Mar. 13 (JM *et al.*) and Thunder Bay Apr. 10 (MZ), Lesser Yellowlegs at Thunder Bay Apr. 17 (WZ, RS, PJ), Solitary Sandpiper at Lakefield Apr. 25 (TB), Least Sandpiper in Algonquin May 4 (MR, RAB), and Dunlin at Long Pt. Mar. 31 (L.P.B.O.), Thunder Bay Apr. 23 (T.B.F.N.), and Algonquin May 16 (DT).

GULLS, TERNS — Five Franklin's Gulls were in the Pelee area Mar. 28–May 23, and the adult Mar. 28 was record early by 12 days (AW). Two were at Presqu'île May 28 (J & JT), and a single was at Blair, Waterloo, May 21 (TC, WW). Four birds have been the spring average. Little Gulls were numerous along L. Erie, and noteworthy were seven birds east to Presqu'île Apr. 17 & 28 and May 1 (*vide* SML), two on Amherst I. May 14 & 21 (K.F.N.), and two north at Moose R. May 28 (SM, AMM). An ad. Com. Black-headed Gull in winter plumage was at Niagara-on-the-Lake Mar. 20 (RAVT), and another carried at the tip of Long Pt. May 20–25 (RDM *et al.*). These totaled half the spring average of four. The main influx of ad. Bonaparte's Gulls occurred Apr. 26–May 7, led by 5000 each at Oshawa Apr. 30 (GAS) and Amberly, Huron, Apr. 30 (WT, TL), followed by 1800 immatures at Long Pt. May 18 (L.P.B.O.). The ad. **California Gull** at the tip of Long Pt. May 12–14 & 25 (RF, JEB) was Ontario's 5th. White-winged gulls included 42 Iceland's, a good showing, and a typical 80+ Glaucous. The 22–24 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were the most ever for spring; the average has been eight birds since 1982. The birds were reported Mar. 15–June 10.

The only early tern reported was the Caspian Tern at Winona Apr. 4 (RC). An outstanding rarity of this spring was the **Sandwich Tern**, which remained for only one hour in e. Hamilton Bay Apr. 24 (DSa *et al.*). The same individual was probably the one seen at Long Pt. May 17 (JMH). The last sighting of this species in Ontario occurred in the spring of 1882, when one was collected. Arctic Terns in s. Ontario during spring are regular only along the Ottawa R. from late May to early June, but occasional sightings are made along the lower Great Lakes

An adult at Pelee May 17 was well seen and described convincingly (D. Page, MPW et al.). Four Forster's Terns were reported away from L. Erie, for an average number. Singles were at Cobourg Apr. 9 (AGC) and Amherst I. May 12-15 (WB et al.), and two appeared near Clinton, Huron, Apr. 23 (WT), where the species is rare.

CUCKOOS TO SHRIKES — Numbers of Yellow-billed Cuckoo, always subject to fluctuation, were up during late May in Essex, Lambton, and Prince Edward. Three of the overwintering N. Hawk-Owls noted in the winter report lingered at Westport (AG) and at Columbus (DOC) until Mar. 5 and at Sheffield to Mar. 10 (RC et al.). The late winter flurry of Great Grays south of the breeding range spilled into March with singles near Van Kleek Hill Mar. 7 (JPO), Gelert Mar. 9-10 (RJP), Mindemoya to Apr. 2 (DEB), and at Tobermory to Apr. 30 (fide TRM). Four were in the Pembroke area until Mar. 18 (fide JMB). Within the breeding range, 20 were found in the Moosonee region Apr. 13-June 6 (EH, G. Ross). The return flight of the Boreal Owl was strong judging from the 10 reports.

The Com. Nighthawk at Dundas Apr. 20 (B.K. Wylie) was extremely early, and the Chuck-will's-widow at Rondeau May 16 (AGC) tied for the earliest record for the park. Red-bellied Woodpecker continued its strong showing. The 25 records away from the southwest were too many to list individually. Birds reached north to Manitoulin I., Naughton, and Sudbury, and east to Peterborough, Amherst I., Gananoque, and Portland. At Prince Edward Pt., seven were netted and banded, and at least two among a host of other sightings there were unbanded. Early Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers reached Pelee Mar. 26 (JEP, KC et al.), Ottawa Mar. 30 (BMD), and Algonquin Apr. 1 (RGT). The only report of a Black-backed Woodpecker south of range was the female north of Kingston May 18 (RG). The Yellow-shafted Flicker on Manitoulin Mar. 8 (GV) arrived record early by 11 days.

All the swallow species were noteworthy for their early appearances. The origin of the Black-billed Magpie at Scarborough May 22 (JT) remained unknown, but it seemed likely it escaped from captivity. The single Boreal Chickadee at Long Pt. May 23 & 25 (AMT, JSk) was the only one reported south of the breeding range. The six Tufted Titmice noted included Ottawa's overwintering bird, which remained until Mar. 27 (fide BMD). The others were at Whitby Mar. 1-31 (fide MJB), Presqu'île Apr. 3-4 (S & JM, GL), Toronto's Humber Bay park Apr. 12 (RM), Kleinburg Apr. 16 (ph. fide GMB), and Bluewater Beach, Simcoe, May 13-20 (TL, WT).

Numbers of Carolina Wren dropped in the southwest, which was unexpected following its strong winter showing. The only birds away from this traditional range were singles at Toronto's Lambton Woods from early March to Apr. 12 (CEGo, MWD et al.) and in Ottawa May 20 (RAB, CRT). Wrens that set early arrival records were the House Wren at Long Pt. Mar. 26

(L.P.B.O.), a Winter Wren at Thunder Bay Apr. 9 (JW), a Sedge Wren at Kingston May 1 (JP), and a Marsh Wren also at Kingston Apr. 10 (RDW). Ruby-crowned Kinglets were record early at Thunder Bay Apr. 3 (NGE), Wingham Apr. 3 (JBM), and Algonquin Apr. 6 (BMu), as were the several E. Bluebirds at Thunder Bay Apr. 8 (fide NGE). The single wintering Varied Thrushes stayed until Mar. 24 at Timmins (ph. MG et al.) and to Mar. 6 at Aldershot (RC). One Brown Thrasher at Thunder Bay May 6 was record early (GA). In spite of the many record early arrivals among the songbirds, Bohemian Waxwings remained later and in larger numbers than usual. In the south, the last of these sleek wanderers numbered 30 in Kingston Mar. 19 (WB), with the largest group containing 100 at Darlington Mar. 9 (RKM). Some tarried in Thunder Bay until May 1 (JHA). Last among four late N. Shrikes in the south was an adult in Pembroke Apr. 27 (JMB). The Loggerhead Shrike continued its erratic showing with 23 sightings, making it difficult to predict what the future holds for this species in Ontario.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — The White-eyed Vireo was in its best numbers since the early 1980s, and the six away from the southwest indicated a strong flight. Singles appeared at Pickering May 9-10 (fide MJB), Toronto's e. Headland May 11-15 (DP) as well as downtown May 20 (DD), Rock Pt. May 15 (RWK, JB), Presqu'île May 15 (J & JT), and P.E. Pt. May 21 (LB et al.). At Pelee and Long Pt., 25+ and 10 were noted, respectively (fide AW, L.P.B.O.). Record early Solitary Vireos arrived at Long Pt. Mar. 31 (GEW et al.) and at Pelee Apr. 6 (WG, MLr), where a Warbling Vireo Apr. 23 tied for the earliest record (AW et al.).

The expansion by the Blue-winged Warbler in the southwest continues slowly. The 16 at Long Pt. May 7-30 represented higher numbers (L.P.B.O.), and 5 new breeding pairs appeared at Big Otter Cr., Oxford (JMH). Brewster's hybrids numbered three at Pelee May 10-14 (fide AW) and two at Long Pt. May 8 & 10 (L.P.B.O.). The Lawrence's, which is the rarer hybrid, turned up at Long Pt. May 15 (DO) and Ingersoll May 20 (DNB). Single Yellow-rumped Warblers of the western Audubon's race were at Pelee Apr. 23-24 (AW et al.) and London Apr. 24 (ML, TNH, RKH). Another westerner, the **Townsend's Warbler**, tarried at Pelee Apr. 23-25 (EAS, KB, SB) to provide the park's 4th ever and Ontario's first since spring 1984. The seven Yellow-throated Warblers constituted a high number with four at Pelee May 8-15 (fide AW). The others were at Long Pt. May 8 (RC), Comber May 11-14 (JBS et al.), and P.E. Pt. May 22 (RDW). By the end of the period, ♂ Prairie Warblers had set up territories at 10 sites within Georgian Bay Islands N.P. (fide RKP).

The three Prothonotary Warblers away from the breeding sites represented a typical number; they were in Tiny Marsh May 1 (DH), Whitby May 16 (J & NL), and P.E. Pt. May 22 (WB, RDW). The Worm-eating Warbler flight was strong and the



Varied Thrush at Timmins, Ontario, March 12, 1988. Photo/Michelle Guillemette.



Worm-eating Warbler at Point Pelee, Ontario, April 30, 1988. Photo/Tim Sabo.

best of the 1980s. Some 13–16 frequented Pelee Apr. 30–May 23 (fide AW), and two at Long Pt. May 12–13 & 21–29 were netted and ringed (L.P.B.O.). Away from the extreme southwest were individuals at Summerhill, Huron, May 9 (TL); Grimsby May 11 (JBa et al.); and P.E. Pt. May 27 (CF), where the bird was netted and banded. The flight of Kentucky Warblers was also the best of the 1980s, consisting of at least 21 birds in the southwest May 8–27. Others were at Whitby May 13, 15, & 22 (MJB et al.), P.E. Pt. May 14 (netted) (CF), Toronto's Wychwood Park May 19 (HGC), and the e. Headland June 1 (fide MWD). Away from the southwest were six Hooded Warblers and six Yellow-breasted Chats, which were usual numbers. The Hoodeds were at Presqu'île May 8 & 14–15 (CV et al., CEGo), Pickering May 15–16 (F) et al.), and P.E. Pt. May 15, 22, & 28 (K.F.N.). The chats were at Presqu'île and Rock Pt. May 15 (S & JM, BC), Pickering May 14–15 & 18–19 (LR, JL et al.), Toronto Is. May 17 (DP), and P.E. Pt. May 21 (RKE et al.).

Far too many early sightings were provided to list all of them in this restricted space. However, record early were the Yellow Warbler in Algonquin May 7 (GB); the Chestnut-sided at Peterborough Apr. 17 (DCS); the Pine at Long Pt. Mar. 26 (L.P.B.O.), Peterborough Apr. 9 (M. Hill), and Kingston Apr. 10 (JHE); and the Canada Warbler in Algonquin May 10 (RGT) and Thunder Bay May 15 (JW).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES — Pelee hosted five or six Summer Tanagers May 8–21 (fide AW), and singles were at Comber May 10–14 (DW et al.), east to the Dundas Marsh May 18 (RD, WL), Whitby May 21 (RSh), and Presqu'île May 22 (J & JT). Four Blue Grosbeaks constituted an invasion. An imm. male was on Pelee I. May 9 (GY et al.), and another tarried at Pelee May 9–16 (FEH et al.). A 3rd imm. male and a female also appeared at Pelee May 10 (WCW et al., SS et al.). The five



Immature male Blue Grosbeak at Point Pelee, Ontario, May 1988. Photo/Alan Wormington.

Dickcissels represented a very strong flight. A male remained in St. Catharines Mar. 31–Apr. 18 (ph. MEM, RNM). Another was in Ajax Mar. 8–11 (MW, JMS). A male and female were at Pelee May 13 (WLi et al.) & 15–16 (GTH et al.), respectively, but the sex of the bird at Stoney Pt. lagoons May 28 was not reported (AW). One of the few record late departures in the period was by the Am. Tree Sparrow at Turkey Pt. May 5 (RR). The single Lark Sparrows at Smiths Falls May 14 (KD) and near the Luther Marsh May 30–31 for Wellington's first (PT et al.) compare with 19 birds over the past 13 springs. Lark Buntings are much rarer in Ontario, and this spring's two were a good showing and the first since 1985. The one at Stratford May 13 was the first for the area (fide MPD), and the male at the e. tip of Long Pt. June 1 was the 4th there (ph. DCB, RF, JEB).

Five W. Meadowlarks represented a typical number; males were on Manitoulin I., at Woodstock and Tiny Marsh, near Guelph, and north of Oshawa Mar. 28–May 31. Noteworthy sightings of Yellow-headed Blackbirds included single males at Eganville Apr. 13 (LK), Pickering May 13 (LR), Peterborough May 25 (fide JD), and Russell May 29–June 2 (PMD, CRT) and a female at P.E. Pt. May 10 (RDW). Spring records of Brewer's Blackbirds away from known nesting areas appear to be increasing slowly. Two each were at Long Pt. Mar. 6 (L.P.B.O.), at Carleton Place May 13–14 (R.V.F.N.), and along L. Simcoe May 21 (HGC). The others were lone birds near Woodstock Mar. 4 (JMH), downtown Toronto Apr. 23 (GC), and Comber May 11 (BDJ, JH). Like most other Carolinian species this spring, Orchard Orioles appeared in higher than usual numbers in the traditional southwest. They were numerous in Lambton (SAC), and up to 20 per day became routine at Pelee (AGC), where the 52 flying S off the tip May 8 represented a high number for the early date (AW). Those in High Park, Toronto, returned May 9 for the 4th consecutive year (MWD).

The highlight among the finches was the ♂ Rosy Finch that remained at a feeder Mar. 16–17 near Evansville, Manitoulin I. (ph. DEB). Among the statistics afforded by this casual winter visitor from the w. mountains were the first sighting east of Thunder Bay and the 6th ever for Ontario. Virtually all the Pine Grosbeaks in the south withdrew by mid-March, but one at Canoe L. May 1 (RDW) and four near Perth May 14 (RN) were extremely tardy.

S.A.

The peripatetic Red Crossbill lived up to its nomadic reputation. The species suddenly appeared throughout a number of counties in s. Ontario during early March and lingered in some places to the end of the period. The dates and locations of arrival point to movement from the north to south-southwest perhaps originating from somewhere in W. Algonquin or west of the park. By early March, they had reached Peterborough, Toronto, Owen Sound, Guelph, and Woodstock, where flocks contained 100–500 birds, and Long Pt., where flocks of 40 were noted. None was reported west of Strathroy, and by early April the first of small numbers reached Kingston and Pembroke. The small flocks at Sudbury and Atikokan were unchanged in number throughout winter and spring suggesting that these areas were unaffected by the irruption. Observers reported crossbills visiting feeders in several locales, indicating a lack of natural food, and by the end of the reporting period no attempted nesting had been reported. Meanwhile, White-winged Crossbills remained scarce, and fewer than 20 birds were noted in the south.

The last of the heavy redpoll flight returning N were on Manitoulin I. Apr. 30 (JCN). The lone Com. Redpoll at Smiths Falls May 30 (DR) may have been injured. Pine Siskins remained abundant during March and April throughout most of the south, but numbers fell during May in most but not all

locations The Evening Grosbeak return flight was heavy at Atikokan from Mar. 3 (SFP), and large numbers were on Manitoulin I. and Sudbury until late April (JCN). Elsewhere, returning birds were few.

EXOTICS — A Bar-headed Goose accompanied migrating Canadas that arrived on Amherst I. May 17 (AS). Toronto's ♂ Eur. Siskin remained at a feeder into March (fide MWD), and a ♂ Eur. Goldfinch spent 2 hours outside the Petawawa Forestry Station Apr. 21 (fide JMB).

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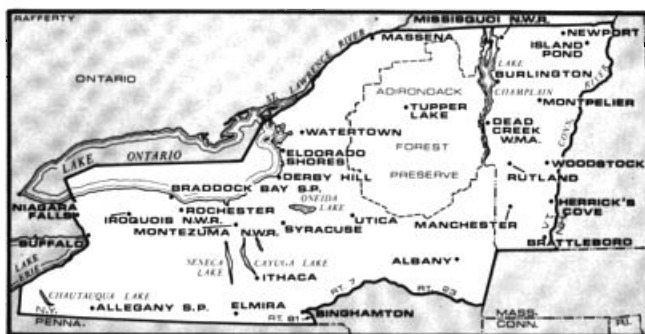
NIAGARA-CHAMPLAIN REGION

Douglas Kibbe

Spring coincided with or even preceded its calendar arrival date this year. Open conditions in March hastened the arrival and passage of early migrants. But in April, when it appeared that spring was two to three weeks ahead of schedule and fruit growers were fearing for the flowering success of their crops, the weather did an abrupt about face. More seasonable temperatures prevailed and most arrival dates were, at best, average.

Failure of the jet stream to descend from Canada left most of the Region in a serious drought situation by season's end and in the absence of weather-induced groundings, many termed migration numbers very poor. Nevertheless it was perhaps the best spring ever for rarities, as the ensuing paragraphs should demonstrate.

GREBES TO WATERFOWL — Although the open water conditions permitted waterbirds to disperse widely as they pushed through the Region there were, nonetheless, several exceptional tallies recorded. These included 190 Horned Grebes on Bear L. in Chautauqua Apr. 18 (TM) and 212 at Myers Point on Cayuga Lake Mar. 26 (DE, JC). Errant Eared Grebes were present at Irondequoit Bay outlet in mid-March (WL, MS) and Iroquois N.W.R. in late March and early April, and a 3rd sighting occurred at Pinehurst, NY, May 1 (fide B.O.S.). This western straggler now is found nearly every migration season in w. New York. As usual only modest numbers of Red-necked Grebes were noted. The growth of Vermont's Double-crested Cormorant colony on Young I. is reflective of Regional trends. First recorded nesting on the island in 1982,



the colony has swelled to 555 active nests this spring. The colony size was closely monitored by a Great Horned Owl that had occupied one cormorant nest.

Perhaps inspired by good weather, southern herons appeared in good numbers. As usual Great Egrets were the most abundant strays: up to seven could be found at Tonawanda W.M.A. and there were numerous reports of lesser numbers from throughout the Region. An ad. Little Blue Heron wandered to Oswego (FS), and single Snowy Egrets were found at Braddock Bay, Tonawanda W.M.A., and Young Island. No mate appeared at the latter location, the Region's only known prior Snowy breeding site. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron apparently wandered to Shelburne, VT (EC). A flock of at least 10 Glossy Ibises also visited the L. Champlain marshes. This species has long been a prime candidate to occur as a regular spring strag-

gler in the Region, following its increase in coastal regions, but this was by far the best incursion to date

Although open conditions promote rapid passage of waterfowl, there were, as a result of conscientious tallying by Braddock Bay's hawkwatchers, some excellent counts including passage of 624 Tundra Swans and 186,000 Canada Geese in March, and daily highs of 221 Wood Ducks Mar. 23, 750 Am. Wigeon May 26, 2400 Canvasbacks May 21 and 2500 the following day, 325 Ring-necked Ducks Mar. 23, and 700 Com. Goldeneyes and 425 Com. Mergansers Mar. 11. While some of these totals are exceptional, the absence of comparable coverage from other areas and years makes assessment of their significance difficult. A number of rare/exotic waterfowl were reported. They included several Greater White-fronted Geese, presumably enroute to their breeding grounds; a Barnacle Goose at Iroquois N.W.R. (B.O.S.); Eur. Wigeon at 4 locations in New York; a Ruddy Shelduck near Rochester; and a **Garganey** photographed at Orwell, VT (WSS, m.ob.). The latter, Vermont's first, could have been a bird of wild origin: it was unbanded and wary; but its status (like that of most other exotic waterfowl) is uncertain at best.

HAWKS TO LARIDS — Hawkwatchers at Braddock Bay enjoyed another banner year as the following tallies indicate: 61,516 total individuals of 16 species including 6575 Turkey Vultures, 56 Bald Eagles, 2,349 N. Harriers, 3,258 Red-shouldered Hawks, a **Swainson's Hawk**, 833 Rough-legged Hawks, 27 Golden Eagles, and 1889 Am. Kestrels. An average of nearly 70 birds per hour was seen during the 109 days the watch was manned (FN *et al.*). Exceptional one-day tallies were set Mar. 25 with 299 N. Harriers, Mar. 26 with 1,628 Red-tailed and 1,414 Red-shouldered hawks, May 9 with 110 Ospreys, and May 10 with 10 Bald Eagles. Nearby Irondequoit Bay yielded the season's rarest raptors, two **Black Vultures** May 21 (WL, MS). There were 2 Gyrfalcon sightings in Vermont. Ospreys nested again at South Slang in Addison, VT, but chose the artificial nest platform put out recently over last year's nest, which hosted young Red-tailed Hawks.

Northern Bobwhites, presumably releases, were seen at Rochester in May (G.O.S.). Vermont Fish and Game Department's survey of Yellow Bogs yielded an astonishing 17 Spruce Grouse (*vide* SL). Only three Sandhill Cranes were sighted, all in central and w. New York. Although neither Piping Plover nor Ruff was reported this season, the variety of shorebirds and number of rarities was very good. Daily counts at Braddock Bay are yielding new information about the timing and magnitude of migration through the Lake Ontario wetlands which form a stopover point from many migrants. For example, on Mar. 30, earlier than many observers think about searching for shorebirds, they tallied 600 Killdeer and 125 Pectoral Sandpipers. Unusual sightings this spring included a Willet at Tonawanda W.M.A. May 30 (B.O.S.), over 60 Whimbrels from 3 locations, a Hudsonian Godwit, at least three W. Sandpipers, and a Long-billed Dowitcher, all in New York.

Gulls were lackluster by recent standards. Little Gulls made their usual stops along lakes Ontario and Erie. An imm. Glaucous Gull lingered until May 20 at Greece, NY, while a first-year Thayer's Gull was discovered at Durand Eastman Beach in Monroe (SC) and a Laughing Gull was found at Aurora May 18 (KD). Ring-billed Gulls demonstrated their versatility by nesting at the Agronomy ponds in Ithaca, an inland non-island site. More expected was the first documented nesting of Herring Gulls on Bixby I. in L. Champlain (CR). A **Least Tern** was studied at Montezuma N.W.R. May 22 (SL, GE), and an intrepid Vermont observer risked hypothermia May 11 for critical views of an **Arctic Tern** foraging over the Retreat Meadows at Brattleboro (WN).

OWLS TO CHICKADEES — At least two Com. Barn-Owls were reported in central New York and one was seen in car headlights near Springfield, VT (BW). Snowy Owls lingered

until early April at several locations. Perhaps in response to last fall's prey abundance, Short-eared Owls appeared to be nesting at several lake plains locations. Concerted banding efforts at Braddock Bay resulted in capture of over 100 N. Saw-whet Owls this spring. Consider that this represents only a tiny fraction of the birds that pass along the lake plains each year. **Northern Hawk-Owls** were reported from Derby, VT (MP) and North Troy, NY (AA). Continued concern was expressed about the scarcity of Whip-poor-wills in central New York, and less than 10 percent of Vermont's observers noted Whip-poor-wills this spring. Two exceptionally early swifts seen Mar. 25 in Greece (SC) were of unknown species, since Vaux's was not eliminated. A Black-backed Woodpecker was found in Winhall (WA) where it last bred 20 years ago. A N. Flicker with intergrade red-shafted features was banded (and apparently breeding) at Clarkson, NY (WS).

A **Western Kingbird** found May 11 in Somerset Township, Niagara (Rey, *vide* SE) furnished an unprecedented spring record. Acadian Flycatchers were well reported in w. New York. The nesting Com. Ravens in Allegheny were well feathered May 1 (VP, ES). Discovery of other nesting sites in other s w New York counties should follow. Ravens continued to be found at Connecticut Hill, near Newfield, NY (C.B.C.), where breeding has long been suspected. Up to five Fish Crows could be found in the Rochester area (G.O.S.) and four frequented the Oriskany Dump (FS). Whether these outposts owe their origin to the Ithaca colony, which has grown rather slowly, is of course unknown. Vermonters should be on the lookout for this expanding species. The northbound Boreal Chickadee that stopped at an Ithaca feeder in early April (WR) provided the only extralimital report.

WRENS TO WARBLERS — Sedge Wrens remained extremely scarce, continuing a long-running tradition. The **Varied Thrush** at Stowe tarried until Mar. 21 (DP). Bohemian Waxwings lingered until late March in numbers at Barre and Shelburne, Vermont (AA). Loggerhead Shrikes remained alarmingly scarce. There were no Vermont sightings and only a handful of New York reports, none with breeding. Breeding of White-eyed Vireos in w. New York, predicted here a decade ago, now seems a virtual certainty judging from the number of sightings and observations of birds.

An "**Audubon's**" **Yellow-rumped Warbler** and two Worm-eating Warblers were found in Greece (SC *et al.*) while a half dozen Orange-crowned Warblers, rarely reported in spring, were seen in New York. There were several sightings of Yellow-throated Warblers in w. New York as this species appears to be solidifying its recent range expansion. A **Kentucky Warbler** that spent 2 weeks in late May and early June on territory in West Brattleboro, VT (JC *et al.*) raised hopes of a first state nesting but then vanished. A Yellow-breasted Chat in Vergennes May 5 (MM) was even less obliging. There were several sightings of both species from New York, where they are rare breeders. Five Connecticut Warblers, unusual in spring, were found in the Buffalo area in May.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES — A pair of **Summer Tanagers** was discovered at Webster, NY, May 21 (D & DT). If you have had trouble seeing Lincoln's Sparrows, consider that they were the third most abundant sparrow at the Braddock Bay banding station (EB *et al.*). A Lark Sparrow was seen briefly in Greece Apr. 26 (KG). At least one **Chestnut-collared Longspur** in breeding plumage was picked out of a mixed flock of longspurs, Horned Larks, Snow Buntings, and Water Pipits near Rochester, NY, Mar. 12 (D & DT). A Brewer's Blackbird was noted in Niagara (WD, BP) and there were several reports of Yellow-headed Blackbirds in other New York localities. Orchard Orioles were widely reported in both states, and nested at Addison, VT, for the 6th year. A Blue Grosbeak was reported from the Rochester area (*vide* G.O.S.).

S.A.

Perhaps because of their abundance this winter (4000 were tallied May 11 at Braddock Bay), Pine Siskins were the species most frequently reported affected by a bacterial infection outbreak in Vermont, New Hampshire, and e. New York. A variety of other seedeaters were also afflicted, however, and anyone observing sick birds was advised to cease feeding and attempt to decontaminate their feeding areas. Hundreds of birds were known to have died and secondary poisoning of mammalian predators was also noted. Whether this outbreak will remain a localized, one time event remains to be seen.

FINIS — This report constitutes the final one from the Niagara-Champlain Region, which will be divided in the future between the New England Region and the Hudson-Delaware Region. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the

individuals who, over the past 14 years, have contributed to the quarterly reports with their material, comments, and criticisms. These pages have presented a compacted portrayal of the highlights of your experiences and I have been privileged to share vicariously in your endeavors.

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APPALACHIAN REGION

George A. Hall

It was a mild, dry spring with an unexciting, ordinary sort of bird migration. All three months were drier than normal throughout the Region with a total rainfall deficiency of three inches at Pittsburgh and only about half of normal at Knoxville. Snowfall did not amount to much more than a few flurries. March was generally slightly warmer than normal; early and late April were quite warm with a good cold spell in the middle. May was generally cooler than normal but became very warm late in the month. The migration was mainly affected by the lack of pronounced frontal systems.

Spring migration in this Region may be thought to consist of three components: waterfowl, shorebirds, and warblers. The northward movement of both waterfowl and shorebirds was on the poor side so an observer's impression of the migration as a whole depended on the local warbler movement, and as usual that varied from poor to good. Most of the resident species were in normal numbers, but the impression was that with a few exceptions the transients were in low numbers.

The warm weather in early April did not trigger any great movement although there were the usual number of early arrival dates; the cool period in late April caused the migration to slow down, and arrivals were a little late. The May flight was also slightly on the late side until the arrival of the warm weather late in the month. Migrants still present then quickly departed. In general all through May one had the impression that the big flight was still to come, until late in the month it became apparent that spring was over.

The only formal spring hawk watching was at the summit of Tuscarora Mountain in Pennsylvania. The only large-scale spring banding was at Powdermill Nature Reserve as usual and at Presque Isle State Park on the south shore of Lake Erie, where the biggest day was May 21 with 237 birds of 41 species banded (JeS, JiS).

Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks remained in numbers until early May. There was a report of a large number of siskins dying from what was diagnosed as a salmonella infection at feeders in central Pennsylvania, but no other area reported this.



ABBREVIATIONS — B.E.S.P. = Bald Eagle State Park, Centre, PA; C.N.F. = Chattahoochee Nat'l Forest, GA; G.S.M.N.P. = Great Smoky Mountains Nat'l Park; P.N.R. = Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland, PA; P.I.S.P. = Presque Isle State Park, Erie, PA. Place names in italics are counties.

LOONS TO HERONS — The only report of Red-throated Loon came from Colyer L., Centre, PA, Apr. 2-4 (m.ob.). There were mixed reports of Com. Loons, with only one being seen at Lock Haven, PA (PS), but with moderate numbers being seen elsewhere. As usual loons were seen from the Tuscarora Mt. hawk lookout with 23 seen Apr. 15 and 38 Apr. 22 (CG). Single Red-necked Grebes were seen at Pymatuning L., PA, Mar. 19 (RFL, ML); at P.I.S.P. Mar. 30 (JeS, JiS); and in Lycoming, PA, May 1 & 2 (SS). An Eared Grebe was at P.I.S.P. Apr. 2-24 (JM, RFL).

The Double-crested Cormorant explosion continued, and the statement from P.I.S.P. to the effect that individual sightings

"were far too numerous to list" (JM) applied to the entire Region.

Although there was only one report of Am. Bittern at P.I.S.P. (JeS), the species was reported from 8 localities, more than the usual number. There were only 2 records of Least Bitterns at P.I.S.P., where they had been increasing in recent years (JM), but there were also reports from the Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan, KY, May 19–31 (FB) and from Glenwood Swamp, WV, May 19 & 22 (WA). There were 363 active Great Blue Heron nests, with 765 adults and subadults, in Mercer, PA (EB); and near Troy, Bradford, PA, there were 170 nests in 4 colonies (RYo). Great Egrets were reported from 9 localities, including a rather early Mar. 24 date from Wood, WV (JE). Little Blue Herons were seen in Knox, TN, Apr. 2–3 (BF); at Austin Springs, TN, Apr. 13 (BC); and at B.E.S.P. May 20 (D & BB). A Tricolored Heron at Elizabethton, TN, Apr. 1–2 (FW, GS) provided the earliest record for the state and the first record from east of Knoxville. Single Cattle Egrets were seen in Knox, TN, Apr. 24 (T.O.S.); at Stuart's Draft and New Hope, VA, Apr. 24 (SR); at L. Chillisquaque, Montour, PA, May 2 (SS); and at Waterford, PA, May 10 (JM). Black-crowned Night-Herons were fewer than normal in Erie, PA (JM). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was seen at Salem, VA, May 15 (NM), and a pair was at the usual nesting site at Elizabethton, TN (RK, GE).

WATERFOWL — The northbound waterfowl flight was generally poor. At P.I.S.P., migrants peaked at fewer than 5000 (JM); numbers were low at Youngstown, OH (NB); numbers were low and several species missing at Elizabethton, TN (RK); and at Huntington, WV, puddle ducks were in fair numbers but divers were scarce (WA). A typical report came from Pymatuning L., PA, where no Canvasbacks or Redheads were seen and the largest flock of Lesser Scaup had 15 birds (RFL).

The Tundra Swan flight was about on time, but no large flocks were reported. The highest count was of 125 at Warren, PA, Mar. 13 (WH). A Mute Swan of unknown origin was at Fairview, Erie, PA, May 29 (J & LM). Canada Geese were nesting throughout the Region on almost every pond or lake as far south as Augusta, VA (SR). The numbers at Pymatuning L., PA, decreased to about 1000 by Apr. 9, and about that number nested, down from last year (RFL). Six Snow Geese were at B.E.S.P. Mar. 6 (BD, KE), and singles were at Beech Fork S.P., WV, Mar. 14 & 15 (WA); Mosquito L., OH, Mar. 27 (CB); Siegal Marsh, Erie, PA, Mar. 24–Apr. 1 (JiS, LM); and Milton, WV, Apr. 28–May 8 (WA).

A Eur. Wigeon (ph.) was seen in Gallia, OH, Mar. 6–7 (WA, MG). The only report of Black Scoter came from P.I.S.P. May 20 (DD), and Surf Scoters were reported from P.I.S.P. Apr. 10–13 and May 1 (JM) and in Lycoming, PA, May 2 (SS). White-winged Scoters were seen at P.I.S.P. Mar. 4–May 1 (JM); at Lock Haven, PA, Apr. 7 (PS); and Apr. 8 at Colyer L. (m.ob.) and Mifflintown (LW), PA.



Canada Goose nesting at Stuart's Draft, Virginia, April 2, 1988. Now thoroughly adapted to civilization, the species is common and increasing over much of the Region. Photo/Stephen Rottenborn.

RAPTORS — Black Vultures were extending their range northward; there were sightings in Perry, PA, May 7 (SS); Washington, OH, Mar. 20 (LB); and Mason, WV, May 20 (TI). More sightings than usual were at Elizabethton, TN (RK), and counts of 32 Blacks and 80 Turkey Vultures in Knox, TN, Apr. 24 (T.O.S.) were both high for the area. Ospreys were not widely reported, but a count of 52 at Tuscarora Summit, PA, Apr. 27 was noteworthy (CG).

The best raptor records of the season were of an **American Swallow-tailed Kite** near Elkins, WV, May 7 (WL), for the first record for the state since 1908, and of a **Mississippi Kite** at P.I.S.P. May 15, for the first w. Pennsylvania record (m.ob.). Another sighting of possibly a different bird occurred May 23 (B & FH).

Nine localities from n. Pennsylvania to e. Tennessee reported sightings of Bald Eagles. In Crawford, PA, there were seven young eagles in 3 of 5 nests in the county; the pair at Mosquito L., OH, laid an egg but then abandoned the nest (CB). A new nesting site was found in n.c. Pennsylvania (PS). One of the pair of eagles that had been nesting on the Potomac R. in West Virginia was found dead, and no nesting occurred there, but another nest with one young was found in a different undisclosed part of the state (JC). Northern Goshawks were reported from Waynesboro, VA, Mar. 3 & 7 (SR); Cambridge Springs, PA, Mar. 16 (SR); Erie, PA, Mar. 26 (JM); East Hickory, PA, Apr. 25 and May 7 (A & RW); and Johnson, TN, May 8 (GE, HF). An unusually early Broad-winged Hawk was seen at Union City, PA, Mar. 8 (JM), and 119 were counted Apr. 22 at Tuscarora Summit, PA (DP). The only report of a Rough-legged Hawk came from Roanoke, VA, Mar. 19 (JA et al.).

At least three Golden Eagles remained until early April in the Blue Grass Valley of Virginia, where they winter regularly (LT). Other sightings came from Tuscarora Summit, PA, Mar. 12 (CG); Tussey Mt., PA, Mar. 13 (GY, SB); Bradford, PA, Mar. 27 (RYo); and Colyer L., PA, Apr. 5 (GB).

Merlins were reported from Waynesboro, VA, Apr. 17 (SR) and from P.I.S.P. Apr. 20 & 23 (JM). Peregrines were reported from Tuscarora Summit, PA, Apr. 6 (HT); Erie, PA, Apr. 14 (JiS); and Beech Fork S.P., WV, May 1 (WA).

QUAIL TO TERNS — After several years of near absence in most of West Virginia, the N. Bobwhite is beginning to appear at a few places and was considered common in Mason (TI). Wild Turkeys are becoming more common away from the mountains with reports of flocks of up to 40 in Greene, PA (RB), and sightings in Wood, WV (LR); in Washington, OH (EA); and near Youngstown, OH (NB). Soras were reported from 8 locations, more than usual. Common Moorhens were found at McClintic Wildlife Station, WV, Apr. 12 (TI); Stuart's Draft, VA, May 6 (NC, SR); Conneaut Marsh, PA, May 6 & 13 (ML, RFL); and Williamstown, WV, May 8 (LB).

Sandhill Cranes were migrating through the Dalton, GA, region Mar. 1–31, with peak counts of 150 Mar. 3 (HD). More unusual were the records of single cranes at Mosquito L., OH, Apr. 10 (S & RT) (possibly the one that was present there in the early winter—CB); at P.I.S.P. May 1 (for the 10th local record) (JM); and in Rockingham, VA, May 20 (KF).

The shorebird migration was generally on the mediocre to poor side. Paradoxically, at several of the key locations water levels were too high, but at some others ponds had dried up completely. At P.I.S.P. on L. Erie the poor flight was attributed to the lack of frontal systems, which precipitate "fallouts" (JM). There were, however, a few records of note.

A Black-bellied Plover was seen at Mosquito L., OH, May 14 (CB), and six Lesser Golden-Plovers were at Apple Grove, Mason, WV, Mar. 26 (WA). Four Am. Avocets (ph.) were found at Lyndhurst, VA, Apr. 7 (MH), for the first Augusta record and the 2nd spring record for the Ridge and Valley section of Virginia.

Upland Sandpipers were reported from Gortner, MD, Apr. 30, the only known breeding station for the state (RR), and from Mason, WV, May 26 (WA). A Marbled Godwit was at the Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery, TN, Apr. 18 (MS, CN). One **Marbled**

Godwit at Huntington, WV, Apr 20 (ph WA) provided the 3rd state record; the others occurred in only the last 4 years and were from essentially the same location. Ruddy Turnstones were reported from Mosquito L., OH, May 14 (CB); in Wood, WV, May 20–23 (m.ob.); and from Mason, WV (ph.) (MG). Of the unusual small sandpipers, W. Sandpipers were reported from Wood, WV, May 23 (LR) and the Clark Hatchery, KY, May 4–26 (FB), and White-rumped Sandpipers were seen in Augusta, VA (SR), and Mason, WV, May 11 (MG). A molting Baird's Sandpiper (extremely rare in spring) was at P.I.S.P. Apr. 23–24 (EK, JW). A Red-necked Phalarope was at Roanoke May 26–28 (MD, NM, TK). Two Am. Woodcocks at an elevation of 5500 ft on Roan Mt., TN, were noteworthy (FA).

At P.I.S.P., fewer than 2000 gulls were present (JM), and at other locations the numbers were also generally low. The movement of Bonaparte's Gulls through the Region was fairly good, and a Franklin's Gull was at Kingston, TN, Apr. 29 (RK). An injured Laughing Gull was at Fort Loudon, PA, May 22 (JW). At P.I.S.P., the rarer gulls included an Iceland Gull, Mar. 13 (EK) and Apr. 6 (JM) and a subad. Glaucous Gull May 3 (JM).

Forster's Tern and Black Tern were more widely and more commonly reported than usual, but numbers of Forster's were below normal at P.I.S.P., and Black Terns did not nest there this year (JM). The Caspian Tern, usually rare in this Region, was reported from 10 localities, from Boone L., TN (RK), to P.I.S.P., where 92 were seen Apr. 20 (JM) for a local record.

OWLS TO WOODPECKERS — A communal roost of the Com. Barn-Owl was reported in Crawford, PA, in March (JM). Encouragingly, this species was reported from Alexandria (ML) and Jersey Shore (PS), PA, and from the known nesting sites near Elizabethton, TN (RK). Atlas work has shown that the Barred Owl is more common in the c. Pennsylvania area than had been thought (PS). The only report of the Long-eared Owl came from P.I.S.P. Apr. 2–17 (JM, LM, JeS). Short-eared Owls were at P.I.S.P. Apr. 3 and May 21 (JM) and at Fishersville, VA, as late as Apr. 15 (RS). Fledgling N. Saw-whet Owls were found in Claiborne, TN, May 8–11, the first nesting away from G.S.M.N.P. in that state (GM). Seven calling N. Saw-whets were counted along a short stretch of the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina (R & JY). Dead Saw-whets were found in Erie, PA, Apr. 1 and May 22, and a live one was seen there Apr. 10 (JM). There were 3 sightings of Saw-whets in Warren, PA (MB).

Over 100 Com. Nighthawks were seen at P.I.S.P. May 23 (LM), an unusual concentration for spring. Chuck-will's-widows were reported from the C.N.F. in late April (HD); Augusta, VA, Apr. 22 (YL); Wood, WV, May 5–30 (JB, LR); and remarkably at P.I.S.P. May 10 (JM et al.).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported from 16 different locations throughout the Region, and the Red-bellied Woodpecker continued to extend northward, with one present all



Red-headed Woodpecker in Cabell County, West Virginia, May 8, 1988. Photo/Wendell L. Argabrite.

winter until May 9 at Warren, PA (BH). The Red-cockaded Woodpecker was not found at the recently used site in G.S.M.N.P., but it was found nesting at Ocoee L., TN (CN). An apparent hybrid "Red-shafted" x "Yellow-shafted" Flicker was banded at P.I.S.P. May 8 (JeS, JiS).

FLYCATCHERS TO VIREOS — There were more than the usual number of reports of Olive-sided Flycatchers, although none was banded at P.N.R. this year (RM, RCL). Tree Swallows arrived in late March and were generally numerous. They occupied 50% of the nest boxes in "Operation Bluebird" in Warren, PA (WH). Tree Swallows nested in Johnson, TN, for the 2nd time (GE, RK), and they also nested as far south as Cedar Creek Valley, VA (DDa). A new nesting area for Cliff Swallows was at the Cave Run Dam in Rowan, KY, where 63 nests and about 100 birds were counted May 27 (FB).

The nest site in Bradford of the Com. Raven was unoccupied this year (RYo), and in Warren, PA, only one of 4 previously used sites was used and fledged young (TG). But ravens continued to nest commonly on the high walls of strip mines in Somerset, PA (TM). A Fish Crow was seen at Antes Fort, PA, Apr. 2 (PS). Three or four Brown-headed Nuthatches were found in Roanoke and Botetourt, VA (v.o.).

The Carolina Wren came through the winter in good shape and continued its recovery. One was seen at Meadville, PA, Apr. 30 (SF), and 17 were recorded on an early B.B.S. count in Greene, PA, the best total since 1976 (RB). Bewick's Wren was unreported, but House Wrens were more common than usual. The only report of Sedge Wren came from Glenwood Swamp, WV, May 10 (MG). Marsh Wrens were found at Austin Springs, TN, Apr. 25–26 and May 17 (RK); Glenwood Swamp, WV, Apr. 30–May 8 (WA); Campbell, TN, May 5 (CN); and P.N.R. May 8 (RM, RCL).

Both kinglet species were in somewhat below normal numbers. The E. Bluebird occupied 40% of the nest boxes in Warren, PA (WH), but numbers were down in e. Tennessee as a result of the disastrous April 1987 snowstorm (RK). Although Hermit Thrushes had a pretty fair migration, the other spotted thrushes remained in trouble. Most observers felt that Swainson's Thrushes were more numerous than last year but were still in greatly reduced numbers. Several reporters commented on the total absence of Gray-cheeked Thrushes. Wood Thrushes were also in low numbers at some places but were near normal at others. The Varied Thrush reported in the winter from Lycoming, PA, was seen as late as Apr. 17 (SS). There were 2 records of N. Mockingbird in Erie, PA, Mar. 1 and May 5 (JeS).

The only reports of N. Shrike came from P.I.S.P. Mar. 6–27 (LM) and Union City Dam, PA, Mar. 17–22 (JM). Loggerhead Shrikes were reported from Big Spring, MD, May 14 (MO) & 21 (RR); from 2 locations in Pendleton, WV, in early April; and from the Shenandoah Valley (the ones reported in the winter) (KF). At Elizabethton, TN, only one pair and one lone bird were found (RK).

A White-eyed Vireo at Williamsport, PA, May 12 (PS) was slightly out of range, and there were 5 records in Erie, PA, with three birds banded (JM). A Warbling Vireo was reported in Knox, TN, Apr. 24 (T.O.S.), and five singing males were found along the Watauga R. near Elizabethton, TN, May 7–8 (GW). The species is rare at both those stations. Philadelphia Vireos are often missed in the spring, but this year numerous reports came in, with a report of 11 banded in one day at P.N.R. (RM, RCL).

WARBLERS — There was the usual disagreement about the warbler flight. It was thought to be good at both Warren, OH (CB), and Warren, PA (TG). At the latter place, 12 species were seen in one tree in one day (TG). At Morgantown, WV, (GAH), Troy, PA (RYo), and Morehead, KY (FB), the flight was very light, and other places fell between these extremes. The situation was also represented by the Tennessee Warbler: it was numerous at Warren, OH (CB), and at P.N.R., where 123 were banded (RM, RCL), but none was banded at P.I.S.P. (JeS, JiS), and only three were found all season at Morgantown

(GAH) At State College, PA, many of the usual species were missing (MW)

There were some very early arrival dates: Cape May Warbler, Mar. 9, Waynesboro, VA (SR) (probably wintered nearby); Com. Yellowthroat, Apr. 13, Whitfield, GA (HD); and Magnolia Warbler, Apr. 18, Niles, OH (CB). The wintering Orange-crowned at Knoxville was seen as late as Mar. 20 (LF).

There were 3 reports of "Brewster's" Warbler: Morgan, TN, May 8 (AH); P.I.S.P., banded on May 9 (RFL); and Irvine, PA, May 10 (TG). Chestnut-sided Warblers have been extending their breeding range to lower elevations in Buncombe, NC (R & JY). The range expansion of the Yellow-rumped Warbler continued, with nest building observed at Heart's Content, PA, May 19 (TG). A Yellow-throated Warbler was seen near Troy, PA, May 1 (RYo), a continuation of range expansion. A Pine Warbler was feeding young May 16 (AK) at Boone L., TN, where there are few breeding records, and this species was more common in migration than usual at P.I.S.P. (v.o.). Worm-eating Warblers, May 8 & 15 were unusual at P.I.S.P. (two banded) (JeS, JiS). At least nine ♂ Prothonotary Warblers were located at P.I.S.P., and 2 nests were found (m.ob.). Only one Swainson's Warbler was found at the historical sites near Charleston, WV (GH), but two were found in Mason, WV, Apr. 14 (TI). A Canada Warbler was building a nest in Augusta, VA, May 30, for the first county nesting record (SR).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES — A Summer Tanager was banded at P.I.S.P. May 22 (JeS, JiS), and nest building was watched at Clarksville, PA, May 29 (RB). Both localities are north of the usual nesting range. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Norris, TN, Apr. 21 was early (CN). Blue Grosbeaks were in Wood, WV, May 17–22 (v.o.); at Lyndhurst, VA, May 17 (RS); and at Clarksville, PA, May 22 (for the first county record) (RB). It was an unusual year for Dickcissels with reports from Jonesborough, TN, May 8 (RK); Fishersville, VA, May 8 (RS); Apple Grove, WV, May 12 (TI); Boteourt, VA, May 14–19 (MD, NM); Wood, WV, May 17–22 (J & DE); and three males in Rockingham, VA (KF).

The Rufous-sided ("Spotted") Towhee reported in the winter remained at P.I.S.P. until Apr. 1 (EK). There were more reports of sight records of Lincoln's Sparrow than usual. The migration of White-throated Sparrows was generally below normal, and at Morgantown no White-crowned Sparrows were seen (GAH). Only 354 Dark-eyed Juncos were banded at P.N.R., a poor year (RM, RCL). The wintering "Oregon" Junco at Waterford, PA, remained until Mar. 16 (JeS). Snow Buntings were reported at Kylertown, PA, Mar. 9 (DBu) and at Mosquito L., OH, Mar. 10 (NB).

A total of 255 Bobolinks were seen at Stuart's Draft, VA, May 6 (SR), and this species remained at Morgantown very late (GAH). Three Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at a feeder at Cross Lanes, Kanawha, WV, in late February (GK), one was

seen at South Charleston, WV, Apr. 21 (CS), and one was in Erie, PA, Apr. 27 (FBu). Orchard Orioles were unusually numerous, and at P.N.R., Orchard bandings outnumbered those of N. Orioles (RM, RCL).

Purple Finches were in low numbers at State College, PA (JP). Red Crossbills were reported at the regular stations along the Virginia–West Virginia border, in G.S.M.N.P., and on Mt Rogers, VA, May 30 (RSi), but reports came from lower elevations at C.N.F. Mar. 1 (HD); numerous flocks at 6 locations near State College, PA, Mar. 3–May 28 (m.ob.); Edinboro, PA, Mar. 9 and May 13 (JH); and Oneida, TN, Apr. 10 (CN). The only report of Com. Redpoll was of a single at Edinboro, PA, Apr. 5 (DS).

Pine Siskins remained in the Region in massive numbers until they began to thin out in late April. At some places many remained well into May, and a few were present at the end of the period. A nest was found at Swallow Falls S.P., MD, Apr. 23 (a first for the state) (NL), but this nesting failed (RR). Nesting also occurred in Lycoming, Sullivan, and Westmoreland, PA (PS), and newly fledged young were brought to feeders at East Liverpool, OH (NL), and Morgantown (GAH) in late May. Small flocks of Evening Grosbeaks were at scattered areas until late March and early April. Some places saw their largest numbers of the year in the last flocks to go north.

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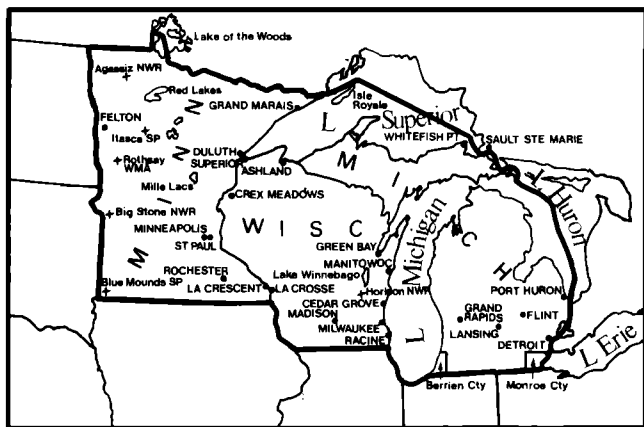
WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

David J. Powell

This spring's weather, warm and very dry, was a precursor of things to come. March and April were not far from normal, with typically fluctuating temperatures, but precipitation was less than normal. Northern Minnesota was hit with a blizzard March 11–12 with up to 14 inches of snow and 57 mile-per-hour peak winds. The most surprising weather was 11 inches of snow April 26 at Rochester, Minnesota. May hit the Region warm and dry, and by the end of the period near-drought conditions were

present (which did not improve as spring gave way to summer). There was day after day of 90 plus degrees and little rain. The migration was relatively sparse, with few good waves, but at least in Michigan and Wisconsin, observers generally felt it was better than in the last couple of years. Unfortunately, this is a reflection on how sparse the recent migrations have been that this spring's basically mediocre showing could be considered better.

ABBREVIATIONS — W.P.B.O. = Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, MI. Place names in italics are counties.



LOONS TO WATERFOWL — Red-throated Loons presented an interesting contrast in the Region. Minnesota observers considered three during the season a “good” number, but the staff at W.P.B.O. counted a total of 143 with a peak of 21 May 23, which they considered a good year! An **Arctic/Pacific Loon** was seen May 25 at W.P.B.O. (LD, JK), for the 4th Michigan record. A record high total of Com. Loons was counted this spring at W.P.B.O., with 8318 during the season and a high count of 883 May 6 (staff).

A Red-necked Grebe Mar. 26 in Columbia, WI (JB), was early. Red-necked Grebes were also above average at W.P.B.O., with a high of 66 Apr. 23 and 389 during the period (staff). Eared Grebes were found at 2 Wisconsin and 2 Michigan locations, with birds lingering into June at one location in each state. Western Grebes were found at one Michigan and 4 Wisconsin sites, slightly east of normal. A **Clark's Grebe** at Thielke L., Big Stone, MN, Apr. 24 (m.ob.) was the 5th for Minnesota; all the others have been in the last 2 years. Now that this species has been added to the list, and birders are looking for it, more records are to be expected. Sightings of Am. White Pelicans away from their Minnesota breeding grounds were: Apr. 24 at Fish Lake W.M.A., Burnett, WI (RJ); May 11 until late May at Grand River Marsh, Green Lake, WI (TS et al.); May 28 at W.P.B.O. (JK, m.ob.).

American Bitterns were found in good numbers at Crex Meadows W.M.A., WI, but were scarce elsewhere in the state and were generally scarce in Michigan. A Great Egret at Alpena, MI, Apr. 10 (JM) was north of normal. The only Snowy Egret reported in the Region was May 30 in Bay, MI (JS, RW). Little Blue Herons were found at one Michigan and 2 Wisconsin locations. Cattle Egrets were found at 4 Wisconsin locations and at one in Michigan. In contrast to last year's excellent showing, only two Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were found in Wisconsin this spring, May 15 at Milwaukee (JF) and May 28 in Rock (DT). A **White-faced Ibis** at Vernon Marsh, Waukesha, WI, May 19–20 (SR, MD, MP, DT et al.) was only the 2nd for Wisconsin, with the first found last spring. A White-faced Ibis was also at Salt L., Lac Qui Parle, MN, Apr. 23 (m.ob.); this species is considered casual in Minnesota.

Tundra Swans were noted in reduced numbers in Wisconsin again this spring, with the bulk of the migration coming the last weekend of March. In Michigan 2500 Tundra Swans on Mar 21 in Tuscola (CF) represented a good number for the spring. Mute Swans have now been elevated to regular status in Minnesota, and as if to punctuate this decision the species nested for the first time in the state, at Duluth. (Is that a good or bad trend?) The migration of Greater White-fronted Geese ranged from above average in Minnesota to subpar in Wisconsin and to almost nonexistent in Michigan (one report). A **Ross' Goose** was seen Mar. 27 in Allegan, MI (DD, SP), for about the 5th state record. Cinnamon Teal were reported from all 3 states: Mar 29 at Pt. Mouille S.G.A., MI (JFo); Apr. 2–16 in Allegan, MI (DD, m.ob.); Apr. 23 at Milwaukee (m.ob.); and Apr. 23–24

in Lac Qui Parle, MN (m.ob.), certainly an impressive showing for this western species within the Region. Harlequin Ducks were found in all 3 states, unusual for the spring. This species is regular in the fall and winter but seldom seen in the spring. The scoters presented a typical picture, with many White-winged at W.P.B.O. along with a few Surfs and a couple of Blacks, scattered reports from Wisconsin with no large numbers, and a better-than-average spring in Minnesota, where all 3 species are harder to find than in the other 2 states. Most of the records throughout the Region are from the Great Lakes

RAPTORS — Turkey Vultures were found in their highest numbers ever at W.P.B.O., with 113 during the period (staff). A **Black-shouldered Kite** was seen May 26 at W.P.B.O. (RP, MP, TL); if accepted by the Michigan Bird Records Committee, it would constitute the first record for the state. Two **Mississippi Kites** were seen in Michigan, the 4th and 5th for the state: May 23–24 at Midland (RAn, CF, BG) and May 31 at W.P.B.O. (JK, JR). A number of species were seen in record or near record high numbers at W.P.B.O. this spring: Osprey, 208, Bald Eagle, 62; Northern Harrier, 410; Red-shouldered Hawk, 56; Broad-winged Hawk, 5258; Golden Eagle, 32; Merlin, 65, and Peregrine Falcon, 26. As can be seen from this list, W.P.B.O. was the place to see raptors this spring (as it is every spring). About 100 N. Goshawks were seen at W.P.B.O., a typical total for a noninvasion year. The rare/regular Swainson's Hawk was seen 3 times at W.P.B.O.: May 2 (JK, TWI, m.ob.); May 7 (TL); and May 14 (TL, PC, m.ob.). Individual Rough-legged Hawks lingered into early June in both Michigan and Wisconsin. Away from W.P.B.O., Michigan observers found Merlins at 6 locations and Peregrines at 4 locations. Single spring Gyrfalcons were seen Mar. 10 (a white-phased) in Taylor, WI (PR), and Mar. 19 at W.P.B.O. (a gray-phased) (JK, TWI).

GROUSE TO SHOREBIRDS — A Spruce Grouse observed copulating in Oscoda, MI (RM), was well south of normal (almost all the Michigan records are from the Upper Pen.). Sharp-tailed Grouse were reported from Chippewa, Marquette, and Schoolcraft, MI, with 35 leks found in Chippewa (RR). On I Royale no Sharp-taileds were found at the lek (CM), indicating that this species may have been extirpated from the park. Yellow Rails were unusually abundant at Crex Meadows W.M.A., WI, with a peak of 12 May 20 (m.ob.). Yellow Rails were also found at Seney N.W.R., MI (JKe). King Rails were found at 2 Michigan and 2 Wisconsin locations, a decent showing for this uncommon bird.

Only 10 Black-bellied Plovers, considerably fewer than normal, were seen during the period at W.P.B.O. A group of 125 Semipalmated Plovers May 25 in Bay, MI (RW), represented the largest gathering reported. Piping Plovers continued to be scarce in the Region with only 5 Michigan and 3 Wisconsin reports. American Avocets were reported more often than usual in Minnesota, but there were only 3 reports from Wisconsin (six individuals) and none from Michigan. Greater and Lesser yellowlegs were found Mar. 26 in Dane, WI (EH), early Willets were noted as more common than last year in Wisconsin, with a maximum of 48 at Madison in late April. Michigan observers found Willets, all singles, at 5 locations, for a near-average movement. Whimbrels were seen in excellent numbers at W.P.B.O.: 1276 were tallied May 24–28, with 700 May 25 (staff). Interestingly, Whimbrels were seen on I. Royale May 22, 2 days prior to the first at W.P.B.O. (CM). Another good total for Whimbrels was of 300 May 27 in Door, WI (Lukes). Two single Whimbrels were seen on the Michigan side of L. Michigan, where they are quite rare: May 18 at Muskegon S.P (BJ, CR, JW) and May 29 at the Muskegon Wastewater System (DD).

Hudsonian Godwits were noted as having an “excellent movement statewide” in Wisconsin, for one of the best in years. In Michigan 18 were found at 8 locations, well above average. Marbled Godwits were reported from 7 Wisconsin and 3 Mich-

igan locations, above average. Both godwits lingered into June in Columbia, WI (PA). Only 28 Ruddy Turnstones were seen at W.P.B.O. (staff), well below average. Red Knots were quite scarce, with 22 May 23 at W.P.B.O. (staff) the only large number. Western Sandpipers were found at one Michigan site and 4 Wisconsin locations, a good spring showing. Wisconsin observers noted an excellent migration of White-rumped Sandpipers.

Three Baird's Sandpipers, all singles, were found this spring: Apr. 25 at Eau Claire, WI (SR); May 1 at Midland, MI (TW); and into June at Ashland, WI (DV). Stilt Sandpipers were found at 3 Michigan sites and one Wisconsin location, about average for the spring. Six Ruffs were seen in the Region as follows: Mar. 29 at Pt. Mouille S.G.A., Monroe, MI (DW, EC, JFo); Apr. 23 in Ingham, MI (BC); May 11 in Dodge, MN (m.ob.); a female May 14 at Theresa Marsh, WI (DT, RH); May 15-17 at Bloomington, MN (m.ob.); and May 28 in Bay, MI (RW), certainly a good showing for this Eurasian shorebird. Red-necked Phalaropes were seen at one Michigan and 2 Wisconsin locations, fewer than normal.

JAEGERS TO TERNS — A Long-tailed Jaeger was watched bathing and then flying N on L. Wissota, Chippewa, WI (JP), for possibly the first spring sighting for Wisconsin. Six Parasitic Jaegers and four unidentified jaegers were seen at W.P.B.O., the most in a season there. A Parasitic Jaeger was at Superior, WI, May 22 (AS).

Laughing Gulls were found in normal numbers, with two in Michigan, three in Wisconsin, and one in Minnesota. Two Franklin's Gulls were early in Wisconsin, Mar. 28 in Dane (BH) and Mar. 29 at La Crosse (FL). Little Gulls were found in all 3 states: May 8 at Tawas Pt., Iosco, MI (MW); May 26 (two) at Tawas City, Iosco, MI (JR); May 7-20 at Duluth (m.ob.); Apr. 30 at Superior, WI (R); and at their usual Milwaukee and Manitowoc locations. Thayer's Gulls were found at one Michigan and 2 Wisconsin locations. Iceland Gulls were found at one Wisconsin and 2 Michigan sites. Glaucous Gulls were seen in typical numbers in Michigan and Wisconsin, with the latest reports from mid-April in both states. Great Black-backed Gulls were north of normal at W.P.B.O. Apr. 27 (staff) and Duluth May 5 (BP). Caspian Terns were unusually early, with good numbers by late March between Milwaukee and Kewaunee, but were unusually scarce at W.P.B.O., with only 12 during the period (staff). Four Arctic Terns were found Apr. 24 (CS) at Manitowoc, WI, with two there Apr. 26 (MP).

CUCKOOS TO THRUSHES — Both species of cuckoo were found in excellent numbers in Wisconsin, perhaps because of a tent caterpillar outbreak. Northern Hawk-Owls were seen twice at W.P.B.O., Apr. 20 (TL, PP, SB et al.) and May 10 (JK, LD et al.). Burrowing Owls were seen in both Minnesota, where



Burrowing Owl in Columbia County, Wisconsin, April 26, 1988. About the 11th record for Wisconsin. Photo/Jerry DeBoer.

singles found in late April in Lac Qui Parle and Yellow Medicine maintained their barely regular status, and in Wisconsin, where one Apr. 24-27 in Columbia (R & EH, m.ob.), was the 11th for Wisconsin. Great Gray Owls were seen 5 times in Michigan, with 4 of those at W.P.B.O. in May. Much more exciting was Wisconsin's first confirmed nesting of Great Gray Owl; Merkel found one on a nest in s. Ashland near Clam L. Apr. 2. The nest was watched for the next month and a half, and on May 21 four young successfully fledged. Long-eared Owls were found in average numbers at W.P.B.O., with 41 during the period (staff). More Short-eared Owls were reported in Michigan this spring with reports from 9 areas.



Great Gray Owl at Whitefish Point, Michigan, May 28, 1988. Photo/Jim Granlund.

S.A.

The bird of the season at W.P.B.O. was the Boreal Owl. An incredible 164, about triple the previous high total, were netted by banders there. The first and last dates were Apr. 1 and May 23, respectively, with a peak of 24 May 1 (more than in most years). Last year 12 were banded. Not to be left out, Minnesota observers, coordinated by Wilson and Lane, found over 50 singing males in St. Louis, Lake, and Cook (previous highs were in 1978 and 1987 with about 15-20 calling males). Eventually, 4 nests were found (only 3 nests had been found since 1978). These totals are not too surprising, since far more effort was made to find Boreal Owls this spring.

Sixty-one N. Saw-whet Owls were banded at W.P.B.O. (staff), for a fairly typical number. A Chuck-will's-widow returned to Dresser, Polk, WI, May 15 (JH et al.), for the 3rd consecutive

year at this location. A Red-bellied Woodpecker at W.P.B.O. May 30 (TL, JG et al.) was well north of normal. Minnesota's 3rd **Williamson's Sapsucker** was seen May 21–30 at Itasca S.P. (m.ob.). Unfortunately, the word was not spread in time to most of the Minnesota birders. It was a good season for Three-toed Woodpeckers in Minnesota, with at least 5 records in Lake and Cook. Black-backed Woodpeckers were found at one Michigan and 5 Wisconsin locations.

An Olive-sided Flycatcher May 1 in Waukesha, WI (DT), was early. Say's Phoebe was seen May 9–10 in Murray, MN (NDK), and May 29 into June at Blue Mounds S.P., MN (m.ob.). Two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were found in Wisconsin, May 7 in Ozaukee (KW) and May 16–22 at Superior (JH, RJ, et al.). Only 48 Horned Larks were seen at W.P.B.O. (staff), an extremely low total for this location. Gray Jays were found in 4 counties in Michigan's Upper Pen., about average. A Com. Raven was found nesting in Wexford, MI, Apr. 25 (CSc) at the s. edge of its range. Black-capped Chickadees were relatively uncommon at W.P.B.O., with only 164 during the season. The Boreal Chickadee migration, in contrast to that of Black-capped, was near normal at W.P.B.O., with a total of 96 for the period (staff). Carolina Wrens were found at one Wisconsin and 7 Michigan locations, a continued slight increase for this southern species. Eastern Bluebirds were much more common than normal at W.P.B.O. this spring, with 281 during the period (staff). Mountain Bluebirds were found twice in w. Minnesota in late March/early April, about average for this rare/regular species. Gray-cheeked Thrushes were quite scarce in Michigan again this spring with reports from only 3 counties. Lingering Varied Thrushes remained into the period at one Michigan and 2 Wisconsin sites.

MIMIDS TO WARBLERS — Northern Mockingbirds were well represented, with more reports than usual in Minnesota and reports from 7 Michigan and 5 Wisconsin locations. Particularly impressive was one May 20 on I. Royale (CM), the first found there since 1929. A Brown Thrasher was also found May 20 on I. Royale (CM), where this bird is an infrequent migrant. Water Pipits were found Mar. 27 at 2 Wisconsin locations: three in Dane (m.ob.) and five in Columbia (TS et al.), very early. The scarce Loggerhead Shrike made a decent showing in the Region, with more reports than usual in Minnesota and reports from 4 Michigan and 7 Wisconsin locations. White-eyed Vireos were found in normal numbers, with nine during the period in Hillsdale, MI (JR), the most impressive number. Bell's Vireos were found in their normal haunts in the s. half of Wisconsin, but only one was found in Michigan, away from the normal area of occurrence, in Kent May 10 (BJ, JW).

Although this year's migration was better than migrations of the last couple of years, it was still not as good as those in past years (or are our memories misleading us as to how good migrations used to be?). At Kleinstuck Preserve in Kalamazoo, MI, Adams, Powell, and Bouton had 27 species of warblers May 12 comprising about 180 individuals, for the highest single day count in 5 years. When included with the previous day's species, 31 species of warblers were seen in this location in 2 days. An Orange-crowned Warbler Apr. 23 in Madison, WI (SR), was early. Yellow-throated Warblers were reported from 3 Michigan and 2 Wisconsin locations, above average for this southern species. An early Pine Warbler was at La Crosse Apr. 16 (TR). Prairie Warblers were found at one Wisconsin and 5 Michigan locations with individuals May 20 (JK, TL, LD) and May 30 (JK, DE et al.) at W.P.B.O., both the first for W.P.B.O. and north of normal. Minnesota observers found more Prothonotary Warblers than normal. Worm-eating Warblers were seen at 2 Michigan, 2 Minnesota, and 6 Wisconsin locations, with individuals May 4 in Brown, WI (MW), and May 12–17 in Outagamie, WI (JA et al.), north of normal in Wisconsin. An early Louisiana Waterthrush was in Manitowoc Mar. 30 (CS), and one was way out of range in n.w. Minnesota in Red Lake (RJa, RG). Kentucky Warblers were found at 6 Michigan

and 8–9 Wisconsin locations, above average. Yellow-breasted Chats were scarcer than normal in Wisconsin, with a number of the standard nesting sites unoccupied this spring.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES — Summer Tanagers were reported from one Wisconsin and 3 Minnesota locations, more than normal for Minnesota but less than normal for the rest of the Region. A W. Tanager came to a feeder in Waukesha in mid-May. A Blue Grosbeak was found May 22 in Scott, MN (BS); although this species is regular in the s.w. corner of Minnesota, it is hardly ever seen elsewhere in the state. Dickcissels staged their best invasion in many years, with many birds present at many locations in both Michigan and Wisconsin starting in mid-May and with sightings even into the Upper Pen. during June. A **Green-tailed Towhee**, the 6th for Michigan, was seen and photographed May 14 in Bay (RW, JS, MWi). Only 49 Am. Tree Sparrows were seen during the period at W.P.B.O., well below normal. A Lark Sparrow was east of normal in Chippewa, MI, May 8 (TA), banded. A Lark Bunting was found May 26 at Grand Marais, MN (K & MH), well away from its normal range.

A Le Conte's Sparrow was on territory in Green Lake, WI, May 19 (TS), very far south for a territorial bird. Eight Le Conte's were seen during the period at W.P.B.O., with 3 May 26 (staff), more than normal. Along with the normal few at Crex Meadows W.M.A., a Sharp-tailed Sparrow was seen May 14 at Racine (TD). Three hundred White-crowned Sparrows were seen May 9 at W.P.B.O. (staff). A Harris' Sparrow was east of normal May 11 at W.P.B.O. (SB, TWi et al.). Lapland Longspurs were down in numbers in both Michigan and Wisconsin. A flock of Smith's Longspurs was seen Apr. 24 in Lac Qui Parle, MN (m.ob.). Interestingly, this species and Clark's Grebe, White-faced Ibis, Cinnamon Teal, and Burrowing Owl were all seen on the same weekend in or adjacent to Lac Qui Parle; as a fellow birder I am envious of those birders treated to a weekend like that. A ♀ **Chestnut-collared Longspur** was carefully observed and photographed at W.P.B.O. May 18 (LD, TL, JK), for Michigan's 3rd record only.

A W. Meadowlark May 20 on I. Royale (CM) provided the first record for that locality. Yellow-headed Blackbirds seemed to be expanding their range in Michigan, with reports from 6 counties, and were found at more locations around Saginaw Bay, which is their center of abundance in the state. A pair was found May 14 at Windigo on I. Royale (CM). Rusty Blackbirds were found in lower numbers than normal at W.P.B.O., with only 20 seen during the period (staff). A depressing blackbird note was that 1205 Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen at W.P.B.O. this spring (staff), more than normal. Orchard Orioles were seen in larger than normal numbers in Wisconsin.

Pine Grosbeaks were seen in above-average numbers at W.P.B.O., with the last at the late date of May 25 (staff). The House Finch explosion continued Regionwide. Michigan had its first documented Upper Pen. record, with one present at a feeder in Escanaba until Mar. 15 (GN), and individuals were also reported from Alpena, Otsego, and Presque Isle in the n. Lower Pen. Wisconsin had nesting in several additional counties and records from more northern areas. And Minnesota had 5 reports, including one at the farthest north point yet, Thief River Falls, May 16 (Jma). It seems inevitable that Minnesota will soon be added to the list of states with breeding House Finches. Red Crossbills were found in large numbers throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin, with individuals still present at the end of May in many locations. Michigan observers mostly missed out on this invasion, with only a few sightings. White-winged Crossbills were not a part of this invasion; there were only a few scattered sightings in the n. part of the Region. Hoary Redpolls were seen in both Michigan and Wisconsin, with 11 during the period at W.P.B.O. (staff), the most ever for the observatory.

CONTRIBUTORS — I wish to thank the many individuals who submitted reports. Because the nature of this summary precludes

listing everyone who sends in a report, only those observers with cited records are listed below (state editors in boldface).—Ray Adams, Tom Allen, Jim Anderson, Ron Annelin (RAN), Philip Ashman, Jeff Baughman, Susan Blackshaw, Bill Bouton, Ernie Carhart, Phil Chu, Bruce Cohen, Nelvina De Kam, Terry DeBoer, Dave Dister, Louis Dombrowski, Mary Donald, **Kim Eckert** (Minnesota), Dave Evers, Jim Fowler, Jr. (JFo), Jim Frank, Chip Francke, Ray Glassel, **Jim Granlund** (Michigan), Bob Grefe, Ellen Hansen, Bill Hilsenhoff, Ken & Molly Hoffman, Randy Hoffman, Joe Hudick, Ron & Elaine Hull, Robert Janssen (RJa), Bunny Johnson, Robbye Johnson, Joe Kaplan, Jim Kesel (JKe), Bill Lane, Fred Leshner, Tony

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MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

Bruce G. Peterjohn

While weather patterns frequently vary from state to state, one common factor was evident this spring: below-normal precipitation. A relatively dry winter turned into an even drier spring, and the lack of rainfall produced a full-fledged drought as the warm days of summer arrived. The lack of precipitation produced relatively few adverse effects this spring although herons, waterfowl, shorebirds, and other species frequenting wet fields and shallow marshes suffered as these habitats completely dried up.

Except for the lack of rainfall, weather patterns were fairly similar to those of recent years. Temperatures averaged above normal, particularly during March and May. The warm weather in March encouraged a number of species to return at or near record early dates. May's seasonable temperatures, combined with several cold fronts, produced a sustained movement of most passerines in better numbers than have been apparent during the past several years.

In this Region the appearance of spring rarities is usually associated with strong southwest winds. Iowa experienced sustained southwest winds throughout the season, and its observers witnessed a combination of record early arrivals, unprecedented flights of several shorebirds, and several rarities. The other states did not share these winds, and their migrations were normal with few exceptional concentrations or rarities.

Unfortunately, the Illinois report was not received in time to be incorporated in this seasonal summary. Except for the observations of a few individuals, the following summary contains no information from Illinois.

ABBREVIATION — Say. Res. = Saylorville Reservoir, IA.

LOONS TO HERONS — Always rare during spring, single Red-throated Loons were discovered in Ohio at Pleasant Hill Res. Apr. 8 (BG) and Hoover Res. Apr. 30 (J et al.). An early Com. Loon at L. Pewee, KY, Mar. 7 (JH) preceded small numbers scattered across all states. No large flocks of Pied-billed Grebes were reported. Horned Grebes rapidly passed through most areas during March, mostly in small flocks, although 77 at Table Rock L. Mar. 19 (DBL) was a sizable concentration for Missouri. Single Red-necked Grebes at Alum Creek Res., OH, Mar. 19 (J, MG); Say. Res. Apr. 12 (SD); and L. Manawa, IA, Apr. 14 (BW) constituted normal numbers of this rare but regular migrant. Eared Grebe reports included a maximum of six in Iowa plus singles at 3 Indiana locations east to Ft. Wayne Apr. 16–May 14 and one at Louisville May 24 (HS, m.ob.). They are casual spring visitors to the latter states. The only W. Grebe noted was in w. Iowa, where they are detected most springs.



American White Pelicans were restricted to the w. states, where 1000 congregated at Runnells W.M.A., IA, Apr. 16 (JSi). Migrant Double-crested Cormorants continued to be widely observed and staged a noticeable movement Apr. 16–20. Iowa hosted 1300 at Say. Res. Apr. 17 (SD), and other sizable flocks included a maximum of 180 along L. Erie Apr. 23 and 130 at scattered n.e. Ohio lakes Apr. 16–17.

The dry conditions were not conducive to attracting herons, producing only small concentrations at most localities. Both bitterns suffered from reduced habitat availability and were noted in reduced numbers. Although Am. Bitterns peaked with four to six in the w. states, similar numbers were not apparent elsewhere. The "southern" herons staged a very poor flight with few reports away from established colonies. An early Snowy Egret appeared at Dayton, OH, Mar. 30 (CBr), but there were only 2 other extralimital sightings north to the Great Lakes and Iowa. Fifteen Snowies at Ballard W.M.A. May 29 (BP) constituted a noteworthy flock for w. Kentucky. Extralimital Little Blue Herons were reported from only 7 locations, and Tricolored Herons were completely missed. A Cattle Egret returned to Iowa by Mar. 27, but spring visitors were scarce except near colonies. Extralimital sightings included no more than five egrets at 13 locations as their numbers continued to decline in many areas. The Green-backed Heron at Duck Creek W.M.A., MO, Apr. 1 (BR) was very early. A number of observers commented on their relative scarcity this spring.

WATERFOWL — The Tundra Swan flight largely bypassed this Region as expected during relatively mild springs. Flocks of only 25 or fewer swans were restricted to their traditional migration corridor across the n. states. A late Tundra Swan lingered at Eagle Creek Res., IN, until May 12 (CK). Normally rather uncommon migrants through Iowa, Greater White-

fronted Geese staged an unprecedented flight Mar. 11–20 with maxima of 1500 at Hendrickson Marsh Mar. 17 and 2100 at Say. Res. Mar. 18 (SD) plus many smaller flocks scattered across the state. This movement was not evident elsewhere, especially east of the Mississippi R., where one to four geese appeared at 2 Indiana sites and seven visited w. Lake Erie during March. A late Snow Goose remained at Kent, OH, through May 23 (LR). Iowa hosted at least 34 Ross' Geese with peaks of 13 at Red Rocks Res. Mar. 11 and nine at Hendrickson Marsh Mar. 17 plus a late migrant at Bays Branch W.M.A. May 31 (SD). Such numbers are not unexpected given the immense flocks of Snow Geese passing through the state each year. Elsewhere, only one Ross' Goose was discovered in Missouri, and one **Ross' Goose** at L. Waveland Mar. 7 (AB) furnished Indiana's 3rd record.

Unlike geese, which have remained reasonably stable despite the below-normal precipitation, duck populations have substantially declined. Only Iowa observers witnessed sizable flights, including 2000 Gadwall and 2000 Am. Wigeon at Little Cedar L. Apr. 4 (MBr), 2200 Canvasbacks at Say. Res. Mar. 13 with 8900 Ring-necked Ducks there Mar. 18 (SD), 4000 Lesser Scaup at Mississippi River Dam 13 on Mar. 20 (P), and 8360 Com. Mergansers at Say. Res. Mar. 18 (SD).

Single Cinnamon Teal were discovered at 2 sites in Missouri and 2 in Iowa Apr. 2–May 25, normal numbers for this rare but regular spring migrant through the w. states. Male Eur. Wigeon visited Huntington, IN, Apr. 2–4 (JC, m.ob.) and L. Calumet, IL, Apr. 24 (ph. JL), locations for which there are relatively few previous records. A regular spring migrant along w. Lake Erie, another Eur. Wigeon was observed in Erie Mar. 12–26 (J, MG, m.ob.). Inland, Greater Scaup were rather widely distributed, including several flocks of 19–22 individuals and late migrants through Apr. 27 in n.w. Missouri and May 6 in Iowa. Casually reported along the Great Lakes during spring, the only Harlequin Duck was discovered at Chicago Apr. 11



Harlequin Duck (immature male) on Lake Michigan at Chicago, Illinois, April 11, 1988. Photo/Joel B. Milosevich.

(JM). Spring Oldsquaws remained scarce along both Great Lakes, and inland sightings were limited to 6 records scattered across Iowa, Missouri, and Indiana. No more than three Oldsquaws appeared at any locality. A flock of five Surf Scoters at Kentucky L. May 4 (BP, DP) provided the first acceptably documented spring record for Kentucky. A casual spring migrant through Iowa, a Surf Scoter was discovered at Ventura Marsh May 21–22 (JD, †m.ob.). White-winged Scoters continued their decline and were unreported from the Great Lakes. Inland, White-wingeds were observed at single sites in Indiana, Ohio, and Iowa, including a very late migrant at Montrose, IA, May 31 (RC).

HAWKS TO CRANES — The hawk migration was more substantial than during the previous few springs. Several sizable flights passed along L. Erie during March, and a record total of 1237 hawks were tallied migrating along L. Michigan

at Dunes S.P., IN, this spring. This total included 46 N. Harriers, 250 Sharp-shinned, 46 Cooper's, and 322 Red-tailed Hawks (fide KB).

The Turkey Vulture migration peaked with 230 along c. Lake Erie in Lake Mar. 26 (LR, RHa). As many as 12 Mississippi Kites were encountered within their established range along the Mississippi R. in w. Kentucky and s.e. Missouri. The only extralimital kite wandered to Grayson, KY, May 15–17 (B & MM). Bald Eagles continued their gradual recovery in most areas. Cooper's Hawks were widespread in all states except Iowa with a maximum of 18 passing along w. Lake Erie Mar. 23. Following a dismal winter season, few N. Goshawks were noted as spring migrants, with a total of 6 sightings from the n. states through Apr. 5. A Broad-winged Hawk at St. Louis Mar. 26 (EL) was rather early. This species mostly trickled through the Region with the largest movement consisting of 100 hawks over e. Missouri Apr. 17. Swainson's Hawks did not stray from their established range with 7 records from Missouri, a total of 17 individuals in Iowa, and the nesting pair in Illinois. The 7 Golden Eagle sightings were normal for recent years with individuals scattered across all states except Kentucky. Merlins have remained rare but regular migrants with at least 10 valid sightings, and the improvement in Peregrine Falcons was encouraging. There were at least 28 reports of the latter species this spring.

Yellow Rails were discovered only in n.w. Indiana, where 2 reports included three rails flushed from the Dunes Nat'l Lakeshore Apr. 22 (†BS). King Rails continued to decline with only 5 records from the n. states. The largest concentrations of other rails included 25 Virginias in Lake, OH, Apr. 24 (LR); 30 Soras at Sloughs W.M.A., KY, May 6 (BP, DE); and 58 Soras at Big Wall L., IA, May 1 (SD). A Purple Gallinule wandered to a Columbus, OH, residential yard May 9–21, where it subsisted on a diet of mixed bird seed and apples (DHe, m.ob., ph.). Another extralimital Purple Gallinule was discovered in more typical habitat—a wooded pond in Grayson, KY, May 14–24 (WS, KC et al.). Common Moorhens were generally scarce, and reduced numbers of Am. Coots were evident in many areas.

Along their traditional migration corridor, Sandhill Cranes were mostly observed during March, particularly Mar. 2–9, when flocks were scattered across Kentucky, s.w. Ohio, and Indiana. Extralimital cranes included singles east to Cleveland Mar. 26 (fide LR) and Wayne, OH, Apr. 5 (BGI). Equally noteworthy in the w. states, Sandhills appeared at 4 Iowa locations Mar. 15–May 13, plus two cranes were in Boone, MO, Mar. 19 (JS). Late migrants are becoming more frequent with 3 n.w. Indiana reports May 10–14; four cranes at Cone Marsh, IA, May 13 (T et al.); and one at Big Island W.M.A., OH, May 29 (J, MG).

SHOREBIRDS — Shorebirds presented a mixed picture, being more dependent upon wind patterns than habitat availability, which was poor in most areas. Strong SW winds produced an exceptional flight in Iowa, but other states were visited by only fair to poor numbers. The Lesser Golden-Plover migration apparently bypassed most states. A maximum of 1000 was reported from Iowa, but considerably smaller flocks appeared elsewhere. Iowa was visited by its first **Snowy Plover**. An individual discovered at Bays Branch W.M.A. May 6–7 (†SD, m.ob., ph.) was quite likely the same plover located in nearby Greene May 22–25 (†AF, †SD et al.). A casual spring migrant to n.w. Missouri, a Snowy Plover was observed near St. Joseph Apr. 10 (LG). The fortunes of Piping Plover remained bleak with 5 reports of one to three plovers from Iowa and one at Monroe Res., IN, May 9 (MB).

The Am. Avocet flight was not impressive with only 5 records from the n. states. A flock of 82 avocets near Sandusky Apr. 23 (MG, J) was easily the largest concentration ever noted in Ohio. The only other flock consisted of 20 in Iowa. Willets appeared in every state with a detectable flight Apr. 16–30 and a smaller movement May 10–29. The largest flocks totalled 40

Willetts at Schell-Osage W.M.A., MO, Apr. 29 (m ob.) and 20 near Lawrenceburg, IN, Apr. 23 (CB). Smaller flocks were noted in Iowa and along L. Erie with scattered singles and pairs elsewhere. The 75 Spotted Sandpipers at Three Rivers W.M.A., MO, Apr. 28 (KH) constituted an exceptional number for spring. Upland Sandpipers were mostly encountered at established locations with maxima of 14–15 in Iowa and Indiana. The only Whimbrel appeared along L. Erie May 13. The SW winds produced an unprecedented flight of Hudsonian Godwits into Iowa with 284 in Greene May 10 (SD), 80+ in Guthrie May 13 (MPr), and 80 at Forney L. May 7 (T). Flocks of 21–25 Hudsonians at 2 Missouri sites May 8–11 were more representative of spring concentrations in the w. states. Single Hudsonians at Sullivan May 8 (ph. S & CT) and Salamonie Res. May 14–16 (SS *et al.*) were noteworthy in Indiana, where there are few spring records. Exceptional numbers of Marbled Godwits also visited Iowa. They first appeared Apr. 9 with a total of 85 reported from the entire state including 21 at Bays Branch W.M.A. Apr. 20 (RM).

Least Sandpipers returned on record early dates. Three at Hendrickson Marsh, IA, Mar. 26 had increased to 16 the following day (SD), and other early arrivals consisted of singles near St. Joseph, MO, Mar. 27 (LG) and Woodburn, IN, Apr. 9 (DW). White-rumped Sandpipers were widely observed and peaked with 420 in Fremont, IA, May 24 (SD). Baird's Sandpipers were restricted to the w. states with record early arrivals near St. Joseph, MO, Mar. 4 (LG) and Coralville Res., IA, Mar. 13 (JF, T). Iowa hosted the largest flocks with 104 at Riverton W.M.A. Mar. 27 and 116 at Say. Res. May 15 (SD). The earliest Pectoral Sandpiper returned to Danville, KY, Mar. 5 (FL, WK) and peaked with 1000–1200 in Iowa and Ohio. The 147 Dunlin at Say. Res. May 15 (SD) constituted an exceptional flock for Iowa. Iowa also hosted its 2nd **Curlew Sandpiper**, discovered at Coralville Res. May 13 (†CBe, †T *et al.*). An early Stilt Sandpiper appeared in Fulton, KY, Mar. 26 (BP). They were very scarce east of the Mississippi R., and the only sizable flock totaled 75 at Coralville Res., IA, May 13 (T *et al.*). Always rare during spring, Buff-breasted Sandpipers were limited to one at Aldrich, MO, May 14 (MGo) and two at Nashua, IA, May 19 (FM). The three Ruffs were typical for recent springs with a female at Joliet, IL, Apr. 29 (ph. JM); a male at Schell-Osage W.M.A. May 1 (fm.ob.), for Missouri's 9th record; and a female in Wayne, OH, May 11 (DK, BG). An exceptionally early Short-billed Dowitcher was well described from Sloughs W.M.A., KY, Apr. 5 (BP). Few sizable flocks were encountered this year. Long-billed Dowitchers were reported only from Iowa and Ohio including two early migrants at Hendrickson Marsh, IA, Mar. 26 (SD). A remarkably early Wilson's Phalarope was noted near St. Joseph, MO, Mar. 25 (LG, CFI). Red-necked Phalaropes were detected as singles only in Ohio and Iowa May 16–25.

GULLS, TERNS — The gull migration conformed to expected patterns. Laughing Gulls were scarce with only one report along the Great Lakes plus inland singles at Buck Creek S.P., OH, May 2 (DO); Louisville May 8; and Smithland Dam, KY, May 28 (BP). The first Franklin's Gull returned to Iowa by Mar. 1, but the largest flock totaled only 250. As expected, a few widely scattered Franklin's Gulls wandered E to Kentucky and Ohio. Bonaparte's Gulls were fairly scarce, especially along the Great Lakes, but 626 at Say. Res. Apr. 21 (BE) provided a sizable flock for Iowa. The sudden appearance of 16 ad. Herring Gulls at Louisville May 25 was unexpected (BP). Perhaps they represented failed breeders. Thayer's Gulls were reported from the Chicago area through Mar. 30 (EW), and the only Lesser Black-backed Gull remained at Cleveland through Mar. 25 (RHr). Glaucous Gulls also lingered into spring with two along L. Michigan through Mar. 3 and two late migrants at L. Manawa, IA, Apr. 5 (RS).

Numbers of migrant terns showed little improvement. Caspians returned to w. Lake Erie by Apr. 3 and peaked along the lakefront with 110 on Apr. 23. The expected numbers appeared in the other states with maxima of 77 in Iowa and 53 along L.

Michigan in n.w. Indiana. Few Com. Terns were encountered as they have become very scarce spring migrants in all states, regularly outnumbered by Forster's Terns. The earliest Forster's was noted at Hamlin, KY, Apr. 4 (JE) and returned to all other states by mid-April. Flocks of 15–40 Forster's appeared in every state with a maximum of 114 at Say. Res. Apr. 26 (SD). Least Terns were restricted to their nesting areas with maxima of 12 along the Mississippi R. in w. Kentucky and 13 in w. Iowa May 28–31. Black Terns improved somewhat from last year but remained exceptionally scarce in most areas. Flocks of 15–40 Blacks were reported from every state except Missouri and peaked with 300 at Say. Res. May 10 (SD).

CUCKOOS TO FLYCATCHERS — Cuckoos arrived on time but received mixed reports. The few localities experiencing good numbers were outnumbered by areas where they were scarce. A Greater Roadrunner was observed near Ava Apr. 19 (LB), indicative of the small population surviving in s.w. Missouri. Few Com. Barn-Owls were reported, mostly at or near known nests. A remnant from last winter's small flight, the only Snowy Owl was noted at Lorain, OH, Mar. 2 (TL). Burrowing Owls are casual migrants through Iowa, where singles were discovered in Lyon Apr. 18 (DB) and Dallas May 10 (SD). Other migrant owls were reported in expected numbers. As many as five Long-eared Owls were at scattered localities in the n. states. Short-eared Owls were more widely distributed with records from all states except Kentucky and a maximum of seven in Indiana. Northern Saw-whets appeared in improved numbers with at least 7 reports from Ohio and 5 from the other n. states, all involving one or two owls.

No movements of Com. Nighthawks were detected, and low numbers in Kentucky and Ohio may result from declining breeding populations. The earliest Chuck-will's-widow returned to Grayson, KY, Apr. 4 (KC). They were mostly reported from established locations although one in Osceola May 24 (DH) was unexpected in n.w. Iowa. Whip-poor-wills also returned early with records from the s. states Apr. 4–7 and Iowa Apr. 11. A Chimney Swift was slightly early near St. Louis Apr. 4 (BH), but they returned to other states by the following week. A movement of 35 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds along L. Erie in Lake May 21 (LR) was unusual for spring. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were generally scarce with no more than six to seven reported from any locality. Late sapsuckers lingered through May 7 in Dallas, MO (RB, WL), and May 18 at Chicago (EW). The N. Flicker migration peaked with 50–63 along the Great Lakes Apr. 3–5.

The flycatcher migration yielded few surprises. An early Alder Flycatcher was found at Mingo N.W.R., MO, May 7 (BR), and small numbers passed through every state after May 15. A Willow Flycatcher in Madison, KY, May 2 (TT) was also early. Western Kingbirds were confined to their established range in w. Iowa and w. Missouri. The only noteworthy movement of E. Kingbirds totaled 45 in Lake, OH, May 8 (LR). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher wandered N to Dallas, IA, May 6 (E & EA), but no others appeared east of Howard and Oregon in Missouri.

SWALLOWS TO SHRIKES — The swallow migration was uneventful with every species arriving on time, and the favorable conditions did not produce noteworthy concentrations. Reduced numbers of Purple Martins were apparent in most states, but similar declines were not evident for other swallows. Very few Red-breasted Nuthatches migrated through each state, not too surprising given the paucity of sightings last autumn. The mild winter proved very favorable for Carolina Wrens with increased numbers everywhere. Two Carolinas in Mitchell Apr. 15 (MH) were exceptional for n. Iowa and indicative of this species' continued recovery. The status of Bewick's Wren remained unchanged. There was only one sighting from w. Kentucky, and s. Missouri hosted its expected population. The only extralimital Bewick's appeared in Shumek State Forest, IA, May 15–18 (†RC, JF). Winter Wrens were inexplicably scarce since they should have also fared well during

last winter. Only small numbers were encountered, even along the Great Lakes. Both kinglets appeared in fair numbers but produced no sizable movements. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers returned to w. Kentucky by Mar. 29, and their numbers continued to improve, particularly at the n. edge of their range.

The thrush migration was not impressive, and only small numbers appeared in each state. As has been the case for the past few springs, favorable weather probably allowed most thrushes to quickly pass through (or over) this Region. The wintering Varied Thrush at Beverly Shores, IN, was last observed Mar. 19 (KB et al.). Mimids elicited few comments except for movements of 40–50 Gray Catbirds along both Great Lakes. Water Pipits were universally scarce with the largest flocks composed of 25–45 pipits. Movements of Cedar Waxwings were more complex than normal. Flocks were reported during every month, but the only detectable Regionwide flight occurred after May 15. Only three N. Shrikes lingered into spring with one along L. Erie Mar. 6 and two in Iowa through Mar. 20. The status of Loggerhead Shrikes has not noticeably improved. They are regularly observed in portions of Kentucky, Missouri, and s. Illinois. In n. areas, Iowa may host a substantial population with only a few isolated pairs in the other states.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — When compared with the past few springs, vireos and warblers staged a relatively good movement through most areas. The bulk of their passage occurred on time, usually as a series of well-defined flights lasting several days. The largest flights were noted May 5–9, 13–15, & 19–21 although local movements developed on other days. These movements were characterized by a good diversity of species and fair numbers of individuals but generally lacked the immense concentrations that can occur in some years. As expected, the unusually mild weather produced a number of early migrants in most states.

The earliest White-eyed Vireo appeared in Hamlin, KY, Apr. 4 (JE), and one in Howard May 4 (MH) was noteworthy for n. Iowa. Within Ohio, a ♂ Bell's Vireo in Wayne during May (BG) established one of few records from the e. counties. Other early vireos included a Solitary at Hamlin, KY, Apr. 4 (JE) and a Yellow-throated at Sunnen L., MO, Apr. 9 (SDi). Philadelphia Vireos were widely reported and remained through June 2 near St. Louis, where an early Red-eyed also appeared Apr. 13 (RK).

An early Blue-winged Warbler returned to St. Francois, MO, Apr. 14 (BR). Golden-winged Warblers were noted in above-average numbers in most states, and reports of six "Brewster's" and one "Lawrence's" hybrids were restricted to Ohio and Indiana. Numbers of Tennessee Warblers were markedly reduced, and they generally failed to appear in their expected concentrations. Northern Parulas returned to the s. states by Apr. 1, but an overflight at Cleveland Apr. 2 (RH) was unexpectedly early. Good numbers of migrants included a maximum of 20 in w. Kentucky, and one in Clay May 11 (DH) provided one of few records for n.w. Iowa. Cape May Warblers staged a good migration. In the w. states, where they are normally quite rare, single Cape Mays appeared at 8 Iowa locations May 4–15, and 4 Missouri reports included a maximum of six near St. Louis May 4 (RK). An early Black-throated Blue Warbler was discovered in n.w. Indiana at Beverly Shores Apr. 13 (FK). Also a rare migrant through the w. states, one Black-throated Blue was recorded in Missouri, but none was found in Iowa.

An "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler was reportedly banded and photographed in Laurens, IA, Apr. 28 (RH). This western race is an accidental visitor anywhere in this Region. Even more unexpected was the appearance of Iowa's first **Townsend's Warbler**, studied at Wildcat Den S.P. May 12 (tGW). Early Yellow-throated Warblers returned to Knob Lick, MO, Apr. 1 (BR) and Dunes S.P. in n.w. Indiana Apr. 8 (FK). This species continued to expand throughout the n. edge of its range. Pine Warblers in Calloway, KY, Mar. 4 (JE) and Pickle Springs Natural Area, MO, on the same date (BL) were thought

to represent early migrants. A Prairie Warbler, a casual spring visitor to Iowa, was discovered at Yellow River State Forest May 28 (tFM). Other early warblers included a Palm in Daviess, KY, Mar. 19 (MP); a Black-and-white at Table Rock L., MO, Apr. 1 (RA); and a Prothonotary at Hamlin, KY, Apr. 4 (JE). The only reports of Swainson's Warblers came from traditional locations in s. Missouri. The first Louisiana Waterthrush appeared at Busch W.M.A., MO, Mar. 24 (m.ob.), and others were noted in the other states by Apr. 2–5. A Kentucky Warbler in Madison, KY, Apr. 3 (TT) was also quite early. The expected small numbers of Connecticut Warblers appeared in each state, and the Mourning Warbler flight was better than average including a remarkable 44 banded in Ottawa, OH, May 28–30 (MS) and 12 observed at Dudgeon L., IA, May 16 (JF).

GROSBEAKS TO FINCHES — Three Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were exceptionally early in Grayson, KY, Mar. 29 (KC). The only sizable movement totaled 50 grosbeaks in Lake, OH, May 8 (LR). The expanding Blue Grosbeak is being observed with greater regularity within its established range, where numerous reports included a maximum of 11 in s.w. Iowa. The only extralimital Blue Grosbeak appeared along L. Erie at Headlands S.P. May 21 (tLR). An early Dickcissel was noted at Hendrickson Marsh, IA, Apr. 16 (PM), and other migrants were widely reported.



Northern Cardinal in leucistic plumage at Dexter, Missouri, March 1988. Photo/Ron Gregory.

Single Bachman's Sparrows in Ozark, MO, May 30 (BR) and near Hamlin, KY, during May (JE) indicated that remnant populations may still exist in those states. A flock of 125 Chipping Sparrows in St. Louis, MO, Apr. 20 (SR) constituted a large spring concentration. Clay-colored Sparrows were restricted to the w. states and Illinois except for one banded at Spring Valley W.M.A. May 7 (JSh, CC), furnishing one of very few Ohio spring records away from L. Erie. An early Lark Sparrow returned to St. Louis, MO, Mar. 26 (EL). At best a casual spring visitor to Illinois, a Lark Bunting was discovered at Chicago



Male Lark Bunting at Chicago, Illinois, May 17, 1988. Photo/Jim Landing.

May 17 (JP, ph JL, m ob) All grassland sparrows returned in reduced numbers, even to areas where suitable habitats were plentiful. Henslow's Sparrows were detected in every state including one sighting in Missouri and two in Iowa, where they are quite rare. Single Le Conte's Sparrows wandered E to Henderson, KY, Apr. 5 (BP, DP) and Beverly Shores, IN, May 3 (KB), where they are presently thought to be casual spring migrants. Sharp-tailed Sparrows were limited to two in Greene, IA, May 23 (RM), although this secretive sparrow is undoubtedly overlooked. Fox Sparrows were generally scarce except for concentrations of 20–55 along L. Erie Apr. 3 and 76 at Chicago Apr. 5. A Harris' Sparrow overwintering at Lexington, KY, was last observed Mar. 22 (BA). A migrant Harris' Sparrow was discovered in Porter May 14 (CF, BJ), furnishing one of few spring records for n.w. Indiana. Lapland Longspurs were exceptionally scarce. Iowa's largest flock totaled only 100 longspurs, and the only other reports were of small groups in Ohio. It was also a poor year for Smith's Longspurs. Two Iowa reports included a flock of 150 near Cone Marsh Apr. 5–7 (T, JF), and two were noted in Benton, IN, Apr. 10 (EH, LH).

Several flocks of 50+ Bobolinks in *Ballard* May 4–5 (BP et al.) were noteworthy for Kentucky. Single W. Meadowlarks in *Fulton*, KY, Mar. 26–27 (BP) and *Wayne*, OH, May 2–12 (BG) were away from established summering locations. An early Yellow-headed Blackbird returned to Anderson L., IA, Mar. 30 (*fide* JD), and normal numbers appeared east to n.w. Indiana. Extralimital records were limited to singles at *Upton*, KY, Apr. 27 (LRa) and *Barberton*, OH, May 27 (LR). The expanding Great-tailed Grackles visited 2 w. Missouri locations with a maximum of 135 in *Vernon* Mar. 11 (LG). Iowa hosted only scattered singles at *Thurman* Mar. 19 (E & EA), near *Council Bluffs* Apr. 14 (*fide* BW), and near *Hamburg* May 14 (DR). Exceptionally early Orchard Orioles appeared at *Hamlin*, KY, Mar. 28 (JE) and *Farmington*, MO, Apr. 5 (BL, SDi). A flight of 67 N. Orioles in *Lake*, OH, May 8 (LR) was respectable for recent years.

This winter's poor finch flight was reflected in the scarcity of finches as spring migrants. Only small numbers of Purple Finches passed through each state. House Finches are rapidly becoming established in the w. states. Iowa observers reported 24 individuals at 11 scattered locations, and they have spread across Missouri to the Kansas border; there were seven at *St. Joseph* (LG) and four at *Springfield* (CBo). Red Crossbills staged a minor movement across the n. states. As many as 10–30 crossbills appeared at 7 locations in Iowa, 3 in Ohio, one in Indiana, and several Illinois sites. They were mostly noted

during March and April but remained into May in Illinois. Only one White-winged Crossbill accompanied this movement, appearing in Iowa Mar. 17–20. A few Com. Redpolls lingered in Indiana and Iowa into early March. Pine Siskins were certainly the most numerous "winter finch" with small flocks scattered around each state. As expected, a number of these siskins remained well into May. Evening Grosbeaks were only detected as individuals or small flocks at a few locations in Ohio, Kentucky, and Illinois.

ADDENDA — Unfortunately, the Illinois observations were not received in time to be incorporated in this summary. In fact, only a few of the highlights were made available. These highlights included a Cinnamon Teal in *Fulton* Apr. 23 (fRP, fMD et al.), a **Black-necked Stilt** in *Peoria* May 24 (fLA, VH), a ♀ Ruff at *Mark Twain N.W.R.* Apr. 24 (fSR et al.), a Ruff in *Knox* Apr. 27 (fMBA), an inland Little Gull in *Mason* May 16–17 (fLA et al.), and a Fish Crow wandering along the *Illinois R.* into *Mason* Apr. 30 (fRP, fMD).

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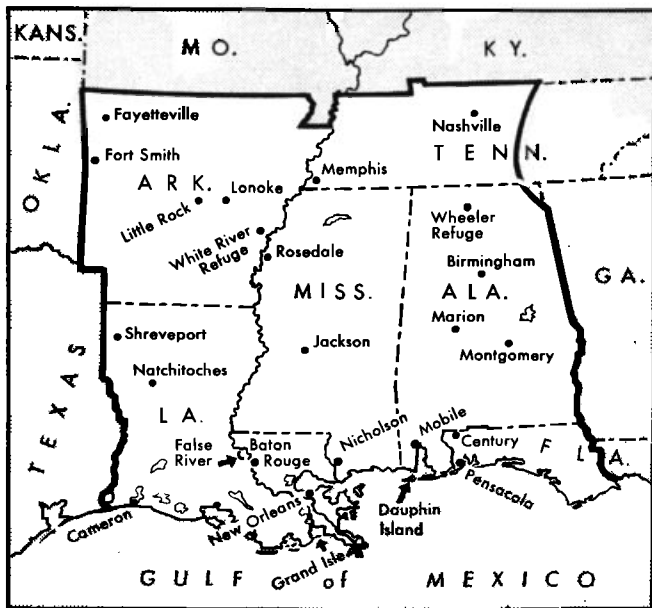
CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

Thomas A. Imhof

Drought is the word for the weather this season—this year—(this decade?). The shortage of rainfall in Alabama since January 1984 varies from zero to 72 inches (just north of Birmingham), but averages about 20–40 inches! For the same period, Nashville reports a 65-inch deficit (less than half of normal). It is downright alarming to water a plant and find it dry again a few minutes later. The cumulative effects are often worse. Apparently when the Bermuda High is too far west, and the jet stream changes its direction, it blocks our inflow of moist clouds. But it appears that a more basic problem is the dryness of the earth's surface, so that the clouds have no place from which to draw moisture. Everyone denies being the cause of it all, but added up, each denuded forest or hedgerow, each chainsaw victim, each herbicided area, each surface covered by roof or pavement or concrete, contributes to the general dryness of the atmosphere. It seems we have a problem that will continue until we ferret out our environmental wrongs and eradicate them. We must somehow

figure out a way to preserve enough greenery to counter-balance our urban and agricultural development. We sorely need to increase the amount of water (and oxygen) being returned to our atmosphere!

How does this affect the birds? Besides loss of habitat, there are a lowering of the quality of habitat, poorer fruit, fewer insects and other food animals, less cover. Perhaps with less rain the birds have better weather in which to migrate, but with food more difficult to obtain fewer birds can deposit the needed fat reserves for a successful migration. Most reports this spring mentioned fewer records and few or no big numbers of migrants, notably shorebirds, thrushes, and warblers. The 24th annual Birmingham Spring Count, with 131 party-hours, tallied a good 138 species, with only four shorebirds, but 26 species of warblers, 11 of them with fewer than 10 each! Big warbler misses were Golden-winged, Nashville, and Cerulean, the last a local breeder. A Big Day in coastal Alabama by Floridians (RAD, PT, JPf, KWf) Apr. 16 produced 175 species with 28 shorebirds but only 15 warblers!



Concentration of American White Pelicans in Humphreys County, Mississippi, April 3, 1988. Photo/Malcolm F. Hodges.

ABBREVIATIONS — A.O.S. = Alabama Ornithological Society; B.A.S. = Birmingham Audubon Society; D.R.U. = Duck River Unit, Tennessee N.W.R.; F.O.S. = Florida Ornithological Society; L.S.U.M.Z. = Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology; U.S.L. = University of Southern Louisiana. Place names in *italics* are counties or parishes.

LOONS TO DUCKS — As **Pacific Loons** become easier to identify, we are beginning to find that they are possibly regular in the Region. One at Percy Priest L. Mar. 6–13 (CGD, JCR, SJS, m.ob.) was the first for Tennessee; another on Dauphin I. Apr. 24 (PWS, S, L, & RD, JPF, KW) was the 7th for Alabama; and two on Santa Rosa I. 12 mi east of Pensacola Beach on June 1 (JTF, TAI) provided the 4th Pensacola record, the 2nd in June in basic plumage. Migrating Com. Loons seem to be noted more often now on inland lakes, for instance: 41 (39 in alternate [breeding] plumage) at Smithsonia, Pickwick Res., AL, Apr. 1 (PDK); 10 at Paris Landing S.P., TN, Mar. 17 and one still there May 29 (JCR). Also there Mar. 17 were 83 Horned Grebes (JCR), and a late one stayed at Sardis Waterfowl Ref., Lafayette, MS, May 6–16 (GK, VT, WMD). Eared Grebes were reported from Jefferson, AL, Apr. 1 (TAI); Blakely I., AL, in alternate plumage Apr. 16 (GDJ, DGJ); Hancock, MS, Mar. 3–Apr. 20 (*vide* JAT); Harrison, MS, Apr. 16–30 (CCK, m.ob.); Crittenden, AR, at Wapanocca N.W.R. Apr. 26 & 30 (WMD, MFH, TLS); and at Percy Priest L., Davidson, TN, Mar. 12 (RLK). The 4th **Western Grebe** for Arkansas was on L. Millwood Apr. 22–24 (CEM, H & MP, EPr). On June 1 just off Santa Rosa I., 5 mi east of Pensacola Beach, a **Cory's Shearwater** was seen at close range (JTF, TAI), for the 2nd record for the Pensacola area. April 23–25 on Dauphin I. three to five **Masked Boobies** were separately identified (RSS, MGS, D & DB, TAI, PHF) for the 22nd Alabama record. On Apr. 23 at Ft. Morgan an imm. **Brown Booby** followed a large tanker out of Mobile Bay (JTF), for the 19th record for Alabama. All the boobies flew low over the water and dived shallowly.

American White Pelicans produced 6 reports with a maximum of 600+ Mar. 20 near Belzoni, Humphreys, MS (MFH), where they ate 8"–12" catfish from a fish farm. We received a report of 100 **Brown Pelicans** from Louisiana (LaFourche and Jefferson) May 18 (DMu, NNe), and Mississippi and Alabama have had higher figures for quite some time (JAT, GDJ). Maximum **Double-crested Cormorants** were 700 from the same Belzoni fish farms Mar. 1–Apr. 17; the latest report was of one May 22 at Gallatin Steam Plant, TN (DT & JPC). Two fairly early **Magnificent Frigatebirds** were at Lakeshore, Hancock, MS, Apr. 18 (GMo, JDu, CCa, JAT) and in Cameron May 23 (DLD, SWC).

Seven **Am. Bitterns** were reported from Noxubee N.W.R. Apr. 1 & 16 (TLS) and 20 on 8 occasions Apr. 13–May 19 in Middle and W. Tennessee (JCR, m.ob.). Three **Least Bitterns** at Bear Creek W.M.A., Stewart, TN, May 19 (JCR, A & NH) are considered a large number. Eight sightings of 12 **Great Egrets** Mar. 25–May 31 were reported for Middle Tennessee (SJS, m.ob.). **Snowy Egrets** were more common inland for a change: the first March record for Tennessee on the 29th at Cane Creek Park, Putnam; 2 records at Sardis L., MS, Apr. 4 & 19 (WMD, GK); and 30 birds at Anderson's Minnow Farm, Lonoke, AR, Apr. 14 (H & MP). An early **Little Blue Heron** was at Noxubee N.W.R., MS, Mar. 12 (TLS). A **Tricolored Heron** inland at Sequoyah, OK, 2 mi west of Moffett, AR, Apr. 14 (BB, MR, FP) was rare, providing only the 2nd recent record for the Ft. Smith area; five others, carrying nest material into a large colony of **White Ibis** and **Snowy** and **Cattle egrets** at the e. end of Catahoula L., LaSalle, Apr. 26 furnished the first report of **Tricolored Herons** breeding inland in Louisiana (SWC). A colony at Prairieville, Hale, AL had an estimated 15,000 **Cattle Egrets**, 500 **Little Blue Herons**, and 2500 **White Ibis** June 4 (RRR, EGR). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** at Gallatin and Bordeaux colonies, in Davidson and Sumner, TN, were active in April and May (JP & DTC, JWi). **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** appeared to be doing well with six adults at Noxubee N.W.R. May 11 (TLS); 10 at Bear Creek W.M.A., Stewart, TN, May 19 (JCR); and 19 in Birmingham May 7, with at least 100 in the county, nesting 30 ft up in pines in small groups in creek valleys (TAI, B.A.S.). Large numbers of **White Ibises** were flying around Louisiana in April: 100 in W. Baton Rouge and 150 in Iberville on the 9th (KVR, JMB); 32 in Caddo on the 23rd (LRa, LHa, PLo); and 100+ pairs in LaSalle on the 26th (SWC, BCr, CWo, CSp). Three **Glossy Ibises** were reported, in Cameron Mar. 7 and Apr. 28 (KVR, BLM, RMZ, STE), and in Stewart, TN, May 10–11 (DWB, JCR). **Roseate Spoonbills** were all in Louisiana, with six in LaFourche Mar. 6 and eight Mar. 28 (RDP, BMM, m.ob.) and four in Jefferson Davis Apr. 9 (SWC, DLD). Last fall one was in Greene, AL, Sept. 19–26 (MHS). In Milton, FL, 60 **Wood Storks** were seen May 30 (LMD).

A **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** was near Jennings, Jefferson Davis, LA, Apr. 9 & 16 (SWC, DLD, KVR), and nine were in Cameron May 6 (NNe, RDP). In Jackson, MS, 11 **Fulvous Whistling-Ducks** were present Mar. 4 (C & HC, NAT) and one Apr. 16–19 (ph., ADu, CCa, m.ob.). A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at the Air Products Sanctuary, Pace, FL, Mar. 5–10 (CWM, m.ob.), for the 5th Pensacola area record; and two were at Cross Creeks N.W.R., Stewart, TN, Mar. 3 (JCR). Two or three ad. **Ross' Geese** were found with other geese in rice stubble fields in Jefferson Davis, LA, Mar. 7 (SWC, DLD, RWS). Six **Canada Geese** (feral?) were found in Cameron May 1 (DWG). An **Am. Black Duck** remained Apr. 30–May 22 on Lewis Pond, Sumner, TN (JPC, DTC, DJS). On Blakely I. May 18 a count of

25 Mottled Ducks included broods of nine and four young (TAI). On Columbus Sewage Ponds, Lowndes, MS, a Mallard attempting to nest Mar. 13–17 failed, but on Apr. 17 & 26 she was seen with 11 young (TLS, MFH); four at Blakely I. through May 18 were evidently summering nonbreeders (TAI). A Blue-winged Teal May 31 in Sumner, TN, was most likely a late migrant (JP & DTC), and a pair June 4 at Faunsdale Hatchery, Hale, AL, could be breeding locally (RR & EGR). Six N. Shovelers at Cane Creek Park, Putnam, TN, May 4 (SJS) appeared to be late migrants, but two May 18 on Blakely I. could be summering or locally breeding (TAI). The 11 Gadwall May 18 on Blakely I. were most likely late migrants (TAI), but what about the two birds at Swan Creek W.M.A., Limestone, AL, May 22 (GDJ) or the two on Sardis L., Lafayette, MS, May 24 (WMD)?

Last Redheads were 35 on Oktibbeha County L. Mar. 19 (TLS); a male on Blakely I. Apr. 10 (TAI, MN); and two at Cross Creeks N.W.R. Apr. 17. Late Ring-necked Ducks were all males—in Jefferson Davis, LA, Apr. 28 (SWC, DLD); on Blakely I. May 18 (TAI); on Arkadelphia Oxidation Ponds, Clark, AR, May 30 (H & MP); and in Gallatin Steam Plant May 31 (DT & JPC). Seven Greater Scaup were identified at Arkadelphia Oxidation Ponds Mar. 6 (H & MP) and four more on L. Ponchartrain May 11 & 17 (DMu, NNe), the latest dates ever for Louisiana. Lesser Scaup also remained very late on L. Ponchartrain with 70–75 May 11 and 10 May 17 (DMu, NNe). On Blakely I. a male on May 18 and on Santa Rosa I., Escambia, FL, another male on June 1 were both probably summering (JTF, TAI). A ♂ Oldsquaw May 11 was also the latest ever for the state, on L. Ponchartrain (DMu, NNe). Cheatham, TN, and Cameron, LA, vied for a complete scoter list. Fifteen Black Scoters were at Holly Beach Apr. 28 (KVR); others were at Rutherford Beach May 2 (SWC, DLD); and an ad. male was on the Cumberland R. Apr. 29 (CGD). Surfs were in Cameron, with two Mar. 7 (KVR, BLM), three Apr. 10 (CSO, A & GSm, JSe), eight to ten Apr. 16 (KVR), and in Cheatham, with three Apr. 29 (CGD). White-wingeds were eight Mar. 7 at Rutherford Beach (KVR, BLM) and six on Cheatham L. Apr. 29 (CGD). Last fall at Paris Landing S.P., Henry, TN, two Blacks were present Oct. 21–26 and two Surfs Oct. 22–29 (JCR). Late Red-breasted Mergansers were females at Cane Creek Park, TN, May 4 (SJS); on Lower Sardis L., Panola, MS, through May 18 (G & SK, WMD); and on Brushy L., Winston, AL, May 20 (J & HHF). Of 3 late Ruddy Duck reports, the latest were May 9 on DeGray L., Clark, AR (H & MP), and 12 on May 14 in Santa Rosa, FL, the latest by days (DWa).

HAWKS TO CRANES — Hawk watchers (CFF, PMK, KPy, JKI) this spring (Mar. 6–Apr. 27) in Baton Rouge counted 2216 birds of 13 species: the highest counts were of Broad-winged Hawk, 1202; Black Vulture, 610; Turkey Vulture, 200; and Mississippi Kite, 102 (first one Apr. 10, with a maximum of 61 Apr. 16). One observer (CFF) went to Vicksburg after a cold front Apr. 24 and counted 94 birds of 9 species in 2 hours, mostly Mississippi Kites (49) and Broad-wingeds (28). The most Am. Swallow-tailed Kites were six at E. Baton Rouge Apr. 4 (PMK, KPy) and three there Apr. 1 (KVR). The only Black-shouldered Kite listed was one from Calcasieu Mar. 7 (DLD, SWC). Good counts of Mississippi Kites were of 89 in Shelby Forest S.P., Shelby, TN, May 8 (JRW); 66 at Vicksburg Apr. 17–May 11 (JTB, CFF); 52 at Baton Rouge Apr. 16 (PMK); and 40 in Iberia May 13 (JWh, CBu). Middle and W. Tennessee reported 7 pairs of Bald Eagles with nests and 15 young, the most in 3 decades (*fide* RMH). Tennessee tallied 13 reports of Sharp-shinned Hawks and 17 of Cooper's (*fide* SJS). At Ft. Hill in Vicksburg 757 Broad-winged Hawks were counted Mar. 27–May 8 with peaks of 614 Apr. 3 and 90 Apr. 10 (JTB); in 1986 145 were counted in 32 hours, in 1987 474 in 95 hours, and in 1988 757 in 255 hours; in Washington, LA, Apr. 3 204 were counted (CSO, PWA, CCK); in Putnam, TN, an early one was seen Mar. 29 (BHS). Seven Swainson's Hawks were seen in Louisiana, three Apr. 9 in Vermilion and Jefferson Davis (JVR, MMS, DLD, SWC), three Apr. 19 in Calcasieu (KVR, MMS, JMB),

and one Apr. 25 in Calcasieu (KVR), finally one was seen in Arkansas, in Little River Apr. 21 (CEM). Two Peregrine Falcons were listed from Davidson, TN, Mar. 22 (MSH) and Apr. 27 (WCo), and one from Memphis Apr. 26 (JRW); two were reported from Louisiana, Apr. 16 in Cameron (S & DG) and Apr. 27 in LaFourche (DMu, m.ob.); in Mississippi one was in Hancock Mar. 6, and at least three Apr. 16–19 were in 3 coastal counties plus on Cat I. (JAT, JBi, m.ob.). Three different sightings of one to three Crested Caracaras in Gum Cove, Cameron, LA, May 1 (CSO, DMu, m.ob.) were of the only population in that state. A Black Rail, seen from 7 ft at the Air Products Sanctuary, Pace, Santa Rosa, FL, Jan. 9 (GBe, GFL, CWM), was the first in winter for the Pensacola area. Unusual was the King Rail Apr. 14 at the Old Penal Farm, Pulaski, AR (HeP) in Maury, Sumner, and Stewart, TN, five Virginia Rails were noted Apr. 13–May 14 (DJS, TJW, JCR) and one near Oxford on Sardis L., MS, May 4 (WMD). Of several Sora records, the maximum was of 37 at Cross Creeks N.W.R. and Barkley W.M.A. May 6 (JCR, DWB). Common Moorhens were listed only from Tennessee, Apr. 7–14 in Davidson (CGD) and May 4–22 in Sumner (DT & JPC). A Sandhill Crane was seen at Wheeler N.W.R. Mar. 6 (GD & DGJ); and a list of reports from mid-Tennessee should help others find them there in the future: Mar. 2–20, 865+ in Pickett (RCH); Mar. 5, 125 in Overton (FCB), 30+ in E. Putnam (RWS), and 28 in W. Putnam, 20 mi away (BHS); Mar. 19, 8 in Smith (LDR); and Mar. 21, five in Robertson (RPF).

PLOVERS TO TERNS — Lesser Golden-Plovers peaked about the last week of March: in Little River, AR, 3 mi east of Ogden, 438 on Mar. 24, 300 on Mar. 20, and 163 on Apr. 2, with three lingering to May 10 (CEM, EPr); south of Oxford, Lafayette, MS, 92 on Mar. 22, 97 on Mar. 25 (G & SK); in Perry, AL, 20 on Mar. 26 (B.A.S.); and in Stewart, TN, 18 on Mar. 23 (JCR). An ad. Snowy Plover with 3 eggs at Ft. Morgan May 11 (EH, NH, TL) constituted a first for the area. The species is partial to islands, so it seems that it has now biologically accepted that the Intracoastal Waterway has turned Ft. Morgan Pen. into what the real estate people call "Pleasure Island." An early Wilson's Plover was at Fourchons Beach Mar. 6 (RDP, NNe, GCr). Early Semipalmated Plovers were at Centerton Hatchery, Benton, AR, Apr. 16 (JCN) and in Memphis Apr. 18 (JCR); the highest of several counts submitted was of 175 May 6 in 4 rice parishes, Cameron, Acadia, Vermilion, and Jefferson Davis (NNe, RDP). Counts of Piping Plovers were of 18 Mar. 7 in Cameron (SWC), and of 24 Mar. 27 and seven Apr. 27 at Fourchons Beach (RDP, NNe, m.ob.).

Black-necked Stilts, attempting to nest for the 7th season at Memphis, were frustrated thus far this year by wind (JRW, m.ob., *fide* BBC). Lone Am. Avocets were seen near Ingalls in Jackson, MS, Apr. 22 (Cca, JRP) and in Gallatin Steam Plant, Sumner, TN, May 14–16 (JP & DTC), but a big flock at the Black-necked Stilt breeding colony on Blakely I., AL, was counted at 101 Apr. 16, 100 Apr. 23, and 34 May 18 (GDJ, TAI, m.ob.). A count of 394 Greater Yellowlegs was made in Vermilion, LA, Mar. 13 (MMS, JKI). A Lesser Yellowlegs near Arpark Inn, Reelfoot L., TN, Feb. 14 (JCR) was more likely a wintering bird than an early migrant. An early Solitary Sandpiper was in Columbus, MS, Mar. 13 (TLS). Inland, Willets were concentrated in a small period, with six at Guntersville, AL, Apr. 19 (LBR); 22 Apr. 25 in Starkeville, MS (TLS, MCo), and 34 on Sardis L. about 50 mi away (GK); three in Lawrence, TN, Apr. 26 (DJS); 10 on L. Millwood, AR, Apr. 27 (CEM) and 46 at the Noxubee N.W.R. (TLS); and one again in Lawrence May 10 (DJS). The earliest Upland Sandpipers were two at Pace, Santa Rosa, FL, Mar. 15 (CWM); the most were 14 near Ogden, Little River, AR, Apr. 9 (CEM, EPr) and 13 in Perry, AL, Apr. 6 (GD & DGJ); the latest, one May 1 in Davidson, TN (JCR). A Whimbrel May 10 at the Turf Farm south of Oxford, MS (G & SK, VT), was the first for the n. half of the state; they are more common westward and on the coast, where 17 were noted on the E. Jetty, Cameron, May 6 (RDP, NNe).

Hudsonian Godwits seemed to be all over the place. They were reported in Louisiana, Apr. 12 in Cameron (HMi, CAB) and Apr. 16 in Jefferson Davis (KVR, DPa). In Florida Apr. 13–25 there was a maximum of 15 in Pensacola (RAD, OEF, m.ob.). In Arkansas there were three at Nixon Farm, Lonoke (H & MP), Apr. 14; two were near Ogden, Little River (CEM, EPr), Apr. 20; and 20 were at Centerton, Benton (JCN), May 10. In Alabama there were two on Blakely I. Apr. 16–17 (RAD, GDJ) and in Mississippi Apr. 23–24 at Eagle L., Issaquena, there were seven, for the 3rd in the state and the first inland (JAT, ph. MFH, m.ob.). More White-rumped Sandpipers than usual were reported from Mississippi, with one near Belzoni, Humphreys, Apr. 17 (MFH) and through May 21 at L. Sardis (WMD, m.ob.); late ones were at Alabama fish hatcheries June 4—three at Marion and 10 at Faunsdale (EG & RRR); at Memphis there were 24 May 28 and eight May 30 (JRW). Ten reports of Baird's Sandpiper indicated that many birders are taking long, hard looks at shorebirds. The earliest for Louisiana was Mar. 7 in Cameron (SWC), with five seen there Apr. 28 (KVR) and three at Grand I., Jefferson, May 1 (N & SN, RDP). Mississippi listed them Apr. 4 & 17, with one and six at Belzoni (MFH, TLS), and May 6, with four at Sardis L. (GK). Florida showed two at Pensacola Apr. 15–17 (PT, m.ob.) and two at Ft. Walton Beach May 2 (RAD); Alabama reported two at Blakely I. Apr. 16–23 (GDJ, A.O.S., m.ob.) and one near Decatur May 10 (AL & ADM); Tennessee listed one for Robertson pond, Lawrence, May 7 (DJS, MAB).



Adult Sharp-tailed Sandpiper in Colbert County, Alabama, April 30, 1988. First Alabama record, and one of very few spring occurrences anywhere in North America. Photo/Glen N. Piper.

Alabama listed an early Pectoral Sandpiper Mar. 6 at Wheeler N.W.R. (GD & DGJ), and Mississippi had a late one, on May 7 at Starkeville (MFH). One of the prizes of the season was the **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**, an adult seen in the Hog Pond 3 mi southeast of Muscle Shoals, AL, Apr. 30 and May 1 (ph. TH, GNP, P & DK, m.ob.). Breeding in the same part of Siberia as the Pectoral but wintering in Australia, some birds apparently get caught up with "Pec" flocks and wind up in the "States," of which Alabama is, I believe, the 17th. The 3rd **Purple Sandpiper** for Mississippi was at Moses Pier, Gulf-port Harbor, Apr. 10–20 (HSL, JAT, ph.). Good high counts of Dunlin were of 1120 at Blakely I., AL, Apr. 16 (GD & DGJ); 450 in the rice parishes, Cameron, Acadia, Vermilion, and Jefferson Davis May 6 (NNe, RDP); and 10 at Centerton Hatchery, AR, May 10 (JCN). Early Stilt Sandpipers were at the Scotland Catfish Farm, Hancock, MS, Mar. 9 (JAT, CCa, GMo) and at Anderson Minnow Farm Apr. 8 (B & PL); high counts were of 160 on Blakely I., AL, Apr. 16 (GD & DGJ) and 300 in the rice parishes (as above) May 6 (RDP, NNe). An earliest-ever Buff-breasted Sandpiper was at

Lakeland Farm, Perry, AL, Mar. 16 (ALM, GD & DGJ), and 16 late ones were at County Rd. #4, Gulf Shores, AL, Apr. 27 (AL & ADM). Two ♀ **Ruffs** were seen this spring; one Apr. 17 was at Anderson's Minnow Farm, Lonoke, AR, the 3rd for the state (B & PL); the other, 2 mi north of Kaplan, Vermilion, LA, Apr. 30 was the 4th for the state (SWC, SRo, GRo, GSh). A rather late Com. Snipe was at Muscle Shoals, AL, May 1 (GD & DGJ). The 8 Wilson's Phalarope reports may indicate a good flight: the earliest was Mar. 17 in Cameron (DMu, DBC); the most, 63 Apr. 24 in Arkadelphia, AR (D & DH, WKe); the latest, May 28 at Memphis (JRW). The only **Red Phalarope** was reported May 14 at Centerton Hatchery, for the first for n.w. Arkansas and the only spring record for the state (DAJ, MML, JCN, LAD).

Of several Franklin's Gull reports, the earliest was of Mar. 5 in Memphis (JRW), and late ones were of May 18 on Blakely I., for the 3rd spring record for the coast (TAI), and May 23 (two) & 24 in Cameron (SWC, DLD). Unusual inland was an ad. Herring Gull Mar. 18 at the Eupora Sewage Ponds, Webster, MS (TLS). A first-summer-plumaged Glaucous Gull was seen on the w. end of Dauphin I. Apr. 10–16 (JR & JP, H & CCa, m.ob.). In Alabama this species has been recorded on the coast in 10 of the years since 1971. An ad. Great Black-backed Gull was seen on Fourchons Beach Mar. 27–28 (MMY, m.ob.).

Four early Gull-billed Terns were inland at Kaplan, Vermilion, Mar. 13 (MMS, JKI). At Ft. Morgan May 17 a count of 90 Sandwich Terns with 180 Royals probably indicated those breeding on Gaillard I. in Mobile Bay (TAI). A Forster's Tern at Tennessee N.W.R. Jan. 16 was wintering (JCR); an early one was at Eupora, MS, Mar. 4 (TLS); and in Wapanocca N.W.R., Crittenden, AR, a count of nine Apr. 30 was high for spring (WMD, MFH, TLS). On the coast a few Least Terns were seen on Fourchons Rd. Apr. 4 (R & LB), but by May 18 they had built up in that area to 300 (NNe, DMu); at Navarre Beach, FL, a poorly posted Least Tern colony was regularly breached, at least on June 1, by callous sunbathers circumventing signs while ad. terns screeched protest and their eggs burned up in the hot sun (JTF, TAI). Inland, Mississippi reported birds May 9, 10, & 18 in Panola and Lafayette for only the 2nd time in spring (GK, WMD). Arkansas listed the first spring record for L. Millwood, with one May 30 (CEM, EPr); Arkadelphia, Clark, had one May 6 (B & PL) and three May 30 (H & MP); and farther east in Chicot there were 34 May 16 (DRS). A Sooty Tern at Ft. Pickens, Escambia, FL, Apr. 9 (BG) was the first in April for the Pensacola area.

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS — Reports of the Eur. Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) came from Destin, Walton, FL, where 2 pairs were present summer of 1987 through Mar. 27 (PWS, LAt, RAD, m.ob.) and from Ft. Pike, Orleans, LA, with two Apr. 24–May 15 (NNe, MMY, DMu, RDP). A single White-winged Dove was at Fourchons Rd., LA, Apr. 27 (NNe, m.ob.); one bird was at the w. end of Dauphin I. Apr. 9; and at Ft. Morgan Apr. 16–May 17, later than ever, two were seen together flying into the fort about 7 p.m. (JRP, GD & DGJ, TAI, A.O.S.). In the face of reports that Com. Ground-Doves are disappearing from some areas, it was encouraging to get a report of four May 15 from Randolph between Lineville and Wedowee, AL (DCH). A Greater Roadrunner 6 mi south-southeast of Goldonna, Winn, LA, May 7 (MMS) was just 130 mi west-southwest of Vicksburg! Six Groove-billed Anis were at Grand I., Jefferson, Mar. 6, and another was near Venice, Plaquemines, Mar. 19 (NNe, RDP, GCr). A Short-eared Owl was seen at Port Bienville Industrial Park, Hancock, MS, Mar. 25 (JAT, CCa, GMo). A N. Saw-whet Owl, apparently found injured Mar. 18–22 (MGW), was taken to the Memphis Zoo and in May was released in Ohio (fide BBC). One Lesser Nighthawk was in Cameron Apr. 24 (KVR, JMB, ph.), and another was at Grand I. Apr. 27 (DMu, m.ob.). A Com. Nighthawk in Little Rock Dec. 8, 1987 (JTB), was late—like its report. In Calcasieu and Cameron, LA, Apr. 19, 1000 Chimney Swifts formed a large, steady, diurnal migration in the morning, all flying N (KVR); and on Apr. 24 in Fayetteville, AR, 1000–2000 were seen entering a chimney at 8:20 p.m. (JCN).

A Buff-bellied Hummingbird stayed at the residence of DMu Jan 21–Apr 10. Two early Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were seen Mar. 6 at the residence of PMK in Baton Rouge, and one was seen Mar. 27 in Clarksville, TN (EJW); 40 were seen at Ft. Morgan Apr. 17 (GD & DGJ); and May 21 in Cameron one of two late migrants was seen coming in off the Gulf (KVR, TSS). An imm. ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird was seen in Pensacola Dec. 14–Mar. 5 (JPf). Two ad. ♂ **Calliope Hummingbirds** spent part of the winter near New Orleans: one at a Norco, St. Charles, residence stayed from late November through Mar. 25 (HCA, NLN banded, RSt, m.ob., tail feathers to L.S.U.M.Z.); the other was at a LaPlace, St. John, residence from January to Apr. 21, late (SNo, NLN banded, RSt, m.ob.). An ad. ♂ Rufous Hummingbird remained at the Baker residence in E. Baton Rouge to at least Apr. 15 (JEd, *fide* SWC); Bertha, a banded ad. female seen Mar. 1–26, spent her 4th consecutive winter in E. Baton Rouge; a 3rd bird, an ad. male, was in Hokes Bluff, Etowah, AL, from October 1987 to Mar. 31, 1988 (J & SK, GDJ). Norco also had a ♂ **Allen's Hummingbird**, which stayed from winter through Mar. 26 (MAY, NLN banded, RSt, m.ob., tail feathers to L.S.U.M.Z.); another Allen's, a female, at Reserve, St. John, remained through Mar. 30, late (RSt, NLN banded). Late Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers May 1 were in Cameron (SWC) and Grand I., Jefferson (N & SN, RDP).

FLYCATCHERS TO PIPITS — An early E. Wood-Pewee was in Tishomingo, MS, Apr. 9 (TLS), and 20+ were seen in Cameron May 21 (KVR, TSS). A ♀ Vermilion Flycatcher was at Ft. Walton Beach, FL, Mar. 22–27 (RAD, m.ob.). On May 8, 100+ E. Kingbirds were seen at L. Millwood, AR (CEM), and on May 21, 150 were seen at Holla Bend N.W.R., Pope (B & PL). An early Great Crested Flycatcher was in Nashville Apr. 9 (DFV). Migrant Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were noted from Apr. 24 at Jackson, MS (CCa, m.ob.), to June 5 in Franklin, LA (GLe); two nesting in Louisiana were in Tamgipahoa May 17–June 14 (CBr) and Ouchita June 9–11 (WER, TRM). An imm. **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** was seen at Ft. Morgan at midday Apr. 24, a day of strong SE winds, by an observer experienced with the species (CWS)—a first for Alabama! Two Horned Larks were seen at the Morganza Spillway, LA, Mar. 5 (DWG); and in Mississippi two adults and an immature were seen May 16 on the Turf Farm 7 mi south of Oxford, for a first “nesting” record away from the Delta (GK).

Tree Swallows were noted in Swan Creek W.M.A. May 22 near the site of previous nesting (GDJ) and at 2 sites on L. Millwood, AR, entering tree cavities and performing other possible nesting activities May 30 (12–14 birds) (CEM, EPr). In Cameron in Sabine N.W.R. 10–100 million Tree Swallows were estimated (JVR, PEh, CCu). Remsen wrote, “The aggregation was at least one mi. long, ¼ mi. wide, and 500–1000 ft. high—like a swarm of insects—more birds than I’ve ever seen in my life in one flock, by far! An amazing spectacle that made an indelible impression!” A very early N. Rough-winged Swallow was at Pace, Santa Rosa, FL, Mar. 2 (CWM); and in Loreto, Lawrence, TN, Apr. 25–26 Rough-winged here chose a semi-trailer for a nest site for the 3rd year in a row (DJS). Very late were two Bank Swallows on Santa Rosa I. near Navarre, FL, June 1 (JTF, TAI). Near Eureka Springs on Beaver L., Carroll, AR, Cliff Swallows were having trouble finding mud because of the drought, and nests were only half built as of May 30 (DAJ, EMA). The **Cave Swallow** has now reached Louisiana—but there is a question from which direction it came. Subspecies *pallida* breeds in Texas and subspecies *fulva* in Florida (see AB 41:421 for a photo near Miami of a nesting bird with dark flanks); the Alabama specimen NSNM 1987, is *fulva*, the Horn I., MS, bird unknown. Now, one to two birds have shown up at the U.S. 90 Pearl River Bridge, MS–LA, Apr. 24–May 19 (MMY, RDP ph., m.ob.) and may possibly be building a nest. Barn Swallows were early this year, with one Mar. 6 at Tchula, Holmes, MS (MFH); Mar. 7 in Hancock, MS (CCa, GMo); Mar. 10 at Bayview L., Jefferson, AL (four birds) (TAI); and Mar. 12 at Percy Priest L., TN (JCR, RLK). Fish Crows are moving upstream and inland, especially in Mississippi and Alabama: a

total of 12 in Columbus and nearby Lowndes Mar 17, one to birds at Noxubee N.W.R. Mar 22 and May 6 & 13, (MFH, TSC), at about 5 places in the Birmingham metro area, at Bayview L., Jefferson, with the earliest Mar. 17 (two), the most (10) Mar. 18 (TAI), in Shelby, Ebenezer Swamp, with one Apr. 13 (ALM, MMD).

Although few Red-breasted Nuthatches were around, they stayed late, with one at LaPlace, St. John, LA, and two through Apr. 22, the latest ever (BMA, RSt), and another at Ft. Pickens, Escambia, FL, May 7, the latest ever (BBR). A Brown Creeper in Hancock, MS, Apr. 12 was very late (JAT, m.ob.). Amazing is the bridgehead east of the Mississippi held by the Bewick's Wren in Tennessee: 2 places in Williamson, 2 in Wilson, and one each in Rutherford, Lawrence, Smith, and Stewart; one also was at L. Millwood, AR, Mar. 1 (H & MP). Lingering House Wrens were detected May 4 near Oxford, MS (WMD); in Birmingham May 2, 4, & 6 at 2 places (TAI); and in Santa Rosa, FL, May 7 (BBR). Two singing Sedge Wrens were found May 2 in Cameron (SWC, DLD). Inland Marsh Wrens were recorded Apr. 27 at Hogan Hatchery, Lonoke, AR (HeP), and May 5 at Holla Bend N.W.R. (H & MP). Migrant thrushes seemed down in Nashville (SJS). The results of the Birmingham, AL, Spring Counts may clarify below the relative and annual abundance of 12 key closely related species. In birds per party hour the first figure is the average for the 13 years 1965–1977 and the 2nd figure the birds per party hour for May 7, 1988; thus we are comparing this spring with a historic base of 11–23 years in the past.

Carolina Wren	1.37–1.4
Eastern Bluebird	0.316–1.87
Gray-cheeked Thrush	0.012–0.053
Hermit Thrush	0.007–0.0
American Robin	2.82–2.38
Northern Mockingbird	2.47–2.87
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	0.828–0.802
Veery	0.827–0.061
Swainson's Thrush	0.068–0.145
Wood Thrush	1.21–0.435
Gray Catbird	0.329–0.511
Brown Thrasher	0.778–0.924

How much do we know about the birds that nest in our backyard? An Am. Robin singing on the U.S.L. campus in Lafayette Apr. 16 may be a new local breeder (KVR). A Gray Catbird Mar. 25 in Davidson, TN (MLM), was very early; and one at Grand I. May 29 (RDP) was at the only nesting site for s.e. Louisiana for the last 2 years. The 3rd Sage Thrasher for the Pensacola area was in an R.V. campground on Santa Rosa I. near Navarre Mar. 26–29, found by Californians (BHo, CTh, m.ob.). Also in Davidson was a very late Water Pipit May 1 (JCR).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — A very early White-eyed Vireo was in Nashville Mar. 6 (DFV). Bell's Vireo was reported from Dauphin I. Apr. 9 (RWH) and twice in Arkansas, at Holla Bend N.W.R. May 5 (H & MP) and in Pulaski May 7 (WMS, RLa). Solitary Vireos were considered late, on Apr. 24 in Cameron (TSS) and Apr. 28 in Choctaw, MS (TLS), yet about a month later, on May 20, in Oakland Cemetery, Birmingham, one was seen and heard singing (TAI), and on May 30 in Bee Branch, Sipse Wilderness, Lawrence, two birds were seen (BG, HHK), the species may very well be breeding at several places in Alabama—we have many suspicions, but no proof. Philadelphia Vireos were reasonably common near Birmingham this spring (TAI, GDJ, PHF), and the latest of several in Cameron was there May 21 (KVR). Black-whiskered Vireos were reported from Ft. Pickens, FL, Apr. 11 (RLB); Ft. Morgan, AL, Apr 25 & 28 (GDJ, ALM); and Grand I., LA, May 18 (DMu, NNe).

In E. Jetty Woods, Cameron, both a “Brewster's” and a “Lawrence's” were seen May 2 (SWC). Golden-winged War-

blers were found Apr. 3 (an early female) at Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa, FL (RL & JWB); Apr. 30 in Cherry Bend, Franklin, AR (JCN); and May 5 in Hot Springs, Garland (B & PL). Orange-crowned Warblers were late in Lawrence, TN, Apr. 23 (DJS) and latest ever at Ft. Morgan Apr. 26 (GDJ). Nashville Warblers were in Choctaw, MS, Apr. 28 and May 5 (TLS) and in Winn, LA, Apr. 30 (MMS). Late Chestnut-sided Warblers were two May 23 and one May 24 in Cameron (SWC, DLD), and 15 Magnolia Warblers were seen there May 22–24 (SWC, DLD). Rarer westward, two Cape May Warblers were seen in Cameron Apr. 24 and May 1 (JMB, DMu, m.ob.) and two in Arkansas, at Hot Springs May 4 (B & PL) and L. Millwood May 8 (CEM). The only Black-throated Blue Warbler listed was a female Apr. 23 at Grand I., Jefferson (CSO, A & GS). Also on May 23 in Cameron there were two late Blackburnians (SWC, DLD). An early *albilora* Yellow-throated Warbler was in Cameron Mar. 8 (DLD, SWC). A Pine Warbler, rare on the coast out of habitat, was noted Apr. 30 in Cameron (DMu). A Prairie Warbler, a possible rare local breeder, was heard May 29 in *W. Feliciana* (PMK, MBu). A better than normal Palm Warbler flight was shown by an early bird Mar. 12 in Winston, MS (TLS), and 3 records in Arkansas, in Clark Apr. 22 & 29 (H & MP) and Boone May 9 (two) (JAR, Mmi) and in Davidson June 4 a very late one (DFV). Two Bay-breasted Warblers were early, one Apr. 17 in *E. Baton Rouge* (JVR, JBa, AKo) and one Apr. 18 in *Rutherford*, TN (TJW), yet two late females (*L.S.U.M.Z.) were in Cameron May 23. Three late ♂ Blackpoll Warblers were one in *St. John*, LA, May 14; one in Cameron May 23 (DLD, SWC); and one in Gulf Breeze, FL, May 26 (RL & JWB).

Seven Am. Redstarts, "probably the largest breeding colony in the parish," were counted May 1 along the Comite R., *E. Baton Rouge* (PMK); 19 late migrants were counted May 22–24 in Cameron (SWC, DLD). An early Prothonotary Warbler was in Bay St. Louis, *Hancock*, MS, Mar. 3 (*vide* LSc). Swainson's Warblers were reported as widespread in the same bottomland streamside thickets as last year (only incidentally came) with a high count of nine in the same place and date as the redstarts above (PMK) and four in the Berlin area in *Ashley*, AR, May 23–26 (JCN, DAJ); one bird was present at Bayview L., *Jefferson*, AL, from Apr. 4 (very early) to June 23. At Tensaw River N.W.R., LA, late Ovenbirds were seen May 26 & 28 (PMu). A very late N. Waterthrush May 28 in *Panola*, MS, was in Louisiana habitat (WMD). Late Louisiana Waterthrushes were south of the breeding range at Gulfport May 20 (JAT) and in Cameron May 21 (KVR). A ♂ Connecticut Warbler was seen in *Stewart*, TN, May 14 (JCR). Twelve Hooded Warblers were seen in Cameron Mar. 13 (PMK, AMe), and 25 males were noted arriving in the rain in *Hancock*, MS, Mar. 25 (JAT, Gmo, CCa). Wilson's Warblers were found Mar. 20 in *Terrebonne*, LA (RBe); Mar. 31 in *Pensacola* (six) (KWr); May 7 at Ft. Pickens, FL (latest ever) (BBr), and in *Birmingham* (two) (DEF, EGR); May 10 in *Winn*, LA (two males) (MMS); May 11 in *Birmingham* (a female) (TAI); May 12 in *Webster*, MS (TLS); and May 13, 17 & 22, a male each date, in *Lafayette*, MS (WMD, GK). The March records may refer to wintering birds, the May ones to migrants. A Canada Warbler was rare Apr. 30 at *Wapanocca* N.W.R., AR (WMD, MFH, TLS). A count of 58 Yellow-breasted Chats May 30 was a 9-year high for the *D'Iberville* B.B.S. route (JAT); a singing migrant was detected in *Oakland Cemetery*, *Birmingham*, June 15 (TAI).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES — On Apr. 8 an early ♂ Summer Tanager was at *Archer I.*, *Chicot*, AR (NHe), and an early Scarlet near *Walthall*, *Webster*, MS (TLS). In *Birmingham* 81 Summer Tanagers and 38 Scarlet Tanagers were counted May 7, which was typical of the proportion of migrants here between the 2 species. Four W. Tanagers included a male Apr. 14 at *Biloxi*, MS (MBa); a female at *Ft. Morgan* Apr. 16 (KWr, JPF); another on *Dauphin I.* Apr. 17 (LRD); and a male south of *Oxford*, MS, Apr. 19 (GK). A ♀ Black-headed Grosbeak was at a *Biloxi* feeder Apr. 27 (J & GP, *vide* JAT, ph.). A first-year ♂ Blue Grosbeak was at a feeder in *Gum Springs*, *Clark*, AR, Feb. 17,

19, & 21 (BLe, W & DG). A **Lazuli Bunting**, an adequately described first-year male, seen at a feeder in *Oxford*, *Lafayette*, MS, Mar. 28, had been present 2 weeks and provided a first state record (G & SK, M & MD, BBR). An Indigo Bunting Apr. 10 in *Tishomingo* S.P., MS, was early (TLS), and one in *Cameron* May 23 was late (DLD, SWC). A ♂ Painted Bunting near *Deerfield*, *Lawrence*, TN, May 7 was a first for Middle Tennessee (DJS, MAB); and two singing males on *Blakely I.* May 18 were probably locally breeding where the species is a rare breeder (TAI). A Dickcissel was seen Apr. 20 in *Orleans* (DMu, NNe), and 20+ were in a mulberry Apr. 27 at *Fourchons Rd.* and *Grand I.* (RDP); seven males and two females were east of *Reserve*, *St. John*, in April and May and had two nests, but the fields were plowed and the birds disappeared; four more were discovered in *W. Feliciana* in a large weedy field May 29 (PMK, MBu). On *Mt. Nebo*, *Yell*, AR, the Rufous-crowned Sparrow was noted Apr. 30 (WMD, MFH, TSc), with two May 21 (B & PL), and on May 21 it was determined that apparently only one territory is there (DAJ, JCN). Six Grasshopper Sparrow reports Apr. 17–May 20 included a maximum of six Apr. 30 at *Wapanocca* N.W.R., AR (WMD, MFH, TLS). Latest for the *Baton Rouge* area was a *Le Conte's* Sparrow Apr. 21 at *Manchac Pt.*, *Iberville* (SWC). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was in *Shelby Bottoms*, *Davidson*, TN, May 1 (JCR, DJS), and in *Cameron* seven were present May 2 (SRo, CWo, CSp) with two or three there May 6 (NN). A *Lincoln's* Sparrow was banded Apr. 18 at *Ft. Pickens*, FL (TK), and a very late one was in *Johnson's Bayou*, *Cameron*, May 23 (SWC). Swamp Sparrows remained until May 2 in *Cameron* (SWC, DLD, JVR) and until May 19 at *Beat Creek* W.M.A., *Stewart*, TN (JCR). A *Harris* Sparrow was in *Magnolia*, *Columbia*, AR, Mar. 23 (PGr, EL, SLL). A late Dark-eyed Junco was in *Starkeville*, *Oktibbeha*, Apr. 15 (TLS).

A maximum of 500 Bobolinks was at *Holla Bend* N.W.R., *Pope*, AR, May 5 (H & MP); and a late bird was near *Molino*, *Escambia*, FL, May 31 (TAI). Western Meadowlarks included one Mar. 5 at *Cross Creeks* N.W.R. (JCR, DWB); one in *Arkadelphia*, AR, Mar. 6 (H & MP); and two near *Belzoni*, MS, Apr. 1, 4, & 10 (MFH, TLS). A host of Yellow-headed Blackbirds included 10 in *Arkansas*, in *Washington*, *Garland*, and *Little River* Mar. 12–Apr. 24 (RAB, B & PL, CMi), and 11 in *Louisiana* in *Cameron*, *Calcasieu*, and *Jefferson* Apr. 16–May 1 (S & DG, KVR, CTi, JRu, PWa). The Great-tailed Grackle seems to be expanding eastward; a bird on May 21 in *Caddo* represented the 4th for the *Shreveport* area (SKI, HHJ); a male (with a possible female nearby) Apr. 16 in n.e. *Monroe* (JTB) was only 70 mi west of *Vicksburg*; and a male near *Clifty*, *Madison*, May 2 was the farthest east of recent n.w. *Arkansas* records (DAJ, EA). *Ft. Morgan* seems like an ideal place for Boat-tailed Grackles, yet the first known to this writer was reported for Apr. 29 (GD & DG, MLM). The Bronzed Cowbird continued to expand in *St. John*, with dozens throughout the period in *Reserve* and *LaPlace* (the first noted over 10 years ago) (RSt, MWe); a male was in *Ft. Pike*, *Rigolets*, *Orleans*, May 4–11 (DMu); in *Hancock*, MS, there were males at *Kiln* Mar. 6–10 (RRu) and at the *Pearl River Bridge* May 20, for the 3rd year there (JAT, JRP). One major host of this cowbird, *Orchard Oriole*, was reported in good numbers, with 50 at *Ft. Morgan* Apr. 17 (GD & DG). Ten N. "Baltimore" Orioles were listed in *Iberville* and *E. Baton Rouge* May 28 (JVR, CCu); a "Bullock's" was at the feeder of DMu Feb. 4–Apr. 9.

As many as six House Finches were at *Pensacola* feeders Jan. 11–May 13 (JPF, KWr, ASp, LGo, m.ob.) (only one prior record); a female was at a feeder in *Hancock*, MS, Apr. 3 (RRu), and several were at *Starkeville* through May 31 (*vide* TLS); at least 200 pairs were breeding in suburban *Birmingham* (TAI, B.A.S.), 10 within a mile of TAI's feeder; a female was in *L. Chicot* S.P., AR, Apr. 19 (DRS, JES); three males and two females were at the *JRe* feeder in *Abbeville*, *Vermilion*, LA, Mar. 24 (BFo, JWh, ph.), less than 30 mi from the Gulf and 70 mi west of the *Mississippi*. *Pine Siskins* had their biggest invasion in memory and remained into early May in many places even on the coast, for example, to May 19 at *Slidell*, LA (PSi), and

to May 27 at Gulf Breeze, FL (JW & RLB) Inland, four were at Little Rock through May 30 (AO), where courtship feeding was thought possible breeding, and in Birmingham, 346 were counted May 7 (B.A.S.); apparently with the rich diet of sunflower seeds the birds were soon ready to migrate—fat deposits were noted during banding—and the last two birds were seen May 14 (RRR, MGS). Twelve Evening Grosbeaks were still at Starkeville Mar. 26 (DIn, TLS), and around Birmingham birds were present at 4 feeders into April, with the latest 2 pairs Apr. 25 at Willow Pond Farm, Shelby (MB).

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PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

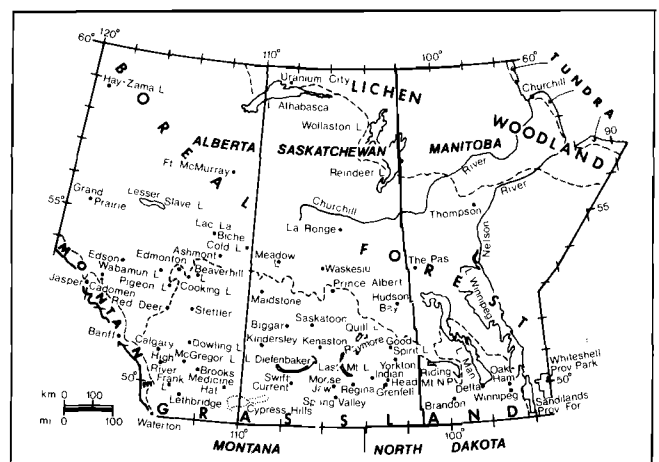
Bernard Gollop

March 1988 was mild across the southern Prairie Provinces—2° to 6°C above normal. Numerous daily high temperature records were set March 8–20; the end of the month was cool. Precipitation was down in the first half of the month, but rain and snow in the second half brought the monthly averages to normal and twice normal. April was also warmer than usual by 2° to 4°C in most of the Region, with more daily records being set in the middle of the month. Precipitation, however, was 25% to 75% below normal. Winnipeg received only 2% of normal. In May, temperatures were again 2° to 4°C above average, and rain in much of Alberta and Saskatchewan was 10% to 25% of normal; Manitoba ranged from 75% to 200% of average. By the end of spring the pattern for drought was well established, giving parts of the southern Prairies seven to nine months of above-normal temperatures and much of southern Alberta and Saskatchewan their ninth consecutive month of below-normal precipitation. High winds were also characteristic of the period.

In the southern half of the Prairies the number of ponds in May 1988 was down 39% from last year in Alberta and 26% in Saskatchewan. In Manitoba, in contrast, it was up 28% (U.S.F.W.S., C.W.S.). Many good birding wetlands around cities in the two western provinces were dry. Monica Slough and Buck Lake near Regina had not been dry in at least 50 years. Old Wives, Big Muddy, Chaplin, Twelve Mile, and Willowbunch lakes were also dry.

Many species arrived early and many transients left early. In southern Manitoba, Snow Geese left in late April, their usual arrival time; warblers were early, and several species set record arrival dates. In the Regina area 22 species (17 nonpasserines) had the earliest dates ever reported

LOONS TO CRANES — A scattering of 25 Com. Loons on nonbreeding wetlands in a 400-km drive through s. Saskatchewan Apr. 24 suggested that migration was near its peak (SS)



as did a concentration of at least 530 Red-necked Grebes at Oak Hammock Apr 24 (RK). At least two **Clark's Grebes** were reported in each province (RP, TR, TDo, RBa, GW). There was only one White-faced Ibis reported, at Tyrrell L. near Lethbridge May 28 (TDo).

There was a heavy migration of about 8000 dark geese over Saskatoon 6:30–7:30 a.m. Apr. 11 (WK). An exceptionally large flock of 50,000± Snow Geese was east of the species' usual route at Beausejour, 35 km northeast of Winnipeg in April (PT). Based on air and ground counts, breeding Canada Geese increased significantly in the s. Prairies (U.S.F.W.S., C.W.S.). On Wascana L., Regina, a ♂ Wood Duck was courting a ♀ Mallard Apr. 24 (FL). Green-winged Teal peaked at >2000 on Wolf L., 110 km east of Calgary Apr. 24 (RD). Systematic surveys showed that N. Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, and Gadwall populations were down in each of the provinces. American Wigeon were up in all 3 (U.S.F.W.S., C.W.S.). Cinnamon Teal continued to increase across the s. Prairies; there were well over 50 pairs on Cypress L., SK, May 20–23, almost equaling the number of Blue-winged Teal (SS). Eurasian Wigeon were more common in n. Alberta with 5 reports in April and May (KL). Greater Scaup are being identified more often and in larger numbers in the Region; the largest flocks were of >30 at Condie Reserve, north of Regina, Apr. 12 (BKr) and of 25 northeast of Calgary Apr. 20 (RBe).

At least 30 active Ferruginous Hawk nests were found in s w Manitoba, a surprising increase, possibly related to drought conditions farther west (KDS). The Golden Eagle migration peaked at 139 birds Mar. 27 near Turner Valley in the foothills southeast of Calgary (RWe). Gray Partridge and Ring-necked Pheasants increased noticeably in s. Saskatchewan (PC), and Ruffed Grouse populations in s. Manitoba were the highest in years (RK). Of 81 Sharp-tailed Grouse leks surveyed between 1962 and 1973 around Saskatoon, only 30 were still occupied in 1988 with an average of 10 birds each, down from 15 in the earlier count (JW). American Coots more than doubled their numbers over last year in the s. Prairies (U.S.F.W.S., C.W.S.). Twenty-two of 46 confirmed Whooping Cranes reported in Saskatchewan were banded. Whoopers were noted Apr. 11–May 14 (BJ).

SHOREBIRDS TO OWLS — Shorebird numbers were down in s. Manitoba (RK) and Alberta (JS). In Saskatchewan, based on a survey of one-third of the lake (73,000 birds), there were >150,000 shorebirds on Big Quill L. May 14 (WH). On May 28 a rare **Snowy Plover** was found for the 2nd year on Big Quill L., where the largest concentration of Piping Plover also occurred—68 on May 21 (WH). There were 2 reports of single Black-necked Stilts north of their range in Saskatchewan: May 14 at the n. end of Last Mountain L. (DD) and May 15 & 16 at Buffalo Pound L. (PK, SW). Five of 6 records of Whimbrels involved four to seven birds; two were from Alberta May 15 (RD, TDo) and three from Saskatchewan May 15–28 (DW, WH). A W Sandpiper (written description) near Saskatoon May 17 was the province's 10th (JW). Canada's first documented **Rock Sandpiper** east of British Columbia was found May 13 & 15 on Pelican L., Caron, SK. The bird was in breeding plumage and carefully described (CB, MB, BKr, TH, PC). Two species with fewer than 5 Saskatchewan records each were also found: A **Ruff**, on Big Quill L. May 14 (WH) and an **American Woodcock**, identified by call and song, in Duck Mountain P.P. May 21 (BKr). Red-necked Phalaropes totaled 29,000± on Big Quill L. May 28 (WH).

Manitoba's 5th **Laughing Gull** record was of a single bird at Oak Hammock May 28 (GG, GH, PH). Single **Iceland Gulls** were found in the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Calgary, Mar. 26 (RT) and Saskatoon Apr. 4 (BG); for each province there are fewer than 10 records. Four **Arctic Terns** (with a description) were Alberta rarities May 24 at Namaka L., Strathmore (RBa). The only concentration of Snowy Owls was of 11 birds in 20 km between Riceton and Lewvan, southeast of Regina Apr. 2 (JQ). Burrowing Owls, a threatened species, increased from 6 pairs last year to 10 in 1988 on the "Hobby [Pony] Farm" just

outside Regina (PC). The only concentration of Short-eared Owls greater than three was at Churchill, where there were 15 on May 21 (BCh). A single Long-eared Owl was reported, at the n. end of Last Mountain L. Apr. 23 (BD).

FLYCATCHERS TO SHRIKES — Lone W. Wood-Pewees were east of their normal breeding range May 19 at Winnipeg and May 27 at Rennie, near the Ontario border (GH, m.ob.). Manitoba's 4th **Violet-green Swallow** was a single bird May 14 at Oak Hammock (RK, RP). Barn Swallows at Melfort were reportedly having trouble getting mud to stick and have their nests stay in place (FM). The first Chestnut-backed Chickadees east of the mountains were two found in Calgary Apr. 22 (JT). A Red-breasted Nuthatch in Regina built its nest in a bird box, a unusual occurrence (BE). Winter Wrens are seldom detected on migration, but lone birds were found Apr. 9 in Cypress Hills P.P. (BKo) and May 18 in Regina (FL, BKr). Two **Northern Wheatears** at Churchill—a female May 27 and a male May 29—gave the Region its first confirmed records (TDe, G & MO, B & ACh). A snowstorm concentrated 24 Mt. Bluebirds in a backyard at Caron, SK, Mar. 28 (MA). Spotted Thrushes apparently showed up poorly in migration, but there was one exceptional concentration: >20 Gray-cheeked Thrushes and >80 Swainson's Thrushes May 18 in Regina (TR, TH). At Spring Valley, Flossie Bogdan "made mud for the robins" to keep them from digging wet soil from her bedding plants. Loggerhead Shrikes were well distributed, in Saskatchewan at least.

VIREOS TO FINCHES — Churchill added Solitary Vireo to its list when one bird was seen May 22 (BCh, GM). The warbler migration in s. Manitoba was early, spectacular, and the best in years. The peaks were May 2, 3, 7, & 14–19 (RK). A Townsend's Warbler was reported without description from Weyburn, SK (RBe). Saskatchewan's first confirmed **Prothonotary Warbler** was studied by many observers May 9, 10, 11, & 18 in Regina (FL, ph. CB, FB, BKr, m.ob.). An Ovenbird at Churchill May 28 was far north of its range (BCh, G & MO). A **Summer Tanager** May 17–20 was a Manitoba rarity near Reston (BCo, KC). A brief description apparently fitted a pair of Blue Grosbeaks near Pipestone, MB, May 2 (AB).

Flocks of at least 200 Chipping and 150 Clay-colored sparrows remained in Regina May 6–16 (TH, PC, TR). In s. Manitoba, Lark Buntings were more common than they have been for 20 years, possibly moving E with Ferruginous Hawks because of drought (RWA). A male was also found around May 20 farther north in Saskatchewan than ever before; it was caught in a pulp mill shed near Besnard L., northwest of La Ronge (GB). Also unusual for its size was a flock of 200± Harris' Sparrows near Balmoral, MB, in May (CT). A May 7 count of 460± Smith's Longspurs in flocks of up to 35 at the n. end of Last Mountain L. was high for this region (WH). Snow Buntings peaked on Apr. 26 with 28,000 north of Humboldt, SK (BJ). Churchill had what may have been its first Bobolink May 30 (BCh). On Apr 10 there was a concentration of 500± Rosy Finches near Jumping Pound Cr., southwest of Cochrane, AB (JS). A **House Finch** appeared near Altona in May; there are fewer than 10 records for Manitoba (MK).

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Gordon Berkey

By the time this appears in print, you will have read (and probably experienced) far too much of the great heat wave and drought of 1988. The northern Great Plains, in the center of the continent, was undoubtedly the hardest-hit area. Estimates of dry wetlands ranged as high as 50%; outlook for nesting waterfowl looked the worst since the 1930s. Spring brought generally clear skies, strong southeast winds, and many dust storms. Observers mentioned difficulty seeing birds in blowing dust. The lack of moisture was emphasized when a cold front in early April brought a temperature drop of 30°F but not a single cloud (except, of course, for dust). With clear skies and prevailing southeasterly winds, birds tended to move quickly northward.

Despite the open weather, there were not an inordinate number of earliest-ever arrivals; numbers of birds, particularly of passerines, were generally disappointing. For the intrepid observer willing to brave the dust storms there were, however, a few inducements. With so little wetland nesting habitat and with few flooded agricultural fields, waterfowl were concentrated in a few spots, giving rise to many record peak counts in North Dakota. The lack of flooded fields also concentrated shorebirds at receding lakes and sloughs. In addition to the good peaks of waterfowl and shorebirds, there were some surprising concentrations of sparrows.

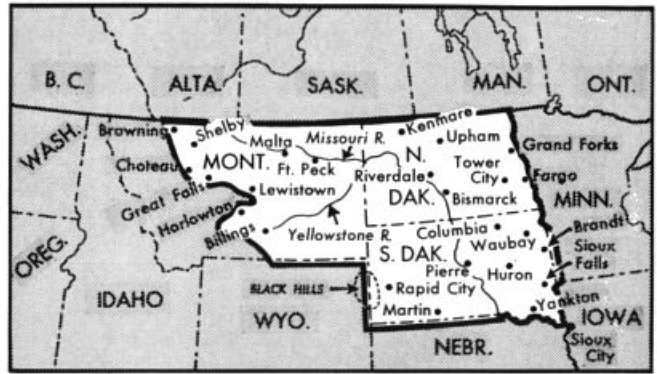
Great-tailed Grackle provided a possible first state record for South Dakota, and several other rare species were sighted.

LOONS TO HERONS — A Montana survey of Com. Loons turned up a peak of 92 at Nelson Res. Apr. 26. Earliest-ever North Dakota arrival dates for grebes were Horned Grebe Apr. 2 at Fargo (BK, ties previous) and Eared Grebe Mar. 27 at Long Lake N.W.R. (MWG). Highest-ever spring peaks for grebes were of 90 Red-neckeds at the Grand Forks lagoons Apr. 22 and 2000 Eareds at Bowman-Haley Res., ND, Apr. 30. An early Red-necked Grebe nest was in Bottineau, ND, May 15. The hundreds of W. Grebes on L. Sakakawea, ND, May 30 (BH), which is late for migration, were probably displaced from nesting sites by low water. There were five Clark's Grebes, including 2 apparent pairs, at Medicine Lake N.W.R., MT, May 11 (CC); 3 other observations of the species were received from Montana and North Dakota.

Ten Am. White Pelicans at Upper Souris N.W.R., ND, Mar. 30 represented another earliest arrival. A Least Bittern was a rare find at Kelly's Slough N.W.R., ND, May 25 (DL). Snowy Egret arrived very early in Minnehaha, SD, Apr. 10, and at least 15 were at the nesting colony at Minnewaukan, ND, by May 25. Green-backed Heron appeared May 20 at Audubon N.W.R. in w. North Dakota for the 2nd consecutive spring (DGP). The earliest state Black-crowned Night-Heron dates were set Mar. 26 in Faulk, SD (JDW), and Mar. 29 at Upper Souris, ND (DA); this species already had young in the nest at Minnewaukan by May 25. White-faced Ibis arrived Apr. 18 at Bowdoin N.W.R., MT, where they are an abundant nester (KS); two at Hettinger, ND, May 1 (ph., C & DG) tied for the earliest state arrival.

WATERFOWL TO CRANES — Flooded fields near Larimore, ND, the first week in April drew peaks of 6500 Whistling Swans, 250 White-fronted Geese, and 50,000 Snow Geese; the numbers were unprecedented for Grand Forks (DL). A peak of 200,000 Snow Geese were in Codington, SD, Mar. 29 (BH). Canada Geese peaked at 20,000 at Upper Souris Apr. 1.

A Wood Duck in Yankton, SD, Mar. 2 was the earliest ever for the state, and the earliest North Dakota brood was at Kelly's



Slough May 19. A massive grounding of ducks in the vicinity of Upper Souris Apr. 9 produced new state spring highs of 1600 Green-winged Teal, 5000 Gadwalls, 2500 Canvasbacks, and 20,000 Lesser Scaup (GB). The new peaks of 3000 Blue-winged Teal at Upper Souris May 1 and 5000 N. Shovelers at the Minot lagoons in early May seemed related to a lack of nesting habitat. Additional peaks of divers included 1500 Ring-neckeds Apr. 16 and 350 Com. Goldeneyes Apr. 1 at Arrowwood N.W.R., 200 Buffleheads at Grand Forks Apr. 22, and 2000 Ruddy's at the Minot lagoons May 14. A ♂ Eur. Wigeon at C.M. Russell N.W.R. Apr. 12 (BF) was a rare sighting for e. Montana. The first-ever spring Surf Scoter for South Dakota was seen in Yankton Apr. 1 (WH). Oldsquaws are also infrequent in this Region in spring, but four were seen: one was at the Grand Forks lagoons Apr. 7 (EF) & 11; another was at the same location Apr. 22; one was in Perkins, SD, Apr. 27 (C & DG); and another was on the very late date of May 20 at Audubon (CH).

Peak Bald Eagle numbers in Montana were 40 (25 adults, 15 immatures) at Medicine L. Mar. 30 and 33 (8 adults, 25 immatures) at Bowdoin N.W.R. Apr. 1. A peak count of 30 migrating N. Harriers were fighting strong NW winds at Upper Souris Apr. 9. Ground-nesting gallinids normally do well during dry periods, and Gray Partridge, Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed and Sharp-tailed grouse, and Wild Turkey were all mentioned as increasing by one or more observers. American Coots wintered at Ft. Peck, MT, for a new latilong wintering record. Three imm. Whooping Cranes were far west in Badlands N.P., SD, May 1 (MAG). Four adults and one immature arrived in McLean, ND, Apr. 15; the adults departed Apr. 18, but the immature remained until May 8.

SHOREBIRDS — Piping Plovers arrived Apr. 12 on nesting territory at Nelson Res., MT (DMP), and first latilong records were obtained for L30 (LM) and L31 (PW). Earliest-ever shorebird arrivals for South Dakota were Piping Plover in Jackson Apr. 13 (KG) and Pectoral Sandpiper in Day Mar. 29; earliest for North Dakota were Am. Avocet at Grand Forks Apr. 6, Hudsonian Godwit in Eddy Apr. 14 (RJ), 15 Sanderlings at Audubon Apr. 12 (SJS), and Long-billed Dowitcher in Sheridan Apr. 13 (JF). Marbled Godwits normally proceed straight to nesting habitats in spring, but this year more were gathered in flocks; the peak daily count of 106 in several n.c. North Dakota locations Apr. 23 was a new state high. The concentration of White-rumped Sandpipers at McKenzie Slough in Burleigh, ND, reached 3500 May 22, and Wilson's Phalaropes peaked at 1500 at the Minot lagoons May 6.

Black-necked Stilts arrived on nesting territory at Bowdoin Apr. 16 (DP); two were at J. Clark Salyer N.W.R. Apr. 29 (GE) in North Dakota, where the species is still rare. Single Whimbrels were at Medicine L. May 18 (SM) and at Audubon May 23 (DGP). Additional Red Knot sightings were of five at J. Clark Salyer May 23 (AV); 10 at Rugby, ND, May 26; five at Bowdoin May 13; and one at Medicine L. May 15 (MB).

S.A.

The rising waters of Devils L. have flooded much land in the last few years; this spring receding waters produced extensive mud flats. On May 21, Minnewaukan Bay of Devils L. held approximately 12,000 shorebirds in one mi of shoreline. A "Big Day" was put on hold for 2 hours to estimate totals for several species; no doubt many more were in the immediate area. New North Dakota spring peaks were of 1500 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 400 Least Sandpipers, an incredible 5500 Dunlin, 2600 Stilt Sandpipers, and 70 Short-billed Dowitchers. Also present were 43 Semipalmated Plovers, 420 Hudsonian Godwits, and 17 Red Knots (RM, GB).

GULLS TO WAXWINGS — Earliest-ever gull dates for South Dakota were provided by California Gull in Day Mar. 29 and Herring Gull in Brookings Mar. 2; 100 Californias were feeding on winter-killed fish at Arrowwood Mar. 24. The six Forster's Terns at Williston, ND, Apr. 10 (LP) yielded a new earliest state date. A Least Tern at Hettinger, ND, May 29 (C & DG) was approximately 80 mi from nesting habitat on the Missouri R.; there are very few sightings away from the river. Early cuckoos were Black-billed in Brookings, SD, May 4 (RK) and Yellow-billed at Fargo, ND (GN), and Arrowwood (PV) May 19. A Red-bellied Woodpecker was still present in Fargo May 13 (CB). Red-naped Sapsucker, common in the Lewistown, MT, area, arrived Apr. 30 (LM); Malone rates Yellow-bellieds as occasional to rare there. Pileated Woodpeckers continued to increase in n.e. South Dakota.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Brookings, SD, May 16 provided a new earliest state date. Earliest flycatcher arrivals in North Dakota were of Alder Flycatcher at Fargo May 7 and Willow Flycatcher at Hettinger May 8; a Willow at Westby, MT, just over the North Dakota border, was extremely early May 3 (TN). An E. Phoebe at Fargo Mar. 24 (GN) provided the first-ever March observation in the state. Purple Martin in Gregory, SD, Mar. 27 (GS) furnished an earliest state date. The peak of Cliff Swallows was of 1500 at Fargo May 22. A spring concentration of 80 Black-billed Magpies at Upper Souris Apr. 1 was above normal. An Am. Crow nest at Fargo Apr. 11 was the earliest ever for North Dakota.

The earliest North Dakota Rock Wren arrival was Apr. 19 at Grassy Butte (JH). Observations of **Sedge Wrens** in the Westby, MT, area May 8 and June 2 were the 7th and 8th for the state; the latter was of a pair apparently on nesting territory (TN). An increase in Sedge Wrens, apparently drought related, has occurred in n.w. North Dakota. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Edmunds, SD, May 7 (JDW) was northwest of the normal range. Over 2000 Am. Robins were in Grand Forks during a fallout of passerines Apr. 22. A N. Mockingbird near Hettinger, ND, Apr. 12 (C & DG) set another earliest state date, and a pair was at J. Clark Salyer May 13 (WB). Waves of Bohemian Waxwings moved through n.w. North Dakota in early April, reaching a peak of 5000 in Minot Apr. 7.

WARBLERS TO FINCHES — Earliest-ever warbler dates were set for Chestnut-sided Warbler May 6 in Minnehaha, SD (AH), and Blackburnian at Fargo May 2 (MAB, ties previous). Numbers of warblers were generally low, exceptions being the 360 Yellow-rumped in Ward, ND, May 1 and the 100 Palm Warblers at Fargo May 5. A ♂ **Townsend's Warbler** at Hettinger, ND, May 10 (ph., C & DG) provided the 3rd state observation. Unusual for the South Dakota locations were Prothonotary Warbler in Deuel May 2 (BH) and Worm-eating Warbler in Perkins May 7 (GH). The 4th and 5th North Dakota records for **Kentucky Warbler** were in Fargo May 19 (GN) and Minot May 20 (RM).

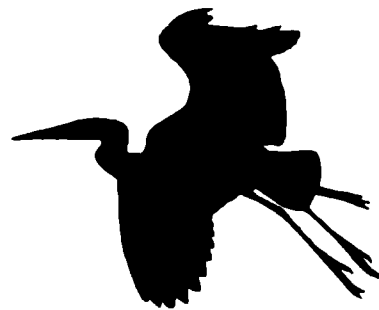
Summer Tanagers were unusual in Minnehaha, SD, May 20 (AH) and at Fargo May 15 (LF). A pair of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at Marmath, ND, May 14 was west of the nesting range. Dickcissels in Nelson, ND, May 30 (DK) and Grand Forks May

31 gave a hint of the northward invasion of the species that would take place. A Blue Grosbeak was at Long Lake N W R May 22 (KJ). Forty Lark Buntings in Kidder, ND, May 29 were an early indication of an eastward invasion of the species. Some good peaks of sparrows in the Minot, ND, area bucked the trend of low passerine numbers. There were 850 Am. Tree Sparrows in McLean Mar. 26; 100 Song Sparrows at Upper Souris and 1600 Dark-eyed Juncos in Ward Apr. 9; and 150 each of Vesper and Lincoln's, 275 White-throateds, and 110 White-crowns at Upper Souris May 1. The Fox Sparrow in Brookings, SD, Mar. 15 (NH) tied for the earliest state arrival. A **Golden-crowned Sparrow** at Bowdoin May 13–15 (KS) was one of few for Montana. Chestnut-collared Longspur arrived rather early in Ward Mar. 27 and was generally on territory in early April, about one to 2 weeks ahead of schedule.

The E. Meadowlark Mar. 1 in Brookings was the earliest ever for South Dakota (CS). An **Eastern Meadowlark** first discovered May 22 in Grand Forks, ND (DL), remained on territory into July but was apparently unpaired in the midst of many pairs of Westerns. Although the bird occasionally gave a typical Western song, it always gave the Eastern call note and had less yellow on the face. The first state **Great-tailed Grackle**, under review by the South Dakota records committee, was in Yankton, SD, May 14 (SVS).

A pair of House Finches was seen frequently in Fargo, where the first North Dakota nesting occurred last year (m.ob.). A tremendous spruce cone crop induced **White-winged Crossbills** to remain to nest in North Dakota for the 2nd time; the first was in Minot in 1985. Very young birds were seen in Mandan Apr. 30 (RH) and in Minot Apr. 28 and May 5 (GB), birds were last seen in Minot May 22. Nine late White-wingeds were also present in Devils L. May 21 and probably nested there.

OBSERVERS (area compilers in boldface) — MONTANA: Martin Bray, **Charles Carlson**, Bob Flores, Larry Malone, Stephen Martin, Ted Nordhagen, Dwain M. Prellwitz, Karen Stutzman, Phil Wright. NORTH DAKOTA: Duane Anderson, Mary A. Bergan, William Berg, **Gordon Berkey**, Connie Brakke, Gary Eslinger, Larry Falk, Joseph Fontaine, Eve Freeberg, Mike W. Goos, Carolyn & David Griffiths, Kenneth Johnson, Robert Johnson, Randy Hill, Bernice Houser, Craig Hultberg, Bob Kloubec, Don Kubischta, **David Lambeth**, Ron Martin, Gary Nielsen, Leroy Phillips, David G. Potter, Sally J. Sovey, Paul Van Ningen, Anna Vos. SOUTH DAKOTA: Marjorie A. Glass, Ken Graupman, Willis Hall, Bruce Harris, Gertrude Hinds, Augie Hoeger, Nelda Holden, Richard Kieckhefer, Catherine Sandell, **Dennis Skadsen**, Steve Van Sickle, J. David Williams. — **GORDON BERKEY**, Div. of Sci., Minot State Univ., Minot, ND 58701.



SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Joseph A. Grzybowski

Reporters were mixed in their comments about the presence or absence of neotropical passerine migrants this spring. Lloyd writes that "we had to work for the warblers, but they were here this year." The Padelfords thought the migration was the best in years, probably because of a few fronts producing rainy overcast days in early May. Seltman, however, thought it was the poorest he had seen in central Kansas.

The season was very dry, among the driest on record in Lawton, Oklahoma, and perhaps in central Kansas. Some individuals commented on late arrival dates, particularly of insectivorous birds. In contrast, some sparrow species seemed especially abundant.

This is the first account I have written for the Region. This is also the first time the Region has been confined to Kansas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. I would like to thank this season's contributors for their support, particularly those in Nebraska and Kansas, who probably already understand my limitations and my need to develop a better understanding of their avifaunas (with their blessings). This is not to slight the superb cooperation I have received from those in Oklahoma, who have also been very understanding and tolerant of my constantly probing questions and requests for documentation.

ABBREVIATIONS — Cheyenne Bottoms = Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Management Area, Barton, KS; Fontenelle Forest = Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy, NE; Quivira = Quivira Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Stafford, KS. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO WATERFOWL — Common Loons, noted more frequently in recent summers, lingered at Tulsa May 31. An Eared Grebe Mar. 11 at Washington, OK (MV), was early. The only W. Grebe reported was on Copan Res., Washington, OK, Apr. 30 (R & MH).

American White Pelicans peaked at Cheyenne Bottoms with 5500 Apr. 5 (KM). Two Olivaceous Cormorants were reported from L. Perry, Jefferson, KS, May 5 (MM, SP), and one immature was photographed at L. Hefner, Oklahoma, May 15-31 (MO). Yearly Bird-a-thons regularly report the presence of Olivaceous Cormorant at Cheyenne Bottoms, including the one on May 14 this year (fide DK). It would be useful to know the plumages of these birds for future assessments of their potential for breeding in Kansas. An Anhinga in Cherokee, KS, May 28 (MC, AC, LM) was earlier than most other Kansas summer vagrant records.

Becoming increasingly scarce, Am. Bittern observations listed by reporters included four birds from Oklahoma, up to six at Cheyenne Bottoms, and four at Quivira. Great Egrets building nests at Quivira continued a potential range expansion into c. Kansas first noted in 1987 (JMc). A Tricolored Heron at Sequoyah, OK, Apr. 22 was undocumented. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were noted at Cheyenne Bottoms May 20 (KM) and at Fontenelle Forest Apr. 28 (BP, BG). White-faced Ibises occurred east to Douglas, KS, May 5 (MC, LM) and Tulsa May 1 (M & WD, PS, JL).

Four Greater White-fronted Geese still at Quivira Apr. 30 (KM) seemed late. Mottled Ducks regularly appear at Cheyenne Bottoms but rarely in other parts of the Region. One was noted at Cheyenne Bottoms May 14 (fide DK). Cinnamon Teal were recorded east to Wagoner, OK, Apr. 4-9 (ES, VJ); in Sequoyah, OK, Mar. 19 (KMG, BB) and Apr. 7 (JM, JNo); at Wichita, KS, Apr. 4-16; and in Desoto N.W.R., Washington, NE, Apr. 30 (BP, LP). Lingering waterfowl included a N. Pintail May 4-27 (DV, MD, MV) and two N. Shovelers May 28 (DV) at Washington,



OK. A Greater Scaup was observed Apr. 7 at L. Hefner, Oklahoma (JW, JN).

RAPTORS TO RAILS — Early was an Osprey Mar. 11 at Oklahoma (JN). Mississippi Kites were noted as early as Apr. 22 in Comanche, OK, slightly ahead of normal arrival dates (JAG et al.). In late May a ♂ and ♀ N. Harrier used a Com. Grackle colony near Milo, Carter, OK, as a virtual refrigerator, raiding its young daily for breakfast, lunch, and dinner between 0700-0830, 1000-1200, and 1600-1700 hours, respectively (BF). What good news! Such indirect evidence has accumulated over recent years, suggesting that they are nesting regularly in s. Oklahoma.

Early was a Swainson's Hawk Mar. 20 in Seward, KS (MR). Rough-legged Hawks lingered longer than usual in c. Kansas with the latest noted Apr. 20 (SS). A Prairie Falcon Apr. 5-6 at Cheyenne Bottoms was later than most for c. Kansas (KM).

Do Peregrine Falcons time their migrations through the plains with the peaks of migrant shorebirds? Up to four+ were noted May 11 at Cheyenne Bottoms (KM). Six more were observed Apr. 22-May 8. One May 7 in Blaine, OK, stooped at and scattered about 35 Mexican Free-tailed Bats that were venturing aloft at high noon (JAG).

Rails and gallinules breed and migrate across widely spaced islands of suitable habitat, particularly in c. and w. portions of the Region. A King Rail at Cleveland, OK, May 11 (PB) took advantage of a recently developed marsh. Common Moorhens, not so common on the plains, were noted at Cheyenne Bottoms (KM) and west of Dewey, Washington, OK (MV, DV et al.).

SHOREBIRDS TO TERNS — Only about 20 Piping Plovers were reported in the Region this season. These were observed Apr. 16 through May 22 (the latter in Dawson, NE). Bands were noted on several birds, including one at Quivira Apr. 16 (banded in North Dakota [KM]), and two at Douglas, NE (of five observed Apr. 26 [RC]). A Mountain Plover May 21 in Haskell, KS (MR), was late for just a migrant. Up to 14 Black-necked Stilts were observed May 29 at Quivira (KM), where they are regularly noted. Two more were found at Oklahoma (JN et al.).

S.A.

A **Spotted Redshank** in breeding plumage at L. Perry, Jefferson, KS, May 1–8 may have attracted more than 300 observers. Dan Lashelle discovered the bird. It represented the first state record for Kansas and the first Regional record.

S.A.

Even the dry, dusty plains can have their moments for great shorebirding. Keith McMullen, making almost daily observations of shorebirds at Cheyenne Bottoms, recorded the following peaks in numbers. Whimbrels made a substantive appearance as early as May 12, with 59 observed May 26. This was an extremely high count for the Region. White-rumped Sandpipers charged through the Region in late May, as usual, peaking with 12,000 (10,000 in one flock) also May 26. Peaks for other shorebirds included 2000 Baird's Sandpipers Apr. 3 & 8; 25,000 Long-billed Dowitchers May 3; 3600 Stilt Sandpipers May 19; a meager 1300 Hudsonian Godwits Apr. 21; and 3000 Wilson's Phalaropes Apr. 28. Also of interest were his observations of Short-billed Dowitchers, normally considered very rare in the Region, but whose known status is undoubtedly afflicted by identification problems: there were 10 on May 9 and 200+ (!) on May 15 (at Quivira).

The high count for Willets was of 24 at Tulsa Apr. 18 (PS, JL). A Spotted Sandpiper Apr. 16 at Cheyenne Bottoms was early for c. Kansas (SS). Eight Whimbrels were photographed at L. Overholser, Canadian, OK, May 17 (MO et al.). Also of interest were 47 Hudsonian Godwits at Douglas, NE, May 11 (BP, LP).

A Dunlin noted Apr. 5–May 1 at Cheyenne Bottoms (KM) was possibly an overwintering bird. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported sparingly with a high count of 43 at Canadian, OK, May 16 (JN et al.). In addition to those noted by McMullen, Short-billed Dowitchers were reported Apr. 26 at Alfalfa, OK (GL), and May 5 at Jefferson (three) and at Douglas (three), KS (MC, LM). Documentation is always useful for this species. The only reports of Red-necked Phalaropes were in Haskell, KS, May 21 (MR) and at Cheyenne Bottoms May 8–24 (KM).

Becoming more regularly observed, but still very rare in spring, a subad. Laughing Gull was photographed at L. Hefner, Oklahoma, May 29–June 1 (JN, MO et al.). Early was a Franklin's Gull Mar. 1 in Rogers (MV, PC). Late were an imm. Herring Gull at L. Overholser, Oklahoma, May 4–10 (MO) and an adult at Copan, Washington, May 1. Glaucous Gulls remained until Mar. 19 at Cheyenne Bottoms (SS) and Mar. 23 at L. Hefner, Oklahoma (JN et al.). Quite unusual was a first-winter Black-



Adult Black-legged Kittiwake at Greeley, Colorado, May 21, 1988. Photo/Joel TenBrink.

legged Kittiwake photographed at Kaw Dam, Osage-Kaw, OK, Mar. 27 (MG, JH, BPe et al.).

Common Terns in spring should probably be documented. One was reported from Cheyenne Bottoms May 10 (KM), and one to two were observed at Oklahoma City May 15–23 (JN, MO). Least Terns were noted in Tulsa, OK; Lancaster and Dawson, NE; and Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira, KS.

DOVES TO VIREOS — An Inca Dove was noted Apr. 10 at Wichita, KS (DK). Black-billed Cuckoos, uncommon in the Region, were found at Tulsa May 5 (JA, JH). Nine Long-eared Owls were observed in Douglas, NE, Mar. 5 (JT); 10 were located Mar. 20 at Washington, OK (DV). A N. Saw-whet Owl was heard and seen Apr. 7 at Kirwin N.W.R., Phillips, KS (RR, RS). Common Poorwills were noted in Comanche, OK, Mar. 24–27 (JDT) and May 13 (JAG). A Whip-poor-will Mar. 30 in Delaware, OK, was early (M & FB).

A Lewis' Woodpecker photographed in Pottawatomie, KS, was observed Apr. 12–May 10 (JMA, LM et al.). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (rather than Red-naped) was identified near Kenton, Cimarron, OK, Mar. 5 (MO, SM). A ♂ Williamson's Sapsucker flew against a glass-covered walkway in Omaha, NE, May 13, becoming the first specimen and providing only the 3rd documented record for Nebraska (JB).

An Olive-sided Flycatcher Apr. 30 at Tulsa (JA) was somewhat early, as were a Tree Swallow there Mar. 13 (JL, PS). A Say's Phoebe was observed Mar. 5–6 in Cimarron, OK, for one of the earlier records there (MO, SM). A Say's Phoebe in Alfalfa, OK, Apr. 26 (GL) and one in Polk, NE, Apr. 10 were at the e. edges of that bird's reported range. The only Vermilion Flycatcher reported in the Region was at Comanche, OK, Apr. 24 (JDT). Otherwise, arrivals of flycatchers and swallows were about normal, though few Empidonax flycatchers were reported.

Black-billed Magpies at Cheyenne Bottoms were the easternmost in the Region (KM). Fish Crows were sighted on several occasions in Delaware, Tulsa, and Washington, OK. They appear to be expanding into these areas of n.e. Oklahoma.

Wood Thrushes may breed regularly west to Carter, OK (BF). A Curve-billed Thrasher noted during January, in Washita, OK, was last observed Apr. 1 (PK, IB).

With high parasitism of vireo nests by cowbirds noted in the past, a count of 16 Bell's Vireos at Quivira May 16 (KM) was encouraging. Aided by cowbird trapping, the situation for Black-capped Vireos appears to be improving in the Wichita Mts., Comanche, OK, where over 170 adults were located on territory. The percent of first-year males was about 28%, up from about 18% in 1987. Unfortunately, all but three of these birds were in areas closed to the public. Only 16 other adults could be located outside of the Wichitas. In monitoring this species, it also became apparent that many individual birds arrived later this year and that nest starts were delayed by an average of a week or more, perhaps because of the drier than normal season (JAG, VF et al.).

With vireos of all species being favored cowbird hosts, it may be useful to monitor more closely other species of vireos nesting in the Region, such as Bell's, Warbling, White-eyed, and Yellow-throated. How commonly can they be found, particularly along rivers in the w. portions of the Region?

WARBLERS TO FINCHES — Observers in the Region appear to focus on the not-so-abundant but oh-so-attractive warbler species. Warblers can be quite abundant in e. portions of the Region, but they dwindle all too quickly westward.

Most were observed during expected periods. This year, the first week in May produced some of the best weather for finding them. However, early was a Prothonotary Warbler at Cherokee, OK, Apr. 6 (GL). Late was an Orange-crowned Warbler May 22 at Washington, OK (BGa).

Stretching west this season were Blackburnians May 3–4 and a Magnolia May 11 at Wichita (PJ). Ovenbirds made a

number of appearances in the c. strip of the Region. A Prairie Warbler in Morton, KS, May 14 was well west of its range (P] et al.). A Cerulean Warbler at Comanche, OK, May 6 (VF) was the first for s.w. Oklahoma. One in Washington, OK, Apr. 30–May 1 (DG) was still a good find.

A Golden-winged Warbler at Jefferson, KS, May 5 provided a first county record (MM et al.). Also unusual was one documented at Washington, OK (MV). However, 8 reports of Golden-winged from e. Nebraska (mostly May 7–8) constituted well more than the norm—no documentation was provided. Always unusual anywhere in the Region, a Black-throated Gray Warbler was discovered well east in Riley, KS, Apr. 23 (GS). A Palm Warbler was noted at Wichita Apr. 30 (P]), and a 2nd was netted in Delaware, OK (M & FB). A Worm-eating Warbler at Wichita May 4 (P]) was the westernmost reported this season. Surprising was a Swainson's Warbler in Comanche, OK, May 7 (VF), currently under review by the Oklahoma Bird Records Committee. Hooded Warblers were noted in Tulsa Apr. 22 (PS et al.); Johnson, KS, May 11 (LM); and Fontenelle Forest May 8 (BP, LP).

Reports of Brown Towhees in Morton, KS, May 14 (P]) & 15 (SP) joined the few spring records for the county. Clay-colored Sparrows appeared to be particularly common (in the hundreds) this spring in w. and c. Oklahoma and stayed for a longer period of time, from late April through mid-May (JAG). Henslow's Sparrows arrived on their Oklahoma breeding site

in Washington Apr. 9 (DV, MD et al.). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow from Douglas, NE, May 16 was undocumented. Harris' Sparrows lingered until May 15 in Pawnee, KS (SS).

A Cassin's Finch was noted in Cimarron, OK, Mar. 8 (MO). House Finches appeared to be increasing in c. Kansas and w. Oklahoma, likely from western rather than eastern populations. Perhaps the twain shall meet in Oklahoma. Pine Siskins were noted in Comanche, OK, through the end of the period (VF), and Evening Grosbeaks adorned a feeder in Sumner, KS, Mar. 13 (fide DK).

CITED OBSERVERS (area editors in boldface) — KANSAS: Arlie Cooksey, Mel Cooksey, Pete Janzen, Dan Kilby, Jim Mayhey (JMa), Jim McCollum (JMc), Mike McHugh, Keith McMullen, **Lloyd Moore**, Sebastian Patti, Mike Rader, Richard Rucker, Scott Seltman, Guy Smith, Roseanne Smith. NEBRASKA: Julian Baumel, Rusty Cortelyou, Betty Grenon, **Babs Padelford**, **Loren Padelford**, Doug Rose, Jerry Toll. OKLAHOMA: Jim Arterburn, Maugarite & Fred Baumgartner, Pat Bergey, Bill Brazelton, Ina Brown, Phyllis Chapman, Marge & Walt Davis, **Melinda Droege**, Vic Fazio, Brush Freeman, Bonnie Gall (BGa), Dotti Goard, Mary Gustafson, Rex & Mary Hunter, Vera Jennings, Pauline Kamphaus, Glenda Leslie, **Jo Loyd**, Karen McGee (KMG), **Jeri McMahon**, Steve Metz, **John Newell**, Jimmie Norman (JNo), Mitchell Oliphant, Bruce Peterjohn (BPe), Pat Seibert, Elsie Stubbs, Jack D. Tyler, Don Verser, Mary Vogh, Jeffrey Webster.—**JOSEPH A. GRZYBOWSKI, 1701 Lenox, Norman, OK 73069.**

TEXAS REGION

Greg W. Lasley and Chuck Sexton

Are you tired of reading about the drought yet? Clearly the dry conditions statewide set the backdrop against which all else was judged. Eubanks described the spring as "a bitter hors d'oeuvre for a disastrous main course—the Great Drought of Summer '88." March brought no fewer than four snowstorms (but little moisture) to the Panhandle and bitter cold weather to much of north Texas; freezing weather March 14–15 reached into the Hill Country and Houston. April and May rainfall totals will be deceptive in the record books. Heavy rains April 28–30 and May 29–31 deluged much of the state but were too hard and too brief to effectively improve habitat conditions. Moisture aside, the operative word in the High Plains was just "windy."

COVERAGE — Increased coverage in observer-sparse areas provided documentation (even "rediscovery") of poorly known distribution patterns. For example, Arnold's field courses visited Webb, Zavala, Dimmitt, and Val Verde and registered some exciting finds. A birding tour in the eastern Panhandle in early April found not only the hoped-for prairie-chickens but several other bonus birds. The "Patagonia picnic table effect" was

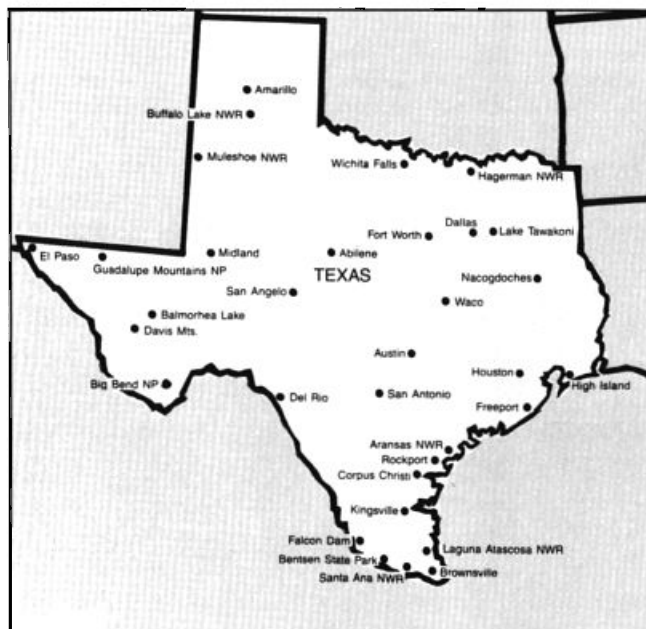


Table 1. Last known dates for some winter rarities, Texas.

Species	Location	Last known date(s)*
Crane Hawk	Santa Ana	Apr. 9
L Bl -backed Gull	Mustang I.	Apr. 6
Ruddy Ground-Dove	Big Bend	early May
Calliope Hummingbird	Freeport	Mar. 31
Allen's Hummingbird	Freeport	Mar. 6
Lewis' Woodpecker	Ft. Worth	Apr. 13
Lewis' Woodpecker	Brackettville	Apr. 15, 25 (two)
Lewis' Woodpecker	Kerrville	Apr. 26 (road kill)
Clay-colored Robin	Bentsen	resident (nesting)
Clay-colored Robin	Laguna Atascosa	Mar. 24
Clay-colored Robin	Corpus Christi	Apr. 1
Clay-colored Robin	Victoria	Apr. 3
Clay-colored Robin	Santa Ana	Apr. 5
Clay-colored Robin	Sabal Palms	Apr. 28
Gray-cr. Yellowthr.	Sabal Palms	Apr. 3
Golden-cr. Warbler	Santa Ana	Mar. 19
Crimson-c. Grosbeak	Aransas	Apr. 9
Crimson-c. Grosbeak	Sabal Palms	Apr. 29 (elusive)
Blue Bunting	Bentsen	Apr. 1 (♂), Apr. 7 (♀)

* Information on any later dates would be welcomed.

clearly at work. Incidentally, to save a little space, Table 1 shows last dates for several of the remarkable rarities remaining from the winter season.

GENERAL TRENDS, MOVEMENTS, AND FALL-OUTS

— In a few instances birding was actually enhanced by the harsh conditions. Low water levels at lakes and reservoirs statewide were mentioned as providing abundant shorebird habitat and many interesting concentrations were noted. In an analogous phenomenon, low release rates during morning hours from Amistad Dam provided daily habitat for shorebirds on the Rio Grande at Del Rio, resulting in some notable new occurrences. It is unclear if the numerous late lingering waterfowl (which we only briefly summarize below) were responding to the drought conditions or some other unrecognized environmental stimuli. Clearly the abundance of Cassin's Sparrows eastward was a drought response, but what motivated (or demotivated) all the late Savannah and Lincoln's sparrows and Chestnut-collared Longspurs?

Most observers described the migration as slow and uneventful (or worse) for passerines, with one remarkable exception: The "birding event of the season" occurred April 29–30, when an upper-level storm passed west-east across the state. This storm caused heavy rains in central, north, and east Texas on the 29th, continuing into the 30th on the upper coast. As much as seven inches of rain deluged parts of Galveston Island. As Eubanks recounted, by dawn on the 30th every twig, branch, and sliver of vegetation along the upper coast played host to one or more passerines. Elric McHenry and his wife counted mixed flocks of birds coming in low off the Gulf at a rate of 100 birds per minute for an hour in just one spot. Interestingly, numbers of migrants at the major wooded areas, such as High Island, were less significant than in the scrub and brush along the immediate coastline, where Morgan rated it the best display of migrant passerines there ever. For example, over 1000 Yellow Warblers and 1500 Indigo Buntings were packed into a single 25-acre field near Gilchrist. "Kaleidoscopic" swells of orioles, buntings, grosbeaks, thrushes, and warblers would rise and then settle back down as each car passed along Highway 87. Table 2 shows a sample of this fallout recorded by Eubanks and Morgan between High Island and Sabine Pass. For comparison, results of another major fall-

Table 2. Selected migrants* along Highway 87, High Island to Sabine Pass, Texas, in two major fallouts (TE, JM).

Species	May 7, 1987	April 30, 1988
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	70	83
Ruby-throated Hummer	175	140
Eastern Wood-Pewee	90	55
Acadian Flycatcher	225	32
"Traill's" Flycatcher	5	30
Eastern Kingbird	125	20
Veery	905	135
Gray-cheeked Thrush	33	31
Swainson's Thrush	410	325
Wood Thrush	10	35
Gray Catbird	295	340
White-eyed Vireo	84	27
Yellow-throated Vireo	41	21
Philadelphia Vireo	113	21
Red-eyed Vireo	654	285
Blue-winged Warbler	2	30
Tennessee Warbler	444	390
Yellow Warbler	227	445
Chestnut-sided Warbler	141	58
Magnolia Warbler	465	180
Black-throated Green W.	95	55
Blackburnian Warbler	68	70
Bay-breasted Warbler	626	130
Black-and-White Warbler	166	275
American Redstart	292	225
Ovenbird	131	280
Northern Waterthrush	22	40
Kentucky Warbler	28	33
Common Yellowthroat	14	70
Hooded Warbler	80	260
Summer Tanager	30	115
Scarlet Tanager	240	210
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	100	240
Blue Grosbeak	25	100
Indigo Bunting	125	2000
Painted Bunting	0	95
Orchard Oriole	50	170
Northern Oriole	20	430

* 25 or more individuals on one or both dates.

out May 7, 1987, along the same exact route are included (*vide* TE).

Another quick-moving Pacific front crossed the state May 1–2 bringing good (in some locales, the only) fallouts from Live Oak north to Fort Worth. Observers in the western half of the state detected numerous late migrants associated with widespread heavy rains May 25–31.

ABBREVIATIONS — L.R.G.V. = Lower Rio Grande Valley, Sabal Palms = Nat'l Audubon Sabal Palm Grove Sanctuary (Brownsville); T.B.R.C. = Texas Bird Records Committee; U.T.C. = Upper Texas Coast. The following shortened names are used for their namesake state parks, state natural areas, nat'l parks, nat'l wildlife refuges, and wildlife management areas: Anahuac, Aransas, Bentsen, Big Bend, Black Gap, Buffalo Lake, Dinosaur Valley, G.M.N.P. (Guadalupe Mountains N.P.), Hagerman, Kickapoo (Kickapoo Caverns S.P.), Laguna Atascosa, Lost Maples, Meridian, Muleshoe, Palmetto, and Santa Ana.

LOONS TO FRIGATEBIRDS — As has become predictable in the last several years, an Arctic/Pacific Loon appeared again in Offat Bayou, Galveston, from late February to Apr. 17 (MB, m.ob., ph. GL), lingering long enough to complete its prealternate molt. Another Arctic/Pacific in basic plumage was found in Aransas May 29–31 (D. & B. Baker, m.ob., ph

JG). Yet another Arctic/Pacific found Mar. 31 floundering in a yard in El Paso rated as one of the premier birds of the season. The bird was checked by a local veterinarian then released at a nearby pond, where it remained until Apr. 3 (BZ, JS et al.; ph.). A Com. Loon in Midland May 14 was the latest there ever by a week, and one at L. Tawakoni, Rains/Van Zandt, May 16 was 3 weeks beyond the species' normal departure date (RK). A Least Grebe at Junction May 30 provided a first Kimble record (CS). An impressive 275 Horned Grebes had assembled on L. Tawakoni Mar. 14–20, but nearly all had left by Mar. 27 (RK). The wintering W. Grebes at Aransas stayed to Mar. 5 (m.ob.), but three were still present May 30 on L. Balmorhea (CS). Clark's Grebes, whose Texas distribution is poorly understood, showed up in El Paso Mar. 9 and Apr. 18 (ph. BZ); three were noted at L. Balmorhea May 3 (JD), and three more were in Hudspeth May 11 (KZ).

A pelagic trip out of Port Aransas Mar. 12 encountered one Cory's Shearwater and three Audubon's Shearwaters (CB, CC); the latter species had not been reported in Texas waters since July 1984. A Sooty Shearwater found on the Mustang I. beach



Sooty Shearwater found beached on Mustang Island, Texas, May 19, 1988. Photo/A.F. Amos.

May 19 was photographed and released the next day several miles offshore (AA). On Mar. 5 a probable wintering Am. White Pelican was at L. Balmorhea, where the species is accidental (CS). An ad. Brown Pelican was certainly out of range in San Antonio Apr. 10 (ph. WS). Double-crested Cormorants were seen in record numbers in El Paso and Hudspeth, and one at Black Gap Mar. 18 was particularly noteworthy (BM), yet the species proved scarce in the panhandle (DC, KS). A Magnificent Frigatebird was unexpected 30 mi inland over Harlingen May 9 (OC).

BITTERN TO WATERFOWL — A Least Bittern at Tyler May 7–12 was the first for that area since 1968 (GS). Single Least were reported May 7 in Tarrant (CH, TR) and May 14 in Dallas (RR), where the species has become increasingly hard to find because of habitat loss. An ad. Little Blue Heron near Lubbock Apr. 17 was unexpected (LMK) as were one to two adults at Laredo Feb. 21 and Mar. 20 (CS, MH). At the latter locality, Heindel also found three Tricolored Herons Mar. 20. Another Tricolored was farther upriver at Del Rio May 25 (GB), and yet another at Ft. Worth May 7 (†CH, MPe) represented the county's 2nd or 3rd spring record. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were noted Mar. 25 in Kerrville (fide E & KM) and May 16–31 in Lubbock (CSt et al.), where they are scarce.

The Glossy Ibis, a Texas enigma, solidified its heretofore tenuous position on the Texas checklist this spring. A single breeding-plumaged Glossy remained at Anahuac Mar. 12–Apr. 24 and was observed and photographed by many observers

(DP et al.). Another breeding-plumaged bird was near High I. Apr. 23 (CE et al.), two were in Chambers May 1 (ph. TE et al.), and one to two birds delighted T.O.S. field trips and others on Galveston I. May 6–20 (SB, BG, m.ob.).

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks made further gains in their decade-long range expansion. Four in Walker throughout May represented only the 4th county record (fide DP), but the species now nests regularly in nearby Brazos. A single Black-bellied over a Chambers rice field May 1 may portend a population explosion comparable with that in Waller and Harris 5 years ago (TE). A stunning sight was provided by 1200 Black-bellied north of Uvalde Apr. 1 (KB, TG). Single birds were farther afield in Junction May 6–8 (NJ) and in Dallas Mar. 26, Apr. 29, and May 3 (fide WP). Farthest afield were five birds noted May 11 at L. Balmorhea, where they are very rare (KZ, JA). A single Greater White-fronted Goose was a rare find at Ft. Hancock, Hudspeth, Mar. 15 (BZ). A northbound "V" of Snow Geese was reported at Big Bend Mar. 4, and a single bird was at L. Balmorhea the next day (CS). A single Ross' Goose was at Muleshoe Mar. 18 (WO, G); 20 Ross' found in Gray Apr. 5 (CBe, BW et al.) constituted the largest group ever reported in that area. We received only a single Muscovy Duck report, Apr. 12 at Salineno (RJH et al.).

The widespread reports of late-lingering waterfowl were remarkable. On the coast there were small numbers of N. Pintail, Am. Wigeon, Canvasback, Redhead, both scaup, Bufflehead, and Hooded Mergansers. In c. and n. Texas, Blue-winged Teal, N. Shoveler, Gadwall, Redhead, and Lesser Scaup were noted into late May. In far w. Texas and the Panhandle there were Ring-necked Ducks and Hooded and Com. mergansers. Late migrant Wood Ducks were noted in May in San Benito (CRo) and Del Rio (KA et al.). The Wood Duck population in El Paso continued to grow with 30–40 birds now present (NH et al.). They are appearing more frequently in the Panhandle: a pair was seen in Hutchinson Apr. 16 and May 21 (T.P.A.S.), and three males and two females were in Gray May 26 (KS). Up to six Mottled Ducks were out of range at Del Rio May 21–22 (KA et al.); a wintering Mottled remained in Lee until Mar. 30 (HB); and four birds were present May 22 in Rains, where they nested in 1985 and 1986 (RK, JN, GH). Teal numbers were high throughout the season on the U.T.C.; Cinnamons were cited as being especially common in s. and e. Texas, although only two birds were reported in the n.c. area (fide CH). Rare finds included a Greater Scaup in San Angelo (date?) (first in 15 years, TM), an Oldsquaw in Angelina Mar. 6–7 (first spring record for the area; fide RJH, DW), a Red-breasted Merganser at Ft. Hancock, Hudspeth (Mar. 15, BZ), and a cooperative ♂ Masked Duck near San Benito Mar. 29 through the period (†J), m.ob., ph.).

RAPTORS — Hook-billed Kites were noted regularly at Santa Ana through April but only once in May (JI). There were reports of about 12 Am. Swallow-tailed Kites in the L.R.G.V. and along the coast (inland to Victoria) Mar. 15–May 13. A Swallow-tailed delighted observers at San Antonio May 5–6 (†CB, ph. MH, m.ob.). The species continues to be seen regularly in n. Jefferson (RJH) and Newton (MA) and may be nesting on the Louisiana side of the Sabine R. (MA). A Black-shouldered Kite at Kickapoo Mar. 23–Apr. 25 was a notable find (KB). The Mississippi Kite migration was "great" in s. Texas with 500 seen Apr. 8 over Harlingen (OC) and 480 at Santa Ana Apr. 24 (JCo). A flock of 24 on Apr. 26 in Ellis provided the largest report this season from n.c. Texas (TGA). Seyffert was gratified to find the species plentiful in Donley and Hall Apr. 30 and May 30, with an estimated 50 in his survey quadrangle. Out-of-place Mississippis were at Kickapoo (two on May 20, CS et al.) and Lost Maples (May 21, fide JMa). An apparent imm. N. Goshawk was described at San Antonio Mar. 22 (†JMu et al.). Reporters sometimes seem a bit casual about this extremely rare species.

Table 3. Major Broad-winged Hawk movements, Texas, Spring 1988.

Date	No. of Broadwings	Location	Observer/Reporter
Apr 1	5000	Live Oak	CR
Apr 1	2500	Corpus Christi	JG
Apr 4	31000+	Kingsville	DW, BZ
Apr 4	3000	Harlingen	OC
Apr 5	1200	Kingsville	SB
Apr 7	900+	Kenedy	AO
Apr 7	1000	Victoria	RM
Apr. 8	50000	Kenedy/Brooks	TU
Apr 10	37600+	Aransas	TS
Apr 10	thousands	Corpus Christi	<i>fide</i> JG
Apr 10-11	thousands	Brownsville	RMF
Apr. 11	25000+	Corpus Christi	JG
Apr 11	3000	Rockport	CC
Apr 12	4000	Rockport	CC

Note Place names in *italics* are counties.

There were 4 reports of Com. Black-Hawks at L.R.G.V. locations Mar. 20–May 9. A Com. Black-Hawk on a nest on the Devil's R. in Val Verde provided a significant new county record between the present known breeding range in w. Texas and former nesting areas along the lower Rio Grande (ph. KA *et al.*) A Red-shouldered Hawk strayed to Sycamore Cr. just east of Del Rio May 7 (CRo); a pair with fledged young was at the w edge of their range at La Pryor, Zavala, May 17 (KA *et al.*).

The Broad-winged Hawk migration was massive and well-documented in coastal s. Texas (Table 3). Major pushes were apparent Apr. 4 & 8–12. Some of the largest totals in Table 3 were described as just samples of vast movements on those days (*fide* JG, AO). These flights dispersed and virtually disappeared eastward and northward. Almost no Broad-wingeds were noted on the U.T.C. by M. Austin or in Nacogdoches by Wolf. A single report of 60+ on Apr. 3 was the only one received by Arnold for the College Station area. North-central Texas had a high count of only 22 Broad-wingeds (Apr. 16, Van Zandt, RK), and a single Broad-winged was in Lubbock May 2 (CSt). The only notable Swainson's Hawk concentrations (of up to 300 birds) were seen at brushfires in Kinney and Edwards March–April (KB). A White-tailed Hawk between Uvalde and Brackettville Mar. 13 was very far inland (P & NP). A single Zone-tailed Hawk was seen May 26 over G.M.N.P., where they are rare (J. Gill, *fide* OO). Interesting Crested Caracara reports included one in Galveston Mar. 28 (GR) and in Hood Mar. 7 (from winter, TWo, ShW) and one carrying a stick south of L. Tawakoni, Van Zandt, May 8 (RK). A Prairie Falcon in Dimmitt May 16 was very late (KA *et al.*).

GROUSE TO SKIMMER — Nineteen Lesser Prairie-Chickens were found Apr. 11 on Muleshoe, where they are not normally encountered (L.E.A.S.). Although N. Bobwhites are still scarce in the Panhandle (KS), they have expanded into (or been released in the area of) the Davis Mts. (PE) and even G M N.P. (OO). A Scaled Quail at Santa Ana Apr. 30 furnished first refuge record (*fide* JI). Single Virginia Rails in early May at Ft. Bliss, El Paso, were presumed migrants (JS); a calling Virginia in n. Hall May 30 was at a new locality (KS). The wintering Whooping Crane flock numbered 131 at the beginning of the season (128 at Aransas, one in Jackson, one in Randall and Kent, and one bird at an unknown locale that showed up later on migration) (TS, BJo). Ninety Whoopers started N Apr 6–14, lending some credence to an unverified report of 50 Whoopers observed Apr. 15 on a ranch 5 mi east of Palmetto (*fide* PH). By May 24 only one Whooper remained at Aransas (TS).

Lesser Golden-Plovers were widely reported: a total of 200 was unusual for the season at San Antonio (MH); large flocks

for e Texas included 23 on Mar. 18 and 34 on Mar. 29 in Nacogdoches (DW). A Golden south of Pampa, Gray, Apr 5 was early and rare for the Panhandle (CBe, BW). Several Snowy Plovers at L. Balmorhea May 14 were of note (BH); two remained until at least May 29 (CS). The only Piping Plover report in n.c. Texas this season was at Hagerman May 24 (KH). Reports of migrant Mountain Plovers spanned the period Mar. 8–Apr 8 (m.ob.) with the Ft. Davis birds showing up Apr. 11–May 12 (PE).

Away from the coast there were a few sizable Willet flocks noted: Ten birds were in Tarrant Apr. 25 (TGa), 37 were at Hagerman Apr. 28 (m.ob.), and over 100 were at L. Waco (date?) (FB, LB). A Spotted Sandpiper on a playa lake in Hall May 30 was unexpected so late (KS). Three Upland Sandpipers in Tyler Apr. 20 were the first recorded there in 12 years (GS). An Upland over Lost Maples May 14 added an overdue first park record (DSi, *fide* JMa). Marbled Godwits were present in the Trans-Pecos in abnormally high numbers (*fide* BZ). A Marbled in Gray Apr. 7 was very early (CBe, BW). Four Marbleds at L. Benbrook Apr. 10 provided a new early date for Tarrant (LH, CH), and another at L. Cleburne furnished a first Johnson record (CE). Two groups of 10 Marbleds in Swisher May 3 were a remarkable showing (KS). Eight Ruddy Turnstones constituted a nice inland concentration at Mitchell L. May 25 (MH). A breeding-plumaged **Surfbird** appeared on Galveston I. on the morning of Mar. 16 (G & JC, D & LE) but could not be located later in the day; there are only 3 accepted state records for this species, all in April.

A flock of 23 Sanderlings at Hagerman May 24 was dubbed a "mini-invasion" (KH); other notable Sanderlings were in El Paso May 2 (ph. BZ), L. Balmorhea May 4 (BHT), Tarrant May 9 (JK, CH), and Buffalo Lake May 14 (PA, RS). Early Baird's Sandpipers arrived statewide Mar. 14–21 (m.ob.). Two Baird's in Tyler Apr. 26 were the first there since 1979 (GS). Dunlin were particularly numerous in w. Texas; as many as five were seen Mar. 27–Apr. 16 in Midland, where no more than two had been recorded previously (RMS, m.ob.). Twelve Buff-breasted Sandpipers were tallied on the late date of May 21 in Tarrant (JWS, m.ob.). A threesome of Short-billed Dowitchers Mar. 26 at Possum Kingdom L., Palo Pinto (KN), and another three in McKinney, Collin, Mar. 26–30 and one again Apr. 27 (RR) provided first county and monthly records for this casual species in n.c. Texas. Twenty-two Red-necked Phalaropes certainly provided a major showing statewide. Fifteen in Lubbock May 21 was a remarkable spring find (CSt); others were in Galveston (two on Apr. 30, A & RD), San Antonio (May 7, ph. MH), Kleberg (three on May 12, AO), and at Feather L. in El Paso (May 8, JS, ph. BJ).

An ad. Laughing Gull at L. Balmorhea May 11 was an exciting find (KZ). Three Franklin's Gulls over the Big Thicket Apr. 23 provided a strange and uncommon sight (DW). Westward, two Franklin's lingered late in El Paso May 26 (BZ, ScW), as did three at L. Balmorhea May 29 (CS). A well-described first-winter **Little Gull** was reported at Aransas Mar. 7 (GM). The Mustang I. Lesser Black-backed Gull left about "on schedule" Apr 11 (AA); Amos photographed another adult Mar. 15 on Padre I. A first-winter Glaucous Gull initially discovered on Bolivar Flats Apr. 16 (DM) was likely the same bird found at Rollover Pass Apr. 27 and on the beach east of High I. Apr. 28 (DW). A Black-legged Kittiwake found by Behrstock Mar. 30 at Rollover Pass lingered until Apr. 16 (m.ob.). The only Caspian Terns reported in the interior were single birds at L. Tawakoni, Rains, May 8–16 (RK, JN). There were about 4 reports of one to three Least Terns in n.c. Texas May 8–24 (KH, CP). Two more Leasts were studied at L. Balmorhea May 11 (KZ, JA), and another was photographed at Feather L. May 30–31 (JS). The species is accidental in the Trans-Pecos. Continuing a trend of recent years, Black Terns were extremely scarce in the panhandle (*fide* KS). The "find of the season" in n.c. Texas was a **Black Skimmer** on L. Tawakoni (Rains/Van Zandt) May 15 joined by a 2nd bird May 16 (RK, JN). They provided the first spring and 6th n. Texas records.

PIGEONS TO WOODPECKERS — H Wilson studied a Red-billed Pigeon in urban Corpus Christi Mar 3–5; the species is extremely rare that far north. An Inca Dove was reported in Amarillo Apr. 19, for only the 3rd spring sighting there (PA). A Com. Ground-Dove in Midland May 19 (JMe) was only the 4th in 40 years. For a brightly colored species that feeds on open ground, the **Ruddy Ground-Dove** wintering at Big Bend proved terribly elusive but was still present in early May. Others were reported in n. *Hidalgo* Apr. 29–May 10 without documentation. Up to about a dozen Red-crowned Parrots were seen in Brownsville and McAllen into late March and early April, and “stable numbers” were reported in Harlingen (m.ob.). A few Yellow-headed Parrots of unknown origin were sighted occasionally in the L.R.G.V., but a flight of 15–20 in McAllen Mar. 27 was unprecedented (*fide* SaW).

The behavioral anecdote of the season involves a Greater Roadrunner that repeatedly courted and displayed for a Canary in a residential window in Brackettville. After offering the Canary nesting materials, the Roadrunner stalked and caught a hummingbird in mid-air, and promptly brought it as a food offering to its indifferent Canary “mate” (R. & V. Frisby, *fide* KB).

A Burrowing Owl at Black Gap furnished only the 2nd local record (BM); another at High I. Apr. 16 was remarkable both for location and season (RBv, *fide* TE). North-central Texas had at least 3 separate reports of Burrowings east of the species’ normal range. A pair of Barred Owls calling in *Zavala* (KA et al.) May 17–19 were west of their known range. Long-eared Owls were seen Mar. 1 in Dallas (*fide* WP) and Mar. 12 in Austin (FD, ME, ph. BH), where they are very rare. A calling **Northern Saw-whet Owl** highlighted some good owling in G.M.N.P. Mar. 28–29 (CH, TR). A pair of calling Com. Pauragues May 9–29 provided a first Del Rio record (VH). Whip-poor-wills were particularly numerous in the Austin area in late March; the species strayed W to Lubbock May 1 (GJu). A flight of 2500 Chimney Swifts at Corpus Christi Apr. 19 constituted an amazing concentration (CC).

Remarkably out of range was a ♀ Blue-throated Hummingbird at Lost Maples Apr. 10 (Mr. & Mrs. S.R. Perry, *fide* JMa) and later a pair of Blue-throated there May 2 (fjMa). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird provided a first spring record in Midland May 9 (RMS). A Ringed Kingfisher doing aerial displays at Sabal Palms May 23 was downriver of the species’ known nesting range; single Ringeds at San Ygnacio Mar. 20 (MH) and Del Rio May 20–22 (KA et al.) were upriver from their regular range. An elusive Ringed was seen in Kerrville Mar. 26 and May 12 (*fide* E & KM). Wintering Red-headed Woodpeckers remained in Brackettville until May 12 (*fide* KB), and two in the Kingsville area were also still around in May (N & EA, *fide* P & NP). The very small outlier population of Acorn Woodpeckers in s.w. Kerr was rediscovered Mar. 30 after an absence of 2½ years (*fide* E & KM). Stray Downy Woodpeckers were in Kerr Mar. 6 (JMa) and in G.M.N.P. (date?, *fide* OO). A Pileated Woodpecker in Montague Apr. 3 provided a first county record (*fide* WP).

FLYCATCHERS TO THRASHERS — Ten W. Woodpeewees in Oldham in the Panhandle May 28 constituted a large group even for this late spring migrant (PA, TRo, KS). A storm May 21–22 grounded numerous Yellow-bellied Flycatchers both in San Antonio and on the U.T.C. (MH, GC). Otherwise, most contributors remarked on the poor showing of empids. Wolf heard several Willows, yet no Alders (unlike years past), calling in Nacogdoches May 22–23. An E. Phoebe at Ft. Bliss, *El Paso*, Mar. 14 was west of its normal range (BZ), and a Vermilion Flycatcher at G.M.N.P. Mar. 25 provided the first park record in years (*fide* OO). A Brown-crested Flycatcher heard in Victoria May 27 (RM) apparently provided a new county record. Vocal Couch’s Kingbirds in San Antonio Mar. 30 (fjMH) and Kickapoo Apr. 11–13 (KB) furnished new county records. A silent Couch’s/Tropical was in *Calhoun* Mar. 6 (PG).

A vocal Cassin’s Kingbird in Helotes May 5 provided a rare Hill Country record (†RHu). A Purple Martin was well described in *El Paso* Apr. 24 for a 5th local record (ScW). Four Violet-green Swallows were in *Hays* Apr. 17 for a very rare Austin-area record (*fide* EK).

Bank Swallows were found nesting along the Rio Grande from Del Rio to below Brownsville; it is a little known fact that this species is a fairly common nester along this segment of the Rio Grande, including the Mexican side of the river. Let us know when you’re tired of hearing about Cave Swallows! They were abundant throughout their previously reported range and were located at several sites east of U.S. 77 in Kleberg (P & NP). Blue Jays were noted in Rocksprings, Edwards, all spring and may be nesting (KB). The Brackettville Green Jays stayed through Apr. 20 (*fide* KB); another in Aransas Pass Apr. 5 was a bit east of the species’ range (N & EA). A few lingering Scrub Jays were still present until early May in the *El Paso* area after the winter’s invasion.

The Carolina Chickadee continued its westward expansion with March sightings in Lubbock (MB, PR, DS). “Black-crested” Titmice are apparently becoming more regular at G.M.N.P. (OO). We find it odd to report the nominate Tufted Titmouse as a rarity, but one showed up Apr. 8 at L. Meredith in the Panhandle, where it has been seen very rarely in the last 40 years (FCa). A Bushtit at Dinosaur Valley, Somervell, Mar. 20 provided a 2nd park record (CH, TR). No wintering Red-breasted Nuthatches were noted in Nacogdoches, and only a single migrant was seen (Mar. 7, DW). A rare migrant Red-breasted was in Dumas (north of Amarillo) Mar. 15 (*fide* FC). Late Red-breasted were still in Big Bend May 11 (BHT) and G.M.N.P. May 29 (CH, TR). Stray Carolina Wrens were in Big Bend Apr. 10 (SR) and in Amarillo May 15 (KS).

The **American Dipper** present since November in McKittrick Canyon, G.M.N.P., was seen as late as Mar. 14 (OO). A Gray-cheeked Thrush in Arlington Apr. 20 was a good find (TGa) as was a Swainson’s in the Davis Mts. May 9 (BHT) and a Wood Thrush in Midland May 6 (m.ob.). A Clay-colored Robin not reported in the winter invasion was present Mar. 16–24 in Rockport (†HH). Long-billed Thrashers were noted in Kerr and at Lost Maples this spring (*fide* JMa). Other Long-billeds in Black Gap and Big Bend in May were rarities as was a Brown Thrasher banded at Black Gap May 7 (BM).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — The only Bell’s Vireos reported in the east were single birds in Ft. Worth Apr. 27 (CH) and in Galveston Mar. 18 (JM). Nehrling found this species to be a “common summer sojourner” in Houston in the late 1800s. The species no longer nests in that area, however, and is now considered a rare and irregular visitor (*fide* TE).

The news was mixed for the endangered Black-capped Vireo. A migrant ♂ Black-capped Vireo at San Ygnacio Apr. 1 provided a very rare record for s. Texas (fj). Hough, *fide* CS). New county breeding records were established for Williamson (CS) and San Saba (R. Wahl, *fide* CS), and scattered new populations were discovered (or rediscovered) in s. *Crockett*, n. *Val Verde*, Kerr, e. *Burnet*, and elsewhere (m.ob.). The species could not be found in Dinosaur Valley in the more northerly part of its range, but small populations were still present in s.w. *Dallas* and in Big Bend and Black Gap. Researchers worked hard at monitoring major populations in Ft. Hood, Austin, Kerrville, and Kickapoo. A serious (perhaps 30%) population decline was noted in the important Wild Basin colony in Austin; it was probably the result of poor production in the recent past (J O’Donnell).

A Solitary Vireo of the eastern *solitarius* race was carefully studied in *El Paso* Apr. 18 (BZ). Twenty Warbling Vireos at High Island Apr. 25 were associated with a wind shift to the north-northwest. On such occasions many of the circum-Gulf and inland migrants, such as Olive-sided Flycatcher, Warbling and Solitary vireos, and Nashville and Canada warblers, are more prominent in the coastal migrant traps than usual (DW).

A **Black-whiskered Vireo** was studied and photographed at Rockport May 23 (CC), there are only about 5 previous reports of this species in the state.

The warbler migration was dull and disappointing in w. Texas and the Panhandle (m.ob.). Tennessees were more commonplace in n.c. Texas than usual, and strays were in Amarillo Apr. 25 (KS) and Val Verde May 24 (KA et al.). Two to four Lucy's Warblers were of note at Cottonwood Campground in Big Bend Apr. 13–May 9 (SR, KZ, JA). Stray N. Parulas were recorded in Lubbock Apr. 5 (DS) and El Paso (two birds) Apr. 17–18 (JS, BZ). Tropical Parulas were gone from Sabal Palms by Mar. 25 (R & MF) but were still at Santa Ana May 12 (fide JI) Two ♂ Black-throated Blue Warblers were rare finds near Ft Lancaster, Crockett, May 7 (†GBl et al., fide SB), and another was reported in G.M.N.P. May 10 (fide OO). A Townsend's Warbler in Jefferson Apr. 24 represented an extremely rare U.T.C. find (BG). A well-described Hermit Warbler provided a first Bexar record at San Antonio Apr. 17 (†MH). Golden-cheeked Warbler populations were down at both Dinosaur Valley and Meridian at the species' n. range limit (m.ob.). Lost Maples got its first Blackburnian Warbler May 14 (DSi, fide JMa) A Prairie Warbler on Galveston I. Mar. 27 was a rare U.T.C. spring find (MA et al.), but as a breeding species they are prospering in pine plantations in e. Texas (e.g., Hardin; MA) A Palm Warbler at Rockport Apr. 14 furnished the latest record there by a month (CC). A Prothonotary Warbler near Alpine May 6 (RAR et al.) provided a very rare Trans-Pecos find A Kentucky Warbler May 5 provided a first Johnson record (ph CE). A ♀ Connecticut Warbler was described from Dallas Apr. 30 (†KN), and a probable ♂ Gray-crowned Yellowthroat was briefly observed near Harlingen Apr. 15 (†JG et al.). Both of these records await review by the T.B.R.C. Westward, Hooded Warblers were found in Lubbock Apr. 25 (RC) and near Alpine May 6 (RAR et al.). A **Painted Redstart** found and photographed near Sugarland Apr. 19 (R & VN) furnished only the 2nd U.T.C. record of the species.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES — Two W. Tanagers were present at High I. in late April and early May (m.ob.), a sample of a slight eastern movement of the species; they were unaccountably absent in Midland. Black-headed Grosbeaks remained at winter locations in Woodville and Falfurrias into March; there were 5 reports of migrants in May in the e. half of the state. There was also a minor movement of Lazuli Buntings in c. and e. Texas with two on the U.T.C. being the most significant of about 10 reports. A pair of the eastern (unspotted) race of the Rufous-sided Towhee were at Ft. Bliss Mar. 4–24 for apparently a first Trans-Pecos occurrence (BZ). At least four White-collared Seedeaters were still around San Ygnacio in April and early May, and another was at Salineño Apr. 28 (m.ob.).

Cassin's Sparrows were up in numbers in many s., c., and n.c. Texas areas. There were first breeding records in Washington and Johnson and a new Ellis record. A very late Am. Tree Sparrow was still present near Lubbock Apr. 30–May 2 (H & LMK). The Field Sparrow appeared to be expanding westward in the Panhandle: three were singing in Oldham May 5 (KS) Late Vesper Sparrows were in Jefferson Apr. 24 (MA) and Galveston Apr. 26 (DW). Flocks of 25–50 Lark Buntings in Tarrant in April were unusual; one female lingered there to May 7 (m.ob.). The last of the large wintering flocks of Lark Buntings in the panhandle were reported in Carson May 10 (KS). Savannah Sparrows were the 2nd most often mentioned species among many late sparrow reports. The extremely rare Baird's Sparrow was photographed in San Antonio Apr. 23–27 (MH, WS) A Grasshopper Sparrow in Nacogdoches Apr. 28 was an unusual e. Texas find (fide DW). A Le Conte's Sparrow in Wheeler Apr. 10 constituted a rare panhandle occurrence (CBe, BW) Single Le Conte's were very late May 1 in Collin (RR) and May 7 in Tarrant (CH) as was a Fox Sparrow near College Station Apr. 25 (fide KA). Late Lincoln's Sparrows, by ones and twos, seemed to be scattered everywhere in mid- to late

May (m.ob.), the southernmost and latest was at Kickapoo May 31 (KB)

A **Yellow-eyed Junco** photographed in McKittrick Canyon Mar. 20 (OO) represented the first Texas record documented by photos. The species had been reported in the canyon since November and remained until Apr. 2 (fide OO). A McCown's Longspur in San Antonio Mar. 22 (WS, ph. MH) provided the first documented county record since 1892. Also at San Antonio were one to five Chestnut-collareds Mar. 26–Apr. 22 (ph. MH) Another Chestnut-collared provided a rare find at Anahuac Apr. 2 (BOD). Late Smith's and Chestnut-collareds lingered in Rains to Apr. 17 & 24, respectively (new late dates). Other very late Chestnut-collareds were in McNary, Hudspeth, Mar. 30 (ph. BZ), and a final bird at Big Bend May 13 (BHT) may have furnished a new late record for Texas. Nearly unbelievable but very well described was a breeding-plumaged ♂ **Snow Bunting** at the sewage ponds in the Chisos Basin of Big Bend May 9 (†H & TN et al.), certainly the most out-of-season and out-of-place bird of the spring. There are only 2 accepted state records of this species.

Yellow-headed Blackbirds were so numerous (or conspicuous) in the Falfurrias area that O'Neill suggested "we have several new birders here because of this [species]." The species was also numerous on the U.T.C., with a total of 24 reported during April. A well-described ♂ Scott's Oriole was certainly out of place on South Padre I. May 7 (†SaW) and provided a first L.R.G.V. record. Another well-described first area record was furnished by a **Pine Grosbeak** studied in residential Lubbock May 1 (†RE); there are about a dozen previous reports of this species in the state. Yet another first area record was provided by a House Finch photographed in w. Houston Mar. 26–27 (FC). Two ♂ Red Crossbills Apr. 19 flew over Memorial Park in El Paso, where the species was thought to have nested in 1986 (BZ). A Lesser Goldfinch in n. Dallas Apr. 6 (9?) was a rare find (fide WP). There were vast flocks of Am. Goldfinches in Newton in April (MA) and a late flock in Van Zandt in late May (RK). Evening Grosbeaks were reported widely from G.M.N.P. northeast through the panhandle with the latest one at a feeder in Randall on the new late date of May 26 (T).

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NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION

Chris Siddle

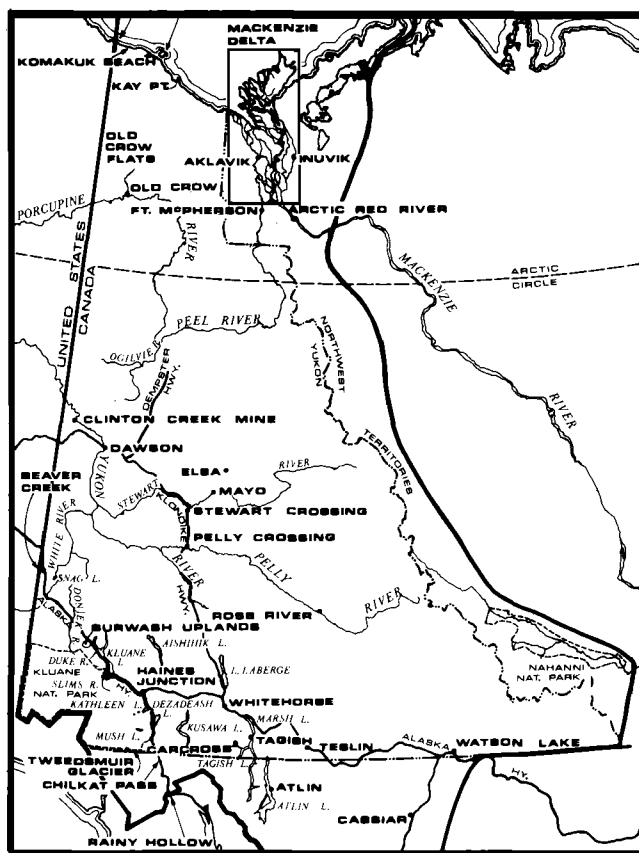
After a mild winter, spring was both early and warm. Although some species did arrive early, almost as many seemed to follow their "usual" schedules. Waterfowl were much more common than usual, especially in the Peace River area, perhaps as a result of the southern prairie drought. As the new Regional Editor I am slowly rebuilding a network of contributors, and I thank all of those named within.

ABBREVIATIONS — F.N. = Fort Nelson, BC; F.S.J. = Fort St. John, BC; YT = Yukon Territory.

LOONS TO WATERFOWL — Red-throated Loons arrived at M'Clintock Bay, Marsh Lake, s. YT, May 15, while Pacific Loons had already arrived by May 12 (JH). Another Pacific Loon was on Slims River near Kluane Lake on May 14–15 (TM). A **Pied-billed Grebe** at Whitehorse May 28 was casual for the Yukon (JH, HG). A vagrant Great Blue Heron was spotted migrating NE over F.S.J. in the early morning of May 13 (CS). Hawkings saw his first swans of the season at M'Clintock Bay Mar. 22. An adult and five imm. Trumpeter Swans were identified there Mar. 29; twenty-six Trumpeters were counted Apr. 2. Their numbers increased to 212 Apr. 5, 370 Apr. 7, 451 Apr. 9, and 465 Apr. 10 (JH). Finally, 800 Trumpeters were seen Apr. 13 (HG, CO, TM). The first Tundra Swan appeared at M'Clintock Bay Apr. 11. Total swan numbers were 805 Apr. 14, 98% Trumpeters, until an influx of Tundras brought the total to over 2500 Apr. 24. JH noted that in spite of the early spring, the peak swan numbers occurred within 2 days of the normal peak.

Tundra Swans on Cecil Lake peaked at 600 Apr. 22 (CS). An imm. Snow Goose appeared at Marsh L. Apr. 17, staying until Apr. 27 (JH), while a stray immature showed up at F.S.J. May 30 (CS). Brant arrived at M'Clintock Bay May 25, when six were seen; 100 were seen May 28 (JH). A *minima* type Canada Goose at Marsh L. May 13 was far out of its normal range (JH).

Waterfowl were at least twice as abundant as usual in the Peace River area from late April onward, probably reflecting a population shift from the southern drought. For example, 2000 dabblers, mostly N. Pintails, were present on one sewage lagoon cell at F.S.J. Apr. 18 (CS). Two thousand N. Pintails crowded onto one small run-off pool in farmfields s.e. of F.S.J. Apr. 22. A further 7000 pintails were on 2 ponds n. of F.S.J. Apr. 24. An amazing 10,000 N. Pintails were carefully counted as they flew in small flocks from Cecil L. to a grain field Apr. 27–28 (JM). In the Yukon 400 pintails were present on Marsh L. Apr. 30 (HG).



Cinnamon Teal continue to increase in n.e. British Columbia. Single males used to be the rule; now pairs are becoming more frequent. One or 2 pairs were on Boundary L. Apr. 30 while another pair frequented the north lagoons at F.S.J. for most of the period. A male at M'Clintock Bay May 2–4 perhaps indicated a new expansion (JH). The F.S.J. area had two ♂ Eur Wigeons—one at the lagoons Apr. 17 and one at Cecil L. Apr. 27 (CS)—while the southern Yukon had up to five males, all at Marsh L., the first Apr. 14 (JH), another Apr. 30 (HG), and three May 4 (JH). Redheads, rare in the Yukon, were seen twice. Two drakes were at Marsh L. near Tagish Apr. 30. Six males were at Shallow Bay, s.w. of Lake Laberge, May 27 (HG). Three Ruddy Ducks on a pond 15 mi n.w. of Whitehorse May 10 were quite unusual for the Yukon (JH).

HAWKS TO GULLS — An Osprey was at Marsh L. Apr. 30 (HG, PH). The first Bald Eagle of the Yukon spring was reported from M'Clintock Bay Apr. 9 (JH), while the adult beside a nest west of F.S.J. Mar. 6 probably overwintered in the Peace area (CS). A Broad-winged Hawk was at Boundary L. May 7 near the spot where breeding was suspected in 1986 (FH, RWC, CS). Rough-legged Hawk migration began early with one noted over F.S.J. Mar. 10 (JJ). A small but dramatic concentration occurred when up to 20 could be seen along the 14 km of the Alaska Hwy between F.S.J. and Taylor Apr. 13–23. Only one was a dark phase bird (JM, CS). Two Peregrine Falcons circled high over the north lagoons, F.S.J., on Apr. 23—little wonder with 7000 dabbling ducks present (CS). An exciting discovery was an ad. **Prairie Falcon** flushed from a canyon northeast of F.S.J. during a helicopter survey May 12 (RWC). Perhaps a small breeding population exists. This could account for the observation of a Prairie Falcon on Apr. 24, 1985 in the same general area (CS). A Gyrfalcon was seen at Nares Mt., Carcross, May 7 (TM).

Three Soras, normally rare in s. and c. Yukon, were at Swan L., 20 km n. of Whitehorse, May 27–28 (HG). Four Am. Coots at Swan L. May 28 were unusual, w. of their usual Yukon range (HG, JH).

Black-bellied Plovers migrated over the Region in late May, which is normal, except that very few stopped down. Only two records were received. The species was at M'Clintock Bay May 25 (JH) and two were seen beside the Alaska Hwy during a rain storm at Sikanni Chief between F.N. and F.S.J. May 28 (PW). There was an influx of **American Avocets** to the F.S.J. area. Six appeared at the lagoons May 5 & 6. Three remained May 7–9, but 16 more appeared at the lagoons May 11. On May 12 only three remained, and they were not seen thereafter, probably owing to rising water levels. Two avocets were present at Cecil L. on May 12 (RWC, FH, BM, RK, KS et al.). Hudsonian Godwits occurred in their usual pattern in n.e. British Columbia with five arriving at the F.S.J. lagoons Apr. 26, 20 present Apr. 29, a pair present May 6, eight birds May 7, and a straggler May 30 (RWC, BM, CS et al.). **Marbled Godwits** were recorded for the 2nd time ever in the Peace River, BC, area when three appeared at the F.S.J. lagoons May 7 (FH, RWC, MB et al.).

White-rumped Sandpipers are rare but almost annual spring migrants in the Peace area. This spring one to three were seen at the F.S.J. lagoons between May 28 and June 15 (CS, PW). A vagrant Dunlin appeared at M'Clintock Bay May 12 (JH). The only spring Stilt Sandpiper was at the F.S.J. lagoons May 28 (CS, AW, FF et al.). Fifteen Short-billed Dowitchers were at Swan L., YT, May 15 (HG). Six were present at the same spot May 28 (HG). A record early Red-necked Phalarope was at F.S.J. May 6 (RWC), although this species had arrived at Marsh L. as early as May 4 (JH). Thirty Wilson's Phalaropes May 28 at Swan L., YT, was an unusually high count for this species (HG).

Franklin's Gulls arrived at the F.S.J. lagoons on the record early date of Apr. 23. They began to appear in numbers up to 250 on Charlie L. by late May (CS). California Gulls are rare enough in the Peace region, BC, to be missed some years. Three to five adults were at the lagoons May 4 (RWC).

OWLS TO WOODPECKERS — Great Horned Owls nest fairly commonly in the Peace area. A nest, which up until this spring had housed Red-tailed Hawks, held at least two downy Great Horneds near the "brancher" stage May 8 n. of F.S.J. (RWC, CS). The last Snowy Owl of the winter was n. of Taylor Mar. 13 (JM). A N. Hawk-Owl appeared in the suburbs of F.S.J. during a brief cold spell Apr. 21 (CS). A 2nd bird was in muskeg 30 km s. of Osborn School (n.e. of Cecil L.) May 6 (RWC). Two hawk-owls were spotted along the Alaska Hwy Mar. 16; one was at Sikanni Chief, while a 2nd was at Mile 245 (JB). There was a surprising sudden influx of Short-eared Owls around F.S.J. beginning Apr. 13 when five were seen. Up to 10 birds per day could be seen around the F.S.J. airport and Baldonnel until about May 1 when numbers fell off to two to three around

the airport (CS). At F.N. one Short-eared appeared Apr. 14 (JB). A ♂ Boreal Owl was on territory on the east side of Charlie L. Mar. 9–22; thereafter the bird was not heard "singing." The area was a young aspen forest with some white spruce saplings and 1–2 small stands of mature white spruce surrounding an old burn. Twice the bird was seen at 10:00 p.m. on calm, clear nights giving the prolonged staccato call from an old flicker's nest hole in a 2 meter high balsam poplar snag. No female was ever detected (CS, KB, PK, JJ, GP). Another Boreal Owl was heard at McConachie Cr., F.N., Mar. 31 and Apr. 11 (JB).

A ♂ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Swan L. May 15 was noteworthy (HG). Three were present there May 28 (HG).

PASSERINES — House Wrens appear to have suffered a sudden decline in the North Peace area. Fewer than six were recorded during the last half of May. Traditional sites remained wrenless into June. European Starlings arrived in F.N. Apr. 1, exactly the same day for the third year in a row (JB)! Four Warbling Vireos at Swan L., YT, were quite significant. This species is listed as rare on the Yukon checklist (HG). Red-eyed Vireos arrived in Taylor May 20 (CS). Interestingly, Red-eyes seem to return first to northern British Columbia and, as the days pass, to spread southwards to Vernon (first spring record May 22) and Penticton (first spring record May 23) (MC, DC, CS).

Neotropical migrants were disturbingly absent or very reduced in numbers around F.S.J. For example, Tennessee Warbler, which has been common in past years, was seen only once in May—one at Taylor May 28 (CS). Blackpoll Warblers are often common around Charlie L., feeding on the swarming fish flies; however, this spring only one was seen, a male May 14. Ovenbirds were almost as rare. Only three were recorded during May.

The arrival dates of various sparrow species are compared to "average" arrival dates worked out for the period 1980–1988 at F.S.J. American Tree Sparrows arrived Apr. 15, which is also the average arrival date for this species. Chipping Sparrows showed up May 13, one day later than the average. Clay-colored Sparrows also appeared May 13, 2 days earlier than their average of May 15. Vesper Sparrows were first seen Apr. 30, very close to the average of May 1. A Savannah Sparrow at the F.S.J. Lagoons Apr. 17 was 11 days earlier than the average of Apr. 28. Four Le Conte's Sparrows at Boundary L. May 15 were 2 days later than the average of May 13. The first Fox Sparrow was recorded Apr. 16, 6 days earlier than the average Song Sparrows seen Apr. 23 were only 2 days early. A Lincoln's Sparrow was seen May 5, one day early, while a Swamp Sparrow Apr. 24 was 8 days earlier than the average of May 1. White-throated Sparrows appeared May 9, 4 days early. White-crowned Sparrows first appeared Apr. 20, 5 days early. The first Dark-eyed Junco was seen Apr. 7, beating the average by 3 days.

The most exciting passerine of the season was a ♂ **Lark Bunting** spotted at the F.S.J. lagoons May 28 (MB, BM, RK et al.). This was a Regional first, and probably only the 8th record for British Columbia. The bird was photographed that afternoon (CS) but was not seen again.

Yellow-headed Blackbirds staged a minor expansion into sub-optimal areas in the Peace area. Six males frequented the F.S.J. lagoons for most of May and June, and two males were on territories at a small beaver pond along Hwy 29, west of F.S.J., June 11 (CS). A compact flock of 15 Rosy Finches was perched on a telephone wire e. of F.S.J. during a cool outbreak Apr. 22 (CS).

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NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

Thomas H. Rogers

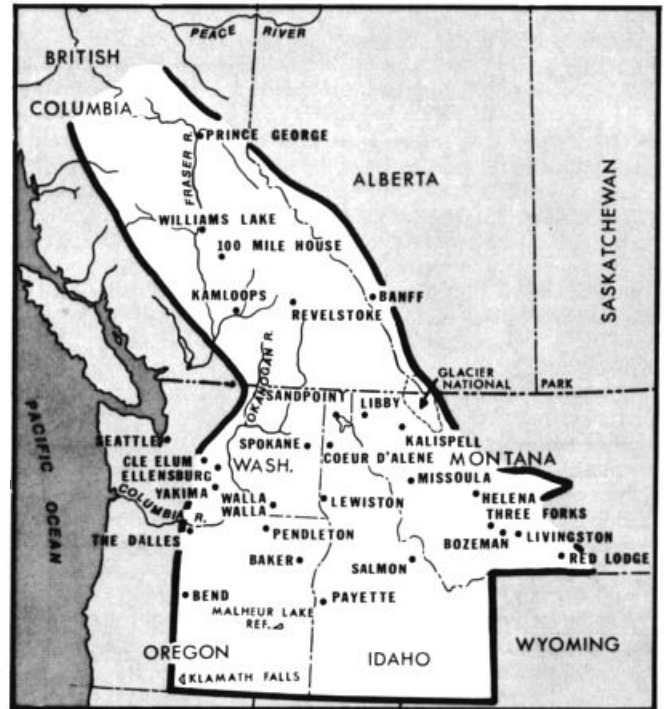
Spring was mostly warm and dry, with wet spells in mid-April and at May's end. Migrants were noted as early by a few reporters. Low water levels appeared to favor migrating shorebirds and nesting marsh birds but created hardship for waterfowl.

ABBREVIATION — Malheur = Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Harney, OR.

LOONS TO IBISES — Canyon Ferry, MT, had 150 Com. Loons Apr. 26 (DS), and Twin Lakes near Preston, ID, had over 100 adults around Apr. 1. At the latter spot, water-skiers seemed to be disturbing the birds (CHT). Two on the Salmon R. 30 mi north of Salmon, ID, May 7 were unusual (LH). Kamloops, BC, had a Yellow-billed Loon (EM). A Red-necked Grebe on Soda L., Columbia N.W.R., Othello, WA, Apr. 23 was noteworthy (C.B.). Clark's Grebe appeared on Potholes Res. (RF) and Moses L. (FB, MO, C.B.), Grant, WA; at Ana Res., Summer L., OR (TC, CM); and in the Klamath Falls, OR, vicinity (HS). Five island nesting colonies of Am. White Pelicans at Malheur contained over 1500 nests. Unusual were one bird at Mann's L., Lewiston, ID (DB), and eight at Silcott I. west of Clarkston, WA (CG, MLP, PP, EP). Two were noted at John Boyle Res. in the Klamath Falls area (HS). A few of the birds remained all spring after wintering at the Walla Walla R. delta, Wallula, WA (SM).

The only Least Bittern reported was one flushed at Buena Vista Station, Malheur (GI). Single Great Egrets appeared in the Frenchman Hills vicinity, Grant, WA (RA, DH et al.), and at a farm pond west of Yakima, WA (KJ). McNary N.W.R., Burbank, WA, had two (CW, REW). One on the Kootenai R., near Bonners Ferry, ID, was the county's 2nd (RDC). In Montana one appeared at Metcalf N.W.R., Stevensville, MT (VV). At least 4 separate sightings of the species were made at American Falls Res. in s. Idaho (fide CHT), and one was sighted at Camas N.W.R., Hamer, ID (S.R.A.S.). Oliver, BC, had one (RJC). The only Snowy Egrets reported were one at Metcalf N.W.R. (fide PLW); one at Wilbur, WA (JH); and three along the Owyhee R. south of Vale, OR (THR). A flock of about 10 Cattle Egrets was sighted 10 mi northwest of Pocatello, ID (BJ, m.ob.), and five were seen near the Snake R. in the Rupert, ID, vicinity (WHS). The Idaho National Engineering Laboratory, Arco, had its first sighting of the species (TR, RM). Single birds appeared at Malheur and near Burns, OR (fide GI). The Spokane, WA, latilong obtained its first record of the species when a dead bird was found along Latah Cr. near Spokane in March. Much dessicated, it was believed to have been there since last fall (D & DN, THR). A Green-backed Heron was sighted along the Wenatchee R. near Leavenworth, WA, May 20 (DP). White-faced Ibis continued to increase in the Region. The Moses Lake-Winchester area, WA, had sightings of 20, 40, and 67 (RF, CG, JT), and 17 were seen near Lowden, WA (SM). Two were sighted near Lamont, WA (JH). A flock of 15-20 was in the Salmon area in early May for Roberts' first there. In Montana one appeared in the Helena Valley (DL), and four were in a pond near Bean L. 55 mi north of Helena (JS).

WATERFOWL TO TURKEY — An Apr. 27 survey of Trumpeter Swans in the Centennial Valley of s.w. Montana found 297; May 18, 51 nests were located (CDM). In the Malheur area the low count of 39 and only 4 pairs nesting suggested high winter mortality. Six Trumpeters appeared in the Yakima vicinity (AS), and a few were identified in the Helena-Townsend, MT, area, where they are rare, at L. Helena and Canyon Ferry L. (BK, DC). One was electrocuted on power wires at Lewiston (CC), and another was found dead at Moscow, ID



(fide DJ). Seven Greater White-fronted Geese were sighted on Sprague L., Sprague, WA (C.B.), and one, very rare in the Helena area, appeared at L. Helena (BK, GM). A blue morph Ross' Goose accompanied Snow Geese at Mann's L. Apr. 16 (RG, MK, LL, OM, MLP), and another of the blue morph was observed near Burns Apr. 10 (GI). An Emperor Goose was identified with Greater White-fronted Geese near Hines, OR, Mar. 8-15 (CC). The Snake R. west of Clarkston, WA, had a Barnacle Goose, almost certainly an escapee, Mar. 13-16 (JK, m.ob.). Up to 400 "Cackling" Geese were at Goose L. south of Lakeview, OR, Apr. 24 (MA).

A ♂ Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal was observed on the Salmon R. north of Salmon May 19 (HBR). A ♂ Eur. Wigeon near Helena Apr. 2 was only the 2nd reported for that area in 20 years (GM, GT, DS). A few were sighted elsewhere in the Region. Single ♂ Tufted Ducks were identified on the Methow R. near Pateros, WA, Mar. 14-20 (BH et al. fide BJ) and on Migraine L., Columbia N.W.R. (JC, WRR). A pond near Kittitas, WA, was visited by 200 Ring-necked Ducks Apr. 4 (PM). A pair of Greater Scaup was found in Frenchtown Valley west of Missoula, MT, Mar. 26 (DH, PLW). The Dearborn R. 43 mi north of Helena had a Harlequin Duck May 21. The species is rarely seen in this area (LMcE). Single ♂ Oldsquaws were sighted in s.e. Idaho at Massacre Rocks on the Snake R. about Mar. 1 (JL) and near Sterling W.M.A., American Falls Res., Apr. 24 (CHT, CW). A female at the Yakima R. mouth, Richland, WA, provided R.E. Woodley's first spring record there. A female at Reardan, WA, May 8-11 was remarkable both for the locality and the date (JA, WH). A pair of Red-breasted Mergansers near Trout Creek, MT, furnished a latilong first (DD).

The Bald Eagle pair at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, ID, hatched two young about Apr. 12 (LDN). Pend Oreille L. in n. Idaho had 5 active Bald Eagle nests (fide SHS). Spruce Grouse, formerly common in the Fortine, MT, vicinity, are now considered rare there (WW). Sage Grouse lek counts in n.c. Washington indicated good recovery in better habitat but showed very little recovery in some other areas. Although the lek site at Yakima Firing Range has been badly disturbed by military

vehicles, the grouse were displaying in full view of army exercises. The population appeared high at Malheur, over 60 males were counted on one lek. Several Wild Turkeys were observed near their release site on the Tucannon R., Columbia, WA (B.M.A.S.), and one was observed east of Nez Perce, ID, Mar. 26 (W & WH).

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS — A Virginia Rail heard about 20 mi north of Mackay, ID, Apr. 27 added the species to the area list (LH). Five of these birds and two Soras were found at Fir Mt., Hood River, OR, Apr. 30 (DA, DL, TS). Fortine had a Sora May 29; the species has rarely been noted there in recent years (WW). Sandhill Cranes were reported moving through the Region starting Feb. 23; the largest number was of over 3000 in the St. Andrews, WA, area (RF). The breeding population of Sandhills at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Monida, MT, was down (CDM). One bird was at Cloverdale, Crook, OR, May 6, for a rare location (LR).

By May 31, 16 Whooping Cranes had been located, including eight in e. Idaho (five at Grays Lake N.W.R., Wayan; one in Caribou; one in Fremont; and one in Teton); seven in w. Wyoming (four in Sublette, two in Yellowstone N.P., and one in Grand Teton N.P.). One remained at the spring migration stop near Monte Vista, CO. Twelve Whooping Crane eggs from Wood Buffalo N.P., Canada, were placed in Sandhill Crane nests at Grays Lake. Ten hatched successfully, one was eaten by an unknown predator, and one failed to hatch (RD).

Malheur had a notable 20 Black-bellied Plovers May 16 (RV). Single birds at Columbia N.W.R. (WRR) and the Yakima R. mouth (REW) were also unusual. Summer L. yielded up to 12 Snowy Plovers in April (RG, HS). A flock of 10 Semipalmated Plovers at the Yakima R. mouth Apr. 30 was the largest group R.E. Woodley had seen there. Singles at Grandview, WA, sewage lagoons (DB) and at Columbia N.W.R. (WRR) were noteworthy.

Up to 12 Black-necked Stilts were sighted at Reardan, and the finding of 2 nests, each with 4 eggs, furnished the first definite evidence of breeding there (JA, WH). The species had returned to its nesting area in the Frenchman Hills and Winchester Wasteway areas by Apr. 7 (BH). At the Yakima R. delta they peaked at 16 Apr. 13 (REW), and the Walla Walla, WA, area had a few sightings (SM). Seven appeared on Sheep L. and three at Texas L., Whitman, WA (J & DP). A lake near Lamont had 10 (JH). Knutsford, BC, had seven Apr. 29–30 (SR, RH *et al.*). Fort Boise W.M.A., Canyon, ID, had up to eight (MJ), and one appeared at Boise, ID (AL). One at Hatfield L., Bend, OR, Apr. 15 was a rarity (CM) as was an Am. Avocet there May 7 (TC).

Unusual sightings of Willets were of one at Bear Valley, Seneca, OR (PS); one between Mountain Home and Sun Valley, ID (MJ); and one at Othello (EH). Four Upland Sandpipers were sighted in Bear Valley May 26 (PS), and eight were counted in Logan Valley east of Seneca (CC, MH). Seven appeared in the Spokane Valley nesting area (LT). Real rarities were single Whimbrels at Summer L. Apr. 30 (RM) and Hatfield L. May 7 (TC). One at the Walla Walla R. delta May 21 provided the 2nd record there (REW). Remarkable were the at least 70 Marbled Godwits near Salmon Apr. 24 (LH). Summer L. hosted four Ruddy Turnstones May 20 (MA), and a pair of Red Knots was observed there May 8 (MA, S & PSu). A Baird's Sandpiper, quite rare in spring at Hatfield L., was seen there May 7 (TC). Two Pectoral Sandpipers at the Yakima R. delta May 8 provided Woodley's first spring record for the area.

GULLS TO OWLS — A Franklin's Gull near Cloverdale May 11 (LR) was apparently a county first. Vagrants were single Franklin's and Bonaparte's gulls at Clarkston Apr. 30 (MK, CV). Noteworthy were eight Bonaparte's on Springfield Ponds near Springfield, ID, Apr. 24 (CHT) and 32 at Grays Lake N.W.R. Apr. 23 (RD). A Mew Gull was sighted at Tranquille, BC, for the only report (SR). A concentration of 1100–1200 gulls at Coeur d'Alene, ID, Mar. 9 contained about 300 California Gulls,

at least 600 Herring Gulls, six Glaucous Gulls, and one Thayer's Gull (DF). Penticton, BC, had a Thayer's Mar. 6 (RJC, SRC). The Wanapum Dam vicinity near Vantage, WA, was an unusual location for two Glaucous-winged Gulls Mar. 20 (PM *et al.*). A Herring Gull at Selah, WA, was noteworthy (BB).

Nine Caspian Terns at Alturas L. south of Stanley, ID, May 29 added the species to the Sawtooth National Recreation Area list (LH). Two on the Missouri R. near Craig, MT, May 12 were unusual (SJ). A group of about 15 Com. Terns was observed below the dam at American Falls Res. May 7 (CHT *et al.*). Four Forster's Terns were at Summer L. Apr. 11 (MA), and one visited Houston L. west of Prineville, OR, Apr. 18 (TC).

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was heard once at Rupert (WHS). The only Com. Barn-Owl reports were of one near Shelley, ID, in late February (FM) and one near Coulee City, WA, Mar. 15 (CG). At least three Flammulated Owls were found at Blewett Pass, a known breeding locality, west-southwest of Wenatchee, WA (PM *et al.*, TS, GW), and near Liberty, WA (DH). Kamloops counted eight May 23 (RH), and two were near Penticton May 18–19 (RJC). One was calling near Silver L., OR, May 14 (MA, RG, FI), and several were heard in Deschutes N.F. southwest of Bend (RGo, FI). One was heard at Malheur and south of Starr campground, Grant, OR (R & JK). Over 100 active Burrowing Owl burrows were documented in the Columbia Basin, WA (D.O.W.). A Great Gray Owl was seen near Mt. Emily north of La Grande, OR (MC, DL), and nesting pairs and young were seen just west of that city (SM, m.ob.). One was seen near Island Park, ID (EC, S.R.A.S.). The first Boreal Owl nest ever found in Montana was discovered near Lolo Pass on the Montana-Idaho border southwest of Missoula (DHo). Three or four Boreal Owls answered recordings along the Little Blackfoot R. southwest of Helena Mar. 5 (DE, DG).

NIGHTJARS TO MIMIDS — An unusual concentration of 12+ Com. Poorwills was sighted at Blewett Pass May 21 (PM *et al.*). A Black-chinned Hummingbird, rare in the Salmon area, visited a feeder there May 17 (HBR). At least three Vaux's Swifts appeared at Richland May 1 & 22, for R.E. Woodley's 2nd and 3rd spring sightings there. Several Anna's Hummingbirds were in Bend's West Hills after the first week of March (TC, JS). A ♂ Costa's Hummingbird returned to the same feeder in Bend for the 5th consecutive year (G & CR), and one that showed up at a feeder in LaPine, OR, Apr. 10–12 was believed to be the same one that had been there last year (HH). Another male was at Silver Lake Ranger Station May 17 (PS).

A Red-breasted Sapsucker was identified at Ahtanum Cr. west of Yakima May 28 (ECr). Single Williamson's Sapsuckers were sighted in the Swauk Pass area southwest of Wenatchee (MO), one at a nest May 22 (GG). Up to six of the birds were seen south of Heppner, OR (PS). A "Yellow-shafted" N. Flicker visited Malheur Apr. 1 (BD), and one appeared in Idaho Falls, ID, in February (WR). A Least Flycatcher was reported at Osoyoos, BC (GD), and another at Malheur (R & JK). Four Gray Flycatchers were identified at Oliver May 22 (RJC), and a total of four was found in the Manashtash-Dry Cr. area west of Ellensburg, WA, May 29 (AS).

The Blue Jay that wintered at Culdesac, ID, was still there May 4 (*vide* MK), and one appeared at Goose Lake S.P., Lake, OR, Apr. 2–27 (MA). A few Bushtits were sighted in the Dayville-John Day Fossil Beds area, OR, Apr. 26–May 12 (PS). The Albion, WA, sewage pond was visited by a Bewick's Wren Mar. 5 (J & DP). A Marsh Wren near Salmon May 24 added the species to the list for that area (LH).

Boise had two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers May 16 (AL), and a pair was observed near L. Abert, Lake, OR, May 17 (MA). Unusual were sightings of single migrating Hermit Thrushes at Wallula (C.B.) and Vantage (WHe, JP, CV) as was a Varied Thrush at Malheur headquarters (RG). Helena and vicinity had several sightings of N. Mockingbirds including a singing male (JS). Singles of this species were observed in Oregon at Frenchglen (DJo, MR), Fields, and in the Blitzen Valley south of Malheur (*vide* GI).

WARBLERS TO FINCHES — Fields, OR, was visited by a Tennessee Warbler May 21 (fide GI). A ♂ N. Parula was sighted at Fields and another at Frenchglen May 29 (R & JK). A "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warbler was in Bend Apr. 10 (TC). A Black-throated Gray Warbler was sighted at John Day Fossil Beds Visitor Center May 20 (PS). The species was also noted in the Blitzen Valley. A ♂ Am. Redstart at Yakima May 24 was a rarity (PR). Notable was a N. Waterthrush in Idaho Falls (SMi). Malheur and vicinity lived up to its reputation as an oasis in the desert for migrating warblers, with single birds of the following appearing there: Magnolia (R & JK), Black-throated Gray, Blackburnian (HN et al.), Blackpoll (CR), Black-and-white (DH, KI, FZ), and N. Waterthrush.

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was banded at Pocatello (JJ), one was seen in Bend (GJ), and one was heard at Rupert (WHS). An Indigo Bunting at Malheur added the species to the refuge list (HG, DM, BT). Vernon, BC, had two Clay-colored Sparrows May 22 (RJC). A Lark Sparrow about 20 mi south of Stanley added the species to that area's list (LH). An increased number of Lark Bunting sightings in the Arco Desert of s. Idaho (TR) suggested an expanding population there. A Le Conte's Sparrow was sighted in the s.e. corner of Glacier N.P., MT (SG), and one near Pine Butte 15 mi west of Choteau, MT, provided a latilong first and one of few records for the state (DSk, DS). A Swamp Sparrow was identified at Yakima Apr. 7 (BB, DGr) for e. Washington's 4th sighting (PM). Single White-throated Sparrows were found near the Frenchman Hills (G & WH) and at Davenport, WA (JW).

At least seven Bobolinks were sighted at Prairie City, OR (PS), and one appeared at Idaho Falls (DM) and at Kootenai N.W.R. (AB). A Com. Grackle was identified near Bonners Ferry (RDC) and at Page Springs, Frenchglen (DH, KI). A ♂ Hooded Oriole photographed at a Bend feeder was e. Oregon's 2nd (BG et al.).

Four pairs of Purple Finches were identified in Washington, at Roslyn, near Cle Elum, and in Chelan (PM et al.). Lesser Goldfinches appeared at Fort Rock S.P., OR, May 9 (TC, CM) and at John Day Fossil Beds (PS).

OBSERVERS CITED (Observers note: Please send your observations to subregional editors (in boldface) unless you are otherwise notified. Subregions overlap and some localities appear not to be included in any subregion so send your reports to whichever seems appropriate.) — James Acton, Dave Anderson, Merle Archie, Robert Ashbaugh, Allison Banks, Fred Bird,

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MOUNTAIN WEST REGION

Hugh E. Kingery

Scattered rarities highlighted an average migration. Each state notched a first record: Glossy Ibis in Colorado, Connecticut Warbler in Wyoming, Red-necked Grebe in Utah, and Louisiana Waterthrush in Nevada, and two picked up new state nesting species—Eastern Phoebe in Wyoming and Spotted Owl in Colorado. The Region had large flocks of shorebirds and swallows and bad news about Burrowing Owls and nesting pelicans and herons at Stillwater Refuge in Nevada.

A series of snowstorms punctuated a hot and dry spring. The last two snows, in Nevada and Wyoming May 5–7 and 29–31, killed a number of migrants.

The Region recorded an average 373 species, although all states but Wyoming had below-average counts. Colorado, as usual, had the greatest variety, with 327, followed by Wyoming, 274, Utah, 247, and Nevada, 251.



Janos kept track of arrival dates at Delta, Colorado, and noted 16 record early dates, 51 average, and three late among species with more than five years of data. This pattern was average, he commented. "One searches out the ever earlier records." A good proportion of early dates reported each year may represent artifacts of birders' habits and their record keeping.

At Cortez, Colorado, Black-headed Grosbeaks bypassed Lu Bainbridge's yard; "Because of the low snowpack and dry spring, their mesa habitat opened up earlier; usually a few visit while waiting for the snow to melt." Her perceptive comments probably offer a realistic explanation of western migrations. The breeders arrive on the breeding grounds even if we don't see them where we bird-watch. The number and variety of warblers, kinglets, or flycatchers we see in a migrant trap where birders gather shed little light on the health of the populations where these birds breed or winter, but they may tell us how a few migrants react to the weather down south, out west, or up in the mountains.

LAHONTAN VALLEY ALERT — Lehman enthused over the Lahontan Valley, Nevada, wetlands: "The Carson Lake/Stillwater area does contain some mind-boggling concentrations of birds! 'Claims' that this area rivals some other well-known areas such as Malheur, Bear River, or Cheyenne Bottoms are NOT exaggerations!

"Walker Lake has received almost no coverage by birders. It was alive with birds on my visit on 27 March. It has extensive mudflats and a river delta. It reminded me of a miniature Salton Sea. Due to its isolation and rich habitat I venture to say that regular censuses would turn up large counts and regular rarities."

Already this year drought and competing calls on water have devastated nesting herons at Stillwater (figures for pairs): Great Blue Herons dropped from 500 to 20, Great Egrets from 485 to 65, Snowy Egrets from 330 to 225, and Black-crowned Night-Herons from 1805 to 650 (TB).

"What is particularly of concern is that these Nevada sites are now severely threatened by a loss of water or poorer quality water due to several competing human uses. Much of this area may be lost in just the next few years."

Local wildlife area managers welcome bird-watchers, who should improve the knowledge of this area and help decide if it merits active preservation efforts.

FIELD STUDIES — National coordinator for Breeding Bird Surveys Sam Droege ran four new Nevada BBS routes. Together the four routes produced 48 species (a range of 10–32). For the four, he recorded these combined totals for the three most common species: 213 Black-throated Sparrows, 134 Brewer's Sparrows, and 103 Horned Larks.

ABBREVIATIONS — S.L.C. = Salt Lake City; 1st Lat = first latilong record (a latilong is that piece of geography 50 mi × 70 mi outlined by one degree each of latitude and longitude).

LOONS TO WATERFOWL — Wyoming garnered two Red-throated Loons: one at Yellowstone N.P. May 5 that stayed on a pond for 20 minutes until a coyote scared it off (†BS) and one at Sheridan May 15 (M & KH, †HD). Utah's first documented **Red-necked Grebe** fed actively Apr. 13 on small fish, mostly red shiners, in a ponded side channel of Cataract Canyon on the Colorado R. near Moab—an implausible desert site far from its coastal winter range (†RR *et al.*). At the important nesting site of Anaho Island Ref., NV, Am. White Pelicans suffered a "wipe-out"—only 50 nesting pairs (7000 nested last year). The refuge was strewn with many dead pelicans, underweight, apparently starved (TB). In the only Mountain West state with no nesting record yet, Wyomingites found Cattle Egrets at a record 4 locations—Casper, Grand Teton N.P., Evanston, and

Cheyenne, the latter 2 1st Lats. The **Glossy Ibis** studied carefully at Greeley, CO, May 24–25 will provide a first state record (an early specimen was reidentified as a White-faced), if C.F.O. accepts the descriptions (†DN, DM). Nesting White-faced Ibises at Lahontan Valley dropped 7%, from 3700 to 3430 pairs; the drought may affect them less than other waders because they rely largely on irrigated fields for feeding (TB).

Stillwater's wetland acreage decreased and nesting density of waterfowl increased; Cinnamon Teal, Gadwall, and Mallard were most common, Redheads dropped (TB). At Ruby Valley N.W.R., NV, most nesting species dropped: breeding pair counts of 105 Mallards and 333 Redheads were the lowest in 10 years. Also down: pintails, Canvasbacks, ruddies. Fish Springs N.W.R., UT, likewise reported fewer ducks. Rare geese included one to three Greater White-fronteds Mar. 7–Apr. 13 at Ogden, UT, Monte Vista N.W.R., CO; Denver; and Greeley; one to two Ross' were at Carson L., NV; Monte Vista; Rawhide Res. near Windsor, CO; and Greeley, One Eur. Wigeon each was at Carson L., Monte Vista, Greeley, and Weld, CO. Good numbers of Redheads were in e. Colorado: 3947 tallied by B.A.S. in March, 100–1500 at Ft. Collins Mar. 17–Apr. 2, 663 banded at Rawhide Pueblo had an Oldsquaw Mar. 30 (VT). Rawhide retained its 3 scoter species (AB 42:108) into spring: Black to May 26, Surf to Mar. 9, and White-winged to May 16 (RAR *et al.*). In addition, a Surf Scoter stopped Apr. 9 at Rock Springs, WY (FL), and White-wingeds at S.L.C. Apr. 10 & 24 (CK).

HAWKS, CRANES — Aerial surveys at Yellowstone discovered 65 active Osprey nests, an increase partly attributable to better survey and reporting techniques (JZ). At Flaming Gorge Res., UT, 20 pairs began breeding in early May, and Stillwater recorded its first (unsuccessful) nesting attempt. Among the 5 nesting Osprey pairs at Sheridan, WY, one finally moved to a nest pole, which it had spurned before, after Canada Geese took over the usual nest tree. Stillwater attracted its first Black-shouldered Kite May 31 (TB). Bald Eagles nested for the first time at Casper, WY, and in Colorado 8 pairs produced eight young. Near McCoy, CO, poison, most likely illegal bait put out for coyotes, killed 10 Bald Eagles. Observers could not tell if two ad. Harris' Hawks at Las Vegas Apr. 23 had bands or other marks (J & MC). A Red-shouldered Hawk stayed near Denver Apr. 30–May 16 (PH, D.F.O.). A Rough-legged Hawk appeared for the Grand Jct., CO, spring count May 15—very late (A.S.W.C.).

The Sandhill Crane migration seemed average, although 2400 passed over Delta, CO, Mar. 23, but nearby Grand Jct tallied only 558 (*cf.* 1150 last year). Whooping Cranes, headed with Sandhills for Grays L., ID, flew over Vernal and Jensen, UT, and Delta, Grand Jct., and Walden, CO. One stopped over at Jackson, WY, where one summered last year.

SHOREBIRDS TO TERNS — The Lahontan Valley wetland attracted a huge contingent of shorebirds Mar. 27–29. The mass included 27,000 Long-billed Dowitchers, 8500 Am. Avocets, and 1230 Black-necked Stilts, plus 37,350 ducks, 17,000 coots, 7000 Tree Swallows, and assorted rarities (PL).

By Mar. 28–29, 22 Black-bellied Plovers had already arrived at Lahontan Valley, yet Utah's peak count dropped from 500 to 100. Single Lesser Golden-Plovers stopped at Syracuse, UT, May 6 (CK, probably *dominica*) and Sundance, WY, May 12 (JA). A Piping Plover stopped at Sundance May 6 (†JA). The May snowstorm covered a Killdeer nest at Eureka, NV, but the female returned and the chicks hatched June 11 (JE). Forty-six Whimbrels, in all 4 states, improved on last year's count, 22 at Longmont, CO, Apr. 27 topped the other reports of one to nine at Las Vegas, Fish Springs, and Layton, UT, Sundance and Casper, WY, and 4 locations in Colorado. Two flocks of Long-billed Curlews exceeded last spring's total Regional count: 85 at Stillwater Mar. 28–29 and 75 at Levan, UT, Apr. 9. Observers tripled 1986–1987 counts of Marbled Godwits (disregarding 1200 found last year at S.L.C.); the largest counts were of 200 at Fish Springs and 130 at Grand Jct. Colorado



First-year Mew Gull at Reno, Nevada, March 29, 1988. Photo/Paul Lehman.

reported a peak of 150 White-rumped Sandpipers at Lamar May 28 and 400 Stilt Sandpipers at Ordway, both high counts. Stillwater had 270 Dunlins Mar. 28–29 (PL), probably the most ever recorded in the Mountain West. Observers identified 22 Short-billed Dowitchers: descriptions submitted included 15 *hendersoni* at Yellowstone May 15 (†TM) and two at Delta (†MJ, CD) and an apparent *griseus* at Green R., WY, May 14 (†FL). Observers saw few Red-necked Phalaropes besides the big flock of 7000 at Casper May 20 (MA, FL).

This spring more Bonaparte's Gulls appeared, with peaks in April of 27 at Las Vegas, 30 at Bottle Hollow Res., UT, and 48 at Ft. Collins. A first-winter Mew Gull was at Reno Mar. 29 (†PL ph.), apparently for the first n. Nevada record. The 87 Herring Gulls Mar. 27–29 at Lahontan Valley was high. Herring Gulls May 9–23 & 18 at Sheridan and Casper and an imm. Thayer's Gull at Denver May 11 (JR) were late. A **Glauca-winged Gull** was with several hundred other gulls at Walker L. Mar. 27 (†PL); Nevada has less than 5 records. Colorado had its 2nd documented **Great Black-backed Gull** at Boulder Mar. 13–14 (†DWA et al.). Greeley's May 21–25 Black-legged Kittiwake was not only quite late, but provided only the 3rd spring record (the others in March) for Colorado (†JT ph.). Single Least Terns stopped at Delta Apr. 28–29 (†MJ) and Walsenburg, CO, May 14 (A.V.A.S.).

OWLS TO WOODPECKERS — Ten Flammulated Owls returned in May to their S.L.C. breeding colony. At Jackson on Mar. 22 a Snowy Owl offered a good in-flight observation (†Pop). Burrowing Owls face many hazards. Boulder, CO, has recently documented an almost complete wipe-out. This spring a S.L.C. colony, occupied by owls in March but also occupied by dirt bikes and gun practice, had no owls in May. Previous sites at Denver's Chatfield S.P. (prairie dogs poisoned) and Ft. Morgan were empty, but one at Casper was reoccupied (poisoning may have stopped).

Boreal Owls are more common than previously thought, now that observers search the right places at the right times. Jackson, WY, observers found 17 Feb. 9–Apr. 21 (MS, DW et al.), Colorado's Cameron Pass produced eight Mar. 5–Apr. 7 (RAR), and others called at Rocky Mountain N.P. (RAR) and Eldora, CO (DB, DH). Colorado's 2nd **Lesser Nighthawk** specimen in 2 years was found dead at Two Buttes May 26; a varmint ate most of it so only the wings went to the Denver Museum of Natural History (BP). A *Chaetura* swift flew over Jackson May 1 (BB).

Many observers regarded hummingbirds as less abundant than usual, but several established early records; Calliopes at Logan Apr. 15 and Ogden Apr. 17 and Broad-taileds Apr. 6 at Coaldale, CO, and Apr. 15 at Tinytown, CO. Utah's 4th **Broad-billed Hummingbird** visited a feeder in Springdale—near the

S.A.

Photographs documented the first Colorado breeding record of **Spotted Owls**, last summer at Mesa Verde N.P.: a fledgling perched in the Cliff Palace ruin in August, viewed by several park naturalists and many tourists (MC, ph.). This year on Mar. 30 in Mesa Verde's Wetherill Mesa, two Spotted Owls responded to tapes, each calling from a ruin, and one was lured with 25 ft of the observers (MC, HK). The ruins abandoned 800 years ago by Anasazi Indians may now host nesting owls in their dark, inaccessible recesses.

site of 2 of the other Utah records (†JG). Utah picked up its first **Acorn Woodpecker** specimen Jan. 12 near Monticello (CL, *Utah Museum of Natural History). One fed in a big tree at Genoa for the first n.e. Nevada record (†EK). A good sketch documented Yellowstone's first Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, seen Apr. 13 (†JZ). A **Red-bellied Woodpecker** nest found May 29 at Julesburg, CO, extended the nesting range to a 2nd location in Colorado (†BH), and one was found Apr. 19 at Lamar (HR, 1st Lat).

FLYCATCHERS TO VIREOS — Twenty C.F.O. observers watched a bird thought to be an E. Wood-Pewee on the Cimarron R. near Campo, CO, May 27 & 29 (in the same tree both days). They identified it both by plumage and by its behavior of gleaning insects in the shade with short sallies from the interior of the tree, not from prominent outer branches like the W. Wood-Pewee (†MJ). Adams documented Wyoming's first nesting **Eastern Phoebe** (actually the 3rd year of nesting), with a nest at Keyhole Res. west of Sundance found May 10; the nest was empty May 26 but one bird was nearby May 31. Another E. Phoebe was east of Sundance May 25 (†J & VH). **Scissor-tailed Flycatchers** indulged their propensity for wandering. One fed on both insects and ripe mulberries at Las Vegas May 21 (VM); another fed actively at a pre-BBS camp near Ely, NV, May 23 (†SD). At Ft. Bridger, WY, one was seen briefly May 28 (†SF); one appeared for the 3rd year at Ft. Collins May 17 (RAR); and another was at Crook May 26 (NE). Huge flocks of swallows thronged the Colorado R. near Silt, CO, May 8: 70% Violet-green, 20% Tree, 10% N. Rough-winged; even if the flock contained only half or a quarter of the estimated 100,000 (RP), it was still enormous. Other big flocks included 7000 Tree Swallows at Carson L. Mar. 28 (PL), 8000 Violet-greens May 20 (VT), and 3568 Cliffs at Loveland May 14–15 (F.A.C.).

Golden-crowned Kinglets strayed away from their mountain conifers to Fallon and Pueblo in March, Ft. Morgan Apr. 22, and Grand Jct. May 6. Varied Thrushes visited Fallon Mar. 28, Logan Mar. 12 & 28, and Jackson May 1. Most of the big flocks of Bohemian Waxwings that milled through n. Wyoming—800–1000 at Cody, 100–300 at Casper, 250 at Sundance—left by Apr. 12. Farther south they lingered, with 250 at S.L.C. Apr. 15 and one at Logan Apr. 23; hundreds in March in Grand Jct., Evergreen, and Westcreek, CO; plus April observations in Ft. Collins, Loveland, Boulder, and Salida. The last were seen in s. Colorado, at Pueblo Apr. 26 (100) and May 3 (20). The Denver Spring Count turned up a Yellow-throated Vireo May 14 (†RSp).

WARBLERS — The Region reported a low 32 species of warblers and fewer migrants as well. Local nesters arrived in normal numbers at their breeding sites: our perception of migration probably has little to do with the population. Las Vegas detected the only concentration of any warbler—Wilson's, which numbered 100 May 13. That many would breed in one willow carr in the high Rockies, and one 10 sq mi Breeding Bird Atlas block in Colorado spruce/fir habitat supports as many Yellow-rumped Warblers as birders count during the whole spring at Denver.

A quick summary of regular migrants: two Tennessee Warblers in Wyoming, five in Colorado, five Nashvilles in Colorado, one N. Parula in Las Vegas, one in Casper, three in Colorado; Chestnut-sideds in Cheyenne and Boulder; only one Black-throated Blue, at Boulder—its numbers have dropped since the 1970s; two Colorado Townsends; a Hermit at Las Vegas; a Bay-breasted at Ft. Lyon, CO; Blackpolls in Casper and in Pueblo; 11 Black-and-whites in Wyoming and Colorado; three Am Redstarts in s. Nevada; an Ovenbird at Cheyenne and three in Colorado; 19 N. Waterthrushes; and four Hoodeds in Colorado.

Rare migrants: A Blue-winged Warbler at Gypsum, CO, May 9 (†JM 1st Lat); a Magnolia Warbler in Boulder May 22 (AB); Blackburnians at Casper May 18 (LR, PB) and Denver May 10–11 (DS); a Palm Warbler Apr. 26 at Pueblo (VT); three Prothonotaries at Denver—two May 10 and one May 22 (†JT); one Worm-eating Warbler at Boulder (ST); a **Louisiana Waterthrush** at Dyer May 17–19, for Nevada's first record (RWe, †BD); a **Connecticut Warbler** May 28, well described by both plumage and foraging behavior (walking instead of hopping) for Wyoming's first record (†FL, MA et al.); Utah's 2nd **Hooded Warbler** found at Logan May 18, with the description good except that the observers did not see the white tail spots (†RR, KA).

CARDINALS TO FINCHES — Two N. Cardinals, at Denver Mar. 25 and Cimarron R. May 29, livened Colorado lists. At Ogden, Killpack banded 473 Lazuli Buntings, similar to last year but only one-third of the 1500 he banded in 1986. The count of 1019 Lark Sparrows May 30 at Sheridan was 10 times the number ever counted there (MCo). A Sage Sparrow strayed to Denver Apr. 2 (VW). Lark Buntings impressed Wyomingites with their numbers: 565 at Sheridan May 23 and 40/trip at Casper, 2 times last year's numbers at Sundance. Observers found strays at Santa Clara, UT; Fontanelle, WY; and McCoy and Grand Jct., CO. Fourteen **McCown's Longspurs**, some in breeding plumage, flocked in an overgrazed pasture at Carson L., NV, Mar. 28 (†PL). Nevada has fewer than 5 records. During a Cheyenne snowstorm May 22, 45 McCown's found a feeder (DB).

Great-tailed Grackle reports burgeoned. A flock of 26 moved through McGill, NV, Mar. 24, inspecting copper mine tailings ponds and a cattail marsh (†JW). Other new locations were Pahrnanagat N.W.R., NV; Huntington, UT; and Blanca, Bents Ft., Berthoud, and Greeley, CO. A Com. Grackle strayed W to Fish Springs N.W.R. May 27 (CRD). Six Scott's Orioles flashed through McCoy, CO, May 25 (ME). Evanston had a huge count of Rosy Finches, 5000 down from the mountains during a May 3 snowstorm (MA). Four Pine Grosbeaks fed in the riparian

zone of Seedska-dee N W R, WY, May 28 Only two White-winged Crossbills were reported Apr 5 at Grand Teton NP (JRi). Evening Grosbeaks blanketed the Region. Durango, CO, claimed the most—5000 in the city during May (DJ)—but observers found them from Las Vegas, Dyer, Eureka, and Fallon east to Pueblo and Westcreek and north to Sheridan and Sundance. Springdale, UT, had its first flock in 3 years to complete the Regional coverage.

EXOTICS (Chapter 2) — The Red-backed Buzzard (AB 42 112) returned to her mountain valley at Gunnison, CO, on Apr. 11 (RM). She stayed close to a Swainson's Hawk in the same general area where she hung out in 1987. Gunnison observers continued to check on her, and on May 2 they observed a Swainson's copulating with her (RM, DR, HK); afterward both flew off into a cottonwood grove. The birds had built a nest along Ohio Cr., and the buzzard was observed sitting (RM). Is this a valid North American species? Wait for Chapter 3 in this exciting thriller.

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SOUTHWEST REGION

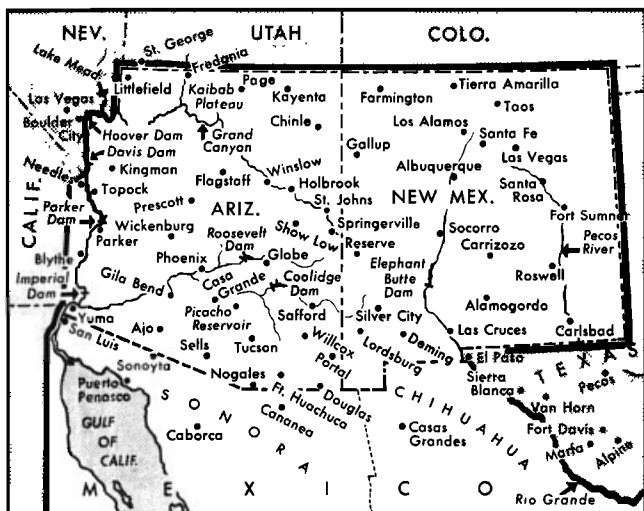
Arizona

David Stejskal and Janet Witzeman

Unusual weather in the state this spring made little perceived impact, as is usual, on the birdlife of Arizona. A few exceptions were that during a brief period of rain in southeast Arizona in early April, Cassin's Sparrows were again induced to sing for a short while; after a late cold front from the Pacific had blown through the state in mid-April, Sedona birders found an amazing variety of water birds at Peck's Lake in the Verde Valley; and another

very late cold front from the Pacific on the evening of May 29 blew in Arizona's first documented Elegant Tern.

Although the winter of 1987–1988 was an invasion year of montane species to the lowlands, cardueline finches were not conspicuous anywhere. It is interesting that starting in late March and continuing through the period numerous reports were received of small numbers of Purple and Cassin's finches and of larger numbers (sometimes hundreds) of Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks nearly throughout Where they came from (or where they were going) is anyone's guess. Curiously, Red Crossbills did not take part in this movement.



ABBREVIATIONS — B.T.A. = Boyce Thompson Arboretum; H.I.R. = Hopi Indian Reservation; L.C.R. = Lower Colorado River; P.R.D. = Painted Rock Dam; S.P.R. = San Pedro River.

LOONS TO HERONS — A Pacific Loon, a scarce winter resident and transient on the L.C.R., was at Davis Dam Mar. 10 (DS). Seldom reported in spring, a Horned Grebe at Peck's L., Verde Valley, Apr. 22 was a surprise (VG et al.). A Clark's Grebe in Tucson Apr. 10 (RK) and another in Green Valley May 30-31 (DG) added to our growing knowledge of this species' status away from the L.C.R.

Larger than usual numbers of Am. White Pelicans (around 330) were reported from various parts of the state, including 80 west of San Carlos Res. Apr. 18 (TG, DF), 24 at Peck's L. Apr. 22 (VG et al.), and 13 at Willcox Apr. 24 (JH). The vast majority (200) of the individuals reported were concentrated at Topock Marsh in mid-March (v.o.). Double-crested Cormorant is infrequently reported from n.e. Arizona as a transient, so one at Cow Springs L., H.I.R., Mar. 13-25 (CL, WA, SS) and three more at Becker L. May 16 (SG) were noteworthy. Eight Olivaceous Cormorants at Patagonia L. Mar. 12 (SG) and another ad. bird at Nogales May 14 (DS, JP et al.) were the only ones reported.

The Am. Bittern that wintered at Nogales was last seen Apr. 24 (JBo, m.ob.). Possibly the same bird was found at nearby Guevavi Ranch May 11-14 (DW et al.). Sad was the news of the total failure of the largest Great Blue Heron rookery on the S.P.R. north of Fairbank (fide TC). A Tricolored Heron (without supporting details) was reported from Green Valley May 27, providing one of the few spring records of this species (F. Elmore). A Green-backed Heron on a nest at B.T.A. May 11 provided the first known nesting record of this species for the area (SG).

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS — A pair of Greater White-fronted Geese at Kellner Canyon south of Globe Apr. 18 were at an unusual location (†K. Condit). The Greater White-fronted Goose that wintered in Tucson was last seen May 7 (JK, BS et al.). The Ross' Goose wintering on Tucson's e. side was last seen Apr. 26 (E. Bessler, W. Davis et al.), while the Ross' at the Palominas Ranch, S.P.R., was last seen on the very late date of May 17 (TC). The only Wood Ducks reported for the spring, other than those reported previously during the winter, were five birds on the Salt R. above Roosevelt L. in early April (D. Von Gonten) and two more at the confluence of the Verde R. and Oak Cr. Apr. 14 (MJ, DF). Very exciting was the discovery of a ♂ Garganey at the Buenos Aires N.W.R. Apr. 8-12 (Univ. of AZ ornithology class, m.ob., ph. R. Witzeman). This provided the first record for the state and one of only a few south of

Alaska. Because of the remoteness of the area and since this record falls into an emerging pattern of occurrence on the West Coast, there is little doubt that this was indeed a wild bird. One of the ♂ Eur. Wigeon found earlier in Phoenix remained until Mar. 13 (A. Zimmerman). A ♂ and two ♀ Greater Scaup were reported from Cow Springs L., H.I.R., Mar. 13-20 (CL, WA, SS). This species is extremely rare away from the L.C.R. A subad. ♂ Surf Scoter on the L.C.R. below Parker Dam Mar. 10-19 had probably wintered in the area (DS et al.), but an ad. ♂ Surf Scoter at Sierra Vista Apr. 7 was clearly a migrant (DK, TC). Most of the Hooded Mergansers reported during the winter had left before March, so a ♂ Hooded on the Verde R. below Bartlett Dam Mar. 25-Apr. 15 was noteworthy (B. Bock, S. Fetting).

Single Black-shouldered Kites at Alamo L. Mar. 15 (R. Schweitzer, S. Moeller) and in Chino Valley Mar. 29-Apr. 30 (R. Houser, H & AG) were farther northwest than usual. Pairs of kites north of Hereford, near Sahuarita, and along Sonoita Cr. were suspected of nesting this year (v.o.). An ad. N. Goshawk at B.T.A. Mar. 21 had probably wintered in the area (CT). An ad. Harris' Hawk in Skull Valley west of Prescott Feb. 23 may have dispersed from the recent releases of this species on the L.C.R. or may have been part of the recent natural increase enjoyed by this species to the south (V. Miller et al.). An imm. Gray Hawk, infrequently reported from the Lower S.P.R., was at Cook's L. May 8 (GM). An imm. Broad-winged Hawk, a very rare vagrant to the state, was found at Ramsey Canyon, Huachuca Mts., May 20 (†JK, GR). Large flocks of Swainson's Hawks are a rare phenomenon in the state during spring, so a flock of 25-30 birds near Buckeye Apr. 3 (TC) and another flock of about 30 birds near Sahuarita May 14 (B. Pollock) were unexpected.

TURKEY TO TERNS — Three ♀ Wild Turkeys near Honeymoon, Eagle Cr., Apr. 24 were in a new area (GM). The Virginia Rail that spent much of the winter in Nogales was, unfortunately, found dead on the road May 27 (JH).

The only Snowy Plovers reported for the period were two to six individuals at Willcox May 10 through the period (DW, GR et al.). Whimbrel is very rare in spring away from the L.C.R., so one bird at Sierra Vista Apr. 15 (RK), two at Peck's L. Apr. 22 (VG et al.), and another near McNeal May 11 (GR, JK) were all surprises. Very exciting was the discovery of three Hudsonian Godwits at Willcox May 17-22 (†KK, RBo, DW et al., ph.), providing either the 3rd or 4th record for the state. One of the same birds, or quite possibly a different one, was present here May 27-30 (G. Wilhelm et al.). According to JPr, no Hudsonians were present at Willcox May 24-26. A Marbled Godwit at Topock Marsh Mar. 10-19 may have wintered locally (DS et al.). A flock of 150 Marbleds was downed by bad weather at Peck's L. Apr. 22 (VG et al.).

The only Sanderling reported was one bird at Kayenta May 21 (CL). This species is quite rare in n. Arizona. A well-described Semipalmated Sandpiper was also in Kayenta Apr. 24 (†CL). Arizona birders have only recently begun to determine the true status of this species in the state. Baird's Sandpiper, normally a very rare spring transient in the state, was reported from 2 areas during the period. Three Baird's were found at Buenos Aires N.W.R. Apr. 11-12 (KK, LHK, J. Dunn), and two more were at Willcox May 19-20 (TC, DK et al.). Another rare spring transient, Short-billed Dowitcher, was reported for the period with two (L.g. hendersoni) at Willcox May 19-20 (TC, DK et al.). Three Wilson's Phalaropes Mar. 15 at Prescott were early (H & AG). Large numbers of Red-necked Phalaropes in the state during spring are unusual, so flocks of 20 at Willcox May 14 (B. Zimmer) and 45 there May 18 (JBo) were noteworthy.

Sixteen Franklin's Gulls, many more than usual, were reported nearly statewide from mid-April to late May (v.o.). An ad. Franklin's at Havasu S.P. Mar. 10-19 provided one of the few spring records for the L.C.R. (DS et al.). No less than 33 Bonaparte's Gulls, far more than usual, were also reported

nearly statewide mid-April to mid-May (v.o.) Herring Gull is very rare in the state away from the L C R, so one at Prescott Mar. 14 was a surprise (BT).

A Caspian Tern at Gila Bend Apr. 17 (RF) and another at Peck's L. Apr. 18 (VG *et al.*) were the only ones reported. A complete surprise was the discovery of an **Elegant Tern** May 30 at P.R.D., establishing the first documented record of this species for the state (RF, SD, L. Hatcher, ph. DS, ph. CB). There have been only 2 or 3 previous inland North American records for this species. A Least Tern (only about a dozen previous state records) put in a brief appearance at Willcox May 27 (G. Wilhelm, †DS *et al.*).

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS—The two ♂ **Ruddy Ground-Doves** frequenting a feeder in a Green Valley yard during the winter remained through mid-April (*vide* JK). Normally arriving in early June, Yellow-billed Cuckoos were somewhat early this year on the S.P.R., with the first reported near Hereford May 24, the 2nd near St. David May 26, and the 3rd and 4th between Fairbank and Hereford May 31 (TC). As many as three N. Saw-whet Owls were reported again from Pinery Canyon, Chiricahua Mts., from late April through the period (RBo, m.ob.). Buff-collared Nightjars arrived at both Madera Canyon (KK, RBo *et al.*) and Aravaipa Canyon (DW *et al.*) on May 17, at least 10 days later than usual.

A recently fledged Broad-billed Hummingbird north of Tucson near Esperero Canyon indicated a very early nesting for this species in the state (G. Porter). Very surprising was an early Berylline Hummingbird in Madera Canyon May 13 through the end of the period (RBo, KK *et al.*). Numerous observers noted Broad-tailed Hummingbirds lingering in the lowlands much later than usual this spring. Exceptional was an ad. ♂ Broad-tailed in a n. Tucson neighborhood Apr. 10 to at least June 2 (KK, LHK).

Truly extraordinary, if accepted by the Arizona Bird Committee, was the report of a ♂ Green Kingfisher at Topock Marsh Mar 25 (†F. & F. Clowery). There had been no previous record in Arizona west of Arivaca.

S.A.

At long last, the first evidence of Green Kingfishers breeding in Arizona was obtained this spring. On May 19, TC had just relocated a pair of kingfishers found earlier in the day by DK on the Upper S.P.R. south of Fairbank. When relocated, the birds were perched very close together and were giving "cooing and chattering" calls that TC had never heard before. After a short while he observed the birds copulate near a 6-foot-high dirt bank next to the river. On May 24, TC observed the ♀ bird enter a burrow 3½–4 ft above the river, where she stayed for about 10 minutes. Whether the pair successfully raised any young here remains to be seen.

Single Acorn Woodpeckers on the Upper S.P.R. May 19–22 & 25 provided the 2nd and 3rd records for this area (TC). Williamson's Sapsucker is seldom reported from the lowlands, so a ♀ bird at B.T.A. Feb. 20–Mar. 22 (CT), a ♂ bird there also Mar. 12–22 (CT *et al.*), and another ♂ Williamson's on the Upper S.P.R. Mar. 19 (TC) were all unusual. Intriguing was the report of a Downy Woodpecker at Quitobaquito Spring, Organpipe Cactus N.M., Mar. 3 (M. Denny). This area is adjacent to Mexico, for which country there is no record of the species. Another Downy was found at Honeymoon, Eagle Cr., Apr. 24, providing a first local record (GM). A ♂ "Yellow-shafted Flicker, a sparse visitor to the state, was found near St. David Apr. 11 (DK).

FLYCATCHERS TO CREEPER—A Greater Pewee north of Fairbank, Upper S.P.R., Apr. 18 added to the few lowland records for this species during migration (DK). A Least Flycatcher, a sparse vagrant to the state, was found at Fairbank

May 16 (†DK). A Buff-breasted Flycatcher in Madera Canyon May 23 provided only the 4th recent record for the Santa Rita Mts. (KK, RBo *et al.*). There were no records here between 1920 and Apr. 17, 1984. One or two Dusky-capped Flycatchers were again present north of Fairbank, where they are not known to breed, through May (TC). An early and rare E. Kingbird was reported from Patagonia Apr. 25 (V. Berkman), and another individual was briefly seen along the S. Fork of Cave Cr., Chiricahua Mts., May 17 (JP).

A **Blue Jay** was present at Camp Verde north of Phoenix Mar. 16–May 4 (†G. Lollman). If accepted, it would establish only the 3rd record for the state. Scrub Jays remained in the lowlands somewhat longer than usual, as two were still at Catalina S.P. Apr. 28–30 (CT), and two more were very late at B.T.A. May 10 (SG). Very unusual was the report of a Black-billed Magpie east of Phoenix on the Salt R. Indian Reservation Mar. 28 (†B. Parfitt, †J. Bricker). Since this species was not found elsewhere outside its known breeding range in n.e. Arizona this year, we cannot rule out that this was a man-assisted vagrant. American Crow is infrequently reported from the Prescott area, so six birds there through Mar. 14 were noteworthy (CT).

Individual Mt. Chickadees that descended to the lowlands during the fall generally did not remain for the entire winter period, so single birds at Woods Ranch, Aravaipa Cr., Mar. 31 (GM) and another at B.T.A. Apr. 1 (CT) probably represented migrants. Totally unprecedented was the report of a Plain Titmouse in Yuma Apr. 6 (J. Braley *et al.*)! Not near any known breeding area, this normally nonmigratory bird could have come from the east or the west. A small flock of Red-breasted Nuthatches was present in another Yuma yard the same day (B. Turpin). A single Pygmy Nuthatch near St. David Apr. 11 provided the first record for the Upper S.P.R. (DK). A very late Brown Creeper was at B.T.A. May 10 (SG).

THRUSHES TO WARBLERS—A Wood Thrush was reported (without supporting details) from Nogales Apr. 24 (JBo). This species has been recorded in Arizona only 11 times before. The Rufous-backed Robin found earlier at Patagonia was last seen Mar. 21 (R. Baxter, †MP). A Varied Thrush on the S. Fork of Cave Cr., Chiricahua Mts., Apr. 13 was the 6th individual reported in the state since October 1987 (RK). Two Brown Thrashers, rare vagrants to the state, were reported with one at a feeder in Portal Apr. 10 through the period (B. Schaughency) and the other at Montezuma Well south of Sedona May 3 (CT). Bohemian Waxwings were reported from 2 areas of the state with a flock of 11 seen 10 mi south of Camp Verde mid-February to early March (M. Collie, F. Knoll) and another flock of 15 found Mar. 20 at Cow Springs L., H.I.R. (CL *et al.*). This species occurs very irregularly in the state.

A Yellow-throated Vireo was reported (without supporting details) from Molino Basin, Santa Catalina Mts., May 17 (F. Stoop, *vide* GG). There are still fewer than 20 records of this species for Arizona. An early Warbling Vireo was found at California Gulch west of Nogales Mar. 5 (DS).

A singing Palm Warbler was reported (without supporting details) from a n. Tucson yard May 13 (WR *et al.*). There had been only 5 previous spring records for the state. A ♂ Prothonotary Warbler was found at Patagonia May 16 (†CHo), and another was reported (without supporting details) from Portal May 23–24 (RM *et al.*). There are now about 30 records of this species for the state. An Ovenbird, less frequently reported in spring than in fall, was found in Miller Canyon, Huachuca Mts., May 15 (DJ). Three Hooded Warblers, about an average number, were reported for the period, with a ♀ bird in Tucson Apr. 15 (S. Berky, *vide* GG), a singing ♂ bird at B.T.A. May 17 (SG *et al.*), and another singing ♂ Hooded on the Upper S.P.R. south of Charleston (DK). A Red-faced Warbler was out of habitat in the tall cottonwoods of the Upper S.P.R. east of Sierra Vista May 14 (JP, DS, TC *et al.*). Two Black-and-white Warblers, three Am. Redstarts, and two N. Waterthrushes were reported

John P. Hubbard

GROSBEAKS TO FINCHES — Six Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, slightly below normal, were reported for the period. A Cassin's Sparrow at Sells Apr. 6 was west of this species' normal range (GM). A singing Rufous-winged Sparrow at California Gulch Mar. 5 was in a new area (DS, CH, PG) as was the road-killed individual on the road to Aravaipa Canyon Apr. 17 (RK). Five Golden-crowned Sparrows, far more than usual, were reported, with one at Catalina S.P. Mar. 7 (KN), another in n. Tucson until Apr. 24 (L. Westenburg), one at a Tucson feeder until Mar. 17 (KN), a 4th at Portal Mar. 13–Apr. 30 (SSp, m.ob.), and a 5th at B.T.A. May 8 (CT). Individual Harris' Sparrows were at Green Valley Mar. 5–Apr. 27 (MP et al.) and at B.T.A. (since Jan. 28) until May 1 (CT et al.). Although there seemed to be more of the rare *Zonotrichia* sparrows present, White-crowns were thought to be down drastically (*vide* GM).

A Rusty Blackbird, an extremely rare vagrant to Arizona, was reported (without supporting details) along Arivaca Cr., Buenos Aires N.W.R., Mar. 16–19 (B. Buttery et al.). A Great-tailed Grackle at Portal during May furnished only the 2nd local record (SSp). A **Common Grackle** at Willcox May 18 was a real surprise, as there were only 2 previous verified records for the state (M. Price, †JPr). A ♂ Orchard Oriole was reported (without supporting details) from a n. Tucson yard May 14 (WR). A subad. ♂ Hooded Oriole made a rare appearance at Kayenta May 23 (CL). There are very few records of this species in n.e. Arizona. The ♂ **Streak-backed Oriole** found Feb. 26 in Green Valley was last reported May 11 (N. McNeal).

Numbers of Purple Finches in Portal built up from two birds in March to eight there through April (m.ob.). Another ♂ Purple was in Madera Canyon Mar. 20 (DS, B. Cowart), and two more ♀ birds were found at Patagonia (TC). Cassin's Finches were much more widespread across the s. one-half of the state through the period, with the latest reports being six in lower Sycamore Canyon west of Nogales May 17 (CHo) and at least five at the Southwestern Research Station, Chiricahua Mts., May 17–19 (DS, JP et al.). "Several" Red Crossbills in Tucson Apr. 18 provided the only lowland report (GC). Individual and small flocks of Pine Siskins were nearly everywhere during May, and exceptional numbers were recorded in some of the s.e. mountains. Truly impressive were 750–1000 in and above Rustler Park, Chiricahua Mts., May 26 (DS, T. & R. Janzen). Evening Grosbeaks almost went unreported in s. Arizona, but in c. and n. Arizona large numbers were present in some areas until late May. In Prescott, numbers built up to about 250 around town by late April. By mid-May, numbers had diminished there (CT). In the Flagstaff area, especially on the n.e. side of the San Francisco Peaks, very large numbers (200–300) were present through May (JC, DS et al.).

CORRIGENDA — The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher reported in the 1987 fall report (AB 42:114) was the 2nd for Navajo, not the first as stated. The Hooded Warbler mentioned in the same report southwest of Phoenix (AB 42:115) was seen Nov. 23, not Nov. 13.

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ABBREVIATIONS — Bitter Lake = Bitter Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge; Bosque Refuge = Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, C.C.N.P. = Carlsbad Caverns Nat'l Park; P.O. Canyon = Post Office Canyon, Peloncillo Mountains; T/C = Truth or Consequences Place names in italics are counties.

GREBES TO RAPTORS — Noteworthy Clark's Grebes were one to five at Morgan L., San Juan, May 12 (PJ) and near Las Vegas Apr. 24 and May 28 (PI et al.). Westerns included up to three with the above-mentioned Clark's near Las Vegas and 10 at Evans L., Grant (RF et al.). Peripheral Am. White Pelicans were at Clayton L. (WC), at Tucumcari L. (WU), near Portales (PJ), and at Evans L. (*vide* RF). An imm. Brown Pelican at Morgan L. Mar. 28–29 (ph. J. Rees et al.) was the 2nd verified for San Juan. Peripheral Double-crested Cormorants were at Zuni (DC), Tucumcari L. (WU), and Evans L. (RF et al.), and a southerly Olivaceous Cormorant was near Mesilla May 9 (LS, EW). Great Blue heronries were active at Glenwood (JH et al.), in the Gila Valley (RF), and near Red Bluff Res., Eddy (SW). Rarer herons included up to four Little Blues in the Socorro area Apr. 8–May 7 (PJ et al.) and one near Loving May 25 (SW) and single Tricoloreds at Bosque Refuge May 7 & 28 (RT) and Rattlesnake Springs, Eddy, May 8 (PJ, JS). Cattle Egrets occurred rather widely in the middle to lower Rio Grande and middle Pecos valleys (v.o.), and peripheral were one at Zuni Apr. 10 and May 8 (DC) and 15–17 at Tularosa Apr. 1–2 (J & NH). A Black-crowned Night-Heron colony with 24 occupied nests May 14 was discovered near Espanola (CR); other birds were carrying nest material near Las Vegas May 28 (CR), and 450 were nesting near Loving May 25 (SW).

Three probable **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** at Bitter Lake May 27 (KW) provided an apparent local first. A high count was of 23 Greater White-fronted Geese at Maxwell N W R Mar. 5 (JH et al.). Out of habitat were several Canada Geese at a pond in the n. Black Range, Sierra, Apr. 27 (J. Vaught), and birds near Chama (J & LS) and Ft. Stanton in Lincoln (SB et al.) in May were probably from nearby introduced populations. A ♂ apparent Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal hybrid was at Bosque Refuge Mar. 24–Apr. 9 (RT et al.; ph. JS). A vagrant Oldsquaw was at Bottomless Lakes S.P., Chaves, Apr. 25–26 and May 6 (J. Holloway et al.; ph. JS). A high count was of nine Hooded Mergansers at Bitter Lake Mar. 1–4 (KW).

One to two Black-shouldered Kites were in the Rodeo area Apr. 18–May 10 (J. Salatz et al.), and a Mississippi Kite at Carlsbad May 13 (J. Williams, SW) was the first there in several years. Lower latitude/altitude N. Goshawks were singles at Bosque Refuge (PS), the Gila Valley (RF et al.), P.O. Canyon (RS), and Rattlesnake Springs (*vide* CW) Apr. 4–May 7. Rare in the Rio Grande Valley, single Com. Black-Hawks were near Socorro Apr. 16 and Percha Dam, Sierra, Apr. 8 & 27 (PJ). A Harris' Hawk was in the Alamogordo area May 7–8 (*vide* RJ), and an early Swainson's Hawk was near Alamogordo Mar. 24 (K & RJ). An imm. possible Red-shouldered Hawk was at Percha Dam Mar. 21 & 30 and May 7 (CR et al.). One to two Red-tailed Hawks at Boone's Draw, Roosevelt (PJ), may have been nesting, which occurs only locally in the Staked Plains area. Very early copulation was observed in a pair of Ferruginous Hawks near Wagon Mound Mar. 5 (JH et al.; ph. JS).

TURKEY TO SWIFTS — Wild Turkeys were more frequent around Clayton (WC et al.) and near Cliff (RF et al.), birds at Rattlesnake Springs (CW et al.) were presumably from

a recent introduction at the nearby Washington Ranch (SW) Two Montezuma Quail near Mountain Park Apr. 16 (J. Cadwallader *et al.*) and a Com. Moorhen near Malaga May 8 (PJ, JS) were in areas where infrequently reported. Two Whooping Cranes were with 63 Sandhills over Dixon, Taos, Mar. 2 (JW).

Easterly Spotted Sandpipers included birds at Tucumcari L. (WU) and near Portales, Hobbs, and Bell L. in Lea (PJ, JS). Rare in the state, a Whimbrel and three Hudsonian Godwits were reported at Bitter Lake Apr. 29 (H. & J. MacKenzie). High counts of Marbled Godwits were of 90 at Bitter Lake Apr. 29 (KW) and 19 at Zuni Apr. 24 (DC). Westerly were 17 Stilt Sandpipers at Bosque Refuge May 19 (PS, RT). Moderate to large numbers of Wilson's Phalaropes migrated statewide, with the earliest two at Tucumcari L. Mar. 16—where the only Red-necked Phalaropes reported were 11 May 25 (WU). Franklin's Gulls were widespread, with the earliest one to two at Bitter Lake Mar. 25–31 (KW *et al.*) and at Zuni Apr. 2 (DC). Bonaparte's Gulls included singles near Las Vegas (PI *et al.*) and Zuni (DC) Apr. 24. Early were two Forster's Terns at Bitter Lake Mar. 31 (RT *et al.*), and the maximum count of Least Terns there was six on May 15 (P. Jungemann).

White-winged Dove populations appeared to remain relatively stable at Socorro, Percha Dam, Alamogordo and vicinity, and Carlsbad (v.o.); birds at T/C were unreported until Apr. 30 but rose to eight by the end of the period (DM). Others included singles at Roswell May 8–9 (SB *et al.*); Mangas Spring, Grant, Mar. 24 (RF); Tularosa Mar. 31 (J & NH); and Rattlesnake Springs May 4 (*fide* CW). Up to four Inca Doves were at Socorro, T/C, and in the Alamogordo area (v.o.), plus one was at Tularosa Apr. 5 (RJ). Early were Yellow-billed Cuckoos at Rattlesnake Springs May 4 (*fide* CW) and Boone's Draw May 10 (PJ, JS) North of the normal range was a Greater Roadrunner east of Farmington May 14 (J. & M. Parker). Western Screech-Owls were in areas where infrequently reported, in Chama May 16–31 (J & LS) and Owens Farm, Dona Ana, May 2–3 (BZ). A calling ♂ Boreal Owl was near Cumbres Pass, Rio Arriba, Apr. 2 (J Rawinski, D. Stahlecker). Single Chimney Swifts were at Tucumcari L. May 2 (WU) and Carlsbad May 18 (SW).

HUMMINGBIRDS TO NUTHATCHES — The first Lucifer Hummingbird at P.O. Canyon was a male Mar. 27 (first female Apr. 13); there was a peak of at least six birds by late April (RS). Unusual in spring were single ad. ♂ Rufous Hummingbirds at Glenwood in late March or early April (D. & S. Nelson), nearby Pleasanton in April (M. Sumner), and P.O. Canyon Apr. 10–24 (RS). Late was a Lewis' Woodpecker in the Gila Valley May 7 (RF *et al.*), and early was a Red-headed at Roswell Mar. 1–4 (E. Schooley, *fide* KW). Acorn Woodpeckers were scarce in Glenwood, with one May 10 the first since February (B. & D. McKnight). North of the usual range was a Ladder-backed Woodpecker near Ojo Caliente, Rio Arriba, Apr. 23 (SG, CR); southerly were one to two Downies near Evans L. Apr. 2 (RF) and Percha Dam May 7 (PJ); one near San Antonio May 20 (PJ) was late enough to have been nesting.

A Gray Flycatcher was singing in the Pinos Altos Mts., Grant, May 21 (RF *et al.*); reliable sight records included a very early bird in the Sandia Mts. Apr. 7 (HS), and others were at Bosque Refuge (PJ, JS), Zuni (DC), and Percha Dam (PJ) Apr. 15–22. North of the known range were two Black Phoebe at Ojo Caliente Apr. 23 (SG, CR), and one was high, at 7100 ft in Los Alamos May 2 (S. Franklin). Northerly was a ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher in Albuquerque May 19 (HS), and there was a high count of 40 in the Gila Valley May 7 (RF *et al.*). Early was an Ash-throated Flycatcher at C.C.N.P. Apr. 7 (SW), and late was an E. Kingbird at Rattlesnake Springs May 26 (G. & R. Vickery). Northerly was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Bitter Lake Apr. 24 (KW), and the species remained rare in the Carlsbad area (SW). Unusual in the lowlands, four to five Purple Martins were near Redrock, Grant (RF *et al.*), and Percha Dam (RT) May 7. Cave Swallow counts at C.C.N.P. rose from 200 Mar.

12 to 4000 May 30, and a Cave x Barn Swallow hybrid was banded there May 18 (SW).

Unusually low was a Gray Jay at the upper edge of Santa Fe Mar. 14 (LH). Blue Jays were "common" in Carlsbad (SW) and present at Roswell (SB *et al.*), and singles were at Tucumcari L. May 2 & 31 (WU), near Ft. Sumner May 19 (PJ), at and Six-Mile Dam, Eddy (SW). Lingering jays in the lowland included two Steller's Jays in Glenwood Mar. 12–16 (JH *et al.*) and five at Percha Dam Mar. 31 (CR); a few Scrub Jays in the Rio Grande Valley south to Owens Farm through May 2 (BZ *et al.*); and six Gray-breasted Jays at Percha Dam Mar. 21 (CR). South of the usual range were a Pinyon Jay in P.O. Canyon May 22–23 (RS) and three Black-billed Magpies near Galisteo Apr. 16 (CR *et al.*). Late were several Am. Crows near Mesilla, Dona Ana, May 9 (LS, EW) and 58 at Bosque Refuge May 30 (CR). Small numbers of Mt. Chickadees lingered in the lowlands into March or April, including near Socorro, Mangas Springs, Percha Dam, Virden, Owens Farm, and Rattlesnake Springs (v.o.). Two Bridled Titmice were at Percha Dam Mar. 31 (CR), and single Red-breasted Nuthatches were at Albuquerque Apr. 22 (LG) and Owens Farm through March (BZ).

WRENS TO BUNTINGS — A Carolina Wren persisted at Rattlesnake Springs into March and April (SW). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Percha Dam Mar. 21 (CR) may have been a wintering bird, and a breeding-plumaged ♂ Black-tailed was at San Simon Cienega, Hidalgo, Mar. 15 (PJ, JS). Local firsts were of up to four E. Bluebirds at Dixon Mar. 2–17 (JW) and one east of Magdalena Mar. 19 (BO). The only "extralimital" Mt. Bluebirds were a few in the upper Gila Valley area May 7 (RF *et al.*) and C.C.N.P. Mar. 6 (*fide* CW). Early was a Gray Catbird at Rattlesnake Springs Apr. 15 (*fide* CW) and Sage Thrashers at Zuni Mar. 6 (DC) and Santa Fe Mar. 15 (S. Boles). A late Brown Thrasher was near Red Bluff Res. May 28 (M. Medrano). Early was a Bendire's Thrasher at Summit, Hidalgo, Mar. 15 (PJ, JS), and one near Evans L. May 7 (RF *et al.*) was in an area where rarely recorded.

Unusual was a Sprague's Pipit at Chaco Canyon N.M., San Juan, Apr. 11 (RB). One to two peripheral Phainopeplas were in the Socorro area (PJ), at C.C.N.P. (SW *et al.*), and at High Rolls, Otero (G. Smith), Apr. 30–May 20. A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was reported in the Roswell area about May 8–9 (SB *et al.*). Rarer warblers included a very early N. Parula east of Roswell Mar. 21 (BO *et al.*); a **Blackburnian Warbler** near Cuba May 26 (L. Morris *et al.*); a Palm at La Joya W.M.C. Apr. 24 (C. Davis, LG); single ♂ Blackpolls at Roswell May 9 (ph. GK; S. Knadle) and Boone's Draw May 10 (PJ, JS); a ♀ Prothonotary Warbler at Boone's Draw May 10 (PJ, JS); and a window-killed Worm-eating Warbler in the Sandia Mts. May 15 (E. Toolson). Other notable records included a Tennessee Warbler at Rattlesnake Springs May 9 (PJ, JS); five easterly Virginia's Warblers at Boone's Draw May 7 (PJ, JS); three to four northerly Lucy's at San Antonio May 19–20 (PJ); an early Townsend's east of Roswell Mar. 21 (BO *et al.*); a ♀ Black-and-white Warbler at Zuni May 25–26 (DC); and an Ovenbird at Roswell May 12 (GK).

Easterly were three Summer Tanagers at Boone's Draw May 7 (PJ, JS). Up to three N. Cardinals persisted at Rattlesnake Springs Mar. 21–May 17 (CW *et al.*); other notable reports were of singles near Mesilla May 9 (LS, EW) and Malaga May 8 (PJ) Six Pyrrhuloxias in the Roswell area Mar. 12 (LH) was high for the area; one that wintered at Mangas Springs was last seen there Mar. 8 (RF). Westerly were single ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at Aztec May 12 (PS) and La Luz, Otero, May 7–8 (G. Flinn); very early was a subad. ♂ Indigo Bunting at Socorro Apr. 6 (F. & R. Slowen). Outside the normal range were single ♂ Varied Buntings at 7000 ft near High Rolls May 7 (G. & W. Bloys) and at Rocky Arroyo, Eddy, May 9 (PJ). A Painted Bunting was at Bitter Lake May 24–26 (PJ), and the species was common near Red Bluff Res. May 28 (SW *et al.*).

TOWHEES TO CARDUELINE FINCHES — Late were a Green-tailed Towhee and three Rufous-sided Towhees at Boone's Draw May 19 (PJ); well west of the normal range was a singing Cassin's Sparrow at Zuni May 15–27 (DC, T. Rhoades). Infrequent in spring in the Rio Grande Valley, one to two Clay-colored Sparrows were at Albuquerque May 20 (HS), at La Joya W.M.A. May 1 (PJ), and possibly at Sevilleta N.W.R. Apr. 27 (PS). A **Field Sparrow** at Las Cruces Mar. 24 (LS) was well west of the usual range; seven+ Black-chinned Sparrows May 4 (PJ, JS) represented a high count for the Magdalena Mts. Early were three Lark Sparrows at Bosque Refuge Mar. 24 (PB, RT), and northwesterly were a Lark Bunting at Zuni Apr. 17 (DC) and seven birds at Albuquerque May 19 (HS). One to two Golden-crowned Sparrows were in the Sandia Mts. Apr. 11–25 (HS, PS), Bosque Refuge Mar. 18 (RT et al.), and P.O. Canyon Apr. 4 (RS). A Harris' Sparrow was near Socorro Mar. 31–Apr. 1 (PB), and a White-winged (Dark-eyed) Junco was at Dixon Mar. 2 (JW). Northwesterly were two Chestnut-collared Longspurs at Chaco Canyon N.M. Apr. 12 (RB).

Bobolinks were at Parkview in late spring (D. Blanton, *vide* LS), and a vagrant was at Farmington May 15 (B. Carr). Northerly was a singing E. Meadowlark in Embudo Canyon in the Sandia Mts. Apr. 9 (HS). Late was a ♀ Rusty Blackbird at Rattlesnake Springs May 4 (G. Parker). Great-tailed Grackles included one near Ojo Caliente Apr. 23 (SG, CR), up to 15 at Zuni Mar. 26–May 7 (DC), four to five near Ft. Sumner May 19 (PJ), 27 in the Gila Valley May 7 (RF et al.), 20–30 at Silver City (RF), and others near Ft. Stanton May 14 (SB et al.). One to three Com. Grackles were at Espanola May 15 (B. Lewis et al.), Zuni Mar. 17 (DC), and near Estancia May 31 (CR), plus up to 15 were at Socorro Mar. 29–Apr. 28 (PJ, JS). One to three

Bronzed Cowbirds were at T/C May 16 & 30–31 (DM) and probably near Malaga May 8 (PJ). Northerly were single Orchard Orioles at Boone's Draw May 6 & 10 (PJ, JS), and the species was common near Red Bluff Res. May 28 (SW et al.). Also northerly was a ♂ Hooded Oriole near Socorro Apr. 4–8 (PB, RT); westerly was a ♂ Baltimore (Northern) at Boone's Draw May 10 (PJ, JS).

Cassin's Finches were fairly widespread west of the Pecos Valley in low to moderate numbers through early to mid-May (v.o.) plus were at Chama through May 31 (J & LS). The few Red Crossbills were in montane areas except for birds in Santa Fe Mar. 1, Apr. 17, and May 20–27 (LH et al.). Pine Siskins were widespread from Clayton and the Pecos Valley westward (v.o.); in addition, three recently fledged young were in Albuquerque May 19–20 (HS). Evening Grosbeaks were widespread in moderate to high numbers in and near major montane areas throughout the period, with lower elevational records of up to eight in the Alamogordo area Mar. 30–Apr. 17 (R et al.) and two at Rattlesnake Springs Apr. 24 (LS et al.).

ADDENDUM — An ad. Black-shouldered Kite south of Animas Jan. 4, 1988 (RS et al.), was a local first.

OBSERVERS — Pat Basham, Sherry Bixler, Robert Bradley, David Cleary, Wes Cook, Ralph Fisher, Sheila Gershon, Larry Gorbet, Lois Herrmann, John Hubbard, Joe & Nancy Hutto, Pat Insley, Kay & Robert Jenness, Philip Johnson, Greg Knadle, Doris Miller, Bruce Ostyn, Christopher Rustay, John & Lorraine Schulte, Robert Scholes, Hart Schwarz, Paul Steel, Ross Teuber, William Uihlein, Steve West, Jack Whetstone, Kathy Wood, Eleanor Wootten, Christina Wright, Barry Zimmer. — **JOHN P. HUBBARD, 2016 Valle Rio, Santa Fe, NM 87501.**

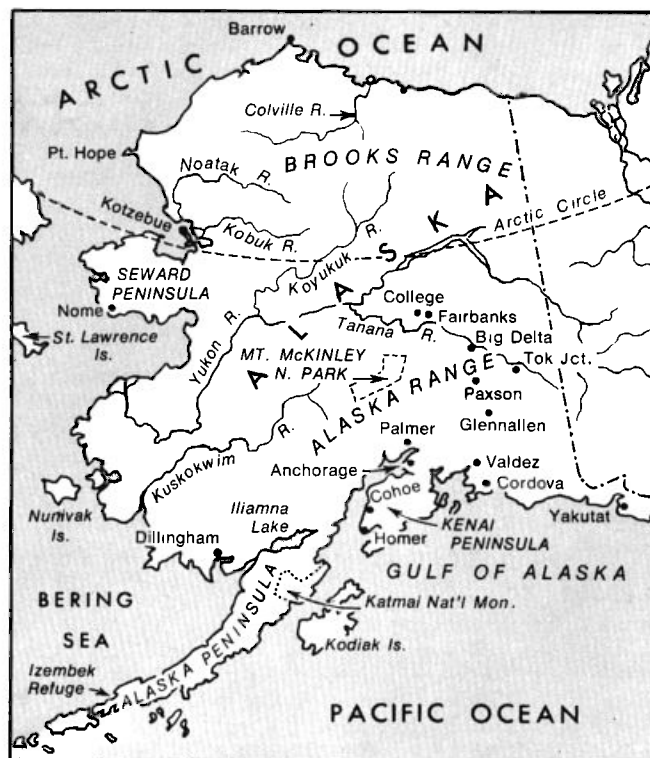
ALASKA REGION

D.D. Gibson, T.G. Tobish, Jr., and M.E. Isleib

After March, spring 1988 was warm, dry, and mostly storm-free across all of Alaska. A mostly normal stormy and unsettled March was followed by nearly two months of uninterrupted high-pressure systems that provided north and northeast surface winds and dry weather throughout the entire Bering Sea and northern North Pacific. As a consequence, bird movements were on time or early, lacking in unusual concentrations, and basically uneventful, according to all observers. The Asiatic component of bird migration in the Bering Sea, from the Aleutians to the Seward Peninsula, was poorly represented in terms of species diversity and in numbers of individuals.

GREBES TO DUCKS — Numbers of W. Grebes observed this spring in e. Sumner Strait, off the Stikine R. delta, indicated that area's importance to passage birds headed upriver to interior Canada nesting areas. In the strait, southeast of Mitkof I., staging W. Grebes peaked at 456 birds Mar. 26; large numbers were present through late April, when 427 were seen the 23rd; and latest was a single bird there May 30 (PJW). In recent years W. Grebes have been found at all seasons in this area, where prior high counts (of up to 200 birds) have been from the winter season.

An ad. "Whistling" Swan seen with a family of four Whooper Swans at Amchitka I. Apr. 6 (†DAD) provided only the 2nd record in the c. and w. Aleutians of this Nearctic bird, a small population of which winters at Unimak I., the most eastern of



the Aleutians. A "Bewick's" Swan collected at Adak I in 1977 (Evans and Sladen 1980, Auk 97:701) furnished the only other Tundra Swan record in this part of Alaska. Whooper Swan numbers peaked at 18 at Amchitka (DAD, *vide* MB) before the species' April departure for Asia. East of the annual limit of winter range, five Emperor Geese that wintered at Cordova were last noted there the first week of April (RF). At Kodiak I, the normal e. limit of winter distribution, on Apr. 6, 314 Emperors were also late (RAM), and a few singles and small groups were present through June 7 at Attu I., from where the species has ordinarily departed by May 1.

A ♂ Cinnamon Teal at Womens Bay, Kodiak, May 14 (†DWM) provided the only report of the species this spring. Eurasian Wigeon were widely reported in small numbers along the Pacific coast from Sitka to Attu. Thirty at Shemya through May 29 (DWS) provided the highest count. A distinctly scarce item west of the Alaska mainland, Am. Wigeon was observed at St. Paul I., Pribilofs (May 18–June 4, with a maximum of five May 26 [ILJ, SCG]); at Adak (one male, May 26–28 [TRE, DB, LS, *vide* MB]); and at Shemya (one male, May 18–June 2 [DWS]).

A very few Com. Pochards were present this spring, at Shemya and Attu. Although the species was recorded in all the usual Aleutian localities, Tufted Duck maxima were low, with 15 at Attu and 12 at Shemya. "Prairie" ducks—Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, and, especially, Lesser Scaup—were mentioned by many in above-average numbers in s.e., s.c., and c. Alaska. Flocks of 18 Redheads at Fairbanks May 7 (DDG, JJ) and of 16 at Anchorage May 14 (PEL, DWS) were exceptional, and 250 Lesser Scaup lingering on the Anchorage mudflats into late May (TGT) provided an impressive count. Three Lesser Scaup, two males and a female, at Shemya I., w. Aleutians, May 28–June 1 (†, ph. DWS) provided the westernmost record of this Nearctic duck. We are aware of only 3 other records of the species in s.w. Alaska: one at Amchitka in winter 1976–1977 (AB 31:363); a pair at St. Paul I., Pribilofs, in spring 1983 (AB 37:902); and one at Adak in spring 1986 (AB 40:512). And a pair of Lesser Scaup was seen at Prudhoe Bay on Alaska's Beaufort Sea coast June 4 (RHD, SMM).

Conant and Hodges ("Alaska-Yukon Waterfowl Breeding Population Survey, May 15 to June 15, 1988," U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Juneau), who lump in their aerial surveys the 2 species of scaup, stated that our Redhead breeding population, which they estimated at 7600 birds in 1988, was up 165% over the 1978–1987 average. They had counted only 300 birds in 1987.

OSPREY TO SHOREBIRDS — Whether from mainland Asia or Alaska, an Osprey present at St. Paul May 31–June 3 (STZ, SCG, ILJ *et al.*) was out of place. One ad. White-tailed Eagle was still resident this spring in the vicinity of the Temnac R. aerie, whence it made forays into the Massacre Bay area on the e. coast of Attu at irregular intervals. Irregular visitants so far from the Alaska mainland, Sandhill Cranes were observed at Amchitka (up to three, May 18–30 [†DAD]), at Shemya (four, May 24–31 [ph. DWS]), and at Attu (three, May 18).

Shorebird migration throughout the Region was uneventful, no doubt because of widespread high-pressure systems and associated clear weather. At Kodiak the passage was regarded as "paltry" by RAM, who stated that in some cases the first-sighting dates of regular migrants were the only sightings of them for the period. This spring's highest day-count of Wood Sandpipers at Attu, for another example, was six, the lowest spring count of that species there in 13 years. All Asiatic shorebirds occurred in less-than-average numbers, and several scarce-but-regular species were not seen at all.

Highlights in this group were few, but included Alaska's 3rd **Little Ringed Plover**, one bird observed at Shemya May 18–19 (†, ph. DWS). A Greater Yellowlegs at Juneau Mar. 30 (MEI) was record early in the Region by about a week. Perhaps Lesser Yellowlegs took advantage of the fine weather to explore new territory, for one was seen as far as St. Paul May 18–25 (ILJ *et*

al.), and another reached Attu, where present June 4–7. Continuing to turn up in very small numbers each spring, Far Eastern Curlew was seen at Attu (singles May 26 and June 7–8), at Shemya (one May 29 [ph. DWS]), and at Adak (one May 27 [m.ob., *vide* MB]). Long-toed Stint made its poorest showing in years, with a maximum of four at Attu May 27; one was observed as far east as St. Paul, where present May 29–June 3 (†ILJ, †V.E.N.T.). A Stilt Sandpiper at St. Paul June 2 (ILJ, SCG, STZ) provided the 4th record for the Pribilofs and for all of s.w. Alaska (see AB 41:477; AB 35:853; and Thompson and DeLong 1969, Auk 86:748). A small flight of the rare Wilson's Phalarope comprised 4 reports: a pair on the Mendenhall Wetlands, Juneau, the 3rd week of May (RHA, *vide* MWS); a pair that arrived at Anchorage May 20 (JP); a pair at Kenney L. near Copper Center May 22 (DMT); and one bird at Valdez May 25 (GJT). The Anchorage birds remained through at least June 10 on the Ft. Richardson bombing range (JP *et al.*).

GULLS TO ALCIDS — For the 2nd consecutive spring an ad. Com. Black-headed Gull appeared May 21 in Anchorage with the main movement of Bonaparte's Gulls (TGT). Astonishing observers at St. Lawrence I. this spring was an ad. **Black-tailed Gull** (*Larus crassirostris*) observed at close range by many June 2–13 (†, ph. WINGS). Photos substantiated the occurrence of this Asiatic species in Alaska for the first time. For the 4th spring in a row an ad. Ring-billed Gull was found at Anchorage, this year in a Mew Gull colony Apr. 18 (TGT). At least 10 Slaty-backed Gulls, including nine adults, observed at St. Paul May 18–June 3 (ILJ, SCG, m.ob.) constituted easily the largest concentration of this species reported this season.

In its 8th year in the Region, Caspian Tern arrived at Cordova May 6 (a pair [JMA, CJH]). This species probably breeds somewhere on the north Gulf coast of Alaska, but to date there is no direct evidence of such activity. Four Caspian Terns were observed at Hyder, the easternmost community in Alaska, May 31 (DRH). The only Com. Tern (*S. h. longipennis*) recorded this spring was one bird at Webster L., St. Paul, May 31–June 1 (V.E.N.T., ILJ). A lone Dovekie found in a Least Auklet colony at Northeast Pt., St. Paul, June 6 (SCG, STZ, ILJ) numbered among few Pribilof records of this bird, which is suspected of breeding in this Region—based on circumstantial evidence—only at Little Diomed and St. Lawrence islands. A Cassin's Auklet studied close to shore at St. Paul May 12 (ILJ, SCG) probably furnished a first Pribilof record of this Aleutian and North Pacific bird.

CUCKOOS TO HUMMINGBIRDS — Appearing in Alaska for the 12th season of the last 18 years (see AB 40:1243), Com. Cuckoo arrived at Attu June 8, and over the ensuing 2 days at least eight individuals, including two hepatic-morph females, were observed there, all carefully identified as this species. An utterly amazing find was a gray ♀ Com. Cuckoo discovered June 13 as a fresh road-kill a few miles from Nome (V.E.N.T., *U.A.M.), where it constituted only the 2nd record for the Alaska mainland (see Gill and Handel 1980, *Condor* 82:472).

Northern Pygmy-Owl was finally confirmed as an Alaska breeding bird this season, when PJW (†, ph.) discovered a pair at an old woodpecker hole 39 ft up a 61.5-ft hemlock snag on Mitkof I. Apr. 29. (Monitoring the nest regularly over the next 2 months, Walsh saw one or two owlets fed at the nest entrance as late as June 26; the site was vacant on the 29th.) A calling Barred Owl was heard on Mitkof I. Mar. 14 but not subsequently (PJW). The species has been recorded in that area only 4 times, 3 of them in the last year. It is unclear whether Alaska's Barred Owl records, from Juneau to Wrangell, reflect irregular arrivals in s.e. Alaska or individuals that have not retreated from this area since the species was first noted in Alaska in 1977.

A Com. Nighthawk at Juneau May 19 (STZ) provided a unique record at that locality in spring. This species occurs

annually in (s e) Alaska only as an autumn migrant. A Black Swift observed with swallows at Juneau May 28 (MWS) was north of its Alaska breeding range, the s.e. mainland from the Stikine south. Rufous Hummingbird arrived a week early in Prince William Sound, Apr. 21 at the mouth of Valdez Arm (MEI), and May 5 at Portage.

TYRANT-FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRUSHES —

Once again, Hammond's Flycatcher pushed back its Alaska arrival record. In 1988 singing males were heard at 3 different locations in the Fairbanks area early on Apr. 23 (BK, PDM, DDG). These birds were not an isolated advance party, as appropriate habitat was filled in and occupied throughout the area thereafter. Just why the c. Alaska population of this bird seems to arrive on its breeding grounds earlier than does the s.e. Alaska population remains to be explained. One would guess, after all, that the former has a greater distance to travel from its wintering area than does the latter. We are not aware of a s.e. Alaska record earlier than Apr. 30 (1987, Juneau, RJG—the only pre-May 1 record in s.e. Alaska to date). If there were annual coverage at Hyder, in southeasternmost Alaska, **Least Flycatcher** might prove to be annual and breeding. Three singing males heard there this May 31 (DRH) followed two such birds found there in June 1986 (AB 40:1243).

Scarce but annual in the w. Aleutians, Eur. Skylark was recorded there this season only at Shemya, where up to two singing males were present May 19–June 2 (DWS). One skylark that was studied at Northeast Pt., St. Paul, May 31 (†ILJ, SCG, STZ) seems to provide the first Pribilof record since 1970 (see AFN 24:707). A lone N. Rough-winged Swallow at Juneau May 7–8 (MEI, STZ, JLS) was record early by a week. Extralimital Barn Swallows were reported from Anchorage May 14 (PEL et al.), the earliest of 6 local records, and at Homer June 18 (V.E.N.T.). Also record early was a daring Cliff Swallow seen at Anchorage Apr. 24 (DFD, RLS).

One Red-breasted Flycatcher was observed at Attu this spring, a male May 26; unknown in Alaska before 1977 (Gibson and Hall 1978, Auk 95:429), this species has been recorded in the w. Aleutians each spring since 1982. *Fifteen* Bluethroats at Gambell, St. Lawrence I., May 30 (WINGS) probably furnished a high count for Alaska; eight were still present the following day. And at least 13 Bluethroats, 12 of them males, were seen at Deering, n. Seward Pen., June 1 (†JW). Four **Red-flanked Bluetails**, all females or first-spring males, were observed at Attu May 22–June 6. Treated as a single phenomenon, they constituted the 3rd Alaska record (see AB 36:885; AB 41:477). Siberian Rubythroat and Eye-browed Thrush, the only 2 annual spring-migrant thrushes in the w. Aleutians, were few but on time.

WAGTAILS TO FINCHES — Motacillids were also on time and nowhere seen in large numbers. Gray Wagtails continue to be noted each spring at Attu; this year singles were seen May 18 & 26. A bird studied at Attu May 17 that appeared to be a typical ad. ♂ White Wagtail provided the first Aleutian report of *M. a. ocularis*, the closest relative of the Black-backed Wagtail. Olive Tree-Pipits were seen in the w. Aleutians in average numbers: up to five at Attu May 26–29, one at Shemya on May 30 (DWS). Four **Pechora Pipits** observed at Attu May 23–31 were the first ones seen there since 1982 and provided the 7th Alaska record; in Alaska this bird has been recorded only at Attu and St. Lawrence islands.

The wintering White-throated Sparrow at Juneau was last seen the first week of April (MEI). Rustic Bunting numbers peaked at Attu May 19, when 32 were seen. In 2 other Aleutian spring seasons of prominent abundance, numbers of this species peaked May 18 (1982—64 birds) and May 23 (1985—37). A gaudy ad. ♂ **Yellow-breasted Bunting** (*Emberiza aureola*) observed well by all at Attu May 26 (*U.A.M.) provided the first substantiated Alaska record of this Asiatic species, an "irregular visitor in the spring and early summer" in the nearby Com-

mander Is. (Johansen 1961, Auk 78:54). In the Far East it is a common breeder in grasslands from Kamchatka to n. Japan.

A pair of Bramblings observed at Amchitka May 12 (†, ph DAD) provided this season's easternmost record of the species. Bramblings invaded Attu May 16, and the following day 122 were counted in the Massacre Bay area, the 2nd highest one-day total for Attu and Alaska (compare 156 on May 20, 1980 [AB 34:807]). The species was much less numerous at nearby Shemya, where 18 birds May 29 (DWS) constituted the highest count. Two males were seen at Attu as late as June 11. An ad. ♂ Com. Rosefinch was observed June 1–3 at Gambell (WINGS), whence most of Alaska's records have come.

Red Crossbills were common at Seward (JMA, DWS) and at Kodiak (RAM) through the period, in the same areas where present last winter. Of Red Crossbills at Kodiak, MacIntosh wrote, "Many streaked juvenile birds . . . in May. Since last summer they have been more common than I have seen them in 15 years here. In most years they are very scarce or absent." Four were seen May 23 in Anchorage (MRD), north of the normal, coastal distribution of the species. A bob-tailed White-winged Crossbill was found as a road kill at Fairbanks May 14 (BK, *U.A.M.), but, compared with activity earlier in the year (see Winter), the species was much less conspicuous there in May. There was no evidence that they had departed for other parts, however. White-wingeds were less numerous than Reds at Kodiak this period (RAM). Crossbills were scarce in s.e. Alaska (MEI). Redpolls were not present in the southeast all season, but were present in s.c. Alaska in average numbers. A few very early breeding pairs of redpolls were noted in c. Alaska, at Fairbanks, where a nest found Apr. 12 (THP) held three young Apr. 26 (RBW). Pine Siskins were common throughout the period from Kodiak (RAM) and Anchorage (TGT, DRH) to s.e. Alaska (MEI, PJW). Fledged siskins were noted at Anchorage by May 15 (DRH).

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NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

We regret that at press time, we have not received the North Pacific Coast Report.

David G. Yee, Richard A. Erickson,
and Stephen F. Bailey

Almost every species of Farallon Islands seabird started laying eggs seven to 10 days earlier than previously recorded in 17 years of monitoring. This and high ocean productivity predicted an extremely productive breeding season. On the whole, landbirds were well reported with no exceptional trends noted, except for Red Crossbills. Vagrants were meager. Despite this being our third straight drought year, little was mentioned of its effects on our bird populations.

We are grateful to Kurt F. Campbell for compiling the land bird reports for Yee's analysis.

ABBREVIATIONS — C.B.R.C. = California Bird Records Committee; C.V. = Central Valley; F.I. = S.E. Farallon I.; I.C.R. = Inner Coast Range; S.F. = San Francisco; ph. = photo on file with the Regional Editors. All records from Palomarin and S.E. Farallon I. should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory (P.R.B.O.).

LOONS TO PELICANS — Always rare, a Yellow-billed Loon was at Eureka Apr. 16 and May 1 (ph. SDF). A late Horned Grebe at Pt. Reyes Fish Docks May 29 was suspected of being the same bird seen there in late spring in recent years (JM). Both Horned and Eared grebes remained scarce in the C.V. Grebe numbers in Soquel Cove, Santa Cruz, peaked May 17–18 at 4720 Westerns and 722 Clark's (330–670 unidentified), confirming this area's importance for spring staging (DLSu).

Three Laysan Albatrosses were about average for the spring season: at Cordell Bank, Marin, Mar. 15 (GMF); F.I. Mar. 21; and 9 mi off Humboldt Bay Apr. 10 (GSL, SWH, FJB). Very few N Fulmars were offshore, but one was dying on a pond at Pajaro Dunes, Santa Cruz, Apr. 16 (DLSu). An unidentified light-bodied *Pterodroma* passed F.I. May 20 (†PP). Sightings of Flesh-footed Shearwater off Santa Cruz Mar. 22 (JMa, DLSh) and off San Mateo Mar. 27 and Apr. 7 (ToJ) could have represented the same bird; this species is rare in spring. American White Pelicans were unusually widespread and numerous through spring in the C.V. and around the greater S.F. Bay.

HERONS TO WATERFOWL — Up to two Least Bitterns were seen in Pacific Grove May 4–18 (TCr, †DR *et al.*). The species is exceptional on the coast and had been unrecorded in Monterey since 1948. Great Blue Herons nested at Elkhorn Slough Estuarine Sanctuary for the 3rd consecutive year following decades of absence. Twenty to 25 nests were found in May, but more exciting were 2 nests of Great Egrets among them, Monterey's first (*vide* AB, DR).

A Snowy Egret x Little Blue Heron at Alviso, Santa Clara, Apr. 16 was described as a different individual than the one at Charleston Slough the previous fall (†WGB, AGR *et al.*). Black-crowned Night-Herons wreaked havoc on nesting waterfowl at the Redwood Shores sewage facility, San Mateo, where these "night ravens" gobbled up over 90% of Mallard, Gadwall, and N. Pintail chicks" (PJM).

White-faced Ibis continued to increase in the Region with this their best season on record. Reports appeared to be incomplete from the C.V., where the species may have wintered only in the San Joaquin Valley this year. Stanislaus was apparently the major staging area, with numbers beginning to build by early April. The Modesto sewage ponds and vicinity were the focal point, with 650 present by Apr. 23 and a Regional record of 1400 on May 14; 1100 were still present May 22. These concentrations were due in part to low water levels at the more traditional Merced sites, coupled with extensive flooding because of partial draining of the sewage ponds for maintenance (HMR *et al.*). Reports of up to 35 birds came from



Alameda and all the delta counties except Contra Costa in May.

Ibises were reported from all the immediate coastal counties in May except poorly covered Mendocino and tiny San Francisco. High counts included 57 in Del Norte, 40 in Humboldt, 50 in Sonoma, and 37 in Santa Cruz. One flying N at Trinidad, Humboldt, June 6 (Bob Sizoo) was the last seen. The species was unrecorded anywhere on the coast in spring prior to 1985. At Lower Klamath N.W.R., the first two were seen Apr. 30 and 500+ were present by the end of May (RE, MFRb). Elsewhere in n.e. California in May nearly 200 were seen in Modoc and 47 in Lassen; 100+ at Big L. May 21 were said to be the first for Shasta (BVdM *et al.*).

A Tundra Swan in Sierra Valley, Plumas, May 14 (JSL) was late, and a Trumpeter Swan was reported at the same place Mar. 18–Apr. 2 (†L.G. Jensen, *vide* DR). Single migrant Ross' Geese were on the coast at Pebble Beach, Monterey, Mar. 31–Apr. 1 (E. Ing, RFT) and with migrating "Aleutian" Canada Geese at L. Earl, Del Norte, Mar. 12–Apr. 15 (PFS, ADB *et al.*) A wintering bird in the Arcata Bottoms was last seen May 26 (GSL, LPL), and the Emperor Goose at Alameda was last seen Apr. 17 (WG).

Three ♂ Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal hybrids were reported this season from Glenn, Marin, and Santa Clara. A ♂ Eur. Wigeon remained at Redwood City to May 15 (RSTh) to establish a record late date for the Region.

One Ring-necked Duck with migrant scaup at the Modesto sewage ponds May 22 (HMR), four at Crowley L., Mono, May 25 (PJM), and a pair at Arcata June 5 (RAE) were all considered very late migrants. A migrant ♀ Tufted Duck was also at Arcata Apr. 16–17 (SWH, ph. SDF, †GSL *et al.*).

Oldsquaws remained late with four reported in May. Eight thousand Surf Scoters passed Pigeon Pt. in 4 hours Mar. 24 (BS), and 1200 passed El Jarro Pt., Santa Cruz, in 110 minutes the same day (DLSu, CKf). Two were 6 mi inland at College L., Santa Cruz, Mar. 23 (DLSu). A ♂ Bufflehead on the Pajaro R. estuary May 28–31 (CKf *et al.*) was very late, and lingering birds remained in Arcata to May 27 and Eureka to June 1 (RAE *et al.*). One at F.I. Apr. 2 provided the 2nd island record. Hooded Mergansers also remained late with 12 at 3 sites Apr. 15–17

and one on the Hunter-Liggett Reserve, Monterey, May 30 (RLR). Nine inland Red-breasted Mergansers were all seen in a 3-day period (Apr. 21–23) in Siskiyou, Monterey, and Tulare.

RAPTORS — Six ad. and 12 imm. Bald Eagles at Modesto Res., Stanislaus, Mar. 5 (JHG) formed a rather large concentration for so far south in the foothills. A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks courting at Happy Camp, Siskiyou, Mar. 6 (RE, MFRb) provided further evidence of this species' expansion. A "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk was reported in Sutter Mar. 6 (MJL). A Merlin flying N past Seacliff State Beach, Santa Cruz, May 4 (DLSu) was late.

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS — Up to three or four Black Rails were found on Bacon I. from late April through May 11 for the first San Joaquin records in 5 years (S. Meyers, DGY *et al.*). Single Com. Moorhens again reached the n. coast: at Arcata Marsh Apr. 18–25 (*fide* GSL) and near Ft. Bragg May 18–28 (DT). A Sandhill Crane over Oakland Apr. 3 (JSL) was unexpected; there are few Alameda records.

S.A.

In the first comprehensive census of tidal and nontidal wetlands of San Francisco and San Pablo bays, 183 observers (212 observer days) counted over 838,000 shorebirds of 28 species Apr. 16–18. Nine species constituted 99% of the individuals: (numbers in thousands) W. Sandpiper (555), Dunlin (140), dowitchers (mostly Short-billed, 62), Marbled Godwit (32), Least Sandpiper (17), Black-bellied Plover (11), Am. Avocet (6), and Willet (5). Also counted were 2541 Black-necked Stilts, 1639 Red Knots, 985 Red-necked Phalaropes, 874 Sanderlings, 695 Semipalmated Plovers, 600 Greater Yellowlegs, 293 Long-billed Curlews, 281 Killdeer, 213 Wilson's Phalaropes, 212 Black Turnstones, 135 Whimbrels, 129 Ruddy Turnstones, 105 Lesser Yellowlegs, 103 Snowy Plovers, 26 Spotted Sandpipers, five Com. Snipe, two Wandering Tattlers, two Baird's Sandpipers, and one Lesser Golden-Plover. This census was the first of several annual spring and fall shorebird counts along the Pacific Flyway; future censuses will include other sites. Contact Point Reyes Bird Observatory if you would like to participate, either at S.F. Bay or other West Coast wetlands.

—Lynne E. Stenzel and Gary W. Page

Three thousand Black-bellied Plovers at the Modesto sewage ponds Apr. 18–22 constituted a record high count for Stanislaus. The last alternate-plumaged birds were seen there May 22, indicating migration to at least that date (HMR). Lesser Golden-Plovers were last seen at wintering sites in Mendocino, San Mateo, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus Apr. 16–23. At Lawson's Landing, Marin, 11 were still present May 6 (R. Hayden), but the only obvious migrants were one at Hayward Regional Shoreline Apr. 17 (RJR) and one at the Lodi sewage ponds Apr. 23 (DGY). None were reported as *dominica*.

Six Black-necked Stilts were at Arcata Marsh Mar. 18 and two were at the Mad R. estuary Apr. 27, but local birders were saddened by the lack of other sightings in the Humboldt Bay area, where colonists had nested the previous 3 years (*fide* GSL).

A Solitary Sandpiper Apr. 9 in San Antonio Valley, Santa Clara (DSg), was our earliest ever; four to seven others were seen in Humboldt/Del Norte Apr. 11–May 10. Three Whimbrels at San Felipe L. Apr. 23 (DSg) furnished San Benito's first record. A Ruddy Turnstone at the Stockton sewage ponds May 12 (DGY) was the only one reported inland.

Eight+ Sanderlings were found inland Mar. 20–May 30. Baird's Sandpipers were found this spring at Redwood Shores sewage facility, San Mateo, Mar. 27 (†RSTh); Las Galinas sewage ponds, Marin, Apr. 16 (†DAH); St. Helena sewage ponds, Napa, Apr. 16 (JCS); and Hayward Apr. 17 (LJP). The only Pectoral Sandpiper was in the Arcata Bottoms May 10–13 (FJB). Santa

Cruz's overdue first Rock Sandpiper was with 68 migrating Surfbirds north of Waddell Creek Beach Mar 28 (†DLSu)

Ruffs have been found in the San Joaquin Valley every winter since 1980; this year's bird was at Merced N.W.R. Mar. 17 (T Poole). An apparent migrant was near the mouth of Alameda Cr., Alameda, Apr. 6 (N. Warnock). Two Com. Snipe were winnowing e. of Clay, Sacramento, Apr. 24, indicating the species may breed there (TDM, AM).

GULLS TO ALCIDS — Franklin's Gull was added to the Modoc N.W.R. list in a grand way May 24: the group of 32 (ECkB) was by far the most ever seen in California. The new colony at Malheur N.W.R., OR (see AB 40:1231), is not far away, however, so we may expect an increase in migrants. Three Franklin's Gulls stopped at Pajaro R. mouth, Santa Cruz/Monterey, Apr. 8 (†DLSu) and May 14 & 15 (PJM). For the 2nd spring since 1982 only the wintering ad. Little Gull was seen at Stockton sewage ponds, through Apr. 18 (DGY, JMa). The 22,000 Bonaparte's Gulls passing Pigeon Pt., San Mateo, in 4 hours Mar. 31 were termed an "unprecedented, enormous, early movement" (BS). About 4200 Bonaparte's were ashore at Pajaro R. mouth, and 3650+ passed by in 80 minutes Apr. 8 (DLSu). Burning fields at Tule L. seemed to have attracted the 18,000–20,000 Ring-billed Gulls Mar. 11 (M. Denny). Stanislaus' first ad. Thayer's Gull Mar. 22–23 (HMR, ERC) joined the last of three first-year Thayer's that wintered at Modesto sewage ponds (HMR). First-year Glaucous Gulls were at Modesto sewage ponds Mar. 6–23 (first for Stanislaus, ph. ERC); at Charleston Slough, Santa Clara, Apr. 23 (WGB, CB); and at 3 sites along the c. coast to Apr. 24. More unusual was the adult Glaucous Gull at Modesto sewage ponds Mar. 13 (ERC, †HMR).

Elegant Terns again returned early. Two or three were in Santa Cruz Apr. 6 (BSch, DLSu), 10 visited Pacifica Apr. 19 (S Smithson), and 81 gathered at Pajaro R. mouth May 11 (DLSu) On the latter occasion DLSu watched courtship and a copulation attempt, leading him to suggest that these spring migrants are prospecting n. California tern colonies and are not post-breeding dispersants. Xantus' Murrelets were reported 4 times Mar. 17–May 15, from F.I. to Monterey (ToJ, DLSh), with a maximum of four off Monterey May 8 (DLSh). Two Horned Puffins appeared right on schedule, though this rarity is always exciting at these latitudes. One was off the continental shelf west of Half Moon Bay, San Mateo, May 26 (DGA, R. Moore), and the other was 9 mi southwest of Pt. Reyes, Marin, May 28 (L. Standley, *fide* GLF).

PIGEONS TO HUMMINGBIRDS — One hundred twenty Band-tailed Pigeons in Del Puerto Canyon Mar. 30 (JHG, HMR) with 30 still there May 14 (HMR, SLR) represented large numbers for the I.C.R. and the first for Stanislaus in over 6 years (HMR). An injured Greater Roadrunner in downtown Monterey Apr. 29 (*fide* M. Williams) was miles out of range. A nesting pair of Com. Barn-Owls with young at Modoc N.W.R. May 25 (ECkB) was of interest as they are rare in the Great Basin with no Modoc records in our files. Two Spotted Owls calling near Cone Peak in the Santa Lucia Mts., Monterey, were from sites not previously known (DR, RER). A Short-eared Owl on F.I. Apr. 16 provided the island's first pre-June spring record. Three Lesser Nighthawks were coastward, where rare at Summit Ridge east of Lomita, Santa Cruz/Santa Clara, Apr. 26 (DLSu); Pacific Grove May 8 (C. Gottlund); and F.I. May 22 Singles near Camanche Res., San Joaquin, May 14 (DGY) and over downtown Sacramento May 17 (DoM) were also locally rare. A Com. Nighthawk along Vasco Rd., Contra Costa, May 28 (RJR) was in an area where considered casual. However, the date is consistent with first spring arrivals in our Region.

Black Swift's average arrival dates in our Region are in mid-May, so 4 reports of single birds zipping along the coast Apr. 22–May 6 suggested they were early this year. A well-studied Chimney Swift at Pt. Reyes May 22 (†JM, RS, DDeS, m.ob.) was only the Region's 2nd for May, though there are 7 June records

For the 5th consecutive year a good number (seven) of Costa's Hummingbirds were found north and east of their "expected" range. This strongly indicated these birds are more than just "extralimital" but rather are pioneers of a range expansion. A ♀ Broad-tailed Hummingbird found injured in San Jose Mar. 15 (TAC, P. Gonzales) was only the Region's 3rd west of the Sierras. At the time of this writing the bird was still in captivity. A ♂ Allen's Hummingbird was checking out the beauty of the Sutter Buttes Apr. 2 for a first Sutter record (†WA).

WOODPECKERS TO FLYCATCHERS — Three pairs of Lewis' Woodpeckers examining nest holes in extreme s.e. San Joaquin Apr. 2 provided the first evidence of breeding in the county (DGY). Monterey's 4th Williamson's Sapsucker was along Chews Ridge Mar. 3–12 (†S. Hossler, †DR), for that county's first-ever "stakeout." Perhaps even more exciting was Alameda's first Pileated Woodpecker in Redwood Regional Park Apr. 3 (†JHH, L. Palermo). An Olive-sided Flycatcher at Lodi L., San Joaquin, June 3 was quite late on the C.V. floor (DGY). Unprecedented was the report of hundreds of W. Woodpeewees at Modoc N.W.R. May 29 (EckB). Only one Dusky Flycatcher made it to the immediate coast, at outer Pt. Reyes May 20 (RS). Four singing and apparently territorial Dusky Flycatchers along with a courting pair of Gray Flycatchers were at San Benito Mt., San Benito, May 28 (DSg), where both species were suspected of breeding in 1983–1984 (Johnson and Cicero, 1985, *W. Birds* 16:5–6). Lake Merced's wintering Tropical Kingbird lingered to Apr. 12 (R. Fox), only the 2nd time a known wintering individual has stayed to April. Outstanding was F.I.'s first spring W. Kingbird Apr. 1, for only their 2nd ever Spring vagrant E. Kingbirds are quite rare before June, so one on F.I. May 22 and two at outer Pt. Reyes May 28 (RS, B Hogan) were of interest. Birds returning to traditional breeding sites were noted in Shasta Valley, Siskiyou, May 30 (RE) A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was observed 10 mi north of Gasquet, Del Norte, May 27 (†BMu).

SWALLOWS TO VIREOS — A count of 2400 Tree Swallows over College L., Santa Cruz, Mar. 11 (DLSu, RAM) was the highest spring total along the coast in our files. One thousand Violet-green Swallows migrating over Redding, Shasta, Mar. 28 (BVdM) matched the highest total ever reported inland during spring. Two pairs nesting in extreme s.e. San Joaquin Apr. 2 provided a first for that county (DGY). The only notable concentrations of Bank Swallows reported were of 100+ at the Ano Nuevo State Reserve colony May 3 (GJS) and 300+ at the colony near Crowley L., Mono, May 25 (PJM). Cliff Swallows have been on the decline at Palomarin since 1980, when 50 were still present. This year only one pair was noted all period! Where other declines have occurred it would be important to note if they coincide with the occasional destruction of all or parts of their colonies by the human hand. Often their mud sculptures are hosed down for reasons of sanitation and aesthetics, but more frequently they are subject to target practice by heartless rock throwers (at least in this writer's experience). Modesto's wintering Steller's Jay vacationed there until Mar. 12 (HMR, SLR). An amazing 40 Pinyon Jays were discovered in Del Puerto Canyon, Mar. 31 (HMR), Stanislaus's first, with 22 still there Apr. 1 (†ERC, JHG). These birds were undoubtedly part of the Corvid mini-invasion the entire state received during the past fall/winter. However, most extralimital records in our Region have been of single birds, so a flock was exciting. A pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches setting up housekeeping near Cone Peak Apr. 3 (DR, RER) provided the first documented breeding record for Monterey, and an impressive 15 new breeding sites were discovered in the Santa Cruz Mts. (DLSu, m.ob.).

An excited ♂ Ruby-crowned Kinglet chasing another individual just below the San Benito Mt. summit May 28 (DSg) was most intriguing as this species is known to nest locally only in the Sierra Nevada/Cascade Mts. and the Coast Ranges of the n. coast. A wayward W. Bluebird was at F.I. Apr. 1, the

island's 2nd ever Eight Townsend's Solitaires were likely related to the winter's strong showing. One at McKinleyville, Humboldt, May 5 (RLeV) was considered a coastal vagrant. Nine reports of Swainson's Thrush came from the C.V. floor, where contrary to past statements they can be fairly common during mid-May. The winter invasion of Varied Thrush continued well into April in the lowlands. A singing male in Stockton May 13 (DGY) was one of the latest ever on the C.V. floor. There are very few records of Wrentit for S.F., so one at the Presidio Apr. 1 (DPM) was noteworthy. The Bohemian Waxwing invasion fizzled as the only report was of 50 at the base of Mt. Shasta, Siskiyou, Mar. 6 (BAP). Nesting Cedar Waxwings in the Region are normally restricted to coastal Humboldt/Del Norte, but birds carrying nesting material near Salinas, Monterey, May 15 (JB, m.ob.) and in Watsonville, Santa Cruz, May 28 (CKf) showed they are content to raise babies "south of the tracks" as has occurred in the past. Monterey had its first Bell's Vireo in 3 years (bred in 1983), along the Nacimiento R. May 14 (†RLR). Not found subsequently, it was considered a migrant. The status of "Plumbeous" Solitary Vireo away from the Great Basin during nonwinter months remained vague. One from Reichmuth Park, Sacramento, Apr. 13 (†TDM, MP) and one at Fairhaven, Humboldt, May 26 (FJB, †GSL, LPL, JCS) doubled our acceptable extralimital spring reports.

WOOD WARBLERS — Only two Tennessee Warblers were found this season, both on F.I., May 8 & 16. A singing ♂ N Parula was at Sycamore Grove, Santa Cruz, May 31–June 20 (BMMo, m.ob.). As mentioned in past reports, we should be looking for nesting attempts by this species, especially along our c. coast. Livermore's wintering Chestnut-sided Warbler was last observed Mar. 9 (KGH), when it was beginning to molt. Among Myrtle Warblers, a bird in Stockton May 8 (DGY) may have been the last of our western migrants, and three birds at outer Pt. Reyes May 24–27 (RS, B. Gillis) may have been eastern vagrants. For the 2nd spring in a row a very well described intergrade "Myrtle x Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler was reported. It was at Muddy Hollow, Pt. Reyes, Mar. 1 (DDK, †DAH).

A nesting pair of Black-throated Gray Warblers with young in Henry Coe S.P., Santa Clara, May 29 provided further evidence of this species' nesting in the Diablo Range of the I.C.R. The movement of Townsend's Warblers spanned Apr. 7–May 28. Several observers commented on their large numbers and tardiness through the Santa Cruz Mts., C.V., and Great Basin (DLSu, GEw, TDM, DGY, PJM). An unusual-looking bird at Mt. Diablo May 8 (†JM) was thought to be a Townsend's x Hermit hybrid, possibly a Hermit backcross. A **Prairie Warbler** at Mono Lake County Park May 28 (†CGR) furnished our Region with its first documented spring record. Of 12 Palm Warblers reported, seven in March were considered wintering birds but five in April–May were probably migrants. All were along the coast. All seven of our Black-and-white Warblers were also coastal, with a wintering bird along Corralitos Cr., Santa Cruz, staying until Apr. 22 (BMMo). A Worm-eating Warbler bathed regularly in a Pacific Grove birdbath Mar. 21–Apr. 12 (ph. K Shepard, *fide* DR). It was a typical season for Ovenbirds, with one at Palomarin May 17 and another on F.I. May 21.

GROSBEAKS TO LONGSPURS — A well-publicized N. Cardinal at Friant Dam, Fresno, Apr. 15–May 31 (RHG) was considered a probable escapee. Four Rose-breasted Grosbeaks graced our Region May 21–28. Of six Indigo Buntings reported, the one wintering in Trinidad, Humboldt, Mar. 12–Apr. 24 (GLF) was most likely the bird seen in Westhaven during December. An Am. Tree Sparrow was on F.I. May 11, where all previous spring birds have occurred. Our only coastal Brewer's Sparrow also visited F.I. Apr. 24–26. Single Black-chinned Sparrows on Mt. Konocti near Kelseyville, Lake, May 16–21 (†B. McIntosh) and on San Benito Mt. May 28 (DSg) were from counties where they are rarely observed. San Jose's wintering Black-throated Sparrow departed Mar. 5 (F. & D. O'Sullivan)

For the 3rd time in 5 springs a Lark Bunting was along Mallott Rd. just north of Sutter Apr. 14–30 (BED). Grasshopper Sparrow reports in the C.V. away from its w. edge are few, so two singing males in Porterville, Tulare, Mar. 29 (RJR) were of interest. Twenty-seven White-throated Sparrows made our strongest spring showing ever. A singing male in Mill Valley May 31 (DAH) was very late. An impressive five individual Harris' Sparrows were reported Mar. 1–Apr. 27. Eight Lapland Longspurs on outer Pt. Reyes Apr. 5 (PhR, AG, EDG) were our last. The wintering Chestnut-collared Longspurs on Bear River Ridge, Humboldt, and at Ave. 276 and Rd. 176, Tulare, were last observed Mar. 26 (M. Morris) and Apr. 1 (RH), respectively. The latter birds peaked at an impressive 18–20 (RH).

BOBOLINK TO FINCHES — Most Bobolink sightings are coastal, but our only one this season was at Mono L. May 28 (GWP). Very few people have hinted at how the continuing drought has affected their local bird populations. So it was interesting (and disheartening) to read RLR's account of 2000 Tricolored Blackbirds colonizing a pond on the Ft. Hunter Liggett Military Reservation, Monterey, in March only to abandon nests and the entire area by May as the pond dried up. "Up to 45" coastal Yellow-headed Blackbirds in the Hanson Slough area, Santa Cruz, May 11–20 (DLSu *et al.*) was unprecedented. One member of the famous Great-tailed Grackle pair at S.F.'s Aquatic Park was still present through May 23 (DPM), but there was no mention of the sex. A Common Grackle entertained a handful of people at Mendoza Ranch, Pt. Reyes, May 21–22 (†RS, †JM *et al.*). Pending acceptance by the C.B.R.C., this provided our Region with only its 5th record. A "Baltimore" N. Oriole was at outer Pt. Reyes May 24 (RS). Spring records are few.

The Red Crossbill invasion continued throughout the spring. Reports remained concentrated in the c. coast area with local breeding confirmed in Monterey (DR) and Santa Cruz (DLSu). In the lowlands away from the coast six birds were in Stockton Apr. 7 (DGY), and one bird was in Livermore Apr. 29 (KGH). Last year's Oriental Greenfinch was seen again at the Arcata oxidation ponds Apr. 17 (†FJB), the site of its discovery. Considering how these ponds are monitored on a regular basis, one wonders where the bird was spending the winter. Perhaps, as one of the locals mused, it never left.

ADDENDUM — Careful documentation is being forwarded to the C.B.R.C. for a ♂ Common Grackle, seen Apr. 12, 1987, at McGee Cr., Mono (7000 ft elevation; Diane Payne, †DAG).

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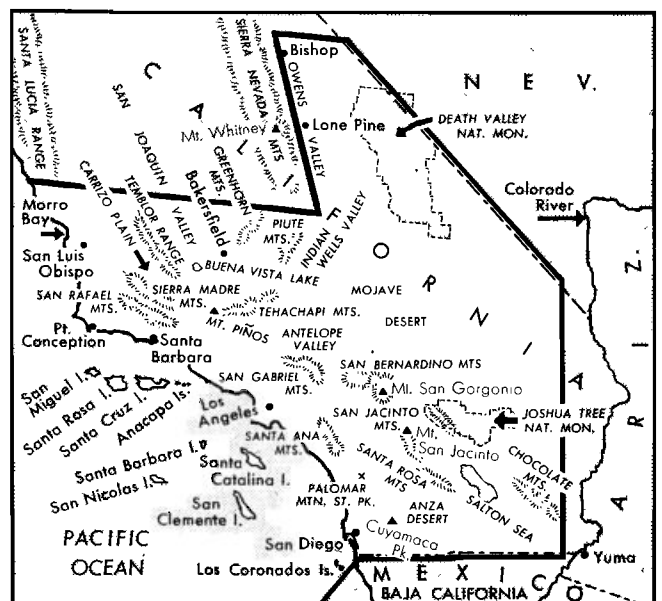
SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Guy McCaskie

Storms pushed south from Alaska during April, leaving us with above-average rainfall in early May and appearing to delay the main push of spring migrants.

ABBREVIATIONS — F.C.R. = Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley, Inyo; H.D.L. = Harper Dry Lake, northeast of Barstow, San Bernardino; N.E.S.S. = north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside; S.C.R.E. = Santa Clara River Estuary near Ventura, Ventura; S.E.S.S. = south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial. Place names in *italics* are counties. 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 TO STORKS — Four Pacific Loons, considered very rare inland, were on L. Isabella, Kern, Apr. 2 (RS). A Com. Loon in California City, Kern, May 7–8 (AC) and another at Deep Springs, Inyo, May 18 (REW) were both at unusual localities as was a Horned Grebe at F.C.R. Mar. 14 (JLD). A Black-



footed Albatross in the San Pedro Channel between Santa Catalina I. and Long Beach Mar. 6 (KLG) was in an area where few have ever been seen. Two Laysan Albatrosses were at 32°30' N, 122°50' W, far off San Diego May 8 (RRV); this species is evidently attempting to expand its breeding range in the e. Pacific with suspected nesting on Alijos Rocks off s. Baja California in the last 10 years (R.L. Pittman 1985, *W. Birds* 16:81-92) and on Guadalupe I. off central Baja California since 1986 (Kathy Sibit photographed four adults with three young at the extreme s. end of the island during April 1988), suggesting numbers encountered off California can be expected to increase in coming years. Single **Murphy's Petrels** were seen at 31°40' N, 121°40' W, and at 31°20' N, 122°10' W, far offshore May 3 (RRV), adding to the growing number of sightings from off California; in addition, five **Cook's Petrels** were seen equally far from shore May 2 & 8 (RRV).

Of extreme interest was an imm. **Masked Booby** photographed on the Los Coronados Is. off extreme n.w. Baja California Apr. 23 (WTE) since there is only one accepted record for California (*W. Birds* 9:175-176). An imm. Magnificent Frigatebird seen flying N into strong headwinds near Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley Apr. 8 (G & JF) was certainly at a most unusual locality. A Least Bittern at F.C.R. May 22 (MAP) was probably a migrant passing through the area since nesting is unrecorded at this location. A Snowy Egret, rare on the Channel Is., was on Santa Cruz I. Mar. 21 (HPR). A Tricolored Heron, unrecorded in California last winter, was on Los Penasquitos Lagoon, San Diego, May 1 (BM). A Cattle Egret at Stovepipe Wells May 20 (NBB) was unexpected. Single ad. Little Blue Herons on Morro Bay May 10-12 (CM), near Ventura Apr. 24 (JSR), and in the Prado Basin near Corona, Riverside, May 23-26 (LRH) fell into the pattern set by others apparently moving N along the coast in spring. A pair of Wood Storks was again present near Imperial Beach Apr. 2-17 (FB), evidently attempting to nest, but again failing.

WATERFOWL TO QUAIL — A Greater White-fronted Goose at Malibu Lagoon, Los Angeles, Apr. 13-24 (DG) and another in Goleta Mar. 5 (RPH) were along the coast, where now considered rare, and single birds near Lancaster, Los Angeles, May 7-15 (PEL) and in the Fremont Valley north of California City May 24 (JLD) were both unusually late, as was a Ross' Goose at N.E.S.S. from May 7 through the end of the period (GMcC). A Brant near Lancaster May 7-8 (PEL) and another in the Prado Basin Apr. 16 through the end of the period (JP) were inland and away from the Salton Sea, while as many as 120 were present at N.E.S.S. Apr. 16 through the end of the period (GMcC). A ♂ Eur. Green-winged Teal in Goleta Mar. 3-19 (RPH) was thought to be the same bird that has spent the past 6 winters at this locality. The ♂ Harlequin Duck that spent the winter in Bolsa Chica remained through Apr. 5 (DRW). Lingering Oldsquaws were along the coast on Morro Bay Apr. 14-26 (TME), at nearby Pismo Beach Apr. 24-29 (TME), and in Santa Barbara Jan. 16 through the end of the period (JEL), and another was inland on Quail L., Los Angeles, Mar. 5-19 (JKA). Somewhat late Black Scoters were near Morro Bay Apr. 2 (PP), in Goleta Mar. 24-Apr. 24 (JLD), and flying past Goleta Pt. Apr. 28 (PEL). A Surf Scoter in Lancaster May 15 (JKA), two at N.E.S.S. May 14 (GMcC), and another at S.E.S.S. May 3 (AH) were inland as was a White-winged Scoter on Quail L. Mar. 19-Apr. 1 (JKA).

A Black-shouldered Kite near Imperial, Imperial, Apr. 30 (PU) was outside the species' normal range. An ad. Bald Eagle over Arcadia, Los Angeles, May 15-17 (MSanM) and another near Julian, San Diego, May 18 (JS) were both unusually late for s. California. An ad. Broad-winged Hawk, casual in spring, was near Kelso, San Bernardino, Apr. 23 (BAC), and another was photographed near Cantil, Kern, May 8 (PEL). About 65 Swainson's Hawks were reported, including an early individual near San Diego Mar. 20 (GMcC), a concentration of up to 18 in Redlands Apr. 9-14 (EAC), and two late birds in Santa Maria May 29-31 (BS). A Rough-legged Hawk near Cahuilla, River-

side, Apr. 15 (DW) was late, as was a Merlin on the Carrizo Plain, San Luis Obispo, Apr. 24 (GPS).

At least four Gambel's Quail in Homewood Canyon of the Argus Mts., Inyo, Mar. 14 (JLD) were significantly northwest of the n.w. extreme of the species' published range, and a California Quail at H.D.L. Apr. 30 (AM) was significantly east of the species' published range; both species have been introduced into various localities outside their normal ranges but are not known to have been introduced at these 2 locations.

SHOREBIRDS — Four wintering Lesser Golden-Plovers were still present at Seal Beach, Orange, Mar. 24 (NBB), and one on Vandenburg A.F.B., Santa Barbara, Mar. 27 (KH) could also have wintered locally; but a bird of the American race *dominica* near Santa Maria May 29 (BS) and another of the Asiatic race *fulva* inland at N.E.S.S. Apr. 23 (GMcC) were spring migrants. A bird identified as an Am. Oystercatcher x Black Oystercatcher hybrid was at the w. end of Santa Cruz I. Mar. 23 (MAH). Five Black Oystercatchers together on the Palos Verdes Pen. Mar. 3 (JLC) represented a large number for such a location. The wintering Solitary Sandpiper near Imperial Beach remained through Apr. 13 (CGE); seven scattered throughout the Region Apr. 10-May 7 were more than normally reported in spring. Whimbrels were constantly present at H.D.L. Mar. 26-May 19 with a peak of 89 Apr. 11 (EAC)



Solitary Sandpiper at California City, California, May 6, 1988. Photo/Paul Lehman.

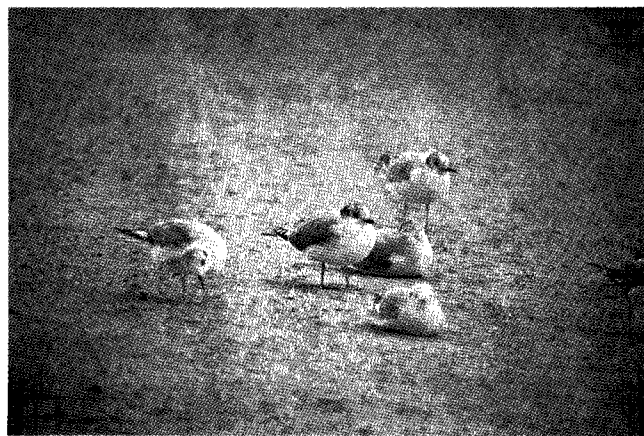
clearly defining the period during which northbound spring migrants pass through the interior of s. California. Two Ruddy Turnstones at Edwards on Edwards A.F.B., Kern, May 8 (MH) were the only ones found inland away from the Salton Sea. Single Black Turnstones, casual inland, were at Salton City Apr. 11 (NBB) and May 7 (GMcC); one was photographed at N.E.S.S. May 4 (AH), and two were in China Lake, Kern, May 29 with one remaining through June 4 (DB).

A Red Knot near Lancaster May 7 (JKA) was the only one found inland away from the Salton Sea, but Sanderlings were slightly more widespread with single birds at F.C.R. May 21 (NBB), China Lake May 7 (DB), near Lancaster May 6 (PEL), and at Edwards May 15 & 30 with four there May 8 (MH). As is now expected, a few Semipalmated Sandpipers passed through the Region with a very early one near Lakeview, Riverside, Apr. 18 (RMcK) and single individuals seen at S.E.S.S. Apr. 30 (JO) and May 7 (GMcC), at H.D.L. May 4 (EAC), at Edwards May 8 (MH), and along the coast near Santa Maria Apr. 27 (PEL). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** at S.C.R.E. June 11-12 (JSR) was only the 5th ever to be found in s. California, the three previous spring birds occurring between May 30 and June 16. A Baird's Sandpiper, very rare in spring, was photographed at Galileo Hill, Kern, May 6-8 (PEL), and another was seen near Lakeview May 12 (TM); single Pectoral Sandpipers,

equally rare, were at S C R E Apr. 10 (RJM) and near Lancaster Apr 7-10 (HEC) Up to 20 Short-billed Dowitchers were at H.D.L. Apr. 20-May 4 (EAC), suggesting this is the time most pass through the interior of s. California. Fifty thousand Red-necked Phalaropes between Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Is. May 9 (RRV) furnished an impressive concentration. A Red Phalarope, casual inland, was near Lancaster May 7-8 (JKA), and another was at H.D.L. May 19 (EAC).

SKUAS TO PUFFINS — Three S. Polar Skuas were found between Santa Catalina and Santa Barbara I. May 21 (KLG), this being the prime time of the year to find this species off s. California. Three Laughing Gulls were found along the coast, where considered casual, with an adult over s. San Diego Bay Apr. 28 (AH), another in Bolsa Chica May 19 (DRW), and the 3rd in Oceano, San Luis Obispo, May 26 (TME). The only Franklin's Gulls reported were up to three in Malibu Apr. 11-17 (CF), one off the Palos Verdes Pen. May 21 (JLD), another in Santa Barbara Mar. 6-10 (JMCM), one in San Luis Obispo Apr. 4 (GPS), and one inland at China Lake May 21 (DB). A wintering Glaucous Gull remained at S.C.R.E. through Apr. 24 (JSR), and another was in Santa Barbara Mar. 29 (HM). Three Sabine's Gulls were inland near Lancaster May 5 with two still present May 7 (PEL). Up to seven Gull-billed Terns were present along the coast on s. San Diego Bay Apr. 10 through the end of the period (JO). Elegant Terns were moving N along the coast as early as mid-April, as indicated by 60 passing by Pt. Dume, Los Angeles, Apr. 17 (KLG) and 24 at S.C.R.E. Apr. 11 (JSR), with numbers increasing in May. Two Arctic Terns 20 mi west of San Clemente I. May 2 (RRV) were early for s. California. A Least Tern at H.D.L. May 4 (EAC) was one of very few ever to be found inland away from the Salton Sea.

A Horned Puffin, normally considered casual off California, was seen near Santa Rosa I. May 9 (RRV), but a recent publication (Bird Communities at Sea off California, *Studies in Avian Biology* No. 11) suggested this species may be much commoner than we land-bound birders have considered it to be.



Sabine's Gull surrounded by Bonaparte's Gulls at the sewage ponds at Lancaster, California, May 5, 1988. Photo/Paul Lehman.

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS — Single White-winged Doves in Ridgecrest, Kern, May 8 through the end of the period (BK); at Galileo Hill May 21-24 (MOC); and in the Prado Basin May 19 (LRH) were all a little to the west of the species' normal range. A Com. Ground-Dove in Santa Barbara Mar. 24 (HM) and three in Goleta Mar. 13 (BA) helped document the northward spread of this species up the s. California coast. A Flammulated Owl in Morongo Valley, San Bernardino, Apr. 2-5 (MMT) was at a known "migrant trap" and exceptionally early. A Com. Nighthawk in the Fremont Valley near California City

June 4 (MOC) was the first to be documented in Kern Two calling Whip-poor-wills in Pacific Palisades Apr 28 (BW) were unexpected since this locality is away from known breeding localities in the mountains. Single Black Swifts in Ventura Apr 18 & 21 (JT) and two in Carpinteria Apr. 23 (LRB, MAH) were unusually early, and one at S.E.S.S. May 7 (EAC) was at an unexpected locality. The only Chimney Swift reported was one over the Prado Basin May 31 (MAP). Twenty-five Calliope Hummingbirds at Butterbredt Springs, Kern, May 7 (PEL) was a significant concentration and undoubtedly marked the peak time for the passage of the northbound migrants through this area of California. A ♂ Broad-billed Hummingbird in Redlands Mar. 28 (EAC) and another near Hesperia, San Bernardino, Apr. 12 (SM) were both well to the west of their normal migration route.

Three Lewis' Woodpeckers on Santa Cruz I. Mar. 25 (MAH) were the first to be found on the Channel Is. in several years, one on Pt. Loma, San Diego, May 11 (REW) was on the immediate coast, where rare; and another in Pomona May 31 (RFC) was quite late. Single Acorn Woodpeckers at Butterbredt Springs Apr. 29-June 3 (JW), in California City May 29 (DRW), and at In-Ko-Pah, Imperial, Apr. 3 (GMCC) were all outside the species' normal range.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS — A calling W Wood-Pewee well seen in Anaheim Mar. 29 (DRW) was at least 2 weeks early. A Willow Flycatcher on Pt. Loma May 8 (REW) was the earliest reported this spring and marks the current early expected arrival date. Single Dusky Flycatchers on Pt. Loma May 9 & 12 (REW) were on the immediate coast, where considered rare. An E. Phoebe near Glendale Mar 8 (JKA) had probably wintered locally. A ♀ Vermilion Flycatcher at Galileo Hill May 23 (JLD) was a little to the northwest of its normal range. The Dusky-capped Flycatcher found wintering in Mission Viejo, Orange, remained through Apr. 3 (MMCD) An E. Kingbird at Oasis, Mono, May 28 (BED) was the only one found this spring.

Since Purple Martins are now rarely encountered on migration, five at Salton City Apr. 23 (BED), one over California City May 6 (PEL), and another at F.C.R. May 23 (BED) were of interest. A Scrub Jay at H.D.L. Apr. 11 (CM), two there May 10 (BJ), and a Pinyon Jay at F.C.R. May 16-17 (REW) were all probably associated with the fall/winter movement of corvids An Am. Dipper near L. Henshaw May 22 (B & MMCI) was one of a very few ever to be found in San Diego. A singing ♂ Black-tailed Gnatcatcher near Tecopa, Inyo, Mar. 30 (BED) and another at Indian Ranch in the Panamint Valley, Inyo, May 29 (DAH) were at the n.w. extreme of the species' range. Single Townsend's Solitaires on Pt. Loma Apr. 11 (B & IM) & 20 (JZ) were along the coast, where rare, and one near Blythe, Riverside, May 15 (AME) was late for such a locality. A Varied Thrush near Needles Apr. 3 (MAP) was along the Colorado R., where rare. A Sage Thrasher on Vandenburg A.F.B. May 15 (KH) was late and along the coast. A Brown Thrasher, a casual straggler to California, was in California City May 12-14 (MOC), another was at Deep Springs May 18-20 (REW), and an exceptionally late bird was at Yaqui Wells in e. San Diego June 19-21 (LW). A Crissal Thrasher at F.C.R. Mar. 14 (JLD) was the first to be found at this well-worked locality. A Water Pipit at F.C.R. May 28 (CM) was exceptionally late for such a locality A migrant Gray Vireo, virtually never found away from known nesting localities, was at Yaqui Wells Apr. 10 (DRW). A Yellow-throated Vireo, a casual straggler to California, was at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley May 19 (BED).

WOOD WARBLERS — A ♀ Golden-winged Warbler, a real rarity in California, was in Mojave, Kern, May 21-22 (MF) A Tennessee Warbler in Oceano Mar. 19 (BS) had undoubtedly wintered locally, but this species was scarcer than expected during the spring migration period with only three reported May 13-30. A Virginia's Warbler on Pt. Loma May 15 (GMCC)

was along the coast, where rare in spring. A Lucy's Warbler at Oasis May 20 (BED) was north of its normal range. Northern Parulas were a little more numerous than expected with 12 found Apr. 27–May 30. A ♂ Chestnut-sided Warbler in Santa Barbara Apr. 11–21 (BA) would be remarkably early for a spring vagrant and may have wintered locally. A ♂ Magnolia Warbler at Galileo Hill June 2 (JJ) and another in Mojave June 4–5 (HB) were the only ones found. A ♂ Cape May Warbler in Goleta Apr. 9–23 (TEW) probably had spent the winter locally since this would be exceptionally early for a spring vagrant. A Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler in the Fremont Valley June 4 (MOC) was very late. A Yellow-throated Warbler, one of the rarer wood warblers in California, was in California City May 28 (BS).

A Grace's Warbler on Santa Cruz I. Mar. 23 (HPR) was assumed to have wintered on the island. The Pine Warbler that spent the winter in Morro Bay S.P. was last seen Mar. 27 (JW). Two Palm Warblers in Goleta through Apr. 20 (RPH) were known to have been present since November, and single individuals elsewhere in Goleta Apr. 9–12 (HPR), in Huntington Beach Apr. 3–5 (PS), and near Imperial Beach Mar. 5–Apr. 10 (JO) had also probably wintered locally; one at Oak Glen, San Bernardino, May 2 (RMcK) could have been a spring migrant. More than the expected number of Blackpoll Warblers were found with an exceptionally early female in Los Osos, San Luis Obispo, May 11 (JMcD) followed by single males in California City May 15–17 (RS) and May 27–30 (MOC), another in Los Osos June 3–4 (CM), and a 5th in Irvine June 13 (DRW). Fifteen Black-and-white Warblers Apr. 27–June 5 was about average, but nine Am. Redstarts May 16–31 were far fewer than expected. A ♂ Prothonotary Warbler, a casual straggler to California, was at Oasis May 22 (MAP), and a Worm-eating Warbler, equally rare, was in Irvine May 11 (DRW). Ovenbirds were scarcer than expected with only four reported May 19–June 18. A wintering N. Waterthrush remained near Imperial Beach through Apr. 17 (JO), but single birds in Mojave May 20 (JLD), Scotty's Castle May 27 (BED), and at Deep Springs May 18–23 (REW) were the only spring migrants reported. A ♂ Hooded Warbler at Oasis May 27 (CM) was the only one found. A ♂ Canada Warbler at Deep Springs May 24 (FB) was only the 7th ever to be found in s. California in spring.

TANAGERS TO SPARROWS — As expected, a few Summer Tanagers reached the n.e. portion of the Region with six found there May 18–28; one in Morongo Valley Mar. 26 (MMT) had probably wintered locally; and one in Olivenhain, San Diego, May 20 (JK) was the only one found along the coast. A ♀ Pyrrhuloxia in Escondido, San Diego, Apr. 12 (NL) was of unknown origin but occurred during the time of year others have been found far to the west of the species' normal range. Ten Rose-breasted Grosbeaks during May were fewer than in recent years, and eight Indigo Buntings during the same period were substantially fewer than expected.

Rufous-crowned Sparrows, presumably *A. r. scottii*, were seen in the New York Mts. of e. San Bernardino May 19 (SD) and in the nearby Providence Mts. May 21 (SD), adding to our very limited knowledge of the status and distribution of this species in e. California. A Clay-colored Sparrow, most unusual in spring, was at F.C.R. May 22 (REW). A Brewer's Sparrow near Imperial Beach Mar. 21 (PU) was along the coast, where rare in spring. A Lark Bunting near Corona del Mar, Orange, Mar. 5 (JJ) and another near Lakeview, Riverside, Mar. 12 (MAP) had undoubtedly wintered locally. A Grasshopper Sparrow photographed at S.E.S.S. May 3 (AH) was one of very few ever to be found in this area. A Swamp Sparrow at F.C.R. May 23 (BED) was one of the latest ever to be found in s. California. Wintering White-throated Sparrows were present into April with one near Santa Barbara through May 3 (G & JH) and another on Pt. Loma through May 12 (REW) being the latest. An exceptionally late Golden-crowned Sparrow was in Mojave June 4 (CM). Two Lapland Longspurs at Rancho California, Riverside, Apr. 14 (RMcK) were late.

BLACKBIRDS TO FINCHES — Bobolinks were scarcer than expected with single birds at H D L May 19 (GH), at F C R. May 21 (NBB), and in California City June 4 (MOC) being the only ones reported. A ♂ Tricolored Blackbird at Oasis May 30 (DAH) could be the first ever to be found in Mono. Great-tailed Grackles continued to be found along the coast with up to seven near Imperial Beach throughout the period (GMcC), one at Upper Newport Bay Mar. 21–May 21 (LRH), single birds in Alhambra Apr. 29 (HP) and at nearby Whittier Narrows May 13 (MCL), four around Ventura Apr. 29–May 30 (JSR, RJM), one in Oceano June 10 (CM), and another in San Luis Obispo Apr. 29–May 9 (MA). A ♂ Com. Grackle, a casual straggler to California, was in California City May 21 (REW), and a female was at F.C.R. May 22–23 (MAP). Single N. (Baltimore) Orioles were found at Montana de Oro S.P., San Luis Obispo, May 19 (CM) and on Pt. Loma May 26 (REW), and two were at Oasis May 23–24 (RST). A few Purple and Cassin's finches were scattered throughout the e. portion of the Region well into May. Red Crossbills were still much in evidence throughout much of the Region into early April with scattered individuals remaining into May as suggested by single birds seen in the e. part of the Region at F.C.R. May 17 (REW) and Scotty's Castle May 28 (BED), along with 2 pairs accompanied by three juveniles in California City at the end of the period (MOC), and single birds along the coast in Goleta May 15 (HPR) and Cambria June 1 (LC). Evening Grosbeaks were found throughout e. San Bernardino and Kern as well as all of Inyo throughout May, suggesting a movement of these birds through the e. portion of the Region at this time with single birds found along the coast on Vandenburg A.F.B. May 15–18 (KH) and in San Luis Obispo May 3–5 (B & LG).

ADDENDUM — A report of an injured N. Saw-whet Owl, found along the coast in Huntington Beach during October, that eventually died and was prepared as a lifemount (*vide* DRW) was known too late to be included in the Fall Migration Report.

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Robert L. Pyle

Rainfall this spring was above normal on Kaua'i but was generally below normal elsewhere, particularly on O'ahu and Molokai. Bird highlights included encouraging reports on some of Hawaii's rare endemics, discouraging reports on a couple, and another first state record for a vagrant species.

ABBREVIATIONS — H. = Hawai'i Island; K. = Kaua'i Island; M. = Maui Island; O. = O'ahu Island; J.C.N.W.R. = James Campbell Nat'l Wildlife Ref., O'ahu; HRBP = prefix for Hawaii Rare Bird Documentary Photograph numbers.

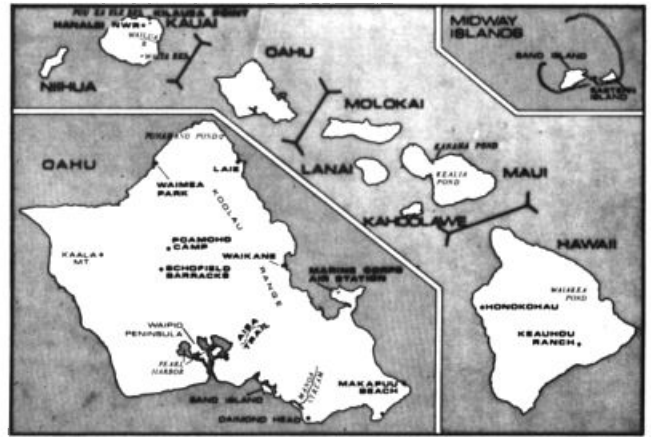
ALBATROSSES TO EGRETS — Four Laysan Albatrosses were engaged in primitive courtship display Apr. 9 in an open grassy area at 1400 ft above Kaena Pt., O. (AE, RC). This must have set some sort of altitude record for these albatrosses on the ground, as they normally prefer sea level atolls or coastal cliffs immediately above the ocean.

A few juv. (Hawaiian) Dark-rumped Petrels ('U'au, *Endangered*) have turned up each fall in the downed shearwater rescue program on Kaua'i, but their nesting grounds on that island have never been located. This spring a Nature Conservancy field party, camped at 4050 ft on the steep-sided rim of Wainiha Valley deep in the Kaua'i mountains, had five to 10 'U'au calling from the air around the campsite for 2 hours after dark May 18 & 19 (SG), a strong indication that the breeding area was close by. Also, 2 rare observations of this species at sea were reported by RD: two birds were seen from shore at South Pt., H., Apr. 23, and one was seen closely and photographed from a boat within 3 mi of the Kona coast, H., May 29. A well-described sighting of a Snowy Egret, a rare straggler to Hawaii, was reported at Lokoaka Pond, H., May 1 (JL).

GEESE TO MOORHEN — One Brant, a casual straggler to Hawaii, was seen near Princeville, K., Mar. 26 (DB). It might have been the same individual observed through the winter on O'ahu. Groups of Hawaiian Geese (Nene, *Endangered*) seen regularly this spring around Pu'u Lani Ranch at Pu'uanahulu, H., included six adults with nine juveniles Apr. 1 (RD) and 15 mixed adults and immatures May 14 (BM). On Maui I., two unbanded adults with two full-grown young were reported along Halemau'u trail at the rim of Haleakala Crater May 6 (JL). Reports of large young were encouraging, because the loss of eggs and small goslings has been a major problem in attempts to reestablish this handsome state bird in the wild.

A **Rough-legged Hawk** seen frequently on Laysan I. from the observer's arrival Mar. 2 through Apr. 12 (BB, HRBP 762 et seq.) furnished the first valid state record of any Buteo, other than the endemic Hawaiian Hawk, 'Io. The Rough-legged was often mobbed by the nesting Sooty Terns, suggesting that tern chicks were probably a staple of its diet on Laysan. An unusually high count of at least 40 (Hawaiian) Com. Moorhens (*Endangered*) was made at Haleiwa, O., Mar. 5 in lotus ponds after the lotus had recently been harvested to expose the water and mud (AE, et al.).

SHOREBIRDS TO JAEGER — The group of Black-bellied Plovers at the n.w. end of Kealia Pond, K., grew from an unusual high of five birds in February to an unprecedented nine birds Mar. 10 (DP). Only four were there Mar. 30-31 (GH), and two (in winter plumage) were still there June 5-6 (FD, RLP). A **Gray-tailed Tattler**, providing the first record for the main (populated) Hawaiian Islands, was found at Ki'i Ponds, J.C.N.W.R., Apr. 13 (GH). Two days later it was photographed (HRBP 773 et al.) with breeding-plumaged Wandering Tattlers (PD); it was also seen and heard calling Apr. 19 (PD) but could not be found thereafter. The Spotted Sandpiper wintering at Napo'opo'o, H., came into breeding plumage and was last seen May 8 (RD).



An ad. (North American) **Whimbrel**, a rare straggler to Hawaii, was seen well near South Pt., H., May 4 (BM). Fewer than 20 Bristle-thighed Curlews wintered at the s. ledge on Laysan I. through late April; the number jumped suddenly to around 85 Apr. 28-May 6, then dropped just as abruptly to 12 by May 12 (JM). The total count for the entire island probably peaked at around 150 birds during this period. Three transient Bristle-thigheds, seldom reported in spring in the main islands, were found at South Pt., H., Apr. 17 (DP). A group of dowitchers at Waipi'o, O., coming into breeding plumage was counted variously with seven to 13 birds on different dates between Apr. 5 & 15 and evidently included both Short-billeds and Long-billeds (PD, DP et al.). A **Long-tailed Jaeger** photographed at sea 2 mi off Kahalu'u Beach on the w. coast of Hawai'i I. May 29 (RD) constituted the 3rd state record.

GULLS AND TERNS

S.A.

The outstanding ornithological event of this season was the big influx of **Franklin's Gulls** to the Region. The first reports were of two at Waipi'o, O., Apr. 5 (PD) and of one across the island at He'eia marina near Kane'ohe Apr. 8-19 (SC). Up to four birds were present at J.C.N.W.R. and adjacent Amorient Aquafarm May 2-13 (PC, DW), with one still there June 9 (DW). On Hawai'i I., individuals were reported in Hilo May 1 (GV, fide RD) & 16 (GC) and at South Pt. May 4 (BM). Many were reported on the w. side of the island, mostly along the highway between Kailua-Kona and Waikoloa. At least five were seen May 17 hawking for insects where the highway passes through hot, dry lava fields (BM, SD). One bird also turned up near Molokini I. off Maui I. Apr. 14 (DP), and another was seen near Kaunakakai, Molokai, May 21 (JJ, fide JW) & 24 (JA). One bird appeared out at Laysan I. May 3, 4, & 12 (JM). Outside Hawaii, single birds were reported at Johnston Atoll Apr. 8 (KG) and at sea May 30 from a research vessel on station at 9°N, 140° W (KH).

All of these observations were of adults in full breeding plumage, some reported with a noticeable rosy tinge. Prior records from Hawaii are few. They include a specimen collected in 1902 (present whereabouts unknown), another collected offshore in 1958, and about 10 sightings since 1953. One sighting was in June; all others have been in May. Franklin's Gulls winter mainly on the w. coast of South America and migrate N in spring to c. North America. They have occurred widely as vagrants. Something in the spring of 1988 pushed a bunch of them out into the c. Pacific.

Two Glaucous-winged Gulls seen repeatedly throughout March along the n. coast of Lana'i I. (AM, HRBP 769 *et seq*) can be added to the list of casual gull species reaching Hawaii after last winter's storms. A winter-plumaged Gull-billed Tern seen at Kualapu'u Res., Moloka'i, Apr. 26 (AE) and one seen at the n.w. end of Kealia Pond, M., June 5 (FD) & 6 (RLP) could all have been the same individual that established the first state record when it was seen on O'ahu for one day last January.

BUSH-WARBLERS TO GRACKLES — Government biologists surveying forest birds in the higher mountains of Moloka'i during mid-May were astounded to find that the non-native Japanese Bush-Warbler had become by far the most abundant species. Bush-Warblers were introduced to O'ahu in 1929 and were first recorded on Moloka'i in 1979. Bush-Warblers were heard commonly too on Mar. 21 along Lana'i Hale trail in the mountains of Lana'i I. (RLP), where the species was first recorded in 1980. The Moloka'i surveyors also recorded one brief glimpse of the super-rare **Oloma'o** (*Endangered*) on May 18 (AE) in the same locality where the last observation of this species was made a decade ago.

Yellow-billed Cardinals spreading S along the w. coast of Hawai'i I. have reached Miloli'i and nearby Honomalino Bay; immatures were seen at both localities May 29 (TP). A ♂ Great-tailed Grackle seen May 26–27 at Magic I. in Ala Moana Park, Honolulu (GC, PD, RLP), was clearly a different bird from the female reported irregularly since 1980 at Waipi'o Pen. about 20 km across town. How either of these grackles reached Hawaii can only be conjectured.

HAWAIIAN HONEYCREEPERS — During a survey in the Hanawi Natural Area Reserve, M., a **Maui 'Akepa** (*Endangered*) was heard clearly Mar. 11, and one male was heard and seen well for several minutes Mar. 19 (both by AE). These were the first observations of the 'Akepa on Maui in more than a decade. Other native forest birds recorded daily, in order of decreasing abundance, were 'Apapane, Maui Creeper, 'Iiwi, 'Amakihi, 'Akohekohe (*Endangered*), and Maui Parrotbill (*Endangered*). The very rare Po'ouli (*Endangered*) was observed 5 times in 8 observation days. Only the Maui Nuku pu'u was not found (AE). At the new Hakalau N.W.R. on Hawai'i I, surveys Mar. 19–26 and Apr. 29–30 found all endemic forest birds in good numbers (JL). The mid-May survey in the Moloka'i mountains found 'Apapane and 'Amakihi in lower numbers than expected but recorded 6 observations of the 'Iiwi, a species rarely seen on Moloka'i. The failure to find any Moloka'i Creepers (*Endangered*), a species not recorded in well over 10 years, was discouraging and enhanced fears that the drastic increase in Bush-Warblers in the Creeper's prime habitat may well have been the final blow for the Creeper.

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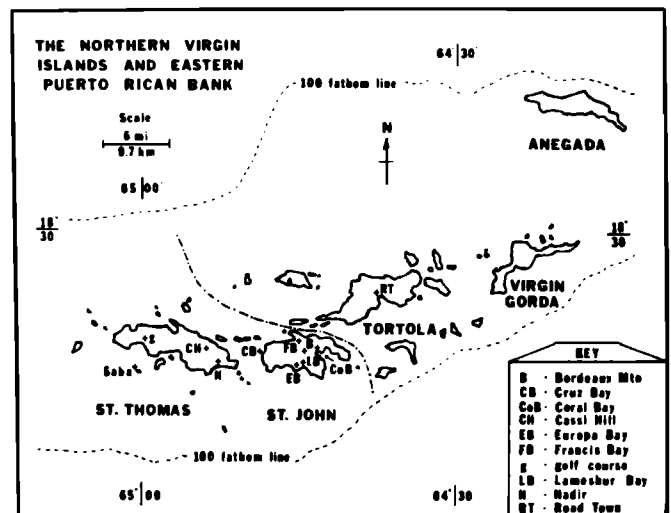
WEST INDIES REGION

Robert L. Norton

Rainfall during the period, as measured at Cruz Bay, St. John, was 54% below average. This dry period followed a very wet winter, in which precipitation was 36% above average.

P William Smith noted that extensive logging of pines this century at Andros, Bahamas, has probably contributed to the decline of several resident landbirds, such as Pine Warbler and Bahama Yellowthroat, and probably the decline of some migrant species as well. However, this disturbance may have contributed to the spread of Bahama Mockingbird.

David Stejskal led a tour in April to Jamaica, Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico. He and the Smiths (who again visited several areas of the Region) provided fine notes on all species they observed. Many thanks to this season's contributors.



ABBREVIATIONS — B V I = British Virgin Islands, D R = Dominican Republic, P R. = Puerto Rico, U S V I = United States Virgin Islands.

TROPICBIRDS TO SANDPIPERS — White-tailed Tropicbirds nested on the south coast of St. Croix, where 4 pairs were noted May 15 (RW). Muilenberg reported to RLN that a white booby was present and probably nesting at Sombrero I., 32 mi northwest of Anguilla, on May 17. Subsequently, 12 pairs of Masked Boobies were counted there May 27 (RLN), providing the first record for that island and evidence of an expansion in the n. Lesser Antilles. A small colony has been reported at Dog I., Anguilla, whence this group might have originated. Three Double-crested Cormorants were noted May 19 at L. Cunningham, New Providence, Bahamas (PWS, SAS), for one of the few reports from that island.

A Least Bittern at Cidra L., P.R., Apr. 3 (DS) represented a rare report from the P.R. Bank. Three Ospreys seen at Antigua May 13–15 appeared to be non-breeding *P. h. carolinensis* (PWS, SAS). Single Peregrine Falcons were seen Apr. 9 at St. Croix (RW) and in the Cockpit Country, Jamaica (DS), Apr. 20 on Tortola, B.V.I. (RLN), and Apr. 23 at Isla Grande, P.R. (DS). Two Yellow-breasted Crakes were seen Apr. 8 at Sadler's Hall, Jamaica (DS). Another uncommon resident, *N. Jacana*, was reported from Jamaica at Sadler's Pond and Caymanas Marsh (DS). Pectoral and Solitary sandpipers reported Mar. 14–15 at Vieques, P.R., were apparently local firsts (DM, *vide* DG). Two races of Whimbrel (two *N. p. hudsonicus* and one *N. p. phaeopus*) were identified May 13 at Antigua (PWS, SAS). The European race *phaeopus* has rarely been recorded in the West Indies in spring. A flock of 200 Semipalmated Sandpipers near Guanica, P.R., in April included 10–15 with wing tags of yellow to orange-red (DS).

GULLS, TERNS — Laughing Gulls were first noted at St. John Apr. 2, marking the onset of the summer-resident gull and tern breeding season. A **Great Black-backed Gull** in first-summer plumage at San Juan harbor, P.R., Apr. 23 (DS, m.ob., ph.) was an exceptional find. Standing next to this bird was a Herring Gull in first-summer plumage, for the essential comparisons. Also rare here, a Ring-billed Gull in 2nd-summer plumage was near the other gulls on the same day at San Juan harbor. Another exceptional rarity was a first-year **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at McKinnon's salt pond, Antigua, May 13 (PWS, SAS).

By all accounts, observers on the e. Puerto Rico Bank (JS, JC, FS, RB, JZ, RLN) considered the nesting of terns to be very late; Roseate Terns, in particular, did not really hit their peak until the 2nd week of June. Numbers were good, however, with Roseate Tern nests numbering at least 1753, Sandwich Tern 723, and Royal Tern 153. More than 85% of Roseate nests counted were in the U.S.V.I. Five pure-featured Cayenne Terns were noted among the Sandwich Tern colonies in the B.V.I. (two) and U.S.V.I. (three). Two **Black Noddies** were carefully identified May 27 among nesting Brown Noddies at Sombrero I., northwest of Anguilla (RLN). Black Noddy has not yet been proven to breed anywhere in the Antilles, but the behavior of the birds at Sombrero I. suggests that continued monitoring would be warranted.

PIGEONS TO BLACKBIRDS — Twenty Ring-tailed Pigeons, a species which may be in decline, were found Apr. 9 between Barbeque Bottom and Burnt Hill, Jamaica (DS). Yellow-billed and Black-billed parrots were noted Apr. 9 in the Cockpit Country, Jamaica, with the former outnumbering the latter by five or six to one (DS). A flock of eight Puerto Rican Parrots, critically endangered, visited the vicinity of the El Yunque Restaurant, Luquillo N.F., P.R., Apr. 19 (DS). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Andros May 21 (PWS, SAS) was considered late for a migrant, since Yellow-billeds in s. Florida have usu-

ally begun nesting by early May. Antillean Nighthawks have apparently made a comeback in the U.S.V.I., notably on St. Croix, where five to eight were noted Apr. 21–May 27 (RW). The Smiths encountered a Chuck-will's-widow calling "lustily" in disturbed pine-coppice growth on Andros May 20, adding to the evidence that the species may breed in the Bahamas. The date at least set a new late record for the Region. Stejskal heard 30–40 Puerto Rican Nightjars calling Apr. 4 & 21–22 at Guanica State Forest, P.R.; the unique dry forest there is the stronghold of this endangered species.

The Golden Swallow, now thought to be quite rare, was noted Apr. 15 at El Aguacate, D.R. (DS). Bahama Swallows were found nesting May 19 at New Providence and May 20 at Andros (PWS, SAS). Full details will be published elsewhere. A bird thought to be an imm. White-eyed Vireo, seen Mar. 11–12 at St. John (CN, *vide* GW), would represent the 4th record from that island. Migrants at St. Croix included Com. Yellowthroat Apr. 9, Cape May Warbler Apr. 27, and N. Waterthrush May 8 (RW). A Connecticut Warbler seen at Andros May 22 provided the latest spring record there (PWS, SAS). Wauer recorded a Blue Grosbeak Mar. 13–Apr. 12, and two to four Indigo Buntings throughout April, at the Univ. of the Virgin Is. agricultural plots. A ♂ N. Oriole was seen at the lighthouse at Sombrero I. May 27, furnishing a first for the island and the latest spring record for the West Indies. More than 20 Jamaican Blackbirds were noted along Hardwar Gap road, Jamaica, Apr. 12 (DS). Robert Sutton has expressed concern for this endemic blackbird, which has declined in recent years. Red-winged Blackbirds were noted on Andros in mangroves bordering agricultural areas, where they were no doubt nesting, May 20 (PWS, SAS).

EXOTICS — Noted at Vieques, P.R., in March and April were Pin-tailed Whydahs (DG) and Spice Finches (DM). This represents an expansion of range for both these introduced species on the eastern P.R. Bank.

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