

**STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS
USED IN THE REGIONAL REPORTS**

Abbreviations used in
place names:

In most regions, place names given in italic
type are counties.

Other abbreviations:

Cr	Creek
Ft	Fort
Hwy	Highway
I	Island or Isle
Is	Islands or Isles
Jct.	Junction
km	kilometer(s)
L	Lake
mi	mile(s)
Mt.	Mountain or Mount
Mts.	Mountains
N F.	National Forest
N M.	National Monument
N P.	National Park
N W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
PP.	Provincial Park
Pen.	Peninsula
Pt	Point (not Port)
R	River
Ref.	Refuge
Res.	Reservoir (not Reservation)
S P.	State Park
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area

Abbreviations used in the
names of birds:

Am.	American
Com.	Common
E	Eastern
Eur.	European or Eurasian
Mt.	Mountain
N.	Northern
S	Southern
W.	Western

Other abbreviations and symbols
referring to birds:

ad.	adult
imm.	immature
juv.	juv. or juvenile
sp.	species
†	means that written details were submitted for a sighting
*	means that a specimen was collected
♂	male
♀	female
CBC	Christmas Bird Count

THE SPRING SEASON

March 1–May 31, 1991

Atlantic Provinces Region Blake Maybank	408	Southern Great Plains Region (Winter 1990-1991) Joseph A. Grzybowski	465
Quebec Region Richard Yank, Yves Aubry, and Michael Gosselin	412	Southern Great Plains Region Joseph A. Grzybowski	466
New England Region Simon A. Perkins	414	Texas Region Greg W. Lasley and Chuck Sexton	469
Hudson-Delaware Region William J. Boyle, Jr., Robert O. Paxton, and David A. Cutler	420	Idaho-Western Montana Thomas H. Rogers	474
Middle Atlantic Coast Region Henry T. Armistead	425	Mountain West Region Hugh E. Kingery	475
Southern Atlantic Coast Region (Winter 1990-1991) Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.	430	Southwest Region Arizona: Gary H. Rosenberg and David Stejskal New Mexico: Sartor O. Williams III and John P. Hubbard	479
Southern Atlantic Coast Region Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.	433	Alaska Region T.G. Tobish, Jr. and M.E. Isleib	483
Florida Region H.P. Langridge	436	British Columbia/Yukon Region Chris Siddle	486
Ontario Region Ron D. Weir	439	Oregon/Washington Bill Tweit and Jeff Gilligan	489
Appalachian Region George A. Hall	444	Middle Pacific Coast Region David G. Yee, Bruce E. Deuel, and Stephen F. Bailey	491
Western Great Lakes Region David J. Powell	447	Southern Pacific Coast Region Guy McCaskie	495
Midwestern Prairie Region Bruce G. Peterjohn	451	Hawaiian Islands Region Robert L. Pyle	498
Central Southern Region David P. Muth	455	West Indies Region (Winter 1990-1991) Robert L. Norton	500
Prairie Provinces Region Rudolf F. Koes and Peter Taylor	460		
Northern Great Plains Region David O. Lambeth	462		

ATLANTIC PROVINCES REGION

Blake Maybank

What a difference a year makes. What a difference a strait makes. In contrast to last year's unseasonably cool, wet spring, 1991 kindly offered the warmest spring in almost 30 years, at least to the south of the Cabot Strait.

To the northeast it was a different story. While Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island basked in uncommon spring sunshine (almost no fog!), Newfoundland, on the wrong side of the weather systems that came down the strait, experienced northeast winds well into June, keeping the pack ice close to shore and temperatures well below normal. Over 11 cm of snow fell on the eastern edge of the Avalon Peninsula May 30, and passerines suffered.

The same northeast winds kept rarities away from the despairing eyes of Newfoundland birders, who were further dismayed by news that the mainland, benefitting from frequent southwest winds, enjoyed numerous rare delights, including four provincial firsts and one Canadian first.

Migration was understandably delayed in Newfoundland, while to the south and west birds arrived on or slightly ahead of schedule. Fair winds lifted birds over favored migrant traps right to their breeding territories. It was quality, not quantity, that sustained interest this spring.

Reports of trends and rarities were good from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, east Newfoundland, and Saint Pierre et Miquelon. Some information was available from southwest Newfoundland, while virtually no data were obtained from Prince Edward Island, Labrador, or western Newfoundland.

Abbreviations: S.P.M. (*Saint Pierre et Miquelon*).

LOONS TO CORMORANTS

Both Common and Red-throated loons were widespread in Nova Scotia, but no large single-

site concentrations were noted; Commons were much more numerous, as expected. On Grand Manan, NB, Dalzell tallied 40 Commons and 10 Red-throateds per hour heading north Apr. 24. The body of a Pied-billed Grebe, rare in S.P.M., was found May 25 (Christian Moulec); it had been dead at least a month.

Horned and Red-necked grebes were poorly reported on the mainland, and the former seemed truly scarce, with only 5 reports of 16 birds in Nova Scotia. A good (and careful) count of 163 Red-necked Grebes at S.P.M. Apr. 9 (RE) was the Regional high. Why is this species so scarce in nearby Newfoundland? Neither grebe species was sighted on the mainland past mid-May, but one was lingering at Cape Spear, NF, May 26 (KKn) and another at S.P.M. May 30 (RE).

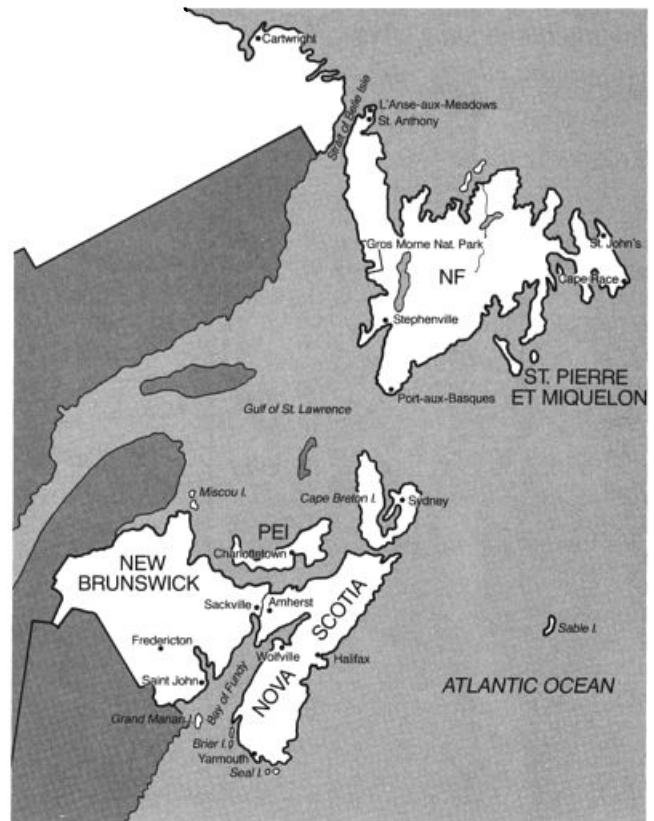
A single flock of nine Cory's Shearwaters off Sable I. May 29 (TL) was a good number for the Region. A Manx Shearwater, in poor condition, was captured on an oil rig 20 km s.w. of Sable I., NS, by John Parsons. The bird was wearing a British band.

The timing of N. Gannet migration is suggested by the following sightings, from south to north: 100+ adults Mar. 29 at Cape Sable Is. NS (BMy, JT); six adults Apr. 6 at Green Cove, Victoria, NS (BMy, FL, JT); and 12 adults at S.P.M. Apr. 18 (RE).

A **Brown Pelican** was at White Head I., NB, May 12 (Ellis Small), only the 2nd good sight record for the province.

HERONS

At least one Great Blue Heron overwintered in Nova Scotia; it was joined by a good push of birds in late March. March 21 provided the first wave in New Brunswick (ST). The fair weather resulted in the best showing of s. herons in years, so much so that observers in Nova Scotia, becoming blasé, apparently underreported the movement. There were at least eight Great Egrets in Nova Scotia, including a group of three at Lower Kingsburg Apr. 29–May 19. One reached as far n. as Antigonish (*vide* B.I.L.). Three Greats were reported from New Brunswick. Away from Bon Portage I., NS, three Snowy Egrets were in Nova Scotia and seven in New



Brunswick, all late April to mid-May. The now-famous Little Egret returned to Bon Portage I., NS, for its 4th spring (PS) and delighted birders to the end of the period.

The heron spring continued, with four Little Blue Herons in Nova Scotia and one in New Brunswick (ST), none very cooperative, all seen in late April–early May. More cooperative by far was the Tricolored Heron at Upper Kingsburg, NS, Apr. 13–May 12 (Irene Falvey *et al.*, ph. BMy). Another was seen in Nova Scotia at Lower W. Pubnico May 12, while four were sighted in New Brunswick, all between May 14–20.

Cattle Egrets might be expected to play a major role in such a movement, but they were perversely scarce. New Brunswick had one at Sheffield Apr. 28 (PP), two at Saint's Rest May 16 (Aldei Robichaud), and one at New Horton May 19 (RW). Nova Scotia was held to a single bird, at Schnare's Crossing Apr. 28 for a week (v.o.). Green-backed Herons staged an erratic movement: Nova Scotia had but two, both on Seal I., May 3 (EM) & 22 (IM *et al.*). Two were on Grand Manan, NB, May 18 (ST), and another was at Fredrickton May 17 (JE). One even reached S.P.M. May 20

(Daniel Abraham), the first in several years. Ominously, we received no reports of Black-crowned Night-Herons from their only colony in Nova Scotia, on Bon Portage I. If they are gone, the expanding gull colony is likely to blame.

WATERFOWL

It will be hard to trust rare waterfowl sightings in light of the illegal release of exotic ducks and geese by a collector on White Rock I., near Grand Manan I., NB. Greater White-fronted Geese sightings in both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are being discounted this spring. Three of the six Barnacle Geese that spent much of the winter in Cape Cod reappeared at Cape Sable I. in May, after a stopover (all six) in New Hampshire Apr. 20. Considered more trustworthy were 5 sightings of Snow Geese in Nova Scotia, each of single birds with Canada Geese, except for a flock of five at Big I. Apr. 1–7 (KM). As usual, New Brunswick had more Snow Geese, with 8 sightings of flocks as large as 12. New Brunswick also led in numbers of Brant: the largest flock was 10,000+ at Grand Manan in mid-April (BD), while the best group in Nova Scotia was 1200 at Cape Sable I. Mar. 29 (BMy, JT).

Wood Ducks were widely reported in Nova Scotia, suggesting continuing expansion, with 14 sightings involving 25 birds. Green-winged Teal numbers at S.P.M. were considered very low (*vide* RE). The overwintering ♂ Eur. Green-winged Teal in St. John's, NF, was seen until mid-May, by which time it had acquired a mate (our subspecies). American Black Ducks have been effectively displaced by Mallards on Seal I., NS, a disturbing event. Snapshots of the other dabbling ducks on the mainland suggest increases: 120 N. Pintail at the N. Amherst Marsh Apr. 20 (BMy, FL, JT); 12+ pairs of N. Shoveler reported in Nova Scotia (many more in New Brunswick); 3 sightings of Gadwall in Nova Scotia totalling 18 birds, with 14 or more pairs seen in New Brunswick; dozens of reports of hundreds of Am. Wigeon in Nova Scotia. A ♂ Eurasian Wigeon was at Cape Jourimain, NB, Apr. 28 (ST), while the overwintering female in St. John's, NF, was present until mid-May (BMt).

The Dartmouth, NS, Tufted Duck was last seen Apr. 6 (IM) and had molted into ♀ breeding plumage. New Brunswick dominated reports of Lesser Scaup, with 8 sightings, including a flock of 25 at Cap Brule (ST). Greater Scaup were also on the increase, with 5000 at Pictou, NS, in late March (KM) and 500 at Shediac Bridge, NB, Apr. 17 (ST).

In e. Newfoundland, spring is a good time to look for King Eiders mixed in with large flocks of Com. Eider. Ten ad. males were seen at Cape Spear Mar. 30 with 4000 Commons, and five ad. males and a female were seen with 5000 Commons Mar. 31 at Cape St. Francis (both BMt, KKn). This year, for a change, the mainland enjoyed the same phenomenon. The large wintering flock of 10,000+ Com. Eider at the approaches to Halifax Harbour, NS, came close enough to shore in late March to permit close examination. By mid-April at least 10 King Eider had been seen: four adult and two imm. males, and four ad. females (m.ob.). Also among the Com. Eider were two albino females (BMy). New Brunswick also got into the act, with at least four ad. ♂ King Eider at Deer I. in mid-May (S.J.N.C.) and an ad. male

at Waterside Mar. 18 (ST). These were mixed in with migrating Com. Eiders, which, in tens of thousands, travel up the Bay of Fundy and cross the Isthmus of Chignecto to reach the Gulf of St. Lawrence (ST).

Some slightly hopeful news for the endangered e. population of Harlequin Duck: 30-40 were seen near Green Point, NB, May 17 (S.J.N.C.). A pair at Doctor's Brook, N. Peninsula of Newfoundland (John Gibbons), raised hopes of local breeding.

The warm mainland spring may explain the paucity of sightings of all three scoters, both goldeneyes, Bufflehead, and Oldsquaw. Mergansers were more numerous. To close out the waterfowl, a ♂ Ruddy Duck reached the Codroy Valley, NF, May 26 (RB); the species is less than annual in the province.

RAPTORS

Five Turkey Vultures were reported from Nova Scotia. Apparent multiple sightings of one of these birds suggested a possible migration route for this scarce provincial raptor. The bird was first seen the afternoon of May 18 on Seal I. (EM). Early the next morning, RF spotted it heading N along the length of Bon Portage I., which is east of Seal I. Later that same day, FL spotted a Turkey Vulture on Cape Sable I., e.n.e. of Bon Portage. Nesting has yet to be confirmed for the province.

An early Osprey was at Glenwood, NS, Mar. 28 (*vide* IM). An excellent description of a Red-shouldered Hawk was submitted by Kathy Spicer. She observed the bird Apr. 2 at Apple R., NS, a date when they normally arrive in s. Ontario. This is one of very few acceptable spring records for the province. Another Red-shouldered was reported from McNally, NB, Apr. 10 (David Lounsbury). A concentration of 32 Rough-legged Hawks was observed Apr. 20 around Minudie Marsh, NS (BMy, FL, JT); most were likely migrants.

An imm. accipiter photographed on S.P.M. May 18 (J. Herbert) was believed to be a Cooper's Hawk. If the photo confirms this, it would be a first for S.P.M. Away from breeding sites in New Brunswick, Peregrine Falcon sightings numbered 3 in Nova Scotia, one in

S.P.M., and 4 in Newfoundland; the latest was May 13.

The NE winds in St. John's, NF, were good for Gyrfalcons at least. A minimum of 12 were in the area Mar. 24-Apr. 16 (m.ob.), with all color morphs involved (BMt). Five were seen at the same time at the St. John's garbage dump Mar. 24 (one white, three gray, one dark) (BMt, KK). A few other Gyrs were reported from e. Newfoundland, along with one from Gros Morne N.P. and good numbers in the Quirpon/L'Anse aux Meadows region (Delena Anderson).

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS

Although details are sketchy, it was reported that a Purple Gallinule was discovered in April in a weakened condition on a farm near Yarmouth, NS, and was being rehabilitated in a barn, in anticipation of release into a nearby marsh. Another was found recently dead Mar. 9 at Grand Bank, NF (*vide* RB).

Four Upland Sandpipers were at their traditional nesting site near Salisbury, NB, May 17, but they were uncommonly

widespread elsewhere in the region. Other New Brunswick sightings included singles at Grand Manan Apr. 23 (BD), Fredricton May 11 (Dwayne Sabine), and Shediac Bridge May 17 (ST). Elsewhere in the Region, an Upland Sandpiper was at Hartlen Point, NS, May 4 (FL, BMy *et al.*); and one at S.P.M. May 4 (Bruno Letournel) was only the 4th for the islands. The only Whimbrel reported was at Economy, NS, May 27 (FS).

A Bar-tailed Godwit, discovered at Conrad's Beach May 25, was a first for Nova Scotia (RF, excellent details). Unfortunately the godwit did not linger long enough for other birders to see it. The two previous records for the Region are from Newfoundland. This spring's Ruffs included three females and a male. The Reeves were: Mar. 22 at Cherry Hill, NS (Sylvia Fullerton), May 21 at Brier I., NS (Eric Mills), and May 24 at Le Goulet, NB (ST, Yves Cormier). The Ruff was Newfoundland's only rarity of the season, at St. John's May 1-10 (m.ob.).

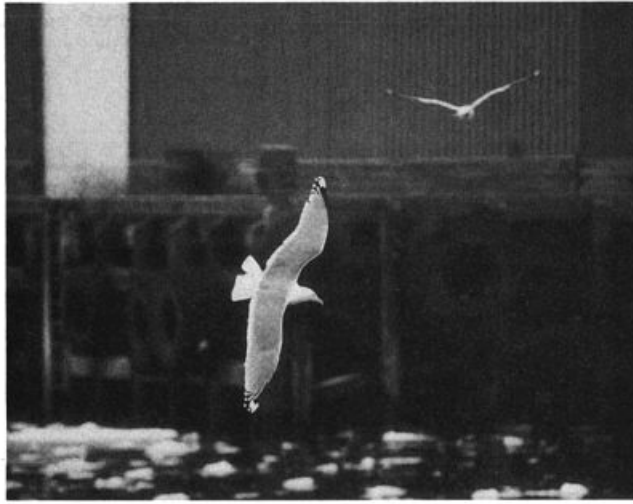
Wilson's Phalaropes continue to spread. Eight or more pairs were noted in New Brunswick (v.o.), while a single adult reached St. John's, NF, in late May (John Wells). Raymond d'Entremont, fishing on N.E. Georges Bank, NS, reported constant northward movement of Red-necked Phalaropes throughout the entire day May 16. The total number of birds involved in the movement can't even be guessed, but it must have been considerable. Nine were encountered May 31 at Blackhead, NF, during a storm (BMt, KKn).

GULLS TO ALCIDS

The only Laughing Gulls were two at Southern Head, NB, May 26 (BD). At St. John's, NF, BMt observed an ad. Herring Gull Mar. 13 that showed characteristics of the European subspecies *L. a. argentatus*. It was slightly larger, with a darker mantle, larger white windows, and less black in the primary tips. This is the 3rd individual suspected of being this race in the province. A first-winter Thayer's Gull (adequate details) was reported from the St. John's area on several occasions Mar. 31-May 4 (RB).

S.A.

God bless patient birds. On May 12, ST's nephew, Kirby Cadman (a non-birder), told him he had seen a big sandpiper with a long black crest near Auluc, NB, May 5. The bird was sighted May 10 nearby by someone more skilled and was tentatively identified as a Northern Lapwing, but the bird could not be relocated. Several halfhearted searches turned up nothing. Finally the bird was rediscovered May 26 beside the home of Don Colpitts, who works for the Canadian Wildlife Service. On May 27 word spread, and the rest, as they say, is history. The lapwing settled into a drained Ducks Unlimited impoundment in the valley of the nearby Missaguash R., along the border of Nova Scotia. It is still present at this writing (July 20), delighting all who seek it out, including Nova Scotian listers: When the bird flies over the trees at the e. edge of the impoundment, it is inside Nova Scotia. (Details on the bird's discovery supplied by ST.)



This Herring Gull studied at St. John's, Newfoundland, on March 13, 1991, was thought to represent the European race *L. a. argentatus*. Compared with typical North American Herring Gulls (race *smithsonianus*), it was slightly larger and darker, with more white in the wingtip. Photograph/Bruce Mactavish.

Common and Arctic tern colonies continue to decline in Nova Scotia, and gulls continue to be the culprits. Perhaps the terns are simply being displaced northward, as RE reported continuing expansion of colonies at S.P.M. Hope for a continuing presence of Roseate Terns away from their Pubnico, NS, toehold was provided by the sighting of two adult birds with hundreds of Commons and Arctics at Port Dufferin, NS, May 26 (BMy). Extralimital Caspian Tern sightings were at Caribou I., NS, Apr. 27 (KM), and Saint John, NB, May 5 (DG). The tern of the season was the Least Tern at New Minas, NS, May 13 (Jim Wolford *et al.*). It did not linger. Alcids were hard to find this season, perhaps owing to the fair weather.

DOVES TO FLYCATCHERS

The only cuckoo report this spring was of a Yellow-billed at Fredricton, NB, May 20 (Jeremy Forster); this species is rare in spring in the Maritimes. Single Snowy Owls were reported from New Brunswick, S.P.M., and Curling, NF, revealing a very lackluster spring. The good winter for Short-eared Owls in Nova Scotia continued into spring, with numerous reports concentrated in mid-April, including a flock of 15 at Grand Pre (B.I.L.). Several late May reports raised hopes of local breeding. The tremolo calls of four Boreal Owls were heard from high on the

ridge behind Bay St. Lawrence, NS, Apr. 6 (BMy, FL, JT); they were not heard a week later, and nesting has yet to be confirmed for the province.

Tantalizing was a May Nova Scotia report of a ♀ hummingbird slightly larger than a Ruby-throated, which produced a loud whistling sound in flight. It left before it could be examined in more detail.

A Red-bellied Woodpecker at Portuguese Cove, NS, in May (JT *et al.*) was only the 2nd in spring for the province. Another May 23 at Fundy N.P., NB, furnished the first local record and only the 8th for New Brunswick. A traditional nesting site for Black-backed Woodpecker in St. John's, NF, was destroyed by golf course expansion (*vide* RB).

There would be little to say regarding flycatchers were it not for the (typically elusive) Scissor-tailed Flycatchers. One was at Fredricton, NB, May 9 (Dwayne Sabini), and an astonishing group of three was present for a single day at Wilson's Cove, NS (*vide* BH).

SWALLOWS TO WAXWINGS

Tree and Barn swallows are showing signs of recovery from their massive die-off during last spring's late cold snap. They will need a good breeding season or two to fully recover their former abundance. The picture for Purple Martins will become clearer as their colonies are surveyed in June. A lone Purple

Martin reached S.P.M. May 16 (*vide* RE). A N. Rough-winged Swallow was reported without details from Great Codroy, NF, May 26 (RB).

Excellent details accompanied the announcement of Nova Scotia's first Tufted Titmouse, a long-awaited species, seen May 16 on Bon Portage I. by Peter Smith. The only interesting wren this season was a Carolina at Fredricton, NB, Apr. 5 (DG).

It was a good spring for Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, especially in New Brunswick. Nova Scotia had a single on Bon Portage I. May 18 (v.o.), while New Brunswick had six: A pair at Fundy N.P. May 11 (RW), and singles May 13 at Bancroft Pt., Grand Manan (BD), May 16 at Barachois (ST), May 19 at Caraquet (Marcel David), and May 25 at Southern Head, Grand Manan (Jim Wilson).

It was also a banner spring (ST) for E. Bluebirds. New Brunswick had more than 20 reports and several nests. There were 6 reports from Nova Scotia. A Townsend's Solitaire successfully overwintered in Herring Cove, NS, last seen in mid-March. Another was at Grand Manan, NB, May 14 (Bob Cotsworth), and one was reportedly on Prince Edward Island in early May (*vide* BD). If confirmed, the latter would be a first provincial record.

A Veery at S.P.M. on the early date of Apr. 29 (RE) provided one of very few records for the islands. A day earlier on S.P.M. a Hermit Thrush appeared ahead of schedule (RE). Remarkably, this thrush movement started Apr. 27 with S.P.M.'s 2nd Wood Thrush (David Detchevery). Another Wood Thrush, increasingly rare in Nova Scotia, was on Bon Portage I. May 20 (v.o.).

Rare any time in Newfoundland, a Gray Catbird was at Cape St. Mary's May 20 (Andrea MacCharles). Northern Mockingbirds remain in good shape, with many sightings in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Although Brown Thrashers are much more regular in autumn, offshore islands captured five this spring. Nova Scotia had three: Seal I., NS, May 20 (BMy, FL, IM); Brier I., NS, May 20 (*vide* RS); and Bon Portage I., NS, May 16 (PS). New Brunswick's were on Grand Manan, NB, May 15 (BD) and

May 25-26 (ST *et al.*). The Bohemian Waxwing winter stretched well into mid-April, with numerous sightings in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick of flocks ranging in size from 30 to 150. Similarly, N. Shrike reports were common after their abundant winter. There were 29 sightings in Nova Scotia after mid-March and 5 in Newfoundland, where they are much more scarce. Three appeared on S.P.M. in the same period (RE).

VIREOS TO WARBLERS

A Solitary Vireo was rare at S.P.M. May 26 (RE). The first-ever spring Warbling Vireo for Grand Manan, NB, was one May 8 (BD). Nova Scotia also hosted two provincially rare Warbling Vireos, one at Seal I. May 22 (IM, BMy, FL), with a second in Wolfville May 31 (RS). Seal I. also rewarded observers with a Philadelphia Vireo May 21 (IM, BMy, FL).

The regularly breeding warblers arrived on or slightly ahead of their long-term average except in Newfoundland, where they were understandably late. Unaccountably, especially considering the weather, many species were early on S.P.M. Lower than average numbers were reported only from Newfoundland.

A N. Parula was unexpected at S.P.M. May 31 (RE). A Magnolia Warbler May 15 at S.P.M. was earliest ever there (*vide* RE). Cape May Warblers were few on the mainland, but so were spruce budworms, their favorite food. One Cape May overshot its target and ended up on S.P.M. May 31 (RE *et al.*), while another was unexpected in St. John's, NF, May 27 (BMT). No fewer than three Blackburnian Warblers made it to S.P.M., where they are rare, May 22-27 (*vide* RE). An overwintering Pine Warbler in W. Pubnico, NS, stayed until Apr. 17 (Lisette d'Entremont). Blackpoll Warblers were abundant in migration throughout e. Nova Scotia May 20-25, with 100+ sighted per day.

A Worm-eating Warbler at Bald Rock, Halifax, Apr. 23-24 (FL *et al.*) furnished perhaps the only mainland Nova Scotia record for this species. The province has only 12 records. Another rare mainland vagrant was a ♀ Hooded Warbler at Bear

S.A.

On Apr. 21–22, somewhere down the mideastern seaboard, a large number of migrating passerines misjudged the intentions of a frontal system. Strong westerlies carried them out over the Atlantic, where they were subsequently caught up in the southeasterly winds that took over as the front passed through. On Apr. 23, the flood of birds hit land. Exhausted and hungry, they were scattered along the e. coast of Nova Scotia, with smaller numbers deposited inland.

Seed-eating species that flocked in desperation to feeders were the most visible features of the fallout, especially Indigo Buntings, whose bright colors further attracted the interest of feeder watchers. In Nova Scotia there were over 150 reports of Indigo Buntings, comprising hundreds of individuals. The largest concentration at a single feeder was 14 at Bald Rock, *Halifax* (BMy, FL *et al.*). New Brunswick shared in the bounty, with 31 sightings of over 100 birds. At least (only ♂) one Indigo Bunting reached Prince Edward Island (*fide* JE). Accompanying the Indigo Buntings, and also patronizing feeders, were large numbers of Blue Grosbeaks. Nova Scotia hosted at least 35, the largest concentration being seven at the same feeder with the 14 Indigos. Six Blues were seen in New Brunswick. In both provinces the true number of Blue Grosbeaks at feeders was certainly underestimated by watchers who were unskilled at separating this species from the similar Indigo Bunting. Farther afield, a single Indigo reached S.P.M. Apr. 30 (Jackie Sabarotz), and singles of each species reached w. Newfoundland late in May.

Other species were involved in the fallout. A Lark Bunting was at Cape Sable I. Apr. 23 (B.I.L.). Dozens of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were sighted on the mainland, and at least three males and a female reached S.P.M. Apr. 27–May 2 (*fide* RE), while two males and one female straggled to Newfoundland. Numbers for non-seed-eating species were harder to estimate, as they did not frequent feeders. As usual, the showier species were more often reported. There were at least 17 Scarlet Tanagers in Nova Scotia during this period, as well as a Summer Tanager at Bass R. Apr. 23–May 2 (Joyce Starrett). Dozens of N. Orioles were also seen. Undoubtedly also part of this movement were the Worm-eating Warbler and Hooded Warbler mentioned earlier.

Other large April migration fallouts of a similar nature occurred in 1963 and 1984. This year's event, unquestionably larger in relative terms owing to the recent proliferation of feeders and competent observers, was also the largest in absolute terms. It was also a nice way to usher in spring.

Cove, *Halifax*, Apr. 25–28 (Sean Smith *et al.*, ph. BMy).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

Two Rufous-sided Towhees were reported: one on Grand Manan May 19 (Connie Colpitts *et al.*), the other in Nova Scotia at Crystal Crescent Beach Apr. 27 (Joe Robertson). Rare in spring, a Field Sparrow was on Seal I., NS, May 13–22 (EM *et al.*), and a Lark Sparrow was on Sable I. in mid-May (*fide* IM). The only E. Meadowlark reported away from their modest New Brunswick breeding areas was one at Conrad's Beach, NS, Apr. 12–14 (JT *et al.*). Two ♂ Orchard Orioles were on Seal I., NS, this spring, May 15–16 and May 14–22 (EM *et al.*).

A Rusty Blackbird on S.P.M.

Apr. 1 was the earliest ever locally (RE). The first Canadian sighting of **Bronzed Cowbird** was made on Seal I., NS, May 6–10 (EM, Wade Kenny, very good details). The bird was closely observed during this period as it fed on kitchen scraps, in the company of Com. Grackles. Regrettably, the bird departed before mainland birders could observe and photograph it. The lobstermen still talk fondly of "the grackle with the devil's eyes." Full details appear in *Nova Scotia Birds*.

Pine Grosbeaks were common only in Newfoundland. House Finches are becoming well established in the s. cities of New Brunswick (*fide* ST) and are on the march elsewhere. At least 25 were discovered in Nova Scotia, and five were reported from

BIRD SLIDES

OVER 4500 SPECIES

from all over the world

SLIDE SETS

Endangered Species, Owls
Bird Families, Herons
Eastern Warblers, Raptors
Shorebirds, Behavior



CUSTOM SLIDE SETS

Prepared especially
for your group

INDIVIDUAL SLIDES

Selected from over 60,000
images - custom duplicated
to suit your needs

Request our free North American Catalog of slides priced @ \$2.00, or send a list of species desired, indicating age, sex, behavior or color phase. Custom selections are \$3.00 per slide. Minimum order of 5 slides. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. (These slides are for non-commercial use only and may not be duplicated.)

VIREO

The Academy of Natural Sciences

19th & the Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19103

Newfoundland, only two of the latter accompanied by written de-tails (RB). The species is still not on the official Newfoundland list, although the day cannot be far off. Common Redpoll and both crossbills were scarce throughout the Region, while Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks were widespread. A ♂ Eur. Goldfinch on Seal I., NS, May 7–9 (EM) was of questionable origin. American Goldfinches were uncommonly widespread in Newfoundland this spring, with 8 reports (*fide* RB).

Contributors:

(Subregional editors in bold-face) Marion & Keith Allsebrook, R.G.B. Brown, Roger Burrows, Dave Curry, Brian Dalzell, Marcel David, Jim Edsall, Roger Etcheberry, Roger Foxall, Don Gibson, Barbara Hinds, Keith Keddy, Ken Knowles (KKn), Fulton Lavender, Bruce Mactavish (BMt), Ken McKenna, Ian McLaren, Ethelda Murphy, Nova Scotia Bird Information

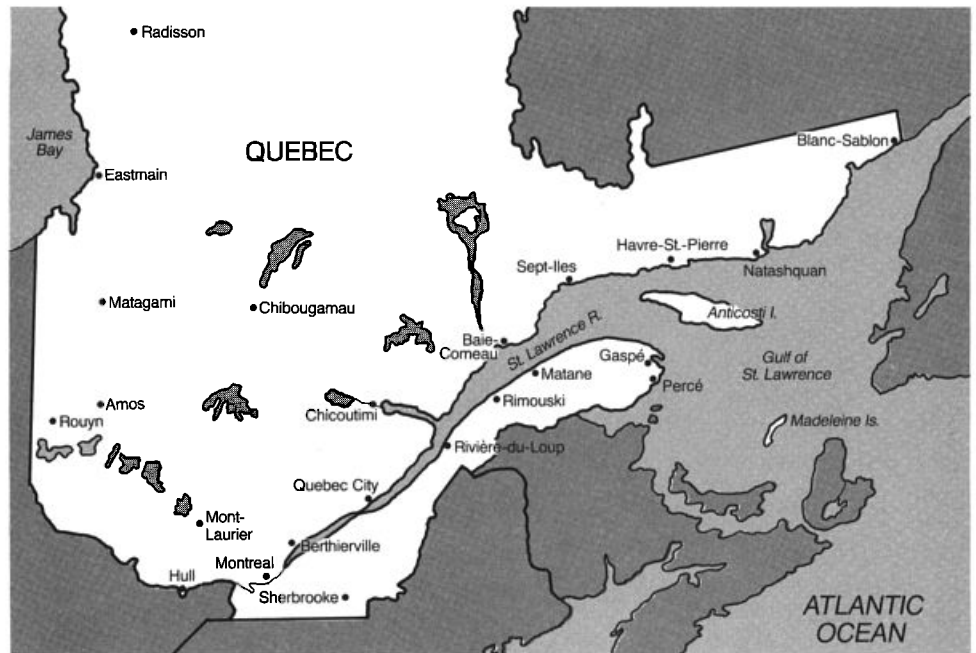
Line (B.I.L.), Linda & Peter Payzant, Saint John Naturalist Club (S.J.N.C.), Bev Sarty, Francis Spalding, Peter C. Smith, Richard Stern, Jim Taylor, Stuart Tingley, Rob Walker.—BLAKE MAYBANK (BMy), Site 14A, Box 43, RR#4, Armdale, NS, Canada B3L 4J4.

QUEBEC REGION

Richard Yank,
Yves Aubry, and
Michel Gosselin

Weather in southern Quebec was generally mild and wet throughout the season, although May precipitation came mainly in the form of isolated rainfalls. Migration in general was early by about two weeks. In contrast, the northern half of the province, including the Gulf of St. Lawrence, was colder and dryer than normal, especially in April and May. Two major snow storms hit southern Quebec, March 4 and again March 23–24, but few migrants had arrived by then. Intensive low-pressure systems crossed the Region April 21–22 and May 11–12.

The season's highlight was the exceptional list of rarities that turned up at Lake Saint-Jean in early May, often on the heels of strong easterly winds. European rarities included Eurasian Wigeon, Eurasian Whimbrel, Ruff, and Brambling, in addition to the trio of Little, Ross', and Common Black-headed gulls. From the west came Sandhill Crane, Franklin's Gull, and Western Kingbird, while the south was represented by Tricolored Heron and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Lake Saint-Jean is a 40-km-long body of water surrounded by fertile lowlands located some 160 km north of the St. Lawrence Valley. Migrant and stray birds are attracted to this outpost of open lowlands in an otherwise continuous landscape of boreal forest. The lake is connected to the St. Lawrence River through a long marine fjord, the Saguenay, which serves as a regular flyway for a number of Arctic-bound migrants originating in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. This was again illustrated in late May by sightings of migrating Brant, Purple Sandpipers, jaegers (all three species), and Arctic Terns. Over the years, many European stragglers reached Lake Saint-Jean in what would seem a vain attempt to find in North America ecological conditions similar to those at the same latitude in Europe (the lake is at the same latitude as Paris). Conversely, western birds



find argillous lowlands similar to those of the Great Plains, so the lake serves as the eastern outpost for birds such as Connecticut Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Le Conte's Sparrow.

Rarities also appeared elsewhere in the Region. The reader is encouraged to press on and learn more about this spring's exciting finds.

GREBES TO WATERFOWL

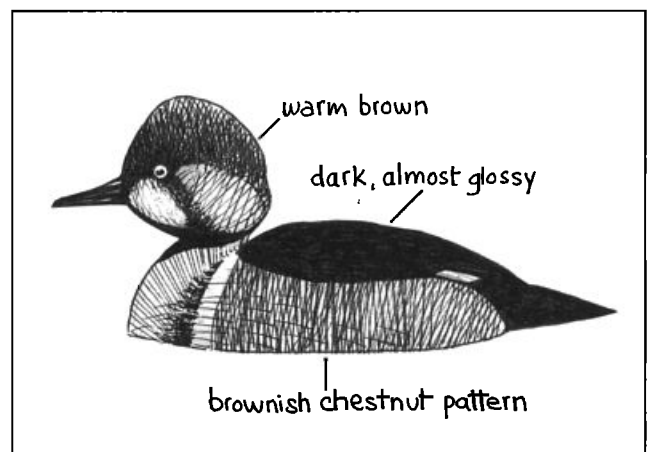
The Region's 2nd documented Western Grebe was reported from L. Magog Apr. 14 (CV, LCo). Out-of-range Great Cormorants were observed at Sainte-Croix Apr. 26 (LCh, DR) and I. des Soeurs Apr. 28–May 1 (*fide* PBa). Wandering southern herons included single Snowy Egrets at Saint-Etienne-de-Beauharnois Apr. 26–May 1 (FHi, v.o.), Henryville May 4 (PBa), and Montmorency May 24 (SSO), a Little Blue Heron at Sainte-Foy Apr. 29 (GD), and L. Saint-Jean's first Tricolored Heron, at Métabetchouan May 1–8 (LI, RDm *et al.*). The only two Cattle Egrets of the season were observed at Baie-du-Febvre May 4 (RDs) and near Repentigny May 15 (JR, JB), while two Glossy Ibises were encountered at Baie-du-Febvre Apr. 30 (PD, RDs), and singles ventured to Saint-Paul-de-l'île-aux-Noix May 4 (PBa) and Contrecoeur May 25 (*fide* PBa).

A migrating Tundra Swan was sighted at Valleyfield May 1 (RGo), while a very tame Mute

Swan was present at Lavaltrie May 26 (PL). A Mute Swan at Contrecoeur May 22 (RDs *et al.*) was perhaps the same bird. The total of five Greater White-fronted Geese was typical for recent springs. Uncommon at L. Saint-Pierre a decade ago, staging Snow Geese peaked there at 137,000 birds this spring (*fide* DJv). The total population along the St. Lawrence was estimated at 356,000 (*fide* ARE)! Worthy of mention among the several reported Ross' Geese was an adult blue-morph studied at L'Ange-Gardien, *Montmorency*, Apr. 25 (JLp). Lone Barnacle Geese present at Baie-du-Febvre Apr. 26 (JDG, CGa, BA) and Plaisance May 5 (DP, LP) may have been the same individuals reported in 1990.

There was a strong showing of European ducks, with lone Eur.

Green-winged Teal observed off I. d'Orléans Apr. 27 (ARa, LM), at Montmagny and Berthier-sur-Mer May 4 (RF, JLC), and a total of 10 Eur. Wigeon seen throughout the Region, including a record-early drake at LaSalle Mar. 27 (JCS, m.ob.). The duck-of-the-season title would have gone to a ♂ *Garganey* at Pointe-Label May 4 (GC *et al.*) were it not for a ♂ *Tufted Duck* seen by many at Longueuil Apr. 1–6 (HP, m.ob.). The only previously documented record for Quebec was one off I. d'Orléans in 1976, but there was also an unpublished sighting of one at Baie-du-Febvre Apr. 6, 1986 (DJu). Notable hybrids involved a ♂ Com. Goldeneye X Barrow's Goldeneye at Aylmer Mar. 17 (MGo) and a goldeneye sp. X Hooded Merganser at Franklin Mar. 29 (PRM).



Apparent hybrid goldeneye (sp.) X Hooded Merganser at Franquelin, Quebec, March 29, 1991. Drawing/Michel Gosselin, from a sketch by Paul R. Martin



Ross' Gull at Métabetchouan, Quebec, May 8, 1991. First provincial record. Photograph/Michel Masse.

VULTURES TO SHOREBIRDS

Turkey Vulture should no longer be considered rare in the Quebec City area, with 13 reported there and farther e. along the Estuary this spring. A Rough-legged Hawk at Ormstown May 26 (DDa) was late. Exceptional numbers of Gyrfalcons continued to be seen in s. Quebec, with 13 sightings in March and early April. Groups of Willow Ptarmigan also lingered after the winter invasion, with seven at Sainte-Elizabeth, *L. Saint-Jean*, Mar. 17 (JMr), 80 or more near Chibougamau Mar. 30–31 (PBr, DL), and five on Mt. Valin Apr. 4 (CCa).

Two Sandhill Cranes in flight at Sainte-Marthe Apr. 6 (JAn) and one at Thurso May 5 (JH) were migrants, but a pair at Saint-Augustin, *L. Saint-Jean*, throughout May, was observed to copulate (SL *et al.*).

Two Lesser Golden-Plovers, rare in spring, were identified at Baie-du-Febvre May 19 (DJv), while seven Piping Plovers on the Magdalen Is. Apr. 28 (*vide* PF) were the earliest ever by one day. La Pocatière was again visited by a Willet May 17 (CA), while Chambord represented a new *L. Saint-Jean* locale for Upland Sandpipers: four were found there May 20 (CCo, GSa). Quebec's first documented Eurasian Whimbrel frequented the Saint-Gédéon

marsh May 1–12 (CCo, JV). East of normal range were single Marbled Godwits at Contrecoeur May 9 (GR), Kamouraska May 25 (CA, AC), and Rimouski May 29 (JRP), while a Pectoral Sandpiper was very early at Pointe-au-Père Mar. 29 (JRP). Northbound Purple Sandpipers were found farther w. than usual, with 10 at Portneuf May 24 (CM), one to four at Saint-Fulgence May 25–26 (CCo, GSa, LI), and 70 on I. Bicquette May 30 (CN). Ruffs were sighted in above-average numbers, with a female at Saint-Gédéon May 1 (CCo, JV), another at Baie-du-Febvre the same day (*vide* PBa), and two males at La Pocatière May 19–20 (JFR, CA). Very rare inland, two Red Phalaropes were off Verdun May 22 (FGr).

JAEGERS TO TERNS

A group of changing jaegers was observed flying W along the Saguenay off Saint-Fulgence May 28 (CCo, GSa, BD). This coincided with passage of a group of Arctic Terns, and involved at least one Pomarine, 25 Parasitic, and two Long-tailed jaegers.

Only one Laughing Gull was found inland, at LaSalle May 31 (JMu), while observers encountered greater numbers of Franklin's Gulls than usual this spring. Singles were identified at Métabetchouan May 1 (CCo, JV) and Aylmer May 28 (BMD); two were seen at Rivière-Ouelle May 30 (CA, MV); but particularly surprising were the nine Franklin's reportedly seen at Erang-du-Nord Apr. 21–22 (BL), which would represent the first record for the archipelago. A Com. Black-headed Gull was locally rare at La Baie May 4 (HS). Only two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported, at Aylmer in March (*vide* RLD), while unusual inland was a Great Black-backed Gull at Mont-Laurier Apr. 14 (EB).

A Caspian Tern was locally rare at Beauport May 18 (MAB), while a Roseate Tern at I. aux Cochons May 19 (FS) was the earliest ever recorded in the Region. Migrating Arctic Terns were noted at L. Sainte-Jean (JI *et al.*), on the Ottawa R., at Aylmer (TB, BMD), and on the Upper St. Lawrence at LaSalle (PBa), all May 24–29.

S.A.

Quebec's first confirmed Ross' Gull was a breeding-plumaged adult seen May 6–11 at Métabetchouan, on the marshy shoreline of then ice-bound Lake Saint-Jean (CCo, GSa, m.ob.). This long-overdue occurrence came some 165 years after the species' original discovery, near the mouth of Hudson's Bay, only a few hundred miles from the Quebec border.

The North American history of Ross' Gull offers a parallel with that of its relative, Little Gull. Interestingly, the Métabetchouan bird was joined by an adult Little Gull May 7 (m.ob.). Both Ross' and Little gulls are certainly not recent arrivals on the continent, as shown by McRae for the Little Gull (*Seasons* 29[1]:44–45) and by the type-specimen and other early records of Ross' Gull quoted by Bledsoe and Sibley (*AB* 39: 219–227). Along with Sabine's Gull, the two are Arctic or boreal nesters, with little-known offshore winter ranges. Indeed, Ross', Sabine's, and Little gulls are all merged in the genus *Xema* by Devillers in Campbell and Lack's *Dictionary of Birds*.

Given the scant ornithological coverage of much of n. Canada, breeding grounds of both Ross' and Little gulls in North America may be more extensive than currently believed and may possibly be expanding like those of many other gulls. In the U.S.S.R., the breeding population of Ross' Gull in the Yana-Indigirka area alone is now reaching *ca.* 50,000, not accounting for the numerous nonbreeders that stay away from nesting grounds (Degtyaryev 1990, *Zool. Zhurnal* 70[2]: 81–85).

CUCKOOS TO THRASHERS

The Region's earliest ever Yellow-billed Cuckoo was discovered at Aylmer May 19 (RLD). Remnants of this winter's owl invasion included several N. Hawk Owls, a Great Gray Owl at Boileau Mar. 13 (AJG), and lone Boreal Owls at Lac-Beauport Mar. 9 (FBe) and Laval Mar. 26–Apr. 1 (GL). A noteworthy concentration of 24

migrating Short-eared Owls was found at Jonquière Apr. 14 (CGI *et al.*). Two record-early Whip-poor-wills were found, at Philipsburg Apr. 20 (JGP) and on I. des Soeurs Apr. 21 (JAt), while a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was quite early on I. Brion Mar. 17 (AP *et al.*). A W. Kingbird wandered to Hébertville, *L. Saint-Jean*, May 24 (LI *et al.*), while an E. Kingbird found on I. Bizard Mar. 31 (KM) broke the provincial arrival record by one week. The latter was carefully examined; the white tail band eliminated potential vagrants of similar appearance.

Two N. Rough-winged Swallows spotted at Saint-Gédéon May 17–18 (JI *et al.*) represented the first local sighting since 1967, while a Barn Swallow was record-early at Saint-Eusèbe Mar. 30 (MB). Single Tufted Titmice at Victoriaville Mar. 1 (ST) and Iberville Mar. 30 (GSe) added to last winter's massive invasion. The last report was of one or two at L. Brome until Apr. 22 (*vide* IF).

North of their breeding range were lone Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Cap-Tourmente May 12 (RGi, DC), Sainte-Hedwige May 18 (LV, AD), and Beauport May 23 (JMG). A Townsend's Solitaire at Saint-Raymond May 15 (DG) furnished a rare spring sighting for this species, while a Varied Thrush photographed at Lafontaine Mar. 24 (FL) may have been the same bird seen at nearby Saint-Jérôme last winter. Seldom recorded in the Magdalen Is., a Brown Thrasher visited Havre-Aubert May 26 (FS *et al.*).

VIREOS TO FINCHES

The first *L. Saint-Jean* Warbling Vireo since 1978 was at Saint-Gédéon May 24 (GSa, CCo). Two Yellow-rumped Warblers of the "Audubon's" form were reported at Rimouski May 4 (JRP), while a ♂ Cerulean Warbler was well n. of normal range at Saint-Romauld-d'Etchemin May 19 (MAL, LLo). Noteworthy were single Connecticut Warblers at Saint-Thomas-de-Joliette May 12 (JDG) and Saint-Fulgence May 26 (JI), as was a Yellow-breasted Chat mist-netted at Longueuil May 13 and seen until May 15 (MR, DDa). A ♀ Summer



Male Brambling at Sainte-Hedwidge, Quebec, May 13-17, 1991. First provincial record. Photograph/Nicole Binet.

Tanager was a good find at Westmount May 20 (GSe, ND, v.o.).

Sighting of an imm. ♂ **Blue Grosbeak** at Longueuil Apr. 30 (DDa), two Indigo Buntings at Magdalen Is. feeders Apr. 26-28 (DDe, CCy *et al.*), and many ♂ Indigo Buntings at feeders from Rimouski May 3 (CPG) to Amqui May 8 (DB, JC) and Chandler later in May (*fide* PP) coincided with a substantial invasion of blue *cardinalines* in the Maritimes. Probably as a result of this invasion, lone ♀ Blue Grosbeaks were found at Neuville May 8-16 (PO, MD) and Tewkesberry May 13 (JLG, *fide* JMG), and a male at Haldimand May 9-16 (MM).

A Rufous-sided Towhee still at Saint-Emile Mar. 22 (SSO) should be added to last season's list of winterers. A Grasshopper Sparrow at Cap-Tourmente May 25 (RL, FHa) was n. of its established breeding range. Migrant

Le Conte's Sparrows were detected at Maniwaki May 11 (GB) and Cap-Tourmente, where two were present May 19 (CB, MD). Vagrant sparrows from the west included a White-crowned Sparrow of the *gambelii* type, found at Chicoutimi May 16 (CGi), and two Dark-eyed Juncos of the "pink-sided" or *mearnsi* type, photographed at Saint-Honoré Apr. 26 (JV). Another w. female was present at Saint-Elzéar, *Témiscouata*, Apr. 26 (RD).

An impressive total of 11,760 Snow Buntings, with 80 Lapland Longspurs, was recorded at L. à la Croix, *L. Saint-Jean*, May 5 (CGi, JI, JV). At least two Yellow-headed Blackbirds remained at Châteauguay Mar. 7 (SD) & 16 (PBa), while one was seen at Roxboro May 5 (MS). A vagrant ♂ Orchard Oriole was singing in downtown Montreal May 27 (Djk).

Quebec's first **Brambling** was a male at a Sainte-Hedwidge feeder May 13-17 (NB, v.o.). It seems that House Finches may soon be established in the Saguenay and L. Saint-Jean region; a female was photographed at the latter feeder Apr. 1-4 (NB), another was seen at Saint-Honoré Apr. 21 (FGa), two males were identified at Anse Saint-Jean May 18 (JI), and up to 30 birds invaded feeders at Sacré-Coeur this spring (RM, JLv). House Finches are now also nesting at Mont-Laurier in w. Quebec (RLD). Red Crossbills staged a minor eruption in the Upper Saguenay, with 6 sightings of up to 15 birds this spring (*fide* GSA).

EXOTICS

There were no clues as to the origin of a Greylag Goose found among Canada Geese at Saint-Jean-Port-Joli Apr. 18 & 27 (CO), while a N. Bobwhite at Saint-Hyacinthe May 21 (JMa) may have been a local escapee. A Ringed Turtle-Dove was reported at Granby Apr. 2-June 3 (MT); and finally, a Eur. Goldfinch was among a flock of Evening Grosbeaks at Amos Apr. 17 (MP, *fide* AGB).

Corrigendum: The report of a N. Wheatear at Desbiens last fall (AB45:73) should be deleted.

Contributors and observers: J. Andersen (JAn), B. Asselin, J.

Atkinson (JAt), C. Auchu, Y. Bachand, P. Bannon (PBa), M. Beaulieu, T. Beck, F. Bédard (FBe), A.G. Bernier, N. Binet, D. Bouchard, G. Bouchard, F. Bourret (FBo), E. Brault, J. Brisson, M.A. Brochu, C. Brodeur, P. Brousseau (PBr), D. Campeau, C. Caron (CCa), L. Charest (LCh), C. Cormier (CCo), A. Côté, L. Cousineau (LCo), C. Cyr (CCy), G. Cyr, J. Cyr, A. Daigle, D. Daigneault (DDa), M. Darveau, N. David, S. David, D. Décoste (DDe), R. Demers (RDm), P. Deschênes, R. Deschênes (RDs), B. Desgagné, B.M. DiLabio, G. Dubé, R.L. Dubois, I. Ferrier, R. Fortin, P. Fradette, F. Gagnon (FGa), S. Gagnon, C.P. Gauthier, C. Gauvreau (CGa), J.D. Gauvreau, A.J. Gilbert, D. Gingras, R. Gingras (RDi), C. Girard (CGi), J.M. Giroux, R. Gomm (RGo), M. Grégoire (MGr), F. Grenon (FGr), J. L. Grondin, F. Hamel (FHa), J. Harris, F. Hilton (FHi), J. Ibarzabal, L. Imbeau, D. Jackson (Djk), D. Jauvin (Djv), D. Jutras (DJu), G. Lachaine, J. Lachance (JLc), J. Lapointe (JLp), J. Larivée (JLr), F. Lavallée, J. Lavoie (JLv), B. Leblanc, L. Le Blanc (LLe), S. Leboeuf, D. Legault, M.A. Lemieux, R. Lepage, V. Létourneau, P. Lévesque, L. Longchamps (LLo), C. Marcotte, J. Martin (JMa), P.R. Martin, L. Messely, J. Moreau (JMr), M. Morency, R. Mortin, J. Mountjoy (JMu), K. Murphy, C. Nadeau, P. Otis, C. Ouellet, J.G. Papineau, H. Paré, M. Pageau, D. Parenteau, L. Parenteau, J.R. Pelletier, A. Poirier, P. Poulin, A. Rasmussen (ARa), A. Reed (ARe), J. Rivest, M. Robert, G. Rompré, D. Rousseau, J.F. Rousseau, M. Sardi, G. Savard (GSA), G. Seutin (GSe), F. Shaffer, H. Simard, R. Simard, J.C. Sorel, S. St-Onge, S. Therrien, M. Turgeon, M. Vaillancourt, C. Vandereyden, J. Villeneuve, L. Vinette.—RICHARD YANK, 566 Chester Road, Beaconsfield, PQ H9W 3K1, YVES AUBRY, Canadian Wildlife Service, P. O. Box 10100, Sainte-Foy, PQ G1V 4H5, and MICHEL GOSSELIN, Ornithology Section, Canadian Museum of Nature, P.O. Box 3443, Station D, Ottawa, ON K1P 6P4.

NEW ENGLAND REGION

Simon A. Perkins

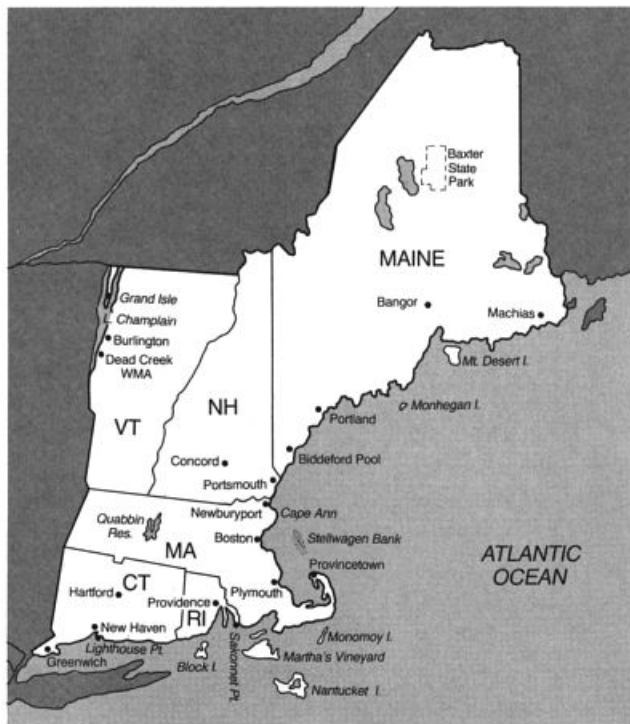
This may sound like a broken record, but temperatures this spring averaged well above normal, with May a full 4° warmer than the 121-year norm. This followed one of the warmest winters on record, and this following... We'd better get used to it! This chapter of "Global warming: The early years" highlights a predictable and increasingly prevalent theme: southern birds moving north. The list begins with Black-capped Petrel, Brown Pelican, and Anhinga, moving through Reddish Egret, two species of kites, and nesting Yellow-throated Warblers, and concludes with a truly tropical indicator species: Shiny Cowbird.

Nonbelievers may wish to use the Great Gray Owl in Maine and Three-toed Woodpecker in Rhode Island to refute global warming. But is it valid to compare one species' response to climatic change at the northern limit of its range to another species' response at its southern limit? Probably not. For one thing, an "expanding" species expands, presumably in part because they have developed a way to exploit an unoccupied niche.

Further, most bird species actively shifting ranges no doubt move at different rates along different fronts. For example, they may relinquish range along a southern border more slowly than they gain range in the north. A species that appears static in New England may be extending its range elsewhere.

Of course, if the earth is warming rapidly, the biggest problem facing many boreal species is one of space: most boreal forest obligates (*e.g.* Boreal Chickadee, Three-toed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Spruce Grouse) do not have the luxury of shifting northward as climate and invading species squeeze them from the south. Their range is already defined by the treeline. They have nowhere to go except onto open tundra.

Despite this rather ominous view, New Englanders enjoyed a



productive and exciting season. In addition to southern birds, coastal species found inland included King Eider and Laughing Gull; western strays included Eared Grebe and Band-tailed Pigeon. New state records were established in Maine and Connecticut.

As birding becomes increasingly popular and the mesh of the "dragnet" continues to shrink, different birders will inevitably find the same individual rarities at different locations. This will place a greater emphasis on complete details accompanying a rare bird report. Such details may not only provide vital documentation of a sighting but also allow comparison between sightings, perhaps to determine whether those sightings involved the same bird. An immature Sandhill Crane missing a primary from the right wing will be highly traceable even if observers report it from sites 50 miles apart, as long as that level of detail is recorded and reported.

Abbreviations: M.B.O. (Manomet Bird Observatory, Plymouth, MA); Mt. A. (Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, MA); M.I.N.W.R. (Monomoy Is. Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Chatham, MA); P.I. (Plum Island, Newburyport, MA); W.B.W.S. (Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, Wellfleet, MA).

LOONS TO IBISES

At least two Pacific/Arctic Loons were reported. One off Duxbury, MA, Mar. 11 (WRP) may have been the same bird seen 20 mi down the coast in January and February (RPA). Another, reported as a "Pacific," discovered off Maschaug Beach, RI, on the late date of Mar. 24 (CR), was apparently in breeding plumage. Unfortunately no details were received for the Rhode Island bird. Apparently neither Arctic nor Pacific Loon has ever been definitely identified in New England. When and if it occurs, it will probably involve a bird in breeding plumage. Please note comments and references under these species in last spring's New England report.

A Red-necked Grebe tarried until May 27 at Nahant, MA (HRS); two Eared Grebes made rare spring showings at Old Saybrook, CT, Mar. 10-25 (J. Hand) and at Martha's Vineyard, MA, Mar. 16-17 (VL); and single W. Grebes reappeared for the 2nd and 3rd consecutive years, respectively, in Rye, NH, Mar. 8 (B. Mack) and Hull, MA, Mar. 13-Apr. 13 (D. Brown *et al.*).

Among the few tubenose reports, 25 N. Fulmars and 110 Wilson's Storm-Petrels were at Cashe's Ledge in the Gulf of Maine May 27 (RPA); on

Stellwagen Bank, a Manx Shearwater Apr. 17 (L. Barra) and eight Sooty Shearwaters Apr. 22 (SH) were a bit early.

A complete surprise was a *Pterodroma* petrel on Stellwagen Bank Apr. 22, photographed and tentatively identified as **Black-capped Petrel** (SH). Photos were sent to P.A. Buckley, David Lee, and R.R. Veit, who concurred with the identification. This represented the first confirmed record and 2nd sighting for Massachusetts waters, the first coming from George's Bank Mar. 23, 1977 (AB 31:1056). A fairly intense coastal storm Apr. 21 no doubt brought this bird with it. As for the seemingly early date, Lee points out that Black-cappeds occur off Hatteras in all months, including mid-winter, so a vagrant could appear in New England at any time.

Northern Gannets are considered rare in Long Island Sound, so 7 sightings Mar. 27-Apr. 7 involving perhaps as many as 19 birds between Old Saybrook and Hammonasset/Milford Pt., CT, represented a veritable invasion. The strong S



Adult Reddish Egret at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, Wellfleet, Massachusetts, May 12, 1991. Second state record. Photograph/R. Prescott.

wind flow May 11 & 12 produced a fly-by Brown Pelican at Nauset Beach, Orleans, Cape Cod, May 12 (J. Dowal, S. Thibodeau). Though still rare in New England, such sightings have become somewhat expected since the species' post-DDT recovery and subsequent expansion up the Atlantic seaboard. Rounding out the Pelicaniform list, an **Anhinga** soaring over Lincoln, MA, Apr. 18 (I.C.T. Nisbet) provided the 3rd or 4th sight record for the Commonwealth.

As scarce as Least Bitterns appear to be in New England, this year reports were even fewer than usual. One wonders whether a bird heard calling for several days in late May from a marsh in Steuben, ME (R. Widrig) had luck locating a mate near the n. limit of the species' breeding range.

Three Great Egrets in inland Massachusetts at Hampden Apr. 18, Hatfield May 3, and Pittsfield May 26 (*vide* SK) were noteworthy. Connecticut established new record-early dates for 2 heron species: a Little Blue in Westport Mar. 28 (J. Fengler), and a Tricolored at Old Saybrook Mar. 16-25 (J. Hand *et al.*), a full month earlier than ever before.

S.A.

Among large waders, the real show stopper was a **Reddish Egret** at the W.B.W.S. May 12 (S. Haley, ph. RP). Like the Brown Pelican on Cape Cod, the egret was a one-day wonder and also was probably borne N on the strong S wind flow in this period. But unlike the only other state Reddish Egret (a bird which eluded efforts of several collectors for days on Monomoy I. in 1953), the Wellfleet bird was documented with identifiable photographs during its brief visit. Thus, a camera succeeded where a gun had failed. Sometimes the lens is mightier than the bore.

Two single Glossy Ibises made rare inland appearances in Massachusetts, in Wayland Apr. 10 (SP) and in Hadley May 10-13 (J. Withgott).

WATERFOWL

Five Tundra Swan sightings was above average, even though

reports from Mashpee, MA, Mar. 10 (P. Trimble) and Nantucket, MA, Mar. 21 (EFA) may have involved the same bird. The other three were in Concord, NH, Mar. 27 (TR), Northampton, MA, Mar. 24–30 (*fide* SK), and another (?) in Brattleboro, VT, Mar. 30–Apr. 8 (W. Nichols).

Single Greater White-fronted Geese were reported from Machias, ME, Apr. 11–14 (CD) and Cheshire, MA, Mar. 20–21 (*fide* SK). The latter furnished a first *Berkshire* record, though, as always, the origin of such birds is anyone's guess. Snow Geese were most numerous in the Champlain Valley, VT, where "up to 3000 per day" were counted through March (R. LaVallee). The only inland Brant was one in Colchester, VT, Apr. 27 (D. Cargill).

Following an off-year last spring, in which no Eurasian Green-winged Teal were reported, a respectable four were reported this spring: two in Massachusetts on P.I. Apr. 8–14 (R. Hooker) and in Concord, Mar. 10 (S. Ells), and two were in Old Lyme, CT, Mar. 24 (J. Morin) and Milford, Mar. 30–Apr. 19 (R. English). Where do Eurasian Wigeons from winter go in the summer? Eclipsed obscurity? Winter holdovers this spring were reported from Providence, RI, Mar. 17 (D. Finisia), W. Haven, CT, Mar. 1–25 (C. Barnard), and Plymouth, MA, Mar. 1–20 (RPA *et al.*).

Just as we were beginning to feel comfortable with the idea of wild Barnacle Geese in New England, we were informed that the six from the Cape Sable Island CBC that wintered on Cape Cod were/are released birds (see Atlantic Provinces Winter 1991 report). Upon their departure from the Cape, they visited Bangor, ME, Apr. 18 (C. Holbrook) and Hopkinton, NH, Apr. 20 (TR). An unconfirmed report of a single Barnacle Goose came from Greenville, RI, Mar. 18 (*fide* DE).

King Eiders were still present into April in most usual spots, with no fewer than 10 in coastal Massachusetts, one in Maine, six in New Hampshire, and three in Rhode Island. Despite the fact that King Eiders, like all sea ducks, make overland flights



Astounding for an inland location was this flock of ten King Eiders in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, on April 27, 1991. Photograph/ Jerry Shampang.

during migration, only one or two have ever been found in inland New England. Astonishing, therefore, was a *flock of 10* on L. Pontoosuc in Pittsfield, MA, May 5 (J. Shampang, ph).

Harlequin Ducks were also in good supply, particularly at the 2 most traditional New England sites: 21 were still at Martha's Vineyard Apr. 23 (VL), and 96 represented a record-high Rhode Island count at Sachuest Point Mar. 22 (*fide* DE). Two drakes lingered at Nahant, MA, May 27 (RHS).

A staging raft of 12,000 White-winged Scoters off Nantucket May 17–19 (SP) was breaking up on May 19, as flocks peeled off on their next leg of migration. Migrant Barrow's Goldeneyes were found inland in Acton, MA, Apr. 3 (R. Hale) and Burlington, VT, Mar. 9 (T. Hall) and Vernon Mar. 29 (TM).

RAPTORS TO CRANES

Without the benefit of reports from designated hawk watches this season, raptor migration was difficult to assess. Anecdotal information suggests the flight was relatively slow, yet not without a few highlights. By Apr. 5, 118 Ospreys were back in the Westport, MA, colony (G. & J. Fernandez); in Connecticut, a Black Vulture sailed NW over

the Morris/Litchfield town line May 17 (FM *et al.*). A probable 2nd bird was well described by an amateur birdwatcher in Wellesley, MA, Apr. 5 (G. Loud).

Most surprising were appearances of an Am. Swallow-tailed Kite in Eastford, CT, on the record early date of Mar. 7 (B. Holland) and the same or 2nd individual in W. Yarmouth, Cape Cod, MA, the next day (D. & N. Forgi)! The morning of Mar. 3 saw the mercury rise to a record 70° on brisk S winds. Even if these winds didn't actually bring this/these bird(s) directly to New England, they almost certainly pointed them in that direction.

Three to four Mississippi Kites were reported. Cape Cod (*the spot in New England for kite watching*) claimed all but one: an immature at the W.B.W.S. May 5 (RP), and one or two birds (age not described) accounting for 2 sightings Apr. 25 in Chatham (WB) and Eastham (W. Swift). An ad. **Mississippi Kite** in Lubec, ME, May 25 (E. & S. Nielson), seen heading NE toward the Canadian border, furnished an overdue first state record. Given the annual frequency of Mississippi Kite sightings in Massachusetts, it seems likely that the tardiness of this latter record is more a function of bird-density than a reflection of the species' vagrancy pattern.

March 28 winds were strong from the south all day in the Region. Hawks moving on those winds included five Red-shouldered Hawks between Saco and Yarmouth, ME (G. Carson, L. Brinker), another nine Red-shouldered in 2 hours in Deering, NH (I. MacLeod), and 123 Am. Kestrels in 3 hours on P.I. (A. Dasinger). A very early Broad-winged Hawk was reported from E. Haven, CT, Mar. 10 (E. Shove). Highest single-day tally for Broad-wingeds was 140 in Granville, MA, Apr. 26 (SK), well below average.

The usual scattered reports of Golden Eagles included a lingering winterer at Quabbin Res., MA, single immatures in Great Barrington, MA, Apr. 13 (T. French) and Williston, VT, Apr. 11 (P. Riley), and a bird of unspecified age in Bangor, ME, Mar. 27 (M. K. Lucey, *fide* JD).

Sometime in mid-March, a

S.A.

As Peregrine Falcons continued their recovery this year, they were cast in a different light when placed in context with another endangered species. On Bird I. in Marion, MA, two presumed migrants set up camp on the lighthouse at precisely the time when over half of all North American Roseate Terns were returning to nest there. When they began killing at least three Roseates a day, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and the Massachusetts Audubon Society decided to relocate the falcons once it was determined they were not a mated pair. When trapped, the first individual was found to be a yearling, banded as a chick in Greenland! As a pre-breeder with a well-stocked larder, it had been in no hurry to leave; but once released in Newburyport, MA, it was never seen again. Meanwhile the 2nd bird disappeared voluntarily, allowing the terns to get down to business (see the tern accounts).

falconer flying his Peregrine in Northampton was thrilled yet horrified to suddenly see a wild Gyrfalcon engage his "green" bird in aerial combat. The trainee survived the skirmish, but the Gyrfalcon remained in the area until at least Apr. 22 and continued to menace any falcon that showed itself. Meanwhile, birders caught wind of the story and converged from all quarters, some bearing gifts of quarry. On at least 2 occasions, captive pheasants were launched as fodder, and stunned onlookers watched as the recipient obligingly and very swiftly accepted their offerings. The controversial topic of feeding wildlife has been taken to a new level!

Wild Turkey reintroduction efforts in e. Massachusetts are beginning to show more widespread dividends, reflected by sightings in Boxford, Ipswich, Danvers, Bedford, Sudbury, Bridgewater, Sherborn, and Middleboro. A **Black Rail** heard at Lordship, CT, May 24 (FM, T. Baptist) continued to call into June and raised suspicions of nesting. Though Black Rails have never been more than rare nesters in Connecticut and have

not been proven to nest for over a century, the possibility still exists.

A single Sandhill Crane may have accounted for 4 sightings in as many towns in s. Maine, between Scarborough and Cape Elizabeth Apr. 15 through May 2 (*vide* JD). Four Massachusetts sightings between Apr. 3 and May 8, including three on Cape Cod and one in Marshfield Apr. 3–8, probably involved two birds.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

The most extraordinary shorebird report of the season was a flock of 44 Lesser Golden-Plovers in a saltmarsh in Rye, NH, May 30 (PH, TL). This probably represents a record-high spring total for the entire eastern seaboard! Typically, Lesser Golden-Plovers are very uncommon spring migrants in New England. According to Bull (*Birds of New York State*, 1974), the nearest sizable spring flocks (up to 100 birds) have occurred in w. New York, along Lake Ontario, but there is no precedent for displacement of large flocks to the east.

Even without the New Hampshire birds, Lesser Golden-Plovers were more numerous than usual this spring. Two Maine birds included individuals in Scarborough Apr. 5 and Turner Apr. 8 & 11 (JD); two or three birds were at Napatree Point and Quicksand Pond, RI, between Apr. 20–May 6 (CR). Among birds in Massachusetts were three together in S. Dartmouth May 8 (LCES) and a bird on Martha's Vineyard Apr. 4–12 (VL). This latter bird, described as being very bright, with a particularly yellow supercilium, may have been a basic plumaged "Pacific" Golden Plover (*P. [d.] fulva*). Considered by some to be a separate species, this form has been definitively identified only once in the east, in Maine (*vide* AOU checklist).

A Piping Plover appeared in Stratford, CT, Mar. 3 (F. Gallo), only 4 days later than the earliest state record; a "Western" Willet, rare in New England in spring, was found at M.I.N.W.R. May 31 (BN); Monomoy also produced a Bar-tailed Godwit (race *laponica*) for the 3rd year in a row May 19 (BN). Marbled

Godwits are rare anywhere in New England in spring, so the occurrence of three birds in 3 states was most unusual. Localities included Steuben, ME, May 10 (RW), Norwalk, CT, May 18 (FM *et al.*), and Jerusalem, RI, May 23 (S. Haydock).

Rare inland in spring, Dunlins were found in Wayland, MA, Apr. 20 (SP), one in Vernon, VT, May 18 (JC), and two on the same day in Arlington (B. Powers). A remarkable flurry of three Curlew Sandpipers in Massachusetts in a 5-day span included breeding plumaged birds in Newburyport May 22 (JM) and Plymouth Beach and M.I.N.W.R., both May 27, both found by the same observer (GWG)!

Two Stilt Sandpipers were at P.I. May 20–30 (S. Miller *et al.*), and four Ruffs this season included single Reeves in Marshfield, MA, May 18 (D. Clapp), Newburyport Harbor, MA, Apr. 27 (RHS) and Scarborough Marsh, ME, May 31 (JD). The only male was a bird molting into black plumage discovered at P.I. Apr. 9. By the time it left (May 4), it was a stunning glossy black, had appeared in at least 4 towns, and had become quite accustomed to being followed around by adoring fans.

Wilson's Phalaropes, noteworthy inland, were in Halifax, MA, May 2 (K. Ryan) and Hatfield, MA, May 1 (D. Stemple); another in coastal Milford, CT, May 28 (TS) was a local surprise.

Additional inland rarities were single Laughing Gulls in Concord, MA, Apr. 21 (RAF *et al.*) and Pittsfield, MA, May 18 (R. Laubach). The only Franklin's Gull was a breeding plumaged adult in Provincetown, MA, May 28 & 30 (SP, KJ). Massachusetts yielded the only Little Gulls: three adults in Newburyport Harbor Apr. 14 (WRP), where at least two lingered until May 23, and single immatures at M.I.N.W.R. May 7 (BN) and Martha's Vineyard May 14–25 (VL *et al.*).

Late Iceland Gulls included five immatures on Nantucket I., MA, May 18 (SP), an immature in Westbrook, CT, May 28 (TS *et al.*), and an adult (usually the first to depart) especially late in

S.A.

Roseate Terns had a close shave this spring. Roughly 1700 pairs (along with 1800 pairs of Com. Terns) nest each year in Buzzard's Bay on Bird I. in Marion, MA. This colony contains over half the breeding Roseate Terns in North America and over 98% of those in Massachusetts.

With so many eggs in one basket, so to speak, the population is highly susceptible to catastrophic failure. To stabilize the situation, last year the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, as part of a more comprehensive North American recovery program, initiated an attempt to induce a portion of the birds to shift to another nearby island.

When two Peregrine Falcons (see that account) set up camp on Bird I. at precisely the time when the terns were rereturning, jokes surfaced that the falcons were part of the inducement plan. But it was no joke. Researchers were shocked to find that the falcons showed a strong preference for Roseates over Commons and were killing 3:1, respectively, every day! The falcons were creating exactly the type of problem that was foreseen as potentially catastrophic! The falcons ultimately departed, but not before they had caused almost complete abandonment of the colony. The fear developed that the terns would fail completely for the season. At this writing, they had returned and were actually enjoying a productive season (S. Hecker). The event yielded interesting information about the birds' response. As far as is known, no terns relocated. Instead, the vast majority simply dispersed to adjacent waters and waited. On the weekend of May 18–19, between 3000–4000 terns were in the waters around Nantucket (SP) and Martha's Vineyard (VL), roughly 20–40 mi from Bird I. Only a handful of Commons and Roseates nest on the Vineyard; none nest on Nantucket. Apparently these were the Bird I. birds. Most of all, the event underscored the importance of the relocation project presently underway in Buzzard's Bay.

Provincetown, MA, May 12 (VL). Fifteen to 20 years ago, when Lesser Black-backed Gull was still a novelty, most reports came from Cape Cod and Nantucket, MA. However, in the last 5 years, sightings have increased substantially to the north, while reports from the Cape and islands have dropped off significantly. Among five reported this spring, four were n. of the Cape. Noteworthy were a 3rd-year bird inland in Bolton, MA, May 9 (C. Quinlan) and a 2nd-year bird in Rye, NH, May 30 (PH, TL), in a state that sees few Lesser Black-backed.

Rounding out the larid list was a probable Glaucous X Herring hybrid on Nantucket May 18 (ph. SP). This represented at least the 5th state report of this hybrid type in the last 12 years. All five have been first- or 2nd-year birds and have looked most like Glaucous Gull, being similar in size, with overall pale plumage, little primary projection beyond the tail, and a similarly large, bicolored bill. The most conspicuous differences include a broad, pale gray-brown terminal band on the tail, pale gray-brown primaries, and gray-brown secondaries that, in flight, form a dusky bar along the trailing edge of the wing.

Among roughly 10 Caspian Terns, all but one were in Massachusetts: Napatree Point, RI, May 24 (CR); the most noteworthy was a bird at Quabbin Res. Apr. 28 (JM). Rarely seen inland in New England, this bird may have been blown there during the storm a week earlier. Forster's Terns made another rare spring appearance. One was seen in Westport, CT, Apr. 18 (FP); another in basic plumage accounted for 2 sightings at Martha's Vineyard May 26–28 (VL), and M.I.N.W.R. 3 days later (BN, VL).

Alcids were relatively numerous this winter off Cape Cod, so it was not surprising to find birds lingering into April and May. A Com. Murre and a Thick-billed Murre were still off Provincetown Apr. 4 (KJ); a Common lingered there until Apr. 9; a Razorbill was still there May 25 (KJ).

PIGEONS TO RAVENS

One of the most notable birds of the season was a **Band-tailed Pigeon** that visited a feeder in N.



Band-tailed Pigeon at North Conway, New Hampshire, in March 1991. Second state record. Photograph/Christopher Lewey.

Conway, NH, Mar. 6–24 (ph. N. Stedman). This was the 2nd Band-tailed ever recorded in New Hampshire and represented only the 5th or 6th Regional record. A high of 12 Short-eared Owls Mar. 23–24 in S. Burlington, VT (E. Cecchini) was an encouraging sign.

A Great Gray Owl made a surprise appearance in Rumford, ME, Mar. 27–Apr. 2 (E. Thibodeau, K. Disney, ph.).

The season's only 2 Chuck-will's Widows were both report-

ed in w. Massachusetts, in Northampton May 8 (M. Slaney) and Longmeadow May 26 (N. Eaton). Chimney Swifts arrived in Massachusetts very early. Three were in Westwood Apr. 9 (B. Wicks), and four appeared in Newburyport the next day (W. Drew).

As Red-bellied Woodpeckers continued their slow northward expansion this spring, a total of four in New Hampshire included a pair copulating in Hollis May 22 (J. Stone, *vide* DD).

Rhode Island's first Three-toed Woodpecker, which spent much of the winter at Burlingame S.P. in Charlestown, was last reported Apr. 15 (C. Harten).

Two singing ♂ Acadian Flycatchers in Guilford, VT, May 27–31 (WGE, NLM) may have been a preview of things to come, as the species continues to extend its breeding range north; an Acadian banded on Appledore I., ME, May 28 (DH) was pushing the limits as well. A very early Cliff Swallow Mar. 9 (*vide* RHS) in Falmouth, MA, was likely caught up in the same flow that brought the Am. Swallow-tailed Kite earlier that week.

What was the origin of the Black-billed Magpie present on Petit Manan I., ME, Apr. 25 (*vide* RW)? The northernmost Fish Crows, though apparently stalled in the Portland/Brunswick area, may be building in numbers in s. Maine. This spring, roughly 10 were reported from 6 towns (*vide* JD). Nineteen Fish Crows in Provincetown May 8 (BN) furnished a new high count for Cape Cod.

Common Ravens are still seldom seen in e. Massachusetts, so singles in Seekonk Apr. 7 (D. Speicher), Hudson Apr. 17 (E. Salmela), Boxford Apr. 14–24 (D. E. Oliver), and (particularly) Warwick, RI, May 10 (R. Bowen) were noteworthy, as were 12 migrants at a hawk

watch in Princeton, MA, Apr. 28 (P. Roberts).

THRUSHES TO COWBIRDS

Two winter-holdover Varied Thrushes both disappeared in April. The Goshen, CT, bird was last seen on Apr. 8, and the Wrentham, MA, bird vanished on Apr. 4. Above-average spring counts following below-average Christmas count numbers of Bohemian Waxwings in n. New England suggests that many of the birds moved into the Region later in the winter. More than 1000 this spring in Maine included at least 400 in Searsport Mar. 24 (J. Hinds *et al.*); over 400 in Vermont included a flock of 220 still in Burlington Apr. 4 (J. Allen).

Similarly, N. Shrikes lingered into early spring in above-average numbers throughout the Region, following their own invasion this past winter. The one Loggerhead Shrike reported this spring continued a pattern of decline. That individual was early on P.I. Mar. 16–21 (W. Cooper *et al.*).

Most of these totals were attained in the 3-hour period between 0645 and 0945. At about 0930, the wind increased from 15 mph to 20–25 mph out of the W, and very abruptly the aerial component of the flight ceased. However, small flocks of 10–20 warblers continued to arrive from low over the dunes, some pitching into the thickets, pausing briefly before continuing their flight north.

Weather maps that day indicated that a front extending N-S was pressing quickly E, and by dawn was probably passing through w. New England. The wind the day before and overnight had been from the SW at moderate speeds but freshened out of the west shortly before dawn. A meteorological squeeze play, combining the front and its accompanying wind, pinned the migrants along the coast, much the way they often are during autumn cold fronts.

Why were the P.I. birds not detected elsewhere in New England that morning? Geoff LeBaron, from New York, had mentioned that for the previous 2 days, Central Park had been "loaded." Given the numerical magnitude of the flight, it is hard

S.A.

The Massachusetts islands of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard offer an interesting contrast in owls. Nantucket and its small satellite islands of Tuckernuck and Muskeget harbor the majority of breeding Short-eareds in the e. United States (by last estimate, ca. 15 pairs) but until this year had only one pair of nesting Barn Owls. Martha's Vineyard, on the other hand, supports no breeding Short-eareds, but as a result of a propagation program, boasts at least 20 pairs of Barn Owls, virtually all of which nest in artificial next boxes or barrels.

Nantucket's pair of Barn Owls has, for several years, fledged as many as 3 broods a year from the only owl loft on the island. Suddenly this spring, 2 other pairs of Barn Owls, presumably offspring from "pair one," attempted to nest onboard 2 boats in Nantucket Harbor (*vide* EFA). These appeared to be desperate owls, seeking any sites that were even marginally suitable for nesting.

There is every reason to believe Barn Owls could thrive on Nantucket as they do on Martha's Vineyard, as long as they were provided with artificial nesting structures. The absence of Short-eareds on the Vineyard is likely related to the abundance of skunks and raccoons (there are *no* mammalian predators on Nantucket), but the Barn Owls may play a role as well. Barn Owls and Short-eareds have similar foraging requirements, and it may be that they are more or less mutually exclusive. If this is the case, providing more nesting spaces for Barn Owls on Nantucket than already exist could have a deleterious effect on a precious Short-eared population.

S.A.

Impressions of the passerine migration this year were more or less consistent throughout the Region. The consensus was that migration was somewhat early, with no classic "waves."

A conspicuous, inexplicable exception occurred on the morning of May 12, when birders arriving at P.I. witnessed the heaviest spring flight most had ever seen. Dave Emerson remarked that "peak migration in Rhode Island occurred around the weekend of May 11-12" but added that this "peak" did not amount to much numerically. No other reference from anywhere in the Region was made to May 12 as being particularly unusual.

The majority of migrants at P.I. were wood warblers following the dune line as they flew due N up the island. An estimated 2000 warblers were actually observed, but indications were that many more birds were involved. Most individuals were too high to identify as to species; those identified included only the few that flew past at close range or actually alit.

Table 1. Migrants counted at Plum Island, MA, May 12 (totals by S. Perkins and T. Maloney).

<i>Wood Warblers</i>	
Warbler sp.	2,000+ (estimated)
N. Parula	45
Yellow	85
Magnolia	26
Black-throated Blue	50+
Yellow-rumped	400+
Black-throated Green	27
Black-and-white	75
Com. Yellowthroat	40
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	
Solitary Sandpiper	9
E. Kingbird	60+
swallow sp.	600-800
Barn Swallow	110
Blue Jay	325
E. Bluebird	2
Bobolink	130
Yellow-hd Blackbird	1 male
Am. Goldfinch	225

to imagine that the wave was so geographically restricted. Yet records and numerous targeted inquiries revealed no unusual observations from Cape Cod, M.B.O., Mt. A., Marblehead Neck, Cape Ann (within sight of P.I.), or points north.

Other noteworthy warbler reports included various hybrid "winged" warbler sightings. "Lawrence's" Warblers were noted in Blackstone, RI, May 7-29 (*vide* DE), Brandon, VT, May 22 (L. Symynkwicz), in Massachusetts at Mt. A. May 9 (*vide* RHS), and Groveland May 18-31 (*vide* RHS). The hybrid plot thickens: yellow wing bars, belonging to a "blue-winged" in Scarborough, ME, May 13 (G. Carson) and two "blue-wingeds" in Brandon, VT, May 17 (WGE) belied their mixed parentage. Pure Golden-winged matings must be getting very rare in New England.

Fifty Black-throated Blue Warblers counted in Mt. A. May 9, 3 days prior to the 50 on P.I., was an excellent total (RHS), and the 52 Magnolia Warblers banded on Appledore I., ME, May 19 (DH) was equally impressive. Excluding resident species, the 334 Magnolias

banded May 15-31 (DH) were the most numerous warblers (by a factor of five!) at the Appledore station for the 2nd consecutive spring. No other banding station in New England can touch these numbers! What is it about Appledore?

The same pair of Yellow-throated Warblers that established the first nesting record for New England last year was found in the same place in Kent, CT, May 15 (S. Broker, F. McBride); the nest was located on May 19! Other Yellow-throateds this year were single birds in Orleans, MA, May 17 (T. Talin) and Chilmark, Martha's Vineyard, MA, May 16-18 (T. Rivers, VL).

Extremely rare in New England in spring, a Connecticut Warbler was reported from Portland, ME, May 11 (A. Cadot); the northernmost Hooded Warbler report also came from Portland, ME, May 19-20 (F. Paul *et al.*).

Roughly 10 Summer Tanagers were reported: the n. three on Appledore I., ME, May 25-28 (*vide* DH) and another that settled in at a beehive on Nantucket I., MA, and feasted for over a week (P. Gardner).

One of the most reliable spring phenomenon in New England is the appearance of Blue Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings (especially on Cape Cod and the nearby islands of Martha's Vineyard and

S.A.

Knowing it was inevitable does little to quell our collective anxieties now that it has happened! A Shiny Cowbird appeared (like a specter!) on Monhegan I., ME, May 24-26 (S. Sumner, L. Brinker *et al.*, ph). The biggest question now is: what, if anything, will limit the species' spread? Roughly 50 birds were found in 2 states in the spring and summer of 1989, but only one was found on the following Christmas counts. Where do they go in the winter? Presumably they are nonmigratory and do not retreat back into the Caribbean each fall. Unless they prove hardier than their bronzed brethren, they too may be unable to reproductively exploit the temperate zone. Of course, this is no consolation to you subtropical folk in the deep south. Sorry y'all!

Nantucket) following mid- to late-April coastal storms. This year a perfectly timed storm Apr. 21 yielded 13 grosbeak reports in the following 6 days, including 3 on the Vineyard and 7 on Nantucket. Likewise, 25-30 buntings were found on the Cape and Islands. Two Blue Grosbeaks in Maine included a bird far "Down East" in Machias May 9 (R. Look, *vide* CD). An Indigo Bunting in Jonesport, nearly as far Apr. 22 (B. Lithgow *vide* CD), was probably another storm waif.

A Dickcissel was unique this spring in Newtown, CT, May 18 (N. Clurrie, *vide* FM), and a Green-tailed Towhee photographed at a feeder in Branford, CT, Apr. 28 (N. Proctor) furnished the first documented state record and only the 2nd sight record.

Single Clay-colored Sparrows were seen in S. Kingston, RI, Mar. 1-15 (JO *et al.*), Marblehead, MA, May 15 (TA), and in Maine, May 25 at Canaan (W. Sumner) and Monhegan I. (*vide* L. Brinker). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were particularly numerous this year, with no fewer than 10 reported from 4 states.

Observers, contributors (italics), and subregional editors (bold):

R.P. Abrams, E.F. Andrews, T. Aversa, W. Bailey, J. Berry, J. Coleman, D. Deluca (Audubon Society of New Hampshire), G. d'Entremont (*Bird Observer*), J. Despres (Editor, *Maine Bird Notes*), C. Duncan, W. Ellison, D. Emerson (Rhode Island), R.A. Forster (*Bird Observer*), G. W. Gove (*Bird Observer*), S. Highley, D. Holmes, P. Hunt, K. Jones, S. Kellogg (*Bird News of Western Mass.*), R. Laubach, V. Laux, T. Leukering, Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies (LCES), M. Lynch, T. Maloney, E. Mantlik (Connecticut), N.L. Martin, Manomet Bird Observatory (MBO), J. Murray, J. Nicholson (Vermont Institute of Nat. Sciences), B. Nikula (Cape Cod), J. Osborn, S. Perkins, W.R. Petersen, R. Prescott, F. Purnell, C. Raitchel, T. Richards, T. Schaefer, R.H. Stymeist (*Bird Observer*), R. Widrig.—SIMON A. PERKINS, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, MA 01773.

HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

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

Continuing an almost unbroken string of months with above average temperatures, March, April, and May were no exceptions. March and April were much warmer than normal, but May was exceptional, especially in Buffalo, where temperatures averaging 8.2 degrees above normal helped to make this the warmest spring ever there. New York City and New Jersey also experienced the warmest spring in a century.

Although the entire Region shared extremes of temperature, the same was not true of precipitation. Among the most memorable weather events in years in northwestern New York State was the icestorm of March 3-4, whose effects will be felt for many years in Rochester and other hard-hit areas. The storm was part of a pattern that brought excessive precipitation to northern parts of the Region, with declining rainfall to the south. Indeed, southern parts of

New Jersey and Delaware experienced near drought conditions.

The spring birding was pretty much the reverse of the rainfall pattern, at least as judged by local observers. Delaware and southern New Jersey experienced an outstanding season, with many rarities and a passable passerine migration, while northern observers lamented the paucity of either rarities or migrants. However, the perception of the migration, songbirds especially, is very much influenced by such conditions as local weather and the coincidence of major flights with weekends.

One of the striking features of the present season, discussed at length by Hanisek and mentioned by many others, is the acceleration of a trend toward an earlier migration of passerines, facilitated this year by a persistent southwesterly flow and a lack of severe weather. In northwestern New Jersey, all of the good songbird flights occurred during the last week of April and the first eight days of May, after which time the migration essentially ended, two weeks ahead of schedule. Farther north, Able noted the arrival of some species on their breeding grounds in the Adirondacks before they were reported in the Albany area, and suggested that the ideal weather conditions for migration sent birds directly to the breeding

grounds. Factors such as these, combined with the severe degradation of habitat in areas frequented by birders, make the status of neotropical migrants extremely difficult to evaluate.

Abbreviations: Braddock Bay (*Braddock Bay State Park and vicinity, Monroe, NY*); Bombay Hook (*Bombay Hook Nat'l Wildlife Ref., near Smyrna, DE*); Brig (*Brigantine Unit, Forsythe Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Atlantic, NJ*); Cape Henlopen (*Cape Henlopen State Park, Sussex, DE*); Indian River (*Indian River Inlet, Sussex, DE*); Jamaica Bay (*Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens, NYC*); LI (*Long Island, NY*); Moses-Saunders Dam (*Moses-Saunders Dam, New York-Ontario, near Massena, St. Lawrence, NY*); Port Mahon (*marshes and bayshore along road east of Little Creek, Kent, DE*); Sandy Hook (*Sandy Hook Unit, Gateway Nat'l Recreation Area, Monmouth, NJ*); Scherman-Hoffman (*New Jersey Audubon Sanctuary, Bernardsville, Somerset, NJ*). Place names in italics are counties.

LOONS TO IBISES

Common Loons were widely reported inland; an impressive flight brought 58 to Culvers Lake, *Sussex, NJ*, Apr. 18 (FT) and 200 to Penn Forest Res., *Carbon, PA*, the next day (SB). Good numbers were noted offshore as late as May 25 on a pelagic trip off Delaware sponsored by the Delaware Ornithological Society.

Despite the good winter showing, Red-necked Grebes were scarce, especially along the coast. Inland, two at Marsh Creek S.P., *PA*, Mar. 11 (NT) and 10 at Memorial Lake, *Lebanon, PA*, Apr. 14 (SSa) were noteworthy, while two were still at Bulwagga Bay on L. Champlain, *NY*, May 2; the peak count along Lake Ontario west of Rochester was a meager 40 on Apr. 4. The Eared Grebe that wintered at Sandy Hook stayed into early April (m.ob.), while another appeared at Caven Pier, Liberty S.P., *NJ*, Mar. 16 through the first week of April (m.ob.). Of greater rarity was one photographed at Walworth, *Wayne, NY*, May 5 (R. Jacobus, R. Faull).

Pelagic trips out of Montauk, *NY*, May 19, Barnegat Light, *NJ*, May 25, and off Delaware,

also May 25, produced a good variety of seabirds, including the expected shearwaters and N. Fulmar; one fulmar on the Delaware Ornithological Society trip furnished only the second state record, reflecting a lack of pelagic birding rather than an unusual rarity. A Manx Shearwater was also seen from that boat, and a small black-and-white shearwater thought to be a Manx was seen from shore at Cape Henlopen May 18 (BL). Seven N. Gannets far up Delaware Bay at the Salem, *NJ*, Nuclear Power Plant, Mar. 23, were the first ever recorded so far up the bay (RK *et al.*); a single was there Apr. 20 (TBa, WDa). Interestingly, four N. Gannets off Rye, *Westchester, NY*, also on Mar. 23, represented the first spring incursion into w. Long Island Sound (TWB *et al.*).

For the first time in several years no Am. White Pelicans were found in the Region, but the first Brown Pelicans were noted May 8 at Dewey Beach, *Sussex, DE*, and Cape May; by the end of the month numbers were being seen regularly in both places. At least 10 Great Cormorants were in the Delaware R. at Philadelphia Mar. 12 (*fide AH*), while one was still at Riverton, *Burlington, on the New Jersey side of the river*, May 18 (TBa); an adult was at the Moses-Saunders Dam May 3 (BDL). An encouraging increase in reports of Am. Bittern came from a wide variety of locales this spring; for example, nine sightings at the Allendale Celery Farm, *Bergen, NJ*, during April and early May reflected multiple individuals (ST). Wandering Little Blue Herons were up the Hudson River valley in *Columbia, NY*, Apr. 5 & 27 (K. Dunham, E. Grace), and at Derby Hill, *Oswego, NY*, May 24 (G. Smith).

One of the highlights of the season was the first New York State and first confirmed Regional record of Reddish Egret, a reddish individual discovered at Jamaica Bay, May 18, and seen almost daily through May 26 (SW, BK, DP, m.ob.). A detailed description of a bird identified as a white-morph Reddish Egret, seen at close range near Tuckerton, *Burlington, NJ*, Apr. 24-25, has been submitted to the New Jersey Bird Records Committee (M. &



R. Moloughney); if accepted it would represent the first New Jersey record. Apparently part of a pattern, another Reddish Egret appeared in May in Massachusetts, and our summer column will detail the first Delaware record. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was on the Schuylkill River in *Montgomery*, PA, Apr. 22–26 (NT), and another was unusual for *Dutchess*, NY, at Wicopsee Apr. 25 (J. & M. Key, O. Waterman).

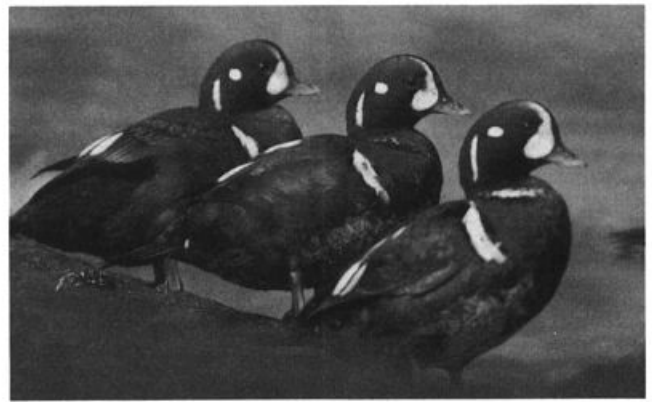
A White Ibis was seen briefly at Cape May, May 19 (S. Reitcher). Eight *Plegadis* ibis flying up the Hudson River at New Baltimore, *Greene*, NY, May 6 were almost certainly Glossy Ibis (R. Guthrie), but the surprise of the family was the appearance of White-faced Ibis in 3 states. An adult discovered at Bombay Hook Apr. 25 was only the 2nd for Delaware (F. Gill). Two were seen together May 5 (MO), and at least one, possibly both, stayed throughout the summer. Another White-faced Ibis was found at Jamaica Bay May 13 (A. Morris) & 18 (TWB, GT). Yet another was in the S. Cape May Meadows, May 17–18, for the 2nd year in a row (Summit Nature Club, m.ob.), and was seen nearby May 21.

WATERFOWL

A Tundra Swan migrating with Canada Geese near Lake George Mar. 11 was unusual for the Adirondack-Champlain Region of n.e. New York (D. Spada). Greater White-fronted Geese continue to be reported with increasing frequency; although

their provenance is difficult to assess, most are apparently of wild origin. This season's records came from all 4 states, with one each in Delaware and New Jersey, two in Pennsylvania, and eight in New York. A similar trend is occurring with Ross' Geese, unquestionably of wild origin. At least two were still at Bombay Hook during March (CC, MVB, JWR), while the Ross' Goose discovered at Muddy Run, *Lancaster*, Feb. 27 for the first Pennsylvania record (see Winter report) was seen through Mar. 26 (m.ob.). A 2nd bird, an immature, was found Mar. 3 at Middle Creek WMA, also in *Lancaster* (T. Garner), and a 3rd, this one an adult, was discovered there Mar. 5 (T. Book); there were many sightings through Mar. 16 (ph. J. Witmer, J. Schreffler). These geese were with part of the estimated 20,000 Snow Geese in *Lancaster* during early March (RMS). Also at Middle Creek, Mar. 3–16, was a small Canada Goose, possibly of the race *minima* (m.ob.), and a similar individual was at Muddy Run Mar. 26 (RMS). A Brant, a scarce spring migrant along the St. Lawrence River, was at Moses-Saunders Dam on the late date of May 28 (BDL).

An impressive gathering of Green-winged Teal was 3500 at Goshen Landing, *Cape May*, NJ, Mar. 11 (CS). Individuals of the Eurasian subspecies were at Tobay Sanctuary, *Nassau*, LI, Apr. 16 (B. Hines) and Jamaica Bay, Apr. 28 (BK). More than the usual Eur. Wigeon were noted during March, including one in Delaware, two in New



Three lingering male Harlequin Ducks at Cape May Point, New Jersey, April 20, 1991. Photograph/Alan Brady.

Jersey, five in *Lancaster*, PA, one on Long Island, and three in the Rochester, NY, area. A drake Canvasback was an odd visitor to a *Chester*, PA, fish hatchery pond, May 9–12 (PH).

An ad. ♂ King Eider was at Cape Henlopen, Apr. 13 to early May (CC *et al.*), after which what was probably the same bird appeared at Higbee Beach, Cape May, May 5–21 (m.ob.). The Harlequin Duck that wintered at the Moses-Saunders Dam was still present Mar. 3 (BDL); another was at Indian River, Apr. 3 (MVB, JWR), and three drakes lingered at Cape May to at least Apr. 27 (m.ob., ph. AB). A drake Oldsquaw in full breeding plumage was a surprise lingerer at Indian River, DE, May 3 (APE), while the Barrow's Goldeneye at Rye was last seen Mar. 16 (TWB *et al.*). A hybrid Common Goldeneye X Hooded Merganser wintered at Heislerville W.M.A., *Cumberland*, NJ, to at least Mar. 16, and Hooded Mergansers appear to be increasing as breeding birds at the s. limit of their range. There were numerous reports from n.w. New Jersey, including a female with a brood of 13 at Swartswood Duck Pond, *Sussex*, May 13 (DB); a pair was nesting in a Wood Duck box in Stissing, *Dutchess*, NY, during April (T. Haight), and a female had a brood at Goeffrey's Pond, *Columbia*, NY, May 8 (BC). Two ♀ Common Mergansers at Alcove, *Albany*, NY, May 17 were unusually late (KA), as were two at Jamaica Bay the next day (GT).

RAPTORS TO CRANES

Totals were below average at all the regularly manned spring hawkwatches. Sandy Hook improved slightly over last year's

count to 3872 for the period Mar. 12–May 15, but was still far below the 12-year average of 6470 (TMi); Montclair recorded 2852 birds in 290 hours, their lowest total since 1985 (EG), while a newer count in Boonton, *Morris*, tallied 2843 in 378 hours (WG). The 2 New York counts on the Ontario Lakeshore did somewhat better, although still below average. Braddock Bay, in its 15th year, was monitored Feb. 19–June 10 and counted 41,396 raptors, also their lowest total since 1985 (BE, JDg). Farther east, Derby Hill's 13th count noted 34,151, with Golden Eagle and Peregrine Falcon each hitting new highs of 34 and 8, respectively. In a different vein, visitors to a well-stocked suet feeder at the Six Nations Indian Museum near Onchiota, NY, in the Adirondacks included Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, N. Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, and 150 Com. Ravens (R. Fadden).

Black Vulture was a highlight of both the Braddock Bay (Mar. 13) and Derby Hill (Apr. 3) counts. At least 14 were reported in s.e. New York, and this species is most likely nesting in Orange and/or Rockland Counties. A subadult Am. Swallow-tailed Kite was the highlight of the Sandy Hook hawk watch May 1 (TMi), and another was in W. Cape May, May 28 (FM). More unusual was a well-described and sketched individual at Jonas, *Monroe*, PA, May 24 (R. ZainEldeen, † to Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee).

Mississippi Kites were found in a variety of places, in addition to the usual influx in Cape May, where one appeared May 4 (BBa)



Ross' Goose at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, March 9, 1991. Two birds found here in March established the second state record, only a week after the first had been found elsewhere in the same county. Photograph/Jane Schreffler.

and up to five were present at month's end. One flew over the Rutgers Ecological Preserve, *Middlesex*, NJ, May 13 during the final exam of Charlie Leck's Field Ornithology Class—excellent timing. A Mississippi Kite was a highlight of the Braddock Bay count, May 14–20 (G. Dodge, JDg) and another was far afield at Great Gull Island off the e tip of Long Island May 25 (J. DiCostanzo, T. Male). In Pennsylvania, a Mississippi was seen at Morgan's Hill, *Northampton*, Apr. 4 (A. Koch) and another at Furnace Hills, *Lebanon*, Apr. 7 (R. Miller); there were at least 2 other sightings in w Pennsylvania this season.

Cooper's Hawks appear to be reclaiming most of New Jersey as a breeding ground, having nearly disappeared as a nester in the early 1980s. An immature N. Goshawk at Bombay Hook Apr. 7 was both late and unusually far south (B&NM); an adult was at Sandy Hook Apr. 27 (MN, WJB) and another or the same was there May 7 (TMI). A Swainson's Hawk flew over the Scherman-Hoffman Sanctuary Apr. 8 (PDu), and another was the first ever for the Sandy Hook count Apr. 12 (TMI). To the north, a Swainson's Hawk passed the Derby Hill hawk watch May 16, and what may have been the same bird was at Braddock Bay the next day (JDg).

An imm. Golden Eagle at Cape May, May 4, was a first spring record, and one was seen at Boonton, Mar. 26 (WG), but the remainder of the reports came from New York, including one at Hook Mt., Mar. 25 (PF). The total of 53 from upstate included 12 at Braddock Bay and the record 34 at Derby Hill. American Kestrel continue to decline at most hawk watches, especially at Sandy Hook, where the 910 counted was the second lowest ever, and continues an almost unbroken downward trend from the high of 3138 in 1984. A similar pattern has been seen at Derby Hill, and even at Braddock Bay, which has been immune from the trend, this year's 363 was less than half the average and the lowest by far since the initial abbreviated count year of 1977. Merlin and Peregrine Falcon, on the other hand, continue to do very well; at least 3 pairs of Peregrines were found nesting this spring on

bridges at Philadelphia.

At least two Yellow Rails were heard at Port Mahon, Apr. 28–May 4 (APE, AH), but may have been chased off by marsh walkers trying to flush them out. Another Yellow Rail was heard at Goshen Landing, *Cape May*, shortly after midnight on May 18 (CS *et al.*); it could not be relocated. Two Black Rails were at Broadkill Beach, DE, Apr. 13 (CC, ES), and up to 16 were at Port Mahon, Apr. 29–May 4 (APE, m.ob.). A Black Rail calling at Vernon May 11 was a first for *Sussex*, NJ (GHa, DB, JDe).

A Sandhill Crane found at Allaire S.P., *Monmouth*, Mar. 29, was seen by a number of observers, including the original discoverer, who watched it depart to the northwest on the morning of the 31st (GW *et al.*); another passed over Cape May Point Apr. 27 (RC). In Pennsylvania, a Sandhill Crane was on Haldeman Island near Harrisburg, Mar. 5–17 (S. Bills *et al.*), and another stopped off briefly at Peace Valley Nature Center, *Bucks*, Apr. 2 (*vide* AH). From New York came numerous reports, the most unusual being one at Makomah Preserve, LI, Apr. 26 (T. Tierno). Four Sandhills were seen at Ripley, *Chautauqua*, Mar. 17 (J. Luensman *et al.*), and Braddock Bay had 10, Mar. 19–Apr. 8 (BE). Extremely late were individuals at Altamont, *Albany*, May 24 (B. Swift) and Fonda, *Montgomery*, May 26 (S. Pickard).

SHOREBIRDS

One of the highlights of the season was a **Northern Lapwing** discovered with a flock of Killdeer at a pond in New Scotland, *Albany*, NY, late on the afternoon of Mar. 22; the finders were able to notify Ken Able, who rushed over to photograph the bird before darkness closed in. Despite the presence of many searchers over the next few days, it was never seen again (BBo, K. Beale, ph. KA). The only previous New York and Regional records are three from Long Island, the last in December 1966. Two to six Lesser Golden-Plover were seen at Bombay Hook irregularly from Mar. 28 to May 4, and one was found nearby on May 16. None were reported from New Jersey this spring, but Jamaica

Bay had one May 13–18 (m.ob.), and two were on the Ontario Lakeshore west of Rochester May 27.

A few Black-necked Stilts ventured north of their Delaware stronghold, where 92 were counted at Bombay Hook, May 3 (NH). One to three were at Goshen Landing, May 7–18 (JDo *et al.*), while two to four were seen occasionally at Brig, May 12–21 (*vide* L. Rubinstein, v.o.). On Long Island, one Black-necked Stilt was at Shinnecock Inlet, *Suffolk*, May 13 (E. Salzman), and two were at Mecox Bay, May 16–18 (TL, R. Kelly). The only Am. Avocet north of Delaware was one at Mannington Marsh, *Salem*, NJ, Apr. 3–13 (B. Dodelson, S. Hait, m.ob.); the peak Delaware count was 136 at Little Creek Apr. 10 (NH).

A very early Solitary Sandpiper was at East Bangor Dam, *Northampton*, PA, Apr. 4 (D. DeReamus). Early Pectoral Sandpipers for interior New York were found at Slate Hill, *Orange*, Mar. 24 (ET) and at Bemis Heights, *Saratoga*, Mar. 30 (B. Putnam). Delaware again proved the hot spot for Curlew Sandpiper, with two to three at Bombay Hook Apr. 26–June 1 (m.ob.), and one at Kitts Hummock, May 27 (NH). An individual at Brig May 18–19 was the only other reported (WJB, KK, m.ob.). Extraordinarily early was a Stilt Sandpiper, an uncommon spring migrant, at Pedricktown, *Salem*, Mar. 31 (LL, R. Brown, WDa).

It was another off year for Ruffs at Pedricktown, with only about three males and one female Mar. 29 through April; two others were seen elsewhere in *Salem*. Bombay Hook fared well with one Ruff and about seven Reeves for the season (NH, m.ob.). More unusual was a Reeve in Wilson Township, *Niagara*, NY, May 4 (WDn, WWa). One to two Wilson's Phalaropes were at Bombay Hook Apr. 16–May 31 (m.ob.), but just one was at Brig in mid-May. A female was in Porter Township, *Niagara*, May 4 (WDn, WWa), and another at Lysander, *Onondaga*, May 16. Up to five Red-necked Phalaropes were at Bombay Hook May 18–23 (m.ob.), one staying into June. One was at Spruce Run Res., *Hunterdon*, NJ, May 16 (JZ) and another at

Brig May 28 (J. Herder). Good finds for Pennsylvania were individual Red-neckeds at Green Lane Res., *Montgomery*, May 18 (P. England, J. Horn, m.ob.) and at the Holtwood Flyash pond, *Lancaster*, May 23 (RMS). A Red Phalarope visited the S. Cape May Meadows briefly May 19 (R. Widmer), while another at Broadkill Beach, May 20–23, was more cooperative (JWR, m.ob.).

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

A Parasitic Jaeger was at Avalon, May 8 (DW), and another was at Cape May Point, May 17. Wandering Laughing Gulls were at Cohoes, *Albany*, NY, May 18 (C. George *et al.*) and at Manitou, on Lake Ontario near Rochester, NY, May 25 (RO). Two Little Gulls were seen flying up the Susquehanna River at the Conojohela Flats, PA, with Bonaparte Gulls, Mar. 30 (D. & L. Heathcote). Up to six Little Gulls, five adults and one immature, were at the Salem Nuclear Power Plant Apr. 13–29 (WDa, m.ob.), and a couple were in Cape May during the season. Maxima of six at Greece Mar. 16, and 13 on the Niagara River Mar. 28, were normal numbers for w. New York, but one at the Moses-Saunders Dam, May 3, was a first spring record there for Di Labio (BDL). Up to four Com. Black-headed Gulls were in the flock at the Salem Power Plant Apr. 20–May 5 (m.ob.), but elsewhere the only reports were of one to two in Cape May, March to April, one at Mecox Bay, LI, Apr. 23, and another at Staten Island Apr. 27 (*vide* TWB).

A few Iceland Gulls lingered from the winter season, most notably late being one at Port Mahon May 12 (CC, ES) & 31 (MO), and another at Cape Henlopen May 15 (DAC). Lesser Black-backed Gulls were again well represented, with about 17 in New Jersey, three in Delaware including two at Port Mahon May 31 (MO), and three in the New York City area. A Glaucous Gull at the Bashakill, *Sullivan*, NY, Mar. 3, was a noteworthy find (D. Bradley). Two **Black-legged Kittiwakes** at Lake Ontelaunee, *Berks*, Mar. 31, were the first there since 1935, and a rarity any time in e. Pennsylvania (M. Spence, R. Keller).

A Gull-billed Tern was part of

a flock of migrant terns at Cedar Beach, LI, May 12 (TL). One Roseate Tern was found at Higbee Beach, Cape May, May 21 (BG), while a migrant Common Tern at Cornwall Bay, Orange, NY, on the Hudson River was unusual locally May 18 (ET, JPT, R. Senerchia). The tern flock at Cedar Beach, May 12, not only contained Gull-billed, plus the usual Common and Roseates, but also one Black Tern and an ad. **White-winged Tern** in full breeding plumage (TL, † to N.Y. State Avian Records Committee). If accepted by the state records committee, this would constitute the first record for New York, but anticipates by only two months a second report from upstate. Black Terns were again scarce in the southern part of the Region, with only one each in Delaware and New Jersey, and two others on Long Island. In upstate New York, Braddock Bay had a maximum of 56 May 12, but the species continues to decline in its former breeding range in the state.

A few holdover Razorbills from the bonanza winter season were still present in early March, including eight at Cape Henlopen on the 9th (MVB, CC).

OWLS TO SHRIKES

The two Snowy Owls that wintered at the Allentown-Bethlehem Airport were last seen Mar. 3, but one not previously reported that wintered in Lebanon, Lebanon, PA, was still present Apr. 3 (SSa, *et al.*). At least three Snowys were still on Long Island in mid-March (*vide* TWB). As noted in the winter season report, the **Northern Hawk-Owl** in Wayne, PA, was last seen Mar. 17; another N. Hawk-Owl was found at Tupper Marsh, Franklin, NY, Mar. 18, for just one day (C. Delehanty). The previously reported Great Gray Owl continued to visit a feeder near Elizabethtown, Essex, NY, through Mar. 1 (H. & S. Kurtenbach). A late migrant Short-eared Owl flew past the Sandy Hook Hawk Watch at midday on a bright sunny Apr. 27 (TMi, WJB *et al.*).

A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was one of the many early migrants this spring, one visiting Sandy Hook, Apr. 11 (KK). A **Black-backed Woodpecker** was a surprise and unseasonal visitor

S.A.

A Common Raven was seen carrying nesting material on the New Jersey side of the Delaware Water Gap, Warren, in March (J. Katzmire); there were other reports later, but no confirmed nesting. Common Raven was once a regular breeding bird in New Jersey, not in the mountains, but along the southern coast from *Ocean to Cape May*, the last known nesting occurred about 1905, but there were isolated records along the coast until about 1935. As the species is spreading rapidly in the Catskills of New York and the Poconos of Pennsylvania, it is likely that it will colonize the more rugged areas of northwestern New Jersey in due course. A Common Raven stunned a trio of birders at Sandy Hook, May 20, when it flew in off the ocean and landed on a nearby jetty (RK, H. Wallum, M. Levy). Equally outlandish was a Raven at Fort Washington S.P., only ten miles from center city Philadelphia, May 12 (B & NM, D. Twining).

Common Raven is also spreading away from the mountains in New York State, in the Finger Lakes area and in the highlands of the Allegheny Plateau, *Allegheny*, where there have been numerous sightings and confirmed nesting (EB, R & MP, M. Pitzrick). A pair with young near Cleveland on Oneida Lake, Oneida, was the first nesting away from the Adirondacks in the Oneida Lake Basin of central New York. Another pair was present all season at J.B. Thacher S.P., Albany, only about 20 mi from the state capitol, and were seen carrying nesting material Mar. 31 (BBo, K. Beale). Yet another nest contained three young, May 18, at New Lebanon, Columbia, in the Taconic Highlands near the Massachusetts border (K. Dunham, E. Grace). Another pair was at Cherry Plain, *Rensselaer*, Apr. 27, in an area where nesting was suspected during the Breeding Bird Atlas years (P. Connor).

to a Rochester, NY, park, May 27; although it only stayed for a few hours, the word was spread and it was seen by many fortunate local observers (S. Boettger, B. Gruenbaum, m.ob.).

A W. Kingbird at Allentown, PA, May 30 furnished a first *Lehigh* record (J. Galm, D. Gemmel). Very early E. Kingbirds were at Scherman-Hoffman, Apr. 12, and Harding Township, *Morris*, NJ, Apr. 14 (RK). Purple Martins were barely holding their own in s.e. New York (JPT), and have noticeably declined in n. New Jersey in the past few years.

Sedge Wren made a better showing than in the recent past. At least one was heard at Port Mahon May 4-20 (B & NM, CC, ES), and others appeared later at Bombay Hook. One was at the S. Cape May Meadows, where the species nested 2 years ago, Apr. 20, and two were at Turkey Point, *Cumberland*, also a previous nesting site, Apr. 25 (RC). More surprising was the appearance of at least four Sedge Wrens at two sites in *Sussex*, NJ, in early May. One site in the Walkill Valley near Vernon held three singing males, May 9, and birds were later seen carrying nesting material and food through early July (FT, m.ob.). The species was once a common breeder along the Walkill, but the last known nesting was in 1968. A Sedge Wren was in a field near Peru, *Clinton*, NY, from May 24 on (E. & H. Fitts); the species is rarely reported from the Lake Champlain Valley, but has nested there. Only a few reports came from more traditional areas in w. New York.

Everyone complained about the poor showing of thrushes, and this was generally confirmed by banding data (*vide* RPY, B. Knorr, G. & E. Mahler), but may have been a weather related phenomenon, as Brooks did well at the Kaiser-Manitou banding station, *Monroe*, NY. There were many holdover N. Shrikes from the winter season, and one previously unreported at Speedwell Forge Lake, *Lancaster*, PA, Mar. 1-29 (F. Habegger *et al.*). Wintering Loggerhead Shrikes at Broadkill Beach, DE, and Ft. Elfsborg, *Salem*, NJ, were last reported Mar. 9 and Mar. 17, respectively. One at Jones Beach, *Nassau*, Mar. 13, was a rarity for Long Island (SW), while another at New Baltimore, *Greene*, Mar. 23, was the first for the upper Hudson River valley in years (BC). Other Loggerhead Shrikes were at Snake Swamp in

the Oneida Lake Region, Mar. 24 (*vide* GHu), and at Mineville, *Essex*, in the Lake Champlain Valley, Apr. 7 (G. Furness).

VIROES TO WARBLERS

The mild weather and persistent southwesterly flow during much of April brought many very early and even record early songbirds, especially warblers, to various parts of the Region. For example, the compiler for the Oneida Lake Basin of central New York reported record early dates for 14 species, most of them passerines (GHu). The early waves of warblers noted by Hanisek in the Delaware Valley of *Warren*, NJ, included 20 species Apr. 28 and 22 species Apr. 30 (GHa). Vireos were also among the early arrivals, including a rare Philadelphia Vireo at Riverton, *Burlington*, NJ, May 1-2 (G. Reynard). Other out of range Philadelphias included one in Central Park May 13, one in *Dutchess* May 11 (Waterman Bird Club), and one at the Bashakill, *Sullivan*, May 12. Numerous prospecting White-eyed Vireos were found in New York away from their breeding range in the s.e. corner of the state; reports came from such diverse sites as *Chautauqua*, Buffalo, Rochester, *Onondaga*, and *Albany*.

Mosher noted the decline of Golden-winged Warbler in *Chautauqua*, NY, part of a general trend through much of the Region in the face of the expanding range of Blue-winged Warbler. The two hybrids were widely reported, including Lawrence's Warblers at Bangor, *Northampton*, PA, in early May (B. Silfies, m.ob.) and at Oatlea Creek Park, Rochester, May 9; Brewster's were too numerous to list, although one at Brandywine Creek S.P., *New Castle*, DE, May 13-30 was a local rarity (R. E. Kelly, *et al.*). An Orange-crowned Warbler at Brig, Mar. 24, may have been a local winterer rather than an early migrant (K. Tischner). Another Orange-crown at Crown Point, *Essex*, NY, May 12, was the first banded there in the 16-year history of the banding station.

Incredibly early was a singing N. Parula at Bethlehem, PA, from Mar. 13 on (L. Freedman, m.ob.), three weeks earlier than the previous arrival date. Other remarkably early warblers

included Black-throated Green Warbler in Cape May, Apr. 8 (JDo); Magnolia Warbler at Rockaway, *Morris*; two Canada Warblers and a N. Waterthrush along the Millstone River, *Somerset*, NJ (T. Koellhoffer, S. Kral); a Black-and-white Warbler at the Scherman-Hoffman Sanctuary (RK), all Apr. 9; and Cerulean Warbler in Allaire S.P., *Monmouth*, NJ, Apr. 14 (NK).

A Yellow-throated Warbler in Jamestown Apr. 23 followed the pattern of recent spring appearances in w. New York (R. Sundell), but a Worm-eating Warbler at Williamsville Glen, *Erie*, NY, May 10, was unexpected (G. Rising). A Kentucky Warbler at N. Chili, *Monroe*, May 28, was the only warbler highlight in the Rochester area (ML). The Connecticut Warbler at Pt. Gratiot, Dunkirk, NY, May 16, was the first reported to compiler Mosher in 10 years, but two in the Rochester area in May were normal there. Mourning Warblers were early in *Rockland*, NY, May 4 (*fide* TWB), and at Scherman-Hoffman, May 7 (RK, PDU); only a few other migrant Mournings were detected, including one at Leaser Lake, *Lehigh*, PA, May 25 (FB, m.ob.).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

Four Summer Tanagers in the New York City area Apr. 26–May 19 was a normal quota of spring overshoots (*fide* TWB). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak in N. Chili, *Monroe*, NY, Mar. 17, may well have been a wintering bird rather than an absurdly early migrant (ML). The usual half-dozen or so Blue Grosbeaks were found in the New York City area, but one at Hamlin, *Monroe*, NY, May 11, was far afield (RGS, C. Spahn); the same area produced a Dickcissel May 27 (R. Oswald, KG). Four other Dickcissels were in *Cape May* during the season, and another was at Alpha, *Warren*, NJ, May 12 (GHa).

A Clay-colored Sparrow was an outstanding find in Allentown, PA, Apr. 30–May 1 (FB, m.ob.), and another was at Braddock Bay May 11. The Lark Sparrow that wintered at Clarksboro, *Gloucester*, NJ, remained to at least Mar. 17 (RK). A Grasshopper Sparrow was somewhat early at Hopewell Junction, NY, Apr. 19 (PF), and



Male Smith's Longspur in the South Cape May Meadows, New Jersey, April 23, 1991. First state record, and one of few for the Atlantic seaboard. Photograph/Alan Brady.

more than the usual number of reports of Henslow's Sparrow from upstate New York was received, although compilers continue to stress the declining status of the species there. The bird of the season in New Jersey was a ♂ **Smith's Longspur** discovered in the S. Cape May Meadows Apr. 19; it remained through the evening of Apr. 23 to be seen by dozens of observers (BG, ph. AB). This was the first state record, and only the 2nd for the Region, the first being a female collected at Robert Moses S.P., LI, Sept. 22, 1974.

The only Yellow-headed Blackbirds were two at S. Featherbed Lane, Ft. Elfsborg, *Salem*, during March and two at Compromise Road, near Woodstown, *Salem*, Mar. 27, all holdovers from the excellent winter showing in s.w. New Jersey. Also still at S. Featherbed Lane, Apr. 10, were 30 Brewer's Blackbirds (P. Warren, WDa); other groups of Brewer's included one to four in the Rochester area Apr. 19–May 27 (m.ob.), and two to six in Eden Township, *Erie*, NY, Apr. 12–28 (RA, m.ob.). A Rusty Blackbird at Trap Pond S.P., DE, May 13, was extremely late (APE, JS).

Has the House Finch peaked? Yunick reports a continuing decline at Schenectady; where he could formerly band hundreds in the spring, he caught only 13 all season (RPY). A Red Crossbill was found dead in n. *Cape May* Apr. 12 (BBa), and 10 were present at nearby Peaslee W.M.A. Apr. 17–18 (FM); three were in adjacent *Cumberland*, at Bevan W.M.A., May 7–16, suggesting possible breeding in s. New Jersey (FM).

EXOTICS

Both Ruddy Shelduck and Mandarin Duck were at the Allendale Celery Farm during the season (*fide* ST). A Com. Crane created much excitement after it was discovered in a field at Red Hook, *Dutchess*, NY, Apr. 20, until it was learned that the bird had escaped from a game farm 75 miles to the west in *Delaware*, NY; it attracted many birders through May 2 (T. & A. Gilbert *et al.*). Monk Parakeets were at Liberty S.P., NJ, and in *Camden*, NJ, during the season. Finally, a Eur. Goldfinch was in Upper Makefield Twp., *Bucks*, PA, during March (J. Kurtz), and another was at a feeder in Campbell Hall, *Orange*, NY, Mar. 29.

Observers: (Subregional compilers in boldface) **Ken Able** (Hudson-Mohawk Region, NY: Dept. of Biology, SUNY, Albany, NY 12222), Robert Andrie, Scott Angus, **Peter Bacinski** (coastal NJ: 260 Page Ave., Lyndhurst, NJ 07071), Tom Bailey (Tba), Bob Barber (Bba), M. V. Barnhill, **Irving Black** (n.e. NJ: Eagle Rock Village, Bldg. 26, Apr. 8B, Budd Lake, NJ 07828), R. J. Blicharz, Bob Boehm (BBo), Alan Brady, Dennis Briede, Fritz Brock, Elizabeth Brooks, **T.W. Burke** (New York Rare Bird Alert), Colin Campbell, Richard Crossley, **K.L. Crowell** (St. Lawrence Region, NY: RD 4, Box 97, Canton, NY 13617), William D'Anna (WDn), **Ward Dasey** (WDa, s.w. NJ: 29 Ark Road, Medford, NJ 08055), Mike Davids, John DeMarrais, **Peter Derven** (*Rockland*, NY: 70 Third Ave., Nyack, NY 10960), Bruce Di Labio, Jeff Dodge (JDg), Jim Dowdell (JDo), Pete Dunne (PDU), **A.P. Ednie** (*New Castle* and *Kent*, DE: 59 Lawson Ave., Claymont, DE 19703), **S. W. Eaton** (Niagara Frontier, NY: Ten Mile Rd., Allegany, NY 14706), Vincent Elia, Brett Ewald, Sheryl Forte, **W.W. Frech** (*Sussex*, DE: Carr. Rt. 3, Box 1144, Lewes, DE 19958), G. L. Freed, Padraic French, William Gallagher, Paul Gillen, Bill Glaser, **K.C. Griffith** (Genesee Region, NY: 61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, NY 14612), Joe Gula, Sr. & Jr., Barb & Frank Haas, Robert Hagar, **Greg Hanisek** (GHa, n.w. NJ: 4 Marnel Rd., Phillipsburg, NJ

08865), Armas Hill, Norman Holgerson, **Gene Huggins** (GHu, Oneida Lake Basin, NY: 1065 Westmoreland, Syracuse, NY 13210), Rich Kane, Kevin Karlson, Neres Kazanjian, Paul Kerlinger, Bob Kurtz, Bruce Lantz, Mike Lanzone, **Laurie Larson** (n.c. NJ: 90 N. Stanworth Dr., Princeton, NJ 08540), Tony Lauro, Gary Lee, Mearns Bird Club, **Helen Manson** (Lower Hudson Valley, NY: Moores Mill, RD 4 Pleasant Valley, NY 12569), Fred Mearns, **C.K. Melin**, (Finger Lakes Region, NY: 449 Irish Settlement Rd., Freeville, NY 13068), J.K. Meritt, Brad Merritt, Tom Miller (TMI), **B.L. Morris** (e. PA: 825 Muhlenberg St., Allentown, PA 18104), Terry Mosher (TMO), Bill & Naomi Murphy, Mike Newlon, Michael O'Brien, Richard O'Hara, **J.M.C. Peterson** (Adirondack-Champlain Region, NY: Discovery Farm, RD 1, Elizabethtown, NY 12932), Raymond & Vivian Pitzrick, **William Reid** (n.e. PA: 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702), Rochester Birding Association, J.J. Ruscica, Marge Rusk, J. W. Russell, Steve Santner (SSa), **Sy Schiff** (Long Island: 603 Mead Terrace, S. Hempstead, NY 11550), R.M. Schutsky, Dominic Sheroni, Ellen Short, Steve Sobosinski (SSo), **R.G. Spahn** (Genesee Ornithological Society), Sullivan County Audubon Society, Clay Sutton, Pat Sutton, Joe Swertinski, Fred Tetlow, Stiles Thomas, Neil Thorpe, J. P. **Tramontano** (*Orange* and *Sullivan*, NY: Orange Co. Community College, Middletown, NY 10940), Ed Treacy, Guy Tudor, Steve Walter, Dave Ward, William Watson (WWa), W. J. Wayne, George Wenzelburger, Rick Wiltraut, Eric Witmer, **Al Wollin** (Long Island: 4 Meadow Lane, Rockville Center, NY 11570), R.P. Yunick, Jim Zamos. Many other observers (approximately 300) who sent reports could not be listed, but their contributions are gratefully acknowledged.—**WILLIAM J. BOYLE, JR.**, 12 Glenwood Rd., Denville, NJ 07834; **ROBERT O. PAXTON**, 460 Riverside Dr., Apt. 72, New York, NY 10027; and **DAVID A. CUTLER**, 1110 Rock Creek Dr., Wyncote, PA 19095.

MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

Henry T. Armistead

This was an extremely warm spring, following a very mild winter. It started off wet and ended up dry and hot. Deviations from normal were as follows: March, +3.7° F, April, +2.3°, and May +6.5° temperatures; and March, +1.6 inches, April -0.3, and May -2.4 precipitation. As a result of the mildness, the number of birds arriving very early was striking, especially herons, Ospreys, Stilt and Pectoral sandpipers, Gull-billed Terns, goatsuckers, swifts, kingbirds, swallows, gnatcatchers, Wood Thrushes, White-eyed Vireos, Black-and-white Warblers, and Ovenbirds. Granted, many of these were represented by only a few very early dates, but taken together, they comprise an impressive array of early birds. The passerine flight, especially flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, and warblers, was again a disappointment, with few flights after May 10. Fish-eating birds continue to do well in spite of the drastic decline of many fish. Pelagic reporting was good, including continuation of the winter alcid flight; but a problem is the occasional receipt of differing numbers

(and sometimes species!) from various trip participants.

We are all saddened by the June 25 death of Norfolk-area birder Floy C. Burford, 85. A former compiler of the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge CBC, Floy was originally from Tennessee and made many contributions to the Virginia journal, *The Raven*, as well as *American Birds*. Virginia ornithology has lost a real friend.

Abbreviations: Assat. (*Assateague I., MD*); Back Bay (*Back Bay Nat'l Wildlife Ref., VA*); the Bay (*Chesapeake Bay*); Blackwater (*Blackwater Nat'l Wildlife Ref., MD*); C.B.B.T. (*Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel, VA*); Chinc. (*Chincoteague Nat'l Wildlife Ref., VA*); Craney (*Craney Island Disposal Area, Portsmouth, VA*); D.C. (*Washington, D.C.*); Deal I. (*Deal I. W.M.A., Somerset, MD*); Fish. I. (*Fisherman Island Nat'l Wildlife Ref., VA*); F.S.P. (*Fort Smallwood Park, s.e. of Baltimore, MD*); Hart (*Hart and Miller Islands, Baltimore Co., MD*); H.M.C.P. (*Huntley Meadows County Park, Fairfax, VA*); S.P.S.P. (*Sandy Point State Park, near Annapolis, MD*); Susq. (*lower Susquehanna R., MD, in vicinity of Conowingo Dam*). Dates in italics represent banded birds.

LOONS TO IBISES

Spitzer made some notable Com. Loon counts from a boat in the lower Bay: over 900 Apr.

25 w. of Cape Charles, including one group of 410, plus a flock of 500 nearby the next day. These large assemblages, which also occur in late October and November on the Bay, are usually unnoticed since they are often well offshore. Other good totals were 214 at N. Beach, *Calvert, MD*, Apr. 10 by Stasz, 186 in landlocked *Howard, MD*, at Turf Valley Overlook Apr. 19 by Ott plus 86 on the *Howard* May 11 count (JS *et al.*), and 100 off Ocean City, MD, May 4 (MO *et al.*). The best Red-throated Loon tally was only 47 at Assat. Mar. 8 (MLH).

Ten Pied-billed Grebes were calling at their Regional stronghold at Deal I. Mar. 21 (MO) and were also heard at 4 localities in May in nearby *Dorchester, MD*, an unusual time and place (HTA *et al.*). Thirty-one were at Loch Raven Res. n. of Baltimore Mar. 3 (CfB). Near D.C., Weigel *et al.* found up to six at H.M.C.P. Apr. 2 and a nest; an adult and three young were there in May. Horned Grebes continue in depressed numbers, with a spring high of only 117 on the York R., VA, Mar. 1 (SR). Up to five Red-necked Grebes were at Black Hills Res., MD, in late March (PO, HE, RH, NS *et al.*), and singles were at Patuxent N.A.S., *St. Mary's, MD*, Apr. 3 (KR), nearby at Solomons, MD, Mar. 19 (JLS), and on the James R. near Ft. Eustis, VA, Mar. 17 & 24 (SR), while Bruni found two at Chinc. Mar. 20. Eared

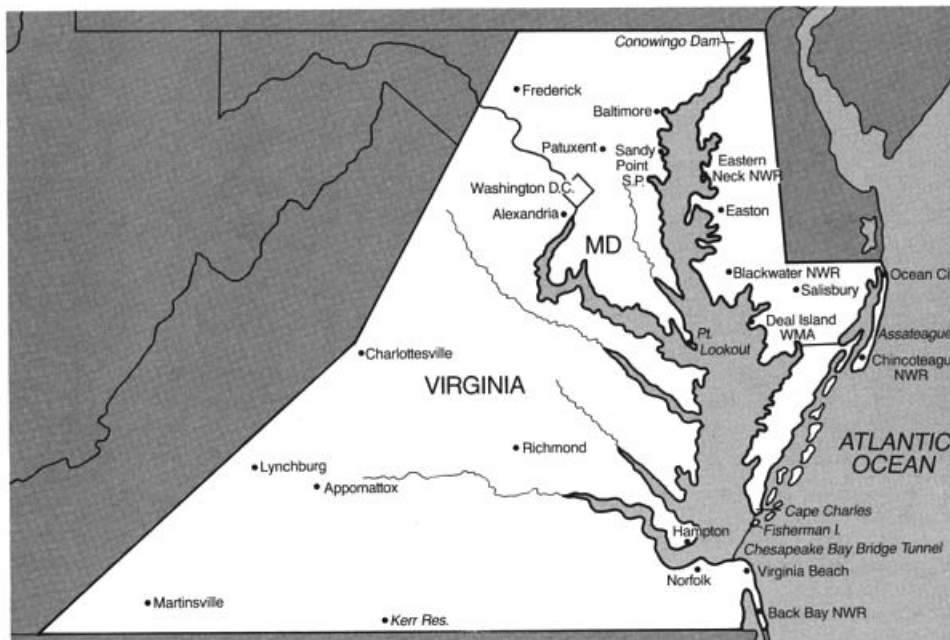
S.A.

An unusual location for Am. White Pelican was Fish. I., VA, near Cape Charles, where one was seen in the latter half of May (SR, BN; possibly the same bird at C.B.B.T. Mar. 21, D & CB), hanging around with the hundreds of Brown Pelicans nesting at that prime site, where there were some 100 nests by the end of the month (ME *et al.*). Ninety-five Browns were at Chinc. Apr. 6 (DC), 100 at Craney Apr. 13 (JF), and 81 at Back Bay by Apr. 9 (DS, TMG). In Maryland, 11 were at Ocean City Apr. 10, 65 at Assat. Apr. 7 (CfB), and 12 at Ocean City May 22 (MO, HLW). As heartening as the burgeoning coastal population of these appealing birds is (a phenomenon of only the past 12 years or so), they still seem reluctant to penetrate very far up the Bay. In this same period, there was been growth in the number of Wilson's Storm-Petrels, N. Gannets, Great Cormorants, Am. Oystercatchers, Royal Terns, Sandwich Terns, Black Skimmers, and a few other saltwater species wandering far up the Bay, but not of Brown Pelicans.

Grebes were at Swift Creek L. near Richmond, VA, Mar. 10 (JF) and N. Beach Mar. 28-Apr. 22 (JLS, NS).

A pelagic trip out of Ocean City May 17 found the following in Maryland and Virginia waters, respectively: Wilson's Storm-Petrel 33/130, Cory's Shearwater 1/0, Sooty Shearwater 2/3, Leach's Storm-Petrel 0/21, and Manx Shearwater 0/1 (KHB, BP *et al.*). An earlier Ocean City trip recorded a Manx Shearwater and eight Wilson's Storm-Petrels May 4 (MO, EJS *et al.*). Birders on a Virginia Beach sea trip saw a Manx, a Sooty, and a Cory's Shearwater, plus 99 Wilson's Storm-Petrels May 26 (NB, BP *et al.*). Sightings of seabirds from shore included a Sooty Shearwater at Virginia Beach May 11 (BT), and another plus a Wilson's Storm-Petrel from Cobb I., VA, May 21 (SR).

Northern Gannets again made an excellent show of strength on the middle Bay in Maryland, 70+ mi from the sea,



the most extraordinary being one on the Sassafras R. almost at the head of the Bay Apr. 11 (CMc). Stasz recorded gannets on 31 days in the North Beach area Mar. 1–Apr. 12, with 17 Mar. 1, 109 Mar. 25, and 13 Apr. 6. Elsewhere, one was at S.P.S.P. Mar. 30 (BPj), 35 near Ape Hole Cr., *Somerset*, Mar. 21 (MO), 10 at Pt. Lookout S.P., *St. Mary's*, Mar. 16 (MO), 15 at Fairmount, *Somerset*, Mar. 21 (MO), two at Taylor's I. Mar. 30 (CfB), and 12 up the Choptank R. at Bellevue Mar. 30–31 (HTA, MEA), while an injured bird was at Patuxent N.A.S. June 1 (KR). Just over the Virginia line in the Bay, Portlock (easily the Region's most aquatic reporter) saw 38 in the Tangier I. vicinity Mar. 7. Back at sea, where they belong, top counts were 565 at Assat. Mar. 10, with 30 as late as May 5 (MLH) and 700 at Virginia Beach Mar. 13 (C & MH). Normally a few can be seen at sea through the end of May by the astute observer.

Eight Great Cormorants were at Pt. Lookout Mar. 16 (MO) (still the best place for them in Maryland), one far up the Potomac at Route 301 Mar. 31 (EB), and two late at S.P.S.P. May 15 (LMD). Much more unusual was one inland at Seneca, MD, May 11 (BMu *et al.*). In D.C., 140 Double-crested Cormorants were a good total Apr. 20 (DC), and 285 were at Susq. Apr. 18 (RMS). Unique was a ♀ Anhinga in Virginia on the Chickahominy R. near I-295 X Route 301 May 13 (BP, MBt, MP, ph.).

Although up to four Am. Bitterns were at H.M.C.P. Apr. 16 (JF), they were not detected again this year as nesters, nor were they seen there since May 6 (EPW); this is one of the few sites in Virginia where they have bred. Four were also seen at McKee-Beshers W.M.A., MD, Apr. 21 (DC). Least Bitterns were in poor numbers at H.C.M.P., a most intensely scrutinized marsh (EPW).

Great Blue Heron migration at Assat. occurred mostly in the first week of April, with a peak of 65 migrants Apr. 1 (MLH). This species does not nest anywhere in the Region on the seaside. Several herons appeared in good numbers rather early in the season, owing presumably to the mild weather. At Assat. I., Hoffman saw 11 Glossy Ibises

and a Green-backed Heron Mar. 24, 30 Snowy Egrets Mar. 25, and 32 Little Blue Herons Mar. 30. Other herons that were quite early were Green-backed at Chinc. Mar. 25 (VBK), one in Denton, MD, Apr. 8 (MWH), plus one at Piney Run, *Carroll*, MD, Apr. 8 (RFR); 10 Cattle Egrets at Bishopville, *Worcester*, MD, Mar. 27 (MO, HLW), and 22 at Ocean City Mar. 28, including one colored uniformly salmon pink, a not uncommon phenomenon (MO, HLW); a Glossy Ibis at Berlin, MD, Mar. 10 (MO *et al.*), and 105 at Ocean City Mar. 28 (HLW, MO *et al.*). Extraordinary were the numbers of White Ibises at Fish. I., where up to 25 were present from late April through May, with breeding indicated (DS, BN, SR *et al.*); 11 were at Chinc. May 17 (JF).

WATERFOWL

Mute Swans continue to thrive in the Hooper's I.-Barren I., MD, area, where 200 were seen May 26 and 10 nests were found (HTA, ph.). There are perhaps more here than at any other area of the Region. The last big concentration of Snow Geese was 15,000 at Ruthsburg, *Queen Annes*, MD, Mar. 16 (J & PG). Fifty-one Brant were still at Cobb I., VA, May 21 (BTt, SR).

High duck counts from Assat. included 400 Green-winged Teal and 380 Am. Black Ducks Mar. 11 and 510 Buffleheads Apr. 1 (MLH). Vaughn found 750 Green-winged Teal at Wallops I. Apr.



Mute Swan nest with eight eggs at Hooper's Island, Dorchester County, Maryland, on May 26, 1991. Unrecorded here until about a decade ago, the species has become numerous, with ten nests found on this date.

S.A.

An intensive Wood Duck nest box program on the E. Shore of Virginia revealed that starlings are major users of boxes. They will often puncture duck eggs in their efforts to take them over (GR, GC). Seventeen of 36 boxes checked Apr. 17 had been appropriated by starlings, and 3 held black rat snakes in spite of the fact that boxes were in standing water, on poles, with predator guards. Some of the clutches were begun as early as late February. Four Hooded Merganser eggs were in a clutch with 10 Wood Duck eggs in one box in n. *Accomack*, VA. Hoodeds are extremely rare Regional breeders. The average Wood Duck clutch here is 12–15 eggs, although three hens were incubating 27–28 eggs, some presumably dumped by other hens. Twenty-four screech-owls were banded, along with 30 female woodies, in 172 boxes in *Accomack*. It is estimated that only one to three young fledge per brood owing to predation by snapping turtles and bass, effects of weather, and other types of adversity. Wood Ducks were nesting in chimneys at Chinc., and a dead bird was in a fireplace at Tanyard, *Caroline*, MD, Mar. 23 (EE).

19. Exceptional was a ♂ Cinnamon Teal at Chinc. Mar. 24–25, found with five Blue-winged Teal (VBK, BH). New for *Howard*, MD, was a Eur. Wigeon at Centennial L. Mar. 21 (JHE, JS *et al.*), while another was at Deal I. Mar. 26 (D & CB); a Falcatid Teal of unknown origin was at Laytonsville, MD, in the first half of March (DC, MO, OJ, JO, RH). Good waterfowl counts from Hart were 123 N. Shovelers, 5000 Lesser Scaup, and 26,000 scaup (sp.) Mar. 10 (CfB, PW *et al.*).

An imm. ♂ King Eider was in the Rogue I./Hog I. Bay area, VA, May 20 (BTt). Two extremely late imm. males were at Ocean City May 18–June (MO, DFA, *et al.*), while nearby at Assat. two to five birds were seen on numerous dates Mar. 8–25 (MLH), the latter representing at least 12 birds. A ♀ Harlequin Duck was at Fish. I. Mar. 31–Apr. 7 (BN, SR).

Thirty-five Black Scoters lingered until May 4 off Ocean City (MO); 15 were at Assat. May 22, along with 25 Surfs and two White-wingeds (HLW, MO). Best Surf Scoter counts were 5300 at Chinc. Apr. 5 (DC), dwindling to 1500 by Apr. 21 (JB *et al.*) and 3100 at Bellevue, *Talbot*, MD, Mar. 9 (HTA). This spring was notable for suspiciously late Hooded Mergansers at several places in Maryland, such as two females at McKee-Beshers W.M.A. Apr. 23–May 11 (GG, RH), one at Lilypons May 25 (RLH), one at Northampton Furnace May 7 (JW), and one at Wile L., *Howard*, May 11 (MC *et al.*).

RAPTORS TO CRANES

Early Ospreys were a feature this spring, with too many records to mention for the first week in March, at least a week ahead of time, in all tidewater areas of the Region, with a really early bird on the Rappahannock R., VA, Feb. 22 (WSP). Once again, they began nesting attempts in D.C. (DC). Fifteen nests were in the Barren I., MD, area May 26, better than average (HTA). Dozens of observers got to see one to two Mississippi Kites in s.e. Greensville, VA, near the North Carolina line May 18–June 8 (JD, AS, BW, *et al.*). In Virginia, 108 active Bald Eagle nests were monitored, a record 30 representing relocations (MAB *et al.*). *Dorchester*, MD, remains their stronghold in that state, with 25 nests holding 45 young (*vide* MB). A more complete report will appear in the summer summary. On May 30, Rottenborn found a N. Harrier nest on Cobb I. with 5 eggs, 10 feet from the location of last year's nest (ph.); pairs were also present on Fish., Hog, and Wreck Is., all on the E. Shore of Virginia.

As usual, tantalizingly incomplete hawk count results, in terms of both coverage and reporting, were received from Ft. Smallwood Park, s.e. of Baltimore. But those on hand again stress the desirability of more activity there. On Mar. 24, 23 N. Harriers and 149 Am. Kestrels were there, with 439 Turkey Vultures, 101 Cooper's, 151 Red-shouldered, and 52 Red-tailed hawks the next day, and 243 Sharp-shinned, 33

S.A.

Two to six Black Rails were in Saxis marsh, VA, w. of Chinc. on the Bay in May (NB, SR, MBt, JF, BP *et al.*). Saxis is Virginia's answer to Elliott I., MD, with recent records of Sedge Wrens and Henslow's Sparrows. Please do not abuse or even use tapes there, so that the birds do not become disaffected the way they have at Elliott. Given decent weather conditions, Black Rails can usually be counted on to call spontaneously and continuously during total darkness, obviating the need to resort to harmful stimulants. Just let 'em call, keep the tapes in the car, and stay on the road and out of the marsh so that others can enjoy them for generations to come. By working the marsh roads from Saxis s. to the Onancock area, Rottenborn heard 14 Black, 20 Clapper, four Sora, and 29 Virginia rails the night of May 12-13. Some of these marshes have never been worked before in this manner. A Black was heard on Assat. I. Apr. 27 and May 14 (MLH). Back at Elliott I., nine were heard May 4, along with 62 Virginia Rails. Ten Blacks, 68 Virginias, seven Clappers, two Soras, and a King Rail were in that general area May 11, along with four Com. Moorhens, these being unsurprising totals for all-night spring counts in *Dorchester* (HTA, CM, WCR, MS, SD). Continuing last summer's rail surveys, Blom did night railwork in Maryland on coastal plain counties w. of the Bay, finding rails almost nonexistent as breeders in this area, which includes the Patuxent R. marshes, but he did find good populations of Clapper Rails in the *St. Marys* marshes, especially around St. George Island.

Cooper's, and six Merlins Apr. 27 (SAR). Some 152 Broad-winged Hawks were there Apr. 17 (DM). It was unusual to receive 5 N. Goshawk reports this spring. As usual, most lacked even average documentation, but two at Little Seneca Res., MD, Mar. 31, were described in some detail (DC, ph.). The last Rough-legged Hawks were at Deal I., with eight on Mar. 21 (MO) plus five by Dyke Mar. 28. The only



Sandhill Crane in Talbot County, Maryland, March 3, 1991. Photograph/David Czaplak.

Golden Eagles were an adult at Williamsburg Apr. 29 (BT) and an immature at Blackwater Mar. 15 (JC). Hoffman, who submitted 41 pages of records from Assat., saw single Merlins on 7 dates Mar. 8-May 14; Stasz had them on 5 dates at N. Beach starting Mar. 22, including a late one May 20.

Twenty Com. Moorhens were at Deal I. May 9 (EL), probably the best Maryland location for them. Simon had the top tally of Am. Coots: 650 at Loch Raven Res. Mar. 1. The Sandhill Crane s. of Trappe, MD, in *Talbot* was seen until Mar. 20 (MO, EMW, DC *et al.*, ph.).

SHOREBIRDS

Four trips were made to Hart, resulting in these interesting counts (PW, HK, SAR *et al.*): 200 Lesser Yellowlegs, 320 Least Sandpipers, and 240 Short-billed Dowitchers May 11; a W. Sandpiper May 12; 165 Semipalmated Plovers, 61 Ruddy Turnstones, six Red Knots, four Sanderlings, 580 Semipalmated Sandpipers,

seven White-rumped Sandpipers, and nine Wilson's Phalaropes May 27. Original field work by Rottenborn involved study of the use of agricultural fields by shorebirds in *Northampton*, VA, with results such as 1750 Dunlin in fields around Eastville Mar. 4; 1150 Black-bellied Plovers and 1982 Dunlin Apr. 14; 1139 Semipalmated Plovers May 16; and 2186 Black-bellied Plovers with 1046 Semipalmated Plovers May 19. There was an excellent flight of Semipalmated Plovers this spring, with totals such as 410 in s. *Dorchester*, MD, May 4 (HTA, SD, WCR *et al.*); 12 were at remote Watts I., VA, on the odd date of Mar. 6 (WSP). Vaughn found 31 Piping Plovers at Wallops I. Apr. 19, a notable concentration since only a few pairs nest there.

Black-necked Stilts were more widely reported than usual, with one-two at the Easton sewage lagoons Apr. 30 into May, new for *Talbot* (MO *et al.*, ph.), two at w. Ocean City May 3 (MO, HLW, LMD), one to six Apr. 17 into May at Deal I., where they have bred (GG, EL, MI *et al.*), with four in Virginia at Wallops I. Apr. 19 (CRV), three at Craney in mid-May (DMt, JCB *et al.*), and one at Chinc. Apr. 5-6 (DC); some of these dates are notably early, some of the locations unusual. The first Solitary Sandpiper was one at Lilypons Mar. 25 (BO). Good Maryland coastal counts were 350 Willets (a record state count), 85 Whimbrel, and 6000 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Assat. May 6 (MO, HLW), and 135 Willets were at Wreck I., VA, May 28 (SR). Unusual were six Whimbrel on the Potomac R.



Black-necked Stilt at Easton sewage ponds, Talbot County, Maryland, on April 30, 1991. First county record. Photograph/Michael O'Brien.

n. of D.C. at Violet's Lock May 28 (MO, PO); 430 were at Cobb I. May 17 (SR), but more unusual was a well-seen one of the Eurasian race at Chinc. Apr. 27 (LB).

On May 30, 968 Red Knots were at Cobb I. (SR, RB). Schwab's beach patrol at Back Bay continued to make careful Sanderling counts, with a best total of 5149 May 24 in company with 380 Black-bellied Plovers, three Lesser Golden Plovers, and 831 Ruddy Turnstones. Blalock found a Sanderling in s. interior Virginia, at S. Boston May 10 & 17. On May 25, 4500 Semipalmated Sandpipers were at Wallops I. (CRV). Well-seen W. Sandpipers were studied at Elliott I. May 4 (WCR, SD, HTA *et al.*) and at Craney May 11, in company with a Red-necked Phalarope and two Stilt Sandpipers (GP, NB). For an excellent review of the status of this species as a spring rarity, see Claudia Wild's "The status and identification of Western Sandpipers in Virginia in spring migration" (*Raven* 62(1): 3-6). Pectoral Sandpipers showed up on record early dates in Maryland, with one at the University of Maryland Central Farm in *Howard* Mar. 3 (BOt), eight at Blackwater the same day (HTA), three at Assat. Mar. 11 (MLH), one at McKee-Beshers W.M.A. Mar. 17 (MO), and five in mid-March at S. Boston, VA (JCB).

Very early Stilt Sandpipers included one at Back Bay Apr. 9 (DS, TMG) and two at Assat. Apr. 10 (MO, HLW), where Hoffman found them on 9 dates Apr. 6-May 15. This species is a somewhat commoner spring migrant in this Region than many people believe. Single Ruffs were in Maryland at Bestpitch, *Dorchester*, Apr. 4 (SHD), at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary on the Patuxent R. Apr. 9 (DMd, CS *et al.*), and the Easton sewage lagoons May 21, along with a very late Com. Snipe (JE). In Virginia, three Short-billed Dowitchers were at remote Dameron Marsh Mar. 7 (WSP; overwintering birds?), and 1800 were at Oyster May 13 (SR). An early Am. Woodcock brood, an adult with four young, was at Denton, MD, Mar. 11 (JSI). Seven Red-necked Phalaropes were at Craney May 10 (GW *et*

al.). Wierenga found a Red-necked at Elliott I. May 23; a Red was at Hog I. on the Virginia coast May 10 (SR *et al.*, ph.).

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

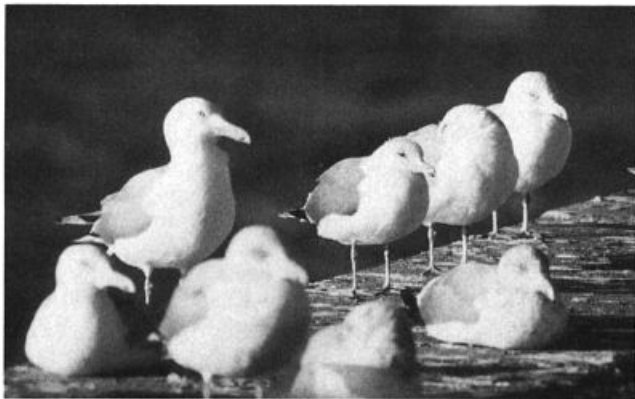
A Pomarine Jaeger was seen May 17 over Poor Man's Canyon in Virginia waters off Ocean City (BP, KHB *et al.*), and three Pomarine and three Parasitic jaegers were off Ocean City May 4 (EJS, MO *et al.*). Closer to shore, a Parasitic was seen from C.B.B.T. Apr. 23 (SR, GH).

The first Laughing Gulls were reported from Tangier I., VA, Mar. 6 (WSP). At N. Beach, single Little Gulls were seen Apr. 5 & 11, with five there Apr. 11 (JLS); in Virginia, Bazuin found three adults at Winter Harbor Mar. 26 and an adult Apr. 6; another was at Craney Mar. 9 (DMt *et al.*). Others were at Back R. Sewage Plant near Baltimore Apr. 21 (EJS), and one was at Hart May 12 (PW, SAR). The only Com. Black-headed Gull was at Baltimore Mar. 1-2 (JW, EJS). An exceptional rarity for the Region was an ad. California Gull, seen for one day at C.B.B.T. Mar. 16 (BP, PM, NB, ph.). Yellow-legged Gulls, first seen at 2 localities in the winter, lingered until Mar. 21 (OJ) and Apr. 4 (JSd) at Georgetown Res., D.C., and Mar. 16 at the Laytonsville, MD, landfill (MO, OJ, RH). Iceland Gulls were in Maryland at Salisbury Apr. 3 (EJS), Easton landfill Apr. 19-30 (MO, HL, W, JE), and nearby at Cambridge Mar. 25 (DC). Single Glaucous Gulls were at Back Bay Apr. 9 (DS, TMG), S.P.S.P. Mar. 30 (BP), and Laytonsville Mar. 2 & 7 (MO, DC). Lesser Black-backed Gulls

were seen at 13 places, with a high of five at Laytonsville Mar. 2 (MO, OJ); three were at Georgetown Res. in D.C. in March (OJ). Fifty-one Herring and 2 Great Black-backed Gull nests were found at Barren and Hooper's Is., MD, May 26, a record for this area and worrisome because of the many terns nesting there, as well as 25 pairs of Black Skimmers, some of which had scrapes with eggs on that date (HTA). This is still the only site on the Maryland part of the Bay where skimmers have been nesting. The Laughing X Ring-billed Gull hybrid seen last fall and winter at Ocean City was again seen May 18, 21, & 23 (MO *et al.*).

Yet another early arrival was Gull-billed Tern, with three at Back Bay Apr. 9, perhaps a record state date (DS, TMG). As usual, a few Caspian Terns turned up the first week of April. Best counts were 300 at Hart May 11, with 138 still there May 27 (PW, HK *et al.*), 180 at S.P.S.P. Apr. 20 (LMD, HLW), and 96 on the Rappahannock R., VA, on the same date (WSP). Exceptionally rare away from the open sea was an Arctic Tern at Ocean City (MI, JLS *et al.*). Always scarce in spring here, a total of 20 Black Terns off Ocean City on a pelagic trip May 4 was notable (MO, EJS *et al.*).

The winter alcid flight spilled over into spring, with a Razorbill (and five unidentified alcids) at Chinc. Mar. 2 (AA), one off Ocean City Mar. 3 (GM), and two off Ocean City Mar. 10 (MO, JO, PO, BA). Another alcid (sp.) was at Chinc. Mar. 19 (BB). Unprecedented this late in spring here was a Razorbill at C.B.B.T. May 13 (BP, MP, MBt).



Adult California Gull (center—surrounded by Herring Gulls) at Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Virginia, March 16, 1991. Photograph/Brian Patteson.

OWLS TO SHRIKES

Bass continued his work with Barn Owls in the Nokesville area on the Virginia Piedmont, where he found 30 pairs nesting by the end of May. A Long-eared Owl was in *Montgomery*, MD, Feb. 3-Mar. 30 (DC); its location remains secret due to concern over disturbance to roosting owls. We sometimes love 'em to death, or at least love 'em away. Stop it! Northern Saw-whet Owls were at Nokesville Mar. 6 (KHB), at McKee-Beshers W.M.A. until Mar. 30 (RLH, MO, PO), on 7 dates on Assat. Mar. 8-Apr. 1 (MLH), as well as at 3 other Maryland localities. The excellent Short-eared Owl winter flight spilled over into spring, with sightings at 16 locations, such as three near Blackwater Apr. 11 (GG) and four at Presquile N.W.R., VA, Mar. 3 (PB). Very early were six Com. Nighthawks at Williamsburg, VA, Apr. 16 (SR), a Chuck-will's-widow at Assat. Apr. 10 (MO), a Whip-poor-will at Sparta, VA, Mar. 31 (WS), and single Chimney Swifts at Annapolis, MD, Mar. 22 (MI), F.S.P. Mar. 25 (SAR, LMD, HLW), and Williamsburg Mar. 23 (BT).

Reese had an Alder and a Willow flycatcher at Cheverly, *Prince Georges*, MD, May 23. There were small flights of E. Kingbirds at F.S.P., with 39 May 12 and 59 May 13 (DM), and extremely early ones at Assat. Apr. 6-7 (MLH) and the York R., VA, Apr. 9 (BT). The fancy flycatcher of the season was a Scissor-tailed, found by Davidson at Arnold, MD, Apr. 17. The only Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were at D.C. May 22 (DC) and nearby at Potomac, MD, at the Adventure Sanctuary May 25 (MD). As one might expect from all the other very early arrival dates mentioned above, the swallows were also ahead of schedule. Truly early Purple Martins were near Eastville, VA, Mar. 11 (HG), Patuxent W.R.C., Laurel, MD, Mar. 10 (MKK), and Ft. Eustis, VA, Mar. 15 (SR). A record early Bank Swallow was at H.M.C.P. Mar. 19 (BL). The first Cliff Swallow was at Lynchburg, VA, Apr. 6 (C & MH). Barn Swallows were seen at 4 places as early as Mar. 23-25 (RH, SR, MO, PO, KM), and Blom had as



Black-capped Chickadee banded near Baltimore, Maryland, May 3, 1991. Perhaps a leftover from the invasion of the preceding winter, but exceptionally late in the spring. Photograph/Barbara Ross.

many as 50 on the early date of Mar. 31 at Allen's Fresh, MD.

Blue Jays were in heavy migration the first half of May, with 3520 May 8 and 3110 May 13 at F.S.P. (DM) and 55 along the coast at Assat. May 13 (MLH). Unique was a Black-capped Chickadee at Stevenson, MD, near Baltimore May 3 (BR, ph.). In Sparta, VA, Carolina Chickadees and E. Bluebirds had eggs on the record early date of Feb. 24 (WSP). At W. Ocean City, a House Wren was observed uttering an almost perfect imitation of a Carolina Wren song May 21 (MO). Sedge Wrens were found in more places than usual, with an astounding 17 from Saxis to Onancock the night of May 12-13 (SR) and were numerous at Saxis the night of May 18-19 (SDE). The Craney Rock Wren was last seen Mar. 9 (DLH, DMt) and Mar. 15 (PGD). Extremely late Golden-crowned Kinglets were found May 5 in Maryland at Trappe (JGR) and in *Howard* (MC). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at N. Beach Mar. 5 & 12 was believed to be the same bird found there in February (JLS); first arrivals were seen at several places the last week of March. Once again, the thrush



Loggerhead Shrike near Annapolis, Maryland, March 30, 1991. Photograph/Al Haury.

flight was poor, although 120 Veeries, 12 Gray-checkeds, 20 Woods, and 20 Swainson's were heard over Rockville, MD, the night of May 10 (MO). Meanley found a very early Wood Thrush in Dismal Swamp, VA, Apr. 2. Loggerhead Shrikes were reported only twice: Annapolis Mar. 27-31 (MI, AH, ph.) and Nokesville Mar. 1-5 (EMW, KHB).

VIREOS TO WARBLERS

The passerine migration once again drew no rave reviews. Observers agreed that the best warbler flight was May 3-5, with no good flights after the end of the 2nd week of May. The many early dates of birds that usually arrive in late March or the first half of April did little to compensate for the poor warbler flight at the peak of migration in May. Very early White-eyed Vireos were at Williamsburg Apr. 2 (BW) and Chinc. Apr. 6 (DC), with three at Vaughn W.M.A. in coastal MD Apr. 9 (MO, HLW). New for the Region and Virginia was a **Black-whiskered Vireo**, banded and carefully measured and photographed at Back Bay May 18 (RCS).

Hybrid warblers reports include single "Brewster's" at Adventure May 4 (MD), at H.M.C.P. May 2 (KK), Bristol in Anne Arundel, MD, May 5 (PMe, ph.), and at Tolchester Beach, MD, May 4 (J & PG), while Lawrence's were at Denton, MD, May 13 and Howard, MD, May 13 (BOt). The good winter for Orange-crowned Warblers extended into the spring, with one at Bellevue, MD, Apr. 13-14 (CCW, GLA, HTA), one at the E. Shore of Virginia N.W.R. Mar. 6 (SR), three at Ft. Eustis Mar. 1-Apr. 12 (SR), and an unbelievable six in Dismal Swamp Apr. 21 (SR). The first N. Parula was at Ocean City Apr. 9 (MO), and Yellow-throated Warblers were first found at Williamsburg Mar. 23-25 (BT, BW, SR), both slightly early. The Hampton Roads Bird Club spring count usually turns in the highest Blackpoll Warbler count each season, and this year's 98 May 11 was just that. However, their counts in recent years have been much lower than 10 or more years ago (TK *et al.*) Also very

early were Black-and-white Warblers Mar. 24 at Williamsburg (BW) and Salisbury SHD), while one was at L. Elkhorn, Howard, Apr. 1 (KM). Still more early birds were a Prothonotary Warbler and an Ovenbird at Whiton Crossing on the lower E. Shore of Maryland Apr. 6 (ELP), an Ovenbird at Williamsburg Apr. 2 (BW), and four Ovenbirds in Dismal Swamp Apr. 1 (BM). A late Mourning Warbler was banded in Arlington by Peacock June 5.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

Somewhat heartening were the impressive numbers of some species found on some spring bird counts, such as 158 Scarlet Tanagers and 275 Indigo Buntings in Howard, MD, May 11 (JS *et al.*). Indigo Buntings were seen at 3 places in April, such as a very early one at Chinc. Apr. 20 (JB *et al.*). Dickcissels made an excellent showing, with sightings at 12 places well distributed throughout the Region, with the exception of s.e. Virginia. It is hoped this portends a good breeding season for this species, which is still just barely hanging on as a breeder here. Even more precarious is the status of Bachman's Sparrow, but they were found again in s.c. Virginia, one locality having up to seven birds June 4 (RH, JD, AS *et al.*); a few Henslow's Sparrows were in some of these same areas. Precise localities are kept secret at the request of the observers because of misuse of taped calls in previous years. A genuine rarity was a singing Clay-colored Sparrow in D.C. Apr. 26 (DC). A Savannah Sparrow at Oland Road, Frederick, MD, May 19-June 8 was singing and undoubtedly attempting to breed at the s.e. edge of its nesting range. Very good news is the presence of one-two Henslow's Sparrows at Saxis, VA, May 12-25, one of the few places in the Region where they may still breed (SR, JE, SDE *et al.*). A Le Conte's Sparrow was reported from Fish. I. Apr. 25 (DS). A White-throated Sparrow in D.C. May 22 was very late (DC). A late Snow Bunting was at Pt. Lookout S.P. on the very late date of Apr. 6 (BPj). F.S.P. was the scene of Bobolinks flights, with 1306 seen May 11

and 1398 May 13 (DM).

Record counts of Brewer's Blackbirds were made, with up to 51 at Nokesville Mar. 10 (KHB), 40 Mar. 4, and 15 still there Apr. 15. Six were at Ashburn, Loudoun, VA, Mar. 10 (DFA; one on Mar. 8). Sixteen were seen in Maryland at Blackwater on Shorter's Wharf Road Feb. 28-Apr. 11 (MO, GG, LMD, *et al.*); one was at Lilypons Mar. 10 (DC); three were in Frederick Mar. 17-Apr. 3 (v.o.); and two were at Hog I. Marsh, Caroline, Apr. 2 (MO). Ringler found at least five Boat-tailed Grackles at Tilghman, MD, May 10, including a female carrying nesting material, a first nesting record for *Talbot* and very far up the Bay. An earlyish Orchard Oriole was at Chestertown, Kent, MD, Apr. 12 (J & PG). There was a noticeable flight of Purple Finches the first half of May, especially in Maryland, as well as an earlier flight of Evening Grosbeaks, with a high of 40 at Berkeley Plantation near Richmond, VA, Mar. 12 (PB) and a few lingering into the first week of May at widespread localities. The only Pine Siskin report was one at Williamsburg Apr. 23 (BT). F.S.P. was also the scene of the biggest Am. Goldfinch flight, May 13, when Mozurkewich saw 469 there; 350 were at Pennyfield in Maryland n. of D.C. May 2 (RLH). Red Crossbill, that erratic species, was noted thrice: 15 at Bellevue, MD, Mar. 31 (HTA, MEA) and 12 there Apr. 14 (GLA, CCW), as well as at Blackwater, where two were seen Apr. 27 (HTA, GLA).

Observers: D.F. Abbott, Anita Allen, J.M. Anderson, R.A. Anderson, G.L. Armistead, M.E. Armistead, Scott Atkinson, Bob Augustine, Cliff Barry (CfB), K.H. Bass, J.B. Bazuin, Paul Bedell, Ruth Beck, Jim Berry (JBy), John Bjerke, J.C. Blalock, Eirik Blo, Mike Boatwright (MBt), Connie Bockstie, Maggie Briggs, Lysle Brinker, Ned Brinkley, Don & Carol Broderick, Bill Bruni, M.A. Byrd, Martha Chestem, John Churchill, Gary Costanzo, David Czaplak (D.C.), John Dalmas, L.M. Davidson, Tom Dick, Bob Dixon, Margaret Donald (Adventure Sanctuary banding station, Potomac, MD),

Sam Droege, P.G. DuMont, S.H. Dyke, S.D. Eccles, Jeff Effinger, Howard Elitzak, Ethel Engle, Mike Erwin, J.H. Farrell, A.J. Fletcher (Caroline, MD), Jim Ford (JFd), Jesse Fulton, Hans Gabler, Inez Glime, Greg Gough, Jim & Patricia Gruber (Kent, MD), T.M. Gwynn, C.D. Hackman, Gustav Hall, Charles & Melva Hansrote, Al Haury, M.W. Hewitt, Robert Hilton, M.L. Hoffman (Assateague I, MD), R.L. Homan, Bill Howe, D.L. Hughes, Marshall Iliff, Ottavio Janni, G.M. Jett, Hank Kaestner, Teta Kain (C.B.B.T.), Kerrie Kirkpatrick, V.B. Kitchens, M.K. Klimkiewicz, Ellen Lawler, H.E. LeGrand, Bev Leuwenberg, Doug Lister, Gail MacKiernan, Nancy Magnusson, Kathy Mariano, Carol McCullough (CMc), Paul McQuarry, Brooke Meanley, Pat Melville (PMe), Stauffer Miller, Carolyn Mills, Dorothy Mitchell (DMt), David Mozurkewich, Doty Mumford (DMd), Bill Murphy (BMu), Ben Nottingham, Marianna Nuttle, Bob Oberfelder, John O'Brien, Mike O'Brien (state of Maryland), Paul O'Brien, Bonnie Ott (BOt), John Overton, F.L. Parks, Zach Parks, Brian Patteson, Myrna Patteson, Elizabeth Peacock, Grayson Pearce, Bruce Peterjohn (BPj), Don Peterson, Paul Pisano, E.L. Pitney (lower Eastern Shore, MD), W.S. Portlock, Kyle Rambo, J.G. Reese (*Talbot*, MD), George Reiger, S.A. Ricciardi, R.F. Ringler (all of Maryland), Wilbur Rittenhouse, Barbara Ross, Stephen Rottenborn, W.C. Russell, Norman Saunders, E.J. Scarpulla, Gregory Schrott, R.M. Schutsky, Don Schwab, W. Scudder, Matthew Sharp, Allan Sharrett, Jay Sheppard (JSd), L.T. Short, Joe Shortall (JSI), S.W. Simon, T.W. Simpson, Jo Solem (Howard, MD), P.R. Spitzer, J.L. Stasz, Kelsey Swanson, Chris Swarth, P.W. Sykes, Brian Taber, Hank Taliaferro, Barry Truitt (BTt), C.R. Vaughn, Pete Webb, E.P. Weigel, Gerald Weinberger, Joy Wheeler, Tony White, H.L. Wierenga, Jim Wilkinson (JWn), Bill Williams, G.B. Wilmot, E.M. Wilson (greater D.C. area), C.C. Whitt.—HENRY T. ARMISTEAD, 523 E. Durham St., Philadelphia, PA 19119

SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

(WINTER 1990-1991 REPORT)

Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

The mild weather continued in the South, with December, January, and February becoming the twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth consecutive months of above-normal temperatures at many weather stations. There were a few insignificant snowstorms in the Region, though this editor saw nary a snowflake all season.

The season was predictable: many summer stragglers on Christmas counts, but fewer waterfowl than usual. Some stragglers were common and easily identified breeding birds such as Orchard Oriole, Eastern Kingbird, and American Redstart, species that are seldom seen by veteran birders at that season. The alcid flight along the Atlantic coast barely reached the Carolinas. But this was the best winter ever for western hummingbirds.

LOONS TO ANHINGA

The only inland sighting of Red-throated Loon was one at Jordan L., Chatham, NC, Feb. 23 (PSa).

The mild winter meant little chance for seeing Red-necked Grebes, yet one was noted at Oregon Inlet, NC, Jan. 22 (RB *et al.*). Eared Grebe is seen nearly every winter regardless of conditions. Singles appeared along the coast at Ocracoke, NC, Dec. 31 (ph., MO, RBl *et al.*) and at Huntington Beach S.P., SC, Jan. 19-20 (RC, CE, DF, DoF). A small black-and-white shearwater studied from the beach at Ocracoke I., NC, Dec. 31 (MO, RBl) was identified as a Manx; however, as Audubon's has been recently found in winter in North Carolina waters, and the bird was seen at a distance of several hundred yards, I prefer to call the bird a "probable Manx."

An Am. White Pelican was at Ocracoke Dec. 31 (JF, MT, BR, PV), and it or another was about 15 mi away at Hatteras Jan. 19-21 (RB, HL, RD, JW). Another White was at Cumberland I., GA, Feb. 24 (MW). The mild winter was good news for Brown Pelicans, which often suffer heavy mortality in severe winters. A count of 60 pelicans at New Bern, NC, Jan. 5 (RB) was good for that tidewater town. Of course, Great Cormorants continued to be widely reported along the coast, south to Huntington Beach, SC, where up to four birds wintered (RC *et al.*). Four were also seen in flight in comparison with Double-crests at Pamlico Pt., NC, Dec. 15 (PJC

et al.) on the mainland side of Pamlico Sound. Double-crested Cormorants are now so abundant in winter in coastal North Carolina that the estimate of 120-124 thousand in the Ocracoke Inlet area in late December (*vide* BR) is not a complete surprise. Anhingas in the Piedmont, especially in winter, are always of interest; one was at L. Blalock, Clayton, GA, Jan. 13 (PB, PM, TM).

WADERS

The Great Blue (White) Heron seen in November at the South Carolina spoil area near Savannah, GA, was found again Dec. 2 (RC, CE, KC), for the 2nd winter record for the state. For good measure, it was also seen over the border in Georgia on that date. As expected with the mild weather, Cattle Egrets were more frequently reported, at least in coastal North Carolina, with reports from Carteret, Currituck, and Hyde; the best count was seven in the last county Dec. 28 (HL). Green-backed Herons are also beneficiaries of mild winters; the many reports featured two along the Fall Line: near Lillington, NC, Dec. 15 (PH) and Augusta, GA, Dec. 22 (AW, VW).

WATERFOWL

Good weather for waders is bad for waterfowl; sea ducks wintered mainly n. of the Region. A Tundra Swan wintered near

Greensboro, NC (HH *et al.*), five were seen near Fayetteville, NC, Jan. 22-25 (PJC), and six were there Feb. 14-28 (PJC); and five were seen at Goldsboro, NC, Feb. 22 (GH). A few scattered reports of Snow Goose were made from the Region away from their coastal range, but no Ross' Goose found this season. Single Green-winged (Eur.) Teal (males, of course) were in coastal North Carolina Jan. 19 at Cape Hatteras point (RD, HL, JW) and Feb. 1-3 at Morehead City (RD, HL, C.B.C.). Mottled Duck continues to thrive in coastal South Carolina. Birds of the introduced populations have ranged as far south as Savannah N.W.R., where three+ were noted Dec. 2 (RC). The 3 reports of Eur. Wigeon seem about par for the season, with males found Dec. 1-14 at Savannah N.W.R. (LG, RC, CE, AW, VW), Dec. 28 at L. Mattamuskeet, NC (ED, MT *et al.*), and Feb. 10 at Oregon Inlet, NC (ED).

I don't know what to do with reports of large numbers of Greater Scaup along the South Carolina coast. Many thousands of Lesser Scaups winter there, so it is not unexpected that some could be Greaters. However, the species is quite uncommon along the coast s. of Pamlico Sound, NC, and the 2 species provide one of our more difficult identification problems. Until I receive convincing documentation, I will assume that essentially all such scaups are Lessers. There were a few single-digit Greater reports inland, plus a count in the teens in n. South Carolina. The only eider report was of two Commons Dec. 7 at the jetty at Huntington Beach S.P., SC (RM, RCl). Fortunately, a few Harlequin Ducks did remind us there was a "winter" after all. The only report for North Carolina was a male at Oregon Inlet Jan. 20 (RD *et al.*), but South Carolina had as many as two in January and February in the Garden City / Huntington Beach S.P. area (LG, DF, RC) and up to three in February in Charleston harbor (LG, MS, JB). An inland count of seven Surf Scoters near Winston-Salem, NC, Dec. 20-21 (G & HT, RS, HHo) was the first county record for Forsyth; and another Surf Scoter



was notable at Greenville, NC, Jan. 13 (JW). It makes no sense, given the remarkably mild season, but T. Moore provided records showing that there were more reports of Common Goldeneyes than usual in n. Georgia! The Region's best barometer of winter severity—Common Merganser—went unreported, at least to my satisfaction.

HAWKS TO CRANES

Ospreys are wintering in greater numbers along the coast each year, and a handful were found away from tidal areas. Singles were notable on the Greenville, SC, CBC Dec. 29 (PW), at Goldsboro, NC, Dec. 15 (JW, PW), at Greenville, NC, Dec. 20 (JW), and at Augusta Dec. 22–Jan. 5, with two there in early February (*vide* AW). As mentioned here frequently, Bald Eagle numbers continue to climb, with several dozen birds now wintering in North Carolina. The most notable report was one taking a Ring-necked Duck from a pond at Augusta Jan. 5 (AW, VW). Rough-legged Hawk is always a good find, especially in a mild winter, but several reached south to e. North Carolina. A dark morph bird was in c. *Carteret* Feb. 1 (HL, RD), and two light morph hawks were along I-95 in *Halifax* Feb. 4 (RB), with one seen again two days later (RB).

For some strange reason, there have been a number of reports of Golden Eagle over the years from Francis Marion N.F., which seems too forested to provide much suitable habitat. One was seen independently by 2 parties Dec. 30 in the s. portion of the forest (PN, DC *et al.*). The mild winter made no difference on the wintering population of Am. Kestrels; this species is dwindling each year. It is a pleasure to state that inland sightings of Peregrine Falcons were too widespread to mention; hacking programs are working! In fact, "skyscraper" birds were seen in Raleigh, NC (JPe), Columbia, SC (RC, CE), and Atlanta (JC), with the last bird even being seen (where else?) but at an Atlanta Falcons football game Dec. 23!

Black Rails have been known to winter regularly in brackish marshes along the North Carolina coast, but winter

reports for the other 2 states have been so scarce that it is not clear if the species is regular. Are birders playing tapes of the species at dawn or dusk on CBCs, as is done along the North Carolina coast? At any rate, Blacks were seen Jan. 26 at South I., *Georgetown*, SC (SL, *vide* JEC) and Dec. 17 near Darien, GA (PR). A King Rail was a good find at Augusta Jan. 25 (AW, VW), and the mild weather was perhaps responsible for a handful of inland reports of Virginia Rails from North Carolina, though the species is regular on the Raleigh CBC, even in colder winters.

The mild season "squeezed" the fall and spring migration periods of Sandhill Cranes through c. Georgia. The fall migration was so late that hundreds of birds were still heading SSE in mid-December, and 424 were tallied on the Atlanta CBC (*vide* TM). The "spring" migration began as early as Feb. 14, the first report from the Atlanta area. Other notable crane reports were two that spent the winter at Mackay Island N.W.R., NC (*vide* JF), one all season at Lockwood Plantation, *Berkeley*, SC (DF, RC), one at Santee N.W.R., SC, Jan. 29 (LG), and 30 on the ground in *Greene*, GA, Feb. 16 (PY).

SHOREBIRDS

Wilson's Plovers do not generally overwinter in the Region, but two birds did just that at Bird Shoal near Beaufort, NC (JF). Also possibly overwintering, though seen only on a single date, were two on Feb. 4 at Harbor I., *Beaufort*, SC (LG) and one Feb. 8 at Edingsville, *Charleston*, SC (LG). Hardly ever seen inland in winter was a Semipalmated Plover in *Laurens*, GA, Dec. 27 (*vide* TKP). Greater and Lesser yellowlegs linger inland into late fall but are seldom found beyond December. This season, both species were present for the duration near Dublin, GA (TKP), nine Greater were at Augusta Jan. 13 (AW, VW), and a Lesser, probably a very early migrant, was at Bethel, NC, Feb. 23 (JW). Whimbrels were considered rarities in winter 2 decades ago, but the species has started to winter regularly in very small numbers along the coast. Notable were six all season at Beaufort, NC (JF)

and two near Hatteras, NC, Dec. 30 (HA party). A few Long-billed Curlews also overwinter along the coast, though this season reports were only from North Carolina: two near Beaufort (JF, m.ob.) and one at Ft. Fisher (m.ob.), all for the duration.

Least Sandpipers winter at a handful of inland sites, mainly in Georgia and South Carolina, as well as along the coast. Higher numbers overwintered this season, as expected, with notable counts of 35 at Goldsboro, NC, Jan. 5 (ED) and the same number at Augusta Jan. 13 (AW, VW) and Millen, GA, Feb. 15 (AW, VW). Several weeks early, and questionably qualifying as a "winter record," were three Pectoral Sandpipers Feb. 23 at Townville, SC (PW). Four Dunlins remained at Dublin at least through Jan. 26 (TKP), and nine Dunlins was a good total Dec. 15 at Goldsboro (JW, PW). Seldom found inland in winter was a Short-billed Dowitcher at Dublin Dec. 31–Jan. 5 (TKP). More likely inland in winter is Long-billed Dowitcher; the species may have overwintered at L. Mattamuskeet, where 10 were noted Dec. 31, along with 100 Greater Yellowlegs and three Lesser Yellowlegs (HL). Red Phalaropes are often common in winter offshore, but hardly anyone ventured away from shore this season. However, there were 2 onshore reports: one was found injured on a street at Pine Knoll Shores, NC, Dec. 19 (*vide* JF), and another was remarkably far inland in *Laurens*, GA, on Dec. 27 (TKP).

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

Both Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers winter sparingly along the Region's coast, but the mild weather was responsible for more jaegers remaining through the season than normal. Records were a little too numerous to mention, but notable was a Pomarine in Pamlico Sound, NC, Feb. 9 (ED).

Laughing Gulls were unusual inland at both Goldsboro Dec. 15 (JW, PW) and Peachtree City L., GA, Dec. 22 (PM, TM, KB). Warm winters generally mean poor seasons for rarer gulls in the South, but all the regular species except for Little were

found. The ad. Com. Black-headed Gull returned for the 2nd winter to Morehead City, NC, where it was seen all season (JF, m.ob.), and a 2nd-winter Black-headed was seen on Currituck Banks in both Virginia and North Carolina Feb. 16 (JW, HL). The best inland count of Bonaparte's Gull was 400 at L. Wateree, SC, Jan. 17 (LG).

There were just 2 reports of Iceland Gull, both from North Carolina: an immature at Wanchese Jan. 20 and Feb. 17 (RD, HL *et al.*), and an adult at Morehead City Jan. 12 (JF) and Feb. 3 (ED, m.ob.). It was also not the best winter for the ever-increasing Lesser Black-backed Gull. Among the usual handful of North Carolina sightings was a "semi-inland" bird at Aurora Feb. 27 (SC). The only reports away from that state were adults at Folly Beach, SC, Dec. 2 (RM) and at Huntington Beach S.P. Jan. 27 (LG). Seldom found in Georgia, and believed to be the 6th state record, was an imm. Glaucous Gull at Jekyll I. Jan. 22 (BD)–Feb. 17 (m.ob.). Other reports of Glaucous were at Pawleys I., SC, Dec. 15 (DF) and Beaufort, NC, Jan. 20–early Feb. (JF, C.B.C.). A major rarity in the Piedmont, a Great Black-backed Gull, was present at Jordan L., NC, Dec. 16 (BRo party), whereas two to four were notable at Greenville, NC, not far from tidewater, in January and February (JW). Sandwich Terns often linger into late November, but a total of seven or eight Dec. 31 at Ocracoke I., NC (MO, BR) was exceptional, a single Sandwich was also near Wilmington, NC, Dec. 29 (JBr). The only other noteworthy tern reports were of Forster's an excellent 1200 at Jekyll I., GA, Feb. 9 (PS) and one at far inland Lillington, NC, Dec. 15 (PH, MSt, HB).

Regional birders were overly (and, as it turned out, agonizingly) aware of a late winter alcid flight in Regions to our north. It is true that the Southern Atlantic Coast did have four alcid records, all of Razorbill. This would normally be considered a major alcid flight! But the reports of murre and Dovekies, so tantalizingly close to North Carolina, with a few puffins thrown in for good measure, made our puny four Razorbills

pale by comparison. Many birders combed the beaches for alcids, especially inlets and jetties, and one person even talked his way onto a fishing boat that went to the "cold" water n.e. of Oregon Inlet in February. The moral of the story is no one in this Region ever sees an alcid through purposeful field work! For the record, the four Razorbills were seen Dec. 31 in Oregon Inlet (PS, NB, PMcQ, BP), at Kure Beach, NC, Jan. 19 (TP, DW), at Huntington Beach S.P. Jan. 26–28 (DS, LG *et al.*), and at Emerald Isle, NC, Feb. 23 (RC, CE).

OWLS TO HUMMINGBIRDS

One of the very few convincing sight reports of Long-eared Owl came from Figure Eight I., NC, Feb. 9 (DCa). This is about the last place the species would be expected in the state, but the description leaves no doubt; it was also flushed from a cedar and perched in the open in broad daylight. I am not aware that Short-eared Owls make major "invasions" as do some of the other northern owls. None-the-less, an "invasion" occurred, particularly in e. North Carolina. Among numerous reports were seven west of Cordele, GA, Jan. 25 (TM *et al.*), six west of L. Phelps, NC, in January and February (HL *et al.*), and several each at Voice of America sites in Pitt and Beaufort, NC, during the season (ED, JW). The only N. Saw-whet Owl report was one seen and heard giving the 2-note call at Portsmouth I., NC, Dec. 30 (MO).

There were 2 reports of Common Nighthawks, providing the first winter records for Georgia. One was seen Dec. 10 at Decatur (MaO), and another was seen Dec. 22 on the Peachtree City CBC (PR, CL). Details seemed to rule out Lesser Nighthawk, and it would be unlikely that the latter species would be in urban areas. In addition, there were many records of Commons from the Atlanta area well into November. Whip-poor-wills probably winter regularly in small numbers near the coast, as least to Francis Marion N.F., SC. The 4 reports—one in North Carolina, 2 in South Carolina, and one in Georgia—were all near the coast.

At last there is a definitive

record of **Black-chinned Hummingbird** from the Region. An imm. male appeared Dec. 24 at a feeder at the Birdwatcher's Supply Company (of all places) in Roswell, GA (RCo). It remained until Jan. 11 and was seen and photographed by many birders; it was captured, measured, and banded Jan. 4 (BS) to provide additional documentation. As usual, there were reports of *Archilochus* hummingbirds, all from Carteret, NC. That state has a few conclusive winter records of Ruby-throated, but Black-chinned is still yet to be reliably reported from the Carolinas. Immature ♂ Rufous Hummingbirds were seen in Lancaster (JL, LG) and Florence (DF, DoF, RC, CE) in South Carolina, and at least five "Rufous" hummingbirds were present in the Atlanta area in the winter. Sargent banded at least three birds, all definitely Rufous. No Allen's or Broad-tailed yet for the Region!

FLYCATCHERS TO SHRIKES

A well-described **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was seen but not heard Dec. 16 near Marietta, GA (GS *et al.*). The complete eye ring, with no teardrop in back, and other marks, seem to rule out other *Empidonax*, although purists would require a specimen. This is a first winter record of this species for the Region. As might be expected, a few W. Kingbirds lingered into December; these essentially never overwinter. Reports were of singles Dec. 5 at Folly Beach, SC (LG, KC), Kure Beach, NC, Dec. 16–24 (GM, JN), Figure Eight I., NC, Dec. 24 (DCa), and Portsmouth I., NC, Dec. 30 (MO, BR *et al.*). An E. Kingbird was a surprise on a telephone wire in e. Chatham, NC, Dec. 30 (MN, HC, MM), particularly as the species is seldom seen after October.

It wasn't much of a winter for Horned Larks, though one near Cordele, GA, Dec. 2 (EM) was near the s. limit of the range. Perhaps surprisingly, there was only one report of a "non-Tree" swallow: a Barn at Huntington Beach S.P. Dec. 22 (LG). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher reports were out of hand. This is one of the marginal boldface birds on many Coastal Plain CBCs, often missed in cooler winters but not

unexpected in winters like this. Fortunately for this editor, the only spotted "non-Hermit" thrush was a Wood Thrush near Augusta Dec. 22 (RL, CB). A Gray Catbird Feb. 2 in *Greene*, GA (PS) was notable that late into the winter. The **Sprague's Pipit** that caused such excitement in South Carolina in November remained at Huntington Beach at least to Dec. 7 (RM, RCI). Many observers, as well as CBC totals, indicated a slight yet noticeable upswing in numbers of Loggerhead Shrikes. However, I would like to wait until a more normal winter passes, plus a few breeding seasons, before I can believe that shrikes are actually increasing in the Region.

VIREOS, WARBLERS

A warm winter means many White-eyed Vireo reports. They were found on CBCs ranging into the Piedmont at Marietta (JG) and Athens (PY) in Georgia, and in n. York (TP party) and *McCormick* (TK) in South Carolina. Solitary Vireos now winter practically over the entire Region, except the w. Piedmont of North Carolina; a notable count was 16 on the Peachtree City, GA, CBC Dec. 22 (*fide* TM). Orange-crowned Warblers wintered in perhaps their best numbers ever. There were numerous records for n. Georgia, including seven on the Atlanta CBC; several inland North Carolina CBCs (Jordan Lake, Goldsboro, Greenville) also had multiple sightings of Orange-crowns. A **Nashville Warbler** studied in great detail near Southport, NC, Jan. 1 (JN, GM) was about the 4th winter record for the state.

Barely qualifying for a winter record were two imm. **Yellow Warblers** at L. Mattamuskeet, NC, Dec. 2 (RD). The warbler of the season was South Carolina's 3rd **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, a female in a yard at Isle of Palms most of the winter (DH, m.ob.). Piedmont records for Black-and-white Warbler included birds at Charlotte Jan. 15 (HW) and on the Peachtree City CBC Dec. 22 (*fide* TM). An ad. ♂ **American Redstart** at Brookgreen Gardens, *Georgetown*, SC, Dec. 15 (TS) appears to be that state's 2nd winter record. The maritime forest at Buxton, NC,

again had several Ovenbirds in late December (PS *et al.*); another was seen along the Georgia coast near Darien Jan. 7 (D & DCo). Though there are at least 4 previous winter records for Georgia, two Wilson's Warblers that spent much of the winter near Gainesville (JP, m.ob.) was an excellent record, at least for longevity. Another Wilson's was tardy at L. Mattamuskeet Dec 2 (RD).

TANAGERS TO BUNTINGS

A **Scarlet Tanager** at a feeder in Charleston Dec. 28–Jan. 4 (JE) was a first in winter for South Carolina. Only one report of W. Tanager—in Dublin from Jan 24–Feb. 25 (TKP)—was a disappointment for a species that seemed to be more "regular" a decade ago. Rarely seen in winter, although not too unexpected, was an Indigo Bunting Dec 15 s. of LaGrange, NC (RD) Painted Buntings are more regular in winter than Indigos, and reports this season were of two (again) at feeders in Beaufort, NC (LH, SCu, *fide* JF) and one in a marsh at Columbia, SC, Dec. 15 (RC, CE). This editor had a magic touch with Clay-colored Sparrows, finding a group of three north of Beaufort Dec. 16–Jan. 20 (HL, JF, m.ob.) and also finding two west of L. Phelps, NC, Jan. 20 (HL, RD, JW, PW); no others were reported.

Single Lark Sparrows were good finds near Cornelia, GA, Dec. 19 (PHarv) and at Buxton, NC, Dec. 30 (HL). Unexpected was a sighting of a Henslow's Sparrow in the Piedmont Feb 23 at Townville, SC (PW). Near the poorly demarcated n. edge of the winter range were two Henslow's seen in Croatan N F near Newport, NC, Feb. 21 (JF) It is comforting that the once "rare" Lincoln's Sparrow was reported so often that all records cannot be mentioned in detail! The species was encountered in Georgia at 4 sites, in South Carolina at 2, and in North Carolina at 5; notable was a count of five south of LaGrange, NC, Feb. 3 (RD, HL). White-crowned Sparrows, rare in most of the Coastal Plain, were seen during the season in that province at Buxton (HL), New Bern (JE, RB, KW), La Grange (ED, RD) and Beaufort (JF) in North Carolina, and in *Laurens*

(TKP) in Georgia. The mild winter definitely contributed to a near lack of Lapland Longspurs; the only reports were of singles w. of L. Phelps, NC, Dec. 2 (RD) and at Huntington Beach S.P. Dec. 6 (LG, KC). Not surprisingly, Snow Buntings were difficult to find, being encountered only thrice, along the North Carolina coast: one at Bodie Island Dec. 29 (*vide* PS), one at Holden Beach Jan. 19 (GH, BG, HD), and five on Currituck Banks Dec. 14 (FA).

BLACKBIRDS TO CARDUELINE FINCHES

One often wonders if Brewer's Blackbird is regular in winter in the Region, except at a few spots (mainly in Georgia). It can certainly be overlooked among the hordes of other blackbirds, yet many of us have pored over such hordes in futility. However, this winter provided several notable records. A flock of 125 was observed at a new site south of Pungo L., NC, Feb. 4 (HWi); 65–80 were at a new site at Simpsonville, SC, Dec. 29 (PW); and 12 were at Augusta Dec. 22 (VW). These sites will hopefully be checked again next winter to see if the birds are reliable. The best total of Brewer's for the winter was 300 in *Laurens*, GA, where they are reasonably reliable (TKP). Perhaps a first far-inland winter record of Boat-tailed Grackle for South Carolina was a female at Santee N.W.R. Dec. 29 (*vide* DF). An ad ♂ Orchard Oriole was presumably correctly identified at Manteo, NC, Dec. 29 (DP), for a very rare winter record.

The winter finch story is starting to sound like a broken record. Purple Finches seem to be getting fewer each winter and are probably being displaced by House Finches (certainly at feeders). The latter continues to increase so much that space is not warranted to detail notable records. Surprisingly, Red Crossbills were reported: eight were found at Jordan L. Dec. 16 (BRo party), and 12 were found at the exact spot Dec. 30 (JK, TKr, *vide* SH). There were no sightings, acceptable or otherwise, of redpolls, Pine Grosbeaks, or White-winged Crossbills. Pine Siskins were generally uncommon, with most birders seeing a few, but with no counts of more than a few dozen

Evening Grosbeaks were also present but very uncommon, missed on many CBCs and by many birders. Nearly all counts were single-digit.

Observers: Fred Annand, Harry Armistead, Joe Bean, Clarence Belger, Ken Blackshaw, Rick Blom (RBI), Rich Boyd, Ned Brinkley, Patrick Brisse, Hal Broadfoot, John Brunjes (JBr), Kevin Calhoon, Halbert Carmichael, Carolina Bird Club, Derb Carter (DCa), Robin Carter, Jack Carusos, J.E. Cely, David Chamberlain, Roger Clark (RCI), Don & Doris Cohrs (D & DCo), Richard Cole (RCo), Sam Cooper, P.J. Crutchfield, Shirley Cuthrell (SCu), Ricky Davis, Eric Dean, Bruce Dralle, Harriet Duncan, Caroline Eastman, Jose Escobar, Dennis Forsythe, Donna Forsythe (DFo), John Fussell, Lex Glover, Joe Gould, Betty Grady, Steve Hall, Paul Hart, Paige Harvey (PHarv), Herb Hendrickson, Hop Hopkins (HHo), Gene Howe, Lois Howland, David Huff, Tim Kalbach, Jim Keighton, Tom Krakauer (TKr), Chris Lambrecht, Sarah Landrum, Jim Lasley, Harry LeGrand, Richard Lux, Margaret Martin, Greg Massey, Ellery McClintock, Roger McNeill, Paul McQuarry (PMcQ), Peggy Moore, Terry Moore, Jeremy Nance, Monica Nees, Perry Nugent, Mark Oberle (MaO), Michael O'Brien, John Paget, T.K. Patterson, Brian Patteson, Donald Perry, Jesse Perry (JPe), Taylor Piephoff, Paul Raney, Barbara Roth (BRo), Bob Russell, Paul Saraceni (PSa), Bob Sargent, Georgann Schmalz, Don Sheriff, Ramona Snavelly, Mark Spinks, Tonya Spires, Mary Stevens (MSt), Paul Sykes, Simon Thompson, Mike Tove, Gray & Harrison Tuttle, Peter Vankevich, Heathy Walker, Anne Waters, Vernon Waters, Haven Wiley (HWi), Ken Wilkins, Marianna Wilson, Peter Worthington, David Wright, John Wright, Paula Wright (PWt), Peter Yaukey.—**HARRY E. LeGRAND, JR.**, N.C. Natural Heritage Program, P. O. Box 27687, Raleigh, NC 27611.

SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

The beat (and heat) goes on; March, April, and May became the 15th to 17th consecutive months of above-normal temperature over most of the Region. Normally, a warm spring means a poor migration, as birds pour uninterrupted northward on S or SW winds. Fortunately, there were enough fronts and rainfall to slow down and force down migrants, so that the season received mixed reviews. A number of birders found the season better than normal, despite the downward trend in Neotropical migrants. There was a noticeable migration push around April 13–15.

The biggest weather feature was a "back-door" cold front that dropped down from the north on the afternoon of May 18. The high pressure center camped over the Northeast for several days, bringing strong NE and E winds to the North Carolina coast. Fortunately, birders were able to get offshore after the winds had abated, and some remarkable pelagic birds were found, including two species seen on just a handful of occasions in North America. Even those birders that watched from shore at Cape Hatteras and Cape Lookout, and those taking pelagic trips due south of Beaufort Inlet, normally rather bird-deficient waters, were rewarded with prized pelagic birds.

Abbreviations: C.R.N.R.A. (*Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, GA*).

LOONS TO CORMORANTS

Rare and somewhat late inland was a Red-throated Loon at L. Spivey near Atlanta, GA, Apr. 13 (PB). Observers in n. Georgia witnessed a fallout of Com. Loons onto lakes in that area Apr. 13–14. A remarkable 205 were counted Apr. 13 at Sweetwater Creek S.P. (PR), 100+ were at L. Lanier Apr. 14 (PM, TM), and 57 were at L. Spivey Apr. 13 (PB) Late

Commons in Georgia were at Dublin May 19 (TKP) and DeKalb Res. to May 31 (JS) Patterson found 7 nests, totalling 53 eggs, of Pied-billed Grebe in one marsh in n. *Laurens*, GA, Apr. 20. The only rare grebe for the season was an Eared, in breeding plumage, Mar. 12 in Core Sound near Lola, NC (PSa).

This was the best spring ever in coastal North Carolina for pelagic bird reports, thanks to a cold front that passed through May 18, bringing strong NE and E winds the next 4 days. The winds presumably pushed the birds coastward and almost certainly dammed up the north-bound migrants. The period May 21–25 produced phenomenal results both offshore and onshore. Ake and party were able to photograph an intermediate morph Herald Petrel (*Pterodroma arminjoniana*) about 50 mi s.e. of Cape Hatteras, and they saw a probable dark morph Herald also on that trip. Dave Lee has previously collected one, and observed one or two others, in waters off North Carolina; those were dark morph individuals. There are now perhaps a half-dozen records for the w. Atlantic. What was apparently the 3rd sighting for North America of Soft-plumaged Petrel (*P. mollis*)—almost certainly the *faea* race—was one seen by 25 birders out of Oregon Inlet May 25 over the 1000-fathom contour (MT, HL, RD, TH *et al.*). Previous sightings are one off Georgia Nov. 9, 1984 by Chris Haney, plus one off North Carolina by Lee (*AB* 38:146) June 3, 1981; because a specimen or photo is lacking, the species is not yet on the American Ornithologists' Union list of official North American birds. Although it is doubtful that these species will ever be found in triple-digit numbers *a la* Murphy's Petrel and Cook's Petrel in the deep water zone off California, it certainly points out that the deep water (1000+ fathoms) zone off North Carolina has the potential to produce notable *Pterodroma* records. Needless to say, more time will be spent in the future over 1000–2000 fathom waters! Other notable reports included single rare and late Manx Shearwaters from shore near Cape Hatteras May 21 (RA

party) and off that cape the next day (RA party). A Band-rumped Storm-Petrel was early and locally rare off Beaufort Inlet, NC, May 25 (JW). A tropicbird of uncertain identity was also seen on that trip. Over 90% of the tropicbirds in Regional waters are White-tailed, but Red-billed has been documented on a handful of occasions. Lest we forget the other 2 states, a record-early Cory's Shearwater for Georgia was a few miles off Savannah Apr. 21 (TM *et al.*).

The only reports of Am. White Pelican were of three Apr. 27 near Brunswick, GA (AA, MK) and two at Bear Island W.M.A., SC, May 16 (LG *et al.*). Up to six Great Cormorants were seen this season at N. Topsail Beach, NC (GG), and two were still at Cape Lookout, NC, May 25 (JF). Both cormorant species are increasing, and excellent inland counts of Double-crested were of 156 in Clayton, GA, Apr. 13 (PB) and 125 in Wayne, NC, Apr. 4 (ED). The species continues to nest at L. Ellis Simon, NC, where about 15 nests were counted Apr. 24 (JF, BH).

WADERS

A Least Bittern nest with 5 eggs was a good find near Macon, GA, May 5 (TI, CP). Even more notable was the finding of at least 4 nests of Great Blue Heron in a large area of beaver ponds in w. Cabarrus, NC, this spring (KK); this is apparently the first nesting in the Piedmont province of this Region. Certainly not nesting in the Piedmont, although notable in spring in this province, were six Great Egrets at C.R.N.R.A., Apr. 27 (A.A.S.) and three others Apr. 14 in nearby Clayton (A.A.S.). Far inland Snowy Egrets were found only in North Carolina, highlighted by five near Zebulon Apr. 19 (RD). A Tricolored Heron May 5 in Clayton, GA (PR, TMi *et al.*) was an excellent inland find in spring. Other herons of note were early Green-backed Herons Mar. 17 at 2 sites near Atlanta (D & PMcC, HG), migrant Black-crowned Night-Herons at Raven Rock S.P., NC, Apr. 13 & 27 (PH) and in Sykes's yard in Watkinsville, GA, Mar. 15, and a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron n. of Lillington, NC, Apr. 27 (PH, MP). A Glossy Ibis was rare and early Mar 30 inland near

Fayetteville, NC (PJC, DC). Seldom reported in spring, a Roseate Spoonbill was very early at the Jekyll I., GA, causeway Apr. 20–21 (BB). The large Wood Stork colony near Millen, GA, contained about 500 nests in May (AC, JM); most had two young ready to fledge.

WATERFOWL

Distressing news from Georgia was that a banded Black-bellied Whistling-Duck in the n. part of the state was tracked to a waterfowl breeder in s. Georgia who has been releasing the species for years to try to establish a wild population. The species has been reported from all 3 states in the Region, but fortunately the records committees have this duck listed as hypothetical or provisional, as a possible or probable escaped species. Always notable in Georgia, a Tundra Swan was seen Mar. 10–11 at Jekyll I. (CP, PS *et al.*); one May 25–26 at Bodie I., NC (RM *et al.*) must have been sick or injured. A Snow Goose flying over Chimney Rock Park, NC, Mar. 23 (ST) was quite a surprise.

A Green-winged Teal May 27–31 and later at Goldsboro, NC (ED), was surprisingly late, as were one to two N. Pintails in Clayton, GA, through the end of May (JS) and an Am. Wigeon near Greensboro, NC, May 29 (HH). A Eur. Wigeon Mar. 12 at an impoundment near Davis, NC (PSa), was presumably the same one reported at this site over the past few years. A Ring-necked Duck through May at Clayton, GA (PB *et al.*), was hardly unexpected, as the species lingers into summer somewhere in the Region each year. Considering the mild winter and warm spring, a Harlequin Duck on the late date of Apr. 13 at Huntington Beach S.P., SC (HLi, EL) was a real surprise. Seldom reported in May, except where breeding, was a presumably late migrant Hooded Merganser at Jekyll I. May 15 (GB).

HAWKS TO CRANES

A truly unique record, reported by a sailplane pilot, was of at least 3 dozen migrating Ospreys between Spartanburg and Chester, SC, Apr. 17 at 7000 feet elevation (*vide* BHi)! Thompson noted a very heavy diurnal bird migration at Tryon, NC, Apr. 15, with a good count of 35

Ospreys. An Osprey nest at L. Oconee, GA, Mar. 21 (BB, GW) provided a very rare Piedmont nesting record for that state. North Carolina had 4 reports, all coastal, of overshooting Am. Swallow-tailed Kites, about par for the season. Bald Eagle sightings continue upward, especially in Georgia and North Carolina, where nesting pairs still are in single digits. Thompson's Apr. 15 hawk flight at Tryon included 340 Broad-wingeds, along with two N. Harriers, three Sharp-shinned Hawks, two Cooper's Hawks, two Merlins, and five Am. Kestrels. A Golden Eagle along the Blue Ridge near Jones Gap S.P., SC, Apr. 27 (PW) was the sole report. In addition to those at Tryon, the only other inland Merlins were found Apr. 11 at Gainesville, GA (GV) and Apr. 27 (two birds) near Conyers, GA (PR). A pair of Peregrine Falcons was present for the 2nd year at Chimney Rock Park, NC, but apparently did not nest in 1991 (ST).

A Ruffed Grouse heard drumming in Dawson Forest, GA, Apr. 21 (JP, JC) was presumably at the s. limit of the range, which barely enters this Region. Georgians, looking for a reliable spot for Black Rail in their state, struck gold this spring. One was heard calling in a marsh in n. Greene, Apr. 27 by Sykes, Yaukey, and party in their Big Day effort. Over the next month, many birders visited the marsh, with one hearing two birds there. There appear to be no previous inland records for breeding (or possible breeding) by Black Rail in that state. In this same marsh, King Rail, Virginia Rail, and Sora were also found this season, a rare instance of four rail species in a single marsh inland (*vide* PY). Good inland rail counts were of eight Virginias in the above marsh Apr. 27 (PS *et al.*) and nine Soras, along with five Virginia Rails, flushed near Macon, GA, Apr. 7 (TI). A Com. Moorhen Mar. 24 at Norcross, GA (JFe) was rare for the Atlanta area, and the Sandhill Crane present this winter at Lockwood Plantation, Berkeley, SC, was last reported Mar. 16 (TK).

SHOREBIRDS

One of our rarest spring migrants, Lesser Golden-Plover, was encountered just once—in a

plowed field near Hopkins, SC, May 4–5 (BW, LG, KC). A good inland count of Semipalmated Plover was of 50 at DeKalb Res., GA, May 21 (JS). Peak counts of Upland Sandpiper, inland as usual in spring, were 15 near Dublin, GA (TKP), and 10 at Goldsboro, NC (ED). The only inland Sanderling was at Winston-Salem, NC, May 21–23 (RS *et al.*). A report of five W. Sandpipers in the Atlanta area May 21 likely pertained to Semipalmateds, as Westerns are very rare inland in spring and are early migrants. A Western along the coast, in breeding plumage, was very late May 22 at Eagle I., NC (SC), and a banded Western was late May 16 at Bear I., SC (LG). Inland White-rumped Sandpipers were found May 11–25 at 4 sites, the best total being four at Winston-Salem May 21 (RS, ToM). The 3rd spring Baird's Sandpiper for Georgia was an immaculately described and photographed bird at Clayton Apr. 14–15 (GB, PR *et al.*, ph. GB). I have been reluctant to accept reports of this species in spring in the Region, and North Carolina has no well-documented spring record; however, this report seems beyond reproach.

Inland Dunlins were encountered near Dublin, Goldsboro, and Jordan L.; unlike most shorebirds, this species can occur inland from March to May Curlew Sandpiper reports, as usual, were limited to the North Carolina Outer Banks; one was at Oregon Inlet May 18 (JF) and two were at North Pond at Pea I., May 26 (RD, MT *et al.*). An excellent spring tally of 200 Stilt Sandpipers was made at the spoil area in s. Jasper, SC, May 4 (LG, KC, JB). The only inland report of Stilt Sandpiper came from n.e. Laurens, GA, with seven Apr. 6 and one until Apr. 14 (TKP). Exceptionally late was a Long-billed Dowitcher seen and heard near Wilmington, NC, May 27 (RD). The birding hotspot in n. Greene, GA, produced an excellent 140 Com Snipes Mar. 9, with four still present May 11 (PS, PY).

It was a big season for phalaropes. Single Wilson's, very rare in the Region in spring, were found at waste treatment ponds at Winston-Salem May 18 (DD) and Goldsboro May 27 (ED) Inland Red-necked Phalaropes, good finds at any season,

involved birds at Winston-Salem May 19–23 (DDe, AN *et al.*), with an excellent six there May 21 (RS, ToM); singles at Goldsboro May 16 & 27 (ED); and one at Clayton, GA, May 26–27 (A.A.S.), just the 2nd for the Atlanta area. The species was found often onshore along the North Carolina coast May 19–24, the better totals being seven at Eagle I. May 20 (SC, GM) and five at Hatteras Inlet May 19 (JF). This species and Red Phalarope were found, as expected, on North Carolina pelagic trips; notable Red reports were a respectable total of 75 off Beaufort Inlet Apr. 12 (JF, BH), three (one in breeding plumage) off Beaufort Inlet on the late date of May 11 (RD), and one very tardy bird in winter plumage onshore at Eagle I. May 20–25 (GM, SC).

JAEGERS TO TERNS

Single Parasitic Jaegers seen from shore in Georgia were noteworthy: on the beach at Jekyll I. Apr. 27 (PS, BD, CP, PY) and flying between Jekyll I. and Little Cumberland I. May 4 (AA, BB, HG, TM). Long-tailed Jaegers were widely reported in North Carolina waters; as expected, some were seen from shore at Cape Hatteras, one of the few places on the Atlantic Coast where a birder has a fair chance of seeing one without taking a pelagic trip. South Polar Skuas were seen only on pelagic trips off North Carolina 1), with the count of four on the May 25 trip off Oregon Inlet being quite impressive.

Laughing Gulls appeared inland at Jordan L. and Goldsboro in North Carolina and Augusta, Laurens, and Clayton in Georgia. Little Gulls were nowhere to be found this winter or spring, the first time in perhaps a decade the species has avoided detection. The wintering Com. Black-headed Gull at Morehead City, NC, remained to Apr. 16 (JF). A first-winter Iceland Gull, about the 6th for Georgia, was studied at Jekyll I. Mar. 10 (PS, CP, TI, JA). That state's tally of Lesser Black-backed Gull records continues to increase, with two at Jekyll I. Apr. 27 (PS *et al.*) and one at Sapelo I. Mar. 9–10 (BDr, PR, GR). Another Lesser was late at Onslow Beach, NC, May 14 (JF) Georgia's wintering

Glaucous Gull, about as rare there as Iceland Gull, lingered at Jekyll I. at least to May 10 (PS)! Other Glaucous, all immatures, were two about 40 mi off Beaufort Inlet, NC, Mar. 16 (JF, HL, JW) and one at the Cedar I. ferry terminal May 4 (JF).

Although Roseate Terns must migrate to their breeding grounds in New York and New England via an offshore route (as they simply aren't seen onshore), they are practically never seen on pelagic trips. Davis was fortunate to study one off Morehead City May 11; another was at Cape Hatteras May 10–12 (SL, N & PaM). This was a memorable season for Arctic Tern along and off the North Carolina coast, with the best flurry of sightings ever. In addition to the many reports in Table 1, Fussell had an adult in breeding plumage on the beach at Cape Lookout May 24, and on the following day a very tired bird believed in 2nd-year plumage was also on the beach at that cape (JF). There is little doubt that the strong onshore winds May 18–22 blew Arctics closer to shore than usual. The species is generally a rare offshore migrant, difficult to pick out among the much more numerous Common Terns. A Least Tern Mar. 5 was ridiculously early at Bear I., SC (LG), and two were notable inland in n.e. Pitt, NC, May 4 (JW). A few Sooty Terns were in the Hatteras Inlet–Cape Hatteras area in May (JF, MaL), but no nesting evidence was found.

CUCKOOS TO FLYCATCHERS

Black-billed Cuckoo, now one of our rarest migrant species, was detected only at Wadmalaw I., SC, Apr. 28 (DB) and at nearby Charleston May 1 (TK, RC). Rarely seen in c. Georgia was a Short-eared Owl in Laurens, Mar. 16 (TKP). Sad to say, a good percentage of the N. Saw-whet Owl records for the Region are of road-killed birds. The Saw-whet this spring was an immature that flew into a truck and was killed in s.e. Durham, NC, in early March (*vide* SH). Two Chuck-will's-widows calling Apr. 25 through May in the s.e. corner of Guilford, NC (RM), were near the inner edge of the breeding range.

One must wonder if Olive-sided Flycatcher had ever been

photographed in the Region prior to this spring. Wonder no more, as McNeill photographed one, the only report for the season, at Greensboro on the surprising date of May 31 (HLi, HH, RM). Although Willow Flycatcher breeds in the North Carolina mountains less than 10 mi from the South Carolina border, until this spring the species had not been found conclusively on territory in the latter state. On May 14, Thompson found two singing males along the Pacolet R. near Landrum, in the upper Piedmont, and additional reports were made into the summer. Birds returned to Greene, GA, this spring (PY), and Lynch found several in Caldwell, NC, along NC 268 in mid-May that appeared to be on territory. Willows banded and measured at York, SC, May 13, 17, & 24 (BHi) were almost certainly migrants, but a singing bird May 22 at Tryon, NC (ST), could have been either a local breeder or a migrant. A migrant Least Flycatcher, singing in Fairfield, SC, Apr. 30 (TK *et al.*), was a good find, but no one found Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Despite having many trees in their territory cut down, a pair of Gray Kingbirds, perhaps the only breeding pair in the Region, set up home again at the Jekyll I. Convention Center this spring (m.ob.).

LARKS TO VIREOS

A Horned Lark at the Dublin, GA, airport Mar. 16 (TKP) was notable, and it appeared the bird might be a local breeder, as it was present later in the season. Record early for Georgia were two N. Rough-winged Swallows Mar. 1 at Sweetwater Creek S.P. (D & PMcC) and a Barn Swallow Mar. 9 at Commerce L. (JP). Fish Crows continue to spread inland and are now "becoming rather commonplace around area lakes and parks" (TM) in the Atlanta vicinity. A pair at Moss L. near Shelby, NC, Apr. 22 (ST) might have furnished the innermost record for that state. Common Ravens nested in a quarry in Rockingham, NC, in 1989, and this season a pair nested successfully in a quarry in n. Forsyth, NC, just s.w. of Rockingham (RS, ToM); quarry nesting is a new phenomenon in the Region.

An out of range "breeding" record for House Wren, perhaps

simply a male building dummy nests, was reported from Sumter, SC. The male built 3 nests in a bluebird box in April, but a mate was never seen (LG, EDa, SM). One also wonders if a nest of Marsh Wren near Macon, GA, May 19 (TI), with no young or eggs, was a dummy nest. Although this species breeds inland in many parts of the continent, all breeding records for this Region are from tidal marshes. A White-eyed Vireo at Commerce L., GA, Mar. 9 (JP) was so early that it might have overwintered. There were reports of Solitary Vireos, apparently on breeding grounds, from 2 areas of Gwinnett, GA (JV, JH), and one singing May 30 in s.e. Lancaster, SC (LG) was certainly not a migrant. As expected, Philadelphia Vireos were noted only in the Atlanta area, with sightings Apr. 20 and May 4 & 5 (A.A.S.).

WARBLERS

I don't know whether to believe it or not, but a detailed report of *Bachman's Warbler* was received. A male was seen, but not heard, in the traditional (former?) breeding area in Francis Marion N.F., SC, along I'On Swamp Road, Mar. 25 (W & JD). The description, location, and date are all fine and dandy, but the observers, from out of state, were obviously searching for the species and thus could not be completely objective. The birding world is still looking for a report that is confirmed by numerous observers over a several-day period. A Tennessee Warbler was very early Apr. 12 at Tryon, NC (ST). One of the few warblers that appears to be increasing is the Orange-crowned. Wintering numbers, at least in coastal North Carolina, seem to be on the rise, and Atlanta area birders found the species in surprising abundance. A count of 20 on Apr. 13 along the Chattahoochee R. near that city (A.A.S.) was remarkable. Notable also for Georgia were an early Chestnut-sided Warbler Apr. 13 near Stone Mountain (PB) and a tardy Yellow-rumped Warbler May 27 in Clayton (PB, BDr, AM). The Black-throated Gray Warbler that wintered at Isle of Palms, SC, remained through Mar. 16 (TK, RC). A singing Cerulean Warbler near Fayetteville, NC,

Apr. 16 (PJC, JHu) was a rare migrant that far to the east, as was a ♀ Cerulean Apr. 27 at Augusta (AW, VW). Glover had several Black-and-white Warblers May 31 on territory n.e. of Kershaw, SC, along the edge of the species' breeding range. A Worm-eating Warbler was early Apr. 7 in e. Pitt, NC (JW). Hilton banded single Connecticut Warblers near York, SC, May 13, 14, & 24, the last being a record late date for the state. The only other Connecticut reported was near Atlanta May 11 (A.A.S.).

TANAGERS TO CARDUELINE FINCHES

Along the s.e. edge of the breeding range was a pair of Scarlet Tanagers near Mayesville, SC, Apr. 30 (LG, CM). Also on that date and near the same town, Glover saw a ♀ Painted Bunting, possibly a rare local breeder. The only Dickcissels were apparent migrants—singles May 3 at Bodie I. (WS) and May 4 in e. Halifax, NC (RD). A Lark Sparrow was a good find at Whalebone Beach, Currituck, NC, Apr. 4 (KKi); but much better was a breeding-plumaged ♂ Lark Bunting not far away at Southern Shores May 21 (AV)—the 3rd spring record, and about the 6th state record, for North Carolina. A Savannah Sparrow lingered to May 19 in Clayton, GA (A.A.S.). A singing Henslow's Sparrow near Aurora, NC, Apr. 16 (SC), not found in May, was considered a probable migrant, whereas one singing along NC 211 in s. Brunswick, NC, May 27 (RD) was likely a breeder. The species is known from other sites in the latter county in summer. Infrequent in spring, Le Conte's Sparrow was found in n. Greene, GA, Mar. 9, 16, & 30 (PS *et al.*), perhaps representing just one bird. An ad. White-crowned Sparrow at a feeder at James I., Mar. 11 (LG) was good for the South Carolina coast. Probably the best-studied Harris' Sparrow ever in the Region was a breeding-plumaged bird in n.e. Durham, NC, Apr. 21 to early May (NB, m.ob.). This was about the 5th state record; all 7 members of the N.C. Bird Records Committee managed to view this individual.

Two ♂ Brewer's Blackbirds at Goat I., Santee N.W.R., SC, Mar. 10 (TK, RC *et al.*) were at a

somewhat regular locale, and 30 Brewer's were notable at Augusta Mar. 7 (AW, VW). Red Crossbill apparently has not been conclusively recorded breeding in Georgia, though it does occur sporadically in summer in the mountains. Strongly suggestive of breeding was a pair with two fledglings visiting a feeder near Cedartown May 10–31 (JS, BDr, L & AH). Crossbills have been practically absent in the Region, even in mid-winter, the past 15 years. Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks, rare to uncommon this spring, did not stage a spring build-up, nor were any stragglers reported.

Observers: Robert Ake, Jerry Amerson, Anselm Atkins, Atlanta Audubon Society, Dana Beach, Giff Beaton, Jim Beatty, Bill Blakeslee, Patrick Brisse, Norm Budnitz, Kevin Calhoon, Jack Carusos, Doris Chambers, Roger Clark, Sam Cooper, Arthur Crowe, P.J. Crutchfield, Evelyn Dabbs (EDa), Ricky Davis, Eric Dean, Doug DeNeve (DDe), David Disher, Bruce Dralle (BDr), Wallace & Jeanne Dreyfoos, Barny Dunning, Jim Feeley (JFe), John Fussell, Hugh Garrett, Lex Glover, Gilbert Grant, Paul Hart, Scott Hartley, Herb Hendrickson, Larry & Annette Henson, Bill Hilton Jr. (BHi), Joel Hitt, Bob Holmes, Jarvis Hudson (JHu), Ty Ivey, Tim Kalbach, Margaret Kavanaugh, Kerrie Kirkpatrick (KKi), Ken Knight, Sterling Lacy, Harry LeGrand, Elizabeth Link, Henry Link (HLi), Merrill Lynch, Marcia Lyons (MaL), Smitty Mallard, John Manning, Chris Marsh, Greg Massey, Dennie & Pam McClure, Roger McNeill, Terry Miller (TMI), Neal & Pat Moore (N & PaM), Peggy Moore, Terry Moore, Tom Mowbray (ToM), Adrienne Myles, Anne Newsome, John Paget, Nick Pantelidis Jr., T.K. Patterson, Carl Perry, Mike Peters, Paul Raney, Gail Russell, Paul Saraceni (PSa), Jeff Sewell, Ramona Snavelly, William Standaert, Paul Sykes, Simon Thompson, Mike Tove, Alan Valpey, Greg Valpey, Joel Volpi, Anne Waters, Vernon Waters, Gene Wenger, Bob Wood, Peter Worthington, John Wright, Peter Yaukey.—HARRY E. LeGRAND, JR., N.C. Natural Heritage Program, P.O. Box 27687, Raleigh, NC 27611.

FLORIDA REGION

H.P. Langridge

The unusually warm winter in south Florida influenced seldom reported species to winter in unprecedented numbers; many tarried into March and April. Except for disturbed weather on April 20, which created modest fall-outs in south Florida and an impressive one on the Dry Tortugas and St. George Island on April 21, clear, sunny skies and hot weather the rest of the spring period until mid-May kept most migrants moving merri-ly northward.

Lake Okeechobee, a main reservoir for south Florida, was 8 inches below normal May 20. But the following week, record rains and back pumping into water storage areas lifted Lake Okeechobee and the entire water storage system to almost normal levels. These heavy rains helped ease the 3-year drought even before the summer rainy season, but they created temporarily poor feeding conditions for waders, resulting in an extensive wader movement northward and desertion of a rookery.

On the evening of May 31, Wes Biggs, state coordinator for the Florida Breeding Bird Atlas, was hit in the left forearm by rifle

fire while conducting a nocturnal bird census near Lake City. The latest prognosis is that partial use of the arm is expected.

Flycatchers grabbed the headlines, with an Olive-sided, a La Sagra's, a probable Ash-throated, and a Variegated. The strange occurrence of Wilson's and Leach's storm-petrels feeding along northeast Florida beaches was a lifetime opportunity for observers who dislike riding on boats, but some of the petrels were later found dead.

Abbreviations: A.B.S. (*Archbold Biological Station, Highlands Co.*), B.G.M. (*Belle Glade Marina, Palm Beach Co.*), C.F. (*Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Recreation Area, Dade Co.*), D.T. (*Dry Tortugas*), E.N.P. (*Everglades Nat'l Park*), F.O.S.R.C. (*Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee*), S.G.I. (*St. George I., Franklin Co.*). Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO CORMORANTS

On Apr. 23 (JPK), a heavy rain confounded 36 Com. Loons that mistook Lake City Airport, *Columbia*, for a pond. Game personell captured the loons with nets and by hand and released them at a nearby lake. The only apparent injuries to the loons were bloody feet from "hopping" on the asphalt.

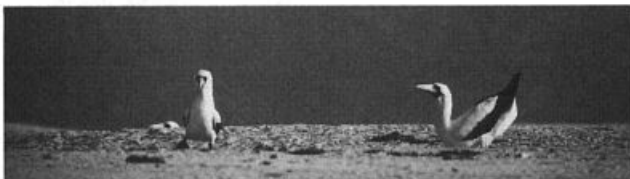


S.A.

At the end of May along the n.e. coast of Florida, many storm-petrels were strangely feeding near the surf among bathers over an unusual amount of sargasso weed. At Flagler Beach, *Flagler*, there was one Wilson's May 24 (LMB, PCP); at Ft. Clinch S.P., *Nassau*, two Wilson's May 27 (BSR, HMT), 20 Leach's May 25 (HJB), three Leach's May 27 (JHH, BPM); and at Anastasia State Recreation Area, *St. John's*, eight Leach's May 25 (JES, PCP) and four (AL, BL, CK) and eight (BDN, DAE) Leach's May 26. In addition, 12 dead Leach's were picked up on beaches at Anastasia. In Florida Bay May 11 (ph. †AS, SS), a Leach's Storm-Petrel was pursued by boat, photographed, and studied carefully.

Although there are summer sightings at St. Marks N.W.R., *Leon*, May 31 (RC) was very late for a Com. Loon there.

During a booby search of channel and boundary markers by boat at D.T., Apr. 24 (BH, CWB, HPL, m.ob.), observers had splendid flying views of the seldom reported **Band-rumped Storm-Petrel**. For the 3rd consecutive year on Hospital Key at D.T., two Masked Booby chicks fledged this spring (ME), but 2 nests with eggs on a lower level washed away. The rare **Red-footed Booby** perched on a mangrove limb on Bush Key, D.T., Mar. 19 (PS, GFW) for the earliest date ever there, and on a D.T. boundary marker Apr. 23 (RS). Three Brown Pelicans, for the 4th occurrence in *Alachua*, flew over Newman's L. Apr. 29 (IJK) and five were over A.B.S., *Highlands*, Apr. 14 (JG). This species is now seen more regularly inland. At the phosphate mines, *Polk*, Mar. 23 (PJF), 4650 Double-crested Cormorants produced the highest count ever there.



Adult Masked Boobies on Hospital Key, Dry Tortugas, Florida, in April 1991. The species nested successfully here again this season. Photograph/Kevin T. Karlson.

HERONS TO HAWKS

After 2–3 years of low water, heavy local rains Mar. 3 created poor feeding conditions that drove 50,000 waders n. out of E.N.P. (JCO). Two Reddish Egrets in full alternate plumage at Hagen's Cove, *Taylor*, May 5 (NOW) may suggest a northward extension of their breeding range. A nesting colony of 8000 pairs of White Ibises near the *Broward/Palm Beach* border completely vanished a week later, Apr. 9 (JCO), because local heavy rains resulted in poor feeding conditions. An imm. Roseate Spoonbill, occasional in *Alachua* in summer, was seen s. of Gainesville May 2 (MTT, DGW).

Fifteen Snow Geese in *Marian* Mar. 1 (JBW *et al.*) were unusual so far south. On Apr. 23 (JEC), 100 N. Shovelers made a very good number this late at St. Marks N.W.R., *Leon*. The phosphate mines produced a ♂ Surf Scoter May 12 (ph. PJF), the 2nd for *Polk*, and the excellent number of 5300 Ruddy Ducks.

A flock of 16 Am. Swallow-tailed Kites at E.N.P. on the late date of May 9 (PS) was puzzling, since they should have been on breeding territories. Black-shouldered Kites apparently are still doing well in s. Florida, with a pair producing two fledged young and one downy chick in *Dade* May 25 (PWS, SAS), and a nest in n.w. *Broward* Apr. 28 (BHH, JH). A juv. Bald Eagle tarried May 3–12 (WBR *et al.*), for the first sighting ever for D.T. This spring, the 2-day aerial survey for Short-tailed Hawks by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission in central s. Florida produced only a single bird (MR). Two at Green Swamp, *Polk*, Mar. 2 (PJF) and one there May 6 (CLG) indicated possible nesting. At the very e. edge of its range, a Crested Caracara was spotted from the Miami Canal, *Palm Beach*, Mar. 9 (JB, ER), only the 4th county sighting.

TURKEY TO TERNS

Despite rampant development in *Palm Beach*, 13 Wild Turkeys visited a solar feeder near a natural area w. of Jupiter Mar. 13 (EB *et al.*). On Apr. 28 (NOW) in *Dixie*, 20 Black Rails called on territory, for a good show. Florida's first record of a bird identified as a Lesser Sandhill Crane occurred at Payne's Prairie, *Alachua*, Mar. 7–18 (SAN; details to Florida Field Naturalist).

An Am. Oystercatcher, very rare on the Keys, was on Big Pine Key May 16 (SF). Two Black-necked Stilts Mar. 24 (NOW) in *Leon* were the earliest ever there and only the 3rd spring sighting. The good number of 25 Spotted Sandpipers were counted at George's L., *Putnam*, May 20 (LNM). The phosphate mines in *Polk* produced excellent numbers of shorebirds again this year: 12,500 peeps, mostly Least Sandpipers Mar. 23, 1500 Stilt Sandpipers May 4, and 2100 Short-billed Dowitchers Apr. 6 (PJF).

Eighty Caspian Terns resting near Belle Glade Apr. 6–9 (BHH *et al.*) was a remarkable number for *Palm Beach*. Very seldom seen on D.T. in spring, two Caspians perched on the s. coal



Black Noddy (lower bird) with Brown Noddy on Bush Key, Dry Tortugas, Florida, in April 1991. Photograph/Kevin T. Karlson.

dock beside Royal Terns Apr. 26 (CH *et al.*). Three Royals were a surprise inland at A.B.S. Apr. 2 (AJB). An Arctic Tern, always a good find in Florida, was photographed on Islamorada Key May 13 (ph. WH). On Pelican Shoals, *Monroe*, May 30 (MR, PC), a flock of 250–270 Roseate

Terns with eggs was fewer than the 500 last year, but 3 pairs of Bridled Terns there was an increase over last year. A few Roseates were nesting on a rooftop at Marathon May 31 (MR, PC). Two Black Noddies on Bush Key, D.T., missed last year despite diligent searching, delighted over 300 observers Apr. 19–22 (GL, m.ob.), with one staying at least to May 9 (HPL, BHO).

PIGEONS TO WAXWINGS

Not too surprising, a White-crowned Pigeon overshot and reached Hypoluxo I., *Palm Beach*, Apr. 6 (HPL, GSH). Fifty White-winged Doves 18 mi w. of Lake Park, *Palm Beach*, near orange groves May 25, was a remarkable number this far north (BHH). Only 2 sightings of Black-billed Cuckoos were reported: one at Ft. DeSoto Apr. 28 (PSW) and one at D.T. Apr. 27 (HWK *et al.*). For this year, 35 Yellow-billed Cuckoos was a good number on D.T. Apr. 20 (GL, m.ob.). Mangrove Cuckoo has not been confirmed yet as breeding in *Pinellas* for the Bird Breeding Atlas, but one at Ft. DeSoto Park Apr. 27 (ASW, PSW) and one near St. Petersburg May 25 (RWS) kindled optimism.

At Eco Pond in E.N.P., the wintering Groove-billed Ani was last reported Apr. 28 (AMC) with two Smooth-billed Anis. Two species of owls occurred on D.T.: Burrowing Owl, rare there, Apr. 19–May 1 (GL, m.ob.), and Short-eared Owl, an occasional visitor, Apr. 25–30 (HPL, m.ob.). A Burrowing on Mar. 9 (FJ, DE) was also seen on Dog I., *Franklin*, where rare. At A.B.S. Mar. 10 (AJB), 23 singing Whip-poor-wills must have been a stirring experience. A continuing southerly expansion of Chimney Swifts was evident, with six in Homestead May 11 (JCO). A hummingbird identified as a ♀ Cuban Emerald, about the 13th sighting in Florida and the U.S., was reported from Mahogany Hammock, E.N.P., May 4–7 (†CWB, †MA, †LSA, *et al.*; details to F.O.S.R.C.), but still no specimen or photograph exists for this species in the United States.

During disturbed weather near the coast, an Olive-sided Flycatcher, very seldom seen in s.

Florida, was found e. of Homestead; it was studied for 15 minutes Apr. 20 (BH, EH, HPL, VV, EHR). A very good count of 12 Least Flycatchers called beside the Miami Canal, *Palm Beach*, Mar. 31 (BHH). A *La Sagra's Flycatcher*, the 7th sighting in the U.S., brought hundreds of observers with varying success to Islamorada Apr. 7-21 (PWS, SAS, JCS *et al.*; accepted by F.O.S.R.C.). Observers studied and photographed a small *Myiarchus* on D.T. Apr. 20 that was considered a probable Ash-throated Flycatcher (RM, ph. †GL, †BZ *et al.*; details to F.O.S.R.C.).

Accolades to Robert Bradbury for discovering, photographing, and taking detailed notes on a *Variiegated Flycatcher* that rested for 4 hours on Garden Key, D.T., Mar. 15 (†ph. RB, MF, AB; ph. to Florida Museum of Natural History, accepted by F.O.S.R.C.). This is the first record for Florida and only the 3rd for North America. Details were submitted to Florida Field Naturalist.

Unusual away from s. Florida and the Keys, three Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported: two at Cedar Key Apr. 9 (DCH) & 18 (BPM, MG), and one in w. *Broward* Apr. 12 (JB). In s. Florida, some vagrant western flycatchers usually persevere in their wintering areas well into spring. For example, the 1989 Cassin's Kingbird stayed until Apr. 22 and the 1990 Ash-throated Flycatcher until Apr. 28. This year the wintering *Couch's Kingbird*, the 3rd for Florida identified by call, was last seen at B.G.M. Apr. 7 (HPL, EB). At the phosphate mines, *Polk*, a Tree Swallow was very late on May 27 (PJF). For the 4th consecutive year, the Bahama Swallow returned to Cutler Ridge, *Dade*, Mar. 2-May 31 (PWS, SAS, m.ob.) to socialize with nesting Cave Swallows.

A calling Am. Crow Apr. 26 (HMS) was only the 2nd record for S.G.I. Over 300 Gray Catbirds crowded D.T. during a fall-out there Apr. 20 (GL, m.ob.). On May 31 (CLG), 27 N. Mockingbirds were in a flock in the Green Swamp, *Polk*, to reveal again that some members of this species migrate. Three *Bahama Mockingbirds* furnished the 12th-14th U.S. sightings: one at C.F., *Dade*, Apr.

14-May 11 (CP, BE, LM, KM, *et al.*; LSA, tape to F.O.S.R.C.); one seen singing at Hypoluxo I., *Palm Beach*, May 11 (†DC); and one on Key Largo, *Monroe*, May 25 (†PWS, SAS, *et al.*). In Tallahassee, 29 dead Cedar Waxwings were found Mar. 27 (DCB). Strong winds blowing the birds into the side of a building was the possible cause.

VIROES TO FINCHES

Another Thick-billed Vireo, the 8th U.S. sighting and the 3rd photographed, was spotted on



Thick-billed Vireo at Islamorada, Florida, March 11, 1991. Photograph/Adrian Wander.

Islamorada Mar. 11-25 (†THK, †CHK, †ph. AW, WD, *et al.*; accepted by F.O.S.R.C.). Only one Black-whiskered Vireo was found in the Tampa Bay area May 13 (RTP), so the cowbird presence has not completely eliminated this species in the area. A well-marked Black-whiskered, rare this far north, overshot to S.G.I., *Franklin*, Apr. 23 (EC) & 27 (DM, JC, KN). Two Philadelphia Vireos were seen at Ft. DeSoto Park, *Pinellas*: one was very early, Mar. 21-22 (LSA, MSW, *et al.*; phs. to Tall Timbers Research Station), and one was early, Apr. 5 (LSA, MSW, AHM).

Except for the fall-out Apr. 20, warblers were exceptionally scarce this spring. Part of the western flavor was a ♀ Black-throated Gray Warbler Apr. 24 (HPL, DMK), the first spring sighting for D.T. Surprisingly, the Dry Tortugas again produced an "Audubon's" form of the Yellow-rumped Warbler Mar. 20-21 (PS, GFW). During the Apr. 20 fall-out at D.T., over 400 Palm Warblers flushed from the parade ground like "flocks of longspurs" (GL, m.ob.); at Spanish River, *Palm Beach*, the

excellent numbers of 26 Worm-eating Warblers and 50 Ovenbirds (BHH) were counted; and at D.T., 50 Ovenbirds, over 100 N. Waterthrushes, and 75 Com. Yellowthroats (GL, m.ob.) swarmed over Garden Key.

A ♂ black-backed Stripe-headed Tanager from the s. Bahamas thrilled observers at C.F. Apr. 1-6 (JCS, m.ob.). The unprecedented number of 11 wintering Blue Grosbeaks in a single flock persisted at B.G.M. through Mar. 31 (HPL, GSH), with three Apr. 7 (HPL, WB). Two ♂ *Lazuli Buntings*, Florida's 2nd and 3rd sightings, visited feeders; one at *Alachua* Mar. 25-26 (†RDW; details to F.O.S.R.C.), and one at Ponte Vedra Beach, *St. Johns*, Mar. 20-21 (†CHC; details to F.O.S.R.C.). A wintering Dickcissel at B.G.M. was still there Apr. 5 (HPR); five were migrating at D.T. Apr. 20 (GL, *et al.*); one at Cedar Key, *Levy*, Apr. 28 (DCH); and two at S.G.I., *Franklin*, Apr. 23-24 (JEC, RSW).

A wintering Clay-colored Sparrow, unusual in Florida, stayed at A.B.S., *Highlands*, until mid-March (JWF), and another was seen Mar. 3 (PT) at Lake Alfred, *Polk*. At Lake Ida, *Palm Beach*, seven Lark Sparrows, now unusual in s. Florida, spent a week Mar. 6-12 (RBo, *et al.*). One Lark Sparrow, a rare migrant at Ft. DeSoto Park, strangely stayed 17 days, Apr. 6-22 (LAH, RDG, m.ob.). Six Lincoln's Sparrows was a good number near the Miami Canal, *Palm Beach*, Mar. 31 (BHH).

Four wintering Orchard Orioles (even a single winterer is extraordinary in s. Florida) were last seen at B.G.M. Mar. 31 (HPL, GSH), with one staying until Apr. 6 (BHH). Twenty-one Yellow-headed Blackbirds, unusual in Florida, were counted s. of Bartow, *Polk*, Mar. 30 (DCa), to equal the astounding number of over 20 seen this winter in *Palm Beach*. Three still lingered at Twenty-mile Bend, *Palm Beach*, Apr. 3 (HPL, RB); three at Lake Harbor, *Palm Beach*, Mar. 31 (HPL, GSH); one at Florida City Apr. 3 (HPR); and two in s. *Dade* in late March (PWS). Shiny Cowbirds are still migrating into Florida but possibly in more modest numbers, with a high of

14 on D.T. Apr. 23 (BH *et al.*). A ♂ House Finch, possibly an escapee, visited a feeder in W. Palm Beach May 28 (JN).

EXOTICS

Black-hooded Parakeets seem to be thriving in s. Miami and Coquina Key, *Pinellas* (PWS, RTP).

Contributors: (Subregional editors in boldface) Lyn Atherton, Mike Austin, Jocelyn Baker, Alfredo Begazo, Hal Belcher, Wes Biggs, Richard Bowen (RBo), Elwood Bracey, Robert Bradbury, Linda Bremer, Al Brown, D. Bryan, Pete Calla, Dan Canterbury (DCa), James E. Cavanagh, Ron Christen, Dan Cimbaro, Clifford Cole, **Mort Cooper**, Jim Cox, William Drummond, Doug Emkalns, Monica Eng, Bernie English, Duncan Evered, Mat Fagan, Paul Fellers, John Fitzpatrick, Sue Frank, **Dot Freeman**, Ike Fromberg, Chuck Geanangel, Dave Goodwin, John Grahame, Margaret Green, Bruce Hallett, Chris Haney, Ed Harper, Dale Henderson, John Hintermister, Buddy Hollis (BHo), **Wayne Hoffman**, Brian H. Hope, Joan Hope, Larry Hopkins, Gloria Hunter, Francis James, Herb Kale, Cecil Kilmer, David Kintzer, Christine Koundakjian, Ted Koundakjian, Jerry Krummrich, **H.P. Langridge**, Greg Lasley, Al Liberman, Barbara Liberman, **Fred Lohrer**, Lenore McCullagh, Annie McKelvey, David Mehlman, Ruthie Melton, Kirk Moulton, **Barbara Muschlitz**, Steve Nesbitt, Katy McSmith, Bruch Neville, Judy Norton, **John C. Ogden**, **Richard T. Paul**, Carolyn Porrino, **Peggy C. Powell**, E.H. Raymond, Brenda Rhodes, **W.B. Robertson**, H. Robinson, Mark Robson, Ed Rosenberg, Scott Schwenk, Jeannie Seals, Ray Seng, J.C. Simard, P. Wm. Smith, Ron Smith, Susan A. Smith, H.M. Stevenson, Alan Strong, Paul Sykes, Peter Timmer, M.T. Toops, Hugh Tyner, Virginia Vandemeter, George Wagner, Robert Wallace, Noel Wamer, Adrian Wander, Dan Weeny, Ann Weinrich, Phil Weinrich, **Richard West**, Ralph Widrig, Margie Wilkinson, Jane B. Weltse, Barry Zimmer.—**H.P. LANGRIDGE**, 1421 W. Ocean Ave., Lantana, FL 33462.

FAMILY PORTRAITS

Number Eight



MOST DUCKS ARE RELATIVE LANDLUBBERS, content to dabble in prairie puddles or placid streams. But the sea ducks are a breed apart. They take to the ocean in winter, diving deep for their food, far out on the open bays or amid the crashing surf along rocky coastlines. Even during the worst of winter storms, when gales whip the whitecaps into driving spray, the sea ducks are at home on the sea. For the nesting season, many of these ducks almost seem to seek out harsh conditions: the northernmost arctic tundra, or the pounding torrents of rocky rivers. We can go to observe them along the coast on pleasant days in winter, but these tough and hardy birds live out much of their lives under conditions beyond human endurance.

SEA DUCKS

1. Common Eider 2. King Eider
3. Harlequin Duck 4. Oldsquaw
5. Surf Scoter

Painting by
JOHN DAWSON

SEA DUCKS

In frigid arctic climates, the hen eider protects her eggs by lining her nest with one of the softest and warmest



forms of insulation in the world: her own down feathers. Mankind discovered the value of eider-down centuries ago, and "eider farming" has been a

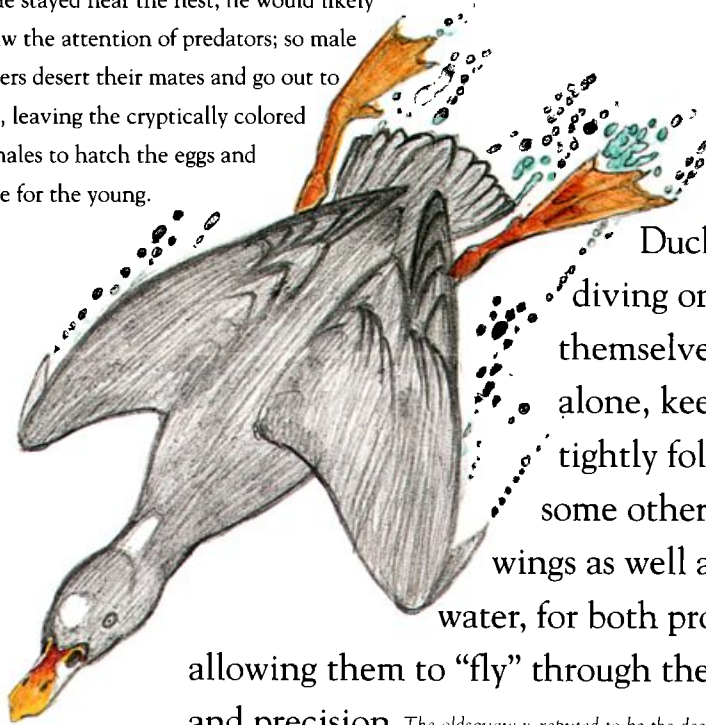
major business in Iceland for many years.



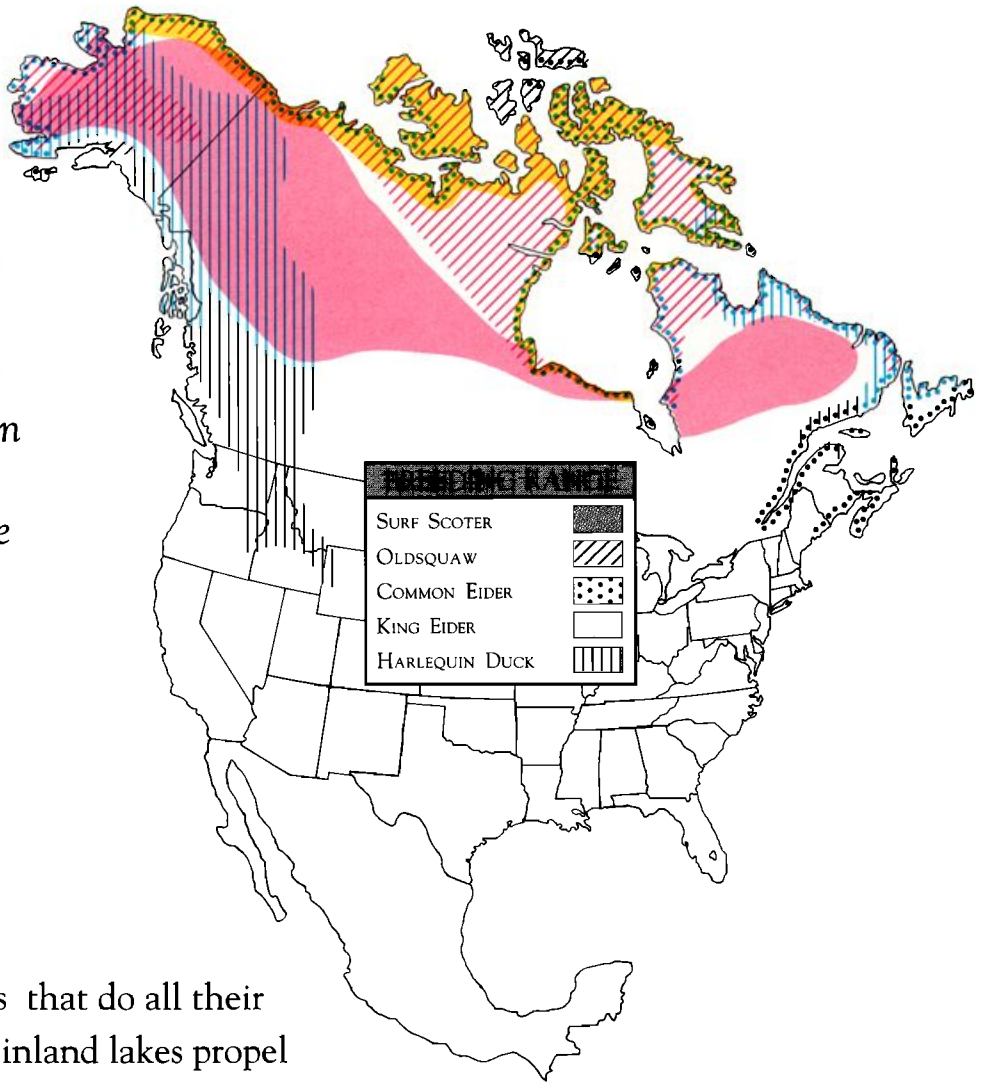
Wild eiders are encouraged to nest in protected areas, and down was harvested from their nests. Wise eider farmers always leave some down in each nest to protect the eggs.

The colors of adult male ducks apparently evolved mostly to impress females (and perhaps rival males). The spectacular pattern of the male eiders, which takes years to develop, is clearly useless for camouflage.

If he stayed near the nest, he would likely draw the attention of predators; so male eiders desert their mates and go out to sea, leaving the cryptically colored females to hatch the eggs and care for the young.

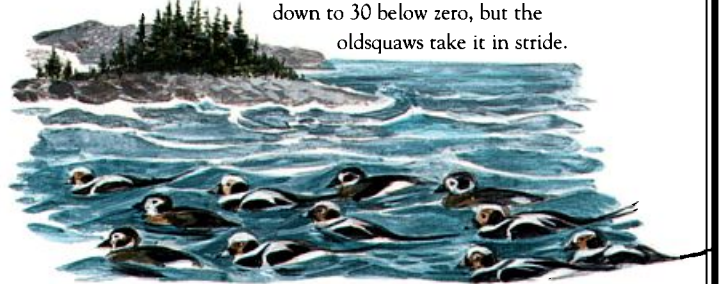


Ducks that do all their diving on inland lakes propel themselves with foot power alone, keeping their wings tightly folded. But scoters and some other sea ducks use their wings as well as their feet underwater, for both propulsion and steering, allowing them to "fly" through the depths with power and precision. The oldsquaw is reputed to be the deepest diver among ducks, staying underwater for up to 90 seconds and getting down to more than 200 feet below the surface



SURF SCOTER	
OLDSQUAW	
COMMON EIDER	
KING EIDER	
HARLEQUIN DUCK	

King eiders and oldsquaws are the hardiest of high arctic ducks. In northern Greenland, Labrador, and northern Alaska, oldsquaws appear in spring as soon as the solid winter ice begins to break up. Even after their arrival, spring blizzards may drive the temperature down to 30 below zero, but the oldsquaws take it in stride.



SPECIES	SIZE/APPEARANCE	HABITAT	NEST	VOICE	FOOD
SURF SCOTER <i>Melanitta perspicillata</i> Of the three species of scoters, this one is the most distinctive and most widespread in North America.	Length: 20" Male: black, with white patches on head, orange and white on bill. Female: dark brown with white spots on face.	Streams and ponds in northern forest country in summer; ocean in winter.	A depression on the ground under low bushes, usually not far from water.	Usually silent, but sometimes makes a deep croak or a low whistle.	Mostly mollusks, crustaceans, and insects, all taken underwater.
OLDSQUAW <i>Clangula hyemalis</i> Called "long-tailed duck" in Europe. Explorers in the American arctic called it "oldsquaw" for its talkative nature.	Length: 21" (including long tail) Pointed tail, dark wings. Male: mostly dark brown with white markings in summer, mostly white with dark markings in winter. Female: mostly pale brown and white, paler in winter.	Arctic tundra in summer, ocean in winter.	On the ground not far from water, made of moss, grass, and other plant material, lined with down.	This noisy bird calls often, a nasal owl-omelet and other notes.	Crustaceans, mollusks, aquatic insects, and small fish.
COMMON EIDER <i>Somateria mollissima</i> One of our largest and heaviest ducks, common along some northern shores.	Length: 24" Male: white above, black below, with black cap and pale green on head. Female: dark brown, heavily barred with black.	Coastal tundra and northern shores in summer, seacoasts in winter.	A depression lined with plant matter and usually with many down feathers, placed in a sheltered spot on the ground not far from water.	Cooing and moaning sounds, and low quacks.	Mussels and other mollusks, as well as crustaceans and sea urchins, taken underwater.
KING EIDER <i>Somateria spectabilis</i> In the high arctic, this hardy duck may nest on inland tundra far from the sea.	Length: 22" Male: black body with white trim, pale blue head, large orangey knob on forehead. Female: rich brown with black bars and crescents.	Breeds on tundra well above the Arctic Circle. Spends rest of year on ocean.	A shallow depression on the ground, lined with fine plant material and down feathers.	Soft low cooing notes, and harsh croaks.	Mainly mollusks, some crustaceans and aquatic insects.
HARLEQUIN DUCK <i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i> Despite their bright patterns, these ducks can be surprisingly hard to see among the dark rocks that they inhabit.	Length: 16" Male: slate-blue and chestnut, with white crescents. Female: gray-brown with three white spots on face.	Rushing rocky streams when nesting; rocky seacoasts at other seasons.	A depression lined with fine grass, under a bush or rocks not far from water.	Makes a wide variety of calls, including high squeaks, whistles, and low croaks.	Small mollusks, crustaceans, crabs, and insect larvae, all taken underwater.

ONTARIO REGION

Ron D. Weir

To compare this spring migration with the effect of moving Ontario 10° latitude to the south would be no exaggeration. South of Sudbury the season began with an early thaw and after mid-March became unseasonably warm. Warm southerly flows were interspersed with weak cold fronts. Net effects included major incursions by several species associated with the southeastern United States, appearance of four European species, record-setting early arrivals by 54 species (seemingly impossible after 104 record-early arrivals last spring), and a cornucopia of additional rarities, two new to the province.

Driving forces behind these events probably arose far outside Ontario. Intense storms raging across the south-central United States in late April must have played a role in the appearance of the Black Vulture, Laughing Gull, Burrowing Owl, Black-capped Vireo, and Chestnut-collared Longspur. Those forces setting the stage for the Eurasian

Green-winged Teal, Eurasian Wigeon, Eurasian Whimbrel, and White-winged Tern may have played out last autumn, bringing these species first to the New World, then poised to migrate north this spring.

The southerly air flow, with many continuous days and nights of clear weather, swept migrants over the lower Great Lakes and well north before landing. Some 68% of record-early arrival dates were set at locations one night's flight north of the lower Great Lakes. These records have been put in Table 1 to save space. However, the period was not without significant groundings at lakeshore look-outs. At Long Point on Lake Erie, 1900 songbirds were banded May 1. Farther east along Lake Ontario, from Hamilton to Whitby and Kingston May 6, a massive fallout of migrants was triggered by rain in early evening; warblers and thrushes fell from the sky. In retrospect, the migration was exciting, with strange happenings.

Abbreviations: Pelee (*Point Pelee Nat'l Park and Vicinity*); P.E. Pt. (*Prince Edward Point*); Algonquin, Presqu'ile, and Rondeau are provincial parks.

LOONS TO IBISES

The 81 Red-throated Loons are a high number for spring (1981–1990 averaged 18), including at least 30 near Kincardine Apr. 19 (AWM) and 30 in w. Hamilton Bay Apr. 5–8 (RHC, JLO). Seven inland at Westport Apr. 20–24 were noteworthy (SW *et al.*). Peak numbers of Commons were 580 off Sauble Beach May 8 (PM) and 570 at P.E. Pt. Apr. 27 (K.F.N.). Red-necked Grebes appeared in greater than usual numbers, led by 168 at Whitby Apr. 25 (MJB, BH), 150+ at Dyer's Bay (DF *et al.*), and 140 near the Mississagi Light, Manitoulin I., Apr. 29 (JCN). Lone Eared Grebes were in Cobourg Apr. 9 (W & LW) and w. Hamilton Bay May 4 (KAM *et al.*).

Seven Am. White Pelicans at Thunder Bay May 12 (WZ, BA) were unusual, and wayward birds were two at Long Pt. Apr. 18 (JP) and one in Sudbury May 18 (GW, OJ). Hamilton's overwintering Great Cormorants were three until Apr. 16, after which two remained until May 8 (*vide* KAM). An adult appeared at the Cornwall dam May 3 (BMD). Three Double-crested Cormorants were in Moosonee

May 28 (MAK, AW *et al.*), where numbers are gradually increasing.

Seven Great Egrets away from the southwest were below the 1982–1990 average of nine. These included singles east to Whitby, Oshawa, Port Hope, Codrington, Presqu'ile, P.E. Pt., and Amherst I. Mar. 29–May 27. Snowy Egrets totalled six (1982–1990 springs averaged four). Singles were at Long Pt. sites Apr. 22–26 & 30 (MJP *et al.*), Cobden, *Renfrew*, May 2 (MFI, KH, JMB), Franktown, *Lanark*, May 24 (JJ *et al.*), Algonquin May 25 (the park's 2nd ever) (MR, WC, RGT), and Oshawa May 27 (TH). Distribution of May occurrences suggests immigration through c. New York state. The only Little Blue Heron was an adult in *Bruce* May 2–3 (JWJ *et al.*), for a county first. The ad. Black-crowned Night-Heron in Thunder Bay May 18–20 was that area's 3rd ever (KK, NGE). One at Pelee Mar. 16 was early (D & KM). One Glossy Ibis appeared in Peterborough May 14 (PF, LE *et al.*). Another at Erieau May 16, seen to depart SW at 6:35 p.m. (*vide* KJB), likely the same bird arriving at Pelee at 7:34 p.m. (BC, DW).

WATERFOWL

A strong flight of Tundra Swans in the southwest was marked by 8000 at Long Pt. Mar. 8 (DS); spillover occurred e. of range to Presqu'ile, where 25 appeared Mar. 21 (*vide* SML), and to Bourget, *Russell*, where an adult tarried Apr. 3–5 (BMD *et al.*). The ad. Mute Swan at the Munster sewage ponds May 1–3 is a first for that area (ph. VL, BMD *et al.*). Two ad. Greater White-fronted Geese were in Whitby's Cranberry Marsh Mar. 31 (JS *et al.*), the lowest spring total in Ontario since 1985, when the 6-year period of unusually high numbers began. Impressive totals for Snows were 2400+ near Bourget Apr. 3 and 2000+ at Riceville, *Prescott*, Mar. 31 (BMD *et al.*). Along the n. coast, a lone Ross' Goose was found May 16 at Brant River, Hudson Bay (RDM). The heavy Brant passage was early, as 200 reached Algonquin May 5 (GF, DStr) and Moosonee May 11 (EH, BHy, JET). The largest number was 5000 off Amherst I. May 19 (K.F.N.). Displaced W



were the 275 at Whitby May 15 (JH, DDC) and singles at Toronto's e. Headland May 25 (HGC) and Long Pt. May 10 (DJA).

Single Eurasian Green-winged Teal, very rare in Ontario, were a male at Pelee Mar. 30 (AW) and another at Whitby Mar. 30–Apr. 15 (M. Holder *et al.*). Early arrivals included the ♂ Blue-winged Teal at Long Pt. Mar. 2 (JMH) and the ♂ Gadwall at Wildwood L., Oxford, Mar. 10 (JMH). The seven Eur. Wigeons are the most in spring since at least the 1970s, exceeding the province's yearly average of five birds. Singles were in Thunder Bay Apr. 25–30 (WZ *et al.*) and Moosonee May 5 (MAK *et al.*). In the south, singles appeared in Delaware, Middlesex, Mar. 3 (WRM), Presqu'île Mar. 19–21 (GS, KC *et al.*), Long Pt. Mar. 30–Apr. 10 (PNP, MJP *et al.*), and Pelee Apr. 11–16 (AW *et al.*), where a 2nd bird tarried May 13–26 (DFe *et al.*). Canvasback passage was very strong. Noteworthy congregations were 14,000 Mar. 2 and 5943 Mar. 19 at Long Pt. (JMH *et al.*, DS) and 9800 Apr. 7 and 5700 Mar. 24 off Wolfe I. (JHE, RDW). Ring-necked Ducks, reported in large numbers, totalled 940 at Pelee Mar. 30 (DGC, DSz, AW *et al.*), 500 at Port Perry Mar. 24 (BH), 500 at Chaffey's Locks Apr. 3 (NLB), and 320 at Wildwood L., Oxford, Mar. 2 (JMH). Record late dates were set by Greater Scaup in Algonquin May 25 (MR, WC, RGT) and Lesser Scaup at Tavistock May 17 (JMH, JSk).

The imm. ♂ King Eider at St. Catharines May 11–June 3 (KJR, LH, AJS) may have originated among the numbers seen in early winter at the w. end of L. Ontario. Wintering Harlequin Ducks were last seen in Toronto Apr. 12 (EJ, MWD) and at the Cornwall dam Mar. 3 (BMD). Overwintering Barrow's Goldeneyes were a single at Lakefield until Mar. 13 (TB) and two in Ottawa until Apr. 15 (BMD *et al.*). Single migrant Barrow's arrived off Wolfe I. Mar. 24 (JHE, RDW) and at Perth, Lanark, Apr. 6 (RB).

VULTURES TO CRANES

Ontario's 8th Black Vulture since 1980 appeared at Pelee



Black Vulture at Point Pelee, Ontario, April 25, 1991. Eighth for the province since 1980. Photograph/James N. Flynn.

Apr. 25–26 (JMG, JNF *et al.*), as this species continues its range expansion. The ad. Mississippi Kite at Pelee May 17–21 (TO, DEP, ACS, GPC *et al.*) is the province's 13th, nine of which have occurred since 1980. The 91 Bald Eagles are the highest spring tally in at least 2 decades; their steadily rising numbers are grounds for optimism. The last of many tardy Rough-leggeds in the south were singles on Amherst I. May 19 (K.F.N.) and Georgian Bay Islands N.P. May 21 (HB). The nine Golden Eagles are about equal to the 1982–1990 spring average. Three passed the Grimbsy lookout Mar. 23 (MPW), and singles were at St. Williams Mar. 27 (DS, PNP), Pelee Mar. 31 (S & AH), Dundas May 3 (WL, AW), Hagersville May 4 (WS), Willow Beach May 4 (DB), and Gore Bay, Manitoulin I., May 21 (GA). Some 22 Peregrine Falcons were reported (1982–1990 spring average 24). The last reports of Gyrfalcons following the eruption last winter were two in Thunder Bay until Mar. 31 (*vide* NGE) and another in Ottawa Mar. 10–Apr. 23 (ph. RRB *et al.*).

Remnants of the winter incursion by Sharp-tailed Grouse into the Thunder Bay district were three e. of L. Nipegon May 1 (NGE) and one n.w. of L. Nipegon May 14

(AGH). The only King Rail was noted near Melbourne May 19 (PAR, RRe). Noteworthy Am. Coots were 422 at Pelee Apr. 1 (DGC, DSz) and one at Moosonee May 24 (AW *et al.*), where the species is locally very rare. The 157 Sandhill Crane reports are a further increase for this species. Early migrants appeared at Pelee Mar. 4 (BF), Pembroke Apr. 3 (CM), and Wolfe I. Apr. 7 (JHE, RDW). A strong easterly displacement also brought Sandhills to Delta, Leeds, Apr. 26 (*vide* MH), Whitby Apr. 27 (EPye), Algonquin May 16 (B. Falls *et al.*), and Carlsbad Springs May 28–29 (BMD *et al.*).

SHOREBIRDS

The ad. Lesser Golden-Plover at Winchester, Dundas, May 5 was very rare for spring (BMD). Seven Piping Plover Apr. 24–May 31 were singles at Blenheim, Pelee, Long Pt., Oliphant, Kincardine, Point Clark, and Sauble Beach. American Avocets appeared for the 2nd consecutive spring. Six were at Erieau Apr. 26 (MM), singles in e. Hamilton Bay May 15 (RHC), and Blenheim May 18 (GY). The 42 Willets reported were from Hamilton, Long Pt., Pelee, Wheatley, Shrewsbury, Aylmer, Harrow, Barrie I., Manitoulin I., and Thunder Bay, Apr. 27–June 10. Single Upland Sandpipers were early in Carden Township, Victoria, Apr. 21 (RGT, DT), a rare find in Algonquin May 17 (MR), and late at Pelee May 30 (NFS). Whimbrel migration was strong all along the lower Great Lakes from Kingston to Pelee May 12–28. The largest flocks contained 400 at Port Stanley May 24 (ADS, MSS), 156 at Whitby May 22 (KHr *et al.*), 150 at the Holland marsh, York (AJ *et al.*), and 114 along Toronto's Lakeshore May 22 (MWD), where one from the Eurasian race was also well seen and described (RY).

Single Hudsonian Godwits at Long Pt. May 11 (RDM *et al.*) and Rainy River May 11 (DHE, DG, SFP) were the only sightings, in sharp contrast to last spring's record 54 (1973–1990 spring average 8). The six Marbleds exactly equal the 1982–1990 spring average. In the south, singles were on Amherst I. May 18 (K.F.N.),

Turkey Pt. May 22 (PSB, CJ), and Evan's Pt., Haldimand, May 28 (JBM). In the north, lone birds were in Rainy River May 11 (DHE, DG, SFP), Thunder Bay May 21–23 (AGH *et al.*), and Moosonee May 22–24 (AW *et al.*). Quetico's 2nd ever Ruddy Turnstone landed in the park May 23 (SFP). Seven W. Sandpipers are more than the 1982–1990 spring average of four. Three were at Long Pt. May 28 (MJP), two in e. Hamilton Bay Apr. 25–28 (RHC *et al.*), singles at Pelee May 7 (KAM) and at the Essex sewage ponds May 8 (KAM, BJ, JH).

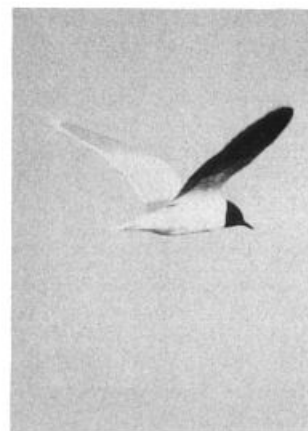
An early Least Sandpiper at Pelee Apr. 12 was joined by another Apr. 17 (AW). Single Stilt Sandpipers were at Harrow May 4 (AJ, BHy), Presqu'île May 10 (S & DH), Comber May 19 (HGC), and Darlington P.P. May 25 (BH *et al.*), a weak flight. Ruffs were in below-average numbers at five (*cf.* 1982–1990 average seven). The only male reported wore a white collar at Erieau May 17 (*vide* KJB). Single females were near Ottawa May 2 (RAB, JB), Jarvis May 10 (DJTH), Harrow May 18–19 (HGC), and Embrun, Russell, May 29 (*vide* BMD). Careful fieldwork with Short-billed Dowitchers revealed six and 53 *L. g. hendersoni* at Pelee May 5 & 9 (AW), respectively, but one and three *L. g. griseus* in Hamilton May 12 & 15 (AW, RHC), respectively. The first spring reports of Long-billeds since 1987 were five in the south (*cf.* 1982–1990 average 2). Two were at Erieau May 4 (JMH, JSk *et al.*) and singles were at Pelee. Apr. 13–15 (AW), Warton Apr. 26–May 1 (JWJ *et al.*), and Long Pt. May 1–3 (PSB *et al.*). Six Red-necked Phalaropes (*cf.* 1982–1990 average 6) were two each at Port Perry May 25–28 (*vide* MJB), Alfred May 27 (BMD), and lone birds at Blenheim May 18–19 (GY, HGC), Embrun May 27 (BMD), and Casselman May 27 (BMD).

GULLS, TERNS

Six Laughing Gulls, triple the 1982–1990 spring average, occurred within a narrow period, Apr. 27–May 18. Their distribution suggests the Mississippi Valley as the possible immigration route. Five at the w. end of L. Erie included three

Table 1. Record early arrival dates for counties and regions of Ontario, Spring 1991 (Man. I. – Manitoulin Island).

Double-crested Cormorant	Apr. 7	Man. I.	JCN
	Apr. 28	Algonquin	JSch
Great Blue Heron	Mar. 26	Sudbury	JCN
Great Egret	Mar. 29	Amherst	I.K.F.N.
Brant	May 5	Algonquin	GF, DStr
Green-winged Teal	Apr. 2	Algonquin	RGT
Am. Wigeon	Apr. 6	Man. I.	JCN
Ring-necked Duck	Apr. 4	Algonquin	RGT
Black Scoter	Apr. 8	Thunder Bay	JSk
Ruddy Duck	Apr. 4	Oxford	JMH
	Apr. 24	Sudbury	JCN
Turkey Vulture	Mar. 24	Man. I.	JCN
	Apr. 6	Thunder Bay	MFr
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Apr. 6	Thunder Bay	TRoss
Cooper's Hawk	Mar. 16	Thunder Bay	SVP, BA, WZ
Broad-winged Hawk	Apr. 11	Oxford	JMH
Sandhill Crane	Apr. 7	Wolfe I.	JHE, RDW
Black-bellied Plover	Apr. 17	Pelee	SC
Semipalmated Sandpiper	May 19	Algonquin	MR, WC
Short-billed Dowitcher	May 10	Sudbury	DGB, SAB
Am. Woodcock	Mar. 2	Kingston	WB
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Apr. 26	Kingston	RR
	May 5	Algonquin	HC
Olive-sided Flycatcher	May 10	Oxford	JMH
E. Wood Pewee	May 15	Algonquin	RGT
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	May 13	Algonquin	DStr
Acadian Flycatcher	May 17	P.E.Pt.	RKE
Least Flycatcher	Apr. 8	Toronto	HK
	May 1	Sudbury	WRL
E. Phoebe	Mar. 30	Sudbury	JHamr
Great-crested Flycatcher	May 3	Man. I.	DEB
E. Kingbird	Apr. 27	Bruce	MP, DF
	May 1	Oxford	JMH
Purple Martin	Mar. 20	Haldimand-Norfolk	DAS
Bank Swallow	Mar. 24	Pelee	GTP, JLL
	May 4	Sudbury	DGB, SAB, JCN
Barn Swallow	Mar. 31	Frontenac	WB
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Mar. 29	Oxford	JMH, SJC
Veery	May 1	Algonquin	MR
Hermit Thrush	Apr. 8	Algonquin	RH
White-eyed Vireo	Apr. 30	Kingston	RKE
Red-eyed Vireo	May 15	Sudbury	CJN
Golden-winged Warbler	May 16	Killarney	DGB, SAB, JCN
N. Parula	May 1	Thunder Bay	NGE
Yellow Warbler	May 1	Man. I.	DEB
Magnolia Warbler	Apr. 25	Haliburton	GG
Black-throated Blue Warbler	May 2	Algonquin	MR
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Apr. 7	Man. I.	JCN
Black-throated Green Warbler	Apr. 27	Algonquin	DShutler
Blackburnian Warbler	May 2	Algonquin	MR
Yellow-throated Warbler	Apr. 9	Pelee	AW
Cerulean Warbler	May 1	Leeds	F. Connor <i>et al.</i>
Ovenbird	May 5	Killarney	JGL
Connecticut Warbler	May 14	Thunder Bay	SVP
Mourning Warbler	May 17	Algonquin	GEW
Wilson's Warbler	May 6	P.E.Pt.	RKE
	May 13	Algonquin	MR
	May 16	Sudbury	CJW
Scarlet Tanager	May 7	Man. I.	DEB
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	May 9	Killarney	DGB, SAB, JCN
Indigo Bunting	May 16	Killarney	DGB, SAB, JCN
Dickcissel	Mar. 27	Pelee	RLR <i>et al.</i>
House Finch	Mar. 29	Man. I.	DEB



Adult Little Gull at Port Lambton, Ontario, May 10, 1991. Photograph/Michael A. Patten.

birds at Pelee Apr. 29 (AW *et al.*), May 11 (HWH), May 18 (KAM *et al.*), and two at Long Pt. May 1 & 11 (PNP *et al.*). The adult at Thunder Bay Apr. 27 was a first for that area (ERA, KFA). Four Franklin's match the 1982–1990 spring average; they were singles at Beaverton Apr. 20 (BH, JH), Erieau May 15 (R & JS), Long Pt. May 21 (JRH, HAS), and Ottawa May 27 (BMD), where the species is very rare. Also rare in Ottawa was the Little Gull May 26–27 (TFMB). Numbers of several gull species in Ontario continue to rise. Ontario's 10th and 11th California Gulls were immatures at Pittock L., Oxford, Mar. 11–15 (JMH *et al.*) and at the tip of Long Pt. May 9–12 (JRH *et al.*); all 11 birds have occurred since 1981. Ottawa's first ever nesting Herring Gulls fledged a downy young along Nepean Bay May 27 (BMD). Lesser Black-backed Gulls numbered 28, a further increase, and over double the 1982–1990 spring average of 13. Ten were in Ottawa, including eight adults Mar. 19–May 26 (BMD, RMP); 18 were distributed along the lower Great Lakes from Kingston to Pelee Mar. 10–May 26. Great Black-backed were in greater numbers again in Ottawa, where the peak tally reached 110 at the Nepean dump Mar. 19 (BMD) and at Long Pt., where 80 were counted May 13 (DS). One in Thunder Bay Mar. 7 was the area's 3rd ever (JSk).

The freshly killed ♂ Black-legged Kittiwake at Long Pt. May 20 (KT, MEG) represented only the 6th spring occurrence since 1980. The 14 and 17 Arctic Terns passing Ottawa

May 26 & 31 (BMD *et al.*) are the highest numbers since 1983. Eight Forster's were found away from the traditional southwest. Singles were at Beaverton Apr. 20 (BH, JH), along L. Scugog Apr. 21 (RJP, RGT), Cobourg Apr. 21 (only the area's 2nd ever) (ERM), Whitby May 3 & 19 (EPegg, MJB, BH), n. of Conway May 3 (KHe), Ottawa May 12 (RAB *et al.*), and Amherst I. May 18 (K.F.N.). Ontario's first **White-winged Tern** delighted many observers at the Port Lambton lagoons May 7 to at least May 10 (*vide* AGC, HGC). This breeding plumaged adult then reappeared at Long Pt. May 15–18 (TS *et al.*). Noteworthy Black Terns were the adult at Moosonee May 23 (AW *et al.*) and 200 near North Bay by May 31 (*vide* RDT).

DOVES TO SHRIKES

The pair of Mourning Doves at Minden courted both each other and disaster by gambling to produce a nest with eggs Mar. 27, an extremely early date (RJP). Such gambles must be paying off; the species pushes the edge of its range north. Six at a Moosonee feeder May 27 made a high tally (RDM). A late Snowy Owl was along Toronto's lakeshore May 28–29 (MWD). The last N. Hawk Owls in the south occurred near Peterborough Mar. 1 (AGC); two migrants appeared in Thunder Bay Mar. 16 (NGE). Another was killed on a highway at Atikokan Mar. 25 (DHE). The **Burrowing Owl** at Arnprior, *Renfrew*, Apr. 19–24 (ph. ER, MR *et al.*) is the province's 9th. Great Gray Owls concentrated in e. Ontario. Four appeared in the Ottawa area Mar. 1–17 (BMD), and singles were at Westport Mar. 14 (MS), Tamworth Mar. 15 (J. Bell), Maberly Mar. 16 (P & JG), Carleton Place Mar. 18 (D. Campbell), and Algonquin Mar. 26 (DStr). In the north, one hit a power line in Sault Ste Marie Mar. 28 and was sent to the Owl Rehabilitation Research Foundation, Vineland, where it has recovered (KMck). Great Grays from the invasion to Thunder Bay departed by Apr. 1 (NGE); singles were found at Terrace Bay May 7 (DVW, LS), Atikokan May 9 (DC), and Sapawe May 10 (DHE). The two Short-eareds at Atikokan

May 5 are the area's 2nd ever (DHE).

A Com. Nighthawk at Jarvis May 7 was an early arrival (JBM, SJMi), along with Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in Matachewan May 12 (LT). Red-bellied Woodpeckers continued their strong showing. In their usual areas of the southwest, 33 were noted along Long Pt. beginning Apr. 30 (DS). Thirteen were reported away from the southwest, including a male at Smiths Falls Apr. 14 (N. Pert). The nest of Pileated Woodpeckers at Moosonee discovered May 25 is the first for the Hudson Bay lowlands (RDM *et al.*).

The Acadian Flycatcher at P.E.Pt. May 17 (RKE) was the only report away from traditional s.w. areas. The E. Phoebe in Tidewater P.P., Moosonee, May 30 (MAK) was a first spring occurrence for the Hudson Bay lowlands. Single W. Kingbirds at Long Pt. May 13 (JRH) and at Pelee May 21 (SU, JLD, KAM *et al.*) were good finds. One ad. ♂ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at Long Pt. June 1 (MD, PJD), that area's 2nd ever. The Purple Martin in Atikokan Apr. 7 arrived before the first Tree Swallow, which is unusual (*vide* SFP). Carolina Wren numbers remained strong in the southwest; 16 extralimitals point to low winter mortality. All 16 were distributed along the n. shore of L. Ontario, within a band including Toronto, Oshawa, Whitby, and Kingston.

The only Blue-gray Gnatcatcher n. of range was on Great Duck I. May 19 (JCN). The **Mountain Bluebird** along Moose L., Atikokan, Apr. 7 was that district's 2nd (DG) and the province's 6th ever in spring. Several unusual winterers fared successfully, thanks partly to feeding stations. They included Townsend's Solitaire at Presqu'île to Mar. 31 (*vide* SML), single Varied Thrushes in Thunder Bay to Apr. 4 (EHn *et al.*) and near Pakenham, *Lanark*, from December to early March (LJ), and Gray Catbird near Toronto's High Park (RY). The Gray Catbird in Moosonee May 31 was n. of range (WH *et al.*), along with the Brown Thrasher there May 21–25 (AW, MAK *et al.*). A **Sprague's Pipit** at Moose Factory in May (MAK, JET, NW, CH) was nicely described

and is the 4th for the province, counting that of the song recording made at Rainy R. in 1980 July 12. The N. Shrike in Algonquin Apr. 24 set a record late date (ph. MR). Some 22 Loggerhead Shrikes were reported, including one at Pelee May 14 (SSt, GSt *et al.*).

VIREOS TO FINCHES

The 28 White-eyed Vireos in the southwest represent a strong presence. Extralimitals were singles in Kingston Apr. 30 (RKE), Whitby's Cranberry marsh May 5 (DT *et al.*), and Oshawa May 17 (MJB). The violent tornadoes that swept Texas in late April probably were responsible for propelling a **Black-capped Vireo** into Ontario—the first ever. The ♀ bird was netted at Long Pt. Apr. 27 and banded (ph. JRH, HAS, HP).

Blue-winged Warblers occurred in ever-increasing numbers, from Long Pt. Apr. 28–May 21, where 37 were tallied (DS), east to Presqu'île Apr. 30–May 14, with 7 birds (*vide* SML), and P.E.Pt. May 4–19, with 14 birds (K.F.N.). Four were n. to *Grey-Bruce* May 14–17 (JWJ). Three "Brewster's" hybrids were in *Waterloo* May 24 (TC); the rarer "Lawrence's" hybrid appeared at Pelee May 6–7 (GTH *et al.*) and Dundas May 25 (BNC, RZD). Reverse migration was observed at Pelee Apr. 29, when 80 Nashville Warblers flew S from the tip (AW, KAM, TS). The only "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped was at Thunder Bay Apr. 6–8 (ph. NGE *et al.*). **Yellow-throated Warblers** appeared in greater numbers than for at least a decade. Singles were at the Pelee area Apr. 9 (AW) and Wheatley P.P. May 19 (TH). Four were found away from Pelee, where the species occurs nearly every spring. Two males were at P.E.Pt. May 3–4 & 18 and May 11 (K.F.N.). Singles were at Port Stanley Apr. 14 (MSS, ADS) and Long Pt. May 10 (JRH *et al.*). Subspecies identification was made on four of the six; all were *D. d. albilora* (white lores).

Blackpolls, like most warblers, were very early in the south. Their vanguard reached Lake-of-the-Woods May 11 (DHE) and Moosonee May 21 (AW *et al.*) Extralimital

Prothonotary Warblers were singles at Port Stanley Apr. 24–25 (LSp, MHF), P.E.Pt. May 17–19 (RKE, RDW), and Whitby May 16 (AB). The 14 Worm-eatings are a typical spring total; but four away from the southwest are double the 1982–1990 spring average: singles at Bronte May 4 (WL *et al.*), Dundas May 6 (AW), Kingston May 6 (GP), and Etobicoke May 7 (MWD). The ♂ **Swainson's Warbler** at Long Pt. May 25–28 (ph. DG *et al.*) was that area's first and Ontario's 4th. **Kentucky Warbler** numbers were impressive at 32 (*cf.* 1982–1990 spring average 16). Away from the southwest were single males at Presqu'île May 2 (BM, J & EC), and at P.E.Pt. May 19 (K.F.N.) and June 1–2 (RTS *et al.*). The only Connecticut reported e. of range were lone males at P.E.Pt. May 19 (RDW *et al.*) and Whitby May 22 (DBy), where a female also appeared May 28 (MJB). Single Yellow-breasted Chats pushed east to Toronto's High Park Apr. 30 (RY), Whitby May 6 & 9 (RGT, MJB), Brighton May 14 (S & DH), and Presqu'île May 17–18 (C & JA) At least three were at P.E.Pt. May 11–18 (RKE, MCE *et al.*).

The 11 Summer Tanagers are two below the 1982–1990 spring average; all were in the extreme southwest except the lone male at Whitby May 13 (BH *et al.*), that area's 3rd ever. The four **Blue Grosbeaks** are 4 times the 1982–1990 spring average. Single males were found at Wyervale, *Simcoe*, May 8 (ph. WEZ, PH, LI), Wheatley May 19–20 (ACS, GPC *et al.*), and Thunder Bay May 24–29 (ph. HM), for a 2nd district occurrence; a female was netted and ringed at Long Pt. May 12 (MR1, DJA *et al.*). The list of rarities continued with the netting of a **Painted Bunting** at Long Pt. June 3 (ph. MJP, PNP, DRH), Ontario's 7th ever. Examination of feet, wings, and tail of this 2nd-year male confirmed that the bird could not have been an escapee. Among the few species to depart late were the Am. Tree Sparrow at Cedar Creek, *Oxford*, May 13 (JMH) and Long Pt. May 22 (DS). At least 13 Gambell's White-crowned Sparrows were at Long Pt. Apr. 29–May 15, many more than usual (DS). Harris' Sparrows e. of range were singles in London



Swainson's Warbler at Long Point, Ontario, May 25, 1991. Fourth record for the province. Photograph/Ron Ridout.

Mar. 29–Apr. 19 (PAR), at a Melbourne feeder Apr. 6 (DMu), and at Long Pt. May 8–10 (MJa *et al.*). Storms crossing the s.c. United States in late April may also have pushed the ♂ Chestnut-collared Longspur from the prairies to Thunder Bay Apr. 29 (NGE, MJo), for Ontario's 4th record.

Single ♂ and ♀ Bobolinks in Moosonee May 21–24 (AW *et al.*) & 24 (JET), respectively, were well n. of breeding range. Eight W. Meadowlarks was an average number; the easternmost was a singing male on Wolfe I. Mar. 31 (RDW). The only extralimital Yellow-headed Blackbird was the male in Gananoque Mar. 17 (SOrr). Greater than usual numbers of Orchard Orioles pushed beyond normal range. To the east were five at P.E.Pt. May 11–25 (K.F.N.), three or four at Presqu'île May 11–14 (*vide* SML), and one at Rideau Ferry May 10–11 (RVFN). To the north were three at Indian Pt. May 18 (CTB, PSK), two at Evansville May 21 (JCN), and

one near Shallow Lake, Grey, May 14 (DF). Ontario's 2nd Brambling, which overwintered n. of Port Hope, stayed until Mar. 30 (MAC, RC). Pine Grosbeaks remained scarce in the south, with a single at New Dundee, Waterloo, Apr. 19 (H & WW), one in Algonquin to Mar. 20 (DStr), and the 20 on w. Manitoulin I. Mar. 15 (JCN) as the only reports. House Finches appeared at 3 sites in Algonquin Mar. 19 and Apr. 3 & 6, to provide the park's 2nd, 3rd, and 4th records. The female at Dwight, Muskoka, Apr. 13 was the first for that area (DT), as was the male at a Thunder Bay feeder Apr. 24–May 2 (GAL, ERA). Red Crossbills numbered 47 in all, distributed in small groups in Algonquin, Leeds, Frontenac, Durham, Oxford, and Haldimand-Norfolk Mar. 6–May 25. Only 16 Com. Redpolls were noted s. of Thunder Bay and Sudbury. Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks were observed returning from the south in mid-April to mid-May, but numbers were low.



Immature male Painted Bunting at Long Point, Ontario, June 4, 1991. Seventh Ontario record. Photograph/Mark J. Palmer.

EXOTICS

An unbanded ♀ Ruddy Shelduck appeared near Peterborough about Mar. 15 (*vide* DCS), where it fed with Mute Swans and Mallards. Single Eur. Goldfinches were at Port Britain Mar. 4, near Port Hope Mar. 31 (ERM) (both sites in Northumberland), and along Toronto's e. Headland May 25 (SG).

Corrigenda: AB 44:1129, col. 4, line 31 from bottom: replace "TRS" with "RZD"; p. 1131, col. 1, lines 3–5, replace "a nest with young was located in the Dundas Valley, Niagara (RZD)" with "a nesting pair was located in the Dundas Valley, Hamilton-Wentworth (RZD)"; AB 45:98, col. 4, lines 1–2, replace "w. Toronto" with "Winona"; p. 101, col. 2, lines 13–14, delete "and Grimsby Oct 13 (HGC)".

Subregional editors (boldface), contributors (italics), and cited observers:

K.F. Abraham, G. Allen (GAL), R.F. Andrie, C. & J. Angus, D.J. Argo, E.R. Armstrong, G. Armstrong (GA), B. Atkinson, D.E. Bailey, M.J. Bain, D. Barry (DBY), R. Beacock, T.F.M. Beck, C.T. Bell, D.G. Bell, S.A. Bell, T. Bigg, D. Blackburn (DB), A. Boissoneau, J.M. Bouvier, R.A. Bracken, H. Bremner, R.R. Brouillet, D.N. Bucknell, J. Budd, K.J. Burk, P.S. Burke, W. Burke, D.D. Calvert, D. Carlson (DC), A.G. Carpentier, G.P. Catley, D.G. Cecile, S. Charbonneau, B.N. Charlton, H. Checko, B. Cherie, S.J. Cheskey, T. Cheskey, J. & E. Christie, M.A. Cooper, R. Cooper (RC), K. Corcoran, W. Crins, H.G. Currie, R.H. Curry, M.P. Davis, M.W. DeLorey, P.J. Derbyshire, B.M. DiLabio, R.Z. Dobos, J.L. Dunn, M. Dyer, M.C. Edwards, R.K. Edwards, D.H. Elder, J.H. Ellis, L. Elmhurst, N.G. Escott, B. Ferguson, F. Ferguson, D. Fewster (DFe), D. Fidler (DF), M.H. Field, M. Fluguel (MFL), J.N. Flynn, G. Forbes, F. Foster, M. Freutel (MFr), G. Garland, M.E. Gartshore, S. Gawn, J.M. Gordon, D. Graham, P. & J. Griffen, S. & D. Hadlington, S. & A. Hanft, E. Hansen (EHn), H.W. Harrington, A.G. Harris, L. Havilland, R. Hawkins, M.E. Hebb, M. Hendrick, C. Hendry, B. Hennessey (BH), K. Hennige (KH), B. Henshaw

(BH), J. Heslop (JH), G.T. Hince, K. Holder (KHr), J.M. Holdsworth, K. Hoopes, J.R. Hough, P. Hough, D.R. Howlett, E. Hunter (EH), T. Hurst, D.J.T. Hussell, W. Hutchison, L. Irwin, M. Jacklin (MJa), J. Jaques, A. Jaramillo, E. Jefferson, L. Jeffreys, J.W. Johnson, O. Johnson, B. Jones, C. Jones, M. Jones (MJo), H. Kerr, Kingston Field Naturalists, K. Kivi, M.A. Kubisz, S.M. LaForest, V. Laforge, W. Lamond, J.L. Larson, J.G. Lemon, W.R. Lowe, J.R. Macey, S.J. Macey, W.R. Maddeford, N.M. Mansfield, M. McAlpine, E.R. McDonald, H. McEachern, R. McKeever, K.A. McLaughlin, D. & K. McNorton, B. McPherson, R.D. McRae, A.W. McTavish, C. Michener, P. Middleton, J.B. Miles, S.J. Miles (SJM), D. Murray (DMu), G. Naylor, J.C. Nicholson, North Leeds Birdwatchers, J.L. Olmsted, T. Osborne, M.J. Palmer, M. Parker, G. Paul (GP), D.E. Perks, S.F. Peruniak, S.V. Phippen, J. Pickersgill, G.T. Pike, R.J. Pittaway, H. Pittel, R.M. Poulin, P.N. Prior, P.A. Read, R. Read (RRe), M. Richardson (MRI), P.W. Richter, Rideau Valley Field Naturalists, E. Ridgen, R. Robertson, R.L. Robinson, K.J. Roy, M. Runtz (MR), T. Sabo, D.C. Sadler, D. Sarrazin (DSz), H. Saunders, M. Saunders, J. Schmandt (JSch), S. Scholten (SSc), D. Shanahan (DSn), G. Shemilt, D. Shepherd (DS), N.F. Sherwood, L. Shutt (LS), J. Silverberg (JS), R. & J. Simms, A.C. Sims, J. Skevington (JSk), P. Skierszkan, A.J. Smith, H.A. Smith, W. Smith, A.D. Smout, M.S. Smout, L. Spicer (LSp), R.T. Sprague, G. Starling (GSt), S. Starling (SS), D. Strickland (DStr), D.A. Sutherland, R.D. Tafel, L. Taman, K. Thomas, J.E. Thompson, W. Thompson, D. Tozer, R.G. Tozer, S. Utterbeck, R.L. Waldhuber, G.E. Wallace, G. Walli, R.D. Weir, W. & L. Wensley, D.V. Weseloh, West Humber Field Naturalists, M.P. Whelan, C.J. Whitelaw, D. Wilson, H. & W. Wilson, N. Wilson, S. Wimperis, A. Wormington, B.K. Wyatt, G. Yaki, R. Yukich, W. Zarowski, W.E. Zufelt.—RON D. WEIR, 294 Elmwood St., Kingston, ON K7M 2Y8.

APPALACHIAN REGION

George A. Hall

By and large it was a dull spring. The weather was benign, and at most places birds were few. At Pittsburgh all three months were much warmer than usual, with a three-month accumulation of 579 day-degrees in excess of normal. All three months were deficient in rainfall. There were no major snowfalls in March.

As a result of the mild weather the whole migration schedule was advanced, in some places by two or three weeks. Waterfowl departed early, and many "May" migrants arrived in late April. Most areas reported many "earliest ever" arrival dates, and in Erie, PA, eleven species set early arrival records (JM). By the last two weeks of May, only a few stragglers were still migrating. Local breeding birds brought off first nestings very early and successfully. However, the near-drought conditions that prevailed in some places in late May did not provide a favorable outlook for birds breeding in June.

During the main mid-April to mid-May migration period, there were no pronounced cold fronts; consequently no "waves"

of grounded migrants were reported. Many migrants may have overflowed the Region without stopping and the reports of low numbers of birds encountered not accurately represent the true population situation.

There were, however, a fair number of rarities. These included a number of southern species found north of their usual range, another indication of overflights.

Abbreviations: B.E.S.P. (*Bald Eagle State Park, Centre Co., PA*); G.S.M.N.P., *Great Smoky Mountains National Park, TN*; G.B.W.M.A., *Green Bottom Wildlife Management Area, Cabell Co., WV*; M.E.C.H., (*Minor E. Clark Hatchery, Rowan Co., KY*), P.I.S.P. (*Presque Isle State Park, Erie Co., PA*). Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO WATERFOWL

Common Loon was in low numbers at most places, with high counts of 49 at Tellico L., TN, Apr. 3 (S & RSa) and 37 at Somerset L., PA, Apr. 22 (AM). As usual, a few remained until the period's end. A Red-necked Grebe was seen at Edinboro., Erie, PA, Apr. 23 (JHo). An Eared Grebe was reported from Conneaut L. Marsh, Crawford, PA, Mar. 30 (RFL). Double-crested Cormorant continues to increase. At P.I.S.P., an average of

15 per day were seen from early April to late May (JM). They were reported from many inland lakes, with high counts of 50 from Shenango L. (EB) and L. LeBoeuf, PA (JM).

Thirteen Am. Bitterns were sighted at P.I.S.P. Apr. 7–May 19 (JM). Other reports came from Centre, PA, Mar. 23 (TF) and 27 (GG); Spring Gap, MD, Mar. 31 (RK); and B.B.W.M.A., WV, May 6 (WA, MG). Only four Least Bitterns were seen at P.I.S.P. this spring (JM). Great Blue Heron continues to thrive. The 2 heronries in Mercer, PA, had 830 adults and 925 chicks hatched (EB). There are now several colonies along the Ohio River; establishment of a new National Wildlife Refuge on the Ohio River Islands makes their future promising. Great Egrets were widely reported in their usual spring numbers. The only report of Little Blue Heron came from Titusville, PA, Apr. 16 (AB). Tricolored Herons were found at Austin Springs, TN, Apr. 18 (2nd area record) (SW) and at P.I.S.P. Apr. 29 (9th county record) (VR & CT). Cattle Egrets were found at Antes Fort, PA, Apr. 19–23 (G & PS) and Stuart's Draft, VA, May 22 (MH). Green-backed Herons were in lower than normal numbers in Rowan, KY (FB), but both Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned night-herons were in unusually high numbers at Roanoke, VA (MS). Two pairs of Yellow-crowns were nesting in the Elizabethton, TN, area (RD, FA), and this species was sighted at G.B.W.M.A. May 6–8 (WA & CH). A Glossy Ibis at P.I.S.P. May 5 was the 9th county record (JS).

At most places waterfowl migration was unimpressive; most of the flight had passed by late March. At Presque Isle Bay on L. Erie, a peak of 40,000 diving ducks, mostly Com. Goldeneyes and Red-breasted Mergansers (20,000), was reached Mar. 7. At least 10,000 mergansers remained until Apr. 17 (JM). Crawford, PA, also had good numbers of most species, with a count of 1200 Ring-necked Ducks Mar. 9 (RFL).

Tundra Swans were reported in numbers only from the usual n. Pennsylvania and n.e. Ohio sites. Three flocks totaling several hundred were seen at Warren, PA, Mar. 8 (BH); 350 were at Woodcock L., Crawford, PA,

Mar. 9 (TP); and 200 were at Pymatuning L., PA, Mar. 10 (AM). A Mute Swan was at Seneca L., OH, Mar. 21 (*vide JE*). An unusual flock of 30 Snow Geese (blue morph) was at Mosquito L., OH, Mar. 24 (CB). Other reports came from Union City, PA, Mar. 15 (DT), Pymatuning L., PA, Mar. 10 (AM), Shenango L., PA (EB), and Athens, OH, Mar. 16 (VF).

A Green-winged Teal nested (unsuccessfully) at P.I.S.P. (first record) (JM), and a male remained in Washington, TN until at least June 1 (RK). A Eur. Wigeon was seen in Crawford, PA, Apr. 4–7 (m.obs.). Greater Scaup was reported more commonly than usual. The King Eider and Harlequin Duck reported at P.I.S.P. in winter remained until Mar. 16 and Mar. 2, respectively (JM). A group of 135 Oldsquaw on Edinboro L., PA, Apr. 1 was a large number for an inland lake (JM). Oldsquaws were also reported from Irvine, PA, Mar. 30 (DW), Stone Valley, PA, Mar. 27 (GG), and B.E.S.P., Apr. 10 & 20 (P & GS). The only report of Black Scoter was from P.I.S.P. Mar. 30 (EK); nine Surf Scoters were reported there through Apr. 20 (JM), with one as late as May 9 (JeS & JiS). White-winged Scoters were reported from P.I.S.P. to Mar. 9 (JM, EK), Stone Valley, PA, Mar. 27 (DB, AF), and B.E.S.P. Apr. 20 (P & GS). A Barrow's Goldeneye at P.I.S.P., Apr. 26 was the 5th Erie record (AT).

RAPTORS TO GULLS

Observers in Erie, PA, organized a concentrated Hawk Watch at sites along the south shore of L. Erie. During 18 days in March and April, 1645 raptors of 14 species as well as 828 Turkey Vultures were counted (JM). A Black Vulture at P.I.S.P., Apr. 29 (JeS, JiS) was the 2nd Erie record and one at Rockport, Wood, WV, Mar. 23 (RJ) was the first county record, although not far from the usual range. An Osprey nest in Somerset was the first for w. Pennsylvania (AW). The birds are known to have come from the West Virginia hacking project. Migrating Ospreys were reported from 5 locations, including a total count of 29 on the L. Erie hawk watch. Most unusual was the record of a Mississippi Kite during a Mar.



27 hawk flight in Springfield Twp., PA, the 3rd *Erie* record (JeS, JiS). The Bald Eagle picture continues to be bright. Seven nests were reported from n.e. Ohio, w. Pennsylvania, and e. Tennessee. Of these, 2 had failed by the end of the period. Besides nesting reports, there were sightings of 16 birds at 9 locations as well as "several" in *Erie*, PA (JM).

A N. Goshawk nest was found (by a "terrified" turkey hunter) near Warren, PA (DW), five goshawks were encountered at 4 places in *Erie*, PA (JM), and other reports came from *Centre*, PA, Mar. 17 & 23 (TF), *Highland*, VA, Mar. 19 (RA), and Roan Mt., TN on the remarkable date of June 1 (FA). During the 2 months of the hawk watch on the s shore of L. Erie, totals of 71 Cooper's Hawks and 652 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 31 Red-shouldered, 4310 Broadwinged, and 214 Red-tailed hawks were reported (JM). Rough-legged Hawks were reported from *Athens*, OH, Mar. 6 (VF); *Erie*, Mar. 6 and *Edinboro*, PA, Mar. 10 (RFL & VJ); *Highland*, VA, Mar. 19 (RA); and Warren, PA, Mar. 30 (WH), as well as 11 on the L. Erie hawkwatch (JM). Golden Eagles were reported from *Warren*, PA, Mar. 15-16 (WH), *Centre*, PA, Mar. 24 (TK), *Conneaut Marsh*, PA, Mar. 23 (RFL), *Highland*, VA, Mar. 19 (RA), *Rowan*, KY, Apr. 21 (FB), and *Sullivan*, TN, May 6-14 (BC).

At Warren, PA, 35 of 43 nest boxes were occupied by Am. Kestrels (DW). A total of 18 Merlins was counted at P.I.S.P. from Mar 14-May 19, and there were several other sightings in *Eire* (*fide* JM). Other reports came from *Warren*, PA, Mar. 20 (CP), 2 locations in *Crawford*, PA, Mar. 9 (DD, RFL), and Roan Mt., TN, Apr. 16 (RK). There were three Peregrine sightings in April in *Erie*, PA (JiS, JeS, EK) and one at Pipestem S.P., WV, Mar. 15 (*fide* JP). The pair that nested last year in G.S.M.N.P. did not return this year, but a sub-adult was seen at a location 5 miles from the previous site (RK).

The N. Bobwhite is in very low numbers in the north and continues to decline in the south. The Knoxville, TN, spring count listed only 29, lowest in 38 years (RH). In *Murray*, GA, a daily count of Sandhill

Cranes for 13 days in early March totaled 1348, with a maximum of 305 Mar. 10 (MD, *fide* HD). Soras were present to the end of the period and probably nesting in *Columbia*, OH (J & DH), and were found at P.I.S.P., Apr. 8 (early) (JeS, JiS) and at Akeley Swamp, *Warren*, PA, May 27 (BW).

Most places had mediocre shorebird flights although all common species showed up, but at Youngstown, OH, more than the usual numbers were seen (NB). There were, however, a few unusual sightings. A Solitary Sandpiper May 5 (DHu) and a Spotted Sandpiper May 8 (RK) were found on a pond at an elevation of 3600 ft on Roan Mt., TN. Six Willets were seen at Hockingport, OH, Apr. 27 (VF), one was at Austin Springs, TN, Apr. 29 (RK) and two at P.I.S.P., May 5 (JM). Ten Whimbrels were at P.I.S.P., May 27 (JM). A Marbled Godwit was seen at Cumberland, MD, Apr. 29 (m.obs.). A W. Sandpiper in full alternate plumage at P.I.S.P. Apr. 24 was the first April record for that location (JM). This species was also seen on 6 dates May 10-31 at M.E.C.H., KY (FB).

A White-rumped Sandpiper was reported from Pymatuning L., PA, May 18 (RFL), up to five were at M.E.C.H. May 29-30 (FB), and a total of seven were found at P.I.S.P. May 17-28 (m.ob.). Five Pectoral Sandpipers at Roanoke, VA, Mar. 1 (MS, MDo) and four at B.E.S.P. Mar. 2 (HH) were early. In *Washington*, TN, an Am. Woodcock nest hatched at the early date of Apr. 4 (AA). A Wilson's Phalarope was at the Roanoke, VA, sewage treatment plant, May 16 (MS), and Red-necked Phalaropes were there May 16 (4th local record) (HT, JA) and May 21 (MS). Four Red-necked Phalaropes were also seen in *Washington*, TN, May 26-27 (4th local record) (LN), and one was seen at Cumberland, MD, May 27 (MT).

Six unusual species of gull were reported from P.I.S.P.: Laughing Gull, May 11 (EK) & 12 (JHF); Little Gull, Mar. 10 (RFL), Apr. 14 (JeS, JiS) and May 4 (EK); *Thayer's Gull*, Mar. 5 (TF), Mar. 23 (JM), and May 22 (found dead) (JM); *Lesser Black-backed Gull*, a total of 4,

Mar. 2-Mar. 23 (JM, EK), and a late one Apr. 30 (EK); Iceland Gull, Mar. 5-26 (EK, TF, DS); and Glaucous Gull, at least 16, Mar. 1-Apr. 14 (JM, EK). A Laughing Gull was at Austin Springs, TN, Apr. 29 (4th local record) (RK). Caspian Terns continue to increase in this Region, with reports of good numbers from 6 locations, topped by a record count of 200 at P.I.S.P., Apr. 17 (JeS, JiS). Forster's Terns remain more numerous than Com. Terns but fewer were reported than last spring, although a high count at M.E.C.H., KY was 50 on May 4 (FB). No Black Terns were reported this spring in *Erie*, PA (JM), but one was reported from Hartstown, PA, May 12 (RFL). These are the only locations in the Region with nesting records.

CUCKOOS TO WRENS

Both cuckoo species were low except in the east, where gypsy moth larvae and tent caterpillars provided ample food. Five Barn Owl nestings were reported: 3 in *Washington*, TN (RK); one in *Hawkins*, TN (DHu); and one in *Augusta*, VA (RS). Barn Owls were also sighted in *Campbell*, TN, Apr. 30 (GM) and P.I.S.P. Apr. 7 (DD). The Snowy Owl reported from *Erie*, PA in winter was last seen Apr. 3 (DS), and another was at P.I.S.P., Mar. 23 (EK). The only Long-eared Owl reports came from P.I.S.P., where up to four were seen Apr. 6-13 (DD). Eight Short-eared Owls were reported at *Jefferson*, OH, Mar. 18, where they nested in 1990 (MA); there were 9 reports from P.I.S.P. (JM); two were at Pymatuning L., PA, Mar. 9-30 (RFL, AW), 2 in *Somerset*, PA, Apr. 15 (AW), and one in *Hawkins*, TN, Mar. 10-Apr. 8 (DHu). Northern Saw-whet Owls were seen at P.I.S.P. regularly through the period to Apr. 27, with a high count of five Apr. 7 (DD); one or two were recorded on Roan Mt., TN, Mar. 24, Apr. 3 & 7 (JB, RK).

A Chuck-will's-widow was heard at Lyndhurst, VA, Apr. 26 (LP). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were scarce at Waynesboro, VA (RS) and Morgantown, WV (GAH). There were nesting records of Red-headed Woodpeckers from *Jefferson*, TN (RH) and *Monroe*, TN (PP). Other sightings came

from *Irvine*, PA, May 11 (DW), *Clarksville*, PA, May 2 (RB), *New Centerville*, PA, May 9 (AW), *Knox*, TN, May 5 (C & GC), and in *Murray*, GA (HD).

There were 2 unusually early flycatcher arrivals in n.e. Tennessee: an E. Kingbird in *Greene*, Mar. 13 (BC) was the 2nd earliest arrival for the state, and an Alder Flycatcher on Roan Mt., May 11 (JN) was the earliest local record. A Great Crested Flycatcher at P.I.S.P., Apr. 3 (JM) was also unusually early. The Willow Flycatcher continues to increase southward. In n. West Virginia, both Least and Acadian flycatchers as well as E. Wood-Pewees and E. Kingbirds were in low numbers (GAH). The only reports of Olive-sided Flycatchers came from *Carter*, TN, May 5 (GW) and P.I.S.P., May 10 (earliest local date) (JM).

Horned Larks did not nest at the 1990 site in e. Tennessee (A & RH), but fledglings were observed at the Kingston Steam Plant Apr. 22 (RK). Most areas reported low numbers of swallows. The Tree Swallow is now nesting in numbers at M.E.C.H., KY (FB) and in the Knoxville, TN region (R & AH). In *Grainger*, TN, 2 nesting sites for Bank Swallows had 500 and 200 nest holes (RH). Cliff Swallow continues to expand its range in e. Tennessee (RH), and a colony appeared at *Linesville*, PA (RFL).

There were only a few scattered reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches, and they were considered to be "virtually absent" from the usual breeding ground on Roan Mt., TN (RK). Even in the north, Carolina Wren populations are at high levels after the benign winter, but once again there were no reports of Bewick's Wren. Single Sedge Wrens were seen at P.I.S.P., Mar. 13 (DS) and *Erie N.W.R.*, PA, May 26 (RFL). The only reports of Marsh Wrens came from near Cumberland, MD., May 4 (RKi) and Austin Springs, TN, May 5 (RK).

GNATCATCHERS TO WARBLERS

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher populations have declined throughout the Region. The E. Bluebird continues to do well and most places reported good populations, but the spotted thrushes continue to

be a matter of concern. Several reporters heard more songs of Swainson's Thrush this spring than in the past few years, but numbers for this once-abundant migrant were still very low. There were more reports of Gray-cheeked Thrushes than usual. Wood Thrush populations have made a modest comeback, as they were reported increased in Fairview, NC (RY) and in Huntington, WV (MG), while bandings at Morgantown were above the average of the last few years (GAH).

A total of six N. Mockingbirds was reported from *Erie*, PA (JM *et al.*), and one was at Warren, PA, Mar. 15 (CP). Both localities are north of the usual range. American Pipits were seen at Boone L., TN, May 13 (RK), in *Jefferson*, OH, Mar. 20 (MA), and Cumberland, MD, Mar. 31 (RKi). The N. Shrike that was reported from Lander, PA, in the winter report was still present Mar. 31 (WH). The only other records came from P.I.S.P. Mar. 1 (LM), Edinboro, PA, Mar. 15-20 (DS), and B.E.S.P. Mar. 18 (MW). Northeastern Tennessee continues to be the metropolis of the Loggerhead Shrike, with 10 sites known in *Carter*, *Sullivan*, and *Washington* (RK) and 2 sites in *Knox* (A & RH). Other reports were four on the *Augusta*, VA, Big Day Count (JMe), two in *Highland*, VA, Mar. 19 (RA), one at Yellow Creek S.P., PA, Mar. 22 (RR), and one at P.I.S.P. Mar. 31 (JM, JHf), the first there since 1982. White-eyed Vireo continues to move northward, with reports from Irvine, PA, May 10 (WH) and 15 birds seen in *Erie* (most at P.I.S.P.) (JM).

As usual, reports of the warbler flight were mixed, but most areas reported them to be scarce. Most of the expected species appeared, but numbers were low. With no great atmospheric disturbances to ground them, most migrants probably trickled through or overflowed the Region. Only 2 concentrations were reported: a cold front produced an unusual fallout at Knoxville on Apr. 20 (A & RH), and 17-18 species were listed on one short stretch of the Blue Ridge Parkway May 4 (RA). Most species arrived early, and there were many unusually early dates: Black-throat-

ed Blue Warbler, Cumberland, MD, Mar. 29 (MT); Com. Yellowthroat, Roanoke, VA, Apr. 6 (NM); and Connecticut Warbler, Johnson City, TN, May 5 (RK). Orange-crowned Warblers (rare in spring) were reported from Jonesborough, TN, Apr. 27 (DH), *Floyd*, KY, Apr. 25 and *Rowan*, KY, Apr. 27 (BM, MM), and one was banded at P.I.S.P., May 13 (RFL). Swainson's Warblers were reported from *Knox*, May 5 (BL), and one was present in Green Ridge S.F., MD from May 18 to the end of the period (m.ob., *fide* RKi). A Yellowthroated Warbler at Irvine, *Warren*, PA, from Apr. 10 to the end of the period (*fide* WH) continued the saga of northward expansion of this species. A Worm-eating Warbler banded at P.I.S.P. May 4 (RFL), was well north of usual range. A "Brewster's" hybrid was at P.I.S.P. May 6 (DBo).

CARDINAL GROSBEAKS TO FINCHES

Blue Grosbeaks were more common than usual at Knoxville (A & RH), and one was seen at Green Ridge S.F., MD, May 19 (MT). The only Dickcissels were at Knoxville, May 5 (CN), Johnson City, TN, May 13 (BC), and near Waynesboro, PA, May 14 (CG).

A Clay-colored Sparrow at P.I.S.P. May 6 (JM) provided the 11th county record. In n. West Virginia, Field Sparrows were in very low numbers (GAH), and Vesper Sparrows were uncommon throughout their range. The only mentions of Henslow's Sparrows were comments on their absence. Savannah Sparrows in *Augusta*, VA, in early June (RS) may represent a new nesting location. A singing Fox Sparrow remained in Jersey

Shore, PA, until the late date of May 13 (G & PS). A Lincoln's Sparrow in *Sullivan*, TN, Mar. 13 was record early (RK). A Lapland Longspur at P.I.S.P. Apr. 28 was at least a month later than the previous late date; a Snow Bunting there May 9 was also record late (JM).

Fifty Bobolinks at the Kingston Steam Plant, TN, May 2 were noteworthy (AH, CC). Orchard Orioles were reported from P.I.S.P., where very rare, May 1 (JH) & 13 (EK).

Purple Finches were missing from many places and were in small numbers where they did occur. Red Crossbills were reported from G.S.M.N.P., May 3 (RK), *Lumpkin*, GA, May 25 (*fide* JSe), and Shawnee S.P., PA, Mar. 21 (RR). There were scattered reports of small numbers of both Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks from throughout the Region, but as the winter season report had indicated, there certainly was no major flight.

EXOTICS

A Ruddy Shelduck was on the Ohio R. at Williamstown, WV, Apr. 1 to the end of the period (EA). Two Chukars were at Bluefield, WV, late winter through May (JP). A Ringed Turtle-Dove was at Roanoke May 22 (MS, HT, JA). Nothing is known about the true status of these birds.

Corrigenda: The reported nesting of N. Waterthrushes at P.N.R. (AB44:427) is in error, the record being for Nashville Warbler. The reference to a second Bald Eagle nesting in *Butler*, PA (AB44:425) should be eliminated.

Contributors: Fred Alsop, Andy Ammann, Robert Anderson, Michael Arabia, Wendell Argabrite, Elizabeth Armstrong,

Jim Ayers, Carole Babyak, Ralph Bell, Dick Bollinger (DBo), Dorothy Bordner, Al Broadhurst, James Brooks, Edward Brucker, Nancy Brundage, Fred Busroe, Alan Clark, Carol Coleman, Gene Coleman, Brian Cross, Dave Darney (DD), David Davis, Mike Davis (MD), Harriett DiGioia, Mike Donahue (MDo), Jeanette Esker, Victor Fazio, Ted Floyd, Alice Fuller, Carl Garner, Steven Grado, Mike Griffith, Greg Grove, Charles Handley, Charlie Heilman, Harry Henderson, John Heninger, Mozelle Henkel, William Highhouse, Bill Hill, David Hochadel, Judy Hochadel (JH), Audrey Hoff, Ron Hoff, Joyce Hoffman (JHf), Joan Howlett (JHo), Dan Huffine (DHu), Rexine Johnson, Virginia Johnston, Ray Kiddy (RKi), Tim Kimmel, Rick Knight, Ed Kwater, Beth Lacy, Ronald F. Leberman, Anthony Marich (TM), George McKinney, Jerry McWilliams, Linda McWilliams, John Mehner (JMe), Norwood Middleton, Burt Monroe Jr, Mark Monroe, Jerry Nagle, Charles Nicholson, Linda Northrop, Paul Pardue, Linda Patrick, Thelma Patton, Becky Peplinski, Jim Phillips, Chase Putnam, Vicky Roth, Ton Rovanssek, Rebecca Satterfield (RSa), Steve Satterfield (SSa), Glenna Schwalbe, Paul Schwalbe, Jeff Sewell (JSe), Mike Smith, Don Snyder, Ruth Snyder, Anne Stamm, Jim Stratton (JS), Jean Stull (JeS), Jim Stull (JiS), Chuck Tague, Dorothy Thomas, Andrew Troyer, Harry Turner, Mary Twigg, Gary Wallace, Brenda Watts, Don Watts, Shirley Wayland, Merrill Wood, Ruth Young—GEORGE A. HALL, P.O. BOX 6045, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26506-6045.

Nikon 8x30E binocular . . . top-rated in Europe.



A review in the *BBC Wildlife* magazine gave the Nikon 8 x 30E top marks in optical performance, field of view, closest focus, and comfort — all important considerations for birders.

Now Europe's best birding binocular is available in the United States — at a price well within reach and reason.

Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope (98¢ postage) for our free 44-page catalog and discount price list 91AB that covers this exceptional Nikon binocular, plus the more than 100 other premium quality binoculars and spotting scopes we carry. It will be the best 98¢ you ever invested in birding.

christophers, ltd.

Our 13th year.

Toll-free order/question/price quote line: (800) 356-6603

Hours: 10:50-00 CST, Mon. thru Fri. Mastercard, Visa, Amex, Discover, Optima. 3% freight on credit card orders.



2401 Tee Circle, Suite 106
Norman, OK 73069
(405) 364-0858

WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

David J. Powell

This season's weather was warm and wet in general, particularly in the south. There were some strong cold periods in March, mid-April, and early May. However, there were also record warm spells, particularly early April, when many records were set. Temperatures reached the low 90s in places. May was cool and wet in Minnesota and warm and wet in Michigan and Wisconsin.

Weather's effect on migration was not completely clear but it certainly brought out the leaves, resulting in more difficult viewing conditions earlier than normal. Minnesota observers commented that they had an excellent migration, while in Wisconsin, observers commented on how bad it was. Tessen's year list was the lowest in at least 20 years at this date. Adams had the second worst migration at Kleinstuck Preserve in 19 years (Kalamazoo, Michigan), but Reinoehl had the best migration in 10 years in Hillsdale, Michigan.

On a sad note, I must announce Kim Eckert's retirement as Michigan's state compiler. Kim has done an excellent job

for many years and was my predecessor as Regional editor. I appreciate the job Kim has done and wish him well in whatever endeavors he chooses (he certainly won't stop birding.) Kim's replacement is Peder Svingen, 151 Bedford Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414. Minnesota reports should go to him.

Abbreviations: L.P. (*Lower Peninsula, MI*); U.P. (*Upper Peninsula, MI*); W.P.B.O. (*White-fish Point Bird Observatory, MI*).

LOONS TO IBISES

Red-throated Loons presented their usual picture in the Region, with 224 observed Apr. 16–May 31, with a maximum of 43 on May 27 at W.P.B.O. (staff), fewer than the last 2 years. Normal numbers were seen along Lakes Michigan and Superior in Wisconsin, the earliest Mar. 24 in *Manitowoc* (CSO); and one was seen May 16 at Duluth (DJ). Only 5342 Com. Loons were reported from W.P.B.O. for the season, the 2nd lowest total since the standardized waterbird census was begun in 1981 (staff). However, the 929 on May 13 was a good high count. Red-necked Grebes were in their usual good numbers at W.P.B.O., with 581 during the period (staff). Eared Grebes were seen at 2 Michigan and 3

Wisconsin locations, average to below average for the e. portion of the Region. Western Grebes were reported from many Minnesota locations, with four in *St. Louis* May 25 (AB) the most unusual. Two W. Grebes were found May 27 in *Manitowoc*, WI (CSO).

American White Pelican observations were restricted to the Mississippi R. and n. Wisconsin counties (*Ashland* and *Superior*), with a maximum count of 33 at Trempealeau N.W.R. Apr. 5 (TH). Reports of Am. White Pelicans continue to increase from s.e. Minnesota; a flock of 15 Apr. 6 in *Becker* (MO) was early. One was also at W.P.B.O. May 11 (SR, DS, JF). A **Brown Pelican** on L. Batte des Morts near Oshkosh, WI, May 3 (MF) was one of few ever reported for the Region.

An Am. Bittern apparently overwintered at Horicon N.W.R., WI; one was present Feb. 27–Mar. 9 (BD). Great Egrets were found in March in all 3 states: Mar. 20 at *Anoka*, MN (GP), the 2nd earliest ever; Mar. 23 at Stoughton, WI (DT); and Mar. 30 at Maple River Flooding, *Gratiot*, MI (JR). Snowy Egrets were in good numbers, with nine in Minnesota, one in Michigan, and four in Wisconsin. The only Tricolored Heron was one May 23–26 in *Ozaukee*, WI (BC, JFr, RG, et al.). Little Blue Herons were reported from one Minnesota, 2

Michigan, and one Wisconsin locations. Cattle Egrets seem to be increasing; this spring there were reports from 8 Minnesota, 3 Michigan, and 3 Wisconsin sites, with nesting at Green Bay. Continuing the pattern of recent years, Yellow-crowned Night-Herons returned to their traditional *Dakota*, MN, and Sugar River, WI, sites. Completely unexpected was an ad. Yellow-crowned in the snow at Wausau, WI, Mar. 22 (DB). A Glossy Ibis was at Nayanquing Pt. S.G.A. May 30 (DMc). Two *Plegadis* ibises were at Pt. Mouillee S.G.A., *Monroe*, MI, May 27 (DBr).

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS

Tundra Swans were in good numbers, with several flocks of over 1000; maximum was 10,000+ Mar. 16 on Wildfowl Bay, *Huron*, MI (RW, MW). Wisconsin observers report scattered sightings of "wild" Trumpeter Swans. It is unclear how to tell a "wild" Trumpeter Swan from a non-wild one, owing to increasing numbers of releases. This situation is mirrored by Mute Swans in Minnesota: four free-flying birds were in a *Goodhue* wetland in April, and a single Mute Swan was in *Winona*, Apr. 15 (CS). Greater White-fronted Geese were seen in good numbers in s.c. Wisconsin in mid-March. They peaked in mid-April in w. Minnesota with a flock of over 200 in *Yellow Medicine* (HK), but went unreported in Michigan for the first time in years. Michigan observers thought the weather allowed waterfowl to move through faster than normal, particularly in the main goose area in the e. portion of the state, where the bulk of White-front records normally occur. Minnesota experienced an unprecedented movement of Ross' Geese this spring, with 19 spread across 7 sites, including a flock of 11 in *Traverse*, Mar. 28 (KE). It was thought that larger flocks of associated Snow Geese might explain the increase. A Brant in *Cottonwood*, MN, Mar. 28 (AMP) provided the state's 2nd earliest arrival date for this casual species.

Cinnamon Teal were found Mar. 27–Apr. 4 in *Jefferson*, WI (m.ob.), Apr. 8 in *Kenosha*, WI



Table 1. Spring Hawk Totals at Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, MI.

	First Date	Last Date	Total Count	Peak Count	Date(s)
Turkey Vulture	Apr. 13	May 30	147	9	Apr. 18
Osprey	Apr. 13	May 31	131	13	May 22
Bald Eagle	Mar. 16	May 31	108	10	Apr. 13
Northern Harrier	Mar. 31	May 31	306	63	Apr. 19
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Apr. 3	May 31	10,381	3933	May 10
Cooper's Hawk	Mar. 26	May 31	134	16	Apr. 6,7
Northern Goshawk	Mar. 15	May 29	76	7	Apr. 29
Red-shouldered Hawk	Mar. 30	May 28	16	6	Apr. 25
Broad-winged Hawk	Apr. 23	May 31	5217	1789	May 11
Swainson's Hawk	Apr. 29	May 28	2		
Red-tailed Hawk	Mar. 16	May 31	1367	152	Apr. 18
Rough-legged Hawk	Mar. 26	May 31	895	163	May 11
Golden Eagle	Mar. 25	May 14	39	8	Apr. 19
American Kestrel	Mar. 24	May 31	425	41	Apr. 26
Merlin	Mar. 19	May 28	70	7	May 10
Peregrine Falcon	Apr. 13	May 29	23	4	May 10,23

(RH), and May 25–26 in *Rice*, MN (F&KS, TB). Hybrid Cinnamon X Blue-winged Teal were found Apr. 27 in *Lac Qui Parle*, MN (AB), May 8–10 in *Aitkin*, MN (WN, PS), and May 29 in *Eau Claire*, WI (JP). A ♂ *Garganey* Apr. 24 at Bridgeport, *Saginaw* (LA, MH), was the first for Michigan. It was not found subsequently, so only the original two observers were fortunate enough to see it. Two Eur. Wigeon were present in late May at Green Bay (TE). Of the four Harlequin Ducks present during the winter, two males lingered until May 7 at Milwaukee (m.ob.). A ♀ Harlequin Duck away from the Great Lakes at St. Cloud, MN, on the Mississippi R. Mar. 7–22 (KE *et al.*) was quite unusual. Oldsquaw were still present at Manitowoc at the end of the period (CSO).

Scoter migration was poor in both Michigan and Wisconsin, although 897 White-winged and 12 Surfs on May 16 at W.P.B.O. (staff) constituted a good single-day movement. However, this was almost half the scoters recorded for the season. Inland Surf Scoters were at lakes in *St. Louis*, MN, May 7 (SS) and *Hillsdale*, MI, May 16 (JR). Also unusual were sightings of White-winged Scoters at 3 w. Minnesota locations; most Minnesota reports are from the Duluth/L. Superior area.

Spring hawk migration at W.P.B.O. is well known, but it appears there may be another good hawk migration viewing point in the "thumb" area of

Michigan, at Port Crescent, *Huron*. In limited visits, the following excellent totals were counted: 114 Turkey Vultures Apr. 7 (ME); 1252 Broad-winged Hawks Apr. 26 (ME); and seven Golden Eagles Apr. 26–May 5 (ME, RW, MW). Hopefully area observers will be able to spend more time there next spring, either confirming its potential or showing it to be yet another "one-year wonder."

An Osprey was early Mar. 9 at Çauseway Marsh, *Muskegon*, MI (C & FV). A very impressive 292 Bald Eagles were at L. Pepin, *Goodhue*, MN, Mar. 31 (KE). Northern Goshawks nested even farther south this year than last, with a nest in *Kalamazoo*, MI, in extreme s. Michigan (RS). Red-shouldered Hawks were seen less frequently this year than last, both at W.P.B.O. and near Port Huron, MI, where the high count this spring was only 16 compared to 49 last year (DM). On the encouraging side, there were reports from 16 L.P. and one U.P. counties. An excellent flight of Broad-winged Hawks was observed, also at Port Huron, with 1293 on May 1 (DM). The only Swainson's Hawk noted away from W.P.B.O. was one Mar. 26 in *Eaton*, MI (DMc). An imm. Ferruginous Hawk was identified May 1 at Rothsay W.M.A., *Wilkin*, MN (PS). Golden Eagles were reported from an impressive 10 locations in Michigan, with reports from 2 locations in Wisconsin. Peregrine Falcons returned to

nest at Palisade Head, *Lake*, MN; probably nested under a bridge in *St. Louis*, MN; and produced three young from a nest in *Washington*, MN (DO). A Prairie Falcon at Buena Vista Marsh, WI, Mar. 15 (DSp) apparently had been found in February. Two Prairie Falcons were at Blue Mounds S.P., *Rock*, MN, May 31 (KN). After last winter's Gyrfalcon "invasion," it was no surprise that gyrs were found in all 3 states. However, it was surprising that they lingered into early May in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

RAILS TO PHALAROPES

Yellow Rails were found at several Minnesota locations and in *Green Lake*, WI, May 5–16 (TS), away from their normal locations at Seney N.W.R, MI, Crex Meadows W.M.A., WI, and McGregor Marsh, *Aitkin*, MN. The outlook for King Rails in

S.A.

Shorebird migration was disappointing Regionwide, particularly in Minnesota, where habitat seemed excellent. The presence or absence of shorebirds during migration is more strongly tied to available habitat than for most species. For that reason, they are more vulnerable to habitat loss. In Michigan in recent years, available habitat has been small, and numbers and diversity have been low. Two springs ago, one of the ponds at the Pte. Mouillee S.G.A., *Monroe*, was drained, and shorebirds appeared by the thousands. One wonders what the shorebird migration picture would be if there were even *some* habitat management for shorebirds.

the Region does not seem to be improving, with reports from 6 Wisconsin locations but none in Michigan. A Virginia Rail Mar. 23 in Wausau, WI (PR), was confusing: overwintering bird or early returnee ♂ Sandhill Cranes returned early to all 3 states, the earliest in Michigan in late February.

A cooperative Snowy Plover was seen and photographed by many at Two Rivers, WI (JS *et al.*), the 3rd Wisconsin sighting. The endangered Piping Plover continues to fare poorly in the Region, with one report from Wisconsin and 3 from Michigan. A Black-necked Stilt was at Sheboygan, WI, May 11 (HA *et al.*), one of only a few reported from Wisconsin. American Avocets were reported from all 3 states, with 65 near Salem, *La Crosse*, WI, Apr. 25 being quite impressive.



Purple Sandpiper at Sheboygan, Wisconsin, April 4, 1991. This bird lingered to the surprising date of May 11. Photograph/Brian Boldt.

Whimbrels were found in all 3 states, with peak totals of 40 in Cook, MN, May 21 (K & MH), 45 and 55 along L. Michigan in Wisconsin May 20, and 250 at W.P.B.O. May 23 (staff), an average flight for what is generally the most common of the "big" shorebirds. Hudsonian Godwits were scarce, with only four reported in Wisconsin and none in Michigan. Marbled Godwits were slightly more common, with three reported from Michigan and four from Wisconsin. One lingered until May 28 along the Mississippi R. in Goodhue, MN (PS), later than normal.

Red Knots were found 3 times in Michigan and once in Wisconsin, all along the Great Lakes. Western Sandpipers were reported from 2 Michigan locations: May 22 at W.P.B.O. (JR, TS) and May 28 at Bay City S.P., Bay (RW, JSo), about average for the Region. The overwintering Purple Sandpiper at Sheboygan, WI, remained until the absurd date of May 11. Buff-breasted Sandpipers, rarely reported in spring, were found May 18 at Jackson, MN (BL). A dowitcher (sp.) was in Tuscola, MI, on the extremely early date of Mar. 23 (RW). A Long-billed Dowitcher was at the Erie Marsh Preserve, Monroe, MI, May 5 (JG, PC, BP, CP). Wilson's Phalaropes were found at 2 St. Louis, MN, locations during May, where unusual (KE).

LARIDS

Parasitic Jaegers made a good, if brief, showing at W.P.B.O., with five May 25 and another May 27 (staff). Two jaegers, probably Parasitic, were off Park Point, Duluth, May 17-26 (PB *et al.*). Fewer Laughing Gulls were seen this spring than last: Mar. 3-11, an immature at Milwaukee (m.ob.); May 17 into June at Manitowoc CSO; May 18-20 at St. Joseph, Berrien, MI (KM *et al.*); May 24-31 at Milwaukee (BB *et al.*); and May 27 at Pte. Mouillee S.G.A., Monroe, MI (DBr). Franklin's Gulls were found at 2 Michigan, 4 Wisconsin, and one Minnesota locations, the most unusual being one at Duluth May 24 (KE). Little Gulls were present in all 3 states: Apr. 17 at Nayanquing Pt. S.G.A., Bay, MI (RW); May 5 at Erie Marsh Preserve, Monroe, MI (PC, JG,

BP, CP); May 17 & 20 near Duluth (PB, DBE); and good numbers May 22 into June at their normal Manitowoc, WI, nesting area. Thayer's Gulls were seen in their usual small numbers in Michigan and Wisconsin, with one quite late May 13 at Port Washington, WI (JFr). Lesser Black-backed Gulls continue to be more frequently reported in the Region: Mar. 30 on L. Lansing, Ingham, MI (KT, JR *et al.*), a quite unusual inland location; Apr. 6 at Erie Marsh Preserve, Monroe, MI (PC); May 18 at Sheboygan, WI (D & MB); and May 29 at W.P.B.O. (PRe, DK, AF), the first observatory record and likely first U.P. record. Glaucous Gulls lingered into late May in all 3 states. Away from their normal Michigan locations, Great Black-backed Gulls were seen at Manitowoc-Two Rivers, WI, until late Apr. (m.ob.), and one was at Wisconsin Pt. Apr. 27 (RJ). Almost never seen in spring although regular in fall, imm. Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen twice this spring: Mar. 30 at Lock and Dam #7 on the Mississippi R., Winona, MN (C & CB), and Apr. 13 at W.P.B.O. (JG, PRe), the 2nd observatory record. An impressive 400 Caspian Terns were in Manitowoc, WI, May 12 (DT).

OWLS TO FLYCATCHERS

After last winter's invasion, Northern Hawk Owls lingered only until early March, with the last report about Mar. 10. Burrowing Owls returned to their Rock, MN, nesting location May 23 (ND) but were otherwise unreported. Great Gray Owls were barely reported away from Minnesota, with three Mar. 10 near Sault Ste. Marie, MI (DG), one Mar. 30 in Bayfield, WI (DL/KC), and one Apr. 23 at W.P.B.O. (staff). The owl banding program at W.P.B.O. provides excellent data on this hard-to-census group. This spring, 147 Long-eareds were reported, with a peak of 26 on Apr. 23 (staff). Encouragingly, Short-eared Owls were reported from both Minnesota and Michigan, with 150 Mar. 28-Apr. 27 in Mason, MI (m.ob.). Courtship flight, including transfer of prey, was seen Apr. 20 near L. Benton, Lincoln, MN (PS). After record-

ing only one Boreal Owl last year, banders at W.P.B.O. saw 25 this spring, with seven Apr. 23. Boreal Owls nested again in Lake, MN (SW), and were still calling at the end of the period along the Gunflint Trail, Cook, MN (K & MH). Northern Saw-whet Owls are also difficult to census. W.P.B.O. banders recorded 65, with a peak of 12 Apr. 21-22.

Chuck-will's-widows were reported May 15-16 at St. Joseph, Berrien, MI (JM) (no details, but in appropriate habitat, near where they have been previously reported); May 23 at Madison, WI (TA); and May 30-31 near Hintz, Oconto, WI (JS *et al.*). Red-bellied Woodpeckers continue to expand their range northward. One or two Three-toed Woodpeckers were at Lace L., Cook, MN (K & MH). Only three Black-backed Woodpeckers were reported in Michigan. An Acadian Flycatcher returned to Elm Creek Park, Hennepin, MN (SC), the 3rd straight year at this location on the n. margin of its Minnesota range. A Say's Phoebe was seen May 11 at Petoskey, Emmet, MI (BSt). If accepted by the Michigan Bird Records Committee, it would be the 5th for the state. The only extralimital W. Kingbird was one May 13 at W.P.B.O. (BS). An E. Kingbird was early Apr. 24 in Monroe, WI (EE).

RAVENS TO WARBLERS

Common Ravens continue to spread slowly southward, with a nesting reported in Anoka, MN (JH) and two on May 14 in Midland (JL). Boreal Chickadees were relatively uncommon at W.P.B.O. this year: only 130, with a peak of 17 on Apr. 24 (staff). The recent spate of relatively mild winters has helped Carolina Wrens. One was n. of normal in Washington, MN, Mar. 17 & 21 (TBe). After many years of absence, broken last spring, Bewick's Wren was found again this spring in Wisconsin, with one May 25 in Dunn (RHo). Good flocks of both kinglets were seen in Michigan, with 100+ Golden-crowneds at Arcadia L., Manistee, Apr. 7 (KW), and 100 Ruby-crowneds at Tawas Point S.P. May 11 (MW). Surprisingly, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher May 20

at Duluth (DBE) was only the 4th local record; this species is regular at W.P.B.O., equally far north.

The pair of Mountain Bluebirds returned to nest again at Florian, Marshall, MN (m.ob.); another pair was seen in Norman Mar. 31 (AB). This species seems to be increasing in Minnesota. Unusual for spring, a Townsend's Solitaire was at Duluth Apr. 4-16 (GN *et al.*). Varied Thrushes lingered in all 3 states and were last reported Apr. 14 near Washburn, WI (DV). Northern Mockingbirds were reported in normal numbers, with reports from 9 Michigan counties, 4 locations in Minnesota, and four birds found in Wisconsin. A cooperative Curve-billed Thrasher was seen and photographed by many after its discovery at a seldom-birded municipal park in Eden Prairie, Hennepin, MN, May 4 (SC *et al.*). The 2nd Minnesota occurrence of this species, it remained until May 9. Three Sprague's Pipits returned Apr. 27 to the



Curve-billed Thrasher at Eden Prairie, Minnesota, May 6, 1991. Second state record. Photograph/Anthony Hertzell.

same *Roseau* field as last year (appropriately, near Sprague Creek); another was singing at Felton Prairie, *Clay*, May 5 (MO).

Loggerhead Shrikes continue to struggle. In addition to nesting birds in *Allegan*, MI, *Oconto*, WI, and *St. Croix*, WI, there were only 2 reports in Michigan, 8 in Minnesota, and 4 in Wisconsin. White-eyed Vireos were reported at 7 locations in Michigan, with four to six also seen in Wisconsin. In Minnesota, where they are rare/regular, one Apr. 28 at Nerstrand Wood S.P. (PS) was earliest ever for the state. Bell's Vireos were scarce, with none in Michigan, three to five in Wisconsin, and one in s.w. Minnesota at Blue Mounds S.P. May 22 (PB), where casual. A Philadelphia Vireo Apr. 27 in Milwaukee (BC) was early.

Warbler migration was mixed, Minnesota observers reporting excellent migration throughout the state, especially in the south, with peak movement May 7–11. Particularly common were Blackpoll Warblers. Wisconsin was just the opposite, with essentially all observers commenting on how few birds there were. Many people missed species that they normally see. Michigan was somewhere in between, with locally good numbers but with many places experiencing very poor numbers. At Kleinstuck Preserve, *Kalamazoo*, where Adams has censused daily for 19 springs, this was the 2nd worst spring ever for numbers, although species diversity was near normal. I find analyzing the warbler migration one of the toughest aspects of this report. Data are sketchy; there is limited comparison from year to year; few locations are consistently covered and/or reported; and since most observers are only out on weekends, there is little chance to get a general picture. This spring, the picture was further hampered by hot weather, which brought leaves out early, making visual observation even more difficult. Only the most outstanding records are cited below.

A N. Parula Apr. 21 at Milwaukee (RG) was early, as was a Black-throated Green Warbler Apr. 6 at Kleinstuck Preserve, *Kalamazoo*, MI (RA)

A Black-throated Gray Warbler was at Kleinstuck Apr. 21–26 (RA, m.ob.). This bird was seen originally on a Sunday morning, was missed by everyone who tried Sunday afternoon, was relocated Monday evening, and was then seen on the succeeding 4 days by all who spent sufficient time looking. It is Michigan's 4th record. A Yellow-throated Warbler Apr. 6 in *Berrien*, MI (RSm, WB) was record early, but at a traditional site. A Yellow-throated Warbler Apr. 7 in *Brown*, MN (AB) was incredibly early for this casual species. Another was in *Goodhue*, MN, at a more normal date of May 1 (EJ). They also returned to their usual nesting area at Sugar River, *Rock*, WI. A Pine Warbler Apr. 7 in *Crawford*, MI (TW, RW) was quite early so far north. Single Kirtland's Warblers, away from their normal Michigan nesting areas, were at Tawas Point S.P., MI, May 15–16 (DGa, G & EP, G & JV) and May 23 in *Jackson*, WI (KB *et al.*), where found last year. The increasingly scarce Prairie Warbler was reported from 4 Michigan locations.

Worm-eating Warblers were fairly well represented, with two in Michigan, two in Minnesota, and seven to 10 in Wisconsin. An early Louisiana Waterthrush was in *Berrien*, MI, Apr. 6 (WB, RSm). Kentucky Warblers were reported from 3 Michigan and 6–8 Wisconsin sites—about average. Connecticut Warblers were reported from 6 locations in Michigan, but for the first time in 19 years, Adams was unable to find one in Kleinstuck Preserve, *Kalamazoo*. Hooded Warblers were found n. of normal at Tawas Point S.P., MI, May 15 (MW); *Winona*, MN, May 10–28 (CS); and *Washington*, MN, May 20 (WL). Yellow-breasted Chats were seen in normal numbers in Michigan, but were scarce elsewhere, with only three reported in Wisconsin and none in Minnesota.

TANAGERS TO WEAVER FINCHES

Surprisingly, the center of abundance for Summer Tanagers in the Region was e.c. Minnesota, where three were found in May. The only other report was of one May 4–8 in *Walworth*, WI (PP). Western Tanagers made an excellent showing, with 4 reports of this casual species, all males

Apr. 27–28, *Marathon*, WI (PR, JRo); Apr. 28 into early May, *Becker*, MN (PB *et al.*); May 4, *Buffalo*, WI (RHo); and May 11, *Goodhue*, MN (HH *et al.*). Northern Cardinals continue to spread northward, with reports from 3 U.P. counties in Michigan and an increasing number of reports in the Duluth area. A well documented Blue Grosbeak May 18 at St. Joseph, *Berrien*, MI (RA, RS, KL), finally provided the first acceptable report for Michigan. There had been many previous reports, but none without problems; this report was very welcome. A ♂ Lazuli Bunting was at Wirth Park, *Hennepin*, MN, May 21 (HT). A Green-tailed Towhee May 16 at the Schlitz Audubon Center, Milwaukee (BC *et al.*), was the first in Wisconsin since the late 1920s/early 1930s.

A locally rare Lark Sparrow was cooperative at Duluth Apr. 12–20 (GN *et al.*). A ♂ Lark Bunting was seen Apr. 9 at Saugatuck Dunes S.P., *Allegan*, MI (BBo). Sharp-tailed Sparrows were scarce in Wisconsin, with only one at Crex Meadows W.M.A., WI. A breeding plumaged Golden-crowned Sparrow May 1–2 at Hickory Corners, *Barry*, MI (RA, m.ob.) was only the 2nd for Michigan.

Western Meadowlarks were reported from 6 counties in Michigan, more than in recent springs. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were also more commonly reported in Michigan, with reports from 9 counties. Orchard Orioles were also more common in Michigan, with one well n. of normal May 19, in *Benzie* (KW). The first documented House Finch nesting in the U.P. was a nest with eggs found May 17 at Marquette (NI, FP). They also continue to spread northward in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Numbers for most finches remained low Regionwide, but Red Crossbills were found singing in several n. Minnesota locations in March, and several groups of 10+ were found in Michigan in May. There were 2 reports of White-winged Crossbills in Michigan in March, and a few redpolls, with one Hoary seen Mar. 18 at W.P.B.O. (CL). Wintering Eurasian Tree Sparrows in *Pierce*, WI remained until early March.

Contributors: (I thank the many people who submitted records for this summary; only individuals with cited records are listed below; state editors are in bold-face). Larry Abrahms, Ray Adams, Herbert Arndt, Tom Ashman, Parker Backstrom, Tom Bell (TBe), Dan Belter, Deede Beneke (DeB), Dave Bensen (DBe), Tom Boevers, Brian Boldt, Al Bolduc, Bill Bouton (BBo), David & Margeret Brasser, Don Brooks (DBr), Kurt Brownell, Clemens & Carole Brysky, Steve Carlson, Phil Chu, Bill Cowart, Nelvina DeKam, Bob Domagalski, **Kim Eckert** (Minnesota, outgoing), Dudley Edmondson, Eric Epstein, Tom Erdman, Monica Essenmacher, Anne Feldpausch, John Flemming, Marilyn Foust, Jim Frank (JFr), Deloris Gavit (DGa), **Dennis Gorsuch**, **Jim Granlund** (Michigan), Ron Gutschow, Ken & Molly Hoffman, Randy Hoffman (RHo), Ron Hoffmann, Harlan Hostager, James Howitz, Mark Hubbing, Tom Hunter, Nick Ilnicky, Ed Jacobs, Doug Johnson, Robby Johnson, Doug Klein, Henry Kyllingstad, David Lauten/Kathy Castelein (DL/KC), Ken Lebo, Craig Limpach, Janea Little, William Longley, Doug McWhirter (DMc), Dan Miller, Kip Miller, Jim Mullins, Kenneth Nanney, Gary Nelson, Warren Nelson, Dan Orr, Mark Otnes, Pat Parsons, Glen & Ellen Peterson, Greg Pietila, Ann Marie Plunkett, F. Poisson, Janine Polk, Curt Powell, David Powell, Bob Putman, Scott Rea, Peter Reaman (PRe), Jack Reinoehl, Paul Risch, Jon Roti (JRo), Russ Schipper, Steve Schon, Tom Schultz, Carol Schumacher, Dave Slikkers, Tim Smart, Jerry Smith, Roy Smith (RSm), Joe Soehnel (JSo), Charles Sontag (CSo), Dan Spahler (DSp), Bill Staples, Bonnie Stout (BSt), Forest & Kirsten Strnad, **Peder Svingen** (Minnesota, incoming), **Daryl Tessen** (Wisconsin), Kevin Thomas, Howard Towle, Carol & Fred VanOveren, Dick Verch, George & Judy Vogel, Terry Walsh, Ron Weeks, Keith Westphal, George Wickstrom, Myles Willard, Steve Wilson, W.P.B.O. staff.—**DAVID J POWELL**, 217 Montrose Ave., *Kalamazoo*, MI 49001-4222.

MIDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

Bruce G. Peterjohn

The mild winter was followed by a warm spring. March temperatures averaged well above normal, especially in the last half of the month, when several strong warm fronts penetrated the Region. April began with seasonal temperatures, but above normal readings returned the last week. May's weather was normal until the last ten days of the month, when summer-like heat blanketed every state. As usual, precipitation was variable. Missouri and Iowa received excessive rainfall throughout the season. In contrast, normal precipitation fell in Ohio in March and April, while May's rainfall totals were greatly reduced.

Spring migration was underway before the season began and proceeded at a fast pace in March. Many record-early arrivals accompanied the warm fronts in late March, primarily species that do not normally arrive until mid-April. Migration pace slowed in early April, but many migrants returned with favorable weather at the end of the month. The largest migratory movements were concentrated May 4–20,

producing noteworthy flights in some areas and considerable disappointment elsewhere. Record heat after May 20 caused an abrupt end to the migration, as most late migrants quickly passed over the Region.

Warm spring weather, when combined with few strong cold fronts, normally produces a lackluster migration; this year was no exception. While rarities appeared in every state, for most observers they did not make up for the lack of May migrants.

Abbreviations: Say. Res. (*Saylorville Reservoir, IA*); S.C.R. (*Squaw Creek Nat'l Wildlife Ref., MO*); Spfld. (*Springfield, IL*).

LOONS TO IBISES

The only Red-throated Loon paid a visit to *Gibson, IN*, Apr. 6–7 (GB). Kentucky's 2nd **Pacific Loon** graced Kentucky L. May 3–13 (†MS, †BM, AS *et al.*), adding to the growing number of spring records from this Region. The wintering **Yellow-billed Loon** at Table Rock L., MO, was observed through Apr. 1 (TB, MC). Another poor passage of Horned Grebes peaked with flocks of 40–75 in Illinois, Missouri, and Indiana. Late migrants were limited to a healthy grebe at Magee Marsh W.M.A., OH, May 24 (MG) and an injured one at Waukegan, IL, May 20 (DDz). Red-necked Grebes were limited to singles at

3 Iowa sites Apr. 1–May 7. Eared Grebe migration was typical for recent years, with small numbers in the w. states plus 3 records from Illinois, 2 from Indiana, and one from Ohio. Only one W. Grebe was detected in Iowa, while another at Spfld. Mar. 25–Apr. 22 (†DB) was a casual spring visitor to Illinois.

The w. states hosted normal numbers of Am. White Pelicans, peaking with 1350 at S.C.R. Apr. 19 (TB). The flock of 159 pelicans at Nauvoo S.P. Apr. 7 (ZW) was unprecedented for Illinois. A **Brown Pelican** was discovered at L. Wappapello, MO, May 18 (S & JBr, m.ob.) and remained into June. It furnished the 4th record for Missouri and the state's first since 1950. The largest flock of Double-crested Cormorants totalled 900 at Maryville, MO, Apr. 24 (DE), but few flocks over 100 were noted in other areas.

A total of 58 reports of Am. Bitterns was fairly encouraging. Least Bitterns were close to normal, with 18 sightings, including early arrivals at 2 Illinois sites Apr. 14–18. Few noteworthy concentrations of herons developed except for 272 Great Egrets at L. Renwick, IL, Apr. 26 (JM). Wandering Snowy Egrets appeared at 12+ sites north to both Great Lakes in a typical spring movement. A Little Blue Heron at Illinois Beach S.P., IL, Apr. 5–7 (m.ob.) was early and

n. of its normal range. Extralimital Little Blues were observed at 8 other locations, in a poor spring flight. A **Tricolored Heron** visited the IPL ponds May 4 (†JG *et al.*), furnishing the 2nd record for Iowa. Other Tricoloreds were in Ohio, with one at East Fork S.P. Apr. 18–19 (HA, m.ob., ph.) and another in *Erie* May 11 (MG ph.) that remained into June.

An early movement of Cattle Egrets produced singles at Chicago Mar. 25 (HR), *Andrew, MO*, Mar. 27 (JHi), and *Warren, KY*, Mar. 30 (RH). Later in the season, the largest flock away from nesting colonies was 12 in *Miami, IN*, May 29 (*vide* JCa). Early Green-backed Herons returned north to Rockford, IL, Apr. 5 (JDo) and Ames, IA, Apr. 6 (*vide* JD). Their numbers continued to decline in several states. An impressive 982 Black-crowned Night-Herons were tallied at L. Calumet, IL, Apr. 25 (m.ob.), while normal numbers appeared elsewhere. The earliest Yellow-crowned Night-Heron returned to *Jackson, IL*, Mar. 27 (KMc). A **White-faced Ibis** wandered E to *Erie* May 4 (†LRi, †EM *et al.*), furnishing Ohio's 3rd confirmed record. Other White-faceds were restricted to the w. states, where 3 reports from Missouri and 2 from Iowa included flocks of six to seven. Small numbers are rare but fairly regular spring visitors to these states.

WATERFOWL

As expected during advanced springs, Tundra Swan migration largely bypassed this Region. Small numbers appeared in the n. states, including extralimitals at the IPL ponds, IA, Mar. 31 (B & LP) and in *Clay, IA*, Apr. 1 (LS). Trumpeter Swans were detected at single sites in Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois, reflecting movements of individuals from introduced populations in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Mute Swans are increasing in n.w. Indiana, where 90 were reported (*vide* KB). Good numbers of Greater White-fronted Geese passed through the w. states, peaking with Iowa flocks of 5400 in *Fremont* Mar. 15 and 1900 at Willow Slough W.M.A. Mar. 16 (SD). A fair flight e. of the Mississippi R. produced maxima of 25–28 in Illinois, 11 in *Ohio, KY*, Mar. 3 (BPB, JPo),



seven in *Gibson*, IN, Mar. 3–14 (GB), and singles at 2 Ohio locations. Late migrants included Illinois singles at Carthage L. June 7 (AS^t *et al.*) and Spfld. May 24 (DB), plus flocks of seven to 14 in Missouri and Iowa through May 14–17. Snow Geese appeared in typical numbers, with maxima of 200,000 in w. Iowa, 3300 in Illinois, and 700 in s.w. Indiana. Ross' Geese were claimed to represent 3–4% of the Snow Goose flock in w. Iowa, perhaps not an unrealistic number given their recent population increases but certainly substantially more than ever reported on their winter range in the c. United States. Elsewhere, a handful of Ross' Geese were scattered across Missouri, while the few Illinois migrants were noted in February.

Duck migration was already underway as the season began. Numbers remained depressed in most areas. Among puddle ducks, N. Pintails and Blue-winged Teal were low, while N. Shovelers and Gadwalls improved somewhat. The most outstanding duck of the spring, a drake *Garganey* was discovered in *Woodbury*, IA, May 11 (†JP, †BH *et al.*), furnishing the first state and 2nd Regional record for this Eurasian visitor. A pair of **Cinnamon Teal** near Owensboro Apr. 6 (†MS, BM *et al.*) were accidental visitors to Kentucky. Elsewhere, 4 reports from Iowa, 2 from Missouri, and Illinois singles at Sangchris L. Mar. 28–Apr. 1 (†DB) and near Goose Lake Prairie S.P. Apr. 7–21 (DJ, m.ob.) represented normal numbers for recent springs. Single Eur. Wigeon appeared at Delaware W.M.A., OH, Mar. 2 (BPj) and Riverton W.M.A., IA, Mar. 6 (†SD *et al.*); they are casual to accidental in

both areas.

Fifty Greater Scaup established a noteworthy inland flock at Clinton, IA, Mar. 21 (PP). The two wintering Harlequin Ducks at Cleveland were observed through Apr. 7. A poor flight of Oldsquaw produced a maximum of two on the Great Lakes and three or fewer at 7 inland sites. Two Black Scoters were accidental spring visitors to Montrose, IA, Mar. 30–31 (†TK, †JFu). Surf Scoters are increasing as spring migrants, possibly becoming the most numerous scoter in some areas. Their Great Lakes maximum was 14 on L. Erie in March. Migrant Surfs were also detected at a total of 8 inland sites in Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, and Ohio, with a maximum of four at Lexington Res., KY, Apr. 21 (MF, *vide* BPB). The latest Surf lingered in *Clark*, OH, May 17–20 (DO). In contrast, only single White-winged Scoters were reported from the Great Lakes, and one or two appeared at single inland sites in Missouri, Iowa, Ohio, and Illinois. Lingered ducks included a Com. Goldeneye at Spfld. through May 31 and a Bufflehead there until May 22 (DB).

VULTURES TO CRANES

Hawkwatchers in the Indiana Dunes witnessed another good flight, producing seasonal totals of 10 Bald Eagles, 145 N. Harriers, 391 Sharp-shinneds, 38 Cooper's Hawks, 122 Red-shouldereds, and 938 Red-taileds (*vide* KB). The hawk migration was generally disappointing elsewhere, as they either bypassed the Region or were not detected passing overhead.

Extralimital Black Vultures were restricted to n.e. Ohio,

with two in *Holmes* Apr. 18 (LY, BGI) and one along L. Erie at Headlands S.P. Mar. 31, in association with a movement of 305 Turkey Vultures (RHn, LR). An early Osprey in *Franklin*, OH, Mar. 9 (MG) preceded a typical migration. This spring's raptorial highlight was provided by an **Am. Swallow-tailed Kite** migrating N over Rockford May 16 (†JDo), Illinois' 3rd since 1906. An unprecedented movement of Mississippi Kites in s.e. Missouri produced 300 between Donaldson Point and Wolf I. May 16, including 150 in a quarter-mile stretch of the Mississippi R. in *New Madrid* (JWi, LB). These numbers exceed previous Regional maxima by a factor of ten. The only extralimital Mississippi Kite appeared in *Knox*, IL, May 17–29 (MB). A moderate flight of N. Goshawks included four past the Indiana Dunes hawk-watch and 12 other sightings from the n. states.

Where were the Broad-winged Hawks? The largest reported flock totalled only 130 in Illinois. The rare dark morph of Broad-winged Hawk was noted at Indiana Dunes May 26 (LH). A Swainson's Hawk returned to Iowa by Mar. 25 and was followed by the expected small numbers passing through the w. states. Illinois reports included the breeding pair in *Kane*, plus wandering Swainson's in *Cook* May 5 (WM) and Rockford May 10–16 (JDo). Other extralimital Swainson's Hawks passed by Maumee Bay S.P. Apr. 6 (†ES *et al.*), for Ohio's 2nd confirmed record, and Johnson Beach, IN, May 5 (†KB *et al.*). A Rough-legged Hawk in *Kossuth*, IA, May 20 (MK) was late. The 10 Golden Eagle records from Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana represented a good flight for this increasing species. Reports of 25+ Merlins included a seasonal total of eight at the Indiana Dunes. The 30+ records of Peregrines were highlighted by four at S.C.R. May 5 (DE *et al.*).

Rail numbers improved somewhat. The elusive Yellow Rail was represented by singles in *Lagrange*, IN, Apr. 6 (*vide* JCa), *Jasper*, MO, Apr. 13 (TB), *Fermi*, IL, Apr. 14 (PK), and *Cook*, IL, May 4 (VS). Equally elusive, Black Rail was acceptably documented only at

Danville, IL, Apr. 7 (†RCh). Six records of King Rails were normal for recent years, with the earliest at Schell-Osage W.M.A., MO, Apr. 7 (LM). The largest concentrations of migrant rails were 18 Virginias at Illinois Beach S.P., IL, May 4 (JS, JN) and 55 Soras at Union Slough N.W.R., IA, May 7 (MK). An early Sora returned to *Arcola*, IL, Mar. 23 (RCh). Common Moorhens remained scarce in most areas. The only sizable flight of Sandhill Cranes passed around L. Michigan Mar. 22, with 1357 at Hammond, IN (JBv) and 1000 at Evergreen Park, IL. Extralimital reports included 30 over *McLean*, IL, Mar. 15 (*vide* VK), four or fewer at sites in Missouri, and three in Iowa.

SHOREBIRDS

Despite generally favorable habitat, the shorebird migration was disappointing. The earliest Lesser Golden-Plover returned to *Tuscola*, IL, Mar. 9 (RCh), but sub-par numbers peaked at only 1000 in Illinois. Two early Semipalmated Plovers returned to *Algonia*, IA, Apr. 1 (MK). Eight records of Piping Plovers from Iowa, Indiana, and Illinois was fairly good for recent springs. Since migrants are normally encountered as singles, four at *Waukegan*, IL, May 9 (JS, JN) were unexpected. American Avocets returned to Iowa by Apr. 8, but their passage was poor, with a total of 4 reports from Illinois and Iowa; three made the largest "flock." Wandering Black-necked Stilts are becoming a regular spring phenomenon. This year's were singles in *Woodbury*, IA, Apr. 6–14 (†BH, †m.ob.) and at S.C.R. May 17 (MR ph.). They remain accidental visitors to every state, but their status is clearly changing.

Early migrants included a Lesser Yellowlegs in *St. Charles*, MO, Mar. 2 (JZ) and Solitary Sandpiper in *Warren*, KY, Mar. 18 (MS, BM). A good flight of Willets in late April and early May produced flocks of 60 at Crab Orchard N.W.R., IL, Apr. 28 (KM), 45 at Kentucky L., KY, May 3 (MS, BM *et al.*), 40 at S.C.R. May 3 (RB), 35 at Colo., IA, May 1 (HZ, JFu), and 25 at Sangchris L., IL, Apr. 26 (DB). Smaller numbers were scattered across every state except Ohio.



Male Cinnamon Teal (front left) with Green-winged and Blue-winged teal at Goose Lake Prairie State Park, Illinois, April 10, 1991. Photograph/ Joe B. Milosevich.

Early Spotted Sandpipers returned to Kentucky L., KY, Mar. 13 (J & PB) and Columbia, MO, Mar. 24 (PM). Upland Sandpipers were generally scarce. Whimbrel were limited to a Great Lakes maximum of eight at Waukegan, IL, May 19 (DDz), and inland singles in Woodbury, IA, May 13 (†JP) and Summit, OH, May 17 (LR, JVp). The only Hudsonian Godwit report e. of the Mississippi R. was of four at Spfld. May 13 (DB). Seventeen Marbled Godwits in *St. Charles* Apr. 27 (BW) represented a modern high count for Missouri. They appeared in Iowa Apr. 6 and produced scattered reports of seven or fewer individuals. There was also one from Illinois.

Sanderlings were very scarce, a disturbing trend that has been apparent for several years. Spring sightings of W. Sandpipers are definitely increasing, perhaps the result of more knowledgeable observers rather than expanding numbers. Small numbers were detected in every state. A Least Sandpiper at Buck Creek S.P., OH, Mar. 9 (DO) probably overwintered locally. This species returned early, with one at Lakin Slough, IA, Mar. 22 (SD) and 200+ at Reelfoot N.W.R., KY, April 1 (CP). Baird's Sandpipers were reported from Iowa by Mar. 11 and peaked with 150 in *Saline*, MO, Apr. 29 (TB). Scarce spring migrants e. of the Mississippi R., single Baird's were found at 2 sites in Illinois. The earliest Pectoral Sandpiper returned to Iowa by Mar. 6. Improved numbers included flocks of 3000 near Graysville, IN, Apr. 2-5 (AB) and 1000-1370 in Missouri and Illinois.

A Stilt Sandpiper in *Seneca*, OH, Apr. 9 (TBa) was very early. A normal spring flight produced a maximum of 59 at S.C.R. May 17 (MR) and scattered individuals e. of the Mississippi R. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were restricted to the w. states as widely scattered individuals and pairs. Three Ruffs were typical for recent years, with a female near Grayville, IN, Apr. 4-5 (†AB *et al.*), and males in *Greene*, IA, May 26 (†RM, †MJ *et al.*) and Kidron, OH, May 28 (EM, BGL). Record-early Short-billed Dowitchers appeared in *St. Charles*, MO, Apr. 4 (DA, JVB)

and Fermi, IL, Apr. 7 (ASt *et al.*), perhaps associated with a good movement of Long-billed Dowitchers in April and early May. Long-billed returned to Iowa and Missouri by Mar. 23-25 and were fairly widespread in April. The 75 at Spfld. May 2 (DB) easily made the largest spring flock for Illinois. An early Am. Woodcock returned to Urbana, IL, Feb. 8 (RCh). Early Wilson's Phalaropes appeared in Iowa and Missouri by Mar. 25-28. Red-necked Phalaropes were detected at 6 locations in Iowa, Illinois, and Indiana, which is fairly typical. Of these records, two in *Gibson*, IN, May 26 (GB) were farthest from their normal migration corridor.

GULLS, TERNS

Larids yielded few surprises. A typical spring for Laughing Gulls began with one at Spfld. Apr. 7 (DB). There were 4+ records from L. Michigan, perhaps 4 adults at Spfld., one other c. Illinois sighting, and 2 at *Gibson*, IN, May 25-26 (GB). Few Franklin's Gulls wandered e. of the Mississippi R., although one in *Summit* Apr. 8 (JVp, LR) was early for Ohio. Always noteworthy inland, single imm. Little Gulls appeared in *St. Charles*, MO, Apr. 4 (DA *et al.*) and *Tazewell*, IL, May 8-11 (KR, †MB *et al.*). Little Gulls were noted at single sites on each Great Lake, normal numbers for spring. Lingered gulls included a Thayer's at Chicago May 18 (RHu), and one Thayer's and one Iceland at Michigan City, IN, Apr. 20 (KB *et al.*). Inland Lesser Black-backed Gulls are still unusual, with singles at *Sabula*, IA, Mar. 10 (†JFu), *Runnells W.M.A.*, IA, Mar. 31 (P & RA ph.), *Pleasant Hill Res.*, OH, Apr. 12-14 (†KM ph.), and *Gibson*, IN, Apr. 21 (GB). There were also 2 records from L. Michigan. The latest Glaucous Gulls remained on L. Michigan through Apr. 20-24. Three reports of Great Black-backed Gulls from L. Michigan was typical of recent years. An ad. Black-legged Kittiwake at *Schell-Osage W.M.A.*, MO, Apr. 7 (CH *et al.*, ph.) was remarkable; this species is very unusual in spring, when virtually every record has pertained to immatures.

Caspian Terns returned to L.

Michigan by Apr. 7. Their numbers were generally poor except along L. Michigan, where 194 were tallied at Michigan City, IN, Apr. 20 (KB *et al.*) and 92 at Evanston, IL, Apr. 21 (EW). The only appreciable movement of Com. Terns produced 514+ at Wilmette, IL, May 19 (EW). Spring migrants have virtually disappeared from L. Erie, where they were once plentiful. A Forster's Tern was very early at *Savanna*, IL, Mar. 23 (*vide* JDo). Few Least Terns were encountered in their established breeding range. Extralimital individuals were six at Louisville May 5 (LRa) and one near Havana, IL, May 25 (†MB, †LA *et al.*). Migrant Black Terns were plentiful only along the w. margin of the Region, with S.C.R. flocks of 550+ May 13 and 450+ May 15 (MR), as well as a maximum of 200 in n.w. Iowa. They were very scarce to absent e. of the Mississippi R.

CUCKOOS TO SWALLOWS

Cuckoos were in improved numbers, with maxima of 15 Black-billed at Potato Creek S.P., IN, May 11 (*vide* VR) and 85 Yellow-billed in *Union*, IL, May 5 (DR, VK *et al.*). The only migrant Barn Owl was reported from n. Ohio. The last reminder of this winter's dismal flight of Snowy Owls was one in *Daviess*, IN, Mar. 1 (*vide* JCa). Small numbers of migrant Long-eared Owls were discovered in every state except Kentucky. A few N. Saw-whets were noted in the n. states, including at least five in the Cleveland area. An early Com. Nighthawk returned to *Jefferson*, KY, Apr. 14 (FM). Their only sizable flight produced 150 over *St. Louis*, MO, May 12 (JZ). Other early goat-suckers included a Chuck-will's-widow in *Grayson*, KY, Apr. 6 (KCl), a Whip-poor-will at *Hanson*, KY, Mar. 21 (*vide* JHn), and numerous arriving Whip-poor-wills Apr. 3-7 across the s. half of the Region. Tallies of 20 Chuck-will's-widows and 53 Whip-poor-wills in *Union*, IL, May 4 (VK *et al.*) were noteworthy. Early arrivals included six Chimney Swifts over *Anna*, IL, Apr. 5 (KMc), and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in *Taney*, MO, Apr. 2 (JL) and *Murray*, KY, Apr. 6 (WB).

Migrant woodpeckers movements were not impressive

except for 20 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in *St. Louis*, MO, Apr. 4 (JZ) and 147 N. Flickers at *Ottawa N.W.R.*, OH, Apr. 7 (EP *et al.*). Flycatchers were locally distributed, producing totals such as 144 E. Wood-Pewees, 120 Acadians, and 115 Great Cresteds in *Union*, IL, May 4 (VK *et al.*), 11 Alders in the *Indiana Dunes* May 29 (LH), and 25 Least at *Fox Island Park*, IN, May 9 (Haw). However, they were scarce in other areas. Early migrants included Great Crested Flycatchers at *Hanson*, KY, Apr. 6 (*vide* JHn) and *Dallas*, MO, Apr. 12 (JHy). The only extralimital W. Kingbird was noted at *Waukegan*, IL, May 27 (DDz). The earliest Scissor-tailed Flycatcher returned to *Newton*, MO, Apr. 7 (LC), but none wandered outside of Missouri this year.

Swallows produced many early arrivals but few sizeable concentrations. The favorable weather did not force them to congregate over lakes and marshes. Given the mild weather in early March, a Purple Martin in *Kentucky* Mar. 9 and Tree Swallows in *Indiana* and *Missouri* Mar. 2 were not unexpected. Early N. Rough-winged Swallows appeared in *Taney*, MO, Mar. 4 (JF), *Louisville* Mar. 23 (MS), and *Spring Valley W.M.A.*, OH, Mar. 30 (DD). Bank Swallows in March are very unusual, such as singles at *Sangchris L.*, IL, Mar. 30 (DB ph.) and *Benton*, MO, Mar. 31 (PM). The earliest Cliff Swallows appeared in *Du Page*, IL, Mar. 29 (DRi) and *Taney*, MO, Apr. 1 (PMA). A Barn Swallow was noted in *Warren*, KY, Mar. 18 (MS, BM); others returned to most states before the end of the month.

CROWS TO SHRIKES

A Fish Crow in *Pike*, MO, Apr. 21 (BS) was at the n. edge of its established range. A small return flight of Black-capped Chickadees was evident Apr. 4 along the *Cleveland lakefront*, where they passed at a rate of 16 per hour (WK). *Carolina Wrens* continued to improve at the n. edge of their range and were noted n. to *Cerro Gordo*, IA (JW). Encouraging numbers of *Bewick's Wrens* were found, the most since the 1970s. *Missouri*

records included 3 sightings outside the established nesting range. There were seven records from Illinois, beginning with one at Spfld. Mar. 24 (DB). Single wrens were also discovered at 2 Kentucky locations, while Iowa records consisted of up to three at Shimek S.F. Apr. 28–May 4 (TK *et al.*), one at Burlington Apr. 27 (†JFu) and another at Shenandoah May 8 (†JB). Let's hope this trend continues. Early House Wrens appeared in most states by Apr. 1–7. A Marsh Wren at Spring Valley W.M.A., OH, Apr. 6 (LG) may have wintered locally. Ruby-crowned Kinglets appeared in better numbers, peaking with 80 at Call S.P., IA, May 4 (MK) and 30–50 elsewhere. The earliest Blue-gray Gnatcatchers returned to Illinois and Missouri by Mar. 27–30. Their numbers continued to improve, but reports of 10–30 from the n. edge of the Region were dwarfed by 400 in Union, IL, May 4 (VK *et al.*) and 105 in Johnson, IL, Apr. 20 (RP).

The most coveted passerine of the season must have been the Northern Wheatear in Gibson, IN, Mar. 31–Apr. 6 (†GB, m.ob. ph.), furnishing the first state and 3rd Regional record of this attractive thrush. Perhaps it was the same individual that passed through Illinois last fall. Early migrant thrushes included a Veery in St. Louis, MO, Apr. 18 (JZ) and Swainson's at Land-between-the-Lakes, KY, Apr. 13 (J & PB). As usual, this group received mixed reports. Substantial numbers passed over Missouri the evening of May 10–11, but the only concentrations on the ground appeared in Union, IL, May 4, with 73 Veeries, 391 Gray-cheekeds, 552 Swainson's, and 171 Wood thrushes (VK *et al.*). Three wintering Varied Thrushes in n. Illinois were last reported Mar. 23–28. Another was reportedly killed by a cat in Mentor, OH, Apr. 16 (*vide* CFj), the first spring migrant reported from that state. Migrant mimids included a maximum of 40 Gray Catbirds in n. Illinois and concentrations of 40–46 Brown Thrashers in Missouri and Illinois.

American Pipits produced a maximum of 300+ in Kentucky and a late migrant at Cleveland May 27 (TL). Rare but regular

migrants through w. Missouri, six Sprague's Pipits were found in Jasper and Barton Apr. 13 (TB). Two Bohemian Waxwings lingered in n.w. Iowa at Cherokee Mar. 24 (DBi). Cedar Waxwings were generally scarce in March and April, but good numbers passed through every state in May. After fairly good numbers of N. Shrikes appeared this winter, there were 12 reports from the n. states in March. The status of Loggerhead Shrikes remained unchanged, with only 5 reports outside established range, no cause for celebration for a species that has become very scarce in many areas.

VIREOS, WARBLERS

Both groups were characterized by numerous record-early arrivals in late March and early April, but the bulk of the flight occurred on time. Some early records are cited below; space limits will not permit them all. The most pronounced flight was evident in s. Illinois May 4, producing totals such as 216 White-eyed Vireos, 81 Yellow-throated Vireos, 182 Red-eyed Vireos, 396 Tennessee Warblers, 89 N. Parulas, 81 Chestnut-sided Warblers, 41 Bay-breasted Warblers, 160 Blackpoll Warblers, 128 Prothonotary Warblers, 104 Worm-eating Warblers, 55 N. Waterthrushes, 255 Kentucky Warblers, and 67 Yellow-breasted Chats in Union (VK *et al.*). The same flight in the Chicago area produced 10 Orange-crowneds, 319 Yellow-rumpeds, and 213 Palm Warblers. Similar movements were not evident elsewhere on that date.

Early White-eyed Vireos returned to Pomona, IL, Mar. 27 (KMc) and near Henderson, KY, Apr. 6 (MS, BM). Bell's Vireos were reported in normal numbers, including widely scattered pairs at traditional sites in the e. states. Other early vireos included Yellow-throateds in Union, IL, Apr. 10 (KMc) and Charleston, IL, Apr. 7 (BHu), three Warblings in Union, IL, Apr. 10 (KMc), and four Red-eyes in Barry, MO, Apr. 11 (VJ).

A Blue-winged Warbler in Pomona, IL, Apr. 10 was early (KMc). Fairly good numbers of Golden-winged Warblers were topped by 31 in Union, IL, May 4. Other early warblers included Tennessees at Land-between-the

Lakes, KY, Apr. 12–13 (J & PB) and Sangchris L., IL, Apr. 17 (DB). Orange-crowneds in Missouri and Illinois Apr. 5–6, and N. Parulas in Barry, MO, Mar. 25 (VJ), Cave City, KY, Mar. 28 (MSt), and Spfld. Mar. 28 (DB). An impressive 233 Yellow Warblers were tallied at Potato Creek S.P., IN, May 11 (*vide* VR). A Black-throated Blue Warbler in Barry May 4 (VJ) was very unusual in s.w. Missouri. An early movement of Black-throated Green Warblers produced singles at Louisville Apr. 6 (MS) and Decatur, IL, Apr. 7 (MD).

A Townsend's Warbler described from Sioux City, IA, May 11 (†BGa) was unexpected; most of the few previous records have been in fall. Yellow-throated Warblers returned to Taney, MO, Mar. 24 (B & KJ) and were widespread by Apr. 6–7. They continued to spread northward, the most notable record of two in Clay, IA, May 4 (†LS). Migrant Pine Warblers were evident in St. Louis, MO, Mar. 2 (JC *et al.*). Other early warblers included Palm and Cerulean in Jackson, IL, Apr. 8 (KMc); Black-and-whites in Du Page, IL, Mar. 26 (*vide* EW) and Spfld. Mar. 29 (DB); and Prothonotary at Hinsdale, IL, Apr. 6 (ASt). A Worm-eating Warbler was unusual in n. Iowa at Call S.P. May 13–14 (MK). An Ovenbird at Louisville Mar. 19 (BSh) was remarkably early and suggested the possibility of local wintering. Louisiana Waterthrushes returned to Shimek S.F., IA, by Mar. 30 (SD). Unexpected in w. Iowa was a Kentucky Warbler in Woodbury May 11 (JP, BH). Another Kentucky was an early migrant at Chicago Apr. 12 (HR). Remarkably early Hooded Warblers returned to St. Louis, MO, Mar. 31–Apr. 4 (KC *et al.*) and Hopkins, KY, Apr. 9 (JHn).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

Summer and Scarlet tanagers joined the early arrivals, with many records Apr. 13–18. A Summer Tanager was unusual in w. Iowa at Sioux City May 11 (JP, BH). The large flight in s. Illinois May 4 produced impressive totals of 105 Summers and 108 Scarlets in Union (VK *et al.*). However, the real surprises were single Western Tanagers at Red

Rock Res., IA, May 7 (TS ph., †m.ob.) and Mendota, IL, May 10–11 (MN, †m.ob.). They are accidental visitors to both states, and there are very few firm spring records from the Region. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Taney, MO, Apr. 5 (JHy) was early; a remarkable 134 were tallied in Union, IL, May 4. Blue Grosbeaks continued their range expansion, with records north to both Great Lakes and O'Brien and Lee, IA. Dickcissels at Charleston, MO, Mar. 6 (N & JH *et al.*) and near Truman Res., MO, Mar. 10 (LM *et al.*) probably wintered locally.

In general, the passage of sparrows was mediocre, continuing the trend of recent years. Single Am. Tree Sparrows at Sweet Marsh, IA, May 18 (†AJ) and Woodbury, IA, May 14 (BH) were very late. Chipping Sparrows returned to Taney, MO, Mar. 4 (JHy), and most other areas before the end of the month. An impressive 52 Clay-colored Sparrows were tallied in Woodbury, IA, May 5 (BE). Ten reports from Illinois made a good spring flight, but none was detected farther east. The 65 Vesper Sparrows at Schell-Osage W.M.A., MO, Mar. 31 (PM) represented good numbers for recent years. A Lark Sparrow at Woodburn, Apr. 28 was unexpected in n.e. Indiana (Haw). Except for 40 Grasshopper Sparrows in Morgan, MO, Apr. 27 (JHy, JVi), the movement of grassland sparrows was disappointing. Early Henslow's Sparrows were noted at Rockford, IL, Apr. 6 (JDo), Chicago Apr. 7 (EW), and Hocking, OH, Apr. 8 (Fry). The expected small numbers of Le Conte's Sparrows passed through Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri. Single Sharp-tailed Sparrows were noted at a total of 5 sites in Iowa, Illinois, and Ohio May 16–26, typical numbers and dates for this overlooked spring migrant. Peak movements of White-throated Sparrows produced 500 at St. Louis, MO, Apr. 26 (BB, BK) and an equal number in O'Brien, IA, Apr. 30 (JVD). The prize for the rarest sparrow was captured by the Golden-crowned Sparrow at Chicago Apr. 23 (EL, †m.ob.), furnishing Illinois' 2nd record of a spring migrant. The only Harris' Sparrow e. of the Mississippi R. appeared in

Illinois, but 55 were noted at Schell-Osage W.M.A., MO, Mar. 31 (PM), where they are regular migrants. A Dark-eyed Junco lingered at Headlands S.P., OH, through May 26 (IK, m.ob.). Lapland Longspurs were noted in below-normal numbers except for 2000 in *Fremont*, IA, Mar. 15 (SD). A Smith's Longspur at Cleveland Apr. 6 (†RHn) was well e. of its normal range and provided one of few recent records for Ohio.

Bobolinks appear to be declining. Except for 240 at one c. Illinois site, few flocks were reported. Yellow-headed Blackbirds returned to Iowa and Illinois by Mar. 21–22. Most reports were from their established range, except for singles at 3 locations in c. Illinois. In Iowa, Great-tailed Grackles are restricted to the s.w. and w.c. counties. They returned to the Missouri Valley Mar. 30 (BH, JP) and appeared at 5 other locations, with a maximum of 12 pairs at Goose L. (SD). The expected numbers were also noted in w. Missouri. Peak oriole movements produced 140 Orchards in *Union*, IL, May 4 (VK *et al.*) and 75 Northerners at

Headlands S.P., OH, May 11 (RHn).

After a dismal winter, the finch flight was nonexistent. Purple Finches elicited mixed reports, with no more than 10–25 in any state. Small numbers of Red Crossbills were scattered across the n. states. The largest flock totalled 39+ in *Hocking*, OH (Fry), where they lingered to June with no sign of nesting. They were also noted through May 22 in Cherokee, IA (DBi). The only White-winged Crossbill was reported from Mason City, IA, Mar. 4 (RG). Most areas were visited by only small numbers of Pine Siskins, if they appeared at all. However, "good numbers" were reported from c. Lake Erie in May, and 200 were tallied at Burlington, IA, Apr. 27 (JFu). Even after this dismal flight, a few pairs remained to attempt nesting. Evening Grosbeaks were widely scattered in Illinois, Kentucky, and Ohio, with a maximum of 72 in *Hocking*, OH.

Contributors: (State editors in boldface) Many persons not individually acknowledged submitted notes for various state

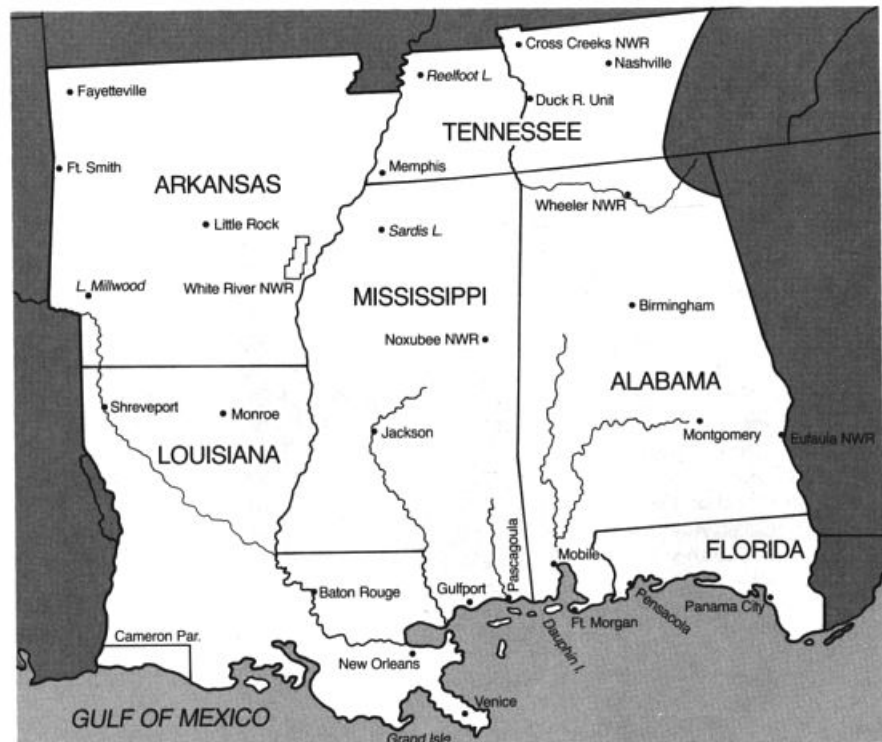
reports. P. & R. Allen, D. Anderson, H. Armstrong, L. Augustine, T. Barksdale, T. Bartlett (TBA), M. Baum, J. & P. Bell, R. Bell, **Carl Bendorf** (Iowa), D. Bierman (DBi), D. Bohlen, J. Bower (JBw), G. Bowman, B. Boyce, J. Braley, W. Brines, **Ken Brock** (n.w. Indiana), S. & J. Brown (S & JBr), **Alan Bruner** (Indiana), L. Burger, J. Castrale (JCa), J. Chain, R. Chapel (RCh), L. Childers, K. Clay (KCl), K. Cohen, A. Contreras, M. Corder, M. Deaton, D. Diaz (DDz), J. Dinsmore, S. Dinsmore, D. Dister, J. Donaldson (JDo), D. Easterla, B. Engebretsen, J. Fitzgerald, C. Fjeldstadt (CFj), M. Flynn, J. Fry (Fry), **Jim Fuller** (JFu) (Iowa), L. Gara, B. Garthright (BGa), B. Glick (BGl), R. Goranson, J. Greer, M. Gustafson, N. & J. Halter, J. Hancock (JHn), R. Hannikman (RHn), J. Haw (Haw), J. Hayes (JHy), R. Healy, J. Hilsabeck (JHi), L. Hinchman, C. Hobbs, R. Hughes (RHu), B. Hunt (BHU), B. Huser, M. Jackson, V. Jenkins, A. Johnson, B. & K. Johnson, D. Jones, P. Kasper, M. Kenne, **Tom Kent** (Iowa), I.

Kiwi, W. Klammm, V. Kleen, B. Kleiger, E. Latturmer, T. LePage, J. Long, P. Mahnkey (PMA), F. Mansmith, W. Marcisz, P. McKenzie, K. McMullen (KMc), K. Metcalf, E. Miller, J. Milosevich, B. Monroe, L. Moore, R. Myers, J. Neal, M. Neff, D. Overacker, B. & L. Padelford, R. Palmer, B. Palmer-Ball (BPB), B. Peterjohn (BPj), P. Petersen, C. Peterson, E. Pierce, J. Porter (JPo), J. Probst, L. Rauth (LRa), D. Richards (DRi), L. Richardson (LRi), K. Richmond, V. Riemenschneider, **Mark Robbins** (Missouri), D. Robinson, **Larry Rosche** (Ohio), H. Rylaarsdam, T. Schantz, E. Schlabach, L. Schoenewe, V. Schwartz, B. Shannon (BSh), J. Solum, **Anne Stamm** (Kentucky), M. Stinson, A. Stokie (ASt), M. Sturgeon (MSt), B. Sullivan (BS), J. Van Benthuyzen (JVB), J. Vanderpoel (JVP), J. Van Dyk (JVD), J. Vickery (JVl), J. Walater, **Eric Walters** (Illinois), B. Wetteroth, Z. Williams, J. Wilson, (JWi), L. Yoder, H. Zalatel, J. Ziebol.—**BRUCE PETERJOHN**, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD 20708.

CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

David P. Muth

The dominant story this spring was rain. From its epicenter at New Orleans, the flood lapped out to the farthest corners of the Region. Virtually every reporting station was above normal for the year by the end of May, but it seemed that New Orleans had been transported to the tropics. As of May 31, the official National Weather Service station at the airport recorded 60.51 inches, already greater than the average annual rainfall of 59.74 inches! The official total for May was 14.28 inches, compared to an average of 5.07 inches. The all-time annual rainfall record for this station is 85.30 inches in 1983, a record sure to crumble. (As I write this, the airport total stands at 83.02 inches.) Other stations around New Orleans were already well



above 70 inches by the end of May.

Although other Regional totals were not so dramatic, the rainfall affected migration Regionwide and had predictable results. Some shorebird areas were flooded out but other areas were created, resulting in above-average inland sightings of waterbirds. Some lucky birders experienced a few old-fashioned fallouts along the coast, but many birding trips were rained out. Terry Schiefer reports that it rained for eight consecutive weekends in Starkville during the migration peak!

Weather conditions that produced the rain also brought mild to warm temperatures on generally strong southerly windflow. This may have contributed to the rash of early sightings of everything from coastal winterers inland to neotropical migrants on the coast. Still, it is hard to imagine how our weather conditions could have influenced the early arrival of South American winterers such as Red-eyed Vireos and Canada Warblers.

It never seems to get easier for Gulf Coast veterans to predict migration from observed weather, though most of us can do a brilliant after-the-fact analysis. The best fallout on the Alabama coast was the afternoon of April 19. The day began sunny with south winds. Greg and Debra Jackson decided to take advantage of unpromising conditions to go shopping. No weather developed, at the coast or offshore, so they were astonished to return to Fort Morgan that afternoon to find migrants everywhere. Something like that seems to defy even *ex post facto* analysis.

The days preceding the spring meeting of the Louisiana Ornithological Society at Cameron were marked by strong southeast winds, a prescription for poor birding: transgulf migrants blown inland and circumgulf migrants staying in Texas. The best one can hope for in such conditions (if you can find any birds at all) is a few more Blackpolls, a few Cape Mays, and Black-throated Blues, and if you are very lucky, a Black-whiskered Vireo. So, of course, there was an excellent fallout, characterized by few eastern migrants but loads of western

birds, including Western Kingbirds, Western Tanagers, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds, plus stellar rarities outlined below. It turns out, though, that those southeast winds were not the result of high pressure to our northeast (a prescription for boredom), but the result of a strong low pressure system to our southwest, parked just off the Texas-Mexico coast. This system must have been drawing birds in a big circle clear around its center out over the Gulf and depositing them on the southwest Louisiana coast. Perfectly obvious to us armchair migration analysts.

Abbreviations:

p.a. (*pending acceptance*).

LOONS TO CRANES

A rare Red-throated Loon lingered at Dauphin I., AL, Apr. 10–21 (J & JP, EC, DMi). A late report was received of a Red-throated Loon at Britton Ford in Henry, TN, Feb. 26 (PL, SF, DM, JRW). The first Arkansas record of Pacific Loon was in Cleburne May 25–31 (D & B &



Pacific Loon at Greers Ferry, Arkansas, May 26, 1991. First state record. Photograph/Max Parker.

BV, ph., m.ob.). Horned Grebes were late at Sardis Waterfowl Ref., MS, Apr. 15 (GK, VT) and in Oktibbeha, MS, Apr. 18 (TLS). An Eared Grebe in

Shelby, TN, Apr. 2 was unusual; two lingered until Apr. 30 in coastal Jackson, MS (m.ob.).

A dead subad. Masked Booby was picked up on the beach in Cameron, LA, May 19 (RDP, NN, GC); nearshore records of non-storm-related live birds remain almost nonexistent in Louisiana. An ad. Brown Booby flying along Navarre Beach was exceptional in Santa Rosa, FL, May 28 (BHS). Among several reports of migrating Am. White Pelicans inland, the most impressive were 1300 in 3 groups in Arkadelphia, AR, Apr. 7 (HP, MP).

Yellow-crowned Night-Herons are transgulf migrants. It is not uncommon to find a few resting in coastal woods after their long flight, but 300 in a Bay St. Louis, MS, woodland Mar. 16 was an amazing concentration (MM). White Ibises were north and early in Arkansas and Tennessee, showing something other than the usual pattern of post-breeding dispersal. An adult was way up in Lake, TN, Apr. 14 (WGC). At L. Millwood, AR, five adults were found, also Apr. 14, with up to 24 there May 19, indicating probable local nesting (CM, m.ob.). Thirty adults were seen at L. Chicot, AR, May 7 (DRS), and 50 were seen along the Mississippi R. in Phillips May 15 (HP, MP). Glossy Ibises are abundant in peninsular Florida and s.e. Louisiana, but not normally seen in spring between the 2 areas. This year one was in Hancock, MS, Mar. 26 (JAT, m.ob.), four were at Ft. Walton Beach, FL, Mar. 30 (RAD, SD, WD, LH), and one was seen on Blakely I. in Mobile Bay, AL, Apr. 15 (GDJ, *et al.*). Arkansas' 6th and 7th confirmed White-faced Ibises were discovered at Centerton Fish Hatchery May 4–5 (KZ, MMI) and at L. Mena May 5 (MMi, JAR, ph., m.ob.).

A group of nine apparently wild and definitely free-flying Mute Swans put in an unexplained appearance in Jefferson, AL, Mar. 13 (RRS). A late report was received of two imm. Tundra Swans in Woodruff, AR, Feb. 16 (JRW). An imm. Tundra Swan remained from winter in Oktibbeha, MS, Jan. 24–Mar. 16 (TLS). Four were present in Haywood, TN, until Mar. 6 (JRW). A Fulvous Whistling-Duck was far east in Jackson, MS,

Apr. 17 (CC, HC). Up to 14 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were observed at L. Millwood, AR, Apr. 14–May 27. Copulation was noted on 2 occasions, and breeding is suspected (CM). A lone Black-bellied was in a large flock of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks in Acadia, LA, Apr. 13 (KVR), far from the now-expected birds at Lacassine N.W.R. Two Ross' Geese were seen Feb. 21 and one Feb. 24 in Tunica, MS (JRW). Three constituted a 3rd n.w. Arkansas record at the Centerton Fish Hatchery Mar. 3 (SDi, JW). The news that Canada Geese were released along the Mississippi Gulf Coast by the Game and Fish Commission in 1989, and that flocks are seen there regularly (JAT), may explain the recent rash of sightings in New Orleans. Always a pleasure, a ♂ Cinnamon Teal graced a flock of its more mundane relatives at Sabine N.W.R., LA, Mar. 24 (AWK, TSS, CB). One at Centerton Fish Hatchery, AR, Mar. 23 was n.w. Arkansas' 3rd (RHD, MMI). A pair was in Fayetteville, AR, Apr. 7 (RF). An ad. ♂ Surf Scoter visited the Columbus, MS, sewage ponds Apr. 14 (TLS), for a first area spring record. Eight White-winged Scoters flying W along the surf line in Cameron, LA, Mar. 29 (GB, CAB) were the sole report of our rarest scoter.

The Spring Hawkwatch at Baton Rouge, LA, along the Mississippi R., tallied 2163 birds of 11 species in 36 hours of observation Mar. 18–Apr. 28 (CF, JK), summarized below.

Table 1. Spring Hawkwatch 1991, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Species	Total
Black Vulture	100
Turkey Vulture	31
Osprey	10
Am. Swallow-tailed	Kite 2
Mississippi Kite	127
N. Harrier	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8
Cooper's Hawk	2
Red-shouldered Hawk	5
Broad-winged Hawk	1844
Red-tailed Hawk	18
Unidentified	14
Total	2163

An Osprey in coastal *Cameron, LA*, May 28 (AWK, CAM) was so late that the idea of breeding must be considered. This would be a new but plausible area for Louisiana. Nesting was confirmed at Sardis L., MS (GK, VT) and at Big Lake N.W.R., AR (HP, MP). An Am. Swallow-tailed Kite was unusually far inland in *Elmore, AL*, Apr. 17 (IK). Black-shouldered Kite added itself to another state list May 20, when one was seen over Dyersburg, TN (WGC). It has now been recorded in every state in the Region. A Mississippi Kite at Withrow Springs S.P. May 26 was the 5th for n.w. Arkansas (MMI).

Bald Eagles are being noted more commonly in coastal Mississippi since a hacking program began on Horn I. at Gulf Islands N.S. just offshore (JAT). In Arkansas, L. Millwood's first nest produced at least one eaglet by Apr. 29 (CM). A pair in *Camden, AL*, fledged one bird Apr. 8, that state's first successful nesting since 1962 (*vide* GDJ). Only one Swainson's Hawk was reported, from *Calcasieu, LA*, Apr. 13 (DP, LM, JV). A Golden Eagle was very rare in *Jefferson, AL*, Mar. 6 (AnM, m.ob.). The provenance of a Crested Caracara near Alexandria, LA, Apr. 25 (JB) is unknown. The species is restricted in the Region to a minuscule population at Gum Cove, extreme s.w. Louisiana, 100 mi from the sighting.

A Black Rail was calling at night on Dauphin I., AL, Apr. 8–12 (J & JP, m.ob.), another tantalizing hint from one of the Region's most elusive visitors. A Virginia Rail was unusual and early for n.w. Arkansas at Centerton Fish Hatchery Apr. 10 (MMI). More than 100 Soras calling from a newly created freshwater marsh in Ocean Springs, MS, in early April (m.ob.) indicated that someone did something right when they designed it. A Purple Gallinule was north near the Mississippi R. in *Dyer, TN*, Apr. 29 (WGC). A Corn. Moorhen at Bayou Meto W.M.A., AR, May 29 (MWh) suggested the possibility of local breeding, as did a bird in *Maurry, TN*, May 31 (SJS). An Am. Coot in the same place might also indicate a rare local breeder (SJS). An ad. coot with a chick at the new freshwater marsh in

Ocean Springs, MS, Apr. 4 (m.ob.) indicated successful, early breeding. About 175 northbound Sandhill Cranes were observed in 2 flocks Mar. 7 in *Putnam, TN* (SJS).

PLOVERS TO HUMMINGBIRDS

Four Black-bellied Plovers were inland rarities at Muscle Shoals, AL, May 6 (GDJ, BCG). "Thousands" of Lesser Golden-Plovers were in fields around Reelfoot L., TN, Mar. 23–Apr. 21 (WGC). One Piping Plover at L. Millwood, AR, Apr. 12 (CM) was only the 2nd spring record for that well-covered location. Three to five at Sardis L., MS, May 3–4 (GK, SK, WMD) were also quite a find.

A count of 506 Lesser Yellowlegs in *Shelby, TN*, Apr. 25 is impressively high for a truly inland site, but 298 Solitary Sandpipers at the same time would be amazing anywhere (MGW, VR). Willets showed up inland in Tennessee, Mississippi, and Louisiana. The only Hudsonian Godwit away from s.w. Louisiana was from L. Millwood, AR, May 5 (LA, CM). Like other less common shorebirds, Marbled Godwits put in rare appearances inland and eastward. In Louisiana's ricefields, one was in *Calcasieu* Apr. 29 (KVR, MCH, DPM) and another in *Acadia* May 29 (KVR, TSS). Two at Beaver Lake Dam Site Park Apr. 13 represented a very rare spring sighting and the 4th overall record and first for spring in n.w. Arkansas (MMI). Mississippi's 2nd inland sighting came in *Lafayette* Apr. 14 (GK, SK, WMD). A common sight on the Louisiana coast, the species becomes less common eastward. In Alabama, three were seen on Little Dauphin I. Apr. 12 (SWM, VM), one was on Blakely I. just n. of there Apr. 23, and one (or the same) was nearby on the Mobile Causeway Apr. 25 (GDJ *et al.*).

A Red Knot was unusual inland at the Vincent Ref. in *Vermillion, LA*, Apr. 28 (AWK), as were Sanderlings in Thibodeaux, LA, May 12 (RB, GW) and in *Drew, AR*, Apr. 17 (LA). For the 2nd year in a row, a very rare Curlew Sandpiper was found at the incredible Vincent Ref. in *Vermillion, LA*, May 13–14 (GB, CAB, ph., m.ob.).



Immature Black-legged Kittiwake (front center) with Laughing Gulls in Cameron Parish, Louisiana, April 27, 1991. Photograph/Cecil Kersting.

(There may have been two birds the 2nd day!) A peak count of 210 Buff-breasted Sandpipers in the ricefields occurred in Louisiana Apr. 13 (KVR). A Ruff at (where else?) the Vincent Ref. in *Vermillion, LA*, Mar. 13 (PC, GB) was the only report. The species is becoming almost (dare one say it?) regular in the ricefields. Adding both dowitcher species to the list of unusual inland shorebird sightings from all over the Region should not be surprising. Wilson's Phalarope followed the pattern, being found at new locations and in good numbers around the Region. Especially early was a bird in nonbreeding plumage at Baton Rouge, LA, Mar. 7 (JVR, JMB).

Asubad. Pomarine Jaeger was feeding on road-kills along the beach highway in *Cameron, LA*, Apr. 7 (MJM)! In general, gulls and terns showed a similar pattern to many species of shorebirds, being recorded at widespread inland locations on unusual dates and in unusual numbers. Franklin's Gulls put in a lackluster showing in coastal s.w. Louisiana, where they are expected, but put in a good showing in the Region's interior. One was at Grenada L., MS, Apr. 28 (GK, SK), in *Shelby, TN*, Mar. 20 (JRW) and Mar. 24 (MLG); two were found in *Lake, TN*, May 7 (WGC). Possible first-year Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported from *Cameron* Apr. 14 (KVR, ph., p.a. L.O.S.B.R.C.) and from Grand Isle, LA, May 26 (PW, CS, v.o.,

ph, p.a. L.O.S.B.R.C.). Biloxi, Mississippi's perennial Lesser Black-backed Gull put in the last appearance of its 8th winter Mar. 16 (JAT). Great Black-backed Gulls were a first-year bird at Pickwick Dam, TN, Mar. 2 (JRW, DMY); a 2nd-year individual in Biloxi, MS, Mar. 16 (JAT); and an adult at Ft. Morgan, AL, Mar. 21–Apr. 7 (GF, PB, m.ob.). The rarest gull of the season was a Black-legged Kittiwake at E. Jetty in *Cameron, LA*, Apr. 27 (PW, CS, CK). A Least Tern at Gulfport on the Mississippi coast Mar. 28 (JAT) was surprisingly early; a bird in *Desoto, MS*, hard by the Tennessee border, 350 mi n. of the coast, was at least a month early Mar. 31 (WMD, GBe).

Up to two Eur. Collared-Doves were at Ft. Morgan, AL, Apr. 12–May 7 (JH, m.ob.). White-winged Doves were well east at Ft. Morgan, AL, Apr. 27 (LRD) and e. of Destin, FL, very late May 22 (BLM). The presence of vocalizing White-winged Doves in the town of Cameron, LA, this spring and last, plus the testimony of local townsfolk, indicates high probability that the species is now breeding there. Inca Doves may have attempted breeding at Peveto Beach woods in *Cameron, LA* (m.ob.). Five Inca Doves in extreme n.w. Louisiana at Oil City January–April may indicate another area ripe for colonization (CMA).

Among several unexpected inland reports of the species, the most astonishing was Black-



Inca Dove at Oil City, northwestern Louisiana, where five were present during spring 1991. This may represent an area of northward expansion for the species. Photograph/Clyde Massey.

billed Cuckoos *nesting* in the swamps of the Atchafalaya Basin May 13–23 (GG, v.o.). Two nestlings were present May 13–14; the empty nest was collected May 23 (*L.S.U.M.Z.). Except for one isolated breeding record from s. Texas, the species has not been recorded breeding nearer than n.c. Texas, n.w. Arkansas, or n.e. Alabama. The only report of Groove-billed Anis came from Grand Isle, LA, Mar. 30 (DPM, RDP). A ♀ Lesser Nighthawk there the same day was the only one reported and was very early (DPM, RDP, JH, JuB). A Com. Nighthawk was early in Monticello, AR, Mar. 27 (LA). A Whip-poor-will was quite early in *Oktibbeha*, MS, Mar. 19 (TLS).

Only one Buff-bellied Hummingbird was reported from Louisiana this spring, in New Orleans Feb. 16–Apr. 8 (DPM). Buff-bellied Hummingbird filled in the gap by appearing for inclusion on the Alabama state list at Ft. Morgan

Apr. 8 (RRS, p.a. A.B.R.C.). Montevallo, Alabama's **Calliope Hummingbird** was last observed Mar. 29 (RRS, see *AB* 45:285). In Arkansas, the El Dorado Rufous Hummingbird was last seen Mar. 30 (Shug & Luvois Shugart, see *AB* 45:285).

FLYCATCHERS TO VIREOS

Olive-sided Flycatchers are fairly rare spring migrants in the Region. Five were found in Tennessee: May 11 (RWP, MLG) & 12 in *Shelby* (JRW, GWC), and three separate individuals May 18–19 in *Lake* (GWC). One was reported from Louisiana Apr. 29 in *Cameron* (MCH, KVR, DPM). With the exception of Acadian, *Empidonax* flycatchers tend to be late migrants, and most pass through the Region in May, when few fronts precipitate migrants. Add in the fact that few vocalize on the coast and that in spring they are in worn plumage, and some of the mystery about their status is explained. Still, surprisingly few empids are seen in spring, leading to the suspicion that most tend to bypass the Region. Thus, a day when all five e. species of empid are identified (by voice) is extraordinary, but that is just the kind of day Gene Knight (with Jeff Wilson) had May 11 in *Desoto*, MS. Other records were (all vocalizing): Yellow-bellied May 12 in *Shelby*, TN (JRW) and in Fayetteville, AR, May 27 (MMI); a very early Acadian in *Iberville*, LA, April 7 (JVR); an Alder in *Cameron*, LA, April 27 (TAP, DPM, m.ob.) and in *Shelby*, TN, May 12 (JRW); two Willow Flycatchers were heard in *Shelby* Apr. 27 and on May 12 (JRW), and in *Jackson* May 12 one was heard, while two were seen at a breeding locale in *Maury* May 31 (SJS); two silent birds were identified as Least Flycatchers at Ft. Morgan, AL, Apr. 21 (JH, JuB) and in *Lauderdale* May 17 (PDK). The empid, if not the bird, of the season was a "Western Flycatcher" on Smith Ridge in *Cameron*, LA, April 28 (KVR, TAP, MCH, DPM). Tape recordings and the specimen (*L.S.U.M.Z.) will be analyzed to determine if it was a Cordilleran or a Pacific-slope flycatcher.

Mississippi's 4th Say's Phoebe was in *Desoto* Mar.



Say's Phoebe in Desoto County, Mississippi, March 30, 1991. Fourth state record. Photograph/J. R. Wilson.

30–Apr. 1 (JRW, ph., m.ob.). I received a late report of a Say's Phoebe in *Jefferson*, AL, Sept. 19, 1990 (TAI). Early Great Crested Flycatchers were in *Iberville*, LA, Mar. 20 (JVR) and in *Lowndes*, MS, Mar. 23 (TLS). A very unusual Ash-throated Flycatcher, especially for spring, was discovered Apr. 27 near the beach at Holly Beach, *Cameron*, LA; that day and the next, it fed in the vicinity of an even rarer Couch's/Tropical Kingbird, to the delight of the assembled members of the L.O.S. (CS, PW, CK, ph., m.ob.). Up to three more were in the area: two e. of the town of *Cameron* Apr. 27 and one w. of Holly Beach Apr. 28 (RJS, MW, RC) (p.a. L.O.S.B.R.C.). A strong movement of W. Kingbirds was observed there the same weekend. A Gray Kingbird was very early at Ft. Pickens, FL, Mar. 24 (OF, CT), where the species breeds. Another was farther west at Pascagoula, MS, Apr. 22–23, where the species is uncommon (CC, CD; JAT). Finally, one was seen on Grand Isle, LA, May 26, where the species is very rare (PW, CS). Early Scissor-tailed Flycatchers reached the Louisiana coast at opposite ends Mar. 30, at Grand Isle (DPM) and in *Cameron* (AWK, KD). A pair apparently returned Apr. 27 to the same tree where they unaccountably bred in *Lauderdale*, AL, last year (PDK).

A Horned Lark attempted

nest building in *Oktibbeha*, MS, Mar. 22, only to see the nest plowed under the next day (TLS). This was the first evidence of breeding for the county. The species is probably a rare breeder, sparingly eastward throughout much of the Region's farming area, as in *Putnam* May 21, and *Bedford*, TN, May 31 (SJS). Tree Swallows returned to a traditional breeding location in *Maury*, TN, and were found in 2 new locations in *Putnam*, TN (SJS). Early N. Rough-winged Swallows were detected in 3 Alabama counties: *St. Clair* (A & AM) and *Baldwin* (GDJ, DGJ), both Mar. 9; and *Perry* Mar. 11 (GDJ, HHK). Early Bank and Cliff swallows were well inland in *Oktibbeha*, MS, Mar. 17 (TLS). Five Cliff Swallows were even earlier near the Mississippi coast at Pearlinton Mar. 12 (JAT).

Stedman found three territorial ♂ Bewick's Wrens in 3 middle Tennessee counties in May, indicating the species still hangs on as a breeder in scattered n. parts of the Region. House Wren was early in *Shelby*, TN, Mar. 24 (JRW), late in *Webster*, MS, Apr. 21 (TLS), and bred in Birmingham, AL, where six nestlings were banded May 26 (RRS). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were north early in *Putnam*, TN, Mar. 21 (SJS), with two in *Oktibbeha* and three in *Lowndes*, MS, Mar. 23 (TLS). A Swainson's Thrush and a Wood Thrush were both late migrants in *Cameron*, LA, May 23 (JMB, JeB, SH). A healthy 70 Loggerhead Shrikes were counted May 22–23 in *Jackson*, FL (BHS). By contrast, diligent searching in 6 Arkansas counties yielded only six individuals Mar. 28–Apr. 24 (H & MP). Whatever the causes of this species' decline further north, shrikes seem to be holding their own nearer the Gulf Coast.

White-eyed Vireos joined the parade of Gulf Coast winterers that seemed to head N early. (It is not really known whether the Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and White-eyed Vireos that winter in Gulf Coast woodlands are migrants from farther north or whether there is a more or less resident population. It may be that some of our winterers and breeders are the same birds and that the true neotropical

migrants breed to the north.) A White-eyed Vireo reached *Lafayette*, MS, Mar. 23 (GK, SK), and another reached *Putnam*, TN, Mar. 27 (BHS, SJS). Three Bell's Vireos were reported. One was in *Chicot*, AR, Apr. 27 (MP, DRS). Probable breeders were in *Shelby*, TN, in Ensley May 16 (JRW), and in Germantown May 19 (MLG). An early movement of Yellow-throated Vireos was detected: one in New Orleans Mar. 14 (DPM); an amazing 25 at St. Joe S.P., FL, Mar. 23 (R & AI); one up in *Putnam*, TN, the same day (BHS); two at Noxubee N.W.R., MS, Mar. 24 (TLS); and one at Devil's Den S.P., AR, Mar. 25 (WFK *et al.*).

Warbling Vireos are presumably circumgulf migrants and are nowhere common as spring migrants in the Region, though their scarcity increases as one moves east. A bird was singing in *Lauderdale*, AL, Apr. 19 & 22 (PDK), in an area where breeding does not seem out of the question. Five territorial males were singing in 3 mid-Tennessee counties in May (SJS). Black-whiskered Vireos are rare and relatively sporadic spring overshoots to the gulf coast, becoming more scarce the farther west one goes. On the Florida panhandle, where the species is at least regular, one was in Gulf Breeze Apr. 20 (RAD) and another was just w. of there at Ft. Pickens Apr. 23 (FL, GF). A very early one was reported for Dauphin I., AL, Apr. 6, tying the early record for Alabama (HH). Just across the pass, Ft. Morgan had a rash of sightings: Apr. 7 (RRS), Apr. 19 (BCG), May 4 (PB, m.ob.), and May 7 (JH). The final sighting, and farthest west, was at Grand Isle, LA, May 8 (GS, AS, CS).

WARBLERS TO FINCHES

Early Blue-winged Warblers reached *Iberville*, LA, Mar. 21 (JVR), setting a new early Louisiana record, and Noxubee N.W.R., MS, Mar. 24 (TLS). A Nashville Warbler was very early in *Cameron*, LA, Mar. 24 (AWK). The species is regular through w. Louisiana in spring; but in s.e. Louisiana there were only 2 previous spring records, so a bird at Grand Isle Mar. 30 was early and unexpected (RDP, DPM). A Magnolia Warbler was

quite late at Wheeler N.W.R., AL, June 2 (SWM). Cape May Warblers were scarce in the e. half of the Region, where they are regular. The spring L.O.S. meeting took place in *Cameron*, LA, the weekend of Apr. 27–28, after several days of fierce s.e. winds, leading to predictions by unseasoned veterans of good numbers of Cape May and Black-throated Blue warblers. A grand total of two Cape Mays and zero Black-throated Blues were found by more than 100 observers (seasoned veterans have learned never to predict spring migration patterns). Along the rest of the coast, Black-throated Blue Warblers were more in evidence, highlighted by 10–12 at Ft. Morgan, AL, Apr. 27 (*vide* GDJ) and eight at Ft. Pickens, FL, Apr. 28 (FL, GF).

An "Audubon's" Warbler, rare anywhere in the Region, was in extreme n.w. Mississippi in *Desoto* Mar. 13 (CB). The earliest Blackburnian Warbler was at Grand Isle, LA, Mar. 30 (DPM). The peak count was in *Chicot*, AR, Apr. 27, when an excellent 10–12 of this sparse migrant were seen (H & MP, DRS, DAU). Sixteen singing ♂ Cerulean Warblers in *Putnam*, TN, May 19 (SJS) was a good number for this species, which breeds sparingly in the n. part of the Region.

Southern breeding warblers generally arrived early, in some cases setting records. Species included: N. Parula Feb. 19 at the Barataria Preserve in *Jefferson*, LA (DPM) (see AB 45:285); Yellow-throated Warbler Feb. 24, *St. Charles*, LA (RDP); a fairly early Prairie Warbler in *Cameron*, LA, Mar. 30 (AWK); Black-and-white Warblers at the Barataria Preserve in *Jefferson*, LA, Mar. 13 & 19 (DPM), at Noxubee N.W.R., MS, Mar. 15 (MC), and in *Iberville*, LA, Mar. 17 (JVR); Prothonotary Warbler in New Orleans Mar. 17 (DPM); Worm-eating Warbler in New Orleans Mar. 16, in Barataria Mar. 19 (DPM), and way up in Montgomery, AL, Mar. 31 (LG); Swainson's Warbler in *Grant*, AR, Apr. 1 (H & MP); Louisiana Waterthrush Mar. 17 in New Orleans (DPM); and a Hooded Warbler in New Orleans Mar. 7 (NN), which tied the earliest Louisiana record, and in

Lafayette, MS, Mar. 23 (GK, SK). A Black-and-white Warbler was very late at Grand Isle, LA, May 25 (BMM, NN, RDP). A singing ♂ Worm-eating Warbler in *Holmes*, FL, May 24 (BHS) was the first breeding season record for Florida outside nearby *Okaloosa*. A N. Waterthrush at Noxubee N.W.R., MS, Mar. 24 (TLS) was so early as to suggest gulf coast wintering. A Kentucky Warbler was late in *Cameron*, LA, May 18 (RDP) but was not as late as one there June 4, 1990 (SWC, DLD). There is no appropriate breeding habitat on the immediate coast.

Mourning Warblers are decidedly rare in Louisiana in spring. Only one was reported, Apr. 22 in *Cameron* (AWK, JMB). Another local rarity was in *Putnam*, TN, May 10 (SJS, BHS). Most unexpected of all was a bird singing in Birmingham, AL, May 25 (BCG, HHK, p.a. A.B.R.C.). The enigmatic Connecticut Warbler passes along its narrow corridor in the n.e. half of the Region almost undetected each spring. One male was seen May 16 in *Putnam*, TN (SJS). One was seen and heard farther west than usual, in extreme n.w. Mississippi in *Desoto* May 11 (GK, JRW). The Canada Warbler, which winters in South America, is one of the Region's latest arriving migrants and is also fairly rare. But the species followed the trend this spring by showing up extremely early in *Iberville*, LA, Apr. 21 (JVR) and on Sardis L., MS, Apr. 27 (WMD).

A W. Tanager was an extremely rare find on Dauphin I., AL, Apr. 20 (MLB, VB, p.a. A.B.R.C.). In *Cameron*, LA, there was a wave (or waves?) of W. Tanagers Apr. 27–May 5, with up to three at a time in the vicinity of the mulberry trees near the town courthouse (m.ob.). Fifty to sixty Scarlet Tanagers in coastal *Hancock*, MS, Apr. 27 was a good count. One was very late at Grand Isle, LA, May 26 (RDP) but not as late as one in *Cameron*, LA, June 3, 1990 (SWC, DLD). A Blue Grosbeak at Ft. Morgan, AL, Mar. 9 was so early as to suggest a wintering individual. One at Grand Isle, LA, May 26 (BMM, NN, GC, RDP), 100 mi from appropriate breeding habitat, was an extremely late migrant. Six Dickcissels in *Tunica*, MS, Mar. 2 (JRW) were no doubt wintering. This species put on a show, with large flocks along the coast from Florida to Mississippi Apr. 23–24 (v.o.).

Arkansas' earliest ever Bachman's Sparrow was in *Scott* Mar. 13 (H & MP). A pair of Rufous-crowned Sparrows on Mt. Paul, AR, Mar. 3 was in a new area (WMS, NB). A Harris' Sparrow was a very rare visitor at Ft. Morgan, AL, Mar. 19–May 4 (WF, m.ob.), also managing to set a late record for the state.

Yellow-headed Blackbirds, which can be fairly common some years and nearly absent others in the w. part of the Region, were well reported there in late April. More unusual were the following records: an early male in *Leflore*, MS, Mar. 20



Male Red Crossbill at Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge, Mississippi, February 1991. Although the species is rare in the state, birds remained at this location as late as April 20. Photograph/Julia Broyles.

(Evie Tumlin, Robert Barbour); one Apr. 2 and three Apr. 5 in *Shelby*, TN (JRW); one in *Bolivar*, MS, Apr. 23 (NH); and one at *Sardis* Apr. 29 (GK, VT). Bronzed Cowbirds remain quite common in s.e. Louisiana. Alabama's 4th **Bronzed Cowbird** was at Ft. Morgan Apr. 11 (PB, GF, FL, p.a. A.B.R.C.). Small flocks of Shiny Cowbirds were on Dauphin I. and at Ft. Morgan, AL, beginning Apr. 12 (m.ob.), for that state's 2nd spring showing by this less than welcome guest. One was not far away at Ft. Walton Beach, FL, May 4 (RAD). AN Oriole gathering nesting material in Thibodeaux, LA, May 19 (RB) was well s. of the known range of this rare Louisiana breeder. Stedman reported possible new breeding locations in mid-Tennessee as well.

There is not much to say about House Finch anymore except that it is everywhere, is beginning to breed, and now seems an established part of the Region's avifauna. Red Crossbills continued their winter invasion (see *AB* 45:286), with birds remaining at Noxubee N.W.R., MS, until Apr. 20 (*vide* TLS). Another flock of six was in *Clay*, MS, Apr. 20 (TLS). Nine were at a *Clerburne*, AR, feeder Apr. 26 (H & MP, m.ob.), and about five were in *Grant* Apr. 27 (WMS, NB). In *Germantown*, TN, a flock seen May 23–26 included two juveniles still being fed, for a first w. Tennessee breeding record (m.ob.). A few Pine Siskins were reported into May in Arkansas, Tennessee, and, especially, n. Alabama (to May 27 RRS).

Subregional editors (boldface) and observers: Alabama Bird Records Committee, Alabama Ornithological Society, Leif Anderson, Nigel Ball, John M. Bates, Gilbert Beavers (GBe), Rick Bello, Christine Benson, Michael L. Bierly, Vicki Bierly, Paul Blevins, Jerry Bock (JeB), Julie Boone (JuB), Jim Bondy, George Broussard, Carolyn Bullock, Charles A. Butterworth, Ralph Cambre, Steven W. Cardiff (Louisiana), Eugenia Carey, Chita & Hugh Cassibry, C. L. Cauthron, Mario Cohn-Haft, Paul Conover, Margaret Copeland, Gay Craft, W.G. Criswell, W. Marvin

Davis, Kathryn Deagon, Charles Delmas, Scott Dingman (SDI), **Donna L. Dittmann** (Louisiana), Robert H. Doster, Lucy R. Duncan, **Robert A. Duncan** (n.w. Florida), Scot Duncan, William Duncan, Owen Fang, Chuck Feerick, Shawneen Finnegan, Gene Fleming, Roy Fuller, Will Fullilove, Larry Gardella, Murray L. Gardler, Ben C. Garmon, Gary Graves, Mark A. Greene, Shannon Hackett, Dolores Harrington, Laura Helmuth, Nona Herbert, James F. Holmes Sr., Jim Holmes, Howard Horne, Thomas A. Imhof, Richard & Ann Ingram, Debra G. Jackson, **Greg D. Jackson** (Alabama), Wallace F. Keck, Cecil Kersting, Helen H. Kittinger, Paul D. Kittle, Joe Kleiman, Gene Knight, Shannon Knight, Judy Knox (JKn), Andy W. Kratter, Ira Kupferburg, Paul Lehman, Frank Logan, Louisiana Ornithological Society, L.O.S. Bird Records Committee, L.S.U. Museum of Zoology, Curtis A. Marantz, Clyde Massey, S.W. McConnell, Vicki McConnell, Marilyn Mestayer, Martha Milburn (MMi), Ann & Al Miller, Anna L. Miller, Dottie Miller (DMi), Charles Mills, Loyd Mitchell, Mike Mlodinow (MM), Burt L. Monroe, Gerry Morgan, Michael J. Musumeche, B. Mac Myers, Dollyann Myers (DMY), Norton Nelkin, **Helen & Max Parker** (Arkansas), Theodore A. Parker, Dave Patton, R.W. Peebles, T. David Pitts, **Jackie Porter**, John Porter, R.D. Purrington, J. Van Remsen, Virginia Reynolds, Jo Anne Rife, Kenneth V. Rosenberg, Martha Sargent, Robert R. Sargent, Terence Lee Schiefer (interior Mississippi), John Sevenair, William M. Shepherd, T. Scott Sillett, Don R. Simons, Al & Gwen Smalley, Curt Sorrels, Barbara H. Stedman, Stephen J. Stedman, Ronald J. Stein, Charlie Teagle, Vic Theobald, **Judith A. Touns** (coastal Mississippi), D. A. Ulmer, Joseph Vallee, Don & Bo Verser, **David F. Vogt** (mid Tennessee), **Martha G. Waldron** (w. Tennessee), Phillip Wallace, Melvin Weber, Mel White (MWh), J.R. Wilson, Jimmy Woodward, Gary Worthington, Kris Zyskowski.—**DAVID P. MUTH, 1617 Charlton Dr., New Orleans, LA 70122.**

PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

Rudolf F. Koes and Peter Taylor

The character of the season varied markedly across the Region. In Manitoba, weather was erratic from March to early May, with several short-lived warm spells interspersed with late snowfalls, resulting in pronounced migration waves. Weather finally turned consistently warm on May 8. Southern Alberta was generally cool and very dry until May 10, after which there were several sustained rainfalls. Snowpack in the Rockies was more than double normal levels and persisted late.

One interesting source of information this season (and next) is an environmental survey at Canadian Forces Base Shilo, an area of undisturbed (at least in the agricultural sense) sandhills and prairie in central southern Manitoba. George Holland has been conducting the bird survey work. Top rarity-finding honors this season go to Alberta's Joan and Malcolm McDonald.

Abbreviations: I.B.S. (*Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Calgary*); O.H.M. (*Oak Hammock Marsh Wildlife Management Area, MB*).

HERONS TO FALCONS

Four Great Egrets were seen in Manitoba, one was at Beaverhill L., AB, May 30 (JHe), and one at Katepwa L., SK, May 31 (RHo). A Snowy Egret was photographed at Elm Creek, MB, May 11 (RTa). Alberta's first **Little Blue Heron** stayed near Brooks, May 19–25 (J & MM, m.ob., ph.), while Saskatchewan's 9th was seen near Regina May 25 (L & SB). The season's first **Cattle Egret** appeared at O.H.M. May 11 (DF), after which up to three were seen regularly (m.ob.). A **Green-backed Heron** near Hodgeville May 16–June 1 (MP, m.ob.) was Saskatchewan's 10th; in Manitoba, where this species is more regular, singles appeared at Pinawa May 23 (PT) and St. Adolphe May 26 (AC). An ad.

S.A.

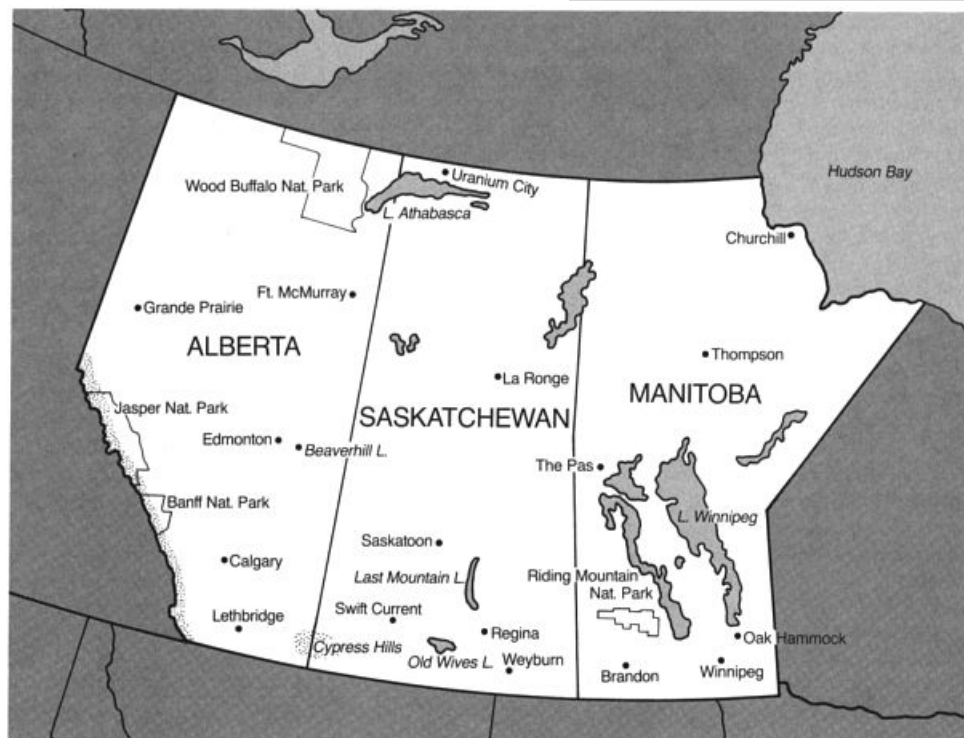
Overall, the migration was a week or so behind average pace, but there were several remarkably early arrivals in each province. Most of these were associated with short-lived warm spells. The most exceptional early birds were: a **Pied-billed Grebe** at Winnipeg Mar. 13 (RKO); a **Greater Yellowlegs** at I.B.S. Mar. 10 (BA); three **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at Regina Apr. 3–6 (RKr *et al.*) and a **Calidrid**, probably this species, in s.w. Manitoba Apr. 6 (R & TW); a **Pectoral Sandpiper** near Regina Apr. 6 (TH); a **Franklin's Gull** at I.B.S. Mar. 21 (AK); three **Tree Swallows** seen in a snowstorm by the **Birdtail R.**, MB, Mar. 25 (PH); a **Loggerhead Shrike** at Regina Apr. 4 (RKr); a **Warbling Vireo** at Medicine Hat, AB, the 3rd week of April (DB); and a **Lark Sparrow** at Spring Valley, SK, Apr. 1 (FB).

Also noteworthy: eight **Am. Bitterns** a-pumping near Spruce Siding, MB, Apr. 5 (GH, RS); two **Turkey Vultures** near Drumheller, AB, Apr. 21 (J & MM); **Osprey** at O.H.M. Apr. 14 (RKO); 32 **Dunlins** at Weyburn, SK, Apr. 19 (NP); **Herring Gull** at Winnipeg Mar. 13 (RKO); and a **Long-eared Owl** near Sundre, AB, Mar. 9 (A & JG).

Apart from a preponderance of birds associated with water, there was no obvious pattern to these early occurrences, which spanned the Region and much of the season. The **Turkey Vulture** reports were interesting since this species regularly reaches s.e. Manitoba in early April but is rarely seen before May in Alberta.

White Ibis, well described but unconfirmed near the town of Shoal Lake, MB, May 9–11 (CF) would be a Regional first. Eight **White-faced Ibises** made a good count at Etzicom Coulee, a regular Alberta location for this species (BC, ET, RTh).

Some 1200 **Tundra Swans** were in one field at Olds, AB, Apr. 8 (DH), and tens of thousands of **Snow Geese** drew attention at Beaverhill L., Strome, and elsewhere e. of Edmonton (GL). The highest count of **Ross' Geese** was of 1400 at Broderick Res., SK, May 6 (JR), and there



were observations from Calgary to Manitoba.

Alberta's 5th **Garganey**, a male, was photographed near Brooks May 18 (J & MM). A ♂ Eur. Wigeon was reported in the Qu'Appelle Valley, SK, May 13 (WH), while at least eight were found at six Alberta locations (m.ob.). A ♂ Harlequin Duck at Seven Sisters Falls, MB, May 25–26 (DF, GG, PT) was the 4th found in s.e. Manitoba in late spring or summer since 1988. A ♂ Surf Scoter visited Lac des Arcs, 55 mi w. of Calgary, May 25 (A & JG), and a Black Scoter at Lockport Apr. 11 provided only the 2nd spring record in s. Manitoba (RKO).

At Grunthal, MB, five Ospreys descended from great height to land beside one small pond May 5 (DF). At the end of the early May cold spell, 110 Sharp-shinned Hawks were counted at Delta, MB (AC, LL). In Regina a **Red-shouldered Hawk** was well seen and described, but unconfirmed, Apr. 26 (RKR), Saskatchewan's 5th report. It was one of an unusual number of hawks, mainly Broad-winged, that lingered around Regina during inclement weather in late April and early May (RKR, LS). Similar weather prompted a reverse migration of raptors up the Red R. in Winnipeg May 2: three Ospreys, an adult Bald Eagle, and two Cooper's Hawks all flew

swiftly south in the space of 10 minutes (RKO).

At least 25 Rough-legged Hawks were in the Shanks L. area s. of Lethbridge, AB, Apr. 7 (T & DD, PT); the peak count near Regina was 34, Apr. 14 (JT); and a late individual remained at O.H.M. until June 1 (DF, RKO, PT). Discouraged from using their first-choice spruce tree, Merlins chose a less common (but more traditional) nest site in a poplar bluff near Kenaston, SK (PB). A dark-morph Gyrfalcon was very late near Radville, SK, May 16 & 22 (CB) and was one of few seen after the good early-winter showing.

STILTS TO WOODPECKERS

A Black-necked Stilt near Maple Creek May 18 (SS) was Saskatchewan's 13th; five were reported in Alberta, including two early near Calgary Apr. 21 (KI). Hudsonian Godwits were the most numerous shorebirds near Regina in April, with five already on the 12th and a maximum of 82 on the 25th (RKR, TR). Overall, however, shorebird migration (or at least shorebird stopover) appears to have been poor, with Beaverhill L. a notable exception. Forty-five Buff-breasted Sandpipers were the cream of 2000 shorebirds there May 20 (TT). Eight thousand Red-necked Phalaropes on

Quill Lakes, SK, was the largest shorebird count reported (PC, RKR).

Two ad. Mew Gulls at Calgary May 5–8 (m.ob.) and a subadult near Regina May 14 (RKR, PC) were locally rare. At least six Thayer's Gulls were noted in Saskatchewan, Apr. 23–May 14 (RKR, TH, SS). An ad. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at the Regina cement plant slough Apr. 25–28 was the 5th reported and first confirmed in Saskatchewan (RKR, PC *et al.*, ph.). One at Regina Beach, Last Mountain L., May 2 was presumed to be the same bird (RKR, DN). Another **Lesser Black-backed Gull** furnished the 3rd record for both I.B.S. and Alberta, May 7 (WS).

Six Glaucous Gulls were seen in Saskatchewan between Apr. 6 and May 5 (RKR, PC, SS, DS), and one was near St. Ambrose, MB, May 18 (RKO, GG). A first-summer **Great Black-backed Gull**, Saskatchewan's 4th, was carefully observed at Regina May 5 (RKR). An Arctic Tern was reported with Common and Forster's terns near Fort Qu'Appelle, SK, May 18 (RHo). Pairs of Forster's Terns were noted beyond their Alberta breeding range at Fairview May 16 and Winagami L. May 17 (JS).

A dearth of N. Pygmy-Owls in the Alberta foothills is causing some concern (RDi). Ten Great

Gray Owl nests found in s.e. Manitoba were both later and more widely dispersed than in recent years (JD). Up to 18 courting pairs of Short-eared Owls were seen in a 12-square-mi area s. of Regina in April, but all had disappeared by early May (JT). Northern Saw-whet Owls were "seemingly everywhere" in the Alberta foothills (RDi), but in s. Manitoba they were generally scarce except for an extraordinary count of 33 calling along a 20-mile survey route in the Marchand-Richer area Apr. 5 (DF, WN).

A Com. Poorwill was photographed and videotaped in a Regina backyard (TH, m.ob.) before being grievously injured by a cat; this was the first Saskatchewan record away from the southwest. Two Lewis' Woodpeckers were out-of-range in the Calgary area May 20–24 (F & HP, m.ob.) and May 26 (BSt, BM, m.ob.). In Manitoba, single Red-bellied Woodpeckers occurred near Miami May 2 (JC) and at Headingley May 15 (BSh); we received a late report of Saskatchewan's 5th at Coleville, December 1990 (BD, ph.).

FLYCATCHERS TO FINCHES

A probable Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was found dead near Island Lake, MB, May 10 (*vide* TW). Manitoba's first **Clark's Nutcracker** in decades was fairly well described from a Winnipeg feeder May 28 (E & NP, *vide* RN). Red-breasted Nuthatches were extremely scarce in s. Manitoba and not mentioned in other reports. Eastern Bluebirds at 2 locations in the Qu'Appelle Valley Mar. 23 were early and far west (A & BB, JP). Also in the Qu'Appelle Valley, a concentration of 200–230 Mountain Bluebirds Mar. 16–17 was exceptional (TR, PC) but was capped by a count of 350 during snowy weather at Shilo, MB, May 1 (GH). At least four Townsend's Solitaires were reported in s. Saskatchewan between Apr. 20 and mid-May (m.ob.). Except for a grounding of Swainson's Thrushes in Calgary May 22–25 (RDi), *Catharus* thrush migration went largely unnoticed.

Northern Mockingbirds were reported from 5 locations across s. Manitoba, May 9–22 (m.ob.), and one was in Regina May 9

(SD); Calgary's wintering mocker finally departed around May 20 (*fide* RD). A verbal report was tantalizing of a Sage Thrasher seen by a group of Minnesota birders at Delta in May (*fide* EG). At Shilo, 45 Sprague's Pipits were found May 7-8 (GH).

Warbler migration in s. Manitoba was delayed by inclement weather, then was concentrated in two main waves, May 10-11 and 21-22. Highlights were a Black-throated Blue Warbler at Delta May 22 (PG, SG), and two good counts of Black-throated Green Warblers (DF): 22 at Hecla Island P.P. May 18, and 16 at Birch Point May 20. An unconfirmed Hooded Warbler near Craven, May 9 (WM) was the 2nd reported in Saskatchewan.

Three Scarlet Tanagers were seen in Saskatchewan, at Moose Jaw May 10-11 (E & JA), Regina May 18-19 (PC, m.ob.), and Blackstrap P.P. May 18-20 (BG, MW, DF), and three were in Regina May 18 (TH, PC et al.). A ♀ Black-headed Grosbeak attended a Headingly feeder May 12-13 (BSh, MS, RP). A yearling ♂ Lazuli Bunting visited one Regional compiler's garden in Winnipeg May 11, much to the chagrin of the other (RKO, m.ob.). A ♂ Indigo Bunting at Livelong May 17-18 provided Saskatchewan's northwestern-most record (SP, ph.).

A Field Sparrow sang at Shilo May 11 (GH), and 530 Vesper Sparrows concentrated along trails there during the late snow May 3 (GH). Male Lark Buntings occurred out of range at Good Spirit Lake P.P., SK, May 14 (B & JA) and at Shilo May 22 (GH). A Golden-crowned Sparrow visited a Saskatoon feeder May 8-9 (RHa, SS, BG *et al.*); one at a Calgary feeder May 25-28 was a rare spring sight (BH). A Dark-eyed Junco was well north at Flin Flon, MB, by Mar. 19 (JHa, *fide* KG), and 1500 were seen along about 20 mi of roads near Pinawa Apr. 22 (PT).

Orchard Orioles were reported at 5 localities in s.e. Saskatchewan (*fide* RKR), and one was early at Shilo May 14 (GH). A very Rosy Finch visited a Calgary feeder with 11 Red Crossbills May 24 (SC, RDi), and two Red Crossbills visited a Brandon, MB, feeder from win-

ter until Apr. 17 (JHo). At least three House Finches visited Altona, MB, in April and May (MK), and up to two visited a Winnipeg feeder from May 28 into June (DBu). A ♂ House Finch near Water Valley, AB, Apr. 14 was also noteworthy (CH, DC, RDi). Common Redpolls were virtually gone from the south by early April, suggesting that few went much farther south last winter. A peak count of about 300 Evening Grosbeaks in Pinawa May 4 (PT) was the only substantial concentration reported.

Observers: (Subregional compilers in boldface) E. & J. Adkins, B. & J. Anaka, Bruce Anderson, Dennis Baresco (DBa), P.L. Beckie, Al & Betty Binnie, Carol Bjorklund, Flossie Bogdan, Lionel & Stephan Bonnevillie, Dan Bulloch (DBu), John Christie, Paul Chytyk, Shirley Clark, Brooke Clibbon, Doug Collister, Andy Courcelles, Beth Dales, S. Dechka, **Ross Dickson** (RDi), Teresa & Doug Dolman, Ron Dueck (RDu), Jim Duncan, Dennis Fast, Cliff Findlay, Irvine Gardner, Ken Gardner, S. Gill, Ed Gilroy, Bernie Gollop, Angela & Jeff Gottfred, Gordon Grief, Paula Grief, R. Harms (RHa), Wayne Harris, John Hartle (JHa), Jim Henry (JHe), Trevor Herriot, George Holland, Bill Hooker, Ronald Hooper (RHo), Phil Horch, Jean Horton (JHo), Clay Hunt, Kay Ishii, Al Kimberley, Rudolf Koes (RKO), **Robert Kreba** (RKR), Mary Krueger, Harvey Lane, Lew Layman, **Gerry Lunn**, Joan & Malcolm McDonald, Bill McKitterick, W. Mitchell, Dave Nadeau, Wayne Neily, Robert Nero, Robert Parsons, S. Pavka, Eva & Nadia Pip, J. Pollock, Nick Postey, Myrna Priebe, Fiona & Hoyt Purcell, Tom Riffel, J.F. Roy, Stan Shadick, Bob Shettler (BSh), Martin Siepman, D. Silcox, L. Skulski, Wayne Smith, Richard Staniforth, John Steeves, Bob Storms (BSt), Peter Taylor, Robert Taylor (RTa), Richard Thomas (RTh), Terry Thormin, John Triffo, Eric Tull, Renee & Tom Will, M. Williams, Ted Wilson.—**RUDOLF F. KOES, 135 Rossmere Cres., Winnipeg, MB R2K 0G1 and PETER TAYLOR, Box 597, MB ROE ILO.**

NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

David O. Lambeth

Mid-April may have been the beginning of the end of the drought. But Carlson cautioned that we should wait a year before declaring the drought has "broken," and Berkey commented that "dead or dying trees, the near absence of potholes, and low lakes and reservoirs remind us that the drought was quite recent if indeed it has passed. It will be some time before ground water is replenished." Because of the lateness of the rains, migrant waterbirds were concentrated, and the distribution of breeding birds, especially those preferring wetlands and wet meadows, will continue to reflect drought conditions for one more summer. Nevertheless, this Region was exceptionally lush at the end of the period, and the prevailing feeling is that the drought is indeed behind us.

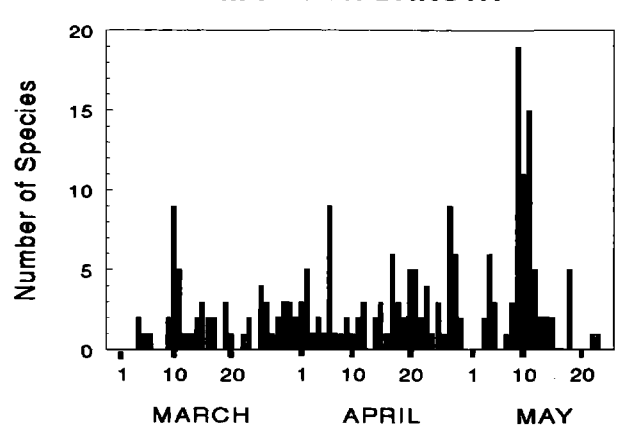
Almost every spring has periods of strong migration interspersed with days when seemingly nothing happens. This pattern was particularly evident this spring, as illustrated by the accompanying graph showing the number of new species recorded each day in North Dakota. Two migratory movements, one early and the other late, were particularly striking.

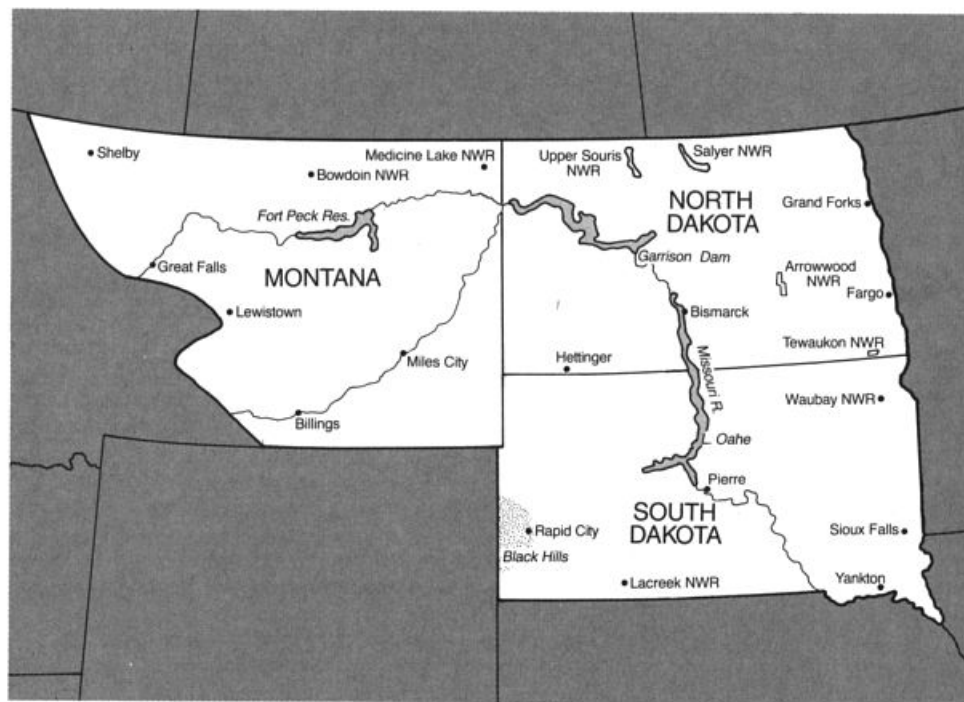
The first such movement occurred at the beginning of migration, when 14 species arrived March 10-11, about as

early as we can expect in this Region. This movement was northward to the Canadian border and nearly 1000 miles west to east, from Freezeout, Montana, to Tewaukon N.W.R., North Dakota. Most reports showed several first dates between March 8-12 as rising temperatures and strong southeasterly winds created favorable conditions. Among the early migrants were two soaring species: Sandhill Cranes March 7 near Westby, Montana (TN) and March 9 in Morton, North Dakota (JG), and American White Pelicans March 10 at Freezeout Lake, Montana (CD).

Favorable migratory conditions prevailed from mid-March to the end of April, and numerous very early dates were recorded. Then the second major Regionwide movement came May 8-12, when nearly one-quarter of North Dakota's 220 migrant species were first seen (see graph). Many peak numbers were also recorded at this time. This deluge of birds was set up by a 10-day period of foul weather Migration was at a virtual standstill, and Skadsen reported that 30+ Tree Swallows at Waubay perished from starvation and exposure, many of them inside nest boxes. Conditions improved May 8, and the morning of May 9 was particularly memorable as several common species, now overdue, arrived in numbers overnight. On May 8-12, several species arrived near their "earliest ever" date; early-May migrants such as Harris' and White-crowned sparrows were seen for only for a day or two. The arrivals list was virtually complete, as only ten or so species remained to be found after May 12.

**TIMING OF SPRING ARRIVALS
In NORTH DAKOTA**





WADERS TO WATERFOWL

A total of 20 Snowy Egrets in South Dakota included 11 in *Kingsbury* May 7 (SJD). A Little Blue Heron was in *Deuel* Apr. 9 (BKH, earliest ever), and three were in *Kingsbury* May 15 (SJD). Trumpeter Swans are dispersing from Henry's Lake, ID, and at least seven appeared at Freezeout Lake, MT (*vide* MS). Adverse weather caused nearly 2.5 million Snow Geese to pile up on both sides of the border between the Dakotas Mar. 26–Apr. 3, when refuge personnel estimated 1.2 million at Sand Lake and 0.6 million at Tewauckon. Counts of Ross' Geese included 26 at Upper Souris, ND, Apr. 6 (REM), 112 in *Lake*, SD, Apr. 14 (SJD), and 14,000 at Freezeout, including eight of the rare blue-morph birds (MS). A count of 105,000 Canada Geese in *McLean*, ND, Mar. 29 was a record high (GBB).

A Eurasian Wigeon was seen in *Todd*, SD, Mar. 29 (†R & DR, a first state record if accepted by S.D.O.R.C.), and another was at Freezeout, MT, Mar. 14 (MS). The description of a bird at Kellys Slough, ND, Apr. 13 (Eileen Schnaidt-Baker) was generally consistent with a male of this species, but the head was not the expected chestnut color. Canvasbacks at L. Ilo Mar. 19 and Ring-necked Ducks at Garrison Dam Mar. 10 were the earliest ever for North Dakota. A

count of 34 Greater Scaup was reported for *Grand Forks*, Apr. 18 (EF), and three were at Ft. Peck Apr. 22 (CC). A ♀ Surf Scoter in *Yankton*, SD, May 13 (SVS) was most unusual for spring. Male Ruddy Ducks with all dark heads were seen at Upper Souris, ND (GBB) and Bowdoin N.W.R., MT (KS).

RAPTORS

An Osprey at Ambrose, ND, Mar. 30 (TN) was North Dakota's earliest ever. Two pairs built nests at Ft. Peck, MT (CC). An impressive 165 Bald Eagles were at Sand Lake N.W.R., SD, Mar. 28 (KE). A kettle of 200 Broad-winged Hawks in *Custer*, SD, May 2 (MP) was most surprising, considering the westerly location, but this species breeds in the nearby Black Hills. A Ferruginous Hawk was an earliest-ever nester in *Faulk*, SD, Mar. 27 (RPR). A Rough-legged Hawk in *Fall River*, SD, May 29 (RP) was very late. Reports of Peregrine Falcon totaled 34 for the Region. Both reports of Gyrfalcon were on Mar. 30, in *Ward*, ND (GBB) and near Choteau, MT (MS).

GROUSE TO SHOREBIRDS

Chukars were observed May 31 in Latilong L40 of Montana, where they have been present at least 10 years (WR). Four ♂ Greater Prairie-Chickens were booming Apr. 5 at Arrowwood

N.W.R., where they are being reintroduced; 300 ♂ Sharp-tailed Grouse were counted on leks there (PVN). Seven Yellow Rails and 15 Soras were calling in bogs in *McHenry*, ND, May 22 (GBB). A very early Whooping Crane was flying with Sandhills at Waubay N.W.R. Apr. 1.

Record high counts of shorebirds in North Dakota included 18 Piping Plovers at L. Ilo May 31 (DJB), 325 Killdeer at Upper Souris Apr. 6 (GBB), and 675 Long-billed Dowitchers in *McHenry* May 11 (REM). Very early arrivals included three Greater Yellowlegs near Fortuna Mar. 8 (TN), a Hudsonian Godwit at Minot Apr. 12 (REM), and Stilt Sandpipers at Fuller's Lake Apr. 27 (DLK). Among rarities were Whimbrels May 18 & 29 (EF, DOL) and 11 Red Knots May 23, all in *Grand Forks*, and a ♀ Ruff at Fargo May 18 (GEN, RHO, 6th state record).

A Lesser Golden-Plover in *Jackson* May 13 (KG) provided a first "west river" record in South Dakota. A Spotted Sandpiper in *Yankton* Apr. 2 (SVS) was South Dakota's earliest ever. Extensive fieldwork by S.J. Dinsmore provided the following notable records for South Dakota: a Whimbrel in *Lake* May 28, 346 Hudsonian Godwits in one flock in *Kingsbury* Apr. 27, Sanderlings in *Kingsbury* Apr. 16 (earliest ever), a Red Knot in *Lake* May 8, four W. Sandpipers in *Kingsbury* Apr. 14, 3800

White-rumped Sandpipers in *Clay* May 15 (highest ever), Dunlin in *Lake* Apr. 15 (earliest ever), a Buff-breasted Sandpiper in *Lake* May 14 (rare in spring), 3300 Long-billed Dowitchers in *Lake* May 8, and 3100 Wilson's Phalaropes in *Kingsbury* May 7. A territorial Marbled Godwit pair in *Aurora*, SD, May 31 (K. Nanney) was s. of the usual breeding range. Additional earliest-ever records included Baird's Sandpiper Mar. 16 in *Yankton* (DSw), Short-billed Dowitcher in *Clay* April 20 (DSw), and Long-billed Dowitcher Mar. 24 in *Minnehaha* (MSS). American Woodcock young were seen in *Yankton* May 24 (SVS).

In Montana, a Lesser Golden-Plover at Freezeout May 5–7 was thought to represent the form *fulva* (MS), and a Snowy Plover was there May 19 (†MS). A flock of 85 Whimbrels was at Bowdoin May 14 (KS); four Hudsonian Godwits were there Apr. 29 (DP). Thirteen Red Knots were feeding at Medicine Lake May 22 (TN). A thousand Stilt Sandpipers were on Goose Lake near Westby May 5 (TN), and a similar number of Red-necked Phalaropes were at Freezeout May 17 (MS).

GULLS TO OWLS

A Glaucous Gull was eating a starling at Ft. Peck Apr. 14 (CC). Caspian Terns were seen in low numbers in all 3 states; a pair exchanging a 6-inch fish at Nelson Res., MT, May 10 was of interest (DP). Common Terns arrived Mar. 30 in *Turner*, SD (JL), the earliest on record. Two Barn Owls were seen in *Jackson* Apr. 7 (KG). Several Long-eared Owls responded to calls in *Tripp*, SD, Mar. 30 (RP), while nests were found in *Cass*, ND, Mar. 31 (GEN) and Denbigh Experimental Forest Apr. 27 (GBB). Four of this species were seen in Chester, MT, Apr. 30 (HM). Short-eared Owl numbers may be recovering around Westby, MT (TN), perhaps because of grasslands in the Conservation Reserve Program (CC). A N. Saw-whet Owl was banded in *Brown*, SD, Mar. 28 (DT), and one was calling at Mirror Pool in *Ransom*, ND, May 27 (GBB).

NIGHTJARS TO KINGLETS

Whip-poor-wills were found at Grand Forks Apr. 29 and May 15

(DOL), and in Fargo May 7 & 9 (LLF, GEN). Birds possibly on territory remained through the period at Sodak Park and Hartford Beach S.P., SD (BKH). White-throated Swifts arrived record-early Apr. 5 in *Fall River*, SD (RP). Both Calliope Hummingbirds and Dusky Flycatchers were described as abundant on May 31 in the Pryor Mts., MT (WR). Pileated Woodpeckers were observed in *Lake*, SD, a new location, and at Hartford Beach S.P. A calling W. Wood-Pewee on the w. bank of the Red River near Grand Forks May 24–25 (DOL) furnished a first county record. An E. Phoebe in *Union*, SD, Mar. 26 (MSS) was the state's earliest ever.

Purple Martins at Grand Forks arrived Apr. 18, disappeared Apr. 29–May 8, then reappeared to reoccupy the same compartments they had claimed earlier (DOL). A **Violet-Green Swallow** was sighted among 2200 Tree Swallows at Upper Souris Apr. 28 (REM, GBB). Cliff Swallows arrived Apr. 12 in *Lake*, SD (SJD), earliest ever for the state. Single Com. Ravens were seen Mar. 16 in *Rolette*, ND (GBB) and at *Freezeout*, MT. A Rock Wren in Union County S.P. was unusual that far e. in South Dakota (DSw).

GNATCATCHERS TO VIREOS

For the 3rd consecutive year, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were seen at Fargo, May 10–20 (m.ob.), fueling speculation that they are nesting nearby. Early E. Bluebirds were in *Yankton* Apr. 4 and Grand Forks Apr. 16. Mountain Bluebirds were moving through *Custer*, SD, by Mar. 5 (MP); 2 pairs nesting at *Icelandic* S.P., ND (LFM), further indicate their eastward expansion of range. High counts at Grand Forks included 212 Swainson's Thrushes May 5 (EF) and 33 Hermit Thrushes Apr. 20 (DOL). A Wood Thrush in *Brown*, SD, Apr. 12 was earliest ever; 20 reported there May 2 (JCS) are surely without precedent in this Region. A Gray Catbird seen in *Minnehaha* Mar. 24 (JL) was South Dakota's earliest ever by a month. Equally surprising was a Sage Thrasher in *Fall River* Mar. 25 (RP). Northern Mockingbirds were found May 2 in *Day*, SD (JCS), May 10–14 in Fargo (JOH),

May 29 in *Mercer*, ND (REM), and May 27–28 at Bowdoin (KS)—a first for L9. A total of 54 Brown Thrashers was seen at Grand Forks May 11 (EF).

Bohemian Waxwings, scarce all winter, were last seen Apr. 30 at Badlands N.P. (JZ), latest ever for South Dakota. Loggerhead Shrikes are rather common in w. North Dakota, as evidenced by a daily count of 14 in Bowman May 31 (REM). Bell's Vireo, which is not only rare but a late migrant as well, was seen in North Dakota at Bowman-Haley May 23 (SM) and near Solen in *Sioux* May 29 (GBB). South Dakota's earliest-ever Yellow-throated Vireo nest was at Hartford Beach S.P. May 27 (JDW).

WARBLERS

Golden-winged Warblers were seen May 10 in *Minnehaha* (AH), May 9, 12, & 17 at Fargo (RHO, D & DW), May 11 at Grand Forks (EF), and May 11 at the Cross Ranch, ND (SG, KJ). Tennessee Warblers, extremely vocal migrants at this latitude, may have numbered 10,000 singing males within city limits of Grand Forks May 15 (DOL). Northern Parulas were located in *Brookings* May 8 (BKH) and Fargo May 11–13 (MAB, RHO). Two Black-throated Blue Warblers were rare finds in *Minnehaha* May 19–20 (AH, MSS). Black-throated Greens tied the record early date for North Dakota Apr. 28 (RHO) and a latest-ever date of May 30 in *Brown*, SD (banded, DT).

A **Townsend's Warbler** at Ft. Peck May 10 was rare enough there to be a lifer for Chuck Carlson, while a Blackburnian Warbler at Bowdoin May 23 was new for the refuge (KS). A Bay-breasted Warbler was far west at Hettinger May 18 (D & CG). A singing **Prothonotary Warbler** in Grand Forks May 22 provided North Dakota's 6th record (DOL), a **Yellow-throated Warbler** in Brookings May 19 (JK, RWK) was South Dakota's 3rd, and a **Hooded Warbler** in Bismarck May 5 (RaK) was North Dakota's 10th.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

Noteworthy occurrences included a **Summer Tanager** in Fargo May 18–22 (Aaron Severn, BN),

W. Tanagers in *Meade* (EEM) and *Brookings*, SD (KK), both May 4, and a Scarlet Tanager w. of range at LaCreek N.W.R. May 16 (DSe). Was there a mid-May movement of N. Cardinals in the e. Dakotas? The 4 observations occurred May 10 & 15 in Grand Forks, and May 9 in *Brown* and May 17 in *Deuel*, SD. Two of these were singing males. A Black-headed Grosbeak was found May 26 at the Mirror Pool Game Management Area in *Ransom*, ND (GBB). Lazuli Buntings e. of breeding range occurred in mid-May in Jamestown, ND, and *Brown* and *Edmunds*, SD. An Indigo Bunting was in Miles City, MT, May 28 (PG). Rufous-sided Towhees of the spotted race were on territory in late May in *Pierce* and at Johnson's Gulch in *Dickey*, ND; both sites are e. of the known range (GBB). A Green-tailed Towhee in Miles City May 14 was a first for L34 (DH), and they were found in the Pryor Mts. May 31, where they were expected.

Several sparrows appeared weeks before usual arrival, including Chipping Sparrows in *Yankton* Mar. 21 (SVS) and Bismarck Mar. 25 (MM); a Vesper Sparrow at Westby, MT, Mar. 5 (TN); a Lark Bunting at Audubon N.W.R., ND, Apr. 16 (TK); and a Fox Sparrow in *Day* Mar. 12 (EW), South Dakota's earliest ever. High daily counts in North Dakota included 15 Lark Sparrows May 2 and 46 Grasshopper Sparrows May 22, both in *Grand Forks* (EF), 12 Sharp-tailed Sparrows in *McHenry* May 22 (GBB), and 65 Fox Sparrows in Grand Forks Apr. 19 (DOL). A **Golden-crowned Sparrow** at Bowdoin May 10 (KS) provided the 2nd refuge record and about the 4th for Montana. Fifteen singing McCown's Longspurs were using native prairie in *Bowman*, ND, May 31, and that location now appears to be regular for them (GBB, REM). The 120 Smith's Longspurs in *Eddy* May 5 (DLK) was not an unexpected number, yet it is 10 times North Dakota's previous high. An incredibly early Bobolink was reported Mar. 19 for *Brookings*, SD (JRK).

A W. Meadowlark at Long Lake N.W.R. Mar. 4 was early (WF). Daily counts of 22 Orchard Orioles May 28 and 22

N. Orioles May 12, both in *Grand Forks* (EF), support the impression that Orchard Orioles may become as common as Northern. Definite evidence of nesting by House Finches was obtained in *Yankton* (WH) and *Minnehaha* (JL), SD, and Grand Forks and Bismarck, ND (RR). Individuals were also found in isolated towns such as Zeeland and New Town, ND. Carlson reports that House Finches are increasing at Ft. Peck, MT, but these birds may represent eastward expansion of the western population. A Cassin's Finch in *Custer*, SD, Apr. 7 (MP) is not surprising, but what may have been North Dakota's first was in Fargo Apr. 17–19 (VJS). The description of a ♂ reddish finch is most consistent with Cassin's. As with other very unusual records, the documentation will be reviewed by the state's records committee.

Cited observers: (State editors in boldface.) MONTANA: Charles Carlson, Clark Dirks, Dale Hansen, Pat Gudmunson, Harriet Marble, Ted Nordhagen, Dwain Prellwitz, William Roney, Michael Schwitters, Karen Stutzman. NORTH DAKOTA: Gordon B. Berkey, Mary A. Bergan, Don J. Bozovsky, Walt Fairbanks, Larry L. Falk, Eve Freeberg, David & Carolyn Griffiths, J. Gulch, Jill O. Hersch, Terry Kostinec, Randy Kreil (RaK), Donald L. Kubischta, David O. Lambeth, Ron E. Martin, Mike McKenna, Steve Millard, Laura F. Mitchell, Benjamin Nielsen, Gary E. Nielsen, Paul Van Ningen, Robert H. O'Connor, Robert Randall, Virginia J. Scheel, Mike R. Stroeh, Dennis & Diane Weisenborn. SOUTH DAKOTA: Dennis R. Skadsen, Steven J. Dinsmore, Kim Eckert, Ken Graupman, Willis Hall, Bruce K. Harris, Augie Hoeger, Jan Kieckhefer (JK), Jon Kieckhefer (JRK), Karla Kieckhefer, Robert W. Kieckhefer, Jon Little, Ernest E. Miller, Marge Parker, Richard Peterson, Richard & Dorothy Rosche, Robert P. Russell, Dan Severson (DSe), Steve Van Sickle, Mark S. Skadsen, Jerry C. Stanford, David Swanson (DSw), Dan Tallman, J. David Williams, Eileen Williamson, Joe Zarki. DAVID O. LAMBETH, 1909 20th Avenue S, Grand Forks, ND 58201

SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

(WINTER 1990 - 1991 REPORT)

Joseph A. Grzybowski

Typically irregular and poor rainfall patterns in fall made for a typically patchy pattern of annual-cycle environments. Conditions were generally cold in December and mild in February over at least the central portions of the Region. Oklahoma experienced drought conditions for most of the winter.

Kansas birders found the winter exciting, while birders in Nebraska had little to report. Raptor numbers were high in Kansas and northern Oklahoma. These raptors and several records of very rare birds made a mediocre season more interesting. Red Crossbills made a modest eruptive appearance, with small numbers across Oklahoma and Kansas, but apparently not in Nebraska. In parallel with the previous winter, Pine Siskin and Purple Finch numbers were again unimpressive, and Pine Siskin numbers may be at a cyclic low. On the other hand, the increase in House Finch numbers in Oklahoma was exponential.

American Robins were present at some Kansas localities in very high numbers. Cedar Waxwings made a modest showing, as did Northern Goshawks and Northern Shrikes (in Kansas, at least). Numbers of some landbird species, particularly wintering sparrows and longspurs, still appeared less than one would expect in a "good" or even better year.

Abbreviations: Cheyenne Bottoms (*Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Barton Co., KS*); Fontenelle Forest (*Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co., NE*); Lake Hefner (*Lake Hefner, Oklahoma Co., OK*).

LOONS TO DUCKS

The orgy of Pacific Loon reports from the fall in Kansas completed its course with one reported from Russell, KS, Dec. 1 (MR) and another in Douglas, KS, Dec. 5 (MM) & 15 (DaS). A Pacific Loon photographed Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 at Tulsa (JL, JCH) was the apparent conclusion to



this series and provided the first fully documented record for Oklahoma. After a stunning 133 Com. Loons at Lake Tenkiller, Sequoyah, OK, in February 1990, 63 on Feb. 9 (1991; MML, KZ) was high but less impressive. Nonetheless, loons appear to be showing that they favor this clearwater lake in winter.

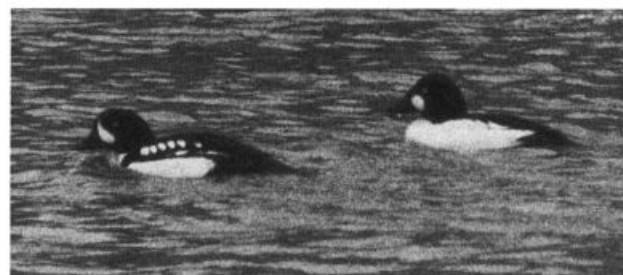
A Horned Grebe in Lincoln, NE, Jan. 12 was among only a few winter records for n.w. Nebraska (RCR, DJR). A Red-necked Grebe observed in Douglas, KS, was only the 6th record for Kansas of any sort. A W. Grebe was observed Dec. 1-8 on L. Hefner (JGN, MO).

Over 200 Am. White Pelicans were reported Feb. 6 in Sequoyah, OK (JM, JN), high for winter. One lingered in Keith, NE, until Jan. 12 (RCR, DJR). A Great Egret in Muskogee, OK, Dec. 12 (JM, JN) was also tardy.

Four Trumpeter Swans (one adult and three immatures) in Rush, KS, were without neck collars (SS) and indicated that they may be from populations in Nebraska or South Dakota rather

than Minnesota (*fide LM*). Ross' Geese were again discovered in Wagoner, OK, Jan. 18 (JM *et al.*), and 16 were noted in Johnston, OK, Jan. 27 (KN). American Black Ducks were reported Dec. 7 at Cheyenne Bottoms (SS), Feb. 9 in Linn, KS (LM, MM, GP), Feb. 10 in Tulsa (JCH) and Feb. 18 & 26 in Mayes, OK (VJ, DVa). This species still deserves special mention because of its apparent decline. A ♂ Blue-winged Teal lingered in Douglas, KS, Dec. 12 (PW).

Oldsquaws provided some pleasure for birders in Douglas, KS (DS, DB) and on L. Hefner (JGN *et al.*). Scoter reports included two ♀ Black Scoters in Jefferson, KS, Dec. 16 (BF, MM, LM) and two White-winged Scoters in Doniphan, KS, Dec. 16 (D & LN). Surf Scoters, often the most commonly observed scoter species in recent years, went unreported this winter. A ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye, photographed below the Tuttle Creek Dam, Pottawatomie, KS, Jan. 4 (DR *et al.*) through Feb. 4 provided the first completely documented



Male Barrow's Goldeneye (left) with male Common Goldeneye at Tuttle Creek Reservoir, Kansas, January 4, 1991. Photograph/David A. Rintoul.

record in Kansas. One or two females were also identified in the group of waterfowl containing the male. An additional two Barrow's were documented from Keith, NE, Jan. 12-13 (SD).

HAWKS TO OWLS

Northern Goshawks were reported from several localities in Kansas and at one from the Oklahoma panhandle. A Ferruginous Hawk was noted east to Mayes, OK, Jan. 3 (JM, JN). Golden Eagle reports were more numerous this winter in Oklahoma and Kansas, with one east to Cherokee, OK, Feb. 7 (DVa). Though primarily a migrant in the Region, Kansas observers noted three Peregrine Falcons this winter, including one at Cheyenne Bottoms Jan. 1 (SS, DS), one in Riley Jan. 12 (DR), and one Jan. 16 in Jefferson (RR). One was also reported from Osage, OK, in early January (*fide DV*). However, the jewel among raptors was a Gyrfalcon in Osage, OK (JCH, SM *et al.*). Prairie Falcons occurred throughout Kansas, with a high 10 reports from e. and c. Kansas (*fide LM*). A Prairie Falcon was dead atop a building in downtown Omaha Dec. 3 (JT).

Sandhill Cranes were still present in Stafford, KS, in late December (*fide DR*). Several noted in Rush and Pawnee, KS,



Dark-morph immature Gyrfalcon in Osage County, Oklahoma, January 8, 1991. One of the southernmost records ever for this species in North America. Photograph/Steve Metz.

Feb. 12 were thought to be migrants (SS). A Greater Yellowlegs lingered until Dec. 22 in Linn, KS (GP, RR, BR). A Baird's Sandpiper appeared at L. Overholser Feb. 18 (MO, JGN, EK).

Gull news was the good news of the season. A Laughing Gull was studied at the Ft. Gibson dam, Cherokee, OK, Feb. 3



Adult Little Gull at Lake Hefner, Oklahoma City, on December 8, 1990. Photograph/Mitchell Oliphant.

(MMI, KZ). This may be the only winter record for Oklahoma. Bonaparte's Gulls were more abundant this winter in Oklahoma. Among them, a Little Gull Dec. 1–11 at Lake Hefner provided the first documented record for Oklahoma. An undocumented report of a Com. Black-headed Gull was received for Lake Keystone, *Tulsa-Osage*, OK, Dec. 9 & 12. Glaucous Gulls were noted across the region this season from at least 9 specific localities, and imm. Thayer's Gulls continue to be reported from Oklahoma and Kansas. For the 8th consecutive year, a Lesser Black-backed Gull appeared at L. Hefner, Jan. 13–Mar. 16 (JGN, MO *et al.*). Black-legged Kittiwakes continued their increased recent appearances. An immature was noted Dec. 8–14 at L. Hefner, and a second was discovered Jan. 19 & 20 at Keystone Dam, *Tulsa* (DV, MG *et al.*). An adult was reported from *Reno*, KS, Dec. 1 (DK, PJ, JNt).

A "no-show" for several seasons, Snowy Owls were reported from *Jefferson*, KS, Dec. 2 (BF), *Brown*, KS, Dec. 8–10 (D & LN), *Osage*, KS, Dec. 27 (MS), and *Lincoln*, NE, Jan. 12 (RCR, DJR). More than 200 Long-eared Owls were reported from Kansas (*vide LM*), 90 from one roost in *Trego* (*vide DR*). Short-eared Owls were also common in Kansas. A number of N. Saw-whet Owls were reported from *Geary*, KS.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH WARBLERS

A ♀ Pileated Woodpecker at Fontenelle Forest Jan. 24–Feb. 22 was of substantial local interest (MD, m.ob.). Another in *Pottawatomie*, KS, Dec. 19 (TC) may have been the westernmost for n.e. Kansas. A Ladder-backed Woodpecker was videotaped in *Wichita*, *Sedgwick*, KS, for a first

county record (*vide DK*).

Purple Martins returned to *McCurtain*, OK, by Feb. 18 (BH). Carolina Chickadees have been recorded along the N. Canadian R. west to *Beaver* in the Oklahoma panhandle. One reported across the border along the Cimarron R. in *Seward*, KS, Jan. 1 (SP) was the westernmost recorded in Kansas. A Sedge Wren Dec. 15 in *Douglas*, KS (CS) was tardy. Mountain Bluebirds, normally wintering in the w. third of the Region, were scarce this season. Up to seven, however, were observed in *Geary*, e. Kansas (LM).

Bohemian Waxwings wandered as far south as *Scott*, KS, Jan. 5 (TS) and *Geary*, KS, Feb. 10 (DL, CO). Northern Shrikes were reported from w. Nebraska to the Oklahoma panhandle, and several were reported in e. Kansas as well. A Pine Warbler wandered west to *Marshall*, OK, Jan. 29 (JW).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A number of emberizids were tardy in departing, overwintered, or succumbed. These included an Indigo Bunting in *Tulsa* Dec. 24 (JA), a Chipping Sparrow Dec. 21 in *Muskogee*, OK (JM), and a Vesper Sparrow Dec. 15 in *Osage*, OK (B & LG). A w. race of the Fox Sparrow was found in *Scott*, w. Kansas, Jan. 5 (*vide DR*). A Snow Bunting wandered as far south as *Osage*, KS, Dec. 27 (JB) and Feb. 7 (possibly the same bird; MI). Early were 25 Great-tailed Grackles arriving in *Linn*, KS, Feb. 3 (*vide DR*).

Finch numbers were again generally unimpressive, though there were a few bright spots. Few Purple Finches appeared in Oklahoma, though two were noted in *Comanche*, s.w. Oklahoma (JaM), where they are rare. Pine Siskins were generally scarce Regionwide, with few to none noted at most locales. However, Red Crossbills appeared at many locations scattered across the Region. The 30 reported from Oklahoma City (SMA), and flocks of over 70 observed in *Wichita*, KS (*vide DK*) were the apparent high counts. Curiously, the Rosches found them extremely scarce in the Pine Ridge of Nebraska, where they normally occur, and none were reported by the Padelfords for e. Nebraska.

Common Redpolls, very rare in all but the Region's n.w. corner, were reported from *Geary*, KS (DL) and *Finney*, KS (LR) Dec. 2 and Jan. 25, respectively. Evening Grosbeaks were thought to be much less common than average in the Nebraska Pine Ridge (RCR, DJR), and in very small numbers in w. Kansas (LM).

Some interesting patterns were noted with House Finches. More than 135 were observed in a railroad yard in *Tulsa* Dec. 19 (FP). In *Cleveland*, OK, their numbers built up through December and early January at a local feeder. While no more than 20 were ever observed at one time, 77 had been banded there by Feb. 2, and unbanded birds were still noted (JAG). However, they apparently withdrew from at least some areas in Nebraska (BP). Although occurrence of breeding populations in the Region is recent, they may already be establishing local migration patterns, as is occurring in the East (see Gelthoff and Gauthreaux, *Condor* 93:374–382, 1991, for recent discussion).

Cited Observers: (Area editors boldfaced) KANSAS: Joann Brier, David Bryan, Ted Cable, Bob Fisher, Maxie Irwin, Pete Janzen, Dan Kilby, Dan Lashell, Linda Malloney (LMa), Mike McHugh, Lloyd Moore, Don & Loretta Neff, John Northrup (JNt), Chuck Otte, Sebastian Patti, Galen Pittman, Mike Rader, Leonard Rich, David Rintoul, Bob Rucker, Richard Rucker, Marvin Schwilling, David Seibel (DaS), Scott Seltman, Calvin Sink, Tom Shane, Phil Wedge, Larry Werner. NEBRASKA: Mark Dietz, Steve Dinsmore, Babs Padelford, Dorothy J. Rosche, Richard C. Rosche, Jerry Toll. OKLAHOMA: Jim Arterburn, Bonnie & Larry Gall, Mike Gray, Berlin Heck, Jim C. Hoffman, Vera Jennings, Esther Key, Jo Loyd, Shirley MacFarland, Janet McGee (JaM), Louis McGee, Jeri McMahan, Steve Metz, Mike Mlodinow, Kenneth Nanney, John G. Newell, Jimmie Norman, Mitchell Oliphant, Fred Pianalto, Pat Seibert, Don Varner (DVa), Don Verser, Jeff Webster, Kris Zykowski.—JOSEPH A. GRZYBOWSKI, 1701 Lenox, Norman, OK 73069.

SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Joseph A. Grzybowski

No superlatives for the spring. A few surprise extralimitals are expected, and some harder-to-find birds are also expected; they occurred. However, this season still offered the valuable information on which many broader patterns are based—the basis for deciding when conditions are actually exceptional.

Except perhaps for two weeks with high winds and RAIN in northwestern Nebraska, persevered by the Rosches, the weather was less noteworthy and more typical of expected spring patterns. For land-birding, the common complaint over the years has been that birding was poor to mediocre. This year it was mediocre. Birders in *Tulsa* and eastern Nebraska thought warbler migration was good. In *Wichita*, it was less so; it was poor in *Muskogee*, Oklahoma. An examination of where the fronts occurred on weekends would likely match this pattern.

Outstanding numbers of Ross' Geese were observed with migrating Snow Geese. However, few other population trends stood out. Perhaps fewer Swainson's Thrushes moved through than expected. Cuckoos of both species appeared more abundant in many areas. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Black-and-white Warbler numbers in the *Wichita Mountains* seemed up in cowbird-trapped areas. But then so were the numbers of *Canyon Wren*, *Carolina Wren*, and *Rufous-crowned Sparrow*—perhaps a sign of a not-too-harsh winter.

A few observers in central and south-central Oklahoma thought Great-tailed Grackle numbers were down. A general perception of decline from this author continues for *Upland Sandpipers* and *Bell's Vireos* when comparing current conditions with experiences in the late 1970s. For *Buff-breasted Sandpipers*, it's a tougher call.

Red Crossbills continued throughout the period, but *Pine Siskins* were hard to buy. Recently invading *House Finches* may already be estab-

lishing migration patterns in eastern parts of the Region.

Abbreviations: Cheyenne Bottoms (*Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Barton Co., KS*); Fontanelle Forest (*Fontanelle Forest, Sarpy Co., NE*); Salt Plains (*Great Salt Plains N.W.R., Alfalfa Co., OK*); Quivira (*Quivira N.W.R., Stafford Co., KS*).

LOONS TO WATERFOWL

An Eared Grebe was early Mar. 10 in *Cimarron, OK* (JM). Western Grebes away from breeding areas included one in *Pierce, NE*, Apr. 25 (MB) and three in *Thomas, NE*, May 7 (BJR). A Clark's Grebe was identified in *Cherry, NE*, May 26 among a breeding group of several hundred W. Grebes (SD).

A Brown Pelican in *Dodge,*



Brown Pelican in Dodge County, Nebraska, May 11, 1991.
Photograph/Mark A. Brogie.

NE, May 10–12 (SD *et al.*) may have been only the 2nd substantiated for the state. An undocumented sighting of this bird, or possibly a 2nd, observed May 21–23, came from the Nebraska side of the Missouri R. in *Dakota* (BHu).

A "hot" time for cormorant migration appears to be the last week of March and first week of April. Over 1000 were noted in *Canadian, OK* (JGN); the highest counts for *Sedgwick, KS*, also occurred at this time (PJ). One was in *Cleveland, OK*, through

S.A.

While censusing geese in *Clay, NE*, Steve Dinsmore counted an extraordinary 2000 Ross' Geese. The Rosches counted 400–500 Ross' in a flock of about 6000 "white" geese in *Sheridan, NE*, Apr. 13. Several were dark-morph birds, including one of three colored birds. These are several orders of magnitude higher than the highest numbers ever reported for the Region and indicate a more common status for this species than formerly recognized.

the end of the period (VB). An Olivaceous Cormorant was identified at Cheyenne Bottoms again this year (PJ). A small Great Blue Heron and Great Egret rookery in *McCurtain, OK*, contained at least 2 active pairs of Anhingas in May (BH, m.ob.).

American Bitterns deserve some watching, as their numbers may be declining. They were noted Apr. 15 in *Tulsa* (PS, JL); Apr. 20 in *Carter, OK* (WAC *et al.*); Apr. 27 in *Sequoyah, OK* (DVa); May 3 in *Sarpy, NE* (JT, DR); and five at Quivira and two at Cheyenne Bottoms May 11 (PJ). A Great Egret arrived in *Tulsa* Mar. 6 (FP). A Little Blue Heron in *Madison, NE*, Apr. 23–24 was n. of normal occurrences. Adult Tricolored Herons, very rare in the Region, appeared at the Salt Plains May 9 (BH) and in *Canadian, OK*, May 18 (MO *et al.*). A developing heronry in Wichita housed over 550 nests; Little Blue Herons and Cattle Egrets comprised the bulk of the heronry (AM, *fide* PJ). A Green-backed Heron in *Sioux* May 24 was among only a handful of occurrences for n.w. Nebraska (RCR, DJR).

About 250 White-faced Ibises were counted May 11 at Quivira (*fide* PJ). Along the e. margin of the Region, three White-faced Ibises were noted in *Osage, OK*, Apr. 13 (DV); two were reported Apr. 27–May 3 in *Sequoyah* (RM, B & JB).

Lingering waterfowl included a very tardy Snow Goose on a farm pond in *Grant, OK*, May 14 (K & JH); 10 N. Pintail May 4 in *Tulsa* (JK); a ♂ Gadwall May 26 in *Cleveland, OK* (VB); a Canvasback and Ring-necked Duck May 7 at the Salt Plains (DV, MD); a ♀ Canvasback at

Quivira May 11 (PJ *et al.*); Com. Goldeneye May 4 in *Tulsa* (m.ob.); and Com. Merganser May 11 in *Osage, OK* (SM). A possibly breeding or tardy ♂ Cinnamon Teal was observed through May 31 at Cheyenne Bottoms (PJ, DVy, RG).

Two Black Scoters Mar. 14–16 in *Tulsa* (JCH *et al.*) were quite unusual. The highest count of Red-breasted Mergansers for the Region was 26 in *Keith, NE*, Apr. 25 (RCR).

RAPTORS TO CRANES

Mississippi Kites arrived Apr. 20 at Fort Sill, *Comanche, OK* (JR). A Mississippi Kite in *Muskogee, OK*, May 26 (DG) was in an area where rare. Two Bald Eagles Apr. 28 in *Sequoyah, OK* (JM, JH, J & MN) were likely nesting. A nest in *Saunders, NE*, contained young May 16 (SD), the first Bald Eagle young observed in Nebraska in this century (*fide* BP, LP). Northern Harriers may commonly nest in the ungrazed grassland of Fort Sill, OK. Four nests were located in this area May 15 (JR). A Golden Eagle Mar. 29 in *Osage, OK* (DV *et al.*) was east of normal occurrences for that date.

Ten Peregrine Falcons were noted Apr 20–May 18. On the latter date, the Peregrine was observed feeding on a Black Tern in *Dawes, NE* (RCR, DJR). Two Gray Partridges at the Omaha airport May 14 (AG, TF) were of uncertain origin.

Rails are hard to come by in many areas. Two King Rails were in *Craig, OK*, May 11 (SM). A Virginia Rail was noted in *Tulsa* Apr. 13 (JL, PS); another was in Fontanelle Forest Apr. 20–25 (BP, TBA, JT); and a 3rd was observed in *Wagoner, OK*, Apr. 29 (TR).

PLOVERS TO TERNS

While only a flicker of the real old days, 350+ Lesser Golden-Plovers Apr. 4 in *Muskogee, OK* (JM, VJ), was still a noteworthy sight. A Mountain Plover was unexpected May 25 in *Kimball, NE* (CF). Migrant Black-necked Stilts were photographed Apr. 3 at L. Overholser, *Oklahoma* (MO). Two were found May 18 at Rose L., *Canadian, OK* (JGN *et al.*). These may have been on their way to Quivira, where a breeding pool has existed for



Black-necked Stilt at Rose Lake, Canadian County, Oklahoma, May 18, 1991.
Photograph/Mitchell Oliphant.

some time. Three pairs of stilts in *Sheridan, NE*, at period's end (CF) remain the only known breeding birds in Nebraska.

After several years when Whimbrel flocks were reported, the number observed this season returned to a more normal level of rarity. Singles were in *Dawes, NE*, May 20 (NR) and *Sequoyah, OK*. Seven Whimbrel were observed May 11 at Cheyenne Bottoms (PJ *et al.*). Slightly w. of normal migration paths were two Long-billed Curlews May 3 in *Canadian, OK* (MO). Hudsonian Godwits windowed the period Apr. 19–May 20, when 39 were observed at L. Overholser, *Canadian, OK* (JGN). One was still present with a Marbled Godwit at Quivira May 31 (PJ, DVy, RG). A Hudsonian in *Butte, NE*, Apr. 28 was w. of most occurrences (RCR, DJR). Some 45–54 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found at a s. Tulsa sod farm May 5–6 (DI, EL, TM). A Red Knot photographed May 26 in *Platte, NE* (MB) was rare.

Numbers of Baird's Sandpipers built up from five Mar. 1 to 500 by Mar. 20 in *Canadian, OK* (JGN). A pleasant surprise was nine to 13 Red-necked Phalaropes May 20 in *Canadian, OK* (JGN). Another extralimital phalarope was noted in *Platte,*

NE, May 26 (MB).

The season's first Franklin's Gull was noted Mar. 3 at the Kaw Dam, OK (DV). Remarkable was a Black-legged Kittiwake at Kaw Dam on the late date of May 7 (DV, MD).

Common Terns appear more regularly in fall. A subadult May 18–20 in *Canadian*, OK (JGN) and six in *Cherry*, NE (SD) were unusual. Least Terns are now being monitored at several Oklahoma locales. Forty were found in *Tulsa* May 28 (m.ob.).

DOVES TO SHRIKES

A White-winged Dove Apr. 8 in Oklahoma City fed on the Newells' patio and provided only the 2nd record for Oklahoma. An early Yellow-billed Cuckoo appeared Apr. 21 in *Tulsa* (JM, E & KH). Ten sightings of Black-billed Cuckoos in Wichita was an unusually high number (*vide* PJ). Others from more e. locales in the Region implicated a surge in their populations.

A Burrowing Owl Apr. 9 in Wichita was a delight (PJ, JNt). A Chuck-will's-widow May 4 in *Harper*, OK (RH) was w. of most occurrences and provided a first county record. Black-chinned Hummingbirds seemed much commoner in the Wichita Mountains N.W.R., OK, than in previous seasons (JAG).

A Red-bellied Woodpecker in *Cimmaron*, OK, Mar. 9 was beyond normal limits of its w. range (J & MN *et al.*). A Pileated Woodpecker in Fontenelle Forest in the winter was last observed Mar. 26 (RW, BP, TBa). One in *Woodward*, OK, may be part of a more permanent developing group in this area (RH).

A number of early arrivals were noted among flycatchers and swallows. These included an Olive-sided Flycatcher Apr. 27 in *Muskogee*, OK (JM *et al.*); a Say's Phoebe Mar. 10 in *Cimmaron*, OK (J & MN *et al.*); and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers Mar. 23 in *Tulsa* (BG) and Mar. 24 in *Comanche*, OK (JR). Exceptional were eight Tree Swallows Mar. 5 in *Sequoyah*, OK, at a known breeding site (JM, J & MN), sighting the two observed in *Cleveland*, OK, Mar. 18 (VB). An Acadian Flycatcher was again observed in *Douglas*, NE (BP, LP).

Fish Crows continued to be

observed in *Washington*, OK, arriving Mar. 23 (DV). A Tufted Titmouse Apr. 27 in *Harper*, OK (RH) was on the w. edge of the species' range and provided a first county record. A Brown Creeper lingered very late to May 14 in *Tulsa* (JL). A Golden-crowned Kinglet Apr. 13 in *Osage*, OK, was also tardy (JA, JTh).

A Townsend's Solitaire was on territory May 18 in Sowbelly Canyon, *Sioux*, NE (RCR, DJR), the only known nesting area in the Region. Two observed May 20 in *Dawes*, NE (TF, RW) may also have been breeding. Wood Thrush numbers may be worth noting. Two males were singing in *Pontotoc*, OK, Apr. 27 (WAC, MDu), and one was heard May 11 in *Cleveland*, OK (VB). Only one Veery to report—that from *Washington*, OK, May 18 (DV). The Rosches found six N. Mockingbirds in n.w. Nebraska, where rare.

Early arriving Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were noted Mar. 17 (SO) and Mar. 19 (NG) in *Comanche*, OK. Late-departing Bohemian Waxwings were in *Dawes*, NE, Apr. 8 (DJR). A N. Shrike Mar. 10 in *Cimmaron*, OK (JM *et al.*), was later than most existing records.

VIREOS, WARBLERS

A White-eyed Vireo in Fontenelle Forest May 15 (TF) was at the n. limits of its range. Bell's Vireos were reported from several Oklahoma areas. However, these reports still do not match the image of abundance this author remembers in the mid-1970s.

Three ♂ Black-capped Vireos were present by Apr. 18 in the Wichita Mountains N.W.R. (JAG, VB). Although no females were noted at this time, at least 4 pairs fledged young by May 22, the earliest ever recorded by 7 days (JAG).

Many thought warbler numbers were better this year. The "hottest" were a ♀ Golden-winged May 2–3 (PJ, JNt) and a male May 22 in Wichita (DVy). Another Golden-winged was in *Cass*, NE, May 4 (AG), and a ♀ Connecticut Warbler was documented May 19 in Fontenelle Forest (JT). Blue-winged Warblers were recorded from Fontenelle Forest May 7 (JA), 15 (TF), & 18 (JKo, SK) Cerulean

Warblers returned to a site in *Delaware*, OK, where Jim Norman has found them for 30 years. There are few breeding locations known for this species in Oklahoma. Ceruleans were also observed in Fontenelle Forest May 24–29 (JT, JB, BP) and *Douglas*, NE, May 25 (BP, LP). One in Wichita May 21 was a migrant (DVy).

A Prothonotary Warbler graced Wichita May 3 (PJ, JNt). Beavers appear to be helping them increase in Fontenelle Forest (BP, LP). Becoming a "scoop" any time, a Swainson's Warbler May 11 in *Tulsa* was outstanding (DK, JCH, SM). Some may still breed in the new Little River N.W.R., *McCurtain*, OK (BH *et al.*). An Ovenbird was still present May 30 in *Tulsa* (LU). A pair of Louisiana Waterthrushes in Fontenelle Forest Apr. 20 (BP) was at the limits of range. The only Nebraska Kentucky Warbler was in Fontenelle Forest May 9 (JB, JKo)—fewer than in previous years.

A ♀ Hooded Warbler May 9 in *Adams*, NE, was out of range, as was the one in Fontenelle Forest May 25 (JAI). Three Hooded Warblers singing in *Tulsa*, Apr. 27–May 28 may indicate breeding (JA, m.ob.) and extend the edge of their range in Oklahoma.

Eastern warblers west included Tennessee Warblers May 25 & 27 at 2 localities in *Cherry*, NE (SD); a N. Parula in *Sheridan*, NE, May 17 (RCR); a ♀ Magnolia Warbler in *Comanche*, OK, May 27 (JAG); Blackburnian Warblers in *Pontotoc*, OK (WAC), and *Comanche*, OK (JAG) May 24; a Prairie Warbler May 21 in *Butte*, NE (RCR, DJR); and a Blackpoll Warbler May 24 in *Cherry*, NE (SD). A Yellow-breasted Chat, rare in w. Oklahoma, was noted in *Comanche* May 7 (JaM).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A W. Tanager was photographed in *McIntosh*, OK, Mar. 30 (JV). Another easterly W. Tanager was observed in *Oklahoma* May 3 (CFL). The Summer Tanager May 25 in Fontenelle Forest was at the n. limits of range (JB, TB). Eleven Scarlet Tanagers in *Cherry*, NE (SD), seemed high for this central-strip locality

Several Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were present May 8–10 in Wichita (*vide* PJ). One May 10 in *Dawes*, NE, was far west (DF). A Black-headed Grosbeak in *Tulsa* Apr. 30 (PS, JL) was the first recorded there in 30 years. Newell considers Blue Grosbeak one of the next victims of cowbirds. He observed only one the entire spring. Lazuli Buntings appeared in Wichita Apr. 30 (JNt) and in *Tulsa* May 18 (BH).

Cassin's Sparrows again appeared in *Butte*, NE (RCR, MKC). A Rufous-crowned Sparrow discovered in February in *Sequoyah*, OK, was still present Apr. 27. A Lark Bunting flourished east to *Lancaster*, NE, May 16 (EB).

Henslow's Sparrows were first found in *Osage*, OK, Apr. 7 (DV). A Harris' Sparrow May 11 in Wichita (PJ) was late. Twenty Chestnut-collared Longspurs were back this year on breeding territories in *Holt*, NE (MB).

Six Yellow-headed Blackbirds were observed in *McCurtain*, OK, Apr. 18 (BH). Numbers of Great-tailed Grackles are increasing in *Sequoyah*, OK. More than 1500 were observed there Mar. 15 (JM, J & MN). They have progressed west to breed (2 pairs) along the N. Platte in *Lincoln*, NE (RCR). A nesting Orchard Oriole should not be news. However, in a vacuum of observations, a pair at a nest May 22 on Fort Sill, OK, is noteworthy (JR, JDT).

Purple Finches were noted until Mar. 10 in *Comanche*, OK (JaM). The few House Finches observed in *Pontotoc*, OK, were last noted Mar. 10 (WAC, MDu). While a few wintered in e. Nebraska, late March marked the reappearance of greater numbers (BP, LP).

Red Crossbills remained until May 12 in Oklahoma City, when 36 came to a feeder (SMa). Four were in *Cleveland*, OK, May 30 (SJ). Few showed up in the Pine Ridge by the end of May (RCR), but 180 were observed at Fort Niobrara N.W.R., *Cherry*, NE, May 25 (SD). Almost no Pine Siskins could be found anywhere.

Cited Observers: (Area editors boldfaced.) KANSAS—Rick Goodrick, Pete Janzen, Alan Maccarone, John Northrup (JNt), Don Vannoy. NEBRASKA—Jim Alt (JAI), Tanya Bray,

Treasure Baker (TBa), John Brenneman, Mark Brogie, Mary Kay Claussen, Steve Dinsmore, Craig Faanes, Ted Floyd, Deb Ford, Alan Grenon, Bill Huser (BHu), Jim Kovanda (JKo), **Babs Padelford**, Loren Padelford, Dick Rasmussen, Neal Ratzlaff, Dorothy J. Rosche, Richard C. Rosche, B.J.

Rose, Jerry Toll, Rick Wright. O K L A H O M A — Jim Arterburn, Bill & Janice Beall, Vicki Byre, William A. Carter, Melinda Droege, Mike Duggan (MDu), Chris Floyd, Neil Garrison, David Gill, Mike Gray, B. Griffin, Jim Harman, B. Harwood, Karen & Jim Havelone, Elizabeth & Kenneth

Hayes, Berlin Heck, Randy Hiatt, James C. Hoffman, Dolores Isted, Vera Jennings, Susan Jones, John Kennington, Dan King, Ellen Lee, **Jo Loyd**, Juanita Martin, Roger McConnell, Shirley MacFarland (SMa), Janet McGee (JaM), **Louis McGee**, **Jeri McMahon**, Steve Metz, Terry Mitchell,

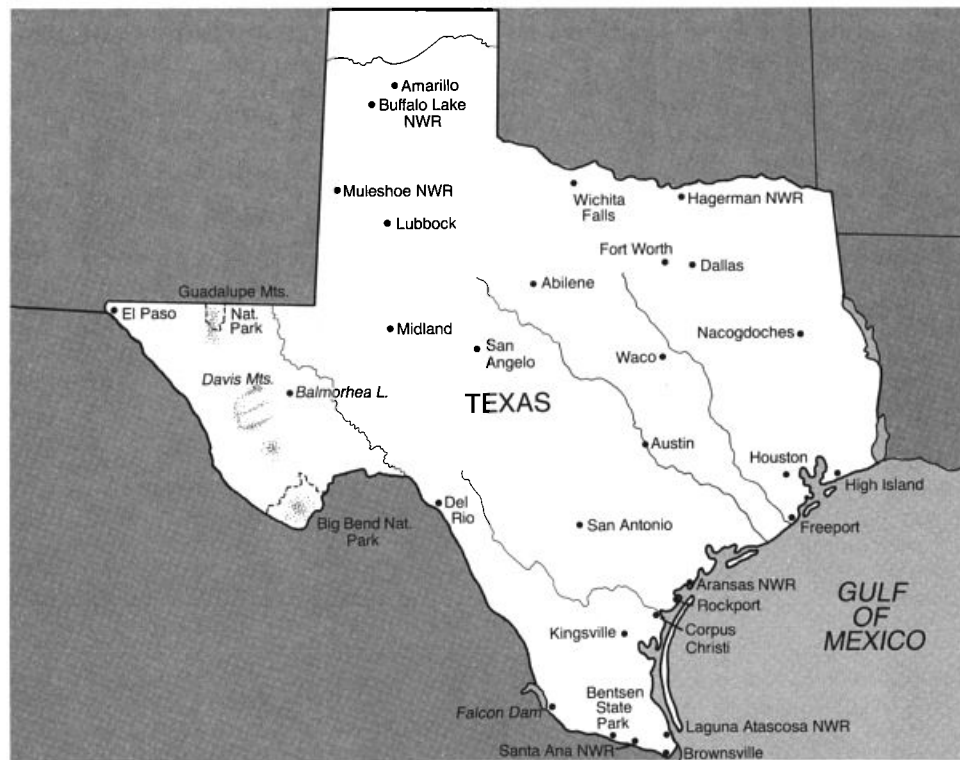
Mike Mlodinow (MML), John G. Newell, Jim & Marian Norman, Sam Orr, Fred Pianalto, Jon Regosin, Tom Roberts, Pat Seibert, Jim Thayer, Jack D. Tyler, L. Upshaw, Don Varner (Dva), Don Verser, Jim Vicars.—**JOSEPH A. GRZYBOWSKI**, 1701 Lenox, Norman, OK 73069.

TEXAS REGION

Greg W. Lasley and
Chuck Sexton

Following the trend set in the winter, there was nothing spectacular about spring migration. Repeated heavy rains soaked much of central, east, and coastal Texas. Most of south Texas also benefitted from above-normal rainfall, but one season of better-than-average rains will not repair the damage of almost three years of drought. The Panhandle continued its dry spell, and the Trans-Pecos was gradually drying out after an exceptionally wet stretch last year.

Observers in areas receiving good rains were primed for good birding, but anticipated fallouts mostly did not materialize. Instances of heavy migrant concentrations never proved widespread—just here and there (e.g., March 17 in Sabine Pass by Bill Graber; May 9 in Nacogdoches by David Wolf). A common thread in reports mirrored comments that surfaced regularly in recent years: while diversity of bird species seemed pretty good in most places (with exceptions such as San Antonio, where only 10 warbler species were reported to their hotline), numbers of individuals were low. This is a disturbing trend. In a curious contrast, Jim Morgan mentioned that despite abundant rain on the Upper Texas Coast, "it takes more weather to get a good fallout"; yet Mark Flippo reported from the Guadalupe Mountains that simply strong wind shifts (often without precipitation) brought passable migrant birding results there. In the absence of major fallouts on the coast and elsewhere, it was interesting that there seemed to be a wider scattering of eastern migrants over the western half of the state. A few westerners such as Lazuli Bunting and Western



Tanager returned the favor by wandering east.

Several energetic teams of Big Day hopefuls scouted much of the Upper Texas Coast, the Coastal Bend, and central Texas, but their focus was mostly pinning down dependable breeding birds for their sporting efforts in April. Nonetheless, they could not help but stumble upon some unusual birds. Early season efforts in the final year of Texas' Breeding Bird Atlas project (results will mostly be saved for the summer report) continued to push researchers into unexplored or underexplored nooks and crannies of the Texas landscape.

Abbreviations: Ft. Bliss (*Fort Bliss sewage ponds, El Paso*); G.M.N.P. (*Guadalupe Mountains Nat'l Park*); L.R.G.V. (*Lower Rio Grande Valley*); Norias (*Norias of the King Ranch*); T.B.R.C. (*Texas Bird Records Committee—Texas Ornithological Society*); T.C.W.C. (*Texas Cooperative Wildlife*

Collection—Texas A & M University); U.T.C. (*Upper Texas Coast*); Village Creek (*Village Creek Drying Beds—Arlington*). The following are shortened names for the respective county, state, or national parks, wildlife refuges, etc.: Anahuac, Anzalduas, Aransas, Atrwater, Bentsen, Big Bend, Buffalo Lake, Kickapoo, Laguna Atascosa, Palo Duro, Sabal Palm, and Santa Ana.

LOONS TO IBISES

There were the usual one to four Pacific Loons reported at Galveston's Offat's Bayou Mar. 16–Apr. 25 (CH, JA *et al.*), but one on L. Sam Rayburn, *San Augustine*, Mar. 12–18 (†DW, NB *et al.*) was a first for the Pineywoods area. A Com. Loon remained on an Amarillo lake May 14 into June (PA). Somewhat unexpected were a Least Grebe in *Kerr* that remained until Mar. 21 (TG) and two at Lake Balmorhea, *Reeves*, May 21 (L & JZ). Nine

Horned Grebes at White River L., *Crosby*, Mar. 9 provided a new high count for that area (C & ML, CSt). A Clark's Grebe at L. Balmorhea May 1–6 (TJ, A & MC) was the first reliably reported in Texas in a year.

Single Masked Boobies (sick or injured) were found on Mustang I., *Nueces*, Apr. 11 & 14 (TA). An apparently healthy individual was photographed at Mustang Island S.P. May 29 (A & MC). It is pleasant to reflect that abundant Brown Pelicans are no longer news in s. Texas (PP). A number of Brown Pelicans wandered inland, including one on L. Buchanan Mar. 30–Apr. 28 (T.A.S., TG), one on L. Livingston Apr. 27 (*vide DP*), one to two on L. Travis near Austin May 4–27 (T.A.S.), and another on Tradinghouse L., near Waco, May 14 (JMu). In c. and n. Texas, either Olivaceous Cormorants are becoming more regular in spring or birders are looking for them more (CH). Small numbers were noted regu-

larly around Austin, Waco, and Fort Worth (m.ob.). Unusual were four Anhingas over Village Creek Apr. 5 (MR).

Sproul again discovered Least Bitterns at Feather L., *El Paso*, Apr. 23–May 31, where nesting was suspected. Snowy Egret is a rare wanderer to the Panhandle; 11–18 in Lubbock May 4–7 (JCI) were remarkable. Rare for n. Texas was a Tricolored Heron at Village Creek Apr. 27 (MR, MP, GK). Palmer reports that Reddish Egrets were scarce in the Baffin Bay system in *Kleberg* and *Kenedy*. A large Cattle Egret rookery was discovered in *Travis* in April (FW *et al.*), Austin's first. Two Black-crowned Night-Herons at L. Six, *Lubbock*, Mar. 15 (DS) were considered accidental so early in the season. An ad. White Ibis at Feather L. Apr. 7 (MF *et al.*) provided the first *El Paso* record and probably only the 2nd for the entire Trans-Pecos (*vide* BZ).

Glossy Ibises continued to show up with increasing frequency along the U.T.C., with one at Anahuac Mar. 10–18 (†MA *et al.*), up to four on Galveston I. Apr. 7–May 18 (†TE, MC *et al.*), and one in *Chambers* Apr. 19 (†JM, TE). Unexpected was another ad. Glossy with a flock of White-faced Ibises at McAllen Apr. 30–May 1 (†JA, JD, PL), the first ever for the L.R.G.V. Equally unexpected was a subad. Glossy at San Antonio's Mitchell L. May 5–June 2 (†WS, ph. GL, CB *et al.*). A 2nd Glossy was also at Mitchell L. May 6 (†CB). This string of records seems amazing for a species first accepted for Texas within the past 5 years.

WATERFOWL

Very unusual was a Greater White-fronted Goose that lingered at Madden L., *Hudspeth*, Apr. 3–May 7 (BZ, m.ob.); another in *Kleberg* Apr. 23 (PP, W.A.S.) was also notably late. Ross' Geese are reported in the Panhandle area with increasing frequency. A flock of up to 15 was in Lubbock Mar. 21–25 (L.E.A.S.), with two until Apr. 3 (CSt). Two Ross' were also seen on the Amarillo sewage ponds Apr. 7 (PA, KS). A lone Ross' Goose frequented the Rio Grande in Big Bend Mar. 27–May 30 (m.ob.), for a first park record. Other records for

this species included one in *Hudspeth* Apr. 20–May 7 (PL, m.ob.), one at L. Tawakoni Mar. 3–17 (RK), and one in Midland until Mar. 31 (FW). Nesting Canada Geese made news. A pair with six young at Buffalo Springs L., *Lubbock*, Apr. 30 (CSt, ph.) provided the first confirmed Texas nesting record. At least 6 pairs also nested along the Canadian R. in e. *Hemphill* (BR, Texas Parks & Wildlife). Some of the latter carried USF&W bands and are thought to be from the wild population that has established itself in near-by w. Oklahoma (*vide* KS).

A copulating pair of Wood Ducks was in n.w. *El Paso* May 4 (BZ, ScW). A ♂ Cinnamon Teal was unusually far east at Big Creek L., *Delta*, Mar. 30–Apr. 20 (MWh). Becoming annual in n.e. Texas, up to five Cinnamon Teal were at Village Creek Mar. 1–Apr. 7 (m.ob.). Another was on Grapevine L. Apr 6 (MS). A ♂ Greater Scaup at L. Balmorhea Apr. 21 (PL, SF) was late and out of range. Completely unexpected was discovery of a ♀ Oldsquaw in El Paso Apr. 26 (EH, ph.). The two previous El Paso area records are December records from the 1970s. This bird, obviously lost but apparently healthy, entertained local observers until May 12 (ph. BZ, JS). A Red-breasted Merganser in a shallow *Kleberg* creek Apr. 23 (PP, W.A.S.) was a late surprise for that area.

RAPTORS

An Osprey at Midland Mar. 19–27 (JH *et al.*) was considered an early migrant. Another Osprey at L. Tanglewood, *Randall*, May 21 (TJ) was one of only a very few May sightings in the Panhandle. American Swallow-tailed Kites were reported along the coastal plains Mar. 16 through May. Among interesting reports were "many" on the U.T.C. Mar. 17, including a bird on the Rice University campus (m.ob.), one flying through a residential neighborhood in Kingsville Mar. 24 (N & PP), and one at Jones State Forest Apr. 21 (WD, BD, MWy). The pair of Swallow-taileds that probably nested at Hampshire the past 2 summers was seen again carrying nesting material in early April (m.ob.). A first for *Tarrant* was a Black-shouldered Kite in e. Fort Worth

Apr. 11 (†MR). A Mississippi Kite in Lubbock Mar. 3 (BS) was extremely early. This is the 3rd year in a row with one early March sighting there.

Cooper's Hawks were finally confirmed nesting near Edgewood Apr. 17, the first solid nesting record for n.c. Texas (*vide* CH). Old nesting records there are cited by Oberholser, but none are well-documented. A Com. Black-Hawk Mar. 13 near the Glass Mts., *Brewster* (JMu), was interesting, as was one May 1 over Rio Grande Village, Big Bend (EH). A pair of Gray Hawks again returned to Rio Grande Village, arriving by Mar. 19. The female was on eggs by Apr. 18. Another pair of Gray Hawks was seen over Cottonwood Campground in the park Mar. 27 (GLu). A Red-shouldered Hawk at Rio Grande Village Apr. 25 (PL, SF) was out of place.

The earliest reports of migrant Broad-winged Hawks involved 150 birds over Falfurrias Mar. 21 (AO) and 200 in *Kenedy* Mar. 23 (K.B.W.C.). By early April, daily numbers observed from the ground in *Kleberg* increased to the low 1000s, the highest concentration being 36,000 over Kingsville the evening of Apr. 8 (BZ *et al.*). Interestingly, Windham's radar analysis of migrant Broad-wingeds at Kingsville showed that substantial numbers are not detected by ground observers. Among his most impressive tallies were 26,000 Mar. 25, 59,000 Apr. 1, 38,500 Apr. 2, 116,000 Apr. 3, 44,000 Apr. 10, 33,000 Apr. 16, and 19,000 Apr. 17. Altogether, Windham's radar counts tallied over 402,000 Broad-winged Hawks passing over Kingsville Mar. 25–Apr. 17. Small flocks continued to be seen in s. Texas and along the coastal bend as late as Apr. 26, with a single flock of 140 at Kingsville that day (PP, WD *et al.*). Broad-winged Hawks were seen in high numbers in other areas, with 4000 over *DeWitt* Mar. 26 (DMu), 1430 at Longview Apr. 14 (GLu), 340 at Nacogdoches Apr. 14 (SL), and 360 over *Van Zandt* Apr. 23 (RK), all above-average numbers for the respective locales. A White-tailed Hawk in *Bastrop* Mar. 9 (EK) added to the small number of Austin-area records. A Golden Eagle at

Falfurrias Mar. 23 (AO) and one at Austin Mar. 25 (T.A.S.) were rare finds. Some 112 Crested Caracaras in and around Falfurrias Mar. 28 (AO) seemed to take high count this spring. The Kingsville/Falfurrias area certainly is the caracara capital of the country. Elsewhere, a Crested Caracara in *Somervell* May 23 (JWS, MR) was a county first.

PRAIRIE-CHICKENS TO SHOREBIRDS

A spring count of "Attwater's" Prairie-Chickens tallied 480, a 2% increase from 1990. Disturbing declines in *Colorado*, *Victoria*, and extirpation in *Fort Bend* offset any relief provided by the small increase in total numbers (*vide* SLA). A road-killed Montezuma Quail was found in Dog Canyon, G.M.N.P., May 5 (RRe). This species was reintroduced into that area in 1984. A King Rail was killed by an unknown predator at Cement Creek L., *Tarrant*, May 4 (LH, CH); the last known county record was in August 1970. Another King Rail at Big Bend May 9 was considered accidental (RA, m.ob.). The Whooping Crane population at the beginning of spring was 135 after the loss of 11 last winter (TS). A migrant Whooper was shot and killed by a "hunter" at Lampasas during April. One subadult remained at Aransas through the period, leaving 133 to return to Canada.

An ad. N. Jacana at Sea Rim Apr. 21 (†BB, EMo) was a first for *Jefferson*. In the Panhandle, a Whimbrel in *Gray* May 1 (F & JE) was a county first. Single Marbled Godwits were at Ft Bliss Apr. 29–May 24 (BZ *et al.*) Rare for w. Texas, a White-rumped Sandpiper was photographed at L. Balmorhea May 29 (ML).

One of the Purple Sandpipers at Freeport from winter was last reliably reported Apr. 25 (WD, BD, MWy). Another at the Boca Chica jetties lingered until Mar 10 (BM, LL). A count of 270 Stilt Sandpipers at Rockport Mar 7 was high (CC). A Ruff was reported May 14 on Matagorda I (RW, to T.B.R.C.). An Am Woodcock with three chicks Mar 9 in *Angelina* (LD, NB) provided a rare breeding record for that area. Late records of Am Woodcocks included one in *Lee*

S.A.

The most stunning rarity of the season was the ad. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Village Creek, Tarrant, May 17-18 (ph. †MR). This remarkable bird was seen by scores of observers and was photographed by several during its 2-day stay. This was the first Texas record documented by photos and one of the very few records of a spring adult s. of Alaska. Incredibly, another Sharp-tailed was described at Austin May 4 (DSi *et al.*). Unfortunately, this 2nd bird was not photographed and was seen only briefly. Detailed plumage description by Simon suggests this was a different bird than at Village Creek. Both records have been submitted to the T.B.R.C.

Apr. 24 (HB), one in Fort Worth May 4 (LH), and one in Kerr May 12 (TG). Red-necked Phalaropes were one at Midland May 11 (DK, m.ob.), a first spring record there (*fide* FW), one at Mitchell L. May 19 (ph. WS), and one at Ft. Bliss May 23 (BZ).

JAEGERS TO TERNS

One to two ad. Pomarine Jaegers were at Bolivar Flats Apr. 13-May 7 (ph., m.ob.). A well-described Little Gull was with a flock of migrant Franklin's Gulls



Adult Pomarine Jaeger at Bolivar Flats, Galveston County, Texas, on May 7, 1991. One or two individuals were evidently here on the beach for several weeks. Photograph/Kevin T. Karlson.

over Village Creek Mar. 14 (†MR). There are now 12 accepted records in Texas. An imm. California Gull at Calaveras L., Bexar (ph. †WS), Mar. 15 was a rare find. Adding to the growing list of Thayer's Gulls in Texas was an adult at High I. Apr. 21 (MR, ph. TE, JM, † to T.B.R.C.). The "regular" Mustang I. Lesser Black-backed Gull remained until Apr. 8; another appeared near the

same spot 2 days later (TA). A 3rd was at Bolivar Flats Apr. 19-20 (DD, DP *et al.*). Trying to sort out Glaucous Gull records gets more confusing each year. Individuals (the same wandering bird?) were reported Mar. 16-19 at Freeport, Apr. 19 at Bolivar Flats, and Apr. 21 at High I. (JM, TE). A weakened imm. Glaucous Gull was picked up on the Mustang I. beach May 9 (*fide* TA); it later died (* to T.C.W.C.). An imm. Black-legged Kittiwake was at Bolivar Flats Apr. 28 (†BG, PB).

A Caspian Tern at Austin May 8 (BF) furnished one of very few records there. A single Least Tern at L. Balmorhea Apr. 20 (PL *et al.*) & 30 (ph. ML) provided an unusual record. Other Least Terns of interest included one on the Rio Grande in Big Bend May 8 (L & JZ *et al.*), one in Austin May 4 & 24 (PRO, CS), one in El Paso May 24 (JS), and one at Lake O'The Pines May 30 (JHu, N.E.T.F.O.).

DOVES TO NIGHTJARS

White-winged Doves are rarely reported in the Panhandle, so one to four in Lubbock Mar. 5-May 13 (JCo) were interesting. Inca Dove has yet to be confirmed nesting in the n. Panhandle, but its continuing presence makes this event almost inevitable (*fide* KS). A pair was copulating in Amarillo in April (JPr), and another was heard there May 14 (PA). Eight Com. Ground-Doves were netted at Kickapoo in May, and a juv. bird was there May 26 (KB), an unusually high number for that location. An apparently territorial pair of White-tipped Doves was at a Corpus Christi site Apr. 4 (A & MC), three were at one site in Kennedy Mar. 16 (RW), and six were there Apr. 22 (W.A.S.). The species was also seen and heard occasionally in Kleberg. A flock of about 12 Green Parakeets was reported on a ranch n. of Raymondville (BK, *fide* PP). Another flock of about 40 was in Brownsville Apr. 27 (JA), where "two pairs were seen entering woodpecker cavities in dead palm trunks." Six Green Parakeets spent the night of May 9 roosting in O'Neil's Falfurrias yard.

Black-billed Cuckoos were reported to be more numerous than usual this spring (m.ob.). A Black-billed Cuckoo in Johnson May 11 (CE) furnished a first

county record. A Groove-billed Ani in Rio Grande Village May 21 (JSe) provided a rare spring record for Big Bend. A Short-eared Owl at Center Point, Kerr, May 5 (TG) was probably a first county record as well as extremely late. O'Neil asserts that numbers of all nightjars in the Falfurrias area (Lesser and Com. Nighthawks, Pauraque) seem lower than in previous years. Palmer notes a slight decrease in the Kingsville area as well but remarked that the proportion of Lesser to Common nighthawks seems higher than normal.

SWIFTS TO WOODPECKERS

A lone Chimney Swift, a rare spring visitor to the Big Bend area, was carefully studied over the Basin May 3 (RW). A Green Violet-ear was photographed at San Benito, Cameron (SBe, LM) Apr. 21, and another was photographed May 21 at Helotes, Bexar (C & SSh). These represent the 11th and 12th accepted records in Texas. A Broad-billed



Green Violet-ear at San Benito, Texas, April 21, 1991. This stray from Mexico has turned up more frequently in recent years; this was the 11th Texas record. Photograph/Steve Bentsen.

Hummingbird, accidental in Texas, was in Big Bend May 18 (†ML). Buff-bellied Hummingbirds moved onto the coastal bend as well as Kingsville, Falfurrias, and Sarita in March and April (AO, N & PP, A & AA *et al.*) but had largely disappeared by late May; a few were still present at Sarita and Corpus Christi. A Buff-bellied in *De Witt* (DMu) was rare.

Two Lewis' Woodpeckers that arrived in the fall lingered at Midland until Apr. 23; one lingered until the remarkable date of May 24 (JBr *fide* FW). A Williamson's Sapsucker at Midland Mar. 9 (DK, m.ob.) provided a 4th record from that area; another was in the Davis Mts. Mar. 12-13 (FB).

FLYCATCHERS

A Greater Pewee was well-described at San Antonio Apr. 7 (GSM), a real surprise so far out of range. We heard other 3rd-hand reports; with fewer than 5 accepted Texas records, any report must be well documented. An early Alder Flycatcher was studied in Fort Worth May 4 (LH). A Dusky-capped Flycatcher was documented with photos and tape recordings in Pine Canyon of Big Bend May 6 (CS); the bird vocalized all day and even investigated a tree cavity, but could not be located subsequently. An Ash-throated Flycatcher in Caprock Canyons Feb. 22 was the earliest on record for that region (BP). Had it overwintered? An Ash-throated May 23 at Fossil Rim Wildlife Park provided a new *Somervell* record (JWS, MR). An early Brown-crested Flycatcher was in the Rockport area Apr. 29 (CC), where uncommon. Very rare in the Hill Country was a Great Kiskadee in *Medina* May 27 (P & TF). An apparent Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher was briefly observed Apr. 28 at Packery Channel Co. Park on Padre I. (†MC, PLw). The pair of Tropical Kingbirds detected in Brownsville in February remained through May and attempted to nest (JA, RR, m.ob.), the first nesting in Texas. A Couch's Kingbird n. of Victoria Apr. 27 was n. of the species' regular range, but another in Austin Apr. 23-26 was farther afield, providing a first county record (FW, J & BR). A pair of Thick-billed Kingbirds returned for the 4th year to nest at Cottonwood Campground, Big Bend (m.ob.). An additional pair at Rio Grande Village the last week of May was also nest-building (JSe, PRO *et al.*). This species is flirting with losing its status as "accidental" in Texas! A W. Kingbird Mar. 5 in Austin provided a first March record for that area. A remarkable six species of kingbirds were nesting in the state by late May! The parade of tyrannids finishes with a Fork-tailed Flycatcher near Gilchrist, Galveston, Apr. 23-25 (WD, BD, ph. JA, MWy, JMu *et al.*).

SWALLOWS TO PIPITS

Still rare in Lubbock, the first Purple Martin of the season appeared Mar. 6 (NS). Cliff



Fork-tailed Flycatcher near Gilchrist, Galveston County, Texas, April 23, 1991. Seventh state record. Photograph/Mark Wynja.

Swallows were spreading dramatically into portions of e. Texas, where previously uncommon and local. Cliff and Barn swallows have largely yielded niches to Cave Swallows in much of s. Texas, with some local exceptions (AO, N & PP, SB). In late April, the species nested for the first time in the Austin region, just e. of Luling, *Gonzales* (GL, CS). A few Caves were also seen in the Austin area proper (BF). Caves had returned to Sea Rim to nest by early March (WG *et al.*). A Scrub Jay at Palmetto S.P. May 31 was e. of its regular range (TG). There were 2 active but poorly placed Mexican Crow nests at the Port of Brownsville (JA, PL); the fate of these attempts is unknown. A Chihuahuan Raven at Port Aransas Apr. 15 may have been the first on the coast of the Coastal Bend (CC).

A "Black-crested" Titmouse at Buffalo L. May 23 (KS) was only the 2nd sighting at that far w. location. Brown-headed Nuthatches were again noted at their newly found outpost in *Van Zandt* (RK, GH, JN). Notable were Winter Wrens in Falfurrias Mar. 28 (AO) and in *Randall* Apr. 20 (T.P.A.S.), as well as a Sedge Wren in Dallas May 4 (*fide* RR). A stray Sedge Wren was at L. Balmorea Apr. 20 (PL, SF). Fifteen Mountain Bluebirds in *Crosby* Mar. 9 (C & ML) were the only ones reported all winter in that area. A ♂ Varied Thrush lingered at Smith Point, *Chambers*, until Mar. 12 (P & TF, SG *et al.*). A Brown Thrasher, a rare visitor to G.M.N.P., frequented a Pine Springs feeder Mar. 14–May 12 (MF). Sprague's Pipits set a new late date at L. Tawakoni Apr. 28 (RK *et al.*).

VIREOS, WARBLERS

White-eyed Vireos made an unprecedented invasion of habitats at Kickapoo that are normally occupied by Black-capped (KB). A White-eyed in Amarillo May 19 provided only the 5th Panhandle record. Sabine Woods in the s.e. corner of the state hosted a migrant Bell's Vireo Apr. 20, where the species is very rare (WG). Gallucci, Scott, and others scoured the Black-capped Vireo range to search for colonies. Among the more notable finds was a singing male in *Zavala* s. of Hill Country, where there are no previous breeding records (TG), as well as the first recent (post-1975) records of territorial birds in *Llano* and *Medina* (TG); other territorial birds in *Blanco*, *Comal*, and *Hays*, where the species is extremely local (TG); 8 pairs at Dinosaur Valley (PS, CH, m.ob.); and 3 territories at the species' last stronghold in *Dallas* at the Dallas Nature Center (JP). Gallucci also observed a singing Gray Vireo in e. *Kerr* May 19, believed to be the easternmost for Texas. A Yellow-throated Vireo in Lubbock May 1 & 18 (DS) was the first there since 1983; another was in McKittrick Canyon, G.M.N.P., May 5–26, a 2nd park record (MF). At their newly colonized outpost in *Real*, a Hutton's Vireo was singing May 4 (BA), and a female was seen May 13–14 (JG). Philadelphia Vireos were widely regarded as more numerous in migration in e. and c. Texas. Observers visiting the Tropical Kingbirds in Brownsville found a bonus **Black-whiskered Vireo** May 25 (†RR, MWh, JBu); it departed after 5 minutes and could not be relocated. This represents the 6th Texas record if accepted by the T.B.R.C.

A remarkable diversity of e. warblers spread out over the w. half of the state; highlights are in Table 1. Blue-winged and Golden-winged warblers were more numerous in e. parts of the state. There seemed to be a few more reports of hybrids as well (all "Brewster's"), including one banded at Driftwood Apr. 26 (DC). Two Virginia's Warblers added to warbler diversity at Buffalo L. May 8 (KS; see Table 1). Lucy's Warblers showed up at Cottonwood Campground, Big Bend, Mar. 15 (JMu) and were

S.A.

A pair of Yellow-green Vireos returned to Laguna Atascosa, but we received scant information on their nesting progress. This is becoming a classic case of the "Enigma of Regular Rarities." This may be the only breeding pair of this species in the United States, but because they (1) have been reported in previous years, (b) are at a very accessible location, and (3) have been easy to find for numerous observers, *no one* makes the effort to document them or even report them to *AB*. Everyone assumes someone *else* will report them. Two other fallacies may mislead observers. (1) Reporting a rarity to a rare bird alert tape will likely *not* be sufficient to get the information to *AB*. We cannot call all 5 Texas tapes every day. Also, information provided on tapes is inadequate to document rarities. (2) For rarities on refuges or parks, we may not hear about them from their staff. These hard-working people do us a favor to send reports as their workloads allow; sometimes their duties simply prevent them from communicating with us. The bottom line is: *we need you, the active observer, to communicate directly with us*. Without such communication, the record will be lost from ornithological history, which *AB* and the T.B.R.C. try so hard to preserve.

seen through the season. An early Yellow Warbler was singing at Aransas Mar. 9 (CC). Rare finds on the Coastal Bend included a ♂ Cape May at Packery Channel Apr. 27 (A & MC) and a ♂ Black-throated Blue on Padre I. Apr. 26 (A & MC, E & NA). A ♂ Hermit Warbler at Sabine Pass Apr. 12–13 (TW, RR *et al.*) provided the first U.T.C. record in nearly 20 years. Golden-cheeked Warblers were found in good numbers at Fossil Rim Wildlife Park, *Somervell*, a new location (JWS *et al.*). Two Yellow-throated Warblers in Fort Worth were at a location where the species last nested in 1980. The "wave" of Palm Warblers included two reports from San Antonio (m.ob.) and another in Austin Apr. 27 (GL *et al.*).

Eighty Am. Redstarts in Nacogdoches May 10 was a large inland number (DW, BG). Nice finds in Fort Worth included a Kentucky Warbler May 11 (CH, EW) and two Hoodeds May 1 & 4 (MR). Thirty-four Canada Warblers near Bastrop May 11 was a remarkable concentration (BF). A Painted Redstart in G.M.N.P. May 5 was considered accidental (WL *fide* MF); another in Pine Canyon, Big Bend, May 6 was the first reported there in a few years (CS). A well-described ♂ **Olive Warbler** was an exciting find in lowland habitat at Big Bend May 3 (C & RCu *et al.*); none of the species' 6 Texas reports (all from Big Bend) have

Table 1. Eastern Warblers in West Texas, Spring 1991.

Golden-winged	Apr. 30	Rio Grande Vil.	A & MC
Golden-winged	May 1	Fort Bliss*	ph. BZ
Tennessee	May 12, 16 & 21	Buffalo	L.KS
N. Parula	Apr. 17	Palo Duro	KS
Chestnut-sided	May 8	<i>Midland</i>	J & DMe
Magnolia	May 8	<i>Oldham</i>	RSc
Bl.-thr. Blue	Apr. 27	Boot Springs	ML
Bl.-thr. Blue	May 4	Cottonwood Camp.	B & LC
Blackburnian	May 21	Buffalo	L.KS
Yellow-throated	May 8	Buffalo	L.KS
Palm	Apr. 27–30	Balmorea	TJ, ML
Palm	May 7	Lubbock	JCo
Blackpoll	May 7–8	Chisos Mtns.	RAR, m.ob.
Prothonotary	May 16	Cottonwood Camp.	GLam
Ovenbird	May 16	Buffalo	L.KS
Ovenbird	May 20	G.M.N.P.*	JRo
Kentucky	Apr. 29–May 1	Amarillo	ACa, KS
Kentucky	May 5–6	Amarillo	GJ
Kentucky	May 5–6	G.M.N.P.	MF
Hooded	May 8	Buffalo	L.KS

* First area records.



This "Brewster's Warbler," a hybrid of Golden-winged X Blue-winged warblers, was netted for banding at Driftwood, Hays County, Texas, on April 26, 1991. Photograph/Don Connell.

yet been documented by photos, tape recordings, or specimen.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A Summer Tanager in Corpus Christi Mar. 5 was the earliest ever there (CC). Following winter's scattered reports, W. Tanagers continued to show up in unexpected numbers. As usual, a few were on the U.T.C., but at least seven were found in the Corpus Christi area (A & MC, m.ob.). A ♂ W. Tanager in Nacogdoches May 3 provided a first local record (BG). There were unprecedented numbers of Lazuli Buntings in n.c. Texas (six) and in the Austin area (another six) May 4–12 (m.ob.). A ♂ Painted Bunting in Longview Mar. 11 was 4–5 weeks early (AB). Dickcissels arrived *en masse* the last week of April; active observers even reported having "Dickcissel Nightmares" because of their incessant singing virtually everywhere outdoors in e., c., and s. Texas.

A Brewer's Sparrow was described from Austin Apr. 10 (FW), where very rare. A Grasshopper Sparrow found dead on the highway at



Henslow's Sparrow has become scarce as a wintering bird in coastal Texas; this lingering bird was at Smith Point, Chambers County, on March 17, 1991. Photograph/Ted Eubanks.

G.M.N.P. May 13 (MF) provided a first park record. The Henslow's Sparrow near Freeport lingered at least until Mar. 17 (CH *et al.*), and one-two others stayed a week later at Smith Point, Chambers (CH, TE, JA *et al.*). One of the better finds in n. Texas was a well-described Sharp-tailed Sparrow May 16 at Big Creek L., Delta (MWh). The imm. Golden-crowned Sparrow wintering near Amarillo stayed through Mar. 9; remarkably, another in ad. plumage visited the same feeder May 2–3 (TM). A Lapland Longspur in Midland Mar. 15 provided a 3rd county record (J & DMe).

Bobolinks were not numerous on the U.T.C., but strays were reported in Kenedy on the remarkable date of Mar. 23 (PP, K.B.W.C.) and in Midland May 12–16 (FW, m.ob.; first county record). Two flocks totalling 155 Yellow-headed Blackbirds was a good number for the Austin area Apr. 23 (CS). Four Com. Grackles visited G.M.N.P. Apr. 12, for a 3rd park record (MF). Bronzed Cowbirds appeared more numerous in the Kingsville and Kerrville areas; Midland observers found their first May 11–18 (LBl, LA). A ♂ Hooded Oriole in Palo Duro May 27 (JRa) was unprecedented.

Purple Finches were numerous through mid-March in the Fort Worth area, the only region reporting any numbers this season. The last House Finch from the e. Texas winter invasion was at Nacogdoches Mar. 20 (BHD, *fide* DW); others in Hunt and westward in n. Texas were of uncertain geographical origin. Some first Johnson records included a House Finch Mar. 26, up to 17 Red Crossbills at Keene Mar. 11–12, and a Lesser Goldfinch in Cleburne Mar. 1 (CE). Unexpected were a Cassin's Finch and an Evening Grosbeak in Dog Canyon, G.M.N.P., May 8 (RRe); virtually no montane birds appeared there earlier in the winter. A dead Red Crossbill was found in Midland Apr. 15 (*fide* FW). Invading from *somewhere* were numerous Lesser Goldfinches at Kickapoo in April (KB). A group of 100+ Evening Grosbeaks was at L. Tanglewood, Randall, Mar. 1 (TJ).

Contributors and cited observers: (subregional editors

in boldface) Peggy Acord, Tony Amos, Avis & Arvid Anderson, Beryl Armstrong, Rich Armstrong, Eddy & Nina Arnold, John Arvin, Lois Augustson, Mike Austin, Sharon Bartels, Robert Barth, Jim Beard, Charles Bender, Steve Bentsen (SBe), Duane Berry (DBe), Peter Billingham, Nancy Bird, Al Bjelland, Lori Black (LBk), Lou Bliss, Beth Blount, Dave & Dody Bradford (D & DBr), Hugh Brown, Kelly Bryan, Lawrence Buford (LBU), Frank Bumgardner, Judy Burgy (JBU), Sheriton Burr (SBU), Joy Butts (JBt), Annette Carlisle (ACa), Charlie Clark, Jeremy Clark (JCl), Jim Clark, R.D. Coggeshall, Jim Collier (JCo), Don Connell, Arlie & Mel Cooksey, Buck & Linda Cooper, Sue Cox, Gay Craft, Mark Cranford (MCR), Dorothy Creagh (DCr), Wes Cureton, Carolyn & Ray Cuthbertson (C & RCu), Dallas County Audubon Society (D.C.A.S.), David Dauphin, Pat Davenport, Betty Rae Davis, Jim Day (JDa), Louis Debatz (LDe), Laurel Devaney, Brent Diakow, Wayne Diakow, Gladys Donohue, Jon Dunn, Charles Easley, Nancy & Ed Elliott, Fred & Jan Elston, Ted Eubanks, Jr., Shawneen Finnegan, Mark Flippo, Fort Worth Audubon Society (F.W.A.S.), Bill Foster (BFo), Nancy Fouchet, Phyllis & Tony Frank, Bobbie Frazier (BoF), Brush Freeman, Tony Gallucci, Steve Gast, John Gee, Brian Gibbons, William Graber, III., Laurens Halsey, Bill Hand (BHD), George Harmon, Ed Harper, Carl Haynie (North Central Texas: 737 Meadowcrest, Azle, TX 76020), Jim Henderson, Julie Hill (JHi), Buddy Hollis (BHo), Marge Hooks, Jack Hudson (JHu), Missy Jackson, Nick Jackson, Pete Janzen, Tom Johnson, George Jury, Greg Keiran, Donna Kelly, Jeff Kingery, Kingsville Bird & Wildlife Club (K.B.W.C.), Richard Kinney, Bruce Kraatz, Ed Kutac, Steve Labuda (SLa), Greg Lambeth (GLam), Greg Lasley, Bill Lawley, Ed Lebeau, Paul Lehman, Peter Lewellen (PLw), W. Lewis, Leon Little, Llano Estacado Audubon Society (L.E.A.S.), Cindy & Mark Lockwood, Paul Lockwood (PLo), Sue Lower, Guy Luneau (GLu), Robert Machover, Terry

Massey, Brad McKinney, Don & Ruthie Melton, Joann & Don Merritt (J & DMe), G. Scott Mills, Laura Moore, Pete Moore, Jim Morgan, Evelyn Morris (EMo), Ernest & Kay Mueller, John Muldrow (JMu), Derek Muschalek (DMu), Michael Musumeche, Kenneth Nanney, Jim Newman (JNe), Northeast Texas Field Ornithologists (N.E.T.F.O.), Julius Nussbaum, John O'Connell, Mitchell Oliphant, Andy O'Neil, Brent Ortego, Nancy Palmer, Paul Palmer (South Texas: 615 S. Wanda, Kingsville, TX 78363), Mike Patterson, Dick Payne, Jim Peterson, Garland Porter, Barbara Potthast, Prairie & Timbers Audubon Society (P.T.A.S.), Joann Pruitt (JPr), Warren Pulich, Sr., Judy Rainger (JRa), Ross Rasmussen, Martin Reid, Bill Reiner (BiR), Roger Reisch (RRe), John & Barbara Ribble, A. & H. Richards, Peter Riesz, Bob Righter (BoR), Teresa Risdon, Jan & Will Risser (J & WRI), Sam Robbins, Bill Rogers (BRg), J. Romano (JRo), Ernie Roney, Phil Rostron (PRo), Bob & Joan Roth (B & JRo), Rose Ann Rowlett, San Antonio Audubon Society (S.A.A.S.), Bill Sappington, Gloria Saylor, Peter Scott, Rosemary Scott (RSc), Willie Sekula, Jeff Selleck (JSe), Chuck Sexton, Ken Seyffert (Panhandle: 2206 S. Lipscomb, Amarillo, TX 79109), Carlton & Shirley Shead (C & SSH), Nick Short, J.W. Sifford, David Simon (DSi), Nina Sinclair, Lawrence & Ruth Smith, John Sproul, June Stacey (JSt), Tom Stehn, Darleen Stevens, Elton Stilwell, Cliff Stogner (CSt), Dorinda Sullivan (DSu), Marilyn Sumner, Texas Panhandle Audubon Society (T.P.A.S.), Travis Audubon Society (T.A.S.), Peggy Trosper, Al Valentine, Ro Wauer, Fred S. Webster Jr., Tex Wells, Ed Wetzel, Matt White (MWh), Wichita (Kansas) Audubon Society, Sue Wiedenfeld, Frances Williams, Scott Wilson (ScW), Anse Windham, David & Mimi Wolf, Mark Wynja (MWy), Linda & John Zemple, Barry Zimmer (Trans-Pecos: 6720 Heartstone Ct., El Paso, TX 79924).—GREG W. LASLEY, 305 Loganberry Ct., Austin, TX 78745, and CHUCK SEXTON, 101 E. 54th Street, Austin, TX 78751.

IDAHO-WESTERN MONTANA REGION

Thomas H. Rogers

March weather in this varied Region tended to be mild and somewhat dry, though with much variation from area to area. An exception was Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge, Bonners Ferry, Idaho, where cool, wet weather prevailed much of the spring, with much snow in early March. Waterfowl nesting was delayed there. April likewise varied from cool to average, wet to dry. May, on the other hand, was cool nearly everywhere, but again with variable precipitation.

High water levels at American Falls Reservoir, Idaho, and lack of water in alkaline flats of that area produced a poor shorebird showing. Some species were early and others late at Fortine, Montana. Few reporters remarked about the effects of weather.

LOONS TO EGRETS

The peak number for Com. Loon was 72 on Apr. 14 at Twin Lakes near Preston, ID (FR). A few were on Coeur d'Alene L., ID, in April and May. Nesting pairs were on Bull and Murphy Lakes near Fortine, MT, and 2 were at Dry L. in that vicinity in late May, the first ever there in Winton Weydemeyer's experience. A pair of Red-necked Grebes was nesting at Bull L.; one at Dickey L. in that vicinity was taken by Bald Eagles (WW). Two were on Silver L., Harriman S.P., Fremont, ID, in May (JS); they have nested there for several years. One pair arrived at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, ID, Apr. 22 (JJR). American White Pelicans were again noted at Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, MT (RJ). Double-crested Cormorants were seen more often along the Flathead R. n. of Flathead L., n.w. Montana, but there still was no known nesting colony n. of Ninepipe and Pablo refuges of that lake (DC).

Two Great Egrets appeared at Thompson L., Kootenai, ID, May 1 (SW), and one was there May 6 (JN). They continued in



low numbers in s.e. Idaho, where one was sighted at Mud Lake W.M.A. May 5 and another on Springfield Bottoms, Bingham, May 11 (CHT). Four Cattle Egrets were near Mud Lake May 5 (CHT), and one was found on Swan L. in the Island Park, ID, area May 21 (SP).

WATERFOWL

Tundra Swans were moving through Mar. 8 to mid-April, with one lingering at Kootenai N.W.R. to the period's end. A "Bewick's" Swan was observed with Tundras in a marsh w. of Kellogg, ID, Mar. 21 (JH, MH). Unusual was the sighting of a Trumpeter Swan with green neck collar No. 67 on a pond s.e. of Cahllis, ID. It had been marked by the Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game as part of the effort to move Trumpeters to more reliable winter foraging areas along the Snake R. (LH). About ten of the relocated, marked birds showed up at L. Helena, MT, Mar. 9 (GH), and one marked bird was on the Swan R. e. of Bigfork, MT, in April (DC).

Thompson L. had a visit from three Snow Geese May 6 (JN), and eight were at Man L., Lewiston Orchard, ID, Apr. 7 (C.B.). Some 10,000 Snow Geese left Mud Lake by mid-

April, but four Ross' Geese lingered there into mid-May (CHT *et al.*). A Ross' was reported with Canadas along the Coeur d'Alene R., Kootenai, ID, Apr. 19 (MB); the species was noted at Letha, ID, Apr. 9 (CS). A male Garganey at a Charlo pond Apr. 4 apparently was only the 2nd or 3rd Montana record (RJ, MJ). Several Eur. Wigeon sightings came from the Flathead and Bitterroot Valleys of n.w. Montana in mid-March; they are regular in the Flathead in early spring (DC), and at least one was in the Blackfoot Valley n.e. of Missoula, MT, in mid-May (PLW). A Eur. Wigeon at Mud L. Apr. 21 was suspected of being a hybrid with Am. Wigeon (BH, DM, JT). Ninepipe N.W.R. had a Greater Scaup Mar. 17 (RJ); the species is suspected of being uncommon there but seldom identified (PLW). Between Kalispell and Somers, MT, Greater Scaup outnumbered Lessers on ponds (DC) the first 2 weeks of April. A ♂ Harlequin Duck was sighted along the Lochas R., Idaho, ID, Apr. 12 (KC). A Surf Scoter was found on the Snake R. at Swan Falls Dam s. of Boise, ID, Mar. 30 (MRC, FK, GF). A pair of Red-breasted Mergansers was on Kootenai N.W.R. Apr. 18, for only the 2nd record there (JJR).

HAWKS TO GULLS

The pair of Bald Eagles at Kootenai N.W.R. hatched one young, and another nest e. of Bonners Ferry was also successful (JJR). A few lingered in the valley around Fortine. A pair attempted to nest along the lower Coeur d'Alene R. but abandoned the attempt, possibly because of too many people and boats (JN). At least 5 of 7 Bald Eagle nests between Lakeside Kalispell, MT, were successful, including one new nest; at least 11 young survived to the period's end (DC). A Broad-winged Hawk was soaring above Gibson Jack Cr. s. of Pocatello, ID, May 7 (CHT). A "Harlan's" Hawk was reported near Potlatch, ID (ZP). A Ferruginous Hawk n. of Somers Apr. 4 was unusual (DC).

Six to eight Wild Turkeys were spotted along Cottonwood Cr. w. of Lewiston, ID, May 12 (HH). A N. Bobwhite appeared w. of Coeur d'Alene May 30, and a California Quail was there Apr. 15 (RB).

Sandhill Cranes numbered 300 Mar. 3 in the valley at Emmett, ID (CS). Whooping Cranes were noted at Grays Lake N.W.R., s.e. Idaho, May 9 (TB) and at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, MT, Apr. 15-May 23 (KN). Genesee Pond n. of Lewiston, ID, hosted four Black-necked Stilts May 5 (JH, MH). Two Am. Avocets appeared at Kootenai N.W.R. May 17; the species has appeared there in spring the last 3 years (JJR). Unusual were four Lesser Yellowlegs at Hauser L., Kootenai, ID, Apr. 13 (PG). A breeding-plumaged Dunlin appeared near Aberdeen Sportsman's Park, ID, May 18 (LG, JB). A Short-billed Dowitcher was sighted near Market Lake W.M.A. May 5 (CHT).

Unusual were six Franklin's Gulls near Boise May 2 (ST). Over 50 Bonaparte's Gulls were at Springfield Ponds, s.e. Idaho, Apr. 27 (CHT). In the Lewiston area three were sighted May 4 (JH) and one May 8 (BA). Nine California Gulls visited Lewiston May 4 (JH). A Least Tern was identified over Helena, MT, Mar. 22, for only about the 3rd state record (EN).

OWLS TO SHRIKES

Three Flammulated Owls were heard in the South Hills s. of Twin Falls, ID, in late May (JTr). A Great Horned Owl nest was located in a grain elevator at Moscow, ID (KD). A N. Pygmy-Owl was found near Magic Mt. Ski Resort s. of Hansen, ID (JTr). In late April, a Burrowing Owl at the Helena airport was the first sighting there since 1987 (*vide* VY). A Barred Owl was found at Farragut S.P., Kootenai, ID, in late April (SW, PG, RK, WK), and one was sighted in the Potlatch, ID, area (ZP). Additional Boreal Owl records continue to show that the bird is more common and widespread than formerly thought. One was looking out of a bird house at St. Joseph Pass between Red Rocks Lakes, MT, and Henrys L., ID (DS), and one responded to a call along the Teton R. near St. Anthony, ID (MS). Single N. Saw-whet Owls were heard in the Potlatch, ID, area (ZP); at Fernan L., Coeur d'Alene (SHS), and at Polebridge, MT (DO).

Both Vaux's and White-throated swifts were over Lucky Peak Dam just s.e. of Boise, ID, May 1 (MRC, FK). An Olive-sided Flycatcher visited a Boise park May 15 (ST). An Ash-throated Flycatcher was calling near Pocatello May 25 (CHT), and four were found in the junipers w. of Stone, ID, May 30 (CHT, JT). Two Bewick's Wrens were observed near Lewiston Orchards Apr. 27 (CV, MK). Kalispell had a Blue Jay Apr. 4 (*vide* DC). Single Hermit Thrush migrants were seen in a Boise park Apr. 30 and May 15 (ST). A N. Mockingbird was found near Pikabo, ID, on about May 25 (JTr). A N. Shrike, seldom seen in the Fortine vicinity in recent years, was seen there Apr. 1 (WW).

WARBLERS TO FINCHES

A ♀ Tennessee Warbler, very rare in the Helena area, was sighted May 24 (GM, GH). Single Orange-crowned Warblers appeared in Boise Apr. 30 and May 2 (ST). Over 50 Nashville Warblers were observed in the Boise area Apr. 30 (MRC, FK). A Lucy's Warbler near Aberdeen's Sportsman's Park May 11 was a first for Idaho

(CHT, ES, SH). A ♀ "Myrtle" Warbler accompanied "Audubon's" Warblers at Boise May 15, and a male and a female were there May 21 (ST). Single Townsend's Warblers were sighted in Boise May 19 and 21 (JL; ST). An Ovenbird sang in a thicket at Cherry Springs s. of Pocatello May 25 (CHT, m.ob.). As many as eight Wilson's Warblers were observed in one day in Boise in May (ST).

Western Tanagers moved through Boise in large numbers—up to 50 in a day, mostly males. A few were catching honeybees, flycatcher-style (ST). Lazuli Buntings, counted one at a time at a Boise feeder, numbered 100 May 11 and 150 May 18 (ST). A Green-tailed Towhee was noted at Cottonwood Cr. near Boise May 7 (EC). Chipping Sparrows in waves of 50s passed through Boise in mid-May (JL, ST, DJ). A Fox Sparrow was reported from the Kinney Cr.—Scout Mt. area of Pocatello May 2 (TB). A White-throated Sparrow was near Sterling on the n. side of American Falls Res., ID, about May 3 (BH), and one was at a Pocatello feeder in late April (ES). One visited a Boise yard May 8–9 (ST). A Golden-crowned Sparrow appeared at Emmett, ID, May 7 (H), and one was photographed near Milltown, MT, May 28 (LHe, CT, TT). A "Gambel's" White-crowned Sparrow, rare in Yellowstone N.P., was sighted along Old Gardner Rd., MT, May 5 (TM). White-crowns, mostly Gambel's, appeared in unusually high numbers at Missoula in early May (PLW, m.ob.). Two Harris' Sparrows appeared at a feeder near Culdesac, ID, Apr. 23 (WH, HH).

Many reports came in from s.e. Idaho for Com. Grackles: near Pocatello (CHT), in Aberdeen (DB), in Ketchum (BS), near Idaho Falls and Rexburg, and one in Boise (AL). Five Scott's Orioles were heard and seen w. of Stone, ID, about May 25 (DT). A ♀ Purple Finch visited a Polebridge, MT, feeder for a few days, starting May 11. That feeder area had 50–100 Cassin's Finches all spring (DO). Up to nine Purple Finches visited a Helena feeder in May (AS). Pine Siskins were abundant in the Troy, MT, area. They arrived

in reduced numbers May 4 at Pocatello, and large flocks of Am. Goldfinches were around all spring there (CHT). Two courting Lesser Goldfinches were sighted near Mink Cr. s. of Pocatello in late May (BAK).

Addenda: Caldwell, ID, had a "Yellow-shafted" Flicker (AL) and Nampa, ID, a Blue Jay, both in January 1991 (NS).

Observers cited: (Subregional editors in boldface) Bill Adler, Bill Akersten (BAK), Richard Beeks, Joan Bergstrom, Mike Blackbird, Dave Burrup, Terri Butler, Canyon Birders (CB), Keith Carlson, **Dan Casey**, E. Cleveland, Mark R. Collic, Kas Durroese, Georgia Frazier, Pam Gontz, Larue Gregerson, Lucinda Haggas (LH), Sandra Haigh, Brad Hammond, Linda Holding (LHe), Hank & Winnie Hepburn, John & Martha Hirth, **George Holton**, Hunt (H), Marian & Ron Jenkins, **Dean Jones**, Florence Knoll, **Merlene Koliner**, Al Larson, Jim Lyons, **Terry McEneaney**, Dale Miller, Gerald Mueller, Kenneth Nietherhammer, John Nigh, Eugene Nixon, Dan Owens, Susan Patla, Zoltan Porga, Frank Renn, Jimmie J. Reynolds, Mike Schwitters, Ann Scofield, John Shipley, Don Stoecker, Eric Stone, Brian Sturges, **Shirley H. Sturts**, Colleen Sweeney, Joel Tinsley (JT), Carol & Terry Toppins, Dave Trochlell, **Charles H. Trost** (JTr), Jack Trotter, Scott Tuthill, Carole Vande Voorde, Susan Weller, Winton Weydemeyer, **Philip L. Wright**, Vince Yannone.—**THOMAS H. ROGERS**, 10820 E. Maxwell, Spokane, WA 99206-4805.

MOUNTAIN WEST REGION

Hugh E. Kingery

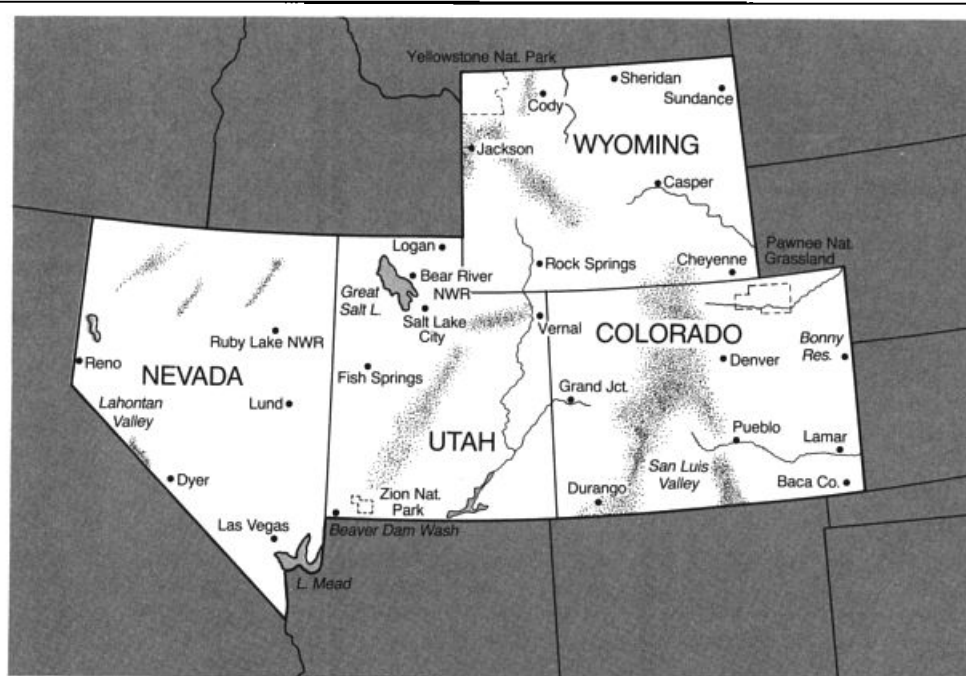
The season produced a fairly normal migration in the Region, though with more Bonaparte's Gulls, especially in Utah, and fewer shorebirds in central Nevada. Reports include two new state birds: Curlew Sandpiper in Utah and Blue-winged Warbler in Nevada, plus two species not recorded in Colorado for over 75 years: Reddish Egret, and Lucy's Warbler, and one only heard but never seen—Black Rail. We report on three expanding species: Great-tailed and Common grackles, and Eastern Bluebirds.

Despite cold fronts and precipitation, the long-term effects of drought will probably overpower the brief respite of wet weather, especially at refuges like Stillwater in Nevada. In addition, seed-eaters faced a lack of seeds, since they depend on last year's crop. Wet weather concentrated birds at lower elevations in May in Utah. High winds came with the wetness in Las Vegas and Colorado, which made observation difficult but may have blown in some rarities.

BUGS AND BIRDS

Lepidopterans winged over the Mountain West. In Yellowstone, an "incredible" invasion of Painted Ladies painted the park orange and black. In one hour on May 16, 1200 passed a line 100 feet wide; extrapolation postulated several hundred thousand, or perhaps one million in the park. Birds feasted on the butterflies: Savannah, Vesper, and White-crowned sparrows, Mt. Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, Brewer's Blackbird, cowbird, crow, California Gull, even Sandhill Cranes. During a snowstorm May 9, hundreds of birds in a feeding frenzy consumed lethargic butterflies with dark profiles on bright snow (TM).

The Colorado Front Range experienced a gigantic scourge of "Miller" moths. A similar feeding frenzy ensued. These moths hatch from cutworms in Kansas and Oklahoma, migrate W to



the high mountains for the summer, then return to the Midwest to lay eggs. Migrant warblers gobbled them—even Ruby-crowned Kinglets only a little bigger than the moths. Denver streets swarmed with them—a fuzzy brown blizzard—and House Sparrows frantically chased the ubiquitous moths across the asphalt and around parked and moving cars. Each morning, when the guard opened the gate at Rocky Mt. Arsenal moths would stream out, frantically pursued by obsessed W. Kingbirds who practically landed on the guard's shoulders.

ETHICS AND BIRDERS

Long-eared Owls built a nest by a well-traveled road in Denver's Chatfield Park; public attention (either from bird watchers—or tourists wanting to get closer than 10 feet) caused abandonment. However, the pair re-nested close by and fledged three young (DPe).

Boreal Owls called Apr. 3 from sites on Teton Pass near Jackson, WY, and 5 territories were located in Yellowstone during a detailed owl census (DP, TM). Many birders wanted to know details about where to find this elusive species, but many researchers knew more than they revealed to local and traveling birders. The trouble is this: any accessible Boreal may have to contend with nightly forays by

tape-wielding birders who are more concerned with augmenting life lists, year lists, and state lists than with the welfare of their quarry. Researchers are understandably cautious about revealing such sites.

The original observer laid down strict rules for birders looking for the Black Rail he had found (see below). The 200 Am. Birding Assoc. birders conducted to a Boreal nest found last year followed a carefully controlled observation plan. Afterward, numerous observers ventured frequently to the same place with tape recorders and tree scratchers. The pair did fledge three young in 1990, but no owls nested in that box in 1991. Nesting birds (and migrants) may be more resourceful and persistent than we suspect. Nonetheless, birders must first respect the birds—and respect the rights of property owners.

Abbreviations: E.S.L. (*East side, Great Salt Lake*); L/L/B/L (*Longmont/Lyons/Berthoud/Lovel and area, CO, using Foothills Audubon Club records*); R.E. (*Regional Editor*); 1st Lat (*First latilong record [a latilong is outlined by one degree each of latitude and longitude, and measures about 50 by 70 mi]*); ph* (*photograph on file with R.E.*); † (*written description on file with R.E.*); ‡ (*written description on file with, and subject to approval of, state or local records committee*).

LOONS TO HERONS

The Lahontan Valley of Nevada again produced a record number of migrating Com. Loons: 1005 Apr. 16, up from last year's record of 766 (LN, BH, AJ). Other high counts were 197 at Pyramid L., NV, Apr. 18, and 35 near Provo, UT, Apr. 14. The Yellow-billed Loon that wintered at Rawhide Res. near Wellington, CO, stayed through early June, always in the company of a smaller loon. Although reported in our Winter report as a Common, the latter has a disputed identity. The E.S.L. attracted 5000 Eared Grebes Apr. 1–9 at one site, then 5000 at a 2nd site Apr. 30 (PP). An Apr. 20 flock of grebes at Provo contained 500 Westerns and 250 Clark's (MW). In prairie town Limon, CO, a Brown Pelican on May 9 posed for a newspaper photographer on top of a McDonald's restaurant. It soon departed for a better fish supply (in June, Denver had one or two). Observers found two Least Bitterns: one alive May 19 at Longmont, CO, and one dead May 18 at Ruby L. N.W.R., NV. Colorado's 2nd Reddish Egret was an adult engaged in the typical canopy feeding at a reservoir near Rocky Ford May 27–29 (CO, †MJ, ‡DN). Sheldon N.W.R., in n.w. Nevada, had its first Green-backed Heron May 23 (B & DS).

WATERFOWL

A Fulvous Whistling-Duck flew around Corn Creek n. of Las Vegas Apr. 9 (†VM). Trumpeter Swan reports included one Apr. 21 at Las Animas, CO, grazing in an alfalfa field (†MJ, 1st Lat). The flock of 103 Ross' Geese at Grand Junction, CO, Mar. 16 was the 2nd-highest total ever reported from the Region (CD); 48 at Las Animas, CO, Mar. 6 was another large count for the Region. Three Brants were at Fallon and five at Pyramid L., NV, May 14–15 (LN, BH, AJ). Another Eur. Wigeon appeared, this one at Alcova, WY, Apr. 18 (FL). Greater Scaups stopped at Las Vegas: 10 Mar. 1–Apr. 9, down to 2 May 13 (†RRu, MC ph*). Grand Junction, Denver, and Walsh, CO (†JTh, 1st Lat).

RAPTORS

Denver's Dinosaur Ridge hawk watch site, manned Mar. 1–May 3, produced 2286 hawks, up from 2250 in 1990. Most abundant were 479 Red-taileds, 465 Am. Kestrels, and 362 Turkey Vultures. Accipiters flew by in a different ratio from last year. In 1990 the watch tallied two Cooper's to one Sharp-shinned; this year saw 292 Sharp-shinneds and 256 Cooper's. The watch recorded 595 Accipiters, 575 Buteos, and 503 falcons (DN, C.B.O.).

The Denver hawk watch saw 3 times as many Broad-winged—27—as the total seen on the ground in Colorado (eight). Good descriptions supported Broad-winged Hawks at Salt Lake City May 5 (†CK) and Moab Apr. 30 (†NB), yet Utah's fall hawk watches have recorded numbers similar to Denver's. Apparently many more Broad-winged move through the Mountain West than our terrestrial observations find. The same applies to Ospreys: the Denver watch tallied 42, compared with a *Regional* total of 38, disregarding nesting birds at Flaming Gorge and Yellowstone. Logan had an early arrival of 15 Swainson's Hawks on Mar. 28; the biggest reported flock was 56 at Pawnee Nat'l Grassland May 1. Observers frequently report out-of-season Rough-legged Hawks but usually without descriptions; good documentation supported the one May 23 at Rawlins, WY (†PS). Our AB reports imperfectly measure

Peregrine populations; however, Regional reports have steadily increased each year. This year's spring total came to 27 Peregrines, including one attacking a Golden Eagle during territory establishment in Mesa Verde N.P.

RAILS, SHOREBIRDS

A search for Sedge Wrens near La Junta resulted instead in discovery of Colorado's first visible **Black Rail** (the state had one sound record). Many saw this cooperative bird during a handful of carefully conducted forays of short duration. The bird called vigorously and moved close to the tape recorder in broad daylight, for sparkling views. It remained May 7 into June (‡DB, †MJ).

The Lahontan Valley shorebird count of 76,331 April 24–30 declined 37% from 1990. Totals included 39,084 at Carson L. (down 52%) and 31,325 at Stillwater W.M.A. The species included 27,300 peeps, 22,878 dowitchers, 14,384 Am. Avocets, and 9369 Dunlins (up 44%). "Five consecutive years of drought are having their effect [especially at Carson L.]. We suspect by observing flock behavior that invertebrate production on Carson L. was inferior to previous years. Peeps swept rapidly over broad expanses and back again. Avocets and dowitchers dispersed widely over the entire pond. Feeding behavior of all groups could be best described as 'preoccupied bordering on desperate.' Long-billed Dowitchers were observed in ragged plumage and body contours seemed to be thinner. No fat reserve data was taken to corroborate or disprove our observa-



Willetts at Walsh, Colorado, April 29, 1991. Photograph/ Janeal W. Thompson.

tions" (LN, BH, AJ).

Paton recorded impressive counts of shorebirds from the E.S.L.: 1410 Black-bellied Plovers, 450 Sanderlings, 1500 Long-billed Dowitchers, and 20,000 Red-necked Phalaropes.

A Lesser Golden-Plover stopped at E.S.L. May 13–16 (PP). The 47 Snowy Plovers at Overton Apr. 30 and 11 at Logandale created the highest-ever s. Nevada count (MC). Three Mt. Plovers at Saguache, CO, May 1–16 provided a 1st *Lat* and may have had breeding intentions (J & ER). The 43 Whimbrels included three in Nevada, nine at Layton, UT, May 13, and 31 in e. Colorado Apr. 28–May 17. At E.S.L. 1–4 Ruddy Turnstones stayed May 12–26 (PP, CK). Red Knots occurred regularly there Apr. 26–May 25, with a peak count of 85 (PP). Reports of Semipalmated Sandpipers included one at Las Vegas Apr. 21 (‡RRu) and 130 at Lamar Apr. 21 (MJ). The Region rarely sees Pectoral Sandpipers in the spring, but Cheraw had one May

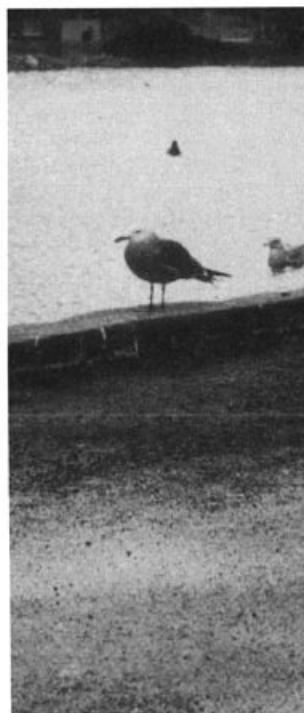


Long-billed Dowitchers at Walsh, Colorado, May 1, 1991. In this dry region of southeastern Colorado, the local sewage ponds attract a notable variety of shorebirds. Photograph/Janeal W. Thompson.

18 and Lamar had two May 20. Dunlins included 11 at Fish Springs N.W.R. Apr. 30, 1–4 at E.S.L., a 1st *Lat* at Green R., WY, May 8 (‡JL), and four in Colorado. The first **Curlew Sandpiper** for the Region was found by Paton at Ogden, UT: a bird in breeding plumage, consorting with Western Sandpipers and Dunlins (‡PP, †ES). Colorado reported 12 Short-billed Dowitchers, two thought to be of the *caurinus* race (B & JP, DL).

GULLS TO SWIFTS

A Little Gull was reported from Bonny Res. May 12 (‡JTb, JM). At Bear River N.W.R. the 100 Franklin's Apr. 21 (JN) and 1000



Heermann's Gull at Reno, Nevada, far from its usual coastal haunts, on April 20, 1991. photograph/Edward Kurtz.

Bonaparte's Gulls Apr. 20 (CK) suggest that Utah's (formerly) premier refuge may be on the comeback trail. More of both Franklin's and Bonaparte's seem to make spring stops in the Region. L/L/B/L recorded 754 Franklin's for the spring (200 last year), and Ordway had 100 Franklin's and 200 Bonaparte's Apr. 27. Bonaparte's reports came from 5 sites in Nevada, 5 in Utah, one in Wyoming, and 11 in Colorado. Reno sported two Heermann's Gulls Apr. 20 and one May 11 (‡EK ph*).

Observers found Com. Terns at Indian Springs, NV, May 27; Delta, CO, May 27 (‡CD); and Cheraw, CO, May 7.

A White-winged Dove spent May 19–23 at a feeder in Capitol Reef N.P., UT (JS), and three to six were found at Dyer, NV, May 25–28 (PL, SF, J & MC). Two Inca Doves strayed N to Indian Springs May 25 (SF, PL). Barn Owls, as Dexter said, are "more common than thought," both in his Grand Junction area and in the rest of Colorado. In Grand Junction, observers "with little time investment" found 8 inhabited burrows. Barn Owls there burrow in clay banks of arroyos and river banks. Reports of 17 others included two nesting in hollow trees 30 feet apart at Denver. In the Arkansas Valley, an E. Screech-Owl was at Penrose Apr. 17 (J & RW), while three Westerns were 100 miles e. at Las Animas Mar. 9 (DB). In San Luis Valley, CO, Rawinski monitored 40 nest sites of Great Horned Owls: 80% fledged 1–3 young. At the Rocky Mt. Arsenal, CO, Rieckmann found 13 Great Horned Owl nests, 8 Long-eared Owl territories, and 3 E. Screech-Owl nests. A Spotted Owl search in s. Utah turned up 6–8 pairs (SH). In Colorado researchers found only two birds at Mesa Verde N.P., and 2–4 territories w. of Pueblo.

A coterie of two to six nighthawks, identified as Lessers, fed regularly over a marsh at Grand Junction May 7–June 1; they remained silent at all times. Common Nighthawks also fed regularly in the same place (‡CD). A Black Swift zoomed over Mt. Falcon S.P., w. Denver, May 19 (‡LM).

FLYCATCHERS TO WRENS

A convincing description of a Least Flycatcher in song May 31 supports the 2nd Utah report (‡CK). Others were reported from Fort Collins and Lyons, CO, May 21 & 24. A calling Cordilleran Flycatcher on Mt. Charleston near Las Vegas May 28 helped trace their breeding range (‡PL, SF). The same observers found several calling Pacific-slope Flycatchers in w. Nevada in May. Rare Black Phoebes occurred at Fallon, NV, Mar. 10 and Apr. 21 (JT ph*), and Colorado Springs Mar. 31 (‡TB). Other stray flycatchers

included a Vermilion at Denver Apr. 17 (CW), Ash-throated at Denver May 11 (HK) and the Pawnee May 30 (BA), and a Scissor-tailed at Las Vegas May 10-12 (VM, MC ph*). Purple Martins visited Las Vegas, Ogden (seven on May 31), and Fort Collins. A gang of 30 Chihuahuan Ravens cruised around Cottonwood Canyon, *Baca*, CO, May 13 (VZ).

BLUEBIRDS TO VIREOS

Eastern Bluebirds augmented their winter expansion by extending their breeding range W to the edge of the foothills. For the first time they nested near the 3 biggest Front Range cities: Pueblo and Colorado Springs (*1st Lat*), and at Denver's Rocky Mt. Arsenal (D.F.O., DL, †DR); the Arsenal pair fledged four young May 27. Several observers saw a pair at Pawnee Grassland Apr. 30-May 31 but did not confirm breeding there (DL, BA). On May 16-18 one E. Bluebird fed on a lawn at Rock Springs, WY (†FL *1st Lat*). Brown Thrashers appeared at Dyer, NV, May 25 (†SE, PL) and Mosca, CO, May 11 (JJR). Bohemian Waxwings concluded their winter visitation with March flocks of 500-1000 in Boulder, Ft. Collins, L/L/B/L, and smaller flocks in the mountains w. of Denver. Flocks of 50-100 occurred in April from Pueblo to Ft. Collins. Several hundred persisted at Rock Springs, Casper, and Cody, WY, through late April, with the last report being of 40 at Casper May 7. For the 2nd year, a Yellow-throated Vireo, apparently unmated, set up a territory May 13 and later at Denver's Chatfield S.P. (JK). Single Red-eyed Vireos appeared at Montello in n.e. Nevada (SF ph*, PL), Lucin, UT (SF, †PL), and two to five stopped at Fontanelle, WY, May 25-June 1 (FL).

WARBLERS

May 3 saw an "amazing number" of warblers at Beaver Dam Wash in s.e. Utah: 100 Orange-crowns, 500 Yellow-rumps, 30 Yellows, 20 Lucy's, and a few others (SH, BB). After an intense but short snowstorm 8:30-11:30 a.m. Apr. 30, a Pueblo park filled with warblers. Within a half hour, all had

moved on (MJ).

Nevada's first **Blue-winged Warbler** at Ash Meadows N.W.R. May 27 flocked with Wilson's and Yellow-rumps (†SF ph*, †PL, †MC). A **Cape May Warbler** stopped at Las Vegas May 25 and was well-described, for Nevada's 3rd record (†CL, †TW, †RS). Wyoming's 4th **Bay-breasted Warbler**, a female, stayed May 23-26 at Fontanelle (JL, †FL); a Blackpoll accompanied it. Nevada rarities included a Virginia's at Unionville (w. of its usual range) May 26-27 (†JW1, †DM). Warblers with fewer than 25 state records included a Blackpoll and an Ovenbird at Dyer on May 26, and in Utah, two Black-and-whites at Capitol Reef May 13 and at Logan May 19. Wyoming had two Chestnut-sideds at Fontanelle May 18 and June 1 (FL).

Colorado's 4th **Lucy's Warbler** was seen and well-described at Grand Junction May 11 (†TT, †RL). The only other records were 3 collected in 1913. A Lucy's was in Montezuma Canyon, s.e. Utah, May 26 (ES). Among migrants with fewer than 25 records, the state recorded *three* Hermits: Apr. 30 in Pueblo after the snowstorm (†MJ), May 4 at Colorado Springs (†TB), and May 6 in the Turtle Atlas block, *Kit Carson* (†HEK, *1st Lat*). Two Blackburnians appeared in Cortez, for the first Western Slope records, May 7 & 10-13 (†AR, †B & TM). In Ft. Collins a Yellow-throated Warbler spent 5 hours eating up to 55 hackberry psyllid insects per minute [3000/hour!] (†DL ph*, †JBB). The use of this valuable food resource by migrant passerines illustrates the importance of native trees to wildlife. Native trees attract many more insects than widely used exotics like Russian Olive and Tamarisk, and therefore more birds. Observers also found *three* Kentucky Warblers: Pueblo Apr. 18-20 (†MJ), Ordway May 9 (†DB, *1st Lat*), and Denver May 9 (†BA *et al.*, *1st Lat*).

TANAGERS TO CROSSBILLS

A Summer Tanager at Mountainview, WY, May 19-27 fed on bees and beeswax from a knocked-over beehive, along with 20 W. Tanagers and N.



Summer Tanager at Monte Vista, Colorado, May 7, 1991.
Photograph/John J. Rawinski.

Orioles (PW1, †FL). Denver recorded two Summer Tanagers, and Monte Vista had one May 17 (†JJR ph*). Both w. Nevada and Utah reported large numbers of W. Tanagers; the Spring Count in Delta, CO, had about 100 May 11-12. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks have become such regular Mountain West migrants that this column usually does not mention them. This spring, a typical assortment included nine in Nevada, seven in Utah, three in Wyoming, and 19 in Colorado. Two Lark Buntings near Moab May 1 & 9 were the first in s.e. Utah since 1983 (NB).

Green River's Rusty Blackbird stayed through mid-April. Great-tailed and Common grackles continue their relentless expansion throughout the Region. Great-tailed used existing nest sites in Las Vegas and Moab and new sites at Pueblo, Denver, Fort Collins, and Burlington, CO. Commons nested at Morgan, UT, the westernmost in the Region so far (AS), and they appeared at Fish Springs, Logan, and Yellowstone. They seemed particularly noticeable along the Colorado Front Range. A Hooded Oriole at Kaysville, UT, was 300 miles from its s. Utah breeding range (†CK). Scott's Orioles also wandered away from their breeding



Male Scott's Oriole, well north of usual limits, at Salt Lake City, Utah, May 12, 1991.
Photograph/Barbara Karler.

territory: Salt Lake City-May 12 (BK ph*), and e. Colorado's first records (since its first 3 in May 1975) at Sedgwick, CO, May 17-18 (†SJ, *1st Lat*), and Denver June 2 (†GA, *1st Lat*). At Ogden, UT, Killpack banded an impressive 432 Cassin's Finches. Among the widespread Red Crossbills, some nested in the spring. They brought young to a feeder in Breckenridge, CO (LM). White-winged Crossbills were seen at 2 places w. of Denver in March.

OMITTED

This reports omits several reports of rarities; e.g., undocumented Black-shouldered and Mississippi Kites in Nevada, a one-observer, 20-second view of a Chimney Swift in Nevada; also 2 first state records, on which I defer to state records committees: an exhaustively described Buff-breasted Flycatcher in Colorado, and in Utah a Worm-eating Warbler seen for 2 15-minute sessions and well-described, but also a one-observer report.

Corrigenda: SF found the Parasitic Jaeger reported at AB

45(1):133; delete her as an observer of the Hooded Warbler (p. 134). DS and A.V.A.S. found the Prothonotary Warbler reported on p. 134 Sept. 22; MJ observed it Sept. 23. In *AB* 45(2):297, change the first 2 lines of the S.A. to read: "Silverman postulates that "Eastern Screech-Owls as well as Westerns occur in [the Pueblo area]..."

Compilers (in boldface), contributors (in italics), and cited observers: G. Alexander, B. Andrews, Keith Archibald (6

observers), *Lu Bainbridge, Jay Banta, John Barber (JBB), B. Bond, Steve Borichevsky (20), Nelson Boschen (5), T. Brevillier, Dan Bridges, W.W. Brockner (17), Colorado Bird Observatory, Jim and Marian Cressman (10), Denver Field Orn., Coen Dexter (4), Keith Dixon (16), Ruby Ebright, Joe Engler, Shawneen Finnegan, Elva Fox, Jewel Gifford, J.R. Guadagno, May Hanesworth (20), Phil Hayes (16), Steve Hedges (6), Bill Henry, Jim Herold, Anne Janik, Mark Janos, S. Jones, B. Karler, J. Kellner, Ursula Kepler (23), Merlin*

Killpack, Craig Kneedy, Edward Kurtz, J. Larson, Dave Leatherman (17), Paul Lehman, G. Lillie, Forrest Luke (6), C. Lyons, Jeff Mackay, Larry Malone, J. Mammoser, B. & T. Maynes, Terry McEneaney (32), L. McMenemy, D. McNinch, Ann Means (32), Jack Merchant, Larry Neel, Duane Nelson, J. Nelson, Paul Opler (17), C. Overman, David Pantle, Peter Paton, D. Patta, D. Peterson (DPe), Norma Peterson, B. & J. Prather, John & Elizabeth Rawinski, Bert Raynes (18), Donna Rieckmann, J.C. Rigli, A.

Robinson, R. Rucker (RRu), B. & D. St. George, Terry Sadler (10), R. Schlageter, David Silverman (22), *Arnold Smith, ELLA SORENSEN* (Utah Editor; 20 observers); J. Spence, P. Springer, J. TenBrink (JTb), *Jane Thompson (11), Janeal Thompson (JTh; 3), Utah Field Orn., Julie Van Moorhem, Alan Versaw, J. Walters (JWl), Jim & Rosie Watts, M. Webb, T. West, P. Wilkinson, Eric Wilson, C. Wood, Philip & Wynn Wright, Vic Zerbi.*—**HUGH E. KINGERY, 869 Milwaukee Street, Denver, CO 80206.**

SOUTHWEST REGION Arizona

Gary H. Rosenberg and David Stejskal

This spring was not very impressive in the beginning but memorable by the end. Migration started out slow. Of course, breeding birds returned on time. But the cool weather lingered through April, and we all wondered when, or if, things would pick up. Then in rolled May, and by the end of the month, Arizona was reeling from one of the best arrays of rarities that we can remember in some time. Beginning with Arizona's second Garganey and continuing with a dazzling number of quality birds, from shorebirds to terns to thrushes to warblers, virtually no group was unrepresented. If we throw in Arizona's first Black-vented Oriole (even though it occurred in April), we had a spring to remember. Once again, increased coverage of a particular area (in this case the upper San Pedro River valley) accounted for a disproportionate number of records. If only all of Arizona were covered as thoroughly as the San Pedro was this spring!

Abbreviations: A.B.C. (*Arizona Bird Committee*); B.T.A. (*Boyce Thompson Arboretum*); L.C.R. (*Lower Colorado River*); S.P.R. (*San Pedro River*); S.T.P. (*Sewage Treatment Plant*).



GREBES TO DUCKS

One Western Grebe was at the Ruthrauff ponds, Tucson, May 4 (R. Haaseth); the status of this species away from known nesting areas is still poorly understood. Still considered rare in n.e. Arizona were three Double-crested Cormorants May 4 at Cow Springs L., w. of Kayenta (CL). Great Blue Herons were found nesting at small colonies at Patagonia (at least 5 nests) Apr. 25 (WH *et al.*) and at St. David (at least 6 nests) May 15 (*fide* DK); colonies in s.e. Arizona appear to be occupied sporadically. Cattle Egret again wandered to n.e. Arizona, with one at Black Mesa Apr. 23 and three at Many Farms L. May 11 (CL). Large flocks of White-faced Ibises were reported statewide in April, the largest concentrations being 400 Apr. 23 at Peck's L. (W. Turner *et al.*) and 360 Apr. 30 at Cow Springs L. (CL).

A wintering Tundra Swan at

Peck's L. was last seen Apr. 1 (VG). The Ross' Goose that spent the winter in Flagstaff was last seen May 8 (JC *et al.*). For the 3rd spring in a row, this species was found in n.e. Arizona, with one at Kayenta Apr. 22–25 (CL), providing one of only a handful of records from *Navajo* or *Apache*. Another was at Peck's L. May 15 (VG), for a first local spring record. The waterfowl highlight of the season was a ♀ plumaged *Garganey* May 1 at the Sierra Vista S.T.P. (†GR, †Bryan Bland *et al.*). This represents only a 2nd Arizona sighting, but during the past few years, this species has been reported frequently in s. California, as well as other portions of North America. A ♀ Greater Scaup that apparently wintered at the Chandler S.T.P. was last seen Mar. 20 (CB). A bird that also probably wintered locally was a ♀ plumaged White-winged Scoter found Mar. 2 on the Bill Williams arm of Lake Havasu (†CB, S.

Stangeland). A Hooded Merganser all spring at Granite Reef Dam on the Salt R. was last seen May 14 (SG).

VULTURES TO TERNS

Two Black Vultures in Avondale Apr. 16 (M. Larson) were n. and w. of normal distribution. After a virtual explosion of records of Black-shouldered Kites throughout s. Arizona during the 1980s, this species appears to have resumed its former status of a rare, irregular visitor. One seen along the San Pedro River near Dudleyville Apr. 2 (M. O'Brien) was one of only a few reported during the past 2 years. Spring concentrations of Bald Eagles included 24 along the Verde R. near Clarkdale Mar. 2 (R. Platt), 16 at Mormon L. Mar. 23 (R. Breitmaier), and three Apr. 26 at Sedona (G. Robinson). One along the San Pedro R. near Dudleyville Apr. 2 was probably a first local record (M. O'Brien). A subadult ♂ N. Harrier lin-

S.A.

The history of Wild Turkeys in Arizona is complex. They were originally found throughout the forested regions of the state, were extirpated for the most part by 1920 except for isolated populations in the White Mts. and San Francisco Peaks, then reintroduced through most of their former range. Most sightings away from known areas of introduction are written off as probable escapees from domestic stock. This spring at least 5 sightings of Wild Turkeys occurred along a 30-mi stretch of the San Pedro River between St. David and Hereford May 3–23. On May 6 a single "wary" female with whitish tips to the tail was seen along the river one mile n. of the highway 90 bridge (WH). On May 16 one male and two females were flushed from the top of a cottonwood tree along the river s. of the Hereford bridge; they also appeared wary (GR *et al.*). Tracks and other individuals were reported from different localities along the river as well (DK). It seems unlikely that all these sightings pertain to escaped domesticated birds; no recent introductions have occurred in the nearby Huachuca Mts., which leads us to suspect that these turkeys represent a natural incursion from Mexico.

gered to at least May 28 at Willcox (m.ob.); there is only one recent nesting record for s. Arizona. An ad. Harris' Hawk was along the S.P.R. 3 mi s. of Charleston Mar. 11 (DK), where considered scarce. A single Gray Hawk was in Guadalupe Canyon Apr. 20 (JWh), well away from any known nesting area; there are few records for this raptor from adjacent New Mexico. Two imm. Broad-winged Hawks were seen this spring in s.e. Arizona, where still considered casual: one at an oasis s.e. of Willcox Apr. 26 (†GHR *et al.*), the other at Bear Canyon, Santa Catalina Mts., May 19 (†DS, JC *et al.*).

A number of Black-bellied Plovers were reported this spring; two were at the Gilbert S.T.P. Apr. 18 (CB), one was there May 4 (RB), one was at Many Farms L. May 5 (†CL),

and two were at Cow Springs L. May 11 (CL). Unusual for spring was a Lesser Golden-Plover at Cow Springs L. Apr. 21 (CL). A Whimbrel, scarce at any season, was at Willcox May 12 (B. Sutton). Perhaps even rarer was the Ruddy Turnstone at Willcox May 28 (B. Whitney, DS *et al.*, ph. E. Jankowski). The only Sanderling was at Willcox May 16 (DS, JC). A Semipalmated Sandpiper was well described from Kayenta May 3 (†CL); there are very few substantiated spring records in Arizona. Rare in spring was a Pectoral Sandpiper at the Gilbert S.T.P. Apr. 9 (CB). Still unusual in spring was a Short-billed Dowitcher at Kayenta May 7 (†CL, S. Studebaker); most n. Arizona records pertain to fall juveniles.

For the 2nd year in a row, numbers of Franklin's Gulls were reported from n.e. Arizona, with a total of 99 individuals in the Kayenta area Apr. 22 through May, the largest flock of 39 at Kayenta Apr. 24 (CL). Another concentration of 30 was at Lake Powell Apr. 23 (P. Norton). The only report of California Gull was of two worn 2nd-year birds at Snyder Hill S.T.P. in Tucson May 31 (DS). Very unusual for spring was an ad. Sabine's Gull at the Amado S.T.P. May 3 (*vide* JH). Concentrations of Forster's Tern away from the Lower Colorado River Valley are scarce, particularly in n.e. Arizona; 19 at Cow Springs L. Apr. 30 and 24 at Many Farms Lake May 12 (CL) were significant. A Least Tern was also reported for the 2nd spring in a row, this year from the Sierra Vista S.T.P. May 14 (B. Zimmer). There are now about a dozen records for the state, five for spring.

DOVES TO THRASHERS

One of the Ruddy Ground-Doves present north of the Rt. 90 bridge across the San Pedro River e. of Sierra Vista this past winter was last seen for certain Mar. 27 (DK). A pair of Common Ground-Doves at the same locality throughout the spring, including a particularly bright male, were most likely responsible for the reports of Ruddies there throughout the period, with the suggestion of possible nesting. A ♂ Lesser Nighthawk at Cow Springs L.

May 27 (RWe) provided one of only a few records of this species from n.e. Arizona.

Almost commonplace now was the return of up to three White-eared Hummingbirds at Ramsey Canyon May 1 through the end of the period (m.ob.). Violet-crowned Hummingbirds returned to Patagonia again this spring, with at least three present beginning in mid-April (m.ob.). The one wintering at Bisbee was last reported Mar. 15 (JWh). Migrant Rufous Hummingbirds were widespread throughout the state in small numbers beginning in early April; seven, a relatively high concentration for spring, were at Canelo Hills Preserve Apr. 24 (WHo). After being present off and on along the San Pedro R. for at least 3 years, a pair of Green Kingfishers was once again suspected of nesting n. of the Hwy 90 bridge; the pair was present throughout the period, with a female flushed from a hole in a dirt bank May 4 (GHR, DK *et al.*). This would represent only the 2nd known attempted nesting in the state. A Lewis' Woodpecker at Arivaca Apr. 30 (GHR) was late for this species to be lingering in s. Arizona.

At least 4 territories of N. Beardless-Tyrannulet were found along the upper S.P.R. beginning Apr. 3 (WWho, DK); the only other nesting records for the upper valley were one pair each for the past 2 years (DK). Buff-breasted Flycatcher continues to be suspected of nesting sporadically in the Chiricahua Mountains; this spring sightings were reported in Turkey Creek Canyon Apr. 6 (DJ) and at Barfoot Park in late April (SGo). A Brown-crested Flycatcher was very early in n.w. Tucson Apr. 21 (GM). Two E. were extremely scarce as spring migrants, one at Portal May 19 (RB) and another at Springerville May 26 (CB). Also rarely reported in spring was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Peck's Lake Apr. 29 (VG *et al.*), providing one of the few records of this species for central Arizona.

A pair of American Crows at Juniper Tank, San Carlos Indian Reservation, Apr. 5 (B. Jackson) was a bit s. of their normal breeding range in e. Arizona. Five at Ganado May 25 and two at Canyon de Chelly May 25

(RWe) were noteworthy, as this species has just recently become regular during the breeding season at areas on the Navajo Reservation away from the mountains. A ♀ Western Bluebird feeding young May 29 at Mt. Ord in the Mazatzal Mts. (BD, PB *et al.*) provided the first confirmed nesting record of this species for *Maricopa*. Providing perhaps the first spring migrant record for the state was a Varied Thrush May 7 along the upper S.P.R. (J. Sedgwick). One must wonder if it wintered locally, but that area was covered relatively well throughout the spring. Almost unheard of away from its Arizona breeding grounds in the White Mts. was a Gray Catbird along the upper S.P.R. May 13–17 (C. Pomarius, JC *et al.*). Rarely reported in spring was a Brown Thrasher at Tucson Apr. 1 (A. Swain).

VIREOS TO ORIOLES

One of the highlights of the season was a singing ♂ White-eyed Vireo along the upper S.P.R. about one mi n. of the Route 90 bridge May 3, remaining (and singing) until at least May 19 (†WWho *et al.*; tape recorded GHR). There are only five previous records for Arizona, of which only one had been documented. An exciting find was a ♂ Golden-winged Warbler at Ganado May 25 (†RWe), providing only a 3rd n.e. Arizona record. A ♀ N. Parula was along



Pine Warbler at the Southwest Research Station, Portal, Arizona, March 27, 1991. Third Arizona record. Photograph/Walter R. Spofford.

the upper S.P.R. May 15 (DK). Interesting for spring was the report of a ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler Apr. 17 at the B.T.A. (CT). A Townsend's Warbler was at Kayenta May 19 (CL); this species is virtually unknown for n.e. Arizona in spring. Also exceedingly rare in spring in Arizona is the Black-throated Green Warbler; one male was at Ramsey Canyon May 11 (DS, JC *et al.*). The warbler of the spring was a **Pine Warbler** at the Southwestern Research Station in Cave Creek Canyon Mar. 26–31 (D. Jasper, ph. WSp); this represents only the 3rd Arizona record, the other two having been found in winter. The Black-and-white Warbler that spent the winter at Granite Reef Dam was last seen Apr. 6 (SG). Another exceptional spring find along the upper S.P.R. was an Ovenbird n. of the Hwy 90 bridge May 27 (TC). At least five N. Waterthrushes (about normal numbers) were reported in s. Arizona May 8–21 (m.ob.). A ♂ Kentucky Warbler May 8 was along the upper S.P.R. south of the Hwy 90 bridge (S. Schafer, J. Duerr); another Kentucky reported as a female was about 1/2 mi n. of the bridge May 12 (†DK), raising the question of whether there were one or two birds involved in these 2 sightings. Seemingly regular in spring were two ♂ Hooded Warblers, one at Montezuma Well Apr. 19 (M. Sogge, P. Super, P. Rolands), the other 3 mi s. of the Charleston bridge along the upper S.P.R.

Four ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found around the state in May: at Sedona May 11–18 (A. Evans), along Aravaipa Creek May 13 (GHR), along the upper S.P.R. May 16 (DK), and at Canyon de Chelly May 25 (RWe). Undoubtedly a winterer was a Blue Grosbeak near Nogales Mar. 6 (GM). There was also a belated report of one wintering along the upper S.P.R. Feb. 27 (DK). A Fox Sparrow at Estrella Mt. Park Apr. 21 (TC) may also have wintered locally, as this species is rarely reported during spring migration. Swamp Sparrows continued to be reported from known wintering areas in s. Arizona until at least May 8. Likewise, White-throated Sparrows were numerous in s. Arizona and were still reported as late as May 8

(WHO). Less common in spring were 2 reports of Golden-crowned Sparrows; one was at Estrella Mt. Park Apr. 2–7 (BD, L. Hatcher), and one was still along Sonoita Cr. near Patagonia on the late date of May 6 (WHO).

Outstanding were four Bobolinks (two ♂, two ♀) at Kayenta in May (S. Studebaker, CL) and two more males at Page May 13 (P. Norton). What better way to end this report than with a first Arizona record, only the 3rd North American **Black-vented Oriole**, photographed coming to oranges put out by a camper at Patagonia Lake S.P. Apr. 18 (ph. J. Gilmore). This species has long been predicted as a potential vagrant to Arizona from Sonora. Unfortunately, word about the oriole did not make the Arizona "hot line" until late the evening of the 18th; much to the disappointment of the birding community, it was never seen again!

Contributors: (Area compilers in boldface) Charles Babbitt, Pat Beall, Jerry Bock, Robert Bradley, **John Coons** (Flagstaff), Troy Corman, William Davis, Bix Demaree, Rich Furgueson, Steve Ganley, Tom Gatz, Virginia Gillmore, Sharon Goldwasser, **Alma Green** (Sedona), Grace Gregg, **Jack Holloway** (Tucson), William Howe, **Betty Jackson** (Globe), Dan Jones, Kenn Kaufman, Lynn Kaufman, Jeff Kingery, **Dave Krueper** (Sierra Vista), **Chuck LaRue** (Kayenta), Ann McLucky, Gale Monson, **Robert Morse** (Portal), Jim Paton, Will Russell, John Saba, Walter & Sally Spofford, Rick Taylor, Carl S. Tomoff, Greer Warren, Jack Whetstone, Bob & **Janet Witzeman** (Phoenix), Barry Zimmer.—**GARY H. ROSENBERG**, 5441 N. Swan Rd., Apt. 313, Tucson, AZ 85718; **DAVID STEJSKAL**, 5755 River Rd., Apt. 703, Tucson, AZ 85715.

New Mexico

*Sartor O. Williams III
and John P. Hubbard*

Abbreviations: Bitter Lake (*Bitter Lake Nat'l Wildlife Ref.*), Bosque

Ref. (Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Ref.); E.B.L. (*Elephant Butte Lake*); L.V.N.W.R. (*Las Vegas Nat'l Wildlife Ref.*); P.O. Canyon (*Post Office Canyon, Peloncillo Mts.*); T/C (*Truth or Consequences*); Zuni (*Zuni Indian Reservation*).

LOONS TO QUAIL

Up to 18 Com. Loons were at E.B.L. Mar. 8 (JH *et al.*); singles were at Sumner L. Mar. 9 (JP), Bitter Lake May 8 (JS), and Brantley L. Apr. 1 (JP). About 7 pairs of Western Grebes and one of Clark's were at Abiquiu L. May 23 (JH *et al.*). Up to 29 Double-crested Cormorant nests were at Abiquiu L. May 23 (JH *et al.*). Olivaceous Cormorants were conspicuous at Bosque Ref. Apr. 6–May 19 (v.o.), with up to 44 there Apr. 29 (CR, PRS); over 150 were at E.B.L. Mar. 6 (JH *et al.*).

Single ad. Little Blue Herons were at Bosque Ref. May 3 (JP) and Bitter Lake May 11 (JP *et al.*). A Tricolored Heron was at Bosque Ref. Apr. 13–May 20 (v.o., ph. DC). White-faced Ibises were widespread Apr. 6–May 23 (m.ob.), with concentrations including 75 at Zuni May 5 (DC), 56 at Redrock May 4 (RF), 230 at Bosque Ref. Apr. 22 (CR), 211 at Caballo Dam Apr. 28 (CR *et al.*), 70 at Percha Dam Apr. 28, and 150 at Holloman L. Apr. 21 (GE).

Late was a Greater White-fronted Goose at Bosque Ref. Apr. 13–14 (DC, JP), as were two Snow Geese there May 28 (CR *et al.*); two lingering Ross' Geese were at Bitter Lake Apr. 9 (CR). Unusual was a ♂ Hooded Merganser at Zuni Apr. 20 (DC).

Westerly was a Mississippi Kite at Mesilla May 22 (CS), while late were single N. Harriers at L.V.N.W.R. May 31 (PI, CR) and Holloman L. May 25 (CS). Common Black-Hawks were numerous in the southwest, with nesting pairs in the San Francisco, Gila, and Mimbres valleys (*vide* RF); northerly was an adult at Albuquerque Apr. 27 (BV) and May 12 (C. Hundertmark), while very unusual and a local first was an easterly one at Rattlesnake Springs May 3 (CB). In *Hidalgo*, there were one–two ad. Harris' Hawks near Cotton City Mar. 13 and Apr. 5 (SOW), plus two at San Simon Cienega

Apr. 5 (SOW); numbers were reportedly "stabilizing" in *Eddy* (*vide* SW). A possible **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at Rattlesnake Springs Apr. 14 (SW, TJH); single Broad-winged were at Percha Dam Apr. 27 (CB, ph JB), and Rattlesnake Springs May 2 (CB) and May 7 (SW). Only three Merlins were reported, the latest at Bosque Ref. Apr. 29 (PRS).

Twelve Wild Turkeys, presumably *mexicana*, were near Pine Cr., Animas Mts., Apr. 26 (SOW). Montezuma Quail were in the San Mateo (TH), Peloncillo (SOW), and Animas (SOW) mountains and in Guadalupe Canyon (CB) in April. A Scaled Quail at L.V.N.W.R. May 7 (CR) was the observer's first there in several years.

RAILS TO TERNS

Up to 12 Soras were at Bosque Ref. Apr. 29 (CR, PRS), with eight there May 20 (DS); one was at Rattlesnake Springs Apr. 14 (SW, TJH) and Apr. 29 (LH), where they are infrequent. Most unusual was an ad. **Purple Gallinule** at Bosque Ref. May 28 (CR, SOW). Noteworthy were 13 Black-bellied Plovers at Zuni Apr. 19 (SW), as was a Lesser Golden-Plover at L.V.N.W.R. Apr. 30 (JH *et al.*). Snowy Plovers away from usual areas included singles at Wagon Mound May 11 (JH *et al.*) and Bosque Ref. May 18 (JP, LG), two at E.B.L. Apr. 28 (CR, PRS, EW); 12 were at Laguna Grande Apr. 8 (CR); and young were at Bitter Lake May 3 (M. Peckinpaugh). There were scattered reports of Semipalmated Plovers, including six at Charette L. May 1 (JH *et al.*), 12 at Bosque Ref. May 4 (JP *et al.*), and six at Holloman L. Apr. 27 (CS).

The earliest Am. Avocets were 48 w. of Lordsburg Mar. 13 (SOW); four adults plus a nest with eggs at Los Lunas May 27 (HS) furnished a new breeding locality. Willets were conspicuous Apr. 14–May 4, including places where seldom seen; highs were 30 at Zuni Apr. 20 (DC), 100 at L.V.N.W.R. Apr. 30 (JH *et al.*), 26 at Mangas Springs Apr. 26 (RF), and about 100 at Bosque Ref. Apr. 28–29 (CR, PRS). Noteworthy was a Whimbrel at E.B.L. Apr. 20 (JP, ph LG). Westerly were single



White-rumped Sandpipers [center] with other shorebirds at Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge, New Mexico, May 11, 1991. Photograph/Steve Cox.

Long-billed Curlews at Zuni Apr. 27 (DC) and Mangas Springs May 8 (RF).

Rare in New Mexico, four White-rumped Sandpipers were at Bitter Lake May 11 (JP *et al.*, ph. S. Cox), with at least one there May 25 (*fide* JP). Noteworthy Dunlins were one at Bosque Ref. Apr. 4 (DC), 11 at Caballo L. Mar. 7 (JH *et al.*), and three at Laguna Grande Apr. 8 (CR). Long-billed Dowitchers were widely reported, with highs of 200 at L.V.N.W.R. Apr. 30 (JH *et al.*) and 350 at Bosque Ref. Apr. 28 (CR, PRS). An American Woodcock feeding in moist soil beneath alders along Sacaton Cr., *Catron*, Mar. 12 (SOW) was the 5th and westernmost for the state.

Westerly were eight Franklin's Gulls at Zuni Apr. 20 (DC), while late were single Franklin's and Bonaparte's at Abiquiu L. May 23 (JH *et al.*). One ad. and two imm. Californias were at Abiquiu L. May 23 (JH *et al.*), plus five at Wagon Mound May 11 (JH *et al.*) and one at E.B.L. Apr. 20 (JP, LG). A Caspian Tern, rare in New Mexico, was at E.B.L. Apr. 20 (JP, ph. LG).

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS

White-winged Doves were again found north to Albuquerque, with two in the North Valley from May 1 (BO) and another May 20 (BV); 105 were tallied in the Gila Valley May 4 (RF *et al.*), and at least two were in Silver City (*fide* RF). A Com. Ground-Dove, present all winter at P.O. Canyon, was last seen Apr. 13 (RS). A Groove-billed Ani was at Garfield, *Sierra*, Mar. 10 (B. Nygren). Following last year's

rediscovery, Whiskered Screech-Owls were again found in the Peloncillo Mts: two singing in Clanton Canyon Mar. 13 (SOW), one in Cottonwood Canyon Mar. 14 (SOW), and a pair in a 3rd canyon Apr. 5-6 & 22 (SOW). A northeasterly Elf Owl was in Water Canyon May 2 (JP), while another in the Black Range s. of Kingston May 16 (SOW) was a local first. Well north of the usual range was a Whip-poor-will in the Jemez Mts. May 25 (T. Johnson); also notable was one in the Organ Mts. May 24 (KS).

Four or five *Chaetura* swifts at Guadalupe Canyon Apr. 19-21 (CB) could have been Chimney or Vaux's, the latter unverified in the state. Up to five ♂ Broad-billed Hummingbirds were in Guadalupe Canyon Apr. 19-21 (CB), and a ♀ Magnificent was gathering nest material in the Pinos Altos Mts. May 6 (RF). One or two Lucifers returned "on schedule" to P.O. Canyon Mar. 25-26, increasing to 10-12 later in the season (RS). Unusual in New Mexico in spring, ♂ Rufous Hummingbirds were in P.O. Canyon Mar. 25-Apr. 14 (RS); elsewhere in the Peloncillo Mts. were an ad. ♂ Costa's Apr. 6 (SOW) and a singing, apparently territorial ad. ♂ Anna's Apr. 23 (SOW).

Peripheral Gila Woodpeckers were two at San Simon Cienega Apr. 19 (CB) and one at Double Adobe Cr., *Hidalgo*, Apr. 26 (SOW). The ♀ Red-bellied Woodpecker at Rattlesnake Springs, first reported in December, was last seen Apr. 8 (CR). Downy Woodpeckers at or near the s. edge of breeding

range included two in the Manzano Mts. Apr. 26 (CR, PRS) and the Pinos Altos Mts. April-May (RF, CR).

FLYCATCHERS TO WRENS

Two singing N. Beardless-Tyrannulets were in Guadalupe Canyon Apr. 19-21 (CB) and May 26 (CR, SOW). A Hammond's Flycatcher was singing in Sulphur Canyon, Sandia Mts., May 30 (HS), where not known to breed. Southerly was a vocal Gray Flycatcher in the Guadalupe Mts., *Eddy*, Apr. 21 (JH, RD). An early W. Kingbird was at Jornada Mar. 26 (CS); single Easterns were near Española May 12 (*fide* BL) and Albuquerque Apr. 29 (BO). A vagrant Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at Ribera Apr. 25 (CR).

Bank Swallows nest very locally in New Mexico, so discovery of a colony of 100-200 burrows in Albuquerque in late May (JH) was noteworthy. The colony's existence came to light when local citizens expressed concern over the city's plans to level the area for a recreational development; as of May 31, the swallows' habitat had received only a temporary stay of demolition. Nesting Cliff Swallows likewise ran afoul of man's activities when a colony at a Silver



Well west of its usual range was this Carolina Wren in Waterfall Canyon, Sandia Mountains, New Mexico, May 5, 1991. Photograph/James Black.

City hospital was sprayed with pesticide; the chemical subsequently entered the building's ventilation system, forcing evacuation of patients (*fide* RF). Numbers of Cave Swallows at Carlsbad Caverns N.P. peaked at 3200 Apr. 26-May 12 (SW).

Steller's Jays are rare in the Organ Mts., so noteworthy were eight at Dripping Springs Apr. 26 (KS). Blue Jays continued to thrive in the east, with 15-20 at Ft. Sumner Mar. 9 and May 11 (JP). A Clark's Nutcracker was in the San Mateo Mts. May 1 (TH). Owing to difficulties with identification, the northern limit of the Chihuahuan Raven's range is poorly understood; noteworthy was a vocal pair at a nest near Stanley, *Santa Fe*, Apr. 20 (CR, LH) and 5 nests in *Valencia* May 20 (JH *et al.*). A high of 35 Black-capped Chickadees were in the Española area May 12 (BL *et al.*). Far n.e. of usual range was a Bridled Titmouse in the Sandia Mts. Apr. 7 (P. McConnell). Very rare in New Mexico, a Carolina Wren was singing in the Sandia Mts. early April to May 31 (ph. HS, JB).

BLUEBIRDS TO TANAGERS

Eastern Bluebirds were widespread, including westerly reports of singles at Zuni Mar. 9 (ph. DC), Santa Fe Mar. 18 (JH), and Percha Dam Mar. 7 (JH *et al.*), pairs at San Miguel Apr. 25 (CR) and near Cliff May 4 (*fide* RF). The only Brown Thrasher was one at Rattlesnake Springs Apr. 1 (JP, BP). Noteworthy was a Bendire's Thrasher near Radium Springs May 22 (PRS); others were at Petroglyph N.M. May 5 (HS), Los Lunas Apr. 6 (JP *et al.*), and Horse Springs May 25 (DC).

A White-eyed Vireo was at Zuni May 12 (DC *et al.*), and a Red-eyed was singing at Clovis May 18 (BO). Only two Bell's Vireos were in the Gila Valley May 4 (*fide* RF), but singles were at San Simon Cienega Apr. 19 (CB) and Rattlesnake Springs in Apr. (CR, JH), plus at least six in Guadalupe Canyon Apr. 19-21 (CB). Gray Vireos included a pair in the n. Sandia Mts. (HS) and two singing individuals in Slaughter Canyon, Guadalupe Mts., May 27 (JP). Peripheral Hutton's included singles at Sacaton Cr., *Catron*, Mar. 27 (JH) and May 21 (SOW), plus

three in the Black Range near Kingston in May (SOW).

Reports of rarer warblers included a N. Parula at Bitter Lake May 4 (CB), a **Magnolia Warbler** near Clayton May 16 (HS) plus a Blackburnian elsewhere in *Union* the same day (WC), a **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at Rattlesnake Springs May 20 (CB), a **Yellow-throated Warbler** there May 25 (JP), a **Palm Warbler** in the San Mateo Mts. Apr. 25 (TH), a singing but tailless Prothonotary at Española May 12 (CR *et al.*), single Blackpolls at Nambe May 11 (C.



Worm-eating Warbler at Rattlesnake Springs, New Mexico, May 12, 1991. Photograph/James Black.

Scoval) and Boone's Draw the same day (CB, ph. JB), single Worm-eatings near Melrose May 3 (JB, AF) and at Rattlesnake Springs May 12 (phs. JB, LG), and single Ovenbirds w. of Melrose May 10 (JB, CB) and at Albuquerque May 17 (JP). Hermit Warblers are sparse in



Male Hermit Warbler east of Fort Sumner, New Mexico, May 3, 1991. Photograph/James Black.

spring, so noteworthy were singles at Cherry Cr. May 6 (RF) and Clanton Canyon Apr. 20 (CB, CT); even more notable was a vagrant near Melrose May 3 (AF, ph. JB). A Red-faced Warbler in the Sandia Mts. May 12 (G. Parker *vide* HS) was the first reported there since 1982; others on the periphery of the range were two in Water Canyon, Magdalena Mts., Apr. 27 (JP, LG) and singles in the San Mateo Mts. Apr. 15 (TH) and near Cloudcroft May 25 (CS). Northerly was a single Summer Tanager at L.V.N.W.R. May 22 (CR). A "wave" of Westerns passed through the Española area May 12, where 223 were counted (BL *et al.*).

CARDINALS TO CARDUELINES

An impressive 25 N. Cardinals were tallied in the Gila Valley May 4 (RF *et al.*); singles were at Animas and Double Adobe creeks, *Hidalgo*, Apr. 24 & 26 (SOW); in *Eddy* one to two were at Rattlesnake Springs Apr. 1–May 29 (v.o.), with singles at Black River Village May 16 and Owl Spring Apr. 24 (SW). Northerly were three Pyrrhuloxias at Brantley L. Apr. 30 (LH). Four Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported May 7–26, the westernmost at T/C May 23 (DM). Unusual was a Blue Grosbeak at 7250 ft in Los Alamos May 16 (*vide* BL). Only one Abert's Towhee was in the Gila Valley May 4 (*vide* RF), but 3 pairs were at San Simon Cienega Apr. 5 (SOW).

By late April, a few Cassin's Sparrows were singing near T/C (SOW), Percha Dam (v.o.), Brantley L. (LH), and near Hope, *Eddy* (JH, RD); "hundreds" were s. of Clayton May 16 (HS). The only Field Sparrow was at Rattlesnake Springs Apr. 1 (JP, BP). Northerly and a local first was a Black-chinned Sparrow near Madrid May 23 (CR). Highly unusual, as well as late, was a probable Le Conte's Sparrow at Taos May 8 (CR). At L.V.N.W.R., where Song Sparrow breeding is unrecorded, two were carrying nest material Apr. 17 (CR) and at least two were singing Apr. 30 (JH *et al.*). Unusual was a Swamp Sparrow at Glenwood Mar. 25 (JH); high was an estimated 25 at Rattlesnake Springs Apr. 1 (JP, BP). White-throated Sparrows

remained conspicuous in the w. two-thirds of the state into late April. A Golden-crowned Sparrow, present all winter at P.O. Canyon, was last seen May 5 (RS). Single Harris' Sparrows were at Bitter Lake May 17–18 (S. Bixler *et al.*), Bosque Ref. May 4–5 (JP, BV), and Las Cruces May 3 (CS).

Northerly E. Meadowlarks were one at Zuni Apr. 20 (DC) and two near Fence L. May 26 (DC); the "fair numbers" singing s. of Clayton May 14–17 (HS) were well n. of the species' previously reported range in the state. Great-tailed Grackles were reported increasing in irrigated areas in *Union* (*vide* WC). Nine Com. Grackle nests with young were at Albuquerque May 31 (BO). Northerly were one-three Bronzed Cowbirds at Mangas Springs from May 15 (RF) and at T/C from May 6 (DM).

One to two ♂ **Purple Finches** at Glenwood Mar. 25 (JH) may have wintered there. Following winter's trend, Cassin's Finches and Pine Siskins were confined largely to montane areas. A few Red Crossbills were in the Jemez, Sangre de Cristo, and Sandia ranges (v.o.); 20 were in the Manzano Mts. Apr. 26 (CR, PRS); and others were in the San Mateo Mts. Apr. 30 and May 7 (TH). At least one **Lawrence's Goldfinch** was at Pancho Villa S.P. Apr. 22 (CB, CT). Evening Grosbeaks were widespread in low to moderate numbers in and near montane areas; noteworthy were 25 at Zuni Apr. 20 (DC), 117 in the Ribera-Villanueva area Apr. 25 (CR), and six at Pleasanton Mar. 28 (JH).

Cited Observers: Charles Black, James Black, David Cleary, Wes Cook, Robert Dickerman, Gordon Ewing, Ann Farley, Ralph Fisher, Larry Gorbet, Michael Herman, Lois Herrmann, T.J. Hines, John Hubbard, Tyler Huning, Pat Insley, Paul Lehman, Burton Lewis, Doris Miller, Bruce Ostyn, Benjamin Parmeter, John Parmeter, Christopher Rustay, Catherine Sandell, Robert Scholes, Hart Schwarz, John Shipman, Katie Skaggs, David Smith, Patricia R. Snider, Charles Troup, Brad Vaughn, Steve West, S.O. Williams.—SARTOR O. WILLIAMS III and JOHN P. HUBBARD, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Santa Fe, NM 87503.

ALASKA REGION

*T. G. Tobish, Jr.
and M. E. Isleib*

After a Regionwide, unseasonably cold February and March, early spring 1991 was slow to develop. More than a few anxious observers lost patience with migration. Cold, windy, dry weather ushered April in and delayed arrival of most early migrants, including Snow Buntings, Trumpeter Swans, and geese. The latter half of April warmed quickly, and the entire state, except for the north Gulf of Alaska coast, was significantly warmer than normal. Following this warming trend was a heavy push of geese, Buteos, and dabblers through both the Interior and Southcoastal flyways. While the season progressed rapidly throughout the Interior, the Southeast and Southcoastal sections were hit with a cycle of storms for most of April into mid-May. These systems, associated with the Aleutian Low, generated cool, onshore winds and cloudy conditions, and greatly slowed spring. Most passerines arrived late and in low numbers, and the setup of nesting territories and the arrival of females was easily two weeks late from Ketchikan to Kodiak. These weather conditions also pushed pelagic migrants inshore in unusual numbers and rearranged staging areas of Snow Geese away from traditional sites. The North Slope's spring was about normal, with significant snowmelt occurring by late May. The early season (April) storms brought warm, wet conditions to the Aleutians. But few storms coincided with the peak migration period in the second half of May, and passerine migration there was weak. One storm did deposit record numbers of shorebirds in the western Aleutians.

GREBS TO WATERFOWL

The transition-plumaged Pied-billed Grebe discovered in Ketchikan's boat harbor Mar. 3–15 (SH, ph. JK) likely had wintered locally. Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels descended on Kachemak Bay Apr. 16 to early May and peaked at "several

S.A.

A record fallout of shorebirds occurred at Attu in the midst of a stalled low-pressure system over the w. Aleutians May 21–24. Record counts of several species accompanied the windy, misty weather. Sixteen Common Sandpipers at Attu May 26 made a new daily maximum count for the Region. The bulk of this shorebird passage was stints in staggering numbers. With the near-record total of 35 Rufous-necked Stints May 23 was a single impeccable Little Stint, which remained until May 25. There is one previous spring Aleutian record. Perhaps most unprecedented were the 43 Temminck's Stints May 23. Temminck's Stint is casual in spring in the w. Aleutians and had been recorded there only once in spring since 1984. This movement of Temminck's Stints reached eastward to Adak I., where one was located May 26–27 (SC, ILJ, KR), for the first island record. Also in record numbers were Long-toed Stints, which peaked at 20 May 23. Other highlights included four Com. Greenshanks May 22–24, at least two Spotted Redshanks May 22–26, and two Sharp-tailed Sandpipers May 24 (all Attour). This shorebird fallout was punctuated by a Pintail Snipe at Attu May 25, found on the trail adjacent to the quarters (*UAM). Unlike the Pintail Snipe identified at Attu in spring 1984, this individual was confirmed as Alaska's first record. This snipe behaved as did the 1984 bird, singling out drier, grassy habitats. It showed plumage similar to that bird, including a buff upperwing covert panel, a buff wash across the throat and upper breast, and no white on the trailing edge of the wing. The plumage and call (a raspy *tche, tche*) clearly separate this species from nominate Common Snipe, the regular migrant through the w. Aleutians.



Common Greenshank at Attu Island, Alaska, May 24, 1991. Bad weather in late May dropped a record fallout of shorebirds on Attu. Photograph/Monte M. Taylor.

the Region. At least three Western-type Gulls were identified at Ketchikan as singles Mar. 3–27, May 15, and May 17 (†SH, ph.). Although at least one of these birds would not be questioned elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest, we cannot confirm additional Western Gull sightings for the Region until a specimen is secured.

A flurry of brief sightings of cuckoos at Attu I. May 28 included claims of both Common and Oriental cuckoos. But when the gray-morph bird was pinned down May 29–31, it was identified as a ♂ Common by the clean gray hood and breast, whitish vent, and thin breast stripes. This bird was col-

lected and in fact turned out to be a ♀ **Oriental Cuckoo** (DDG), based on mensural and plumage characters. In the hand, the vent was clearly washed with ochre which, if present, is a consistent mark for separating the 2 cuckoos, but which is also very difficult to see clearly in the field. Early-season Barred Owl reports came from n. of Juneau, Bartlett Cove near Glacier Bay, and east of Ketchikan. Late-season observations were two together on Mitkof I. May 22 (KB) and a calling bird on the adjacent mainland May 28 (CW). Six N. Pygmy-Owls were heard during early spring surveys on Mitkof I. near Petersburg (PJW).

SWALLOWS TO WARBLERS

Most unusual for the Alexander Archipelago was a pair of N. Rough-winged Swallows at Long I. n. of Dixon Entrance June 1–2 (JW). This swallow is regular in the Region only at Hyder. **American Crows** were present at Hyder when observers reached there in late April; the maximum was 20 Apr. 24–26 (SH). Hyder is the only place where this corvid reaches the Region.

Siberian Rubythroats arrived early at Attu I.: one May 26; but

only three were peak there May 31 (Attour). The Mountain Bluebird at Hyder Apr. 21 (SH) was likely a spring migrant rather than a winter bird. Following a heard-only report from Hyder in June 1990 (q.v.), a singing Veery was again heard in the Fish Cr. deciduous thickets May 29 (†SH). Of related interest, up to three singing Veerys were heard and seen in similar habitat across the Border in Stewart, BC, in the same time period. Eyebrowed Thrush made their poorest showing in years in the w. Aleutians, with a high of only two May 30 (Attour).

A major "wave" of Yellow Wagtails, bound for Alaska breeding areas, hit Nome area coast thickets June 3 (KJZ, RR), when 200+ were tallied between Cape Nome and Solomon. Spring concentrations are unusual along the Bering Sea coast. Six Black-backed Wagtails at Attu May 15 (Attour) nearly equalled the high count for the Aleutians. We received a nice description of an immature-type White/Black-backed Wagtail from Southeast's Long I. May 13–18 (JW). This bird was seen several times inside a school gym. Although the observer felt the bird was a White Wagtail, his description better fits an imm. ♂ Black-backed. Casual in spring, a handsome Pechora Pipit was located in willow thickets at Attu May 25 (Attour, MT ph.) in the exact site where the last one was found in 1988.

Most unusual was a singing Tennessee Warbler near Petersburg May 24 (PJW), a 3rd local record and one of few away from the Stikine R. deciduous thickets. A ♂ Magnolia Warbler arrived at Hyder May 25 (SH, ph.), one of the Region's earliest. This warbler had previously been considered casual in spring in Southeast, but a pattern of spring/summer reports, regularly at Hyder and often elsewhere, has developed over the past 4 years. An Am. Tree Sparrow at Adak I. Mar. 17 (SC, LC, GVB) furnished a first record for the central and w. Aleutians and the first "winter" report for s.w. Alaska. Most unusual for the Aleutians at any season was a group of three Golden-crowned Sparrows at Adak Mar. 23 (SC). A few fall reports from the central and w.



Male Magnolia Warbler at Hyder, Alaska, May 29, 1991. Formerly considered casual in Alaska, this species is now turning up more frequently in the Hyder area. Photograph/Steve Heinl.

Aleutians are the only other records w. of Unimak I. A singing Harris' Sparrow at Ketchikan Mar. 26–29 (SH, ph.) probably wintered in the area, since we have very few migrant records from Southeast away from the Mainland. There is one previous Ketchikan record. For the 3rd year in a row, Rustic Bunting was all but absent from the Region. Singles at Attu May 16–17 and 27–28 were the only reports (Attour). The Rusty Blackbird at Adak I. Mar. 17 (SC, GVB, DB) provided a first for s.w. Alaska w. of Cold Bay.

Bramblings peaked at an average of 21 at Attu May 13 (Attour). Other reports of note were single females at Juneau May 1 (fide MEI) and at Gambell June 3–9 (Attour, KJZ). A ♂ **Purple Finch** appeared at a Juneau feeder with Pine Siskins Apr. 28 (MEI), this season's only report. Still no pattern of appearance exists for this finch, which breeds as close as the British Columbia Coast Range. Red Crossbills were common and widespread throughout most of mainland and adjacent islands of Southeast and at Kodiak. White-winged Crossbills were locally common at best in Southeast and in the coastal Sitka Spruce/Hemlock forests of Southcoastal only. Pine Siskins quickly became abundant in Southeast and n. to at least Kodiak in March/April but remained uncommon and patchy n. of there. A single **Oriental Greenfinch** appeared at Attu May 25. It was followed by up to five May 28 (Attour). Five Hawfinches were at Attu May 13–31.

Contributors and observers: J.B. Allen, Attour (D.D. Gibson, M.E. Isleib, G.B.

Rosenband, T.L. Savaloja, N.S. Proctor, D.W. Sonneborn, *et al.*, A. Bayer, S. Blatt, D. Boone, E. Burroughs, K. Burton, G.V. Byrd, L. Clendenon, S. & L. Crabtree, D.F. Delap, T.J.

Doyle, R.J. Gordon, L. Greffinius, S. Heinel, I.L. Jones, V. Klett, J. Koerner, R.A. MacIntosh, J. O'Neale, K. O'Reilly, L. Reiber, K. Richards, R. Rodrigues, G.H. Rosenberg,

W. Rucci, R.L. Scher, B. Schram, M. Schwan, M. Smith, G.J. Tans, M. Taylor, P.J. Walsh, M. Ward, J. Watters, C. Welch, G.C. West, D. Wimpfeimer, VENT (K.J. Zimmer, D.

Delaney, R. Rucci, B. Schram), K.J. Zimmer.—T. G. TOBISH, JR., 2510 Foraker Drive, Anchorage, AK 99517; M. E. ISLEIB, 9229 Emily Way, Juneau, AK 99801.

BRITISH COLUMBIA/ YUKON REGION

Chris Siddle

March was colder, cloudier, and wetter than usual, with snow in many parts of the province. Some migrants were delayed. Violet-green Swallows, which initially appeared in the extreme south Okanagan in mid-February, disappeared with the chill of the latter half of that month and were, for example, two or three weeks late arriving in Vernon. In Prince George, overnight April lows did not consistently rise above freezing until April 23. This held back leafing of local hardwoods, retarding early insect hatches, which may have been a factor in migrant lateness.

The first period of sustained warm, sunny weather occurred in mid-April, followed by more normal spring-like temperatures. Early May was wet, with arrival of spring migrants about a week later than usual. Only one weather-related bird observation was reported: a wave of hundreds of W. Wood-Pewees was grounded by a period of cool rain around Nelson and Castlegar May 25.

Some interior observers noted a scarcity of Golden-crowned Kinglets, Winter Wrens, and Steller's Jays, species that perhaps suffered high mortality during a colder-than-usual winter. In the Yukon, a number of "southern" ducks continue a recent expansion within the Territory, where local birders expect to soon confirm breeding for Ruddy Ducks, Cinnamon Teals, and Redheads.

Since Victoria and Vancouver did not report this season, this report's focus is the province interior.



LOONS TO GEESE

A Yellow-billed Loon appeared on Slokan L. near Nakusp May 5 (TB). Yellow-billed are casual in British Columbia's interior. Intriguingly, a similarly plumaged Yellow-billed Loon was on the same lake Sept. 2, 1990 (GD, CS). Could this spring's bird be a migrant dropping into a favorite rest stop? Another Yellow-billed, in basic plumage, was at Roberts Bank May 12 (RJC, m.ob.), and another was off Port Mellon Mar. 18, for a 2nd Sunshine Coast record (TG).

After last spring's first nesting in the Queen Charlotte Is., a Pied-billed Grebe was heard at Masset Apr. 20 (CB, MH). Gary Davidson reported larger than usual numbers of migrant Horned Grebes on Arrow L., peaking at 110+ Apr. 22. A Clark's Grebe, casual in British Columbia, was among 95 Westerns off Stanley Park May 12 (†MPr). Another Clark's Grebe, without details, was reported from Richmond Mar.

11 (CE). The only tubenoses reported were several hundred Sooty and two Pink-footed shearwaters off Cape Scott May 10 (GJ, KW). Five Am. White Pelicans appeared in Revelstoke May 9, and two more joined them May 11 (DP). This species is casual e. of the Okanagan Valley. An ad. Double-crested Cormorant at Prince George May 11 furnished the area's first spring record (CA, JB, NK, MP).

An Am. Bittern was reported on territory at Walcott near Telkwa throughout late May and June (DS). Single bitterns were also recorded at Tranquille, Kamloops, May 18 (SR) and the Osoyoos Oxbows May 19 (RH, GD). Two Great Blue Herons were seen at Lorne L. near Carcross R., s. Yukon, May 5 (HD *vide* HG). Great Blue Herons are rare visitors in the s. Yukon. This observation of *two* individuals is unprecedented. Two Green-backed Herons were at Penticton May 17 (M & BM *vide* RJC), for a 2nd Okanagan Valley record. This species is

casual in interior British Columbia but may be beginning a range expansion. A pair was seen in suitable breeding habitat at Sechelt May 8, and a single was seen May 28 (TG). This species is casual on the Sunshine Coast.

A Black-crowned Night Heron, a vagrant anywhere in British Columbia except for a tiny population at Reifel I., Ladner, was seen at Williams L. May 6 (AB *vide* PR). This is probably the northernmost record for the province.

As usual, swans staged in McClintock Bay of Marsh L., Yukon, with 440 Trumpeters Apr. 13 and 685 Tundras and Trumpeters Apr. 27 (HG, DSh). Peak swan movement, Apr. 19–21, when 1800 birds were counted, was 4–5 days earlier than usual (JH). A number of swans lingered in British Columbia's interior. Three Tundra Swans were at Stump L., Kamloops, May 28 (RH). An ad. Tundra was at Moose L., Mt. Robson Prov. Park, May 30, for a first park record (CA, JB, m.ob.). Parties of 2–3 immature swans of undetermined identity were at Otter L. May 19 (RH, CS, GD), Enderby May 18 (GD, RH, CS), and Vernon Apr. 25–May 19 (PR, CS, m.ob.). A banded Trumpeter Swan at Golden in April was a 2-year-old male banded in Wyoming during the winter (EZ).

Up to seven Greater White-fronted Geese wintered at Reifel Island Refuge, lingering until March (JI). Two to four lingered in Kamloops Mar. 10–31 at Tranquille (SR). Stray White-fronts included one at Silverton May 10–25 (GD, TB) and one at Revelstoke May 16 (ET, DP). A remarkable assortment of geese could be found at Revelstoke in May. Four Snow Geese were seen May 4 (DP). An undocumented Ross' Goose, casual to British Columbia, was seen May 14–23 but was not reported to out-of-town birders until June (DP). Two Bar-headed Geese and a Bean Goose also seen in May were probably

escapes. For the 3rd or 4th year in a row, an Emperor Goose wintered around Victoria. The last record was in Central Saanich Mar. 16 (CE, JBT).

DUCKS

One or two pairs of Wood Ducks continue to return to Cottonwood I., Prince George, at the extreme n. part of their British Columbia range. This year a pair was seen Apr. 26 (DE, MW). A drake Mandarin Duck was at Sechelt mid-April, possibly from the feral Lost Lagoon population that disappears every spring (BSt). Cinnamon Teals, rare in s. Yukon, were seen 4 times: a male at Marsh L. May 17, a pair at nearby Judas Cr. May 21 (JH), a male at Swan L., 20 km n. of Whitehorse, May 18 (HG), and a male at Shallow Bay, s.w. of Lake Laberge, May 30 (HG). Seven Gadwalls, rare in the Yukon, were at Marsh L. May 11 (JH). Single ♂ Eurasian Wigeons were reported from Prince George, Golden, Revelstoke, Nakusp, Kamloops, Vernon, and Kluane and Marsh Lakes (Yukon). Most records were for April except for the Kamloops bird, which was a very early Mar. 17 (SR) and the Yukon birds, which ranged from April 22–May 12 (HG, JH). The highest number at one location on a single day was six at Vernon Apr. 7 (PR, CS). A Eurasian X Am. Wigeon hybrid was at Alkali L., w. of Williams L. in early May (PR).

Redheads nested on Reflection L., Golden, for a first nesting for the upper East Kootenays (EZ). In the Yukon Territory, where Redheads are considered rare, there were 4 sightings: nine males and two females at Schwatka L., Whitehorse, May 15 (HG, MS); a male at Shallow Bay, s.w. of Lake Laberge, May 31 (HG); two at McClintock Bay of Marsh L. Apr. 25 (JH); and a male at Kluane L. near Slims R. May 12 (HG). A ♂ Tufted Duck, the Okanagan's 3rd, appeared on Okanagan L., Kelowna, Mar. 3 to at least Mar. 17 (DB, m.ob.). A 2nd Tufted Duck was present on Esquimalt Lagoon Mar. 10 (JBT). A 3rd, a male, was at Iona Is. Mar. 17 (CE). Two Oldsquaws, casual migrants in the Okanagan, were seen on Swan L., Vernon, May 19 (XL, RT). One was reported on

Cranberry Marsh, Valemount, May 5 (JB, m.ob.). Farther west, around Prince George, 39 were seen on Taber L. May 12 and six on Eaglet L. (CA, m.ob.). Fifteen thousand Surf Scoters feeding on herring spawn were carefully estimated at Macoah Passage e. of Ucluelet on Apr. 6 (RJC). A drake White-winged Scoter graced the Castlegar sewage ponds May 25 (GD, LVD, CS). This species is casual in the W. Kootenays. Fifty White-wingeds were at Tranquille May 25 (SR), and 23 were on Salmon L., Douglas L. Ranch, May 18–19 (GD, RH, CS). Single Red-breasted Mergansers, rare migrants in the interior, were recorded at Tranquille Apr. 26 (SR), Slocan L. May 7 (GD, TB), and Castlegar May 25 (GD, LVD, CS). Ruddy Duck sightings are increasing in s. Yukon, where the species is rare but regular. Small numbers were reported in mid-May from Swan L., 20 km n. of Whitehorse (HG). Another "southern" duck in the Yukon was the Hooded Merganser, with two females at Swan L. May 18–19 (HG).

EAGLES TO CRANES

Two Turkey Vultures at Revelstoke May 23 furnished the first spring record for the Revelstoke area (H & OG). An Osprey at Whitehorse May 1 was a rare sight for the s. Yukon (JH). Four hundred thirty-five Bald Eagles were counted along the Skeena R. (distance unstated) Mar. 17 during an eulachon run (MC). Prince George has at least 2 pairs of "urban dwelling" Merlins that began to return to investigate former nesting sites Apr. 5 & 15 (NK). Gyrfalcons are very rare in interior British Columbia in the best of times. One at Tranquille, Kamloops, Mar. 30 (SR) was a fairly late "spring" record.

Gray Partridges are noteworthy anywhere in the province; two were seen e. of Oliver Mar. 30 (CE). Spruce Grouse occur in mid-to-high-elevation forests throughout the s. interior but are seldom reported. Wing-clapping males were seen on Silver Star Mtn. May 19 (XL, RT). Ten Sharp-tailed Grouse were found on the Lac du Bois lek near Kamloops May 19 (GD, RH, CS). This is the only readily accessible population in s. British Columbia.

Unaided by man, Wild Turkeys continue to spread N into British Columbia from their base at Creston in the W. Kootenays. Three were at Argenta Apr. 15–30 (JBe). Groups of 4, 12, and 24 were reported from the Christina L. area e. of Grand Forks (RW). A population of about 10 birds has been established since the 1970s at Armstrong, and a "new" colony of four was found in the Falkland-Westwold area May 14 (ph. CS).

A Sora, rare in s. Yukon, was seen in the Whitehorse-Riverdale area May 31 (JH). Single Am. Coots, rare in the Yukon, were at Swan L., 20 km n. of Whitehorse, May 31 (HG) and McClintock Bay, Marsh L., Apr. 26–29 (JH).

Six Sandhill Cranes were unusually early at Rose Hill, near Kamloops, Mar. 6 (RH). At Kispiox, 1500 were counted Apr. 21 (MC), and three were 8 km s.e. of Prince George Apr. 22 (B & LB).

SHOREBIRDS

Two Lesser Golden-Plovers, casual in spring at Vancouver, were at 72nd St. and Roberts Bank May 12 (RJC). A Snowy Plover, the 8th provincial record, was at Nel's Bight, Cape Scott P.P., May 8 (GJ, KW). Two Black-necked Stilts appeared in Kelowna May 10 (CC), with one remaining until May 17 (RJC). American Avocets, casual in the Okanagan, appeared in relatively substantial numbers in late April, with seven at Kelowna Apr. 21 (DB) and three at Swan L., Vernon, Apr. 25 (†CS). Up to five remained around Robert L. and the Kelowna dump the rest of the month (CS, RJC, DB). Rick Howie estimated at least 20 avocets in the Kamloops area during May, with 3 nests at White L. Three provided a first Revelstoke record May 22 (ET, DP).

Long-billed Curlews occurred out of range at 2 locations, with one at Nakusp Apr. 25–27 (GD, CS), where it was joined by a 2nd Apr. 28 (MPa), and one at Eaglet L., Prince George, Apr. 19, for a first local record (CA). One of the season's exciting discoveries was that Long-billed Curlews regularly breed in the McBride area of e.-central British Columbia. Elsie and Glen Stanley of McBride



Long-billed Curlew on a nest near McBride, British Columbia, in June 1985. This site was "rediscovered" in 1991. Photograph/Glen Stanley.

showed Prince George birders a pair of Long-billeds at a traditional nesting site in a farmer's field at McBride May 5 (JB). A flock of 40 Whimbrels at Rose Spit May 19 was an unusually large flock for Queen Charlotte Is. (CB, MH). One Whimbrel at Kluane L. near Kluane R. May 12 was a rare Yukon sight (HG). A Whimbrel at Kitsilano Beach, Vancouver, Mar. 31 was unusually early and rare for that location (RJC). Hudsonian Godwits are rare in the Yukon. Two were at Burwash Landing May 11 (HG), and eight, a high number for the Yukon, were at Kluane L. near Kluane R. May 12 (HG). A Marbled Godwit at Revelstoke May 29 provided the 2nd spring record for the Revelstoke area (ET, DP). Three Upland Sandpipers at Riske Creek May 17 were very rare spring migrants (TH). Two Uplands were at 37 Mile Creek n. of the Takhini R., Yukon, May 26 (MWh).

Semipalmated Sandpipers are only casual in the Okanagan Valley in spring. Two in alternate plumage at Robert L., Kelowna, May 11 and one May 12 are of note (†CS). One was also seen at Nicola L. May 19 (GD, RH, †CS), a first documented spring record for the Kamloops latilong. Ruffs are very rare in spring, with only 3 provincial records. A definitive alternate plumaged male at Iona I. May 12 was a pure joy for Vancouver birders (ph. John Dorsey). A Short-billed Dowitcher at Nicola L. May 19 furnished the Kamloops latilong's first documented spring record (GD, RH, †CS). Short-billeds, rare in the Yukon, were seen at 3 locations: six at Swan L., 20 km n. of Whitehorse, May 19 (HG), five at Shallow Bay, s.w. of Lake Laberge, May 31 (HG), and

eight at Kluane L. near Kluane R. May 12 (HG, TP). Wilson's Phalaropes are also rare in s. Yukon. Four males and four females were at Swan L., Yukon, May 19 (HG).

GULLS TO WOODPECKERS

A Franklin's Gull on Masset Inlet May 29 provided the 2nd record for Queen Charlotte Is. (CB, MH). Small numbers of Mew Gulls appeared in the s. interior, where they are rare, with one Apr. 6 and nine May 1 at Tranquille (SR) and four at Okanagan Landing May 4 (ph. GD, CS). A Ring-billed Gull at Whitehorse May 31 (JH, DR) was rare for the s. Yukon. A pair of Herring Gulls nested, as usual, near the Telkwa dump (DS). This is the only known pair for the immediate area. A Thayer's Gull, casual in spring in the Okanagan Valley, was at the Kelowna dump May 17 (RJC, JW). Two were at Kamloops Apr. 14 (SR). Just outside Masset Inlet (7 miles from shore) 212 Sabine's Gulls were seen May 30 (CB, MH). This is a very large spring concentration for British Columbia.

A Caspian Tern was at Revelstoke May 12, where it is casual (KB, DP). Three Forster's Terns, a species casual in the s. interior outside of Creston, were at Tranquille, Kamloops, May 25 (SR). An Arctic Tern, a very

rare migrant in interior British Columbia, was in the company of a few larger Sterna terns at Douglas L. May 19 (DK, BS). This is the 2nd record for the Kamloops latilong. Six Com. Terns, uncommon Okanagan transients, were at Swan L., Vernon, May 19 (RJC, m.ob.).

Barn Owls are expanding their range n. from central Washington into Okanagan Valley, BC, possibly because of successful nest cavity programs in Idaho and Washington state. For the 2nd year in a row, a pair nested in a barn along Road 22, s. of Oliver (RJC, m.ob.). The first adult was seen Mar. 18 (RJC); five young were seen May 19. Another Barn Owl was observed in Penticton in mid-May (SC). Richard J. Cannings found a **Boreal Owl**, very rare in s. British Columbia, at the 2500-foot level of Shuttleworth Creek Rd., Vaseux L., Mar. 17. He believes it was a migrant. He also found a W. Screech-Owl along Irrigation Creek, Vaseux L., and two Long-eared Owls at McLean Creek, Okanagan Falls, all in the same night. Another W. Screech-Owl was heard at Woodhaven Park, Kelowna, May 19, where the species is regular (RJC, SO, m.ob.). The latest record for the Burrowing Owl that appeared last winter at the Patricia Bay airfield was Mar. 16-17 (CE, JBT). A Great Gray Owl was seen at Roche L., s. of Kamloops, May 19 (RH, CS). A pair of Long-eared Owls nested along the river at the n. end of Vaseux L., with the young fledging just prior to May 19 (RJC).

A flock of 200+ Vaux's Swifts at Horseshoe L. near McBride May 5 was probably the largest concentration ever reported for British Columbia's interior (CA, m.ob.). A Black-chinned Hummingbird, rare outside the Okanagan-Shuswap area, was at Kamloops May 4-15 (RH).

A Black-backed Woodpecker pair nested at the surprisingly low elevation of 750 m near Kamloops in May (BB). Another Black-back was seen at Heffley Creek just n. of Kamloops May 20 (RR). Two Three-toed Woodpeckers, rare on Vancouver I., were seen in the

Eve R. valley near Sayward Apr. 18 (CE). A ♂ Red-naped Sapsucker in Richmond Apr. 2 (†RJC) furnished only about the 20th record for the Vancouver area. Another out-of-range Red-naped appeared 9 km s.e. of Prince George May 7, to provide a first local record (LL, SK).

FLYCATCHERS TO WARBLERS

Unprecedented numbers of W. Wood-Pewees were found around Nelson and Castlegar May 25. A survey between the 2 towns found 100-200 pewees feeding in unusually open locations, such as along fence lines among farms and cattle range (GD, LVD, CS).

A ♂ Purple Martin was seen at Iona I., Vancouver, May 25. The next day a female was spotted at the same location (†MPr, †MWy, PW). These birds may be overshoots from the s. Puget Sound colonies, which continue to recover nicely. A N. Rough-winged Swallow, rare in the Yukon, was in the Whitehorse-Riverdale area May 31 (JH).

Following their unprecedented invasion of s.e. British Columbia during fall 1990, a few Blue Jays were still being reported in spring, with one at the Adams R. mouth Mar. 10 (RH), two at Revelstoke Mar. 17 (DP), three at Nakusp Mar. 31-Apr. 27 (GD), and one at New Denver Apr. 27 (TB). Black-billed Magpies appeared at Houston for the 2nd spring in a row and possibly nested at Houston (*fide* Dirk Septer). The last magpies seen in this area occurred in the early 1950s. Mount Robson P.P. had its first magpie ever Mar. 20 (NM).

A pair of Bushtits at Sechelt Apr. 14 was in the same location as the Sunshine Coast's first record for this species in Sept. 1990 (TG). The only Sage Thrasher of the season was one at Chopaka border crossing e. of Keremeos May 29 (MGS). A **Sprague's Pipit** was discovered singing on territory at Riske Cr. May 17 to period's end (TH, PR). Initially misidentified as a Canyon Wren (based on similarity of songs), the bird was finally seen in mid-June and photographed (AR). This is a first provincial record. Due to the landowner's sensitivity to visitors, word of the bird's discovery was suppressed. A Hutton's Vireo,

was seen at Vancouver I., was seen at Sayward May 24 (CE).

A Tennessee Warbler, rare in the Yukon, was seen at Little Salmon L. May 19 (MWh). A Yellow Warbler, very rare in Queen Charlotte Is., was singing outside a birder's door in Queen Charlotte City May 20 (MM *fide* MH). A Black-throated Gray Warbler was seen in the Eve R. valley near Sayward, Vancouver I., Apr. 22 (CE). This species is usually found only on s. Vancouver I. but may be expanding its range northward. An unusual migrant concentration of 25+ Am. Redstarts was found in a 200-m-long stretch of willow at Taber L., Prince George, May 25 (CA, JB).

GROSBEAKS TO FINCHES

A late but significant observation was of a first fall ♂ Black-headed Grosbeak at Tlell from Oct. 6-14, 1990 (JG-B). This is a first record for Queen Charlotte Is. A Black-headed was reported from Golden May 31 (EZ). This species is rare so far e. in British Columbia. A few Lark Sparrows were n. of their usual range, with one at Scout Island Park, Williams L., May 17 (AR) and up to three at an airfield near a shrubby 6-7-year-old clear cut w. of Bella Coola May 27-29, a very unusual, almost coastal location (Dbr). An Am. Tree Sparrow at Sechelt Apr. 11 was unusual for a coastal location (TG). Four Clay-colored Sparrows and one Brewer's Sparrow near Kamloops May 20 were considered unusual (RH). A Harris' Sparrow in breeding plumage appeared with the flocks of migrant White-crowns at Vernon Apr. 23-25 (EN, PR), while two were at the Osoyoos oxbows Mar. 9 (Dbr).

Apparently Rusty Blackbirds breed at higher elevations of the Thompson Plateau. Birders found three near Dee L. e. of Kelowna May 17 (RJC, JW) and along the Coquihalla Connector May 19 (DK, BS). A flock of 60 Brown-headed Cowbirds (60% female) at Eaglet L., Prince George, May 12 was an unusual sight, as migratory flocks of this species are seldom encountered in the spring in British Columbia (JB, CA, m.ob.). Mt. Robson Prov. Park's first Purple Finch was seen May 30 (CA, JB). A Hoary Redpoll was at a

S.A.

Hayfields around Giscome, a small community east of Prince George, attracted significant flocks of shorebirds this spring. If fields are too dry or are flooded, migrants bypass them; but if they are damp from recent flooding, shorebirds will stop to feed. On May 14-15 up to 300 Pectoral Sandpipers, 150 Long-billed Dowitchers, 100 Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers, three Semipalmated Sandpipers, and a Lesser Golden-Plover (*dominica*)/*dominica*? were seen (CA). A similar situation in 1990 resulted in sighting two *dominica* Lesser Golden May 9, 1990 (CA), casual in spring everywhere in the British Columbia interior except the Peace R. lowlands. This year 100 Pectorals lingered until May 24.

Whitehorse feeder Mar. 19 (HG). The last Com. Redpolls of the winter in central British Columbia were noted in Prince George May 2 (Nancy Kreuger).

Addendum: A Virginia Rail was seen in Cranberry Marsh, Valemount, June 18, 1990. This sighting is a few hundred km n.e. of the species' usual range in s.-central British Columbia (JB).

Contributors: (Subregional editors in boldface) Cathy Antoniazzi, Kay Bartholomew, Karen Beggs, Jir Bekker (JBe), Charlie Bellis, Barry Booth, **Jack Bowling**, Doug Brown (DBr), Denise Brownlie, Bob Bullock, Lois Bullock, Alan Burger, Terry Burnett, **Richard J. Cannings**, Steve Cannings, Christopher Charlesworth, Mary Collins (MCo), Mel Coulson, **Gary Davidson**, Helen Dobroalski, John Dorsey, Cameron Eckert, Dorothy Ewert, Janet Gifford-Brown, Hilary Gordon, Orville Gordon, **Tony Greenfield**, **Helmut Grunberg**, Jim Hawkings, **Margo Hearne**, Tracy Hooper, **Rick Howie**, John Ireland, Gavin Johnston, Ruth Jones, Sandra Kinsey, Doug Kragh, Nancy Krueger, Xavier Lambin, Hue MacKenzie, Joann MacKenzie, Herb Matthews, Barb McGrenere, Mike McGrenere, Mary Morris, Nancy Muirhead, Elsie Nykyfork, Sue Owen, Marilyn Pasieka (MPa), Todd Peakes, Mark Phinney, Doug Powell, Michael Price (MPr), **Phil Ranson**, Ralph Ritcey, Anna Roberts, Syd Roberts, Laurie Rockwell, Don Russell, Brian Self, **Dirk Septer**, Michael G. Shepard, Dylan Shortt (DSh), Chris Siddle, Merna Singh, Elsie Stanley, Glen Stanley, Billie Steel (BSs), J. B. Tarum, Rich Tootchin, Ellen Tremblay, Linda Van Damme (LVD), Phil Wadden, Ron Walker, May West, Mary Whitley (MWh), Ken Wright, John Wu, Mark Wynja (MWy), Ellen Zimmer.—**CHRIS SIDDLER**, Site 10, Comp. 56, R.R. 8, Vernon, BC V1T 8L6.

OREGON/ WASHINGTON REGION

*Bill Tweit and
Jeff Gilligan*

This spring was notable for a cold, wet and stormy May, which apparently had dramatic effects on passerine migration. All three spring months were colder and wetter than average, providing good snowpacks in the mountains, but the May figures showed the largest deviation from average for most areas. A storm system May 17-19 covered most of Oregon, leaving 14" of snow at Roaring Springs Ranch, an oasis near Malheur N.W.R., and passerine fallouts throughout the state. Flycatch-ers, vireos, warblers and tanagers were the most obviously affected by the inclement weather, and most observers indicated they had never experienced a migration such as this in the Pacific Northwest. We assume there was a great deal of associated mortality, but there were no such reports.

Abbreviations: K.R.S.P. (Kirtland Road Sewage Ponds, near Medford, OR); Malheur (Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Harney Co., OR); O.S. (Ocean

Shores, Grays Harbor Co., WA); Sauvie (Sauvie Island, Columbia Co., OR); S.J.C.R. (south jetty of the Columbia R., OR); W.W.R.D. (Walla Walla R. delta, Walla Walla Co., WA).

GREBES TO DUCKS

The first Clark's Grebe sighting in the interior was Apr. 27 in the Klamath Basin, OR (SR). On the westside, one was at Yaquina Bay, OR, May 4 (BB, Phil Pickering, DFa). Of 4 w. Washington reports, only the bird at O.S. Apr. 19 was submitted with details (†G & WH).

There were 2 pelagic trips this spring, off Westport, WA, Apr. 20 and May 4 (TW). As expected, counts of most tubenose species increased in May. Black-footed Albatross numbers rose from 18 to 265, N. Fulmar numbers from 37 to 187, Sooty Shearwaters from 713 to 22,416 and Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel from 5 to 58. Short-tailed Shearwaters were seen only in April, and Pink-footed Shearwaters only in May, both in low numbers. A probable Mottled Petrel was seen May 11 with Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels on Swiftsure Bank at the entrance to the Strait of Juan de Fuca (Phil Anderson *vide* TW). Three Pink-footed Shearwaters seen at O.S. May 11 (M&MLD) and a Leach's Storm-Petrel seen at S.J.C.R. May 21 (HN) were highly unusual sightings from shore.

Great Egrets nested again at

the rookery on the north end of Potholes Res., Grant (RH), their only known breeding site in Washington. Three Cattle Egrets at the Diamond Marsh at Malheur (m.ob.) may have been breeding; there have only been a few breeding records from there since the first in 1980. The White-faced Ibis colony at Diamond Marsh held at least 10,000 birds (TC, SS). One White-faced Ibis was near Vancouver L., Clark, May 5 (JG); they are rare in w. Washington.

The usual handful of Ross' Goose records away from their migration route through Klamath and Malheur included two at Clarkston, WA Apr. 10 (CVV) and one at McNary N.W.R., WA May 9-10 (BW). This spring's only Emperor Goose report was one seen at Seaside, Clatsop, OR May 8 (RL). There was still some movement of Brant along the Oregon coast at the end of May (JG) and the last report from Washington was two at Seattle May 27 (RT). A male Garganey in the flooded Chehalis R. valley near Elma, Grays Harbor from April 12 to May 15 (G & WH, Mike Carmody, ph) is Washington's 2nd record. The count of seven Eur. Wigeon in Portland May 16 (AF, Keith Barker) is unprecedented for mid-May. A male seen May 11 in s.e. Douglas (G & WH) is the latest record for e. Washington. There were 14 reports from the interior (m.ob.), lower than last spring but above the long-term average. The ♂ Tufted Duck that wintered at the Sheridan Sewage Ponds, OR, stayed to Mar. 18 (m.ob.) and another appeared at the Bay City Sewage Ponds, OR, Mar. 13-May 4 (Steve Powell, RL, m.ob.). There are usually a couple of records each spring. The ♂ Smeew that wintered along the Columbia R. was last seen April 1 (DL).

VULTURES TO QUAIL

Peak days for Turkey Vulture migration through the Rogue valley were Mar. 18 & 30 and April 1 (MM). Black-shouldered Kites were sparingly reported. In Washington, reports came from the Raymond area (BT) where they breed, near Toledo, Lewis (Ray Scharpf), and a report without details from L. Whatcom May 24 (*vide* TW) is the second Whatcom sighting. There was



only one report of Red-shouldered Hawk, Mar. 3 near Arago in the Coquille valley (Sheri Erickson). There were five reports of Merlin (JeW, DL, TC) and four of Peregrine (SS, TC) from the interior this spring. Two Prairie Falcons appeared on the westside: one at S.J.C.R. Apr. 13 (Richard Smith) and one on the Skagit flats the 2nd week of May (*fide* BK).

Shorebird migration was mediocre in most areas. Only two Lesser Golden-Plover (*fulva*) were found this spring, at O.S. Apr. 28 (DP) and May 17 (G & WH). Up to four Snowy Plovers were noted at O.S. this spring (PtSu). Both Am. Avocet and Black-necked Stilts put on a pretty good show on the westside, where they are casual in spring. Eleven stilts were found in w. Oregon Apr. 21 to May 30 (ME, HN, June Babcock, HS, MM). Eight avocets were found on the westside of both states from Apr. 18 to May 15 (TS, MM, JD, Duncan Macquarry, K & JW). Eighty Greater Yellowlegs in the Chehalis R. valley near Satsop, WA Apr. 16 (Ian Paulsen, Mike Scuderi) was the peak count. Lesser Yellowlegs are much less common in the Region; the peak count was 25 at the Forest Grove Sewage Ponds, Washington, OR, Apr. 22 (Greg Gilson).

A Willet at K.R.S.P. May 4 (RE) was locally rare; elsewhere on the westside they were only reported from their usual haunts at Yaquina Bay, OR (JG) and Willapa Bay, WA (B & GR). While the peak count of Whimbrel came from a coastal area, 300 at Yaquina Bay, OR, May 8 (*fide* JG), other large counts came from river valley pastureland. Two hundred were in the Skagit valley, WA May 3 (K & JW) and 275 were in the Chehalis valley near Satsop, WA May 5 (AS). A male Bar-tailed Godwit at O.S. Apr. 21-28 (Jim Reichel) is about the sixth spring record for Washington. It was accompanying a flock of 600 Marbled Godwits (DP), a record count for Washington. Ruddy Turnstones are unusual away from the coast. Up to four were at K.R.S.P. May 10-13 (MM) and four were at Summer L., Lake, OR May 8 (SS).

Counts of Red Knots on the coast were low; 90 were at S.J.C.R. May 10 (HN) and 100+ at Bowerman Basin, Grays

Harbor Apr. 23 (B & GR). Knots are casual in the interior. One was at Roaring Springs Ranch, OR May 19 (C & MC) and 12 were at Summer L., Lake, OR May 11-12 (SS). Sanderlings at K.R.S.P. Apr. 24 (†MM), Summer L. May 11 (CM) and College Place, Walla Walla, WA May 19 (M&MLD) were all local rarities. Only one Semipalmated Sandpiper was reported, from Summer L. May 4 (†SS). There were three Baird's Sandpiper reports from the westside Apr. 9 to May 4: two at K.R.S.P. (RE, MM) and one at Sauvie (GL). On the eastside, one Mar. 21 at W.W.R.D. (†BW) was very early and the peak count of 27 near Othello, WA, Apr. 29 (RH) was quite large. There were only two reports of Pectoral Sandpiper, at Seattle May 11 (*fide* EH) and one May 8 at Dry Falls, Grant, WA (†SJ). HN found 1000 Dunlin at S.J.C.R. May 21 and 100 still there 3 days later; only a few stragglers should linger into late May.

One Stilt Sandpiper was at Malheur May 8 (Jacques & Doris Ross) and three were near Othello, Adams, WA May 12-22 (†BT, RH, †SJ). A Ruff at Summer L. Apr. 12-14 (†SS) was the first e. Oregon record. In the interior, a few *hendersoni* Short-billed Dowitchers occur annually. Small numbers of unknown race were at Summer L., Lake, OR in April and early May (*fide* TC) and one *hendersoni* was near Othello, WA, May 12 (BT). The coastal race, *caurinus*, is not expected in the interior, so two apparently of this race, at Hatfield L., Deschutes, OR, May 7 (TC) were highly unusual. Red-necked Phalaropes were abundant along the outer coast during May as usual (HN, TW, G & WH).

JAEGERS TO DOVES

A Long-tailed Jaeger at Bellingham May 13 (†TW) was outstanding; they are unheard of as spring migrants. Up to two ad. Little Gulls were found on Puget Sound at Point No Point Mar. 15-Apr. 26 (VN) for the 3rd consecutive spring at that location. Heermann's Gulls, rare in spring, were at Yaquina Head, OR, Apr. 22 (*fide* JG) and Westport, WA, Apr. 20-May 4 (TW). By the end of May, 20+ were at O.S. (G & WH). A Mew Gull at K.R.S.P. May 29 (JWa, MM) was very late

for s. Oregon, and they are rare at any season in the Rogue valley. Good numbers of Glaucous Gulls lingered into the spring season, after an exceptional winter. The peak counts were eight at Moolack Beach, Lincoln, OR Mar. 8 (JG, NL) and four in Tacoma, WA Mar. 16 (RM, Jon Jensen).

An exciting, albeit 2nd-hand, report was that a new colony of Caspian Terns has been located. After years of observations of adults summering and exhibiting courtship behavior in n. Puget Sound, nests and eggs were found this spring on a dredge spoil island in Swinomish Slough, Skagit (W.D.W. *fide* K & JW). This is the northernmost colony of Caspians on the Pacific coast [although some may now be breeding in s. Alaska].

A Parakeet Auklet seen and photographed off Westport Apr. 20 (TW, m.ob.) was only the 4th report of a live bird in Washington, although there are quite a few beached specimens. Band-tailed Pigeon reports from Washington were encouraging. *Whatcom* observers noted more than in recent years (*fide* TW), near Olympia they were more numerous than last year (G & WH, BT) although still less common than 5 years ago, and 300 were seen near Satsop, Grays Harbor, May 26 (RM).

OWLS TO FLYCATCHERS

Barred Owls were reported from 6 locales in the Puget Sound lowlands this spring (m.ob.), indicative of their continuing spread. For the 2nd year in a row, Great Gray Owls were reported from *Okanogan* in March (AS). Hopefully they will be found breeding in this area, which would be the first confirmed in Washington. Two or three Boreal Owls were heard giving their primary song at 5700' near Mt. Bachelor, Deschutes Apr. 22 (TC, CM). This is only the 2nd known locale in the Oregon Cascades. Black Swifts are rarely reported from the Coast Range in Oregon, thus the report of many at Agness May 18 (AB) was interesting. Vaux's Swift concentrations included 700 in Sumas, *Whatcom*, WA May 5 (Ann Eissinger) and 200 in Ashland, OR May 10 (MM), average dates for the appearance of large flocks of Vaux's.

After the winter's big freeze, Anna's Hummingbirds were widely distributed as usual in w. Oregon, more common on the south coast and in the Rogue valley (JG). Many of these may have been birds that wintered farther south, and were less affected by the freeze. In Washington, where most Anna's seem to be permanent residents, there were *no* reports this spring. We hope this is due to lack of reporting and not a severe decline.

Along Puget Sound, where Lewis' Woodpeckers have been rare since the 1940s, one was at Burlington May 19-22 (K & JW). Two Acorn Woodpeckers were at the only known Washington breeding locale at Lyle Mar. 16 (EH). There were 3 reports of migrant Red-naped Sapsuckers on the west side, where rare: one at Hammond, Clatsop, OR Apr. 21 (MP), one near Elma, Grays Harbor, WA, Apr. 20 (BT) and one in Portland May 27-28 (Paul Osborn, Steve Jagers). Black-backed Woodpeckers were still in good numbers in the large burn of fall 1990 near Bend (TC).

Migrant flycatchers were more conspicuous than ever in many observers' experience. A storm system in the Rogue valley on the night of May 17 grounded large numbers of wood-pewees, *Empidonax* and Ash-throated Flycatchers (MM). Similarly, night rainstorms in the Richland, WA, area May 17 & 18 grounded unprecedented numbers of wood-pewees and *Empidonax* (BW). In the Portland area, unusually large concentrations of *Empidonax* were noted May 11-18 (GL), a period with 2 successive cold fronts. Many migrant Hammond's and 'Western' Flycatchers were still in s. Oregon May 26-27 (HN), probably delayed by inclement weather in May. A Least Flycatcher at Fields May 26-27 (JG) was the only report. Seventeen reports of W. Kingbirds from w. Washington (m.ob.) is appreciably above average.

SWALLOWS TO WRENS

Hundreds of Violet-green and Barn swallows over Green Lake in Seattle May 18 (Martin Muller) were probably delayed migrants, as most are generally on territory

by this date. After last winter's invasion, a few **Blue Jays** attempted the unthinkable (or so we thought) and attempted to *breed* in both states! Pairs were attempting to nest in Hermiston, *Umatilla*, OR, during April (CC, GL) and near Waitsburg, *Walla Walla*, WA (M & MLD) during May. Single Blue Jays lingered until mid-April in *Pierce* and *Yakima* in Washington (PtSu, Jan Mawrey) and an even later bird was on Lewis Peak, *Walla Walla*, May 19 (Dave Herr). Single Scrub Jays in West Seattle during the first half of May (*fide* Mark Egger) and in Bend, OR, May 15 (Kathi Crabtree) are indicators that Scrub Jays are continuing to expand their range. American Crows were found at 3 locations in the heart of the Columbia Basin in Washington (AS, RH, BT), an area that previously had been wanting in crows.

Two Plain Titmice at Table Rock, *Lake*, May 15 (SS) extend the known range in e. Oregon north about 70 miles. The phenomenal Bewick's Wren range expansion into the interior continued, in spite of the severe winter. In Oregon, they were found in the Tygh valley, *Wasco* and downstream in the Deschutes drainage to the Columbia during March (DL, Don Pederson). In Washington, a singing bird present on Columbia N.W.R. Mar. 27 (RH) was assumed to be nesting, and two adults were feeding three fledglings at the Little Spokane R. Natural Area May 18 (JeW). Both of these are significant expansions of breeding range.

THRUSHES TO FINCHES

In general, most locales reported the first Swainson's Thrushes in early to mid-May, which is later than usual. There were an unusual number of Townsend's Solitaires reported from w. Washington (16) and the Columbia Basin (14); they are scarce migrants in both areas.

The usual scattering of N. Mockingbird reports included one at O.S. Apr. 26 (Ted Mallory), three reports from the Rogue valley (*fide* MM), one at Hermiston, *Umatilla*, OR May 20 (MC), and two at Burns Jct., *Malheur*, OR, May 26-27 (DA, DL, TS). The wintering Brown Thrasher at Frenchglen, OR, was last seen Apr. 27 (TC, SS, CM). There were four Loggerhead Shrikes found west of the Cascades, more than usual. One was at Steigerwald N.W.R., WA, Apr. 1 (WC) for a first *Clark* record, one in Ashland, OR Mar. 23 (Ray Skibby) had probably wintered locally, and singles were at Dayton, *Yamhill*, OR, Mar. 22 (Tom Love) and at Agness, *Curry*, OR, May 18 (AB).

Over 200 Warbling Vireos were counted in a Portland park May 15 (GL), almost equalling the number of warblers found there that day. Three days later, the vireo count had dropped to 20. The peak warbler count in the same park was May 11, when GL counted 60 Orange-crowned, 200 Yellow-rumped, 90 Townsend's, 50 Black-throated Gray, and small numbers of Nashville and Hermit warblers. By the 15th, warbler numbers in the park had "dropped" to 80 Yellow-rumped, 80 Townsend's, 15 Black-throated Gray, 40 Wilson's and a small number of Orange-crowned and Nashville warblers (GL), and the total warbler count was below 100 on the 18th. The numbers on the 11th and 15th are unprecedented migratory counts for our Region. Other outstanding warbler counts included 75 Townsend's Warblers in one tree in Bend May 18 (TC), large numbers of at least five species of warblers in Ashland, OR, May 18 (OS), 100 Orange-crowned Warblers at Naches, *Yakima*, WA May 2 (Debie Brown), 400+ Orange-crowns at Bayocean Spit, OR, May 11 (BB), and 100+ Townsend's and Black-throated

Gray Warblers on Mt. Pleasant, *Skamania*, WA Apr. 29 (WC). Vagrant warblers records this spring were limited to the regular vagrants, all but one from eastern Oregon. A Tennessee Warbler was at Fields May 25 (DFi), three Black-and-White Warblers were found May 22-31 (Gayle Stokes, Sally Gould, BT), two Ovenbirds were at Malheur May 27-28 (TC, Bing Wong, JJ), and a N. Waterthrush was at Malheur May 28 (PMu, LW).

Western Tanagers were unusually conspicuous in migration, primarily during the May 18-19 weekend, when MM noted 15 in Ashland, GL found 40 in a Portland park, and good movements were noted in both *Wasco* (DL) and at DeMoss Park (TS). In Washington, 28 were at a park in Seattle May 7 (RT). There were 2 reports of Indigo Bunting in Oregon, where rare in spring: a male at Brookings on the early date of May 8 (Colin Dillingham) and a male at Malheur May 28 (PMu, LW). Two singing Grasshopper Sparrows at Baskett Slough N.W.R. from May 27 on (†BB) were *Polk* firsts; they breed sporadically in w. Oregon. Large numbers of Lark Sparrows, 40+ per flock, were still migrating through s.e. Oregon in the last days of May (BT, HN), which is very late. Eleven White-throated Sparrows were found on the east-side during May (m.ob.), better than average.

Tricolored Blackbirds continue to expand in Oregon. The Portland colony had at least nine pairs (*fide* JG), at least three males were at Ankeny N.W.R. from May 23 through the end of the period (†BB) for a first *Marion* record, 60 were near Wamic, *Wasco* at a new nesting site Apr. 27 (DL, DA, PMu, LW) and one was near Prineville Mar. 16 (TC). In Washington, the second single person sight record of this species was near Othello, *Adams* May 19 (SJ), there are no confirmed records for the state. Rosy Finches

at Banks, *Washington* Apr. 8 (Gene Herb) and at Sauvie May 13 (NL) were unexpected; they are very rare at any season in the western Oregon lowlands. Red Crossbills were almost absent until May when a few began to appear (PMa, VN, JA). Small numbers of Pine Siskins were reported throughout the Region (HN, G & WH). A ♂ Com. Redpoll near Nehalem, OR, May 12 (PS *et al.*) was very late as well as out of place on the outer coast.

Initialed observers: (subregional editors in boldface) Jim Acton, David Anderson, Alan Barron, **Barb Bellin** (Salem area), **Thais Bock** (Tacoma area), Wilson Cady, Craig & Marion Corder, **Tom Crabtree** (e. Oregon), Jack Davis, Mike & Merry Lynn Denny, Ray Ekstrom, **Merlin & Elsie Eltzroth** (Corvallis area), Darrell Faxon, Dave Fix (DFi), Anthony Floyd, Randy Hill, Glen & Wanda Hoge, Eugene Hunn, Jim Johnson, Stuart Johnston, Patti Jubrias, Bob Kuntz, Nick Lethaby, Gerard Lillie, Robert Loehning, Donna Lusthoff, **Phil Mattocks** (Washington), Kathy Merrifield, Craig Miller, **Marjorie Moore** (Rogue valley), Pat Muller, Roger Muskat, **Harry Nehls** (w. Oregon), Vic Nelson, Mike Patterson, Dennis Paulson, Bob & Georgia Ramsey, **Tom Rogers** (e. Washington), Skip Russell, Howard Sands, Tim Shelmerdine, **Dory & Stan Smith** (Olympic Peninsula), Andy Stepnewski, Patrick Sullivan (PtSu), Paul Sullivan, Steve Summers, Otis Swisher, Rob Thorn, **Carol Vande Voorde** (Clarkston area), Rick Vetter, Jerry Wahl (JWa), Terry Wahl, Washington Department of Wildlife (W.D.W.), Linda Weiland, Keith & Jan Wiggers, Jeff Wisman (JeW), Bob Woodley—**BILL TWEIT, P.O. Box 1271, Olympia, WA 98507, and JEFF GILLIGAN, 26 N.E. 32nd Ave., Portland, OR 97232.**

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

David G. Yee,
Stephen F. Bailey, and
Bruce E. Deuel

Highlighting the spring season were heavy rains in "Miracle March." It did not put an end to the state's five-year drought but brought local relief to water-related nesting birds, such as waterfowl and Tricolored Blackbirds. The Region logged its greatest number of hours on far-offshore waters this spring.

As expected, Murphy's Petrel was the most common bird; interesting information was obtained on their timing and distribution. Introduced Red Fox continued to ravage waterbird nesting colonies. More will be said on this issue next season. Among landbirds, most observers felt that many wintering birds

departed late and that spring migrants arrived about two weeks later than normal. Mentioned by many were the exceptional numbers of migrants, especially among warblers and empids. It was widely felt to be one of their best springs ever.



Abbreviations: C.C.R.S. (Coyote Creek Riparian banding Station, Santa Clara Co.); C.V. (Central Valley); D.F.G. (Department of Fish and Game); F.I. (Southeast Farallon Island); I.C.R. (Inner Coast Range); S.F. (San Francisco); ph. (photo on file with Regional Editors). All records from F.I. and Palomarin should be credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory (P.R.B.O.).

LOONS TO TUBENOSES

Our most inland Red-throated Loon was at Whiskeytown L., Shasta, May 17 (RE). A "huge die-off" of Eared Grebes was noted at Mono L. Apr. 27, with 354++ carcasses found (ES).

Excitement was created by a Laysan Albatross on Whiskeytown L. Mar. 15-24 (BVdM, m.ob., *H.S.U.). When the carcass was in hand, the "wound" on its forehead proved to be a neat rectangle of thick paint that the bird could not have acquired accidentally (BY, BED). Chances that this bird was hand-painted yet wandered to Shasta on its own are virtually nil. Another Laysan Albatross was found on Alameda streets on April Fool's Day (LRF) and was taken to rehabilitation. Seven Laysans were sighted offshore

Monterey to Marin, in their element. A N. Fulmar in S.F. Bay at Hayward Shoreline Mar. 23 was associated with high winds (RJR).

Murphy's Petrel continued to make news. A research cruise Apr. 7-11 logged 122 individuals, including 86 in Monterey waters, one for Santa Cruz (both county firsts), and 35 in San Mateo (†ph. DR). This cruise found Murphy's Petrel to be the most common bird far offshore. Three long-day birding trips from Marin to San Mateo May 3-5 counted from 75 to 171 Murphy's per day (JM, PP, SFB, ph. m.ob.), but another trip on May 11 that repeated the route of the highest count found



Laysan Albatross west of Southeast Farallon Island, California, May 3, 1991. Note the brown back extending posteriorly, thus making the white rump into a "U." Photograph/Adrian Wander.

"only" 47 (BHi, †GMcC). A research cruise in this area May 16-21 tallied 118 (SFB, P. Jones). Decreasing counts after May 5 suggest that the local population peaks in late April and early May, concordant with past results (AB 43(3):400-415). On the April cruise, Murphy's were most numerous at the lower edge of the continental slope, but by May most had concentrated over the middle to lower continental slope at 800-1800 fathoms.

Cook's Petrels did not follow the Murphy's up the continental slope but were only found over very deep water. Fifteen were 40-100 mi off Monterey Apr. 8-10 (†DR), five were 75-78 mi s.w. of Pigeon Pt. May 5 (SFB, ph. J. O'Brien, m.ob.), and two were in the latter area May 11 (†GMcC, RAE, m.ob.). Black-vented Shearwater sightings at F.I. Mar. 1 & 4 were late.

BITTERNS TO WATERFOWL

An Am. Bittern at Mono L. Apr. 28 (HG, PDG) established the first Mono Basin spring record. Introduced Red Foxes destroyed the entire nesting attempt at San Mateo's Bair I. heronry, prompting a few Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets, 100 Snowy Egrets, and 200 Black-crowned Night-Herons to relocate to the Redwood Shores sewer ponds (DSS). Santa Clara's Snowy Egret x Little Blue Heron was observed paired to a Snowy Egret in the Alviso heronry May 4 (PJM, MJM). Rare e. of the Sierra crest, a Green-backed Heron was in Sierra Valley, Plumas, May 22 (LJ, KL, B. Harnack). If accepted by the C.B.R.C., an ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron reported from Bodega Bay May 4 (†E. Hutchinson) would be the first in the Region since 1981. Three n. coast, 2 c. coast, and 10 inland reports of White-faced Ibis were about as many as in the last 2 springs; numbers were lower, with 80 in Sierra Valley May 26 (WEH, SMS, v. Vandermeer) the largest group reported.

A Trumpeter Swan on the e. shore of Goose L., Modoc, Apr. 28 (†JCS) was very rare for spring. An unusual hybrid, thought to be a Greater White-fronted Goose x Brant, was described from Staten I., San Joaquin, Mar. 2 (†DGY). The Emperor Geese wintering at Pt.

Reyes and F.I. were last seen Mar. 10 (fide JM) & 28 (fide PP), respectively. Rare but regular in spring, a light-bellied Brant was at Bolinas Lagoon Mar. 14 (KH). Five Eur. Green-winged Teal reports included four c. coast birds and one at Lower Klamath N.W.R. Apr. 23 (RE), where they have not been reported since 1980.

Reports of hybrid *Aythya* included a Ring-necked Duck X scaup sp. from L. Merritt, Alameda, Mar. 20-21 (SGI, RJR) and a Tufted Duck X scaup sp. from the Ceres sewer ponds, San Joaquin, May 5-6 (B. Lenz, HMR). There is considerable research interest in these hybrids. Without documentation, however, these records will be of little use to future researchers. Of seven Tufted Ducks reported around S.F. Bay, three were known to have wintered; a male was described from Glen Cove, Solano, Mar. 16-22 (†MBG, DTK, JMR); the other three were undescribed. Without descriptions it cannot be determined how many birds were involved. A King Eider was well described from Monterey Harbor Mar. 18 (†B. Fall).

RAPTORES

A Mississippi Kite was well seen at Pinnacles N.M., San Benito, May 12 (†H. Peeters). Perhaps the same bird was reported 9 hours later at Shoreline Park, Santa Clara (†P. Stevens). There are only 2 accepted records for the Region, both from autumn. An imm. Bald Eagle was late at Livermore May 28 (ALE).

Two large flocks of Swainson's Hawks were seen at harvesting operations: 29 near Westley, Stanislaus, Apr. 13 (DSg, DL) and 60-70 n. of Tracy, San Joaquin, Apr. 20 (DGY, WRH). These seem to be mostly nonbreeders; 80% of the Tracy flock were in imm. plumage (DGY). Migrating Swainson's Hawks strayed toward the coast: singles in Santa Clara Apr. 9 (PJM) & 29 (SBT) were that county's first in over a decade; other singles were in Monterey Mar. 20 (RFT) and Apr. 14 (DR, R. Carratello). "Only a crazy county lister would follow a kettle" of five Swainson's Hawks as they passed over corners of Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz Apr. 5 (†KVV)! An ad.

Ferruginous Hawk near Cedarville, *Modoc*, at least to May 24 (DS *fide* JCS, BED, JCS) was in a likely nesting area. The first California nestings were confirmed in 1988 and 1989 (AB 44(5):1182). A very late Merlin May 15, 5 mi s. of Jamestown, *Tuolumne*, was "harassing birds in oak savanna" (DES).

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS

Single Black Rails were found at 2 new locations from the interior of the Suisun Marsh, *Solano*, May 22 & 24 (B. Grewell). Clapper Rails were also noted at 4 new interior locales in this marsh Apr. 21–May 24 (B. Grewell). Is the drought increasing salinity in this area? Out-of-range Com. Moorhens were in Eureka May 19 (MHM) and near Mono L. Apr. 26–29 (D. Parker). A flock of 120 Sandhill Cranes at the Smith R. estuary, *Del Norte*, Mar. 16 (B. Fazio) constitutes an unprecedented number for the n. coast. A nest found on Hwy 49 w. of Sierraville May 18 (WEH) is apparently a first *Sierra* record.

Rarely recorded in spring, four *dominica* Lesser Golden-Plovers were at Bird's Landing, *Solano*, May 1 (RS). A Snowy Plover at Big L. in Fall River Valley May 11 (RE) provided a first *Shasta* record. Mountain Plovers invaded *Solano*, where about 300 were seen near Hwy 113 between Fairfield and Rio Vista Mar. 11–20 (m.ob.). Solitary Sandpipers were noted in slightly above average numbers, with 18 coastal reports Apr. 13–May 12 and inland birds at Bend, *Tehama*, Apr. 16 (†BAP), *Sierra Valley* Apr. 28 (†LJ, †KL, †M. McCormick) (a *Plumas* first), and Fall River Mills, *Shasta*, May 1–2 (JCS). Whimbrels were widespread and numerous inland, establishing a first *Shasta* record with a lone bird in Fall River Valley May 11 (RE). Five Marbled Godwits, extremely rare transients in *Mono*, were at Alkali Lakes Apr. 25 (ES), while 121 on Lower Klamath N.W.R. Apr. 27 (RE) were exceptional numbers inland. Other "coastal" shorebirds inland included a Ruddy Turnstone at Lower Klamath N.W.R. May 19 (RE); a Ruddy Turnstone and a Red Knot there May 23 (JCS); and three

Sanderlings near Stratford, *Kings*, May 25 (DGY, WRH). Five Semipalmated Sandpipers were found, with one at Fall River Mills May 14 (JCS) being a *Shasta* first. Baird's Sandpipers were at Redwood Shores Mar. 30 (RSTh) and Mono L. Apr. 27 & 28 (HG, PDG; two birds). With few spring records, a Silt Sandpiper at Bird's Landing May 1 (RS) was noteworthy.

LARIDS, ALCIDS

We have few spring records of Long-tailed Jaeger, but as boat trips beyond the continental slope become regular, so should this species. Six far offshore *Marin* May 3 (JM, m.ob.) were followed by three more over the next 2 days (PP, m.ob.). A S. Polar Skua at Pioneer Seamount, *San Mateo*, May 18 (SFB, P. Jones) was doubly rare; it was both unseasonal and a light morph.

Five ad. Franklin's Gulls at Lower Klamath N.W.R. May 27 (BY, CY) matched the last 2 years' highs at this 1989 nesting site (AB 43(5):1363). Four other adults were coastal; five immatures were from the coast to S.F. Bay and the Stockton sewage ponds. An ad. Little Gull foraged at Ravenswood, *San Mateo*, Mar. 31 (†PJM). A migration of 80 Herring Gulls far offshore *Monterey* Apr. 8 (DR) made this species the 2nd most common species in that zone after Murphy's Petrel—two species that are not numerically dominant in the rest of California. Thirteen imm. Glaucous Gulls lingered into spring, and a rare adult was at Alviso Apr. 18 (PJM). An imm. Black-legged Kittiwake at Sunnyvale Apr. 8 (PJM) was *Santa Clara's* 3rd.

An Elegant Tern at the Pajaro R. mouth Apr. 12 (CKf) was early, but nothing like the spring invasions of 1987 and 1988. A Black Tern was coastal at Bolinas Lagoon Apr. 29 (KH). Around S.F. Bay, two were at Alviso May 4 (PJM, MJM) and up to 13 were at Hayward Shoreline May 5–15 (RJR, JMR). As now expected, all 5 boat trips far offshore in May found Horned Puffins, three to 15 birds per trip.

OWLS TO HUMMINGBIRDS

California D.F.G.'s Spotted Owl census found an impressive 102

nest sites this spring in the Mendocino coast study area. However, only one-third of them fledged young (S. Bunnell). The sporadic nesting of Long-eared Owl in the Region is always of interest, so single birds just s. of the Carmel Valley at Rancho San Carlos and Upper San Jose Cr., *Monterey*, Apr. 20 (SAL) in suitable habitat were duly acknowledged. A Short-eared Owl at Mono L. Apr. 27 (HG, PDG) provided only the 2nd recent spring record for the Mono Basin, where they formerly nested.

Up to 14 courting Lesser Nighthawks in e. *Sacramento* Apr. 30–May 28 (TDM) indicated how common they are as breeders along the e. edge of the C.V. For the 2nd consecutive spring, the n. coast experienced a deluge of migrating Black Swifts, this time along the *Del Norte* coastline, where 670+ were observed at the Smith R. estuary May 17–18 (ADB). Singles early over Alamo Apr. 13 (JMR) and Hayward Shoreline May 22 (RJR) were casual for the S.F. East Bay, while one over Bolinas Lagoon May 12 (PP) and two over Inverness May 26 (DaS) were noteworthy as there are surprisingly few *Marin* spring records. One over Lodi L. May 17 (DGY) was one of few records for the n. C.V. The rains in "Miracle March" were felt to be responsible for 20+ White-throated Swifts found dying at nest sites at Stanford University (C. Dawson). Fortunately most were rehabilitated.

With the continuous monitoring of numerous Black-chinned Hummingbirds at C.C.R.S. since 1988 (AB 43:163), it was not too surprising that *Santa Clara's* first nests since 1907 were found May 5 & 12 (MJM). A ♀ Anna's Hummingbird at Tom's Place May 21–22 (CDHa) was the Mono Basin's 2nd in spring. Among extralimital Costa's Hummingbirds, three coastally Mar. 8–Apr. 13 were typical, but one at Trimmer Ranger Station, *Fresno*, Apr. 12 (DN) was one of few spring Sierran records.

FLYCATCHERS TO WRENS

The first arrival date for W. Wood-Pewee was Apr. 30, the bird's latest first arrival in 13 years. This may represent the

S.A.

The Region experienced Empid euphoria this spring, as migrant Dusky and Gray flycatchers were found in record numbers (22 and 18, respectively), with Pacific-slopes also tallying a hefty total (75 banded at C.C.R.S.). But their noted movements were pale in comparison to those of Hammond's. Conservatively, 177 Hammond's were found away from known breeding grounds Apr. 4–May 23. Our prior high count was 21 in 1989! The peak period was early May, illustrated by the 47 on Mt. Diablo, *Contra Costa*, May 3 (RJR, DSI) and 12 at Oak Grove Park, Stockton, May 12 (DGY). Consistent with previous years, the majority were found in the Diablo Range of the I.C.R. and the Delta region of the C.V.; the immediate coast reported no action save three Hammond's between *San Mateo* and S.F., and a Dusky at Pescadero Marsh May 19 (RSTh). Worthy of note were Sutter Butte's first Hammond's Flycatchers May 11–13 (†WA, four birds), *Stanislaus's* first Dusks in Del Puerto Canyon Apr. 30 (JMR) and at the Mapes Ranch May 2 (SBT), and the first Grays for the Sutter Buttes Apr. 27 (PBS, BED) and *Napa n.* of Rector Canyon May 3 (†MBG).

"late migration" of landbirds noted by many observers.

The C.V. floor in *San Joaquin* and *Stanislaus* does not normally experience a strong movement of Violet-green Swallow in spring but reported good numbers throughout March (DGY, HMR). A pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches excavating a hole in a nectarine tree in early April in n. Stockton fledged young by mid-June (B. & M. Genetti). This established only the 2nd nesting for the C.V. The first was in Fresno, 1978. Pygmy Nuthatch made natal news in the S.F. East Bay: *Alameda's* 2nd nesting was at Joaquin Miller Park, Oakland, Apr. 9–Mar. 31 (RJR); *Contra Costa's* 3rd was at Redwood Regional Park Apr. 2 (RJR, GF, KGH). The Winter Wren at Mono L. May 26 (M. Findling) was exceptionally late.

THRUSHES TO WOOD WARBLERS

Nearly all our April Swainson's Thrush records are from the coast; one along Patterson Pass Road, *Alameda*, Apr. 13 (RJR, R. Cimino) was very early for the interior. Over 30 Swainson's at Oak Grove Regional Park, *San Joaquin*, May 8 (WRH) on an overcast morning showed their regularity in the C.V. when conditions are right. A Varied Thrush at Mt. Diablo May 28 (KGH) was exceptionally late, especially inland. The Brown Thrasher s. of lower Carmel Valley May 5 (SAL, P. Williams) was only the Region's 4th in May. A singing Le Conte's Thrasher was again seen in the Kettleman Hills, *Fresno*, May 12 (DR, R. Canatello). Our only N. Shrike away from traditional locales was an adult w. of Delevan N.W.R., *Colusa*, Mar. 18 (†GFi, KGH). For the 2nd consecutive spring, a **Yellow-throated Vireo** was found on the c. coast: Inverness May 26–June 3 (†DDeS, RS).

A Virginia's Warbler was unexpected in the Kettleman Hills May 12 (†DR, R. Canatello); all previous spring records were either from F.I. or the e. side of the Sierra. Another on F.I. May 29–30 played a more traditional role. A ♂ N. Parula at Sweetwater Cr., *El Dorado*, May 11 (SMS, VLV, WEH) was very rare for the Sierran foothills, while single males at S.F. May 21 (D. Kelly), Olema May 26–30 (DaS, m.ob.), and Stinson Gulch, *Marin*, May 30 (DaS) were at more expected sites. Townsend's Warbler epitomized the impressive warbler waves in the I.C.R. and C.V. in early May, illustrated by 250 on Mt. Diablo May 3 (R. Cimino), 65+ in the Sutter Buttes May 4 (PBS), and 60 along the Stanislaus R. at Ripon, *San Joaquin*, May 6 (DGY, WRH). Single coastal Palm Warblers at McKinleyville May 7 (RLeV) and aboard a research boat in Monterey Bay June 3 (†D. Hunt) were fewer than in past springs; one inland in the Killgore Hills May 12 (†RE) was *Siskiyou's* first. Rare in spring, Blackpoll Warblers were at Pt. Reyes May 16 (D. Wallace) and F.I. May 19 & 21–23.

The Black-and-white Warbler at Arcata Bottoms Mar. 2 (R. Hewitt) certainly wintered, while three other n. coastal birds

Apr. 10–May 25 were spring migrants. Our usual quota of *Seiurus* was fulfilled by an Ovenbird at Palomarin May 22 and single N. Waterthrushes at the n. spit of Humboldt Bay May 22 (BA) and F.I. May 23. A Kentucky Warbler at Lee Vining May 27–28 (†M. Findling, S. Miller) was only the 2nd for the interior in spring.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

The ♂ Summer Tanager in Oakland Mar. 11–Apr. 5 (N. Dutcher, MFi, †HG) likely wintered. Despite W. Tanager being a common migrant throughout most of the Region, it is surprisingly rare along the S.F. East Bay coast: one at Hayward Shoreline May 4 was "one of few records" (RJR); three in an Alameda yard May 3–24 were the first since 1977 (P. Donato), and none were caught at C.C.R.S. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks ^{1st}/₂ Woodside, *San Mateo*, Mar. 31–Apr. 5 (B. Bessey, AdW) and Redwood Valley, *Mendocino*, Apr. 16 (P. & S. Baldwin) were probably checking out from a local winter visit, while a male in Lee Vining May 30–31 (JMHu, M. Findling) wore the vagrant label. For the 2nd year in a row, an extremely early Blue Grosbeak was at San Luis N.W.R. Apr. 7 (JMR). A female returned to *Monterey's* newly discovered nesting site in the upper Salinas Valley Apr. 14 (DR, BGE). Blue Grosbeak was suspected of breeding in *Shasta* for the 2nd straight spring, as Redding had a pair May 15 (BY) and a persistently singing male May 16 (RE). The bird's n. breeding frontier in the C.V. has generally been *Glenn* and *Butte*. A Lazuli Bunting in Sonoma Apr. 5 (K. Nagel) was almost record early.

Mount Diablo served up single Green-tailed Towhees May 14–19 (KGH, E. Burhmann) & 26 (D. Wight); they are rarely detected in migration. The wintering Clay-colored Sparrow at Half Moon Bay lingered until Apr. 28 (G. Deghi), and one of the wintering birds at Pine Gulch Cr., *Marin*, remarkably, remained until May 28 (DaS). Coastally, Brewer's Sparrow made its best spring showing ever, with four at F.I. Apr. 22–June 6 and two along the n. coast May 13–19. Single birds e

of Galt Apr. 18 and at Rancho Seco Park May 12 (both TDM) were the 7th and 8th recent records for the greater Sacramento area (TDM).

Breeding bird atlassing at Sherman Island W.M.A. produced a Savannah Sparrow Apr. 27 (†TDM) that strongly resembled the resident coastal form, never recorded in *Sacramento*. A singing Grasshopper Sparrow just s. of Jamestown, *Tuolumne*, May 16 (DES) had little precedent from this area. Their status in the Sierran foothills is very poorly understood. A Swamp Sparrow s. of Tracy, *San Joaquin*, Apr. 20 (RJR) was probably a genuine spring migrant, very rare away from F.I. An apparent White-crowned X White-throated sparrow that wintered in Sacramento Dec. 28–Apr. 8 (†TDM, AM) was banded and well studied. Among winter's rare juncos, the assumed wintering "Gray-headed" at Tom's Place, *Mono*, was last seen Mar. 9 (CDHa); the "White-winged" Junco in San Rafael departed on a stormy Mar. 23 (CLF). A Lapland Longspur at Point St. George May 17 (JKI, ABD) became/the Region's latest by a day, though there are questionable birds in June and July. Singles at Redwood Shores Apr. 5–9 (RSTh *et al.*) and Mendocino Headlands Apr. 29 (SCa) were additional noteworthy migrants.

The rains of "Miracle March" were felt to be responsible for a new colony of 50+ Tricolored Blackbirds in Pancho Rico Canyon, *Monterey*, May 18 (DR). But the overall drought conditions seemed ripe for Brown-headed Cowbirds, as 1000+ in the lowlands of *Del Norte* Apr. 27 (ADB) had little precedent this late into the season. A ♂ **Scott's Oriole** in San Antonio Valley, *Santa Clara*, Apr. 20 (†H. Karr, C. Morris) was the Region's 10th. Our only extralimital Cassin's Finch was a male e. of Ft. Ross, *Mendocino*, Mar. 31 (DnB).

Addendum: Concerning the Spotted Owls nesting in 2nd-growth forests mentioned in AB 45:317, it should be noted that these nestings occurred where the 2nd-growth forests were very similar to ancient forests; e.g., where there was at least a 60% canopy

Cited Contributors: (Subregional editors in boldface.) Many more contributors were not specifically cited; all are appreciated. **Brooks B. Allen**, Walt Anderson, Stephen F. Bailey, **Alan D. Barron**, Dennis Beall (DnB), **William G. Bousman**, California Birds Records Committee (C.B.R.C.), Steve Cardwell (SCa), David DeSante (DDeS), **Bruce E. Deuel**, Arthur L. Edwards, Ray Ekstrom, Bruce G. Elliot, Richard A. Erickson, Carter L. Faust, Leora R. Feeney, Mike Feighner (MiF), George Finger (GFi), **Ron H. Gerstenberg**, Steve Glover, **Helen Green**, Paul D. Green, Marguerite B. Gross, Keith Hansen, Charlotte D. Harbeson (CDHa), W. Edward Harper, Kevin G. Hinst, Bob Hirt (BH), Waldo R. Holt, Humboldt State University (H.S.U.), Joan M. Humphrey (JMHu), **Lin Jensen**, **Robert J. Keiffer**, Clay Kempf (CKf), Jeff Kingery (JKI), Karen Laslo, Stephen A. Laymon, **Robin L.C. Leong**, Ronald LeValley (RLeV), Donna Lion, Michael J. Mammoser, Annette Manolis, **Timothy D. Manolis**, Guy McCaskie (GMcC), **Peter J. Metropulos**, **Joseph Morlan**, Michael H. Morris, Dan Nelson, Barbara Peck, Peter Pyle, **Harold M. Reeve**, **Jean M. Richmond**, Robert J. Richmond, **Michael F. Robbins** (MFRb), **Don Roberson**, **Ruth A. Rudesill**, Peter B. Sands, Donald E. Schmoltdt, Susan M. Scott, David Shuford, David Sibley (DaS), Dianne Sierra (DSi), Daniel Singer (DSg), Rich Stallcup, Donald S. Starks, John C. Sterling, **Bradley M. Stovall**, **Emilie Strauss**, **David L. Suddjian** (DLSu), David Takeuchi (DTk), Scott B. Terrill, Ronald S. Thorn (RSTh), Robert F. Tintle, **Kent Van Vuren**, Bill Von der Mehden (BVdM), Adrian Wander (AdW), **Jerry R. White**, **David G. Yee**, **Bob Yutzy**, Carol Yutzy.—STEPHEN F. BAILEY (loons through tubenoses, raptors, larids, and alcids), Dept. of Ornithology and Mammalogy, Calif. Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118; BRUCE E. DEUEL (bitterns through waterfowl, rails through shorebirds), 18730 Live Oak Rd., Red Bluff, CA 96080; DAVID G. YEE (owls through finches), 2930 Driftwood Pl., #39, Stockton, CA 95219.

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Guy McCaskie

Heavy rains in March brought much needed water to the Region, giving us a fantastic show of wildflowers in the desert throughout most of April and May and replacing water in reservoirs. In general, temperatures were cooler than normal, with strong winds prevailing over the deserts much of the time. Migrant landbirds were considered later than usual, and in much lower than normal numbers in desert portions of the Region. Along the coast, most observers felt that the procession of fronts that moved down the coast from Alaska during March delayed migrants; but this was followed by an impressive influx of birds in early April, with observers in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties considering the number of migrants in April the largest in memory.

Abbreviations: C.L.N.W.C. (*China Lake Naval Weapons Center, extreme n.e. Kern Co.*); E.A.F.B. (*Edwards Air Force Base, s.e. Kern Co.*); F.C.R. (*Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley, Inyo Co.*); H.D.L. (*Harper Dry Lake, n.w. of Barstow, San Bernardino Co.*); N.E.S.S. (*north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.*); S.B.C.M. (*San Bernardino County Museum*); S.E.S.S. (*south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co.*). As virtually all rarities in s. California are seen by many observers, only the observer initially identifying the bird is included. Documentation is on file with the California Bird Records Committee (c/o Michael A. Patten, P.O. Box 8612, Riverside, CA 92515) for all rarities listed in this report. Records submitted without documentation are not published.

LOONS TO PELICANS

A Pacific Loon flying N over the Salton Sea at Salton City June 2 (REW) was inland, where rare. A Horned Grebe in Victorville, *San Bernardino*, Apr. 13–14



(CMcG) was away from any known wintering locality and was considered a migrant. A Red-necked Grebe seen in flight 8 mi off Ventura Mar. 9 (PP) was s. of the species' normal winter range.

Close to 40 Laysan Albatrosses were seen from 50 to 200 mi off the s. California coast during a scientific survey cruise conducted by the Scripps Institute of Oceanography between Feb. 28 and Mar. 8 (PP), including four extremely close to San Nicolas I. that appeared to be attracted to the island. This species has recently colonized islands off Baja California, so attempted nesting on San Nicolas I. should be looked for in the future. A Laysan Albatross that hit a power line at S.E.S.S. May 9 (WRR, *S.B.C.M.) was the 7th found inland in s.e. California and s.w. Arizona. These birds reach this area by way of the Gulf of California. Three Cook's Petrels about 150 nautical mi s.w. of San Nicolas I. Feb. 28 (PP) were over deep waters where this species occurs regularly.

An ad. Red-billed Tropicbird seen on the water 79 nautical mi s.w. of San Nicolas I. Mar. 3 (PP) is one of a very few found in California waters this time of year. Three Brown Pelicans at N.E.S.S. May 11 (REW) were the first reported on the Salton Sea this year.

HERONS TO FALCONS

A Least Bittern on Vandenberg A.F.B., *Santa Barbara*, was in an area where few are found. The two Tricolored Herons that spent the winter around the mouth of the Tijuana R. near Imperial Beach were last seen Apr. 18 (PG); the subadult present near the mouth of the San Diego R. was last seen Apr. 20 (BP). An ad. Reddish Egret, a rare visitor to s. California, was photographed on San Elijo Lagoon near Solana Beach, *San Diego*, May 19 (RP).

As usual, a number of Brant passed through the s.e. portion of the Region during April and May as the population wintering within the Gulf of California moved northward to the Pacific Coast on its way to breeding grounds in the Arctic. One seen walking down a highway during a snow storm in the San Jacinto Mts., *Riverside*, Mar. 16 (RMcK), eight near Temecula, *Riverside*, Mar. 24 (SM), and five on L. Perris, *Riverside*, Mar. 25 (CMcG) were the earliest; four on Soda L. in the Carrizo Plains Apr. 13 (JK), up to five at H.D.L. Mar. 28–Apr. 10 (EAC), 25 on E.A.F.B. May 11 (MTH), and five photographed on Klondike L. near Big Pine, *Inyo*, May 2 (EG) were all outside the area of expected occurrence.

A Eur. Wigeon at S.E.S.S.

Apr. 13–May 11 (REW) was exceptionally late. The two Harlequin Ducks found around Point Mugu, *Ventura*, in November and December were still present June 2 (FH) and can be expected to spend the summer locally. Single Oldsquaws along the coast on Vandenberg A.F.B. May 3 (MMcE) and at Point Mugu May 12 (DD) were late; one at S.E.S.S. Apr. 30 (WRR) was inland, where it is very rare. Two Black Scoters still present at Point Mugu June 2 (FH) are undoubtedly attempting to spend the summer locally. The only reports of Surf Scoters from the interior were from the Salton Sea, with one at Salton City Mar. 17 (MAP), two at N.E.S.S. Apr. 3 (RMcK), and another there May 18 (REW). A White-winged Scoter at F.C.R. Mar. 27 (SEF) was at a most unusual locality; two at N.E.S.S. Apr. 13 through the end of the period (RMcK) were the only others found inland. A ♀ Hooded Merganser at F.C.R. Mar. 27 through at least June 1 (PEL) appeared destined to spend the summer at this locality.

Single Black-shouldered Kites around S.E.S.S. Mar. 4 (WRR) and May 4 (GMcC) were in an area where considered rare. One near Cantil in the Fremont Valley of extreme e. *Kern* May 11 (MOC) was far out on the high desert, and one n. of

Blythe May 27 (AME) is among fewer than ten ever found along the Colorado R. A N. Goshawk in the Lockwood Valley of *Ventura* May 24 (RJM) was close to a known nest site. A subad. Broad-winged Hawk at F.C.R. May 23 (T & JH) was one of very few found in California in spring. Swainson's Hawks appeared more numerous and widespread than usual. More than 130 were reported throughout the Region, including at least six along the immediate coast. The earliest were four over Santa Paula Mar. 5 (KK) and one over Encino Mar. 6 (JLD); 75 (virtually all sub-adult birds) at Oasis, *Mono*, June 1 (GMcC) was by far the largest flock. A pair of Zone-tailed Hawks was again present at the known nest site on Hot Springs Mt. in e. *San Diego* May 5 (DA). A Golden Eagle near Niland May 22 (DRW) was one of very few ever found in the area of the S.E.S.S. A Peregrine Falcon near Bishop, *Inyo*, May 9 (T & JH) was in an area where very few have been reported.

CRANES TO PUFFINS

A Sandhill Crane at Tinnemaha Res. in the Owens Valley Apr. 14 (T & JH) was the latest ever found in s. California and one of a very few found in this area of the state. At least 10 Black-bellied Plovers were found during April in the n.e. portion of the Region, where rare, including one at F.C.R. Apr. 17 (T & JH). The only Lesser Golden-Plovers reported were a *fulva* near Santa Maria Apr. 14–May 5 (KH), an exceptionally late *fulva* at the nearby Santa Maria R. mouth June 1 (DF), and 12 wintering *fulva* still present in Seal Beach May 5 (SM). Most unusual was a *Wilson's Plover* at the mouth of the Tijuana R. near Imperial Beach Apr. 9 (DP-C), there being only four previously accepted records for California.

More than the expected number of Solitary Sandpipers were reported, with 13 in the e. portion of the Region and another nine along the coast. One in Torrance, *Los Angeles*, Apr. 4 (MB) was the earliest, and one near Independence, *Inyo*, May 10 (AK) was the latest. A Wandering Tattler, casual inland, was at Salton City May 11 (CMcG) Large numbers of

Whimbrel clearly move N from the Gulf of California to the Central Valley each spring, passing through the Salton Sea and n.e. *Los Angeles*, indicated by such counts as 1500+ at S.E.S.S. May 4 (GMcC), 1000+ near Lancaster May 5 (MTH), and 440 in Bakersfield Apr. 28 (MOC). However, they are very rare along the e. side of the Sierra Nevada; hence, the 14 near Big Pine May 9 (T & JH) were unexpected.

Ruddy Turnstones were found on the Salton Sea between Apr. 13 and May 19, with more than 200 found at various points around the Sea May 10–11 (REW, RMcK). Away from the Salton Sea, one was on E.A.F.B. May 4 (DVB), and five were near Lost Hills, *Kern*, May 10 (GMcC). A Black Turnstone, very rare to casual inland, was at N.E.S.S. June 2 (REW). A Surf-bird, also very rare to casual inland, was photographed at Salton City Apr. 20 (MAP). As usual, Red Knots passed through the Salton Sea in April, with at least 300 counted there Apr. 21 (GMcC); however, one near Lancaster Apr. 21 (KLG) was the only one reported inland away from the Salton Sea. Two Sanderlings were at H.D.L. May 9 (EAC); single birds were near Lancaster May 5 and 18 (MTH); at least 20 were present on E.A.F.B. May 9–11 (MTH), with one more there May 25 (MTH); three were together near Lost Hills May 12 (GMcC), and another was near Big Pine May 19 (T & JH), this being far more than usual to be found inland away from the Salton Sea. At least 10 Semipalmated Sandpipers were found on the Salton Sea between May 4 & 19 (MAP, GMcC), with a high count of five at S.E.S.S. May 11 (REW); single birds were on E.A.F.B. Apr. 27 (MTH) and at C.L.N.W.C. May 26 (MTH); and two more were on the coast in Goleta May 7–9 (PEL), this being slightly more than expected in spring.

A brightly colored Little Stint, photographed at S.E.S.S. May 18 (REW), was the 5th reported in California since the first was identified in 1983, and is the first for spring. A Baird's Sandpiper, rare in spring, was photographed near Big Pine Mar. 22 (T & JH), and another was at the Santa Ynez R. mouth

Mar. 31 (BHi). A flock of 450 Stilt Sandpipers at S.E.S.S. May 11 (REW) was the largest number found on the Salton Sea this spring; two near Lakeview, *Riverside*, May 4 (WM) were the only ones reported away from the Salton Sea. A ♀ Ruff at C.L.N.W.C. May 11 (MTH) is the first found inland in s. California in spring.

Two S. Polar Skuas were seen between San Nicolas I. and San Clemente I. May 28 (McCesney); small numbers regularly visit the waters off s. California this time of year. A Laughing Gull at S.E.S.S. Apr. 7 (BL) was early. Franklin's Gulls appeared more numerous and widespread than normal, with about 60 reported between Apr. 11 and June 8. Most were in the e. portion of the Region, as expected, including one photographed in Victorville Apr. 11–14 (NZ) and 12 together at N.E.S.S. June 2–8 (REW). Three in Santa Barbara May 23 (CB) were the only ones found on the coast. A somewhat late Glaucous Gull at the Santa Ynez R. mouth, *Santa Barbara*, Apr. 2–6 (BHi) was followed by an even later individual in Oceano May 22 (TME) and what may have been the same bird in San Simeon June 12 (TME). Remarkable was a flock of 24 Sabine's Gulls at N.E.S.S. May 18 (REW), this species being very rare inland and normally occurring singly.

A Gull-billed Tern on s. San Diego Bay Apr. 5 (EC) was the earliest found this spring at this recently established nesting site on the coast. A Sandwich Tern with a flock of Elegant Terns on Malibu Lagoon, *Los Angeles*, May 20 (BE) was only the 2nd found in California. Two Com. Terns in San Diego Mar. 21 (GMcC) were suspected early spring migrants since none were present during the winter and others have been found here this same time in previous years. One on E.A.F.B. May 18 (MTH) was one of very few found inland away from the Salton Sea in spring. A Least Tern at Dirty Sock Spring on Owens L. June 4 (T & JH) was far inland, where it is considered casual to accidental, but is the 6th found in *Inyo*. A Black Tern in San Diego Apr. 26–27 (JB) was along the coast, where rare in spring.

Of extreme interest were two

Parakeet Auklets at 32°01'N 120°45'W (95 nautical mi WSW of San Nicolas I.) Mar 3 (PP) and another at 32°27'N 121°27'W (98 nautical mi W of San Nicolas I.) Mar. 6 (PP), these being the first healthy birds reported in s. California waters. Like the Horned Puffin, this species may prove a regular winter visitor to the deep waters far off the coast of California out to the Central Pacific (both species have reached the area of the n w Hawaiian Is.). A Tufted Puffin, very rare in s. California waters, was seen near the s. end of Santa Rosa I. May 22 (BB).

PIGEONS TO VIREOS

Single Band-tailed Pigeons at Panamint Springs, *Inyo*, May 5 (T & JH) & 27 (BED), and another at Galileo Hill, *Kern*, May 9 (MTH), were all far out on the desert, where most unusual. One on Pt. Loma in San Diego May 29 (REW) was on the s. coast, where it is rare. A Spotted Dove in Los Osos May 1 (BM) is the first of this introduced species to reach *San Luis Obispo*. Reports of White-winged Doves w. of the mountains included single birds on Pt. Loma in San Diego Mar. 17–21 (BFI), another there May 16 (REW), and one in Escondido, *San Diego*, May 29 (JMcN); one near Weldon, *Kern*, May 25 (SAL) was n.w. of this species' normal range. An Inca Dove 40 mi w. of Needles Apr. 6 (BL) was at an unusual locality. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Butterbreed Springs n.w. of Cantil May 26 (AC) was clearly a migrant and the only such bird reported this spring.

A Flammulated Owl on the tip of Pt. Loma in San Diego May 30–31 (REW) was the first found on the immediate coast of California in spring. Two Chimney Swifts over San Eljo Lagoon May 21 (REW) were the only ones reported this spring. Large numbers of Vaux's Swifts moved N along the coast, as indicated by 10,000 roosting on a building shaft in downtown Los Angeles Apr. 25 (KLG).

A ♂ Broad-billed Hummingbird, a very rare to casual straggler to California, was near Imperial Beach May 4 (BHa). A ♀ Anna's Hummingbird at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley Nat Mon May 18 (MAP) is one

of very few ever found in this area of California. A number of observers felt migrant that Calliope Hummingbirds were more numerous than usual along the coast, this being supported by the more than 25 reported there between Mar. 18 and May 5. A ♂ Broad-tailed Hummingbird near Big Pine, *Inyo*, Apr. 22 (T & JH) was followed by eight in this general area during May, giving an indication as to when this species arrives on breeding grounds in this area of California. An Acorn Woodpecker in Sand Canyon near Inyokern, *Kern*, Apr. 20 (JCW) was a long way from any known area of regular occurrence. A Red-naped Sapsucker at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley Nat. Mon. May 31 (T & JH) was most unusual considering the date.

The Greater Pewee spending its 3rd winter in San Diego was last seen Mar. 29 (PG). A W. Wood-Pewee near S.E.S.S. Apr. 7 (JLD) and another in Atascadero Apr. 8 (KZ) were unusually early. A Least Flycatcher, most unusual in spring, was at the end of the Saline Valley, *Inyo*, May 26 (DR). Since Dusky Flycatchers are rare along the immediate coast (Pacific-slope and Hammond's flycatchers are the two *Empidonax* commonly found along the coast in April and May), one on Pt. Loma in San Diego Apr. 28 (DP) and another in Huntington Beach May 5 (LRH) are of interest. More than the usual number of Vermilion Flycatchers were scattered throughout the n.e. portion of the Region, with single birds in Ridgecrest, *Kern*, Apr. 16-18 (TS), at Panamint Springs May 5 (T & JH), Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley Nat. Mon. May 27 (BED), Scotty's Castle May 31-June 1 (T & JH), and at Deep Springs, *Inyo*, June 1 (MAP). A Brown-crested Flycatcher on Pt. Loma in San Diego June 9 (REW) is only the 3rd ever reported along the coast and the first for *San Diego*. The only E. Kingbirds found were one in the e. portion of the Region at Galileo Hill in extreme e. *Kern* May 27-29 (MS) and another on the coast at Pt. Buchon, *San Luis Obispo*, June 10 (TT). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Upper Newport Bay, *Orange*, Mar 17-Apr 27

(BO'C) had probably spent the winter locally. One photographed at F.C.R. May 23 (BHe) and another on Pt. Bucon June 10 (TT) occurred at the time of the year that spring vagrants of this species are expected. A Purple Martin near Niland May 21 (DRW) was obviously a migrant, and in an area where few are found nowadays.

A Gray Catbird, a casual straggler to California, was near Butterbrecht Springs June 1 (DVB). Two Sage Thrashers at S.E.S.S. Mar. 1 (WRR), 22 near Lakeview Mar. 10 (VH), and another in Lompoc Mar. 8-9 (PR) were clearly migrants, this being the time of year this species passes through s. California. A Brown Thrasher, much rarer in spring than in fall, was photographed near Scotty's Castle May 25 (MAP). A territorial California Thrasher photographed in Sand Canyon at the s.e. corner of *Inyo* during April and May (T & JH) was at the w. extreme of this species' range. An Am. Pipit in Baker May 25 (MAP) was quite late. A Bell's Vireo at F.C.R. June 1 (MAP) is the first found in this area of California in nearly 15 years; another near Lompoc May 16-June 1 (PEL) was away from any known area of regular occurrence. A Red-eyed Vireo, a casual straggler, was at Deep Springs May 30 (PEL).

WOOD WARBLERS

A ♂ Golden-winged Warbler along Keys Creek in the interior of *San Diego* May 22 (EL) was at an unexpected locality for such a rare vagrant. Seventeen Tennessee Warblers between Apr. 20 and June 9 were fewer than expected. A Virginia's Warbler in Nipton, *San Bernardino*, May 5 (MAP), and five more at oases in *Inyo* during May (T & JH) were migrants away from known breeding localities. A Lucy's Warbler at C.L.N.W.C. May 18 (ST) is the first found in *Kern*. The only N. Parulas reported were single birds inland near Cantil May 16 (MTH) and near Weldon June 6 (MJF), and at Montana de Oro S.P. Apr. 30 (JSR), Vandenberg A.F.B. May 25-28 (KH), Goleta May 25 (MAH), Westminster June 1 (DRW), nearby Huntington Beach June 11-12 (SM), Pt. Loma Apr 20 (REW)

and May 18 (JM) along the coast. A Chestnut-sided Warbler near Weldon June 1 (MTH) was the only one reported. Single Magnolia Warblers were found near Oasis May 30 (T & JH), at F.C.R. May 27 (GMcC), near Weldon June 1 (DS), at Butterbrecht Springs June 1 (JF) and June 8 (MTH) in the interior, and in Los Osos June 2 (JSR) on the coast. One in Cuymaca State Park in the mountains of e. *San Diego* June 8 (JW) was at an unexpected locality for a vagrant.

The Cape May Warbler wintering in Costa Mesa remained through Apr. 18 (RAH). A ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler near Weldon June 9 (SAL) is one of very few ever found in California in spring. A Townsend's Warbler in the Piute Mts. of *Kern* June 8 (MOC) and another in Montana de Oro State Park June 9 (JSR) were both exceptionally late. A singing ♂ Blackburnian Warbler near Weldon May 31 (SAL) is only the 4th found in s. California in spring and is an addition to the *Kern* bird list. A Palm Warbler in Santa Barbara Apr. 24 (CL), one in Anaheim Mar. 5-7 (JPI), and another in San Diego Apr. 24 (DRW) may all have been wintering nearby, spring vagrants being exceptionally rare and not expected before late May. A ♂ Blackpoll Warbler, very rare in spring, was in Solana Beach, *San Diego*, May 18-21 (PG).

A Black-and-white Warbler on Pt. Loma Apr. 20 (REW) was a little early for a spring vagrant but was followed by only 11 more scattered throughout the Region between Apr. 28 and June 4. Only 12 Am. Redstarts were reported from the e. portion of the Region between May 9 and June 8, far fewer than expected. One in Carpinteria Apr. 13-May 3 (SM) may have wintered nearby, leaving three found along the coast between May 23 and June 12 as the only migrants there this year. Eight Ovenbirds in the n.e. portion of the Region between May 16 and June 2 were a little more than expected; three more were found along the coast between May 6 and June 2, where they are unusual in spring. A N. Waterthrush in Irvine Apr. 8-26 (RAE) had probably been present all winter. Six in the e. por-

tion of the Region between May 5 and 30 and two together in Huntington Beach May 5 (WG) were the only spring vagrants of this species found this year.

A ♂ Kentucky Warbler at Scotty's Castle May 31-June 1 (T & JH) was the 4th found in *Inyo*. A MacGillivray's Warbler in California City, *Kern*, Apr. 1 (JLD) was somewhat early, particularly so on the high desert. A somewhat early ♂ Hooded Warbler was photographed at Corn Springs near Desert Center, *Riverside*, Apr. 22 (HC), a female was at Agua Caliente in e. *San Diego* Apr. 30-May 1 (D & MH), and a male was in Mojave May 12-13 (MTH), this being an average number for this time of the year. A Painted Redstart photographed in Morongo Valley Apr. 7 (MAP) occurred at the time of year others have been found at similar desert oases in e. California.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A ♀ Hepatic Tanager in Santa Ana May 28-31 (DRW) is the first found along the coast in spring. Reports of Summer Tanagers away from known nesting localities included one inland at Agua Caliente in e. *San Diego* May 20 (DA), two more at Scotty's Castle May 23-June 1 (T & JH), and seven along the coast between May 11 and June 2. This is far fewer than expected; these birds invariably prove to be of the nominate race *ruber* when critically examined. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were much scarcer than normal, with only six reported between May 9 and June 11. Only five Indigo Buntings were reported, far fewer than in recent years. A ♂ Dickcissel photographed at F.C.R. May 25-26 (DH) is one of a very few found in spring.

A Clay-colored Sparrow, most unusual as a spring vagrant, was in Irvine May 5 (SM). A Swamp Sparrow in Mojave May 9-11 (MTH) was a late spring vagrant. White-throated Sparrows were scattered throughout the Region into April, with six in e. *Kern* between May 4 and 16 (MTH), one in *Riverside* May 18-19 (CMcG), and another near Oasis May 25 (DN) the latest. A Golden-crowned Sparrow in the San Gabriel Mts. May 21 (SJM) and another near Scotty's Castle May 25 (MAP) were

unusually late. Two Harris' Sparrows at F.C.R. Mar. 27 (SEF) and another near Orange Apr. 6 (BO'C) had probably been present all winter and were the only ones reported. A Dark-eyed Junco in Irvine May 26 (BED) was exceptionally late.

Five Bobolinks at various localities in Inyo between May 24 and June 1 were about normal, but a male in Irvine May 25 (SM) was along the coast, where it is most unusual in spring. A Rusty Blackbird, rarely found in spring, was at Little Lake, Inyo, Apr. 25 (RHN). A ♀ Orchard Oriole at Little Lake Apr. 27 (RHN) was the only one reported. A N. (Baltimore) Oriole was reported from along the coast in Los Osos Apr. 12 (P & SG), and single birds were seen inland at Butterbrecht Springs near Cantil May 19 (SAL) and in Ridgecrest May 21 (DM).

Red Crossbills were more numerous and widespread than usual in the mountains, as indicated by such reports as 30 on Mt. Pinos May 20–June 8 (RJM). Small numbers were present along the coast of *San Luis Obispo*, with ten wintering birds on Vandenberg A.F.B. through May 13 (KH) in n. *Santa Barbara*; a few in California City, *Kern*, during April and May (MOC), up to 11 in Ridgecrest May 1–8 (AW), three in Yucca Valley, *San Bernardino*, May 18 (GH), and another at nearby Morongo Valley May 29 (GH) were on the high desert. Single Lawrence's Goldfinches in Big Pine Apr. 21 (EG) and at nearby Tollhouse Spring May 30 (T & JH) were in an area where few have been found. Evening Grosbeaks were widely reported from desert locations in the n.e. portion of the Region through May; they were also present in numbers at some locations in mountains, as indicated by 50 on Mt. Pinos May 8 (CGE). Some were also along the coast, as indicated by one in Cambria Mar. 22 (BMA), three in Los Osos Apr. 3 (JPe), 10 in Santa Ynez Mar. 15–May 1 (BFu), and another in Goleta Mar. 21 (KB).

Contributors: (County coordinators in boldface) Doug Aguillard, Chris Benesh, Martin Biehowler, David V. Blue, Bill Boffert, Karen Bridgers, Jaques Brisson, Eugene A. Cardiff (*San Bernardino*),

Mark O. Chichester (*Kern*), Herb Clark, Elizabeth Copper (*San Diego*), Art Cupples, Brian E. Daniels, Don Desjardin, Jon L. Dunn, Tom M. Edell (*San Luis Obispo*), Claud G. Edwards, Alan M. Eisner, Barbara Elliott, Richard A. Erickson, Jay Fermin, Shawneen E. Finnegan, David Flint, Bob Florand (BF), Bunny Funke (BFu), Earl Gann, Kimball L. Garrett (*Los Angeles*), Peter Ginsburg, Wayne Gochenair, Pascal and Susan Grimaud (P & SG), Bill Haas (BHa), Don and Marjorie Hastings (D & MH), Gjon Hazard, Fred Heath, Robb A. Hamilton, Loren R. Hays, Bob Hefter (BHe), Matt T. Heindel, Tom & Jo Heindel (*Inyo*), Brad Hines (BHi), Don Hoehlin, Ken Hollinga, Mark A. Holmgren, Vernon Howe, John Karges, Andrew Kirk, Karl Krause, Chris Lassen, Steven A. Laymon, Paul E. Lehman (*Santa Barbara* and *Ventura*), Eric Lichtwardt, Barry Lyon, Blanche Mattice (BMA), Gerald McChesney (GeMcC), Mike McElligot, Chet McGaugh, Robert McKernan (*Riverside*), Jane McNeil, Steve Mlodinow, Bill Moore (BMo), Don Moore, Randy J. Moore, William Moramarco, Jim Morris, Mary Mosier, Stephen J. Myers, Dan Nelson, Richard H. Neuman, Bill O'Connell, Dennis Parker, Deborah Parker-Chapman, Michael A. Patten, Robert Patton, John Perkins (JPe), Barbara Peugh, Jim Pike (JPi), Peter Pyle, William R. Radke, Don Roberson, Paul Rosso, Jim S. Royer, Dave Shuford, Tom Skeer, Mark Stacy, Scott Terrill, Tom Tolman, John Walters, Richard E. Webster, Mary J. Whitfield, Douglas R. Willick (*Orange*), John C. Wilson, Al Woodman, Kevin Zimmer, Nick Zupo. An additional 75 + observers who could not be individually acknowledged submitted reports this season.—GUY McCASKIE, San Diego Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, P. O. Box 1390, San Diego, CA 92112.

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

Robert L. Pyle

Spring rainfall was well above normal on the main islands except Maui. Ample fall and early winter precipitation helped Palila get off to a good early nesting start, but on the other side of Mauna Kea a major rainstorm in mid-March caused massive fledgling mortality among native Hawaiian forest birds. However, renesting after the storm was successful.

Abbreviations: H. (*Hawai'i Island*); K. (*Kauai I.*); M. (*Mauai I.*); O. (*Oahu I.*); P.H.N.W.R. (*Pearl Harbor Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Oahu*).

SHEARWATERS TO PEAFOWL

Sooty Shearwaters pass through Hawaiian waters regularly in spring and fall but are rarely encountered within view of shore. Notably, this spring two were picked up alive on O'ahu beaches and turned over to Sea Life Park (MB). One was found at Kaaawa Mar. 26 and was banded and released 3 days later. The other, found at Kailua June 8, died the next day.

This winter's low population of wintering ducks gradually melted away during March and April, with no indications of a spring influx of northbound migrants. Forty N. Shovelers at Aimakapa Pond, H., Mar. 19 (EV) was the highest count reported. A pair of Blue-winged Teal (DP), one or two ♂ Eur. Wigeon (JB, JO) (with females possibly Eurasian, DP), and a ♂ Redhead, rare in Hawaii (TB), were reported at Kanaha Pond, M., during March and April. At Mana Pond, a seldom-visited site near Waimea, H., a small flock Mar. 10 included one ♂ Greater Scaup, one ♂ Lesser Scaup, four drab-plumaged scaup, and a ♀ Ring-necked Duck (DP). A ♂ Ring-necked and three females were reported at Aimakapa Pond Mar. 19 (EV). A ♂ Lesser Scaup, captured at Johnston I., was flown 700 mi and released at Honouliuli Unit, PHNWR,

Mar. 20 (PC). In small numbers, these *Aythya* are casual to regular winter visitors to Hawaii.

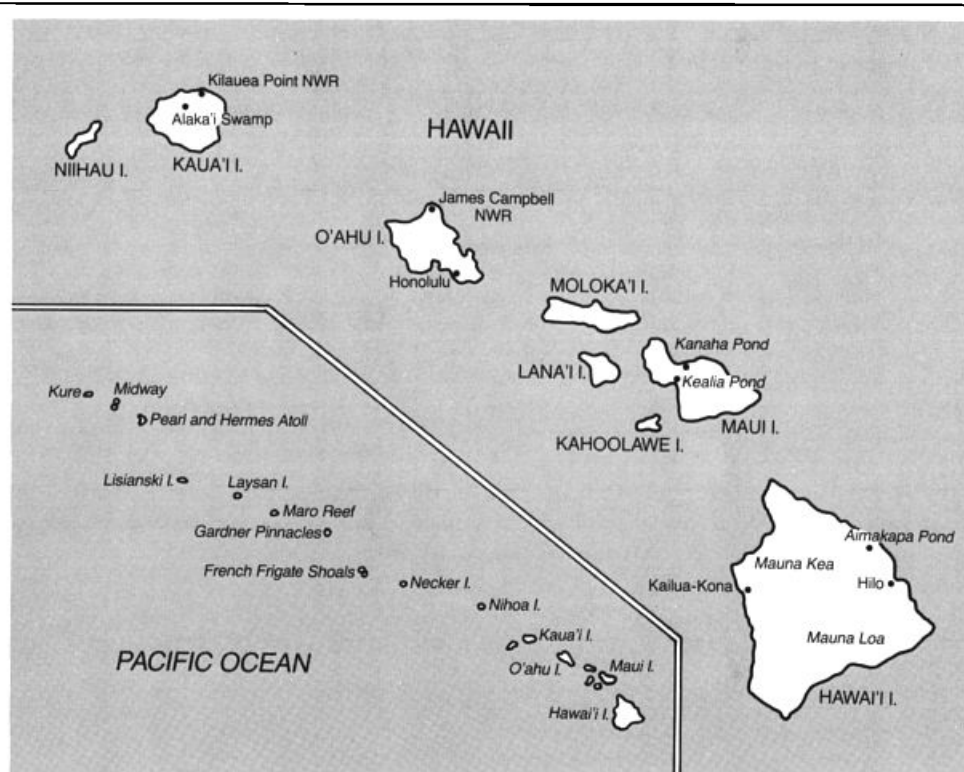
A ♂ Black Francolin flew across a highway near Kahului, M., Mar. 1; one to two females were seen 8 km down the highway twice in late May (JO). The species is not often reported on Maui. Two Kalij Pheasants were observed in Waipunahina Gulch near Pa'uilo on the Hamakua coast of Hawai'i I. (PB), which was also an interesting locality for that species. At least seven Com Peafowl were calling Apr. 11 in Lualualei Valley (BE), on the lower slopes of the n. Waianae Mts. on O'ahu, where the species has been established for more than a century.

COOTS TO TERNS

One Hawaiian (Am.) Coot (*Endangered*) was observed Mar 28 on Kawaihae Stream, K., in native Hawaiian forest several hundred meters up-trail from Camp 10 Road, at a likely site for nesting. Its behavior suggested attachment to the locality (GB). Its occurrence there is remarkable; nesting in such a locale would be unprecedented. A flock of coots at Nu'u Pond, on the seldom-visited s. coast of Maui, included a majority (8–10 birds) with red frontal shields (JO).

Single Semipalmated Plovers were reported at West Loch Estates on Pearl Harbor, O. Apr 3 (BE), at Kanaha Pond, M., Apr 7 (JO), and at Nu'upia Pond, O., May 4 (MR). All were described as in breeding plumage. Three Hawaiian (Black-necked) Stilts (*Endangered*) were circling over Waiakea Pond in Hilo, H., Apr 6 (JL, EV), and four were seen there the next day (EV). Stilts are rarely seen on Hawai'i I. other than at ponds along the w. coast. Casual to rare shorebirds were one Greater Yellowlegs at Kealia and Kanaha Ponds, M., Mar. 31–Apr 3 (JO), a bird thought to be a Gray-tailed Tattler at Hanalei Bay, K., Mar. 17 (good details submitted, ph. BO), and a Whimbrel flying in Waiulaula Gulch 100 m inland from Mauna Kea Beach, H., Mar. 16 (PB).

Franklin's Gulls created a mild stir this spring (compared to 1988), with single breeding-plumaged adults observed at Honouliuli Unit, P.H.N. W.R., Apr. 1 (PC), at Heeia Park and pier in Kaneo'he, O., May 13–20 (SC, RLP, AW), and at Kealia



Pond, M., May 15–17 (JO). A 2nd-year **Glaucous Gull**, rare in Hawaii, was observed at the mouth of the Waimea R., K., Mar. 14 (DP, ph. KP) and Mar. 17 (RLP, ph. RD). It and an accompanying Ring-billed Gull (probably a winter adult) were also seen at nearby Hanapepe Salt Ponds. A Least/Little Tern in breeding plumage was seen briefly at Aimakapa Pond Apr. 27–30 but was not heard to vocalize (RD). A White Tern chick found Apr. 3 and two fledglings found mid-May were picked up by citizens in different parts of Honolulu and turned over to Sea Life Park for rehabilitation. All were eventually successfully released (MB).

DOVES TO GRACKLES

Fourteen active nests of the enigmatic Grey Swiftlet, each with one egg, were found Apr. 26 in upper N. Halawa Valley, at the one state locale where this species has been seen and has nested regularly in recent decades. A nearly all-white leucistic Red-vented Bulbul was reported independently at the same site in Kapiolani Park, O., May 5–9 (VY, OA). Single 'Elepaio were heard on Wa'ahila Trail Apr. 28 and seen on Aiea Trail May 13 (PD); this native now seems to be critically scarce on O'ahu.

S.A.

The ♂ Great-tailed Grackle reported along the Honolulu waterfront from time to time since May 1988 seems to be regular now in Sand I. Park, where it was recorded several times this spring (EV, DP, PB). On June 14 it was seen vocalizing vigorously (PB), the first vocal report for Hawaii. More interesting was a female seen at Walker Bay on Waipi'o Pen., O. (ph. BE), 14 km from Sand I. Could this have been the same female observed occasionally on Waipi'o Pen. from 1980 to 1987, but not reported until now since the male was first sighted in Honolulu? What would happen if they should find each other? At her age? Hypotheses on the origins (and thus the "countability") of these two birds have been debated for years but with no conclusive evidence.

Red-billed Leiothrix seem to be recovering after near extirpation on O'ahu a decade ago. Single birds were noted in late April on Waimalu and Wa'ahila Trails; nine and 11 were recorded on 2 visits to Aiea Trail in late May (PD). Five Yellow-faced Grassquits on Waimalu Trail Apr. 26 and two on Aiea Trail

May 31 (PD) were also interesting localities for that species. Two Saffron Finches were found at Sand I. Park in Honolulu (EV, Mar. 16; JM, ca. Apr. 1). These are now rarely seen on O'ahu other than at Blaisdell Park, although they are still common on Hawai'i Island's w. coast.

HAWAIIAN HONEYCREEPERS

A bird seen briefly but well as confidently identified (BO) as a ♂ 'O'u (*critically Endangered*) as it flew up a gulch along the Alaka'i Trail, K., April 29. This species is thought to be very close to extinction. Twenty-five nests of Palila (*Endangered*), found in April in the study area on Mauna Kea, H., compared to only 4 last April, were no doubt related to a big increase in green mamane pods this spring, probably resulting from the wet fall and early winter (TP). Another sighting of Maui Parrotbill (*critically Endangered*) in the Waikamoi area bordering Haleakala N.P., M. (a female Apr. 13 along the Transect 3 trail, ph. JJ) is further indication that at least a few of this species may be holding on in the forest w. of Ko'olau Gap.

At the research study area in Hakalau Nat'l Forestbird Ref., H., a big rainstorm mid-March (30" in 5 days) caused an esti-

mated 90% mortality among fledgling 'Amakihi and high mortality among fledgling 'Akepa (*Endangered*), 'Iiwi, and 'Apapane (JL). Renestings after the storm were evidently successful as "lots" more fledglings of all species were in the study area by the end of May. A banded ♂ 'Akiapola'au (*Endangered*), thought to have been unpaired, was seen with a fledgling Mar. 6. Both disappeared after the storm but may not have been casualties. Two nests of Hawai'i Creeper (*Endangered*) fledged successfully by the end of May. Young fledged successfully by early June from nests of 8 pairs of 'Akepa (JL).

Nine 'Akohekohe (*Endangered*) found along the upper part of Transect 3 Trail, down to 5400 ft elevation in Waikamoi, M., Apr. 13 (JJ) is currently a good count but represents a density definitely lower than found in this area by the same observer while participating in the Forest Bird Survey a decade ago.

Contributors: Glenn Bauer, Ted Bodner, Marlee Breese, Phil Bruner, John Buckman, Paul Chang, Sharon Choy, Reg David, Peter Donaldson, Bruce Eilerts, Casey Jarman, Jack Jeffrey, Jaan Lepson, Jack Mitchell, Arma Oana, Bob O'Brien, Jerry Oldenettel, Ken Parkes, Doug Pratt, Thane Pratt, Mark Rauzon, Tom Telfer, Eric VanderWerf, Dodie Warren, Arthur Wong Dock, Violet Young.—ROBERT L. PYLE, 741 N. Kalaheo Ave., Kailua, HI 96734.

WEST INDIES REGION

(WINTER 1990-1991 REPORT)

Robert L. Norton

(Note: Robert L. Norton's account of spring migration was sent in on time, but through an oversight (KK) it was accidentally omitted from this section. Our apologies to Rob Norton and to our readers. The spring report from the West Indies will appear in the next issue.)

Precipitation for the winter season as measured at Cruz Bay, St. John, in the U.S. Virgin Islands, was 21% above the 100-year average. December was -16%, January was -5%, and February was +103%.

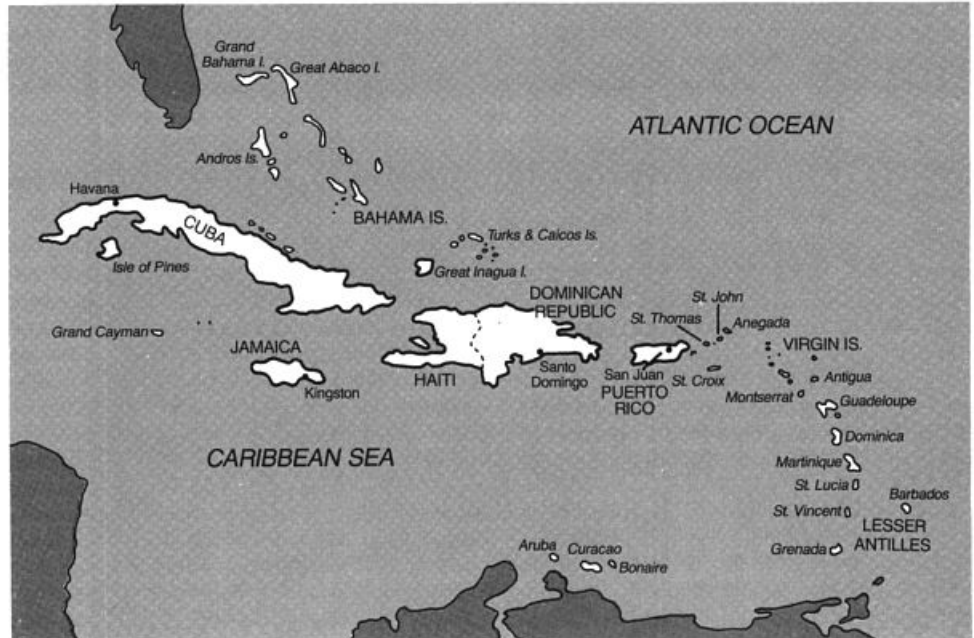
After reading the spring issue (AB 45:156-157), EF wrote to express amazement and dismay over the harvesting of Ruffs at Barbados. By his accounting, the taking of six (with possibly another three observed) amounts to the single largest concentration of the species in the West Indies or Central America. The six harvested Ruffs could represent a significant percentage of the individuals in the New World.

Ruffs have not been proven to breed in North America aside from one anomalous record at Point Lay, Alaska. However, they appear to wander extensively on their migration from Eurasian breeding grounds to West Africa, where up to a million birds have been counted at one Senegal roost. Their regular landfall on Barbados is no doubt related to fall season cyclonic disturbances, moving from east to west across the Atlantic.

Abbreviations: P.R. (Puerto Rico).

CORMORANTS TO GULLS

A Double-crested Cormorant was studied carefully at the airport pond of North Andros, Bahamas, Feb. 2 (BS, RL). At Palmetto Point Pond, Eleuthera,



Bahamas, JS counted 40 of these cormorants Feb. 19. A pair of White Ibises was noted at Calabash Bay pond, Andros (BS, RL), and a Roseate Spoonbill was seen at Staniard Creek, Andros, in early January (*vide* BS).

Four Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were flushed from Calabash Bay pond, but no West Indian Whistling-Ducks were seen there or elsewhere on Andros during a visit Jan. 26–Feb. 2 (BS, RL). Four Ring-necked Ducks were seen Feb. 19 near Double Bay, Eleuthera (JS). A Turkey Vulture seen Feb. 21 (JS) established a first winter occurrence for central Eleuthera. A single Peregrine Falcon was seen circling overhead Jan. 28 at Andros, Bahamas (BS, RL).

The Seltmans were “disappointed” at the low numbers of shorebirds in late January at Cabo Rojo, P.R., yet added that there were hundreds of Greater and Lesser yellowlegs in the company of four Black-bellied Plovers, 20 Ruddy Turnstones, two Spotted Sandpipers, and ca. 100 Semipalmated Sandpipers. Sorrie also noted a “dearth” of shorebirds in coastal areas and ponds of N. Andros, Bahamas, during the period Jan. 26–Feb. 2. Pond levels at Eleuthera, however, appeared to be higher this winter than in 1990, the driest

winter that JS has witnessed in 15 annual visits, and yielded a record count of 64 Short-billed Dowitchers Feb. 19.

At Cabo Rojo, P.R., SS and DS observed the “inveterate” Com. Black-headed Gull Jan. 22. This or another Black-headed has been observed at Cabo Rojo for several consecutive seasons. Some 17 Ring-billed Gulls and one Laughing Gull were noted at Tarpum Bay.

DOVES TO BLACKBIRDS

Eurasian Collared-Doves appear to be established on Andros, Bahamas, particularly around Calabash Bay and Mystic Point Settlement (BS, RL). During a walk through a “small relic rain-forest” in the La Mesa section of Mayaguez, P.R., on Jan. 25, SS and DS recorded several Puerto Rican Lizard Cuckoos. In the same general area, 10+ Lesser Antillean Pewees were found. On Andros, Bahamas, in late January and early February, no La Sagra's Flycatchers were found despite a specific search, and no Bahama Mockingbirds were seen (BS). Two Bahama Swallows were seen Jan. 28 at the Andros airport (BS, RL).

Puerto Rican Vireos numbered 10+ in the La Mesa forest, Mayaguez, P.R., Jan. 25 (SS, DS). On Andros, Jan. 26–Feb. 2,

12 species of migrant warblers were noted (BS, RL). The absence of Yellow Warbler and Bahama Yellowthroat was puzzling. Migrant warblers were reported scarce in mid-February on Eleuthera, in areas that JS has covered annually for 15 years. Antillean (Blue-hooded) Euphonias were found building a nest Jan. 25 in the La Mesa section of Mayaguez, P.R. (SS, DS). Red-winged Blackbirds were seemingly absent from Andros during Sorrie's visit in late January and early February.

Addendum: A survey of Abaco and Green Turtle Cay, Bahamas, Nov. 16–19, 1990 turned up several new island records: Western Kingbird, Bahama Mockingbird, Blue Grosbeak, Chipping Sparrow, and House Sparrow; a Great Black-backed Gull there was new for the Bahamas (PS, WB, HL).

Contributors: Woody Bracey, Ed Fingerhood, Howard Langridge, R. Leblond, Ian Lothian, Joe Siphron, Diane Seltman, Scott Seltman, Bruce Sorrie, Paul Sykes, Jill Weech.—**ROBERT L. NORTON, 3408 N.W. 27th Terrace, Gainesville, FL 32605.**