

Martel *et al.*) provided the 17th for the province.

Extralimital overwintering N. Cardinals involved a male at Sainte-Foy, *Quebec* (G. Dubé), a female at Chicoutimi (*fide* GS), a female at La Pocatière (CA), and a male at Notre-Dame-du-Lac, *Témiscouata* (L. Bourgeois, *fide* MB). A single Indigo Bunting appeared at a feeder in an extensively forested area at ZEC Martin-Valin, *Saguenay* (E. Côté, R. Tremblay) while three individuals reached Rimouski Apr. 15–21, one at Dégelis, *Témiscouata* May 31 (J. Caron, D. Keable), and one at Gaspé Pen. at Grande-Rivière May 6 (M. Dupuis). A ♂ **Painted Bunting** stayed at a feeder with Purple Finches at Berry near Amos, *Abitibi* May 28–30 (S. Slavenski, A.G. Bernier, ph.), providing the 2nd record for the province. The 18th record of Lark Spar-



Lark Sparrow at Saint-Léon, Quebec, in mid-May 1994. Eighteenth record for the province. Photograph/Claudette Cormier.

row for the province appeared with a White-Crowned Sparrow at a feeder of Saint-Léon, *L. Saint-Jean* May 9–17 (R. Savard *et al.*, ph.). Three birds of the w. subspecies *Z.l. gambelli* were also observed, one at Chicoutimi May 14 (CG, MS) and two at the Saint-Léon feeder May 15 (CC, GS *et al.*, ph.). The overwintering White-crowned Sparrow at Notre-Dame I. was still present Apr. 1. The Le Conte's Sparrow made an excellent showing; one that appeared at Dundee May 18 was followed by a



White-crowned Sparrow of the western race *Z. l. gambelli*, one of three recorded in Quebec this season, at Saint-Léon May 15, 1994. Photograph/Claudette Cormier.



Male Orchard Oriole patronizing a hummingbird feeder at Pabos Mills, Gaspé Peninsula, Quebec, at the end of May 1994. Photograph/J.M. Smith.

2nd May 23 (MR), and singles at Deschênes, *Ponriac* May 18 (RB), Saint-Gédéon May 22 (MS *et al.*), and Saint-Fulgence May 22 (CC, GS). An extralimital E. Meadowlark was reported from Rivière-Portneuf, *Duplessis* Apr. 13 (GC). The only Orchard Oriole for the province was a male at Pabos Mills, *Gaspé Pen.* May 29–June 2 (J-M Smith *et al.*, ph.). The House Finch is gradually extending its limits northwards; sightings included L. Kénogami and Saint-Léon, both in the *Saguenay* (R. Larouche, M. Goulet, CC, GS *et al.*), Baie-Comeau (A. Gosselin), and many localities in the Lower St. Lawrence region.

EXOTICS

A pair and an incubating Ring-necked Pheasant were observed on Île aux Oies, *Montmagny* May 19, while two Wild Turkey were sighted there May 30 (CM, C. Simard). These two species were released by a local hunting club last fall. A Budgerigar showed up at Quebec City Apr. 15 (LM, ADA, A. Rasmussen).

ADDENDUM

A ♂ Blue Grosbeak at Saint-Félicien, *L. Saint-Jean* was well described May 16, 1993 (J. Langlais), providing Quebec's 15th record.

Initialed observers and area editors (in bold face):

C. Auchu, J.M. Béliveau (JMB), R. Bergeron, G. Bouchard, J. Brisson, C. Cormier, G. Cyr, A. Daigle (ADA), D. Daigneault, A. Desrochers (ADR), J. Dubois, P. Éthier, P. Fradette, D.G. Gaudet (DGG), G. Gendron, C. Girard, F. Grenon, G. Harvey, D. Jauvin, K. Kaiser, M. Lalancette, B. Leblanc, R. Lepage, C. Marcotte, L. Messely, J.M. Pitre, R. Pitre, P. Poulin, M. Robert, C. Roy, G. Savard, M. Savard, F. Shaffer, E. Van de Walle.

—Yves Aubry, *Canadian Wildlife Service*, P.O. Box 10100, Sainte-Foy, PQ, G1V 4H5; Pierre Bannon, 1517, Leprohon, Montreal, PQ, H4E 1P1 Canada

New England Region

SIMON PERKINS

New England birders enjoyed another stellar spring season. No one was left out as rarities were spread equitably among all six states. Maine produced the biggest "biggies," including two species new to the state. Little Egrets popped up again, Black Vultures and kites attracted more attention, and a Black-tailed Godwit dropped in at Cape Cod for the second consecutive year. Northern Wheatear and Mountain Bluebird were icing on the cake. Even the warbler migration brought smiles this year, amid continued consternation and debate regarding the subject of tropical deforestation and temperate forest fragmentation, and the effects on neotropical migrants. Cape May Warbler, always a welcomed sight, was particularly well represented. Various overwintering rarities, including Varied Thrushes and Harris' Sparrow, as well as irregular visitors such as winter finches, lingered into the spring season.

Weatherwise, New England saw the usual assortment of everything: March continued the snowy trend established during the winter and, in so doing, set a record for snowfall in a season. For the 104 years of Boston's documented meteorological history, that record now stands at 96.3 inches, more than seven inches over the previous record set in 1947–1948. April, by contrast, was completely snowless in Boston, and temperatures during the month averaged 3.3 degrees F. above normal, no doubt quite a relief for some human and avian residents alike. In mid-May, the development of an "omega block" in the jet stream caused a relatively small ocean storm to stall east of Cape Cod. This storm produced moderate, but persistent, easterly winds that ultimately nudged a few seabirds within sight of land.

It's time, once again, to express a huge measure of gratitude to the subregional compilers in New England, who make the jobs of the regional compilers so much simpler. This year, those people included Judy Peterson in Vermont, Diane DeLuca in New Hampshire, Jody Despres and Bill Townsend in Maine, David Emerson in Rhode Island, Frank Mantlik in Connecticut, Seth Kellogg in western Massachusetts, and Richard Forster, Marjorie Rines,

and Robert Stymeist in e. Massachusetts. We've said it before but it bears repeating: These reports would suffer significantly without the invaluable services rendered by these noble folk.

Abbreviations: M.V. (*Martha's Vineyard, MA*); Monomoy (*Monomoy NWR, Chatham, MA*); Mt. A. (*Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, MA*); Nantucket (*Nantucket I., MA*); P.I. (*Plum Is./Parker River NWR, Newburyport, MA*).

Loons to Ducks

Several Pacific/Arctic-type loons were seen again this spring. A bird in Dennis, MA Mar. 26 (E. Salmela *et al.*), was described as having a white flank patch, a feature thought to be indicative of Arctic Loon; another bird, reported as a Pacific from Provincetown, MA Mar. 15 (RAF) displayed no flank patch, and a third bird in basic plumage, also lacking a flank patch, was discovered late in the season at M.V., May 21 (VL). A report of a possible fourth individual in Lamoine, ME Mar. 21 (M. Stocking, *vide* WT) was not accompanied by details. An Eared Grebe in Rockport, MA, initially discovered in January, was last reported Mar. 7 (D. Lane, v.o.).

A prolonged spell of easterly wind, rain, and fog during the 3rd week of May brought a few seabirds close to land. In Massachusetts, pelagics seen from the s. shore of Nantucket, as the weather broke May 21, included one Greater Shearwater, 12 Sootys, one Manx, 110 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, 14 Red-necked Phalaropes, 15 Red Phalaropes, nine Pomarine Jaegers, and two Parasitic Jaegers (SP, T. Maloney). The jaegers were all light-morph adults. Elsewhere the same day in the state, seven Red Phalaropes were seen on Stellwagen Bank (J. Nove), single Parasitic Jaegers were noted at Provincetown and Monomoy (BN), while in Rhode Island, three Manx Shearwaters were seen at the entrance of Narragansett Bay in Jamestown (CR). Six N. Fulmars were near Machias Seal I., ME Apr. 5 (B. Dalzell, *vide* WT), one was roughly 25 mi s. of Cashes Ledge May 16 (BP), and 15 were counted from the *Bluenose* ferry between Bar Harbor, ME and Yarmouth, Nova Scotia May 20 (C. Whitney, *vide* WT).

One of the two remarkable **American White Pelicans** that overwintered along the coast of s. New England, between Connecticut and Rhode Island, was seen briefly at Hyannis, MA on Cape Cod Mar. 1 (F&M LeBaron), and both were last reported Mar. 5 at Point Judith, RI (D. Kraus).

Three sightings of single, breeding-plumaged **Little Egrets** in Massachusetts included birds in S. Dartmouth Apr. 18–20 (E. Nielsen, S. Sweet), Essex Apr. 23 (RAF), and Nantucket May 3–31 (JPa). How many individuals were involved is anyone's guess. However, even though the S. Dartmouth bird was viewed from a considerable distance, it was clear to the observers that the loreal skin was not brightly colored, as was the case with the Essex bird, which, only 3 days later, was in high breeding condition judging by the appearance of its bright orange lores. The Nantucket bird was described May 3 as possessing "yellowish" lores, but by May 20 that bird had largely gray lores with a very small spot of pale yellow where the loreal skin met the culmen (SP). The discovery of the Nantucket bird marked the 3rd consecutive year that individual had returned to the Island. A wandering Little Blue Heron was noted in Panton, VT May 5–7 (TM *et al.*).

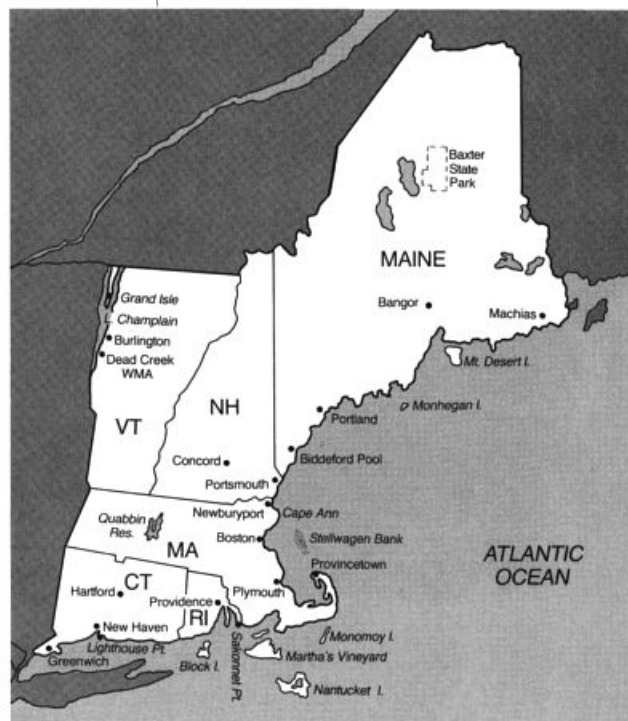
The three Whooper Swans that appeared in Massachusetts 2 years ago, presumably the same three that had been on Long Island, NY a year before, were joined by an additional three birds in *Essex* in April, and all six remained in the area through the period (*vide* B.O.). One individual apparently paired with a Mute Swan and the pair was suspected of nesting. Two Greater White-fronted Geese were at New Bedford, MA Mar. 16 (G. Mock), and a single White-fronted visited Litchfield, CT Mar. 19–21 (D. Rosgen, *vide* R. Naylor). The Barnacle Goose present in S. Dartmouth, MA in February remained until Mar. 20 (*vide* B.O.), and the 1000 Snow Geese in Haverill, NH Apr. 17 (LBu) represented the largest count for the species e. of Vermont's Champlain Valley where, in recent years, the numbers of migrant Snows have increased significantly. A locally high count of 350 Snows was tallied in Sherman, CT Mar. 23 (J. Kaufman). A "big flight" of Brant was noted in w. Massachusetts Mar. 16, when 150 were counted in Northampton, 20 in Conway, and four in Pittsfield (*vide* SK).

Two "Eur." Green-winged Teal were reported this spring, one at Scarborough, ME Mar. 27–Apr. 10 (LB) and the other in Concord, MA Mar. 30 (SP).

Eurasian Wigeon reports included two in e. Massachusetts, one in Rhode Island, and one in Connecticut. A Redhead was late and out of place in the ocean off Nahant, MA May 14–15 (MR). The Tufted Duck that overwintered for the 3rd consecutive year in Greenwich, CT remained at least through Mar. 21 (B. O'Toole), and a Barrow's Goldeneye at Nahant, MA was very late May 14–15 (RHS). Fifty Barrow's at Freeport, ME in mid-March represented an unusually high count for a locale "well s. of traditional concentration sites" (*vide* JD). Migrant Barrow's at inland stopover points included singles at Enfield, CT Mar. 6 (PL) and Leicester, VT Apr. 5 (JP), and three-four birds were seen around Grand Isle, VT between Apr. 15–24 (D. Hoag).

Vultures to Cranes

Black Vultures made their strongest showing in the Region to date. They were reported from all New England states except Vermont and Rhode Island. In Massachusetts a bird on Nantucket Apr. 11 was joined by a second individual 8 days later, but neither was seen thereafter (*vide* JPa). In Maine, a single bird at Biddeford May 22 (T&D Mollie *et al.*) was carefully observed in the company of several Turkey Vultures. In New Hampshire, documentation of a Black Vulture in Lyme Apr. 17 (LBu) included an impeccable drawing, (Regional editors can never get enough of drawings—any drawings!), and a 2nd New Hampshire report from Londonderry May 5 (J. MacPherson), though believable, came with no description. Finally, Mantlik now terms the species "almost common in w. central Connecticut." Between

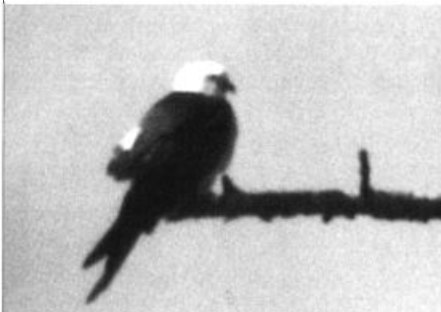


one–four birds were seen in New Milford Mar. 1–May 1, one was noted in Trumbull Apr. 22, and as many as eight were counted along River Road in Kent Apr. 26–May 15 (*vide* FM). Mantlik also raised the question of whether the Black Vulture is now nesting in the state. In light of the number of occurrences this spring, and the relatively close proximity of the nearest probable nesting site in n.w. New Jersey or n.e. Pennsylvania, the question seems timely. If they haven't yet, they may very soon.

Within the last 10 years, birders in New England have seen kites with a frequency greater than at any time in recorded ornithological history. This followed a sudden and rather rapid range expansion by Mississippi Kites from their center of breeding abundance in the deep s.e. states into areas both to the west and north. Despite the fact that Swallow-taileds have shown no such tendency, the local occurrence of that species also appears to have increased. This comparison lends itself to the idea that the greater number of kite sightings in the Region may also be related in part to an increase in the number of birders in the field today. This season there were 3 reports of Swallow-tailed Kite and one of Mississippi Kite. The Swallow-tailed sightings came 4 days apart in April. One in the village of Perryville, in S. Kingston, RI Apr. 18 (ph. DF), represented the 3rd state record, and 2 Connecticut reports Apr. 20 & 21 came from Weston and Greenwich respectively (*vide* M. Bull). It's likely the latter 2 records involved the same bird. The Mississippi Kite report referred to an apparent adult in Middleboro, MA May 22 (K. Holmes), though age was not specified in the brief description of this individual. After Bald Eagles disperse each year from various wintering aggregations, reports of wandering adolescents with no particular place to go persist throughout the spring and into summer. Those reports were particularly numerous this year and, from mid-April onward, included a minimum of 15 in e. Massachusetts alone (*vide* B.O., M.A.S.). Three were together on Nantucket May 9 (BP). Migrating Red-shouldered Hawks were detected in Massachusetts, where 17 were counted in Lexington Mar. 21 and 10 were tallied at Mt. Watatic in Ashburnham Mar. 23 (T. McCullough, E.M.H.W.). Thirty-one Red-tailed Hawks were also counted in Lexington the same day the Red-shouldered were moving, and the only significant Broad-winged flight was 335 in Holyoke, MA Apr. 15 (SK). An above-average total of seven–eight Golden Eagles Regionwide included one in New Hampshire, three in Vermont and three–four in Con-

necticut, the latter of which were attracted to several deer carcasses at Canaan Mt. Also among the Connecticut birds was a young individual that was twice observed stooping on a deer herd (FM, J. Hand)! Two notable counts of Am. Kestrels in Massachusetts included >100 birds apparently grounded by weather in Middleboro Apr. 23 (E. Salmela), and 3 days later, under more favorable conditions, 209 birds moving N along P.I. (E. Mair, E.M.H.W.). Another Falconid that made news this spring was a tardy imm. Gyrfalcon May 1, also at P.I. (G. Moon, ph.).

Wild Turkeys continue to proliferate throughout New England, except in the far north. A flock of 65 in Middleboro, MA (R. Turner) furnished the single largest Regional count this year; two particularly urban birds were in Arlington, MA, within sight of downtown Boston, and in Connecticut turkeys are now common and widespread in southern *Fairfield*, even s. of Rt. I-95 (*vide* FM). The six King Rails detected in the Region included a bird in Addison, VT May 17–18 (TM *et al.*), beyond the species usual n. limit. Others included two in Rhode Island, two in Massachusetts, and one in Connecticut. Common Moorhen, a species that has become nearly as marginal in New England as King Rail, nonetheless made a stronger



American Swallow-tailed Kite in South Kingston, Rhode Island, April 18, 1994. Third state record. Photograph/Daniel M. Finizia.

showing than in recent years. Reports from New England states, except New Hampshire, produced a Regional total of at least 11 moorhens. A Purple Gallinule was found dead under a powerline in Rockland, ME Apr. 17 (*vide* WT). Sandhill Cranes are now annual visitors to Massachusetts, so it came as no real surprise that 4 sightings were reported this spring in the Commonwealth (*vide* B.O.). Three of those sightings came roughly 30 mi and 6 days apart Apr. 15–21, and probably involved the same individual. The 4th involved two birds together in Essex Apr. 24 (TY). In Vermont, where cranes are considerably harder to come by, a bird in Middlebury Apr. 9 (J. Nicholson), came as a bigger surprise.

Charadriiformes

If the species is recorded in the Region at all in spring, Am. Golden-Plover is at best very scarce; so a total of 11 was very respectable. Golden-plovers reported from Massachusetts included three in W. Bridgewater Apr. 7 (D. Brown *et al.*), singles at P.I., Apr. 10–12 (TY, v.o.), Newburyport May 13 (TA), Monomoy May 15 (JS), M.V., May 20–22 (VL), and one in Chicopee May 25 (J. Rivers). A bird in Maine was seen in Scarborough Apr. 5 (LB), and two were at Jamestown, RI May 22 (C. Powell, *vide* DE). Astonishing was the report of a Piping Plover flying over the Kennebunk Plains in W. Kennebunk, ME May 26, at least 8 mi from the coast (P. Vickery). Killdeer nested at Nantucket for the 2nd consecutive year, following the first confirmed breeding there last year (*vide* JPa). For about the last eight–ten years, Boston Harbor had represented the n. limit of the breeding range of Am. Oystercatcher. Most local prognosticators concurred that Crane Beach in Ipswich, MA—roughly 25 mi n. of Boston—would probably be the next outpost since it offered ample and seemingly ideal habitat, and because several birds had made periodic visits there within the past 3 years. But a particularly ambitious pair of oystercatchers surprised everyone by jumping nearly 4 times that far, establishing a first Maine nesting record in Scarborough May 21 (LB). A Black-necked Stilt made an appearance on Nantucket May 2–3 (JPa), and another or the same Black-tailed Godwit that visited Monomoy last summer was discovered at the Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary in S. Wellfleet, MA Apr. 19, where it remained through the period (JS *et mult. al.*). A report of a Marbled Godwit, a very rare species in the region in spring, at Scarborough, ME May 15 (*vide* Ma.A.S.) did not include any details. A Pectoral Sandpiper in Provincetown, MA Mar. 15 (RAF) and an unidentified dowitcher at P.I., Mar. 27 (J. Hoyer) were both early, and a Curlew Sandpiper brightened an already colorful scene at Monomoy May 29 (BN). A Stilt Sandpiper in Rowley, MA May 12–15 (C. Leahy) furnished a rare spring record, and a Long-billed Dowitcher seen and heard in Milford, CT Apr. 17 (FM) was very unusual away from the P.I. area, the only locale in the Region where Long-billeds are recorded with any regularity in the spring. Similarly, Wilson's Phalarope is seldom seen in spring away from P.I., one of only 2 locales on the Atlantic Seaboard where the species has been found to nest; so a Wilson's in Madison, CT May 13–18 (B. Yule *et al.*) was noteworthy. Thirty Red Phalaropes, pushed into Cape Cod bay by the e. winds

in mid-May, were seen from shore at Barnstable, MA May 17 (E&S Miller). One and two Ruffs were noted this year at Scarborough, ME Mar. 26 and May 28–29, respectively (LB), and one was also reported from Falmouth, MA Apr. 27–29 (I. Nisbet).

In addition to the afore-mentioned seabirds, an unidentified skua was noted at GPS-generated coordinates 42, 32.44N, 69, 22.38W, near Cashes Ledge May 16 (BP), and four light-morph ad. Parasitic Jaegers were seen from P.I., May 19 (R. Heil). The Regional total of 10–12 Little Gulls included one in New Hampshire, one in Rhode Island, two–three in Massachusetts, and as many as eight in Connecticut, an above-average number for that state. Lesser Black-backed Gulls totaled seven in Massachusetts, at least three in Connecticut, and one in New Hampshire. A Mew Gull of an unspecified age class was reported from Northampton, MA Apr. 30 (CM, *fide* SK). A few migrant Caspian Terns are detected each year, most presumably bound for nesting grounds in s.e. Quebec or Newfoundland. This year three were noted in Massachusetts between Apr. 27–May 20 (*fide* B.O.), one lingered on the coast of Rhode Island Apr. 28–May 7 (*fide* DE), and one was noted at Missisquoi N.W.R., Franklin, VT May 22 (T. Allen *et al.*). A report of Two Gull-billed Terns at P.I., May 25 (J. Nove) lacked details, but documentation accompanying 2 separate reports of inland Forster's Terns left no question about either. A Connecticut record, apparently a first for the state away from the coast, involved two birds in Southport Apr. 13 (C. Barnard), and another two Forster's were observed together in Addison, VT Apr. 14 (JP, T. Hall). One–two Common and five– six Thick-billed murres were present off Provincetown, MA into the first week of April (*fide* B. O.), and a count of 120 Razorbills in Nantucket Sound Apr. 10 (JS) was noteworthy.

Owls to Crows

As has been the case in recent years, at least one Snowy Owl remained in the vicinity of Boston Harbor through the period (N. Smith). The reappearance of five Short-eared Owls at Nantucket Mar. 15, (D. Beattie) offered a glimmer of hope that the population there may still be hanging on, and five migrant Short-eareds at 3 coastal locales in Rhode Island between Mar. 5–Apr. 9 furnished a higher-than-average total for that state (*fide* DE). Other Short-eareds included one at Ferrisburgh, VT Mar. 20 (C. Fichtel, *fide* JP), and two singles in Maine at Cutler, Mar. 12 and Hills Beach, York Mar. 29 (*fide* WT). A count of >50 Com. Nighthawks in Wayland, MA May 25 (N.

Patterson) represented a good spring tally. Though the few Chuck-wills-widows heard each spring and summer on M.V. have evaded the attempts of local birders to confirm nesting, their return again this spring, first noted May 19 (VL), served to strengthen the belief that they do breed on the island. The nearest known breeding site is Long Island, NY. A wayward "chuck" was netted, photographed, and released at a banding station on Appledore I., ME May 30 (*fide* DH).

A report of an ad. ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher in Maine included an entirely convincing description. The bird was closely (within 13 feet) observed catching insects in a yard at Isle au Haut, Knox May 9 (D. Schrader, D. Hiltz). The observers, though apparently not active birders, specifically eliminated Scarlet Tanager as a possibility on the basis of the bird's thinner, black bill, black back, and black "streak" through its eye. They also noted that "its red crown was noticeably tufted." The date and island locale were optimal for the appearance of such a vagrant. If accepted, this would represent a first record for the state, and either a first or 2nd for the Region (depending on whom you ask about a bird on P.I. in October, 1954!). As if that wasn't enough for "Vacationland," a Fork-tailed Flycatcher



Fork-tailed Flycatcher on the beach at Kittery, Maine, May 19, 1994. Photograph/L. Brinker.

discovered in Kittery, ME May 18 (J. Trull *et al.*, ph.) thrilled viewers through the end of the month. This record was especially unusual because the majority of Fork-tailed records in N. America occur in autumn. For a recent discussion about possible reasons for this seasonal pattern, see *AB* Vol. 44, No. 3. An E. Kingbird in Eastham, MA was very early Mar 30 (G. Martin), as was a N. Rough-winged Swallow in New Haven, CT Mar. 31 (R. English).

In early March, <11 Com. Ravens were attracted to the same deer carasses that attracted the Golden Eagles at Canaan Mt., CT (GH *et al.*). In Rhode Island, sporadic reports of one-two ravens have persisted annually since 1991, the most recent coming from Manville Mar. 29 (J. Osborn).

These reports are consistent with the species slow spread toward the south and east from their known breeding outposts in the hills of n.w. (Canaan, Sharon) and n.e. (Ashford) Connecticut. Other raven sightings in Connecticut included one, virtually within sight of the Rhode Island border, in Sterling Apr. 24 (R. Dixon) and three birds observed carrying sticks in Ledyard Mar. 8 (R. Askins). If confirmed as breeders, these latter birds would place the newest outpost roughly 30 mi farther south and a mere 10 mi from Long Island Sound. Many a New England birder has wondered why such a highly adaptable species has not reoccupied portions of its historical range since it was extirpated from those areas through persecution by early European settlers. Maybe it's finally happening. Meanwhile, another Corvid is still increasing in the opposite direction: The numbers of Fish Crow reports continue to increase in w. Massachusetts, most coming from the Connecticut R. Valley, where the species is expanding its range slowly northward. An unprecedented 11 reports of at least 20 birds included one report from as far north as Greenfield (*fide* SK).

Chickadees to Warblers

Following the modest Boreal Chickadee flight into s. New England this past winter, single overwintering Boreals in Massachusetts were present in W. Boylston through Apr. 2 (*fide* B.O.) and Sunderland through Mar. 26 (*fide* SK); a presumed migrant was reported from Truro, MA Apr. 14 (T. Carolyn). A fledgling Carolina Wren being fed by an adult on Nantucket May 21 (SP) provided confirmation of nesting on the island for the 2nd consecutive year, following the first confirmation last year. The subregional editors in Rhode Island and Connecticut related that observers perceived a significant decline in the numbers of Carolina Wrens, and cited the severe winter as the probable cause. This is consistent with the species' historical response pattern following hard winters near the n. limits of its range. But, despite the losses this year, Carolina Wren is apparently increasing its capacity for surviving such harsh conditions, and is still firmly entrenched in much of the region. A Sedge Wren, discovered singing on territory in Wayland, MA May 22 (SP *et al.*), remained through the end of the month, raising hopes that it was nesting, and another in Kensington, NH first found May 13 (*fide* A.S.N.H.) and joined by a second bird May 21 (RQ), also elicited optimism. Sedge Wren is a highly local, rare, and sporadic breeder throughout the n.e. United States.

Always a rare find s. of the nearest known breeding grounds in n. Quebec, a **North-ern Wheatear** at Nantucket Apr. 1–3 (J. Shagrin) was a fancy spring find, though perhaps not so surprising in light of the magnitude of last fall's flight; the Nantucket bird was almost certainly a returning migrant associated with that flight. A ♂ **Mountain Bluebird** spent most of May 29 in Rutland, MA feeding on insects in a suburban backyard! A color photograph taken by the lucky visitees provided vivid documentation for what represented only the 3rd Regional and 2nd state record (ph. T&G Mann).

At least five Varied Thrushes from the winter flight lingered into the spring season. Three in Massachusetts included individuals in Concord through Mar. 8; Sudbury through Mar. 18; and Edgartown, M.V., Mar. 15 (*vide* B.O.). Another, which spent most of the winter at a feeder in Wiscasset, ME, was last reported Mar. 22 (*vide* WT), and a fifth bird made a brief visit to a feeder in Hancock, NH Apr. 7 (*vide* A.S.N.H.).

The latest reported flocks of Bohemian Waxwings, the final drops from the winter deluge, contained 62 birds in Brewster, MA Apr. 7 (A. King) and an unspecified number in Dixmont, ME May 4 (B. Barker, *vide* WT). Twelve Bohemians in Goshen, CT, seen and photographed through March 15 (*vide* FM), remained the southernmost reported in New England during the entire flight.

Migrant Philadelphia Vireos were well reported in e. Massachusetts, with seven recorded May 15–27 (*vide* B.O.). Several warbler species arrived early this year. A Cape May was reported from Brunswick, ME Apr. 29 (*vide* WT); record early for Connecticut was a Cerulean in Branford Apr. 25 (GH), a N. Parula in Branford, and a Chestnut-sided in Hamden Apr. 19 (GH). Early arrivals in Massachusetts included a N. Parula in Provincetown Apr. 12 (JS), a Bay-breasted in Princeton Apr. 28 (B. Van Dusen), and a Cerulean in Cambridge Apr. 25 (MR).

Cape Mays made one of their best spring showings since the last spruce budworm outbreaks 10–15 years ago. Indicative counts in Massachusetts included eight in Boston May 18, six at Mt. A., May 19, and five in Gloucester May 15 (*vide* B.O., M.A.S.). In Connecticut, eight were seen in Waterbury May 14 (GH).

In e. Massachusetts, the days (read: previous night) of heaviest warbler movement appeared to be May 15, 18, 22, & 26. For 12 species whose numbers' in Massachusetts each year peak in May, the high counts of migrants (not counts of individuals al-

ready on territory) occurred on one of these 4 days (*vide* B.O.). For example: two Orange-crowneds at Mt. A., May 18; 40 N. Parulas at P.I., May 15; 18 Chestnut-sideds at P.I., May 15; 30 Magnolias at P.I., May 26; 25 Black-throated Blues in Gloucester May 15; 45 Black-throated Greens at Gloucester May 15; >18 Blackburnians in Provincetown May 22; >50 Blackpolls in Provincetown May 22; and 22 Black-and-whites in Boston May 22 (*vide* B.O.).

In Rhode Island in early May, Raithel discovered eight–ten singing N. Parulas in the vicinity of the Great Swamp and Worden's Pond, S. Kingston, and by the end of the month he had located a nest. This was apparently the first confirmed state breeding record of parula since 1933, though evidence of possible breeding was gathered during the state Atlas Project in 1982–1984. This discovery is particularly noteworthy because it comes at a time when N. Parula is apparently disappearing from much of its range in n.e. United States. Its presence as a breeder is closely tied to the presence of the aerial lichen *Usnea*, or "old man's beard," with which the warbler builds its nest. But, except in boreal habitats in n. New England, *Usnea* has all but vanished from the region—and so, too, have nesting parulas.

A ♀ Yellow-throated Warbler was found again at River Rd. in Kent, CT Apr. 26 (*vide* FM), where it remained through the

20 (*vide* Ma.A.S.), a Prothonotary in Hancock, NH May 5 (P. Hunt), and the same lone ♀ Prothonotary back on territory by May 14 at Great Meadows N.W.R. in Concord, MA for the 4th consecutive season (A. Wallace, v.o.).

Tanagers to Finches

Summer Tanagers were well reported, with a Regional total of at least 14, including one at Appledore I., ME May 4 (DH). A Painted Bunting that spent the winter at a feeder in Brewster, MA, one of several that invaded Cape Cod over the last 2 years, remained at least until Apr. 11 (A. Furman). Another Painted Bunting was reported from a feeder way "down east" in Cutler, ME May 30–31 (*vide* WT). Among the roughly ten Blue Grosbeaks in the Region, three were in New Hampshire, a good number for that state (*vide* DD, A.S.N.H.).

A Clay-colored Sparrow which first appeared at a Nantucket feeder Jan. 19 was last reported Mar. 12 (F. Reed); a wintering Lark Sparrow remained in Bridgewater, MA until Mar. 28 (K. Weinheimer); and a **Harris' Sparrow** that also overwintered in the Commonwealth departed S. Dartmouth around Mar. 20 (TA).

A junco meeting the essential criteria for a "White-winged" Dark-eyed Junco, (*J. h. aikenii*), was netted, banded, and photographed in Marion, MA Apr. 1 (ph. W.



period. This bird was probably the same individual that has held territory there for the previous 4 years, and established the first New England nesting record in 1990. The usual "overshooters," Prothonotary, Kentucky, and Hooded Warblers, were very well reported, with northernmost birds including a Kentucky in Portland, ME May

This junco banded at Marion, Massachusetts, April 1, 1994, showed at least some of the characteristics of the "White-winged Junco" [*J. h. aikenii*], a race very rarely recorded away from the Great Plains. Visible in this photograph are the white wingbars and the amount of white in the tail, more than in most juncos. Photograph/R. Harlow.

Evill). This subspecies, which breeds primarily in the vicinity of the Black Hills of South Dakota, has very rarely, if ever, been definitively identified in New England. Apparently, "Slate-colored" Dark-eyed Juncos may occasionally possess white wingbars, but these rare individuals also possess less than 3 completely white outer retrices and a gray plumage darker than their slightly larger Dakota relatives. Such atypical "Slate-colored" may represent intergrades, "hybrids" from "White-winged" parentage and some other junco subspecies.

Three Yellow-headed Blackbirds, all clustered, oddly, within 10 days of each other in s.e. Massachusetts, appeared in Sandwich Mar. 10 (R. Smith), Wellfleet Mar. 15 (M. Rosenbaum), and Rehobeth Mar. 20 (B. MacDonald). A large grackle in Biddeford, ME May 7 was reported as a Boat-tailed Grackle (S. Pollock), and the description of the head as appearing "somewhat crested," strongly supports this conclusion. Unfortunately, written descriptions may not adequately provide the subtle detail necessary to distinguish Boat-tailed from Great-tailed Grackle. Great-taileds have been recorded in Ontario and Nova Scotia, and the species is still rapidly expanding its range northward, making it a solid candidate for vagrancy. In this light, it would be presumptuous to assume all large *Quiscalus* grackles in New England are Boat-taileds, even though they have nested as close as Long Island, NY, and are therefore, probably, the more likely of the 2 species to occur here. Whichever species it was, if accepted it would represent a first state record. For a thorough treatment of both species, including a discussion on identification, see *AB* Vol. 29, No. 5.

The northern finches that arrived in the Region this past winter were still in evidence this spring. Twenty-thirty Red Crossbills were still in Worcester, MA at the end of May (E. Banks), a flock of White-winged Crossbills that remained at Mt. A. through the period numbered 20 birds May 12 (*vide* B.O.), and Com. Redpolls, which staged their biggest winter flight since 1987, were still widespread and numerous in early

April. Among the last redpolls to leave were three in Thornton, NH May 12 (S. Bailey). A total of seven Hoary Redpolls included four in Maine, two in Vermont, and one in Connecticut, but only the Vermont reports came with any documentation. A Eur. Goldfinch visited a feeder in Bedford, NH Apr. 30 (B. Wright, *vide* A.S.N.H.). A ♀ Evening Grosbeak that brought two fledglings to a feeder in Heath May 27 (D. Gary), established the most recent nesting record in Massachusetts for a species that rarely breeds that far south in New England.

Subregional editors (bold), contributors (italics) and observers: *Audubon Society of New Hampshire*, T. Aversa, J. Berry, *Bird Observer* magazine, L. Brinker, L. Bunten (LBu), D. DeLuca, A. & B. Delorey, J. Despres, Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch, D. Emerson, D. Finizia, R. A. Forster, G. Hanisek, D. Holmes, S. Kellogg, V. Laux, P. Lehman, *Maine Audubon Society (Ma.A.S.)*, *Maine Bird Notes*, E. Mantlik, *Massachusetts Audubon Society (M.A.S.)*, C. Marantz, T. Murin, B. Nikula, J. Papale (JPa), B. Perkins, S. Perkins, J. Peterson, R. Quinn, C. Raitchel, M. Rines, A. Schmierer, J. Sones, R. H. Stymeist, W. Townsend, *Vermont Institute of Natural Science*, T. Young.
—Simon Perkins, *Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, MA 01773*.



Hudson-Delaware Region

WILLIAM J. BOYLE, JR., ROBERT O. PAXTON, AND DAVID A. CUTLER

The Great Winter of 1993–1994 continued through March and into April, with several additional major snowfalls over much of the Region and lingering snow cover in the north. Northern New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and most of New York state still had snow on the ground until mid-April, when a two-week warm spell melted the snow and finally thawed lakes and reservoirs several weeks later than normal. After that, the arrival of spring slowed considerably, with the first half of May especially chilly and temperatures well below normal for the month.

The warm spell of late April brought an unprecedented influx of early migrants, especially vireos and warblers, with many record early arrival date. In Rochester, where complete data have been kept for many decades, eight species of warbler appeared on record-early dates. Two others tied the early dates in northeastern Pennsylvania, where Reid had never found more than 10 species of warbler in an April day's birding for nearly half a century; he was amazed to find 20 species in Wyoming County April 30. Brinkley counted 108 species of birds while standing in one spot on Derby Hill, New York April 26. As with the arrival of spring, the pace of the migration slackened in May, but overall the flight was considered to be one of the best in many years. Although the variety was excellent, including numerous rarities, the numbers of many neotropical migrants are still far below the counts of 20 years ago.

Abbreviations: Braddock Bay (*Braddock Bay S.P. 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*); Derby Hill (*Derby Hill Bird Observatory, near Mexico, Oswego, NY*); Green Lane (*Green Lane Reservoir, Montgomery, PA*); Jamaica Bay (*Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Queens, NYC*); LI (*Long Island, NY*); Little Creek (*Little Creek W.M.A., Kent, DE*); Montezuma (Mon-