

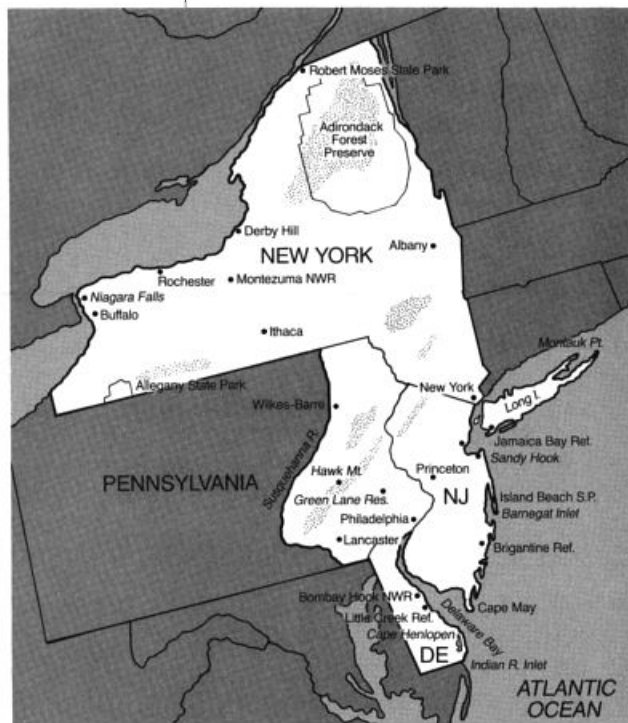
Evill). This subspecies, which breeds primarily in the vicinity of the Black Hills of South Dakota, has very rarely, if ever, been definitively identified in New England. Apparently, "Slate-colored" Dark-eyed Juncos may occasionally possess white wingbars, but these rare individuals also possess less 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.

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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-

tezuma N.W.R., at the n. end of L. Cayuga, Seneca, 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). D.R.B.C. (Delaware Rare Birds Committee); N.J.B.R.C. (New Jersey Bird Records Committee); N.Y.S.A.R.C. (New York State Avian Rarities Committee); P.O.R.C. (Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee).

Loons to Ibises

Excellent numbers of both species of loon were noted during migration, including an impressive 90 Com. Loons on Saratoga L., Apr. 17 (WGE, NLM) and a flight of 142 in one hour at Mt. Pleasant, Tompkins, NY Apr. 19. But the major waterbird highlight was the continuing massive presence of Red-necked Grebes in every part of the Region. In general, numbers were down slightly from the February maxima, but included some new high totals, such as 17 along the Delaware coast Mar. 25 (WWF), 17 on the lower Susquehanna R., Lancaster, PA Apr. 4 (RMS), 130 on Seneca L., NY and 235 at Somerset, Niagara, NY Apr. 9 (WDn). Numerous individuals lingered into May and beyond; participants in the World Series of Birding were treated to the presence of two Red-neckeds and one Horned grebe at Stone Harbor, NJ May 14, all in full breeding plumage.

A tantalizing report of a large, gray, red-dish-necked, long-billed waterbird carrying young on its back and trailing others behind at Elsinboro Point, Salem, NJ May 15 was received from 2 casual birders; they thought the bird was a Red-throated Loon, but decided it was probably a Red-necked Grebe after being shown pictures of the latter. An ad. Red-necked had been seen in the same spot a week earlier. We shall never know if a first Regional breeding record was missed for this species, which has nested as close as Ontario and New Hampshire. An Eared Grebe in breeding plumage was at Jones Beach, LI Apr. 3 (H. Farber) and another at Dennis Creek, Cape May Apr. 12 (MF).

On a cold, overcast May 8 morning, M. Peterson and D. Spaulding, operating the banding station at Crown Point State Historic Site at the s. end of L. Champlain, were amazed to see a large, long-winged bird appear over the walls of the fort and cruise across the tip of the peninsula before disappearing to the west. They identified the bird as a Yellow-nosed Albatross, which, if accepted by N.Y.S.A.R.C., would represent an extraordinary inland record, though not the first for New York. Otherwise, tubenoses were poorly represented, as the several seasonal pelagic trips found cold waters and few

birds. Three Leach's Storm-Petrels were a highlight of the May 28 trip out of Barnegat Light, but a Sooty Shearwater was the only shearwater on a Delaware pelagic trip the next day.

What was possibly a single Am. White Pelican made the rounds of the s. part of the Region in May. One was at Tivoli Bay, Dutchess, NY May 12 (C. Nieder); another or the same was at Jamaica Bay, May 15 in the morning (m.ob.), Huntington, Nassau, LI that afternoon, and Jones Beach May 18. A different Am. White Pelican was at Montezuma Apr. 23 and at Sheldrake on Cayuga L., May 29. Yet another was at Cape May May 20–21 and at Bombay Hook May 21–22 (m.ob.). For the 2nd consecutive year, there were few Brown Pelicans along the coast this spring.

A peak count of 106 Great Cormorants at Keansburg, Monmouth and 28 at South Amboy, Middlesex Mar. 14 were unusually high numbers so far into New Jersey's Raritan Bay (BV). Fourteen at Riverton, Burlington Mar. 26 (TBa) was the top tally for the Delaware R.; as usual a few lingered into May. Reports of nesting Double-crested Cormorants came from all along the coast of New Jersey and even some inland reservoirs. It seems to be only a matter of time before the species colonizes the entire s. part of the Region, where it first nested only about 10 years ago. A ♀ *Anhinga* thrilled a New Jersey Audubon Society field trip as it took off over Allaire S.P., Monmouth May 7, and soared overhead before heading N (RKa *et al.*); later that day an *Anhinga* was reported over Alley Pond Park, Queens, NY (J. Clinton). An unconfirmed report of an *Anhinga* at Riverton, Burlington, NJ May 17 was also received.

Hérons and egrets attracted little attention, although Am. Bitterns were more widely reported as nesting from n. New Jersey and Pennsylvania north than in recent years. A Tricolored Heron at Tift Nature Preserve, Buffalo May 8–20, furnished only the 2nd report for the Niagara Frontier of w. New York. One Cattle Egret, a declining species in the Region, was at Braddock Bay Apr. 27 (JL), and a White-faced Ibis was a one-day wonder at Cape May Apr. 19 (RC *et al.*).

Waterfowl

The imm. Trumpeter Swan continued at Russell Station, near Rochester, throughout the period; it is most likely came from the Ontario reintroduction program (m.ob.). Four Greater White-fronted Geese of the Greenland race were at Green Lane Mar. 12–17 (GLF, m.ob.), and were accompanied by a Barnacle Goose (GLF *et al.*), raising yet another

problem of origin for the P.O.R.C. At least eight White-fronteds were in the Buffalo area in late March–early April, including one of the *frontalis* subspecies, a single was at Union Spring, Cayuga L., Mar. 19, and a single was at Jones Beach Apr. 3–4 (J. Suggs *et al.*).

A Ross' Goose was with a flock of Snow Geese at Chittenango, Madison, NY Mar 28–Apr. 13, providing the 2nd record for the Oneida L. Basin (DC, m.ob.), and another, possibly a hybrid Ross' x Snow Goose, was in Lancaster, PA Mar. 30–31, furnishing the 10th record for the county in a state that had none until 1991. Four Green-winged Teal of the Eur. subspecies were reported, well above normal. One was at Brig. Mar. 8 (J. Danzenbaker) and two at the Corbin City unit of McNamara W.M.A., Atlantic, NJ Mar. 26 (J. Hansen *et al.*) Eurasian Wigeon were in normal numbers, although many go unreported.

A ♀ King Eider was at Sandy Hook Mar 12, and the imm. male at Barnegat Light lingered to Mar. 16. There were still 13 Harlequin Ducks at Pt. Lookout, LI Mar 20, entertaining those searching for a rare gull, and a late bird was at Sandy Hook Apr 20 (BSe). An impressive 40,000 scoters of all 3 species were at Montauk Mar. 13, and an equally staggering 10,800 White-winged Scoters were off Hamlin Beach, Monroe, in Lake Ontario May 18; the latter would have gone largely undetected had it not been for the timely passage of some boats offshore that put the birds to flight (WSy). Continuing from the winter were Barrow's Goldeneyes at the Moses-Saunders Dam, near Massena, St. Lawrence Mar 20 (DD) and Cohoes, Albany Mar. 23 (WGE, NLM *et al.*), but an unusual find was an ad. female at Cayuga L., Seneca NY Apr. 9 (NB *et al.*).

Raptors to Cranes

All of the regular hawk watches had good seasons, especially Derby Hill, which set new highs for 6 species, tallied 45,659 birds, and had several non-raptor rarities Braddock Bay also did well with 48,227 birds, including a Mississippi Kite May 31 (JL). A Black Vulture was at Chappaqua, Westchester, NY Mar. 1 (JA), and another was at Doodletown, Rockland May 7+ and may have been in the Harriman S.P. vulture roost. This species is now widespread in n. New Jersey, and it is only a matter of time before it will be found nesting in New York.

A very early Am. Swallow-tailed Kite was at Jones Beach, LI Mar. 11 (M. Lindauer), other Long Island sightings came from Brooklyn Apr. 19 (T. Fiore), and Flanders, Suffolk Apr. 24 (J. Hastings). The only New Jersey records were also in April: one at

Hansey Cr., *Cumberland* Apr. 17 (R. Barber) and one at Cape May Apr. 24 (TP). An early Mississippi Kite was at Cape May Apr. 22 (JHd), but only about six were in *Atlantic-Cape May* during the 2nd half of May. A Mississippi Kite was at Bombay Hook May 17 (H&J Marsden), and another flew over Jamaica Bay May 14 (RKu *et al.*).

The ever-increasing number of nesting Bald Eagles continued to expand their range; in New Jersey, *Burlington* and *Hunterdon* were added to the list of counties with breeding pairs, the latter the first nest in n. New Jersey in half a century. At Green Lane, a Bald Eagle evicted a Red-tailed Hawk from its nest, although nothing came of it. More details on nesting success will be reported in the next seasonal report. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks seem to be gradually expanding their breeding range and numbers in New Jersey, but most surprising was the discovery of a nesting N. Goshawk in the pine barrens of *Burlington*.

The only Swainson's Hawk of the season was at Hamlin Mar. 12 (RMa, RGS); it was missed at the nearby Braddock Bay hawk watch. Among the Red-tailed Hawks passing by the New York watches were three *kriderii* at Derby Hill, two at Braddock Bay, and one at Mt. Pleasant, *Tompkins*; dark-morph Red-taileds included six at Derby Hill, three at Braddock Bay, and one at Yates, *Orleans*, NY. A late migrant Golden Eagle was in *Sussex*, NJ May 12 (NB *et al.*).

Two pairs of Merlin were apparently again nesting in n.e. New York (*fide* JMCP), while another at Rensselaer May 13 suggests watching for a possible range expansion (WGE). Peregrine Falcons are nesting on so many bridges (including the George Washington) and buildings in numerous cities that it is hard to keep track of them all. A Gyrfalcon at Cape Vincent, *Jefferson*, NY Mar. 7-23, was probably one of the birds present during the winter (BMW, F. Mueller).

The mushrooming population of Wild Turkeys continues to move into all parts of the Region, including some unusual places; one was seen repeatedly in the median strip of Interstate 95 just n. of Wilmington, DE (M. Steele *et al.*), and another was at Inwood Hill Park in n. Manhattan(!), NYC Apr. 21 (*fide* TWB).

The World Series of Birding May 14 produced records of Yellow Rail at Jakes Landing, *Cape May* (P. Guris, BNM), and of Black Rail at Turkey Point, *Cumberland* (PDu, PB). Up to six Black Rails were at Port Mahon from Apr. 30+, and one was at Bombay Hook May 13 (A. Guarente). In New York, a Black Rail was heard at the traditional Oak Beach, LI spot May 15 (RKu,

ABa). King Rails were more widely reported than usual, including two as far north as Rochester in late May (*fide* RGS).

Sandhill Cranes continue to show up with greater frequency in the spring. Braddock Bay, where they are now annual, had six Mar. 30 (JL), while Derby Hill had four for the season, and one was at Yates Apr. 9 (WDn *et al.*). A Sandhill Crane was at Peace Valley Nature Center, *Bucks*, PA for at least 2 days Apr. 13-14 (m.ob.), and two were at Seeley Lake, near Bridgeton, *Cumberland*, NJ Apr. 25 (G. Honachefsky).

Shorebirds

American Golden-Plover were in short supply, with Bombay Hook the only spot to have more than one sighting on various days from Apr. 9-May 15; just two others in Delaware, two in New Jersey, and one at Jamaica Bay rounded out the list. A Semipalmated Plover at Hamlin May 27, was the earliest ever for the Rochester area (T. Hampson). Four Black-necked Stilts appeared n. of their Delaware home base; one was at McNamara W.M.A., May 7 (J. Usewicz), two at Little Ferry, Passaic, NJ May 10 (D. Smith), and one at Huntington, LI May 15 (W. Chaskel). Two Am. Avocets at Brig May 25-28, were also the only ones n. of Delaware (v.o.).

A Whimbrel of the Eur. subspecies was at Avalon, *Cape May* Apr. 16 (C. Bennett). Two Hudsonian and two Marbled godwits were at 4 different *Cape May* locations in early May, but the shorebird highlight of the season was the almost annual **Rufous-necked Stint** in Delaware. This year's bird, in nearly full breeding plumage, was at Woodland Beach W.M.A. near Bombay Hook May 7-19 (PV, m.ob.). Unfortunately, in trying to get closer to the bird, many birders refused to cooperate with the access regulations at the refuge, creating undesirable friction between the birding community and the state Department of Environmental Protection employees. Such situations can only lead to difficulties for birders at this and other wildlife areas.

Delaware also had the monopoly on most of the other good shorebirds, such as a Curlew Sandpiper at Bombay Hook May 9-21, and one-two at Port Mahon May 22-28. The only other Curlew Sandpiper was at Brig May 13-23 (M. Levy, m.ob.). Ruffs are a thing of the past at Pedricktown, *Salem*, NJ, where one was seen for one day only this year Apr. 8, but the Delaware refuges continue to attract small numbers. One was at Little Creek as early as Mar. 26 (BNM), and three-four were seen from there to Woodland Beach until at least May 21. In New Jersey there was one at

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Halmahera/Sulawesi

21 July-13 August

INDONESIA #2

Lesser Sundas

Flores, Timor, Sumba

Komodo, Sumbawa

13 August-1 September

Goshen, *Cape May* Apr. 11, and one at Brig May 8; in New York there was one at Oak Beach, LI Apr. 1–2, and a Ruff and a Reeve on the Niagara-Orleans County Line Road Apr. 30–May 4 (W.Dn, T. Harper).

Wilson's Phalaropes were apparently nesting again in *Clinton*, NY in late May (*vide* JMCP), but were otherwise uncommon. Red-necked Phalaropes were in Delaware at Cape Henlopen May 21–22 (WWF) and at Port Mahon May 22 (MGU); one was at Brig May 15–28 (v.o.), and another at Lawrenceville, *Mercer*, NJ May 1 (E. Hayes). Two Red Phalaropes were seen on the May 28 pelagic trip out of Barnegat Light.

Gulls to Alcids

An unprecedented movement of Little Gulls took place up the Susquehanna R. in early April, with perhaps a dozen birds involved. The first was detected far upstream at Plymouth, Luzerne Apr. 2 (J. Hoyson, R. Koval, J. Shoemaker) and lingered long enough for veteran Reid to add a new state bird. The next day another was at Ft. Hunter n. of Harrisburg (D. Henise *et al.*), where it stayed for several days. Downstream off Lancaster, four–six were seen Apr. 9 and on subsequent days; Heller estimated ten birds total based on timing and the variety of plumages of the birds, all adults in various stages of molt. A maximum of six Little Gulls were at Pt. Lookout in late March, and one at Sandy Hook Apr. 9. In upstate New York, a more normal 12 were at Buffalo May 15 and four at Hamlin May 25.

The usual scattering of Com. Black-headed Gulls included two late birds at Niagara Apr. 20, and one apparently planning to stay for the summer at S. Amboy, *Middlesex*, NJ to at least May 21 (v.o.) The massive concentration of gulls at Penn Manor Lakes, *Bucks*, PA still held seven Iceland, 18 Lesser Black-backed, and one Glaucous gull Mar. 31 (R. Lewis, P. Post). All 3 of these species were reported in moderate numbers, mainly in March. A Lesser Black-backed Gull at Beaver Island S.P., near Buffalo, had a very dark mantle suggesting *fuscus*. Burke described a gull in unusual plumage at Massapequa Pond, *Nassau*, LI Mar. 13, that appeared to be a Thayer's Gull in late first-winter plumage or perhaps a 2nd-winter bird in delayed molt (TWB).

The bird of the season was indisputably the ad. **Ross' Gull** in partial breeding plumage discovered at Pt. Lookout Mar. 17, and seen sporadically on 5 other days to Mar. 30 (M. Levine, m.ob.). This was New York's first confirmed record (there is a single observer sighting from Montauk Dec. 11, 1986) and follows closely on the first confirmed Regional record in New Jersey Nov. 27, 1993.



Almost lost in the crowd here was New York's most exciting rarity of the season, the adult Ross's Gull at Point Lookout, Long Island, during late March 1994. Among this flock of Bonaparte's Gulls, look for the bird at center with paler back, whiter head, and long pale wingtips. Photograph/Bob Lewis.

A Roseate Tern was a rare find May 25 at Cape May Point, where up to two were seen during the summer (RC *et al.*), while two Forster's Terns at Crown Point in early April were new to the L. Champlain Region (*vide* JMCP). What was likely the same **White-winged Tern** that nested at Perch River W.M.A., *Jefferson*, NY 2 years ago was present for one day only May 8 (R. Worona); >80 Black Terns were there as well, and many more were at other *Jefferson* and *St. Lawrence* sites. There were more spring reports of Black Tern than usual in coastal Delaware and New Jersey.

A Dovekie was found dead at Barnegat Light Mar. 3 (MJC), but other than a few Razorbills offshore and on e. Long Island, alcids were non-existent.

Owls to Shrikes

Two different reports of White-winged Dove came from *Cape May*; one was seen at Avalon Apr. 28, although no details were received (D. Phillips), and another was at Rio Grande May 22 (KK, D. Rosselet, † to N.J.B.R.C.). A imm. Snowy Owl, apparently marked with a yellow spot on the back of the head, lingered in the Rochester area until an amazingly late May 27 (m.ob.). Unusual for spring was a W. Kingbird at Higbee's Beach, Cape May May 28 (TWB, GB). More regular in spring, but present in record numbers, were five different Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in New Jersey and one in New York. The first was at Jakes Landing, *Cape May* May 13–14 (m.ob.), another at Oakhurst, *Monmouth*, also May 14 (J.Hd, G. Eisenhart), and two more at Cinnaminson, *Burlington* the same day (A. Cohen). The last in New Jersey was at Higbee Beach May 27–28 (P. Johnson, m.ob.), while the New York bird was at Nine Mile Point, *Oswego* May 28 (M. Koeneke, ph.).

As Com. Ravens continue to expand S and Fish Crows move N, it is not surprising that some new areas of overlap will occur. Thus, Yunick had all 3 species of *Corvus* calling over his yard in Schenectady Apr. 1 (RPY). A Fish

Crow at Saranac L. deep in the Adirondacks Apr. 7, was new for the Adirondack-Champlain region of upstate New York; another Fish Crow was at Rochester, where they are almost annual, Apr. 29 (RGS). To the south, a pair of Com. Ravens nested on a microwave transmission tower at High Point S.P., *Sussex*, NJ, where they were discovered in early May by a couple of foreigners scouting for the World Series of Birding (A. McGeehan, B. McTavish, m.ob.); this is only the 2nd confirmed nesting in New Jersey in recent decades, the first coming last year after a couple of seasons of presumed breeding in *Warren*.

Sedge Wrens made news in every part of the Region. A group of one–three at Port Mahon from May 10 were expected (APE, JLS), but one at Bear Swamp, *Northampton*, PA May 8–9 was a first for the county (S. LaBar *et al.*). Even more unexpected was a pair of Sedge Wrens discovered in May at Lyons, *Somerset*, NJ and later confirmed to be nesting (SSo). Reports from 5 different areas in the St. Lawrence region of upstate New York was considered encouraging (LBC), but only a single report came from the Rochester area.

Good numbers of Gray-cheeked Thrush were noted on Long Island May 14–15; all of those studied carefully appeared to be of the "Bicknell's" race, which is being considered for separate species status. Elsewhere, Gray-cheekeds were in short supply, although Swainson's Thrushes seemed plentiful. Lingering Bohemian Waxwings in the St. Lawrence region produced a peak flock of 1200–1500 near Watertown Apr. 9 (RB). The only Loggerhead Shrikes were in upstate New York at Derby Hill Mar. 24 (BSu), at Hamlin Apr. 15 (MDA), at Montezuma Apr. 16–24, and at Cape Vincent in late May (LBC).

Vireos to Warblers

Philadelphia Vireo is very rare along the coast in spring, so two in New Jersey were noteworthy. One was at Allaire S.P., May 14 (MJC), and the second at Cape May May 24 (DSi). Observers throughout the Region commented on the absence or scarcity of Tennessee Warbler; although it habitually migrates W of us, some years it can be common to abundant. Is this a real or ephemeral decline? Most other species were early, but except for Cape May and Bay-breasted did not appear in higher than usual numbers.

The warbler of the season was Swainson's. Prior to this year, there were only 2 banding records and 2 acceptable sight records for this species in New Jersey, so the arrival of a singing male at Higbee Beach, Cape May Apr. 17 was met with great excitement (DSi, LZ). It was seen and heard briefly the next morning, only to disappear. On Apr. 20, it (or another) was discovered singing a couple of miles away at

Cape May Pt., where it remained daily until Apr. 30, only to reappear next day at the other end of Higbee Beach, where it vociferously defended its territory for the next 2 months and was seen by hundreds of observers. No female was ever detected, and some who saw the bird at all 3 locations believe that more than one individual may have been involved in the multiple sightings. Incredibly, another singing ♂ Swainson's Warbler was discovered at the Eatontown Arboretum, *Monmouth*, NJ May 14, where it remained through the end of the period (N. Kazanjian). Much farther north May 14, Sullivan discovered a singing ♂ Swainson's Warbler at Derby Hill, a first for the Oneida L. Basin († to N.Y.S.A.R.C.); unfortunately, it could not be relocated.

Dickcissel to Finches

A Dickcissel was at Prospect Park, Queens Apr. 3–10, and a pair was apparently nesting at Leipsic, *Kent*, DE until mowed out May 17 (v.o.). A Clay-colored Sparrow was at Jones Beach May 11 (D. Klauber); more expected were singles at Oswego May 20, Derby Hill May 21, and two in the Rochester area in late May. Two–three Henslow's Sparrows were at W. Nicholson, *Wyoming*, PA, a traditional nesting area, in late May (WR), but none was found in the Letchworth S.P. area s. of Rochester. A LeConte's Sparrow was an outstanding find at Braddock Bay May 3 (J. Bounds, ph. KG), while another at Higbee Beach May 8–10 was seen by many scouting for the World Series (P. Pratt, m.ob.).

A count of eight Lincoln's Sparrows by one party in *Sussex*, NJ May 12–13 was more than are usually reported in an entire spring in the state (NB, JW). Many observers noted large numbers of White-crowned Sparrows throughout the Region as late as mid-May, even as far south as Delaware; 45 were found in *Sussex*, NJ May 12–13 (NB, JW). A beautiful White-crowned Sparrow of the "Gambel's" race was at Jones Beach, LI May 15 (PAB, ph. T. Veso).

Eight Lapland Longspurs in *Lehigh*, PA, Mar. 27, were exceptionally late (L. Freedman). Only seven Yellow-headed Blackbirds



A visitor from the west was this paleored White-crowned Sparrow, evidently the race *Z. l. gambelii*, at Jones Beach, Long Island, New York, May 15, 1994. Photograph/T. Veso.

were reported, two each from New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and three in New York; the most unusual was one at Ward, *Allegany*, NY May 15 (VP). About 30 Brewer's Blackbirds were still at the traditional Leipsic, DE spot Mar. 26 (BNM); one–two were at Hamlin Apr. 8–11 (MDa *et al.*). A Boat-tailed Grackle at Rye, *Westchester*, NY Apr. 9, furnished a first for the county (TWB), as this species spreads up the coast and into the bays. Remarkably, numerous observers in New York commented on the declining numbers of Brown-headed Cowbirds; wishful thinking? Would that it were true in New Jersey and Delaware.

Clearly on the decline in many areas is the House Finch, which, though still abundant, seems to have passed a population peak several years ago. A flock of 15 Red Crossbills at Pine Bush, *Albany* May 8, did not appear to be nesting, but could have been prospecting (WGE, NLM). Common Redpolls left over from the winter invasion lingered in some areas of upstate New York to early May. A Hoary Redpoll, believed to be of the nominate race, visited a Narvon, *Lancaster*, PA feeder Mar. 1–14 with up to 150 Com. Redpolls and almost 200 birders from many states (BFH). Several others were reported during March, including one that returned to a Rockaway, *Morris* feeder after a 2-month absence, another continuing at a Pompey, *Onondaga*, NY feeder from winter, and another at a Watertown, NY feeder Apr. 6 (RB).

Exotics

A well-documented Silver Gull was at Cape Henlopen May 20 for a few hours, but is unlikely to be a natural vagrant from Australia (WWF, B. Fintel).

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