

Appalachian Region

GEORGE A. HALL

After a series of poor spring migrations, we finally had a good one. Or did we think it was good only in comparison to recent years? Indeed, there were some good migrant "waves," and a generous number of bold-faced "goodies" appear in this account.

Winter did not end with February, and cold snowy weather continued into March. A heavy snow and ice storm hit the northern part of the Region in the first week of the month, and several lesser snowfalls occurred later in the month. The ice did not melt on many bodies of water until after April 1. April, on the other hand, was much warmer than normal and had about normal rainfall, while May was cool and very dry.

The wintry March slowed the early migration, and many areas missed the waterfowl flight because of lack of open water. While arriving migrants tended to be late, the unusual winterers—Red-necked Grebes, Common Redpolls, Pine Siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks—remained well into April. With the arrival of warm weather in April the tempo picked up, and many species ar-

rived early. Most of the migrants expected in early May arrived in late April, and a large number of record "first seen" dates were reported. The cool weather of May did not slow things down, and most areas reported the best migration in recent years, although some species overflow occasional areas, producing a pattern of low numbers. At most places the migration was over by the third week in May, and there were no migrants still present after June 1.

Among the unusual records were three state and Regional firsts.

Abbreviations: B.E.S.P. (*Bald Eagle State Park, Centre Co., PA*); G.B.W.M.A., (*Green Bottom W.M.A., Cabell County, WV, formerly known as Glenwood Swamp*); M.C.F.H. (*Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County, KY*); P.I.S.P. (*Presque Isle State Park, Erie Co., PA*); P.N.R. (*Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland Co., PA*); R.C.B.L. (*Robert C. Byrd Locks, Ohio River, Mason County, WV, formerly known as Gallipolis Locks*).

Loons to Herons

Red-throated Loons were reported from Rocky Gap S.P., MD Apr. 11 (MT) and from P.I.S.P., Apr. 14 & 23 (JM). The flight of Com. Loons was the best in recent years, with high counts of 147 at Greenlick Dam, Fayette, PA Apr. 10 (M&EW) and 39 at Stone Valley L., Huntingdon, PA Apr. 10 (JM). Two pairs of Pied-billed Grebes nested at G.B.W.M.A. (WA). Horned Grebes were unusually common, with high

counts of 63 at Warren, PA Mar. 25 (DW) and 19 on the Ohio R. near Pittsburgh Mar. 21 (PB). Much more unusual for the Region were Eared Grebes at Mill Creek Park, Mahoning, OH Mar. 16 (NB); near Ligonier, PA Apr. 6 (RCL); and at P.I.S.P., Apr. 13 (JM) and May 13–14 (JM, WS). The late winter influx of Red-necked Grebes continued into March and early April with almost every reporting area having some. The high count was from P.I.S.P.: 35 Mar. 31, with one was still there May 18–22 (JM).

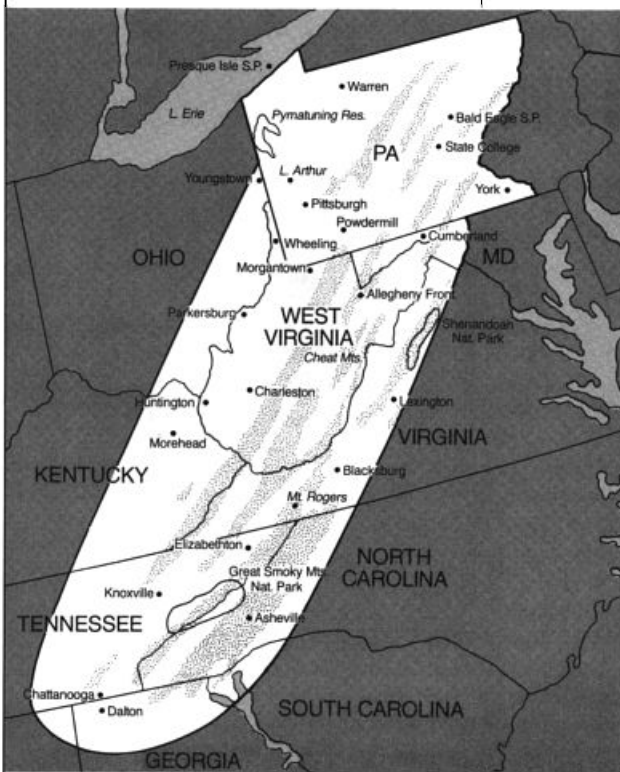
A white pelican was on the Ohio R. near Belpre, Washington, OH from Mar. 15+ (JE). While presumed to be the American species, no evidence that it wasn't an exotic escape was available. The Double-crested Cor-

morant was reported in April in numbers up to 40 from almost every place having suitable water.

At P.I.S.P. a season's total of 16 Am. Bitterns were seen departing on migration at sunset between Apr. 15–25 (JM). Other records came from there Apr. 29 & May 5 (JM); Conneaut Marsh, PA Apr. 24 and May 5 (RFL, JBa); Antes Ft., PA Apr. 9 (G&PS); Greencastle, PA Mar. 29 (CG); P.N.R., Apr. 9 (RCL & RM); and G.B.W.M.A., Apr. 24 and May 1 (WA & MG). Least Bitterns were reported from G.B.W.M.A., May 1 (WA); P.I.S.P., May 5+ (JM *et al.*); and Austin Springs, TN May 15–16 (JB). A new heronry in Butler, PA had 10–12 nests (GRE) while the well-established heronry in Mercer, PA had 750 adults and juveniles (EB). Great Egrets were more numerous than usual in spring, being reported from 11 locations from P.I.S.P. (JM) in the north to Whitfield, GA (HD). A Snowy Egret was reported from Pymatuning L., PA May 9–13 (m.ob.). Little Blue Herons were found at the Huntsdale Fish Hatchery, Cumberland, PA Apr. 23 (DH) and Hartstown, PA May 28 (WS). A Tricolored Heron was seen in Westmoreland, PA Apr. 28 (DL). Most remarkable was a flock of >50 Cattle Egrets flying over Charleston, WV at dusk Apr. 2 (WA). Other reports came from G.B.W.M.A., Apr. 24 & 25 (MG & WA); Conneaut Twp., PA Apr. 16–22 (SG); Conneautville, PA Apr. 26 (AT); and Newville, PA May 17 (DH). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were nesting at Elizabethton, TN Apr. 10 (RK) and one was seen at W. Fairview, PA May 14 (DH).

Waterfowl to Rails

Many waterfowl flew over icebound lakes and ponds which did not open until after Apr. 1. Thus while some places had very poor migrations, those with open water experienced some of the best flights in recent years. There were two Regional firsts. A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was photographed at R.C.B.L., May 1–2 (MG & WA). If truly a wild bird, it provided West Virginia with a first record. A total of at least five Trumpeter Swans were found at 3 locations in Westmoreland, PA Mar. 15–23 (RCL *et al.*), probably the first Pennsylvania record. None of these birds was marked. The Tundra Swan flight came mostly in the middle of March, with no great numbers reported. The highest counts were 174 at Meadville, PA Mar. 27 (RFL) and 90 near Cumberland, MD Mar. 15 (MT). Mute Swan reports continue to increase: the Ohio R. near Belmont, WV Mar. 2 (EA) and near Belpre, OH Apr. 1 (WA & RW); Conneaut L., PA Mar. 27 (RFL); and McClintic Wildlife Station, WV Apr. 3–16 (WA).





Two Mute Swans near Belpre, Washington County, Ohio, April 1, 1994. Photograph/Wendell L. Argabrite.

A Greater White-fronted Goose at Pine L., OH March 19 (NB) was noteworthy. The only Snow Goose reports were of six Mar. 21 in *Allegheny*, PA (fide PH) and one at P.I.S.P., May 3 (SS), a late date. The 6000 Canada geese at Pymatuning L. in early March had dropped to 500 by mid-April (RFL).

The only large number of dabbling ducks reported was 110 Am. Wigeon at Conneaut Marsh, PA Apr. 2 (RFL). One-two Eur. Wigeon were at P.I.S.P., Mar 26-27 (JM). Diving ducks were more numerous than usual, with high counts of 200 Ring-necked Ducks at Woodcock L., PA Apr. 8-10 and 41 Ruddy Ducks at Pymatuning L., PA Apr. 16 (RFL); Redheads and Canvasback continue to be in low numbers. The unusual (but not rare) Greater Scaup was reported from Conneaut Marsh, PA Mar. 27; Woodcock L., PA Apr. 3 (RFL); and from *Bote-tourt*, VA Mar. 6 (MS). More Oldsquaws were reported than usual. All three scoters were found at P.I.S.P. (JM), as usual. The rare Black Scoter was also found at Trout Run Res., PA Apr. 7 (RM). Surf Scoters were seen at Colyer I., PA Apr. 21-22 (AN, AF) and Pine Grove Furnace S.P., PA on the late date of May 13 (DH). White-winged Scoters were in *Franklin*, PA Mar. 31 (CG) and *Warren*, PA Apr. 8 (TG). A **Barrow's Goldeneye** was at P.I.S.P., Mar. 23 (†JM). The Hooded Merganser continues to be reported in good numbers; two broods were seen in *Butler*, PA May 24 (NW), but all young had disappeared by May 30 (PH).

A Black Vulture was seen in *Lycoming*, PA May 29 (SS). Ospreys seem to be doing well, with reports of migrants from throughout the Region. Bald Eagles were reported from 11 localities, with a high count of 10 near *Warren*, PA (WH). There were 10 nests in n.w. Pennsylvania (Pennsylvania Game Commission). Five nests were located in West Virginia (CS) and three in *Trumbull*, OH (CB). During 3 weeks in March, a ♂ Bald Eagle at a nest in *Butler*, PA was forced to make a 52 mi round trip to open water for food (NW) because of the frozen lakes.

Unusually late for migrants were the reports of N. Goshawks on Roan Mt., TN May 1 (FA) and in *Washington*, TN May 15 (ATa). A goshawk was seen in *Franklin*, PA May 14 (KG), one nested in the *Allegheny N.F.* near *Warren*, PA (DW), and another nested in *Elk*, PA (DWO). There were only 2 known nesting sites of Red-shouldered Hawks in *Allegheny-Butler*, PA (PH). The dark-morph Red-tailed Hawk reported from *Centre*, PA in the winter remained until Mar. 26 (JPe). The only reports of Rough-legged Hawks were of winterers as late as Mar. 8 at *Lander*, PA (WH), and *Pymatuning L.*, PA Mar. 12 (RFL). An ad. Golden Eagle was seen Mar. 5 and Apr. 5 on *Whiteside Mt.*, Jackson, NC and another adult was reported from *Black Balsam Knob*, NC on the late date of May 21 (RME).

A total of four Merlins was reported from P.I.S.P., Apr. 29-May 9 (JM, JH) and singles were seen in *Centre*, PA Apr. 17 (GG) and *Jefferson*, OH Apr. 24 (NB). The Peregrine nesting in downtown Pittsburgh hatched two young (CBI), but the nesting in *Shenandoah N.P.* failed (MGS). Other sightings were in *Wood*, WV Apr. 7 (JE); *Carter*, TN May 8 (FA); P.I.S.P., May 12 & 14 (JM, EK); and *Ft. Loudon*, PA May 14 (KG).

King Rails were at G.B.W.M.A. from Apr. 24-May 14 and may have attempted to nest (WA & MG). Virginia Rails did nest there (WA) and were also reported from *Conneaut L.*, PA Apr. 16 (RFL); *Akeley*, PA Apr. 28 (DW); and *Mosquito L.*, OH May 14 (CB). Soras were reported from *Akeley* Apr. 28 (DW); *Mosquito L.*, May 14 (CB); 2 locations in *Crawford*, PA Apr. 20-May 30 (RFL); *Allegheny*, PA May 22 (PH); *Troutville*, VA May 8-12 (BK); and *Austin Spring*, TN May 1 (RK). Common Moorhens nested at G.B.W.M.A. (WA) and were at 3 locations in *Crawford*, PA Apr. 16-May 21 (RFL). The only concentration of Am. Coots reported was of 250 at *Cave Run L.*, KY Apr. 9 (FB).

The 400 Sandhill Cranes in *Whitfield*, GA Mar. 6 (AH) were in the normal range and the two in *Greene*, TN Apr. 7 (BC) were not far out of range, but the 10 flying over *Harvey's Knob* on the *Blue Ridge Parkway* Apr. 10 (MS) were unusual, as were the three singles in *Erie*, PA Mar. 22, an early date, and May 21 & 24 (JM).

Shorebirds to Woodpeckers

Shorebird numbers were not very large but the species list was good at most places, with some of the more unusual species reported in above-normal numbers. Water levels in some ponds and lakes were too high, but elsewhere heavy rains and the late snow melt produced good habitat in flooded farm fields. American Golden-Plovers were found near *Shippensburg*, PA May 13 & 15 (CG,

DH). A Willet at *Stuart's Draft*, VA May 25 provided the 3rd county record (AL). Upland Sandpipers were reported from *Adams*, PA Apr. 8 (CG) and *Jefferson*, OH Apr. 24 (NB). A Whimbrel was at P.I.S.P., May 26 (JM) and the only Ruddy Turnstone report was from *Wood*, WV May 7 (JE). Red Knots were at P.I.S.P., May 20 & 25 (JM). Unusual spring visitors were the W. Sandpiper at *Roanoke*, VA May 28 (MS) and the White-rumped Sandpipers at P.I.S.P., May 25 (JM); *Pymatuning L.*, PA May 5 (RFL); *Centre*, PA May 8 (DB); *L. Somerset*, PA May 28 (WS); and *M.C.F.H.*, May 7 (FB). There were more than usual reports of Dunlin: *Pymatuning L.*, PA (RFL); *Mosquito L.*, OH (CB); *Butler*, PA (SB & RC); *Mercersburg*, PA (CG); and *R.C.B.L.* (WA). Short-billed Dowitchers were reported from *Pymatuning L.*, PA May 13 (EK); *Shippensburg*, PA. May 13 (CG); *R.C.B. L* and *G.B.W.M.A.*, May 15 (WA). The Long-billed Dowitcher is seldom reported in the Region, but five were carefully studied at *Pymatuning L.*, PA May 1 (RFL). A *Wilson's Phalarope* was seen at *Shippensburg*, PA May 11 (DH).

The gull capital of the Region is P.I.S.P., which this year recorded: *Laughing Gull* May 11-24 (JM), *Franklin's Gull* Apr. 30 (JM, AK) *Little Gull* Apr. 3 (EK) & 23 and May 4 (JM), *Thayer's Gull* Mar. 10-16 (JM), *Iceland Gull* Mar 1 & 19 (JM) and May 7-10 (EK, GR), *Lesser Black-backed Gull* Mar. 1 & 16-18 and May 1 (JM), and *Glaucous Gull* Mar. 1-May 15 (JM). Away from *L. Erie* the unusual gull records were: *Thayer's Gull* at *Woodcock L.*, PA Mar. 26, for a first county record (RFL); *Laughing Gull* at *South Antes*, PA May 3, providing the 3rd local record (P&CGS); and three *Great Black-backed Gulls* on the *Penn State campus* Mar. 20 (TF). More noteworthy were the 3 nests of *Herring Gulls* on the *Allegheny R. n. of Pittsburgh*, probably the first Pennsylvania nestings and the first s. of Ontario and the w. end of *L. Erie* (PH *et al.*). The flight of *Bonaparte's Gulls* was good, with 100 reported on a flooded field near *Shippensburg*, PA Apr. 8 (DH).

An unusual number of *Caspian Tern* reports was headed by a peak of 240 at P.I.S.P., May 12 (JM). Other reports came from *B.E.S.P.*, Apr. 17 (AN, AF); *L. Somerset* Apr. 18 (RCL); *Greenlick Dam*, PA Apr. 10 (M&EW); *Belmont*, WV Apr. 7 (JE); *M.C.F.H.*, May 18 (FB); and *Austin Springs*, TN, (FA). The changing status of the *Forster's* and *Com. terns* was well demonstrated by the reports of 77 *Forster's* from 12 locations, compared with 16 *Commons* from 9 locations. A pair of *Black Terns* once again set up territory at P.I.S.P. (JM). Other reports came from *Siegel Marsh*, PA May 8 (JS);

Centre, PA May 12 (JPe); Fort Loudon, PA May 8 (CG); and M.C.F.H., May 6 & 7 (FB).

At P.N.R. both cuckoo species were in the best numbers in several years (RM & RCL), but in the *Franklin-Adams* area of Pennsylvania numbers were low (CG, DH). Northern West Virginia had a moderate outbreak of tent caterpillars, but cuckoos were not especially common. (GAH). Barn Owls were nesting in *Augusta*, VA (RS) and *Washington*, TN (RK), and one was reported from near Conneaut L., PA (RFL). A total of three-four Long-eared Owls were at P.I.S.P., Apr. 3–24 (DD) and one was at Opossum L., PA Apr. 3 (DH). Up to three N. Saw-whet Owls were at P.I.S.P. as late as Apr. 3 (DD). One was heard in *Elk*, PA May 14 (BH) and calling N. Saw-whets were heard on Roan (MB) and Unaka mts. (RMA) in n.e. Tennessee; a nest was discovered in a box on Roan Mt., Mar. 16. This nesting was apparently from earlier, but the pair re-nested in the same box (MB).

A Chuck-will's-widow was heard at Lyndhurst, VA Apr. 23 (LP). Whip-poor-wills continue to decline in the Region, so the report of five at P.I.S.P., May 15 (JM, DS) was good news. The 68 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds banded at P.N.R. was well above the average 48 in spring. Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported from *Shenandoah* (DDa) and *Augusta* (RS), VA and in *Allegheny*, PA (MT).

Flycatchers to Thrushes

Olive-sided Flycatchers were found in *Roanoke*, VA May 14 (Ka&KeS), and Johnson City, TN May 7 (RK), in n. West Virginia, E. Wood Pewees and Acadian Flycatchers were unusually scarce (GAH). The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, seldom reported in spring, was found in *Centre*, PA May 14 (GG) and very early at Natrona Heights, PA May 1 (PH), and 8 were banded at P.N.R., May 14–20 (RCL & RM). A calling Least Flycatcher in *Rabun*, GA was near the s. limit of its range (WB). Apparently the E. Phoebes that arrived before the bad weather in March did not suffer unusually heavy mortality.

Tree Swallows continue to move S. They nested for the first time in *Shenandoah*, VA (DDa), at M.C.F.H. (FB), and were still present in June in *Townes*, GA (WB). The record of the season in e. Tennessee was a **Violet-green Swallow** at Austin Springs Mar. 27, providing the first state record (†RK). Fish Crows were reported from the N. Branch of the Potomac in *Allegheny*, MD May 7 (MT) and in *Rockingham*, VA Apr. 5 (MGS). Common Ravens nested at a low elevation at Johnson City, TN (WC & LMc) and near Brasstown Bald, GA (MBr).

In the north Carolina Wrens, which had survived the cold weather of January and

February, were further hit by the snow and ice storm of early March. The consensus seemed to be that the species was “down but not out” as a few survivors remained at most places, particularly where they visited feeders. By the end of May some had turned up in areas that had had none earlier. Populations in e. Kentucky and n.e. Tennessee were thought to be normal. Noteworthy was the report of a **Bewick's Wren** in *Pendleton*, WV May 2 (GB). Sedge Wrens were at G.B.W.M.A., Apr. 24–25 (MG & WA) and in *Westmoreland*, PA in mid-May (*vide* RCL). A Marsh Wren was at Stone Valley L., PA Apr. 24 (GG), and at G.B.W.M.A., May 1 (WA).

Golden-crowned Kinglets were very scarce in the Pittsburgh area after the cold weather (PH). There were few comments on the status of the E. Bluebird, which may or may not be encouraging news. In the Huntington, WV area the spotted thrushes had a good migration (WA), but the flight was very poor at Pittsburgh (PH), n.e. Tennessee (RK), and Morgantown (except for Wood Thrushes, GH).

Mimics to Warblers

A N. Mockingbird was at P.I.S.P. as late as May 25 (LM, DS) and the species was nesting at Niles, OH (CB), both well n. of the usual range. Gray Catbirds were in very low numbers at Pittsburgh (JH). American Pipits were reported from Akeley, PA Mar. 26 (DW); Waynesboro, PA Mar. 15 (CG), South Avis, PA Apr. 8–May 27 (P&GS); and Newville, PA Mar. 24–May 18, with a peak of 200+ May 8 (DH).

Single N. Shrikes were reported from P.I.S.P., Mar. 4 (JM); Meadville, PA Mar 13 (RFL); and Venango, PA Mar. 26 (RFL). There were 5–7 nesting sites of Loggerhead Shrikes in n.e. Tennessee (RK), 3 in *Adams*, PA, and 2 in *Franklin*, PA (KG). Other sightings came from Edinboro, PA May 22 (RFL) and *Whitfield*, GA May 12 (HD).

There were more than usual White-eyed Vireos at P.I.S.P. (JM) and 25 banded at P.N.R. provided a record there (RCL & RM).

While warbler migration reports presented the usual mixed bag, there were more positives than negatives. Most observers found that their local species were in good numbers, but transient species were common in some places and absent in others. This held true for boreal species nesting at the higher elevations (DG, GAH). This suggests that these species overflowed many parts of the Region. However, it appeared that overall more species were in above-average numbers. Some locations reported excellent “waves” of migrants: May 6–8 Roanoke, VA (MS); May 8 Pipestem S.P., WV (JP); May 12 *Augusta*, VA (MH); and May 15 P.I.S.P. (JM).

Several s. species were found n. of the usual range: Yellow-throated Warbler at Irvine, PA Apr. 28 (DW) and *Lycoming*, PA May 29 (SS), and Kentucky Warbler at *Lycoming*, PA May 25 (SS).

A “Lawrence's” Warbler was seen at Conneaut Marsh, PA Apr. 30 (RFL) and a “Brewster's” Warbler was reported from the Scotia Barrens, PA (JPe). In most years the “Audubon's” **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at P.I.S.P., May 7 (4th county record, †JM, EK, CK) would be the warbler of the season, but this year it was topped by 2 reports of **Kirtland's Warbler**. Full details were submitted for records at Wise, VA May 7 & 9 (first spring record for Virginia, RP) and *Franklin*, PA May 14 (KG *et al.*).

Tanagers to Finches

Summer Tanagers near Chambersburg, PA May 11 and near Roxbury, PA in late May (KG) were noteworthy for c. Pennsylvania. An interesting observation was of a bright orange (often called *xanthocroic*) Scarlet Tanager in Elk, PA (LC). The banding of 16 Indigo Buntings at P.N.R. was 1 S.D. below average (RM & RCL), and numbers were low at Morgantown (GAH).

The Emberizines were reported in good numbers and the banding totals at P.N.R. were the best in several years (RM & RCL). The national literature has commented on the decline of Rufous-sided Towhees, but most areas reported them in good numbers. An Am. Tree Sparrow in *Mahoning*, OH Apr. 9 was rather late (NB), as were two Fox Sparrows at Wise, VA May 22 (RP). A Clay-colored Sparrow was seen at P.I.S.P., May 9 (†EK) and another (same?) May 15–19 (JM *et al.*). Field Sparrows were the exception and continue to be in low numbers at most places.

A noteworthy record was a **Lark Sparrow** in *Allegheny*, PA Apr. 30, providing the first local record since 1923 (†P & DHe). The Henslow's Sparrow apparently is doing well in *Allegheny*, PA, where a maximum count of 19 was made Apr. 30 (PH). Other reports came from *Centre*, PA May 14 (CP, AN, AF), and Austin Springs, TN May 16 (FA), providing a 4th area record. Also at Austin Springs was a Sharp-tailed Sparrow May 27 (FA). Lincoln's and White-crowned sparrows were in better numbers than in recent years. A White-crowned Sparrow of the race *gambelii* was seen at P.I.S.P., Apr. 29 and May 9 (JM, EK). On the other hand, White-throated Sparrow numbers were low. There were three reports of Yellow-headed Blackbirds: Austin Springs, TN Mar. 10 (2nd area record, FA); McClintic Wildlife Station, WV Apr 9 (ph., MG, WA); and Woodcock L., PA (no date given, RFL).

The only crossbill reports were of Red Crossbills on Unaka Mt., TN Apr. 26 (JN), and Roan Mt., TN May 14 (m.ob.). The Com. Redpoll invasion of the winter lasted well into March, and a few birds remained even later; Apr. 23 in *Elk*, PA (LC) and May 10 at Edinboro, PA (CI). A **Hoary Redpoll** was at a feeder at Meadville, PA Mar. 19 (RFL) and three were at a feeder at King's Mountain, PA through March (CSy). Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks continued to be in good numbers throughout the Region well into April. Siskins remained in *Union*, GA until May 30 (DF) and at State College, PA until the end of the period (JPe). The late dates suggest possible nestings in the Region.

Contributors: Fred Alsop, Wendell Argabrite, Elizabeth Armstrong, Carole Babyak (CB), Mark Barb, James Barker (JBa), Ralph Bell, Charles Bier (CBi), William Blakeslee, Dorothy Bordner, Milton Bradley (MBr), George Breiding, James Brooks (JB), Paul Brown, Edward Brucker, Nancy Brundage, Fred Busroe, Suzanne Butcher, Linda Christenson, Wallace Coffey, Ruth Crawford, Brian Cross, Dave Darney (DD), David Davis (DDa), Harriett DiGioia, Jeanette Esker, Ted Floyd, Thomas Fox, Dot Freeman, Alice Fuller, Kenneth Gabler, Carl Garner, Suzie Goe, Daniel Graybeal, Mike Griffith, Ted Grisez, Greg Grove, Bill Hendrickson, John Heninger, Don Henise, Mozelle

Henkel, Deborah Hess (DHe), Paul Hess, William Highhouse, Joyce Hoffman (JHo), Alan Hughes, Cathy Ireland, Rexine Johnson, Allan Keith, Barry Kinzie, Rick Knight (RK), Cheryl Kwater, Ed Kwater, Alan Larner, Dennis Lauffer, Robert C. Leberman (RCL), Ronald F. Leberman (RFL), Rad Mayfield (RMa), Larry McDanie (LMc), Jerry McWilliams (JM), Linda McWilliams (LM), Robert Merrick (RMe), Joanna Moyer (JMo), Robert Mulvihill (RM), Jerry Nagel, Alison Norris, Johnny Parks, Linda Patrick, Richard Peake, John Peplinski (JPe), Jim Phillips (JP), Charlotte Pryor, George Reese (GRE), Geoff Robinson (GR), Lorraine Rollefson, Glenna Schwalbe, Paul Schwalbe, Walter Shaffer, Michael G. Smith (MGS), Mike Smith (MS), Donald Snyder, Ruth Snyder (RS), Stanley Stahl (SS), Ann Stamm, Craig Stihler (CS), Jean Stull, Sam Stull (SSt), Kathy Summers (KaS), Kent Summers (KeS), Carol Syler (CSy), Ann Tarbell, Andy Troyer, Mary Twigg, Evaleen Watko, Mike Watko, Don Watts (DW), Ned Weston, Robert Wilson, Dave Wolfe (DWO), Ruth Young.

—George A. Hall, P.O. Box 6045, West Virginia University, Morgantown WV 26506-6045.

Western Great Lakes Region

JAMES GRANLUND

The weather during the period was best characterized as mild. March was particularly mild, with little snow or extremes in temperature. April was about average in the first two-thirds of the month, but was decidedly warmer in the latter third. May temperatures were average to slightly below average, and the month was very dry, resulting in near drought conditions in many locations by the end of the month. As the weather went, so went the migration. There were very little extremes but a good number of rarities were found, including a first state record of Curlew Sandpiper for Minnesota and a possible first state record of Hermit Warbler for Michigan.

Abbreviations: M.B.R.C. (*Michigan Bird Records Committee*); W.P.B.O. (*Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, Chippewa County, Michigan*).

Loons to Herons

A group of 12 Red-throated Loons in Duluth (KE, MH) was reported as the largest group in modern times for Minnesota. That seems incredible, since at the other end of L. Superior at W.P.B.O. this species is often seen in groups exceeding that number. This spring 366 individuals were reported there for a new season-high total, the peak was 85 May 10. In Wisconsin, where the species is also rare, a few individuals were reported from traditional locations on L. Michigan. Two sightings of Arctic/Pacific Loon May 26 & 27 at W.P.B.O. (AB) was exceptional for Michigan. After 3 consecutive years of declining Com. Loon numbers at W.P.B.O., a record seasonal total of 9624 individuals was counted, with a peak of 1117 May 3. W.P.B.O. also had an excellent count of 406 Red-necked Grebes, while Wisconsin reported 4 nesting records for this increasingly rare breeder. In Michigan two-three Eared Grebes were seen at the Muskegon Wastewater System from May 1–10, while singles were seen at the Karn Plant, Bay Mar. 23 (AB); at the Dow Ponds, Midland Apr. 4–24 (EK); and at Pottersville, Eaton Apr. 27–May 10 (KT, DMc). Wisconsin



Male Yellow-headed Blackbird at McClintic Wildlife Station, West Virginia, April 9, 1994. Photograph/Wendell L. Argabrite.