

Appalachian Region

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It was a strange spring, but aren't they all? The winter had been mild and early March weather continued the trend. At Pittsburgh, March had a temperature deficiency of 118 day-degrees. Precipitation was 1.84 inches below normal. The mild weather ended in late March and early April, which continued colder than normal with a continuing precipitation deficiency of 1.49 inches. May was slightly cooler than normal, with normal rainfall.

As had been detailed in the winter report, birds had been scarce in February, and this continued during the mild March. Waterfowl apparently moved rapidly as most lakes were free of ice. The advent of bad weather in early April, with snow in the north, caused some fallout of waterfowl. Despite the cooler weather, most expected species arrived at the normal time, but there was also a long list of early arrival dates for some of the species expected in late April-early May. In late April, however, the migration stalled in the north. For about two weeks nothing much happened and those species expected in early May did not arrive in numbers, despite the early stragglers. About May 9-10 this pattern broke, and for about a week migrants moved through in numbers. Since both the early and late groups of species were coming together, some observers were able to run up long species lists. By the third week in May most of the migration was over, although the late migrants were about on time. One can speculate that the abnormal continental weather pattern that had a series of atmospheric lows and much rainy weather through the south, particularly on the Gulf Coast, dammed up the migrants in the south.

The pattern of migration was strange, but what of the numbers involved? Many observers felt they had the best season in the last several; in many cases this was because they saw more species than usual, but didn't actually see more birds. The banding totals at the big banding station, Powdermill Nature Reserve, had an slightly above-average year, with nine species above and nine species below average, according to Leberman and Mulvihill. A common remark was that local nesting species were all in good shape, but transients breeding farther north were in low numbers. As was pointed out last year, this may be due to the "overflight" phenomenon in which transients pass over most stations south of their breeding range. because of favorable atmospheric conditions. Coupled with this, many southern species also overfly and appear farther north than normal.

Except for the fallout of several waterfowl, there were no great influxes of any species and there were fewer than usual rarities reported.

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

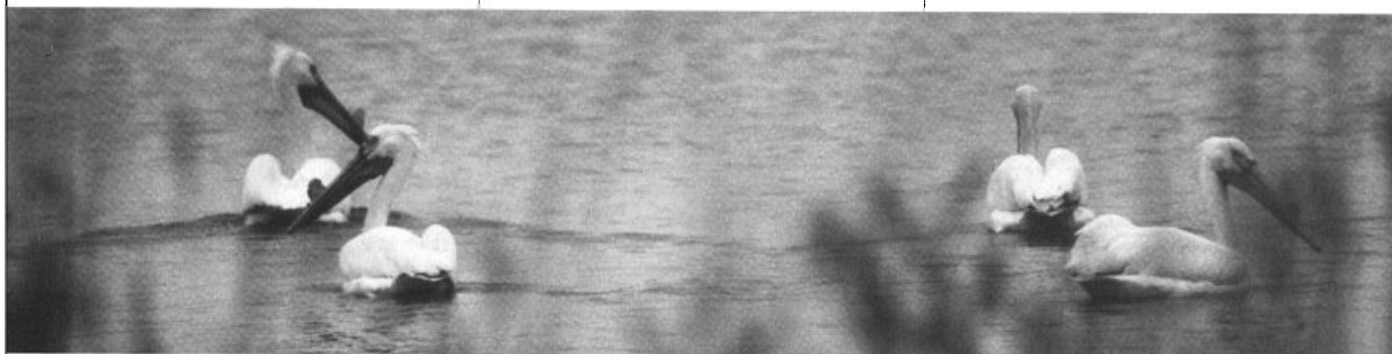
Loons to Ibises

A Red-throated Loon was seen at L. LeBoeuf, PA Mar. 29-Apr. 3 (JM, JSt). There were few records of Com. Loons in e. Tennessee (RK)



and in the Pittsburgh area (PH), but elsewhere in the north above-average numbers were reported, with several stragglers into late May. The peak count was 45 at Lake St. Marys, Elk, PA Apr. 9 (LC). In early April there was a major influx of Horned Grebes in the n. part of the Region. At Pymatuning L., PA it was the best flight in years, with a total of 262 birds Apr. 2 (RFL), and at Toftrees, Centre, PA 200-300 were seen Apr. 2 during snow showers (SF). One-two Eared Grebes were seen at P.I.S.P., Apr. 6-23, a total of four Red-necked Grebes were seen there Mar. 10-Apr. 23 (JM), and one was seen in Westmoreland, PA Mar. 20 (MSH).

The Am. White Pelican reported from Washington and Sullivan, TN in the winter remained there through the period. Another pelican was at Meander L., OH May 31 (JG), and a remarkable four (ph) were at P.I.S.P., May 15-19, with one remaining to



Surprising so far east was this concentration of four American White Pelicans at Presque Isle State Park, Pennsylvania, May 16, 1995. Photograph/Jerry McWilliams.

May 21 (JS, JM). The Double-crested Cormorant continues to increase throughout the Region. Concentrations of ≥ 800 were offshore on L. Erie at P.I.S.P. from mid-April–mid-May (JM), and numbers as high as 50–60 were commonly reported inland. Of greater interest was the report of at least 5 nests in a Great Blue Heron colony in *Hawkins*, TN Apr. 8. (RK). While this is the first reported nesting in n.e. Tennessee, the birds may have been nesting there for several years, as the colony is on a military area with restricted access (RK).

The Am. Bittern was reported from 3 locations in *Erie*, PA Apr. 12–May 10 (JM); Conneaut Marsh, *Crawford*, PA Apr. 1–May 28 (RFL); Akeley Swamp, *Warren*, PA May 15 (DW), *Huntingdon*, PA Apr. 27–May 13 (GG), *Canaan Valley*, WV early April (GB), and *Swoope*, *Augusta*, VA Apr. 16–26 (A&YL). Least Bitterns were at P.I.S.P., Apr. 23–May 21 (JM) and in *Butler*, PA May 13 (GW). The Great Blue Heron colonies in *Mercer*, PA had about 400 nests May 31. A violent windstorm May 24 may have caused mortality of chicks (EB). The colony in the restricted army area in *Hawkins*, TN had 40–50 nests Apr. 8 (RK). Great Egrets were

at P.I.S.P., Apr. 14–May 20, (Seight, JF), *Mosquito L.*, OH Apr. 5, *Grand River W.M.A.*, OH May 5 (J&DHo), *Conneaut Marsh*, PA (JB), *Trout Run Res.*, *Westmoreland*, PA Apr. 6 (RM), *G.B.W.M.A.*, May 26 (MG), and 2 reports from n.e. Tennessee (RK). A Snowy Egret was at P.I.S.P., Apr. 15–16 (JM, EK). An ad. Little Blue Heron was present in *Cumberland*, PA May 1–11 (DH) and a Cattle Egret was seen in *Rockingham*, VA Apr. 22 (CZ). Black-crowned Night-Herons were nesting at *Elkton*, VA (MGS), and possible nesters were at *Kingsport*, TN (RK). In *Cumberland*, PA numbers seen were lower since the local fish hatchery placed nets over its ponds and raceways (DH). There were 2 reports of Glossy Ibis: *Cumberland*, PA Apr. 28–29 (DH) and *Centre*, PA May 23–26 (TF).

Waterfowl

The only large flocks of Tundra Swans were 250–300 at B.E.S.P., Mar. 11 (WL) and 240 at *Colyer L.*, PA Mar. 18 (BF). The largest number at the *Erie N.W.R.*, *Crawford*, PA was 27 (RFL). A swan seen in *Wood*, WV Apr. 24 was out of place as well as late (KC). A Mute Swan was at P.I.S.P., Apr. 14–15 (JF,

EK). An imm. Greater White-fronted Goose was seen at *Black Moshannon S.P.*, PA Mar. 25–27 (m.ob.), providing the 4th area record. Snow Geese were reported only from *Mosquito L.*, OH Mar. 19 (one white morph, CB), *Pittsburgh* Apr. 3 (one blue, CSc), *R.C.B.L.*, Apr. 3 (one blue, MG), and 12 in *Summers*, WV Mar. 16 (JP). The numbers of Canada Geese nesting in the Region continues to grow, and about 700 pairs were nesting at *Pymatuning L.*, PA (RFL).

The duck flight was generally good in the north, being much better than in recent years; some places in the south did not see many. The mild winter had caused the ducks to move early and only 13,000 or so congregated on L. Erie off P.I.S.P. (JM). Dabbling ducks were highlighted by 50 Gadwall at *Mosquito L.*, OH Apr. 6 (J&DHo), 500 Am. Wigeon at *Conneaut Marsh*, PA Mar. 25 (RFL), and more N. Shovelers than usual throughout. A *Eurasian Wigeon* was at *Siegel Marsh*, *Erie*, PA Apr. 22–24 (JSt). What was apparently a hybrid American x Eur. Green-winged Teal was at P.I.S.P., Apr. 21 (JM). As mentioned in the winter report, there were more Redheads and Canvasbacks reported than in recent years. Some note-



Great Blue Herons at a previously little-known nesting colony in Hawkins County, Tennessee, April 8, 1995. Photograph/Rick Knight.

worthy diving duck numbers were 1000 Ring-necked Ducks at Conneaut Marsh, PA Mar. 25 (RFL), and 400 Lesser Scaup at L. Arthur, PA Mar. 23 (GW). On the other hand, no Ring-necked Ducks were found at Roanoke, VA (MS), and the season high 75 Lesser Scaup at Woodcock L., PA Apr. 7 was rather low (RFL). The maximum of 4000 Com. Goldeneye at Presque Isle Bay, PA was also a low number (JM), but the flock of 12 at the Bluestone Res., WV was the biggest flock in recent years there (JP)

There were many more reports of Greater Scaup than is usual in this inland Region. There was a major fallout of Oldsquaws in s.w. Pennsylvania with a record high 77 at L. Arthur Mar. 28 (GW), the best flight in years near Ligonier, PA with 224 in *Westmoreland* (m.ob.), 363 in *Somerset*, PA Mar. 28 (M&EW), and the best flight in 5 years in *Crawford*, PA with 315 at Woodcock L., Apr. 2 (RFL). The only Black Scoters reported were two at P.I.S.P., Mar. 30 (JM) and one there May 15 (JSt). A total of six White-winged Scoters were at P.I.S.P., Mar. 3–Apr. 16 (JM), three at Edinboro L., PA Mar. 18 (DS), 15 at 3 sites in *Westmoreland*, PA (DBy) Mar. 28, seven in *Fayette*, PA Mar. 28), and six at Roxbury, PA Apr. 24 (CG). Surf Scoters have become more common in the Region in recent years, and this spring they were reported from P.I.S.P. (JM *et al.*), Tamarack L., PA (RFL), Mosquito L., OH (CB, J&DHo), near Ligonier, PA (RCL), and in the south at Falls Mills, VA (A&GM).

A late **Harlequin Duck** was at P.I.S.P., May 10 (JSt). An unusual count was the 200 Ruddy Ducks at L. Somerset, PA Apr. 3 (RCL). Red-breasted Mergansers were reported as abundant on Mosquito L., OH, where 1076 were counted Apr. 6 (J&DH). A ♀ Hooded Merganser with chicks was seen at Shenango W.M.A., OH May 23 (J&DHo) and a Com. Merganser with young was seen at Sheffield, PA May 31 (DW).

Raptors

Cold onshore winds made for poor hawk migration along the L. Erie shore in April (JM). There was a better-than-average migration of Ospreys and a nesting on an Ohio R. island in *Wood*, WV, presumably by birds from the local hacking project (JE). A nesting at Loyalhanna Dam, PA was the first *Westmoreland*, PA Osprey breeding record, and there were several other nesting records in the *Fayette-Somerset* area of s.w. Pennsylvania (RCL, RM). The **Mississippi Kite** at Staunton, VA May 13 (LT) furnished the 2nd record for *Augusta*, and one in *Washington*, TN May 19 provided the first local record (FA). In *Trumbull*, OH 2 Bald Eagle nests had young and one nest failed (J&DHo, CB), while nestings were reported

from Meander L., *Mahoning*, OH (NB), *Butler*, PA (one young, NW), and 5 nestings in West Virginia, all with young as of this writing (CS). Eagles were reported from at least 7 other sites from n. Pennsylvania to s. West Virginia. A high count of 11 N. Harriers came from near Lander, PA Apr. 10 (BW). Most remarkable was a flock of 36 Sharp-shinned Hawks at Natrona Heights, PA Mar. 6 (PB). The N. Goshawk explosion continued with reports from Erie, PA Apr. 14 (JF), *Elk*, PA Apr. 10 (LC), Scotia Barents, *Centre*, PA Apr. 8 (TF, DF), Zelenople, PA Mar. 26 (EK), and two in *Botetourt*, VA in April and May (MS, CZ). There were probably 5 nests in the *Warren-Forest* area of Pennsylvania (DW) and 5 nestings in West Virginia (CS). There were some remarkably early reports of Broad-winged Hawks: Pipestem S.P., WV Mar. 16 (JP), Conneaut Marsh, PA Mar 18 (RFL), and Moraine S.P., PA Mar. 26 (MGe). The only report of Rough-legged Hawks were two at Lander, PA Apr. 10 (DW). Golden Eagles were seen at Conneaut Marsh, PA Mar 25 and Apr. 1 (RFL), Jack's Mt., *Centre*, PA Mar 11 & 26 (RSi), *Westmoreland*, PA Apr. 2 (DBy, DK), and Barton Knob, WV Mar. 13 (MG).

A total of 11 Merlins were counted at P.I.S.P. between Mar. 11–May 21 (JM, EK); one was at Conneaut L., PA Apr. 16 (RFL); one on the Penn State campus Apr. 26 (TF), and one at Mosquito L., OH Apr. 11 (J&DHo). The Peregrines nesting on a downtown Pittsburgh skyscraper for the 5th year had four young (CBi). Other Peregrines were sighted at P.I.S.P., Apr. 22 (JM), McKean, PA (RFL), the Penn State campus Apr. 25 (TF), and *Washington*, TN Apr. 23 (JBr)

Grouse to Terns

In n.e. Tennessee Ruffed Grouse were reported to be near the peak of the population cycle, N. Bobwhite were scarce, and there was a record spring harvest of Wild Turkeys (RK). There were more than the usual reports of Virginia Rails and Soras. The >200 Sandhill Cranes in the Ch.N.F., Mar. 6 (HD) were end of the migration. Cranes nested again in *Mercer*, PA and the yearling from last year's nest was seen at several places in the area (GW). A pair was seen courting in *Crawford*, PA in late April (JHi) and one was seen May 13–20 at McKean, PA (LCh).

Shorebird migration was quite good at most places. All the common species were reported in good numbers, for example 120 Greater Yellowlegs and 170 Lesser Yellowlegs at Pymatuning L., PA Mar. 23 (RFL), 60 Semipalmated Sandpipers at M.C.F.H., May 28 (MG), and 40 Pectoral Sandpipers at Imperial, PA in mid-April (WS). Semipalmated Plovers and Dunlin were more numerous than usual in spring.

Fifteen Black-bellied Plovers were at Mosquito L., OH May 15 (J&DHo), and one was in *Wise*, VA May 20 providing a first county record (RP). Four Willets were seen in *Butler*, PA May 4 (GW, PH) and six were at Fort Loudon, PA May 14 (CG). Upland Sandpipers were reported from *Lawrence*, PA Apr. 18 (SB), R.C.B.L., Apr. 18 (MG), and *Cumberland*, PA Apr. 26–May 10 (DH). Fourteen Whimbrels were at P.I.S.P., May 18 (JM). A Whimbrel collided with a window at Fancy Gap, VA May 12, but recovered and continued its flight (*vide* WC). Three Ruddy Turnstones were at Fort Loudon, PA May 14 (CG), and three in *Augusta*, VA May 14 (A&YL). Of the rarer peeps, Sanderling were at Pymatuning L., Apr. 16 (RFL); W. Sandpiper in *Wood*, WV May 1 (JE); White-rumped Sandpiper at P.I.S.P., May 14 (EK), Fort Loudon, PA May 21 (CG), *Cumberland*, PA May 12 (DH), and *Rockingham*, VA Apr. 25 (CZ); four Baird's Sandpipers in *Washington*, TN May 7 (FA); and a Stilt Sandpiper provided the 2nd *Wise*, VA record, May 17–18 (RP). Short-billed Dowitchers were at Pymatuning L., Apr. 16 and May 7 (RFL); *Centre*, PA May 13 (D & BB); Fort Loudon, PA May 14 (CG), and 192 were on 3 ponds in *Augusta*, VA May 14 (A&YL). Rare for the Region were the four Long-billed Dowitchers at Pymatuning L., PA Apr. 23 (RFL), and 17 were in *Wise*, VA May 17–18 (RP).

The flight of Bonaparte's Gulls was below normal in *Cumberland*, PA (DH) but elsewhere they were quite common, with high counts of 550 at Mosquito L., OH Apr. 6 (J&DHo), 180 at Boone L., TN Apr. 4 (RK), and 102 at St. Mary's L., PA Apr. 9 (LC). A gathering of >400 Ring-billed Gulls in one field was seen near Blacksburg, VA Apr. 9 (CZ), and a concentration of >1000 was at Slippery Rock, PA Mar. 5–8 (GW). There were 2 nests of Herring Gulls at Pittsburgh again this year (PBr). As usual a good list of the rarer gulls came from P.I.S.P.: an imm. Laughing Gull May 10–11 and an adult there May 12; a total of three Thayer's between Mar. 10 and Apr. 8–9; >10 Iceland Mar. 22–Apr. 26; ≤four Lesser Black-backed Apr. 6–9; and three Glaucous Apr. 8 (JM). A Glaucous x Herring hybrid was there Apr. 20 (JM).

Caspian Terns were reported from Pymatuning L. and Conneaut L., PA May 7 (RFL); St. Mary's L., PA Apr. 9 (LC); Mosquito L., OH May 8 (J&DHo); and *Botetourt*, VA Apr. 19, where there were 40 Apr. 29 (MS *et al.*) A pair of Com. Terns nested at P.I.S.P., the first nesting there since 1966 (JM, ph.). The only other reports were from Pymatuning L., May 7 (RFL) and L. Arthur, PA May 7 (GW). As usual Forster's Terns outnumbered the Com. Terns : ≥20 at

P.I.S.P., Apr. 15–May 14 (EK, JM), three at Woodcock L., PA Apr. 27, two at Pymatuning L., May 7 (RFL); ≤10 at Mosquito L., Apr. 17–May 15 (J & DHo); three at Greencastle, PA Apr. 24 (CG), Donegal L., PA Apr. 9 (RCL), L. Somerset, PA May 9 (RCL), and Austin Springs, TN, Apr. 9 & 29 (RK). Only six Black Terns were reported, one each at P.I.S.P., May 9 (GR), Pymatuning, L., PA May 7, Linesville, PA May 10 (RFL), Fort Loudon, PA May 24 (CG), Wood, WV May 28 (KC), and Radford, VA May 5 (CK).

Cuckoos to Woodpeckers

Both cuckoo species were in unusual numbers in the c. part of the Region, presumably in response to the moderately heavy outbreak of tent caterpillars. A Barn Owl was seen at P.I.S.P., April 16–22 (DD, IF), but the only other report came from n.e. Tennessee, where nesting was observed at Johnson City (FA) and Bristol (WCo). A total of 15 E. Screech Owls were located on a count in Allegheny, PA May 13 (TF). Two–three Long-eared Owls were at P.I.S.P., April 1–16

(DD). Twenty-one Short-eared Owls were counted near Lander, PA Apr. 10 (D&BW); 10 were at Imperial, PA in March (*vide* PH), and three near Steubenville, OH Apr. 8 (MA). Other reports came from P.I.S.P., Apr. 12 (JM), Worth Twp., Butler, PA in March (JW), and Volant, PA to May 5 (SB). Are N. Saw-whet Owls becoming more common or are people making more effort to find them? Reports came from P.I.S.P., Mar. 4–Apr. 22 (DD), Scotia Barrens, PA Apr. 8 and May 13 (JJ, JP), Allegheny Front, PA May 20 (J&BPe), Moraine S.P., PA Mar. 10+ (DD), two at Barton Knob, WV Mar. 12 (MG), Gaudincer Knob, WV early May (RW), Unaka Mt., TN (MB), Big Bald Mt., TN (RMA), and 2 nests in boxes on Roan Mt., TN (MB).

Common Nighthawks were in poor numbers at most places. Chuck-will's-widows were reported from 2 locations in Augusta, VA (MH, LP). A Whip-poor-will was at P.I.S.P., Apr. 30 (JM), but the only other report was on the Wood, WV migration count. (JE). Three Chimney Swifts in Hunt-

ingdon, PA April 5 were quite early (GG). At P.N.R. there was a good migration of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, with 54 banded May 4–31 (RM, RCL). An early hummingbird was at Lyndhurst, VA Apr. 19 (*vide* RS). For once the reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers were on the bright side: ten counted in Trumbull, OH (CB), 4 locations in Rockingham, VA (CZ), 3–4 sites in Washington, TN (RK, FA), 2 locations in Lawrence, PA (SB), one in Butler, PA (GW), and recorded on the Shenandoah, VA May count (DDa), and Murray, GA (HD). An intergrade N. Flicker with some orange and red primaries and secondaries was banded at P.N.R., May 5 (RCL, RM).

Flycatchers to Vireos

In n. West Virginia all species of Flycatcher except E. Phoebe were in low numbers (GAH, SS), but at Mountain L., VA these species had populations similar to last year (CZ). Eastern Wood-Pewees were more numerous than recently in Shenandoah, VA (DDa). The only reports of Olive-sided Flycatcher were one banded at P.N.R., May 16 (RCL, RM) and one on the Shenandoah, VA migration count May 13 (DDa). Willow Flycatchers May 18 in the Stuart's Draft-Lyndhurst, VA area represented a consolidation of recently acquired range (RS), and one at Roanoke, VA Apr. 23 was quite early (JFI). Two Purple Martins in Raleigh, WV Mar. 5 were early (MG). The population of Tree Swallows continues to increase as the breeding range increases. Early arrivals were at Clarksville, PA Mar. 14 (RB). A total 5500 were counted on several Crawford, PA lake areas (RFL). They nested in Shenandoah, VA for the 2nd year (DDa) and nesting numbers have increased at Austin Springs, TN (RK). Cliff Swallows are also doing well. There was a new colony in Trumbull, OH (J & DHo); a colony at L. Arthur, PA had >188 birds Apr. 30 (GW), and the breeding population in n.e. Tennessee continues to increase (RK).

A Com. Raven nest was found in Carter, TN Apr. 7 (RK) and the raven nest on the Penn State football stadium was successful. The Fish Crow population in the Shenandoah Valley may be increasing (CZ). Red-breasted Nuthatches had been scarce during the winter and not many migrants were reported. Of great interest was the report of two (or three) Brown-headed Nuthatches near Dublin, VA May 21 (CK). This is the 4th sighting for the Mountain and Valley region of Virginia, and the habitat is suitable for nesting. More later?

The Carolina Wren is fighting back, but while there have been some local increases the overall numbers are still low. A pair at Waynesboro, VA had eggs Mar. 12 (EKb). A



Nest of Common Terns at Presque Isle State Park, Pennsylvania, May 12, 1995. First local nesting since 1966. Photograph/Jerry McWilliams.

heavy migration of Winter Wrens was indicated by the count of 28 at Scotia Barrens, PA Apr. 8 (TF, DF). Sedge Wrens in *Sullivan*, TN Mar 26–April were possible early arrivals, but may have wintered there (TM, CSt). Two Marsh Wrens were at Austin Springs, TN May 18 (FA) and three were in *Maboning*, OH May 29 (J&DHo).

The numbers of migrating Ruby-crowned Kinglets were higher than in recent years in most places. The 246 banded at P.N.R. was one standard deviation (S.D.) above the long-term average (RM, RCL). In n. West Virginia the Golden-crowned Kinglet was in below-average numbers (GAH). The spotted thrush picture was a little rosier than it has been. Veeries and Hermit Thrushes did well, and while Swainson's Thrush numbers were not up to those of a decade or so ago, they were still better than in recent years. At Morgantown there was more Swainson's Thrush song than in recent years (GAH). However, Gray-cheeked Thrushes were scarce and only three were banded at P.N.R. (RM, RCL). The Wood Thrush population continues to be low at most places.

A Gray Catbird at Slippery Rock, PA Apr. 13 was nearly 2 weeks early (GW). Northern Mockingbirds in *Erie*, PA May 3 & May 12–17 (JM, JSt) and *Trumbull*, OH Apr. 21 (CB) represented consolidations of recently acquired range. In *Trumbull*, OH (CB) and at Morgantown, WV Brown Thrashers were in below-normal numbers, but no other areas commented on this species.

A flock of >130 Am. Pipits was reported from *Rockingham*, VA Apr. 20 (CZ). Northern Shrikes were reported from McKean, PA in early March (SSt) and Erie N.W.R., PA Mar. 12 (SBu). As usual the only reports of Loggerhead Shrikes were from The Great Valley: a nesting Apr. 4 at Swoope, VA (A&YL) and 4–5 pairs in the Elizabethton-Johnson City, TN area (RK). White-eyed Vireos were one of the s. species that made overflights, with an early date of Apr. 29 at P.I.S.P., and \leq six there May 5–21 (JM). Bandings of White-eyed Vireos at P.N.R. were one S.D. below average (RCL, RM). Solitary Vireos were in good numbers at most places and tended to have early arrival dates, but in the n. part of the Region it was the Yellow-throated Vireo which was noteworthy for its much larger than normal numbers. In *Crauford*, PA the Warbling Vireo has become almost as abundant as the Red-eyed (RFL)

Warblers to Finches

The consensus on the warbler migration was that it was the best in several years. Most reporters commented that while numbers

were not especially high, more species were seen than usual, as shown by a listing of 29 species on a <3-acre tract at P.I.S.P., May 14 (JM), and 24 species May 13 in *Cumberland*, PA (DH). There were the usual contradictory reports for individual species, but most areas felt that Golden-wingeds and Cape Mays were in low numbers. The report of 62 Chestnut-sided Warblers May 10 at Howland, OH (CB) was noteworthy, as was the report of a population "explosion" of Am. Redstarts at Mountain L., VA (CZ). There were a number of early dates: Those for Pine Warblers may represent wintering birds, but N. Waterthrush Mar. 26 at Wise, VA (RP), Wilson's Warbler Apr. 16 at P.I.S.P. (MF), Magnolia Warbler Apr. 17 in *Maboning*, OH (NB), and Worm-eating Warbler Apr. 20 in *Centre*, PA (GG) were genuine early dates. The P.I.S.P. records of s. species such as Prairie, Worm-eating, and Kentucky warblers (JM) were good examples of the "overflight" phenomenon. "Brewster's" hybrids were reported from Morgantown, WV May 9 (SS), *Shenandoah*, VA May 13 (DDa), B.E.S.P., May 13 (MHe), and Scotia Barrens, PA May 21 (J&BPe). The rare-in-the-spring Connecticut Warbler was reported from Roanoke, VA May 10 (for a 2nd spring record, MS) and P.I.S.P., May 14 (EK). There were 2 records of Kirtland's Warbler supported by details: May 20 at milepost 426.15, Blue Ridge Parkway, N.C. (WC) and May 10 near Wise, VA (bird attracted by playing taped song, RP).

A Summer Tanager at Mountain L., VA May 18 (CK *et al*) was somewhat out of range. At P.N.R., Indigo Buntings were about 2 weeks late in arrival but eventually were in above-average numbers (RM, RCL). Up to five Dickcissels were found in *Botetourt*, VA May 20 (MS *et al*.); three were in *Washington*, TN May 19, and one was at Pipestem, WV May 28 (JP).

Chipping Sparrows had a heavy migration, with about 200 banded at Clarksville, PA (RB) and 159 banded at P.N.R. (two S.D. above average; RM, RCL). Fox and White-crowned sparrows also had good flights, but the flight of White-throated Sparrows was poor following the low wintering numbers. The decline of grassland sparrows has been of concern, so the report of a maximum of 48 Grasshopper Sparrows and 16 Henslow's Sparrows together with 32 Savannah Sparrows at Imperial, PA May 13–15 (PH, TF) was most encouraging. Other good counts were 15 Grasshopper Sparrows in *Lawrence*, PA May 13 (SB) and six Henslow's Sparrows on recovered surface mines near Steubenville, OH Apr. 18 (MA). A **LeConte's Sparrow** was seen at New Wilmington, PA Apr. 16 (†B&GD) and a

Sharp-tailed Sparrow was at Austin Springs, TN May 18 (FA), furnishing a 5th spring record.

A **Brewer's Blackbird** was seen at North Beaver, *Lawrence*, PA Mar. 25 (B&GD). The Purple Finch migration was generally better than in recent years. The only report of Red Crossbills was of 10 on Roan Mt., TN Apr. 7 (MB). There were small numbers of Pine Siskins in the sub-alpine forest in the Tennessee mountains (RK) and single birds were reported from *Wood*, WV Apr. 18 (RJ), *Shenandoah*, VA Apr. 29 (DDa), and P.N.R., May 19 (RM & RCL).

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