

2nd for Alabama's Tennessee Valley was seen May 6 in *Lauderdale* (SWMc). Two Fox Sparrows in *Rutherford*, TN Apr. 29 were very late (R&WH). Four nests of Song Sparrows were reported in w. Tennessee: 3 at Ensley Bottoms May 14 (JRW) and one at Reelfoot L., May 28 (JJ, JRW, GWC). A Lincoln's Sparrow at Dauphin I., AL Apr. 18 (J&JP) was uncommonly far east; more unusual inland birds were in *Lauderdale*, AL May 6 (SWMc) and in *Oktibehba*, MS May 10 (TLS). A Harris' Sparrow in *Cameron*, LA Mar. 9 was a late rarity on the coast (*vide* JL). The **Chestnut-collared Longspur** on the *Cameron* beach Mar. 19–22 (BW, *vide* RBr, JPK) would have been unprecedented, except that one was found there during a recent July!

A **Western Meadowlark** in *Lauderdale* Apr. 10+ (JTG, m.ob.) was the first re-verifiable record for Alabama in 30 years. More expected was the individual that lingered from the winter at Ensley Bottoms, TN until Apr. 9 (JRW). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen in above-average numbers in various parts of the Region. While a single Great-tailed Grackle in *Rapides* in central Louisiana Apr. 26 (RBr) was a rare find, it took a flock of 400–500 birds way up in Fayetteville, AR to elicit comment (MMI, DC); the species seems to heading N far more rapidly than it is moving east. Speaking of expanding icterid populations, Bronzed Cowbirds continued to expand from their New Orleans stronghold in s.e. Louisiana. They have now reached Grand Isle, 50 mi s. of the city, in force, and individuals were reported from lower *Plaquemines* in the extreme southeast May 26 (JPK, DP) and *Cameron* in the extreme southwest Apr. 22 (DLD, SWC). Shiny Cowbirds in Alabama included: one male Apr. 12 at Ft. Morgan (RAD, CD); two male Apr. 21 at Dauphin I. (SWMc). At least two ♂ Shiny Cowbirds joined the cowbird frenzy on Grand Isle Apr. 14–May 8 (PW, CS, m.ob., AWK); how long can Orchard Oriole hold out in coastal Louisiana under such an assault? Red Crossbills staged a mini-flight in Arkansas: six in *Perry* Mar. 1 (LA), one in *Dallas* Mar. 26 (H&MP), and three elsewhere in the county Apr. 25 (HP). The last date might hint at breeding. The only Pine Siskins reported, after another lackluster winter, were late: one in *Crittendon*, AR May 6; two in *Rapides*, LA May 7 (RBr), and one exceptional bird May 19 in *Claiborne*, LA (ECW).

Contributors (Sub-regional editors in bold-face): Leif Anderson, Doyle Ar, Robby Bacon (RBa), Fred Bassett, G. Beaver, Michael L. Bierly, Christopher G. Brantley, Roger Breedlove (RBr), Gary Broussard (GaB), George O. Broussard, Carolyn Bullock, Charles A. Butterworth, Steven W. Cardiff

(Louisiana), David Chapman, Alice Christenson, Paul Conover, William G. Criswell, Scott Comings, Scott Degenhart, Miriam Davey (MiD), Michele Davis (MDa), Jim & Jane Day (JaD), Charles Delmas, Donna L. Dittmann, Chris Dorgan, Robert A. Duncan, Glen Eller, Marty Floyd, Bill Fontenot, Chris Fuller, Mel Fuller, Larry F. Gardella, Murray L. Gardler, Ben C. Garmon, Jeffrey T. Garner, Elie Garner, David George, Gay Gomez, Mark A. Greene, Joe Guinn, Donald and Dolores Harrington (DoH), Nona Herbert (NHe), Harry Horne, Debra G. Jackson, **Greg D. Jackson** (Alabama), J. Johnson, Cecil Kersting, Helen H. Kittinger, J. P. Kleiman, Gene & Shannon Knight, Jim Lind, Charles Lyon, Dave McCarroll, Steve W. McConnell, Don McKee, Ann & Al Miller, **Charles Mills** (CMi) (Arkansas), Mike Mlodinow (MMI), M. J. Musumeche, David P. Muth, B. Mac Myers, Nancy L. Newfield, Velda Nielson, Kenny and LaDonna Nichols, Glenn Ousset, Helen and Max Parker, Dave Patton, Gaynell Perry, G. Ned Piper, Matthew and Gary Pontiff, John and Jackie Porter, Wylie Post, R. Dan Purrington, J. Van Remsen, Frank & Mary Reuter, Virginia B. Reynolds, Bob Russell, Robert B. & Martha B. Sargent, **Terence L. Schiefer** (Mississippi), Rosemary Seidler, John P. Sevenair, Joyce Shedell (JSh), William M. Shepherd, Damien J. Simbeck, Don R. Simons, Curt Sorrells, Barbara H. Stedman, Stephen J. Stedman, Ron J. Stein, Bill Vermillion, **Martha G. Waldron** (MWA) (western Tennessee), Phillip Wallace, Donald M. Ware, Melvin Weber, Jeff R. Wilson, **Terry J. Witt** (middle Tennessee), Bill Wood, Emmett C. Wroten, Peter & Karen Yaich, Peter Yaukey.

—David P. Muth, 1617 Charlton Dr., New Orleans, 70122.

Prairie Provinces Region

RUDOLF F. KOES AND PETER TAYLOR

Mild conditions during March brought a wave of early migrants, but thereafter persistent cool weather and prevailing northerly winds stalled migration. Arrivals were one to three weeks later than average Regionwide, until warm weather in the last few days of May brought most of the neotropical migrants back. As well as being late, migration was generally unspectacular, with few significant waves of shorebirds or passerines. Water levels were very high in eastern Saskatchewan and southwestern Manitoba, and moderately high elsewhere. There was an interesting assortment of vagrants from diverse origins.

Loons to Ducks

At least 100 Com. Loons gathered at Sylvan L., AB May 10 (TT), and 890 Red-necked Grebes at Natalie L., Apr. 28 (PT) provided a Manitoba record count. Two Eared Grebes were early at Frank L., AB Apr. 7 (WS), as were seven Am. White Pelicans at Taber L., AB Apr. 1 (LIB). Only six Great Egrets were reported, but they included rare Alberta



sightings at Lethbridge May 9 (BH) and Bruce L., May 14 (JRo). The only other extralimital heron was a Cattle Egret in extreme s.w. Manitoba in May (*vide* KDS).

Impressive concentrations of Tundra Swans included 1000 at Taber Mar. 18 (LIB), >2000 at Frank L., Apr. 7–16 (WS, GM), and >700 at Kawinaw L., MB May 21 (PT). A total of 11,800 Snow Geese at 3 lakes near Taber Apr. 6 provided a local record (LIB), and some locally heavy migrations were reported in Saskatchewan, but this species was relatively scarce and late at Oak Hammock Marsh, MB. A flock of 1500 Ross' Geese near Willkie, SK May 15 included a blue-morph bird (J&MS). An e. **Brant** visited Beaverhill L., AB Apr. 11–21 (PP, RD). In contrast with the Snow Goose situation, 200,000 Canada Geese provided an extraordinary spring sight at Oak Hammock in early April (DH, GH, m.ob.).

Encouraging reports of N. Pintail included 5000 at Stirling L., AB in late March (*vide* LIB). A Cinnamon Teal was early at Lethbridge Mar. 27 (LC), and a peak of 45 pairs at Frank L., May 15 (WS) was high, as was Saskatchewan's total 19 birds (v.o.). Hybrid ♂ Cinnamon x Blue-winged teal were reported at Millerville Racetrack, AB May 5 (WS, RW, JRo), Frank L., May 8 (WS, RW)

and Ile-des-Chênes, MB May 30 (AC). Extremely early were a Gadwall near Seven Sisters Falls, MB Mar. 12 (PT, RZ, DF), and a pair nearby at Lac du Bonnet Mar. 18 (PT, RZ). A ♂ Eur. Wigeon returned to Winnipeg Apr. 30–May 31+ (AW, m.ob.). Good concentrations of Am. Wigeons in Alberta included 1300 at Frank L., Apr. 7 (WS), >2000 at Tyrrell L., Apr. 15 (TK) and >4000 at Keho L., Apr. 16 (TK).

Fifty-six Greater Scaup at Brightwater marsh Apr. 17 (MW) was an excellent Saskatchewan count. Locally rare waterfowl included: a ♀ Harlequin Duck at Carman, MB May 27 (RP, AA); lone Oldsquaws at Natalie L., Apr. 25 (PT) and Ile-des-Chênes Apr. 30 (AC); a Surf Scoter at Nickle L., SK Apr. 29 (DGB); three Barrow's Goldeneyes at Nickle L., May 16 (NP) and a pair near Suffield, AB May 21 (BV).

Vultures to Swifts

Rare in the mountains was a Turkey Vulture at Windy Point, AB May 9 (WS). A Mississippi Kite at Lumsden, SK May 24 was well described (C&MP), but details are limited on a Red-shouldered Hawk near Blumenort, MB Apr. 6 (JRe) and two near Lebreton, SK May 13 (RH, LR, PB). Single extralimital Ferruginous Hawks Apr. 6 & 7

(PS, JS) punctuated the tail end of another excellent Golden Eagle migration at Mt. Lorette, AB. Rough-legged Hawks were locally abundant in s.e. Manitoba, with one-day counts near 100 birds in several areas Mar. 18–Apr. 8 (m.ob.); good numbers were also reported in s. Alberta (RD). A misguided ♂ **Rock Ptarmigan** photographed near Old Wives L., SK Apr. 26 (RFo) did not represent a provincial first, but was extraordinary in the south.

Most of the shorebird highlights were in Alberta, including 526 Am. Golden-Plovers at Beaverhill L., May 19 (WS, RW), eight Black-necked Stilts near Irricana May 13–14 (MS, TK *et al.*) and five at Stirling L., May 13 (LS, AH). About 250 Am. Avocets were at both MacDonald L., AB Apr. 29 (MiP) and Frank L., May 5 (RS, RW, JR). A Greater Yellowlegs was record early at Winnipeg Mar. 25 (GH); also in Winnipeg, 29 Solitary Sandpipers at a small pond in a city park May 13 (M&AH) hardly did justice to their name.

Further high counts from Alberta included 140 Whimbrels near Vauxhall May 13 (LIB) and 115 Red Knots at Beaverhill L., May 18 (RW, WS). Twelve Red Knots paused at Reed L., SK May 22 (MyP). A Baird's Sandpiper was early at Taber, AB Apr.



There Are So Many Species Of Birds On The Eastern Shore, They Need A Beach All To Themselves.

For a complete guide to every solitary beach, Blue Ridge mountain and historic place in Virginia, call 1-800-248-4833 and ask for Ext. K34. Or write Virginia Tourism, Dept. K34, Richmond, Virginia 23219.



V I R G I N I A



Remarkably far south was this male Rock Ptarmigan near Old Wives Lake, Saskatchewan, April 26, 1995. Photograph/Randy Forsyth.

12 (LIB). Twenty-thousand “peeps,” mainly Semipalmated Sandpipers, thronged Beaverhill Lake’s shores May 18 (WS, RW), along with 2725 Stilt Sandpipers and 4550 dowitchers (mainly Long-billed). A 1000 dowitchers were at Scottie L., SK May 11 (FB).

Early Franklin’s Gulls reached Calgary Mar. 24 (BG) and Winnipeg Mar. 27 (GH). An ad. Mew Gull rested among Ring-billeds at Seven Sisters Falls May 12 (PT). California Gulls reached several s. Alberta locations Mar. 10–14 (m.ob.), one arrived at Saskatoon Mar. 14 (MW) and 3000 gathered near Saskatoon from late March–mid-April (MW). Sub-adult Herring Gulls present a bewildering variety of plumages in spring; two yearlings in Calgary May 18 resembled the Siberian race *L.a. vegae* (TK). Another early bird was a Caspian Tern at L. Newell, AB Apr. 15 (LIB).

The E. Screech-Owl near Dunmore, AB called through March (DBa). Good numbers of Boreal Owls were found in the Alberta mountains, especially at Banff N.P. in March; the highest count was eight between Bow Summit and L. Louise Mar. 28 (MM). A Vaux’s Swift was a rare visitor to Leth-

bridge May 8 (WG); single *Chaetura* swifts at Windy Point Apr. 17 and May 9 (WS) were also likely Vaux’s.

Passerines

A W. Wood-Pewee was well e. at Stonewall, MB May 28–June 6+ (KG). Five-thousand Bank Swallows represented an exceptional spring concentration at Red Deer, AB May

18 (IR). A residential building site near St. Norbert provided an acre of “tundra” to lock in s. Manitoba’s 3rd (first confirmed) Northern Wheatear for all to see May 18 (RFR, m.ob.). Amazingly, the building contractor who discovered it also found N. Dakota’s first wheatear last year!

An E. Bluebird was early at Kleeefeld, MB Mar. 18 (DF), and there were Saskatchewan



Providing a first confirmed record for southern Manitoba was this male Northern Wheatear near St. Norbert May 18, 1995. Photograph/Dennis Fast.

sightings at Avonlea Apr. 26 (FB) and Weyburn May 22 (two; GB, NP). Inclement weather in April caused widespread abandonment of nest-boxes by Mt. Bluebirds in both Alberta (DBa, LS) and Saskatchewan (FR, MH). A Townsend's Solitaire visited Avonlea Apr. 17 (FB). Swainson's Thrush was one of the few passerines to fall out in substantial numbers in all 3 provinces. The only reported N. Mockingbird was 30 mi n. of Saskatoon May 27 (FR).

Two Am. Pipits were very early at Calgary Apr. 5 (JD). More representative of the season were reports of late flocks of Bohemian Waxwings across the south, including 334 at Mt. Lorette Apr. 28 (DA), >1500 at Saskatoon Apr. 6 (FR), and 400 at Morden, MB Apr. 14 (GH, RKO, PT).

An unconfirmed Blue-winged Warbler at Kleefeld May 19 was apparently seen at very close range (NT, *fide* DF). There were few reports of migrant warbler concentrations; the largest were 300 Tennessees at Oscar L., SK May 26 (SS) and 350 Yellow-rumped grounders in cold, driving rain with 70 other assorted warblers at L. Manitoba Narrows May 21 (PT). Twenty-five Canada Warblers provided a good banding total at Lesser Slave L., AB in May (LZ).

Three W. Tanagers visited s.e. Manitoba feeders: one delighted many birders near

Kleefeld May 2-5 (H&WB, m.ob.), one in Steinbach May 11-14 was found dead May 18 (HP), and the third was at Anola May 15 (MB). Another W. Tanager was near Saskatoon May 27 (FR, SS), and five provided a good count in Calgary May 16 (R&JD). A Scarlet Tanager reached Weyburn in early May (LoB). A Lazuli Bunting was possibly on territory near Moose Jaw, SK May 24 (AVD) and June 5 (LK). An Indigo Bunting was far out of range at Calgary May 15 (BY), and one at Canora, SK May 25 (B&JA) was also noteworthy.

Among the migrant sparrows, Clay-colored seemed especially late (10 days or more) in both Saskatchewan and Manitoba. A White-throated Sparrow was an oddity in a Calgary supermarket Mar. 6 (MP). Several comments on low numbers of Lapland Longspurs raised some concern about this sometimes superabundant migrant. Flocks of 30-50 Purple Finches lingered almost a month at some feeders in Saskatchewan and s.e. Manitoba, reflecting a stalled migration. House Finches are becoming difficult to miss in small-town Manitoba, and are well established year-round at Weyburn, SK (DGB); two pioneering pairs remained in Edmonton through March (*fide* PM). Pine Siskins were abundant across much of s. Saskatchewan and s. Manitoba, with many reports of ≥ 50 at feeders.

Observers (subregional compilers in bold-face): Alf Adamo, Des Allen, Bill & Joyce Anaka, Harry & Winnie Bartel, Dennis Baresco (DBa), Louise Belanger (LoB), Lloyd Bennett (LIB), D.G. Bobbitt (DGB), Flossie Bogdan, Phyllis Bordass, M. Bouw, Linda Cerny, Andy Courcelles, Joe Denham, Ken De Smet, Ross Dickson, Rodger & Jean Dunn, Dennis Fast, Randy Forsyth (RFo), Ron Friesen (RFR), Ken Gardner, Wittek Gierulski, Bob Greggs, Bob Hall, Don Holland, George Holland, Ron Hooper, Mary Houston, Mark & Art Huebert, Andy Hurley, Leith Knight, Rudolf Koes (RKO), **Robert Kreba** (RKR), Terry Korozyk, Pat Marklevitz, Mike McIvor, Greg Meyer, Robert Parsons, Harry Peters, Curtis & Marilyn Pollock, Nick Postey, Mike Preston (MiP), Myrna Priebe (MyP), Paul Pryor, Jim Reimer (JRe), Ian Richards, John Riddell (JRi), Jeff Rosen (JRo), Lorne Rowell, Frank Roy, Liz Savoy, Stan Shadick, **Peter Sherrington**, Wayne Smith, Milt Spitzer, John Steeves, Marion Steeves, Peter Taylor, Terry Taylor, Norma Toews, Arie van Dorland, Ben Velner, Adam Walley, Ray Wershler, Michael Williams, Barb Yarowich, Reto Zach, Lisa Zuberbier.

—Rudolf F. Koes, 135 Rossmere Cres., Winnipeg MB R2K 0G1 and Peter Taylor, Box 597, Pinawa MB R0E 1L0.



Male Western Tanager near Kleefeld, Manitoba, May 4, 1995. Photograph/Dennis Fast.