

in Longview May 14 (B&DMet). Brush's studies along the Rio Grande turned up as many as 24 Altamira, 14 Audubon's, and seven "Bullock's" orioles between Chapeño and Fronton in April. A very out-of-range ad. ♂ Scott's Oriole surprised McKinney Mar. 1 in Brownsville. A Lesser Goldfinch was reported in *Jefferson* Apr. 11 (JW), and another was in *Calhoun* Apr. 24 (ME). Three Evening Grosbeaks were in Lubbock Apr. 23 (CHo).

### Undocumented Rarities

Several reports of rare or very rare sp. were received with insufficient or no documentation. Omitted from this column were reports of: Great Black-backed Gull, White-eared Hummingbird, Lewis' Woodpecker, Bridled Titmouse, Connecticut Warbler, Slate-throated Redstart, Golden-crowned Warbler, Blue Bunting, Baird's Sparrow, and Pine Grosbeak.

**Cited observers (Subregional Editors in boldface):** Peggy Abbott (PAb), Peggy Acord, Tony Amos, Abbey Anello, Ben Archer, Tim Archer, Rich & Nanette Armstrong, Nina & Eddie Arnold, John Arvin, Peter Assman, Tom Baker, John Barrera, Bob Behrstock, Chris Benesh, Bernard Benson, Dorothy Bentley, Peter Billingham, Sally Bird, Nancy Bird, Lorrie Black, Marge Blackburn, Hazel Bluhm, Doug Booher, Sally Bourbon (SBo), **David Bradford** (East Texas: 18046 Green Hazel, Houston, TX 77084), David Brotherton (DBro), Hugh Brown, Barbara Bruns, Tim Brush, **Kelly Bryan** (Trans-Pecos: P.O. Box 786, Ft. Davis, TX 79734), Winnie Burkett, Marty Campbell, Oscar Carmona, Sharen Carter (SCa), Andra Chamberlin, Charlie Clark, Jeremy Clark, Sally Clemmons, Chris Collins, Arlie & Mel Cooksey, Robert & Kathi Creech, Gordon & Mary Creel (G&MCR), Wesley Cureton, Dave Curson, Rosy Cutler, Jean Dake (JDa), Sumner Dana, David Dauphin, Louis Debetaz, Jon Dunn, Betty Dzurenda, Charles Easley, John Economidy, Carol Edwards (CEd), Mark Elwonger, Victor Emanuel, Doug Emkalns, Mike Farmer, Bill Farnsworth, Bennie Flat, Mark Flippo, Fort Worth Audubon Society (F.W.A.S.), Tony & Phyllis Frank, Bobbye Frazier (BoF), Brush Freeman (BF), John Gee, Tony Gallucci, Linda Gayler, Elaine Giessel, Bill Graber, Sara Lou Grimes, Chantal Guggenbuhl, Ron Gutberlet, Karl Haller, James Hamous (JHa), Peggy Harding (PHa), George Harmon, W. Edward Harper, Carl Haynie, Jim Healey, David & Linda Hedges, Harold Hedges, Dick Henderson (DHe), Charlie Hobbs, Petra Hockey, Norman Holgerson, Kurt Huffman, Larry Hunt, Ruth Hunt, Mike

Husak, Joe Ideker, Charlie Jensen (CJe), Thomas L. Johnson (TLJ), Judith Jones, Larry Jordan, George Jury, Dale Kane, Andy Kasner, Lois Marie Keaton, Greg Keiran, Donna Kelly (DKe), Cathy Kerr, Richard Kinney, Phillip Kite, Ed Kutac, Greg Lasley, Debra Lee, Anne Lee, Paul Lehman, Lee Lemmons, Margie & Ray Little, Keith Lockhart, Mark Lockwood, Ruth Loper, Guy & Joan Luneau, Edward Lyons, John Maresh (JMa), Elke Matejivich, Helen Matelson, Debra McKee (DMc), June McKee (JMc), Terry McKee (TMc), Brad McKinney, Jean McQueen, John Meliotis (JMel), Ruthie Melton, Don & Joann Merritt (D&JMer), Bob & Dorothy Metzler (B&DMet), Terry Maxwell (TMa), James & Rochelle Miller, Charles Mills (CMi), Ralph Moldenhauer, Carroll Moore, Jack & Elaine Morman, John Muldrow (JMu), Ken Nanne, Val Naylor, Bob Neil, Bruce Neville, Laura Nolen, Julius Nussbaum, George Oliver, Brent Ortego, Nancy & **Paul Palmer** (South Texas: 615 S. Wanda, Kingsville, TX 78363), Marilyn Patterson (MaP), Mike Patterson, Dick Payne, George Peck, Wes Phillips (WPh), Tom Pincelli, Randy Pinkston (RPi), Barbara Jean Porthast (BJP), Truman Powell (TPo), Nick Pulcinella, Greg Rappstein, Bob Rasa, **Ross Rasmussen** (N. C. Texas: 600 S. Graves #1704, McKinney, TX 75069), Jim Ray, Martin Reid, Barbara & John Ribble, Kay Rice, Jan & Will Risser, Bob Rogers, Stephen Rottenborn, Coot Rush, Kristin Salas (KSa), Larry Sall, Mike San Miguel, Rick Schaefer (RSch), John Schmidt (JSch), Georgina Schwarz, Bob Scott, Rosemary Scott (RSc), **Willie Sekula** (Central Texas: Rt. 1, Box 130, Falls City, TX 78113), Larry & Pati Semander, Chuck Sexton, **Ken Seyffert** (Panhandle: 2206 S. Lipscomb, Amarillo, TX 79109), Cliff Shackelford (CSh), Sara & Thomas Shane (S&TSh), Dominic Sherony, J. W. Sifford, Lynn Smith, Kim Snipes (KSn), Sylvestre Sorola, Martin Speiss (MSp), Judy Spurlock, Sara St. Claire (SSc), Tom Stehn, Darleen Stevens (DSt), Cliff Stogner (CSt), Rose Marie Stortz (RMS), Betsy Strothers, Davis Sugeno, Glenn Swartz, Delbert Tarter, Terry Tate, Verna Teague, Peggy Trosper, Twin Lakes Audubon Society (T.L.-A.S.), Linda Valdez, Al Valentine, Sybil Vosler, Ro Wauer, Ed Wetzler, Brian Wheeler, Matt White (MWh), E. G. White-Swift (EGW), Gayle Whitten, John Whittle, Bret Whitney (BWhi), Egon & Sue Wiedenfeld (E&SWie), Russell Wilke, Frances Williams, Kirby Williams, Sue Williams, Doris Wyman, Barry Zimmer.

—Greg W. Lasley, 305 Loganberry Ct., Austin, TX 78745-6527 (e-mail: GregLasley@aol.com), Chuck Sexton. 101 E. 54th St., Austin, TX 78751.

# Idaho/ Western Montana Region

### DAN SVINGEN

Much of spring 1995 didn't differ from the past winter, being consistently cool and wet. Although several semi-hardy species were recorded early in February, migration for other species was definitely late. Locally breeding warblers were largely absent from east-central Idaho and northwest Montana. Swainson's Thrush was specifically noted as being tardy by several observers. This species usually arrives in northern Idaho and northwestern Montana by the third week in May and is widespread by month's end. Although Swainson's Thrushes were on time near Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, it was notably absent from other portions of the area. By the end of May, only a few, non-territorial Swainson's had been noted near Kalispell, Montana, and the species wasn't even recorded near St. Maries, Grangeville, or Boise, Idaho until early June.

Abbreviations: A.F.R. (*American Falls Reservoir, by American Falls, ID*).

### Loons to Ducks

A Com. Loon was at Salmon, ID May 5 (LH). While still rare in e.c. Idaho, this species is becoming more regular there. Red-necked Grebes were again at Harriman S P, *Fremont*, ID (CT), one of the few places in s Idaho where they can be found.

After increasing locally since the 1980s, Double-crested Cormorants were finally confirmed as breeders near Kalispell, MT (DC). Six Double-crested were at Sandpoint, ID May 21, where the species has also been increasing in recent years (PC). Another Double-crested farther north at Kootenai N.W.R., *Boundary*, May 26 provided only the 3rd local sighting. The other two records were from 1981 (JRe).

Great Blue Herons commonly prey on mice and voles in upland fields, but the Missoula, MT bird seen capturing and swallowing whole Columbian Ground Squirrels,

which can weigh up to 2 pounds, was quite unusual (KW, m.ob.). A Green Heron was in Libby May 6 (MHe) for about the 11th Montana record.

A group of seven Trumpeter Swans on Pend Oreille L., *Bonner*, Mar. 9–20 provided a rare n. Idaho sighting (EC). Two Greater White-fronted Geese were in *Ravalli*, MT Apr. 21–22 (CB), where unusual. A single Snow Goose Mar. 3 at Thompson L., *Kootenai*, ID (JN), and a pair May 16 at Kootenai N.W.R. (Jre) were unusual, while the six farther south at Mann L., *Nez Perce*, ID Apr. 29 (C.B.) were expected. Ross' Geese were widely reported in w. Montana, and actually outnumbered Snow Geese on Flathead L. during April and May (DC, LHi, m.ob.). A single Ross' was on Coeur d'Alene L., *Kootenai*, ID Apr. 27–29 (RY, DL, DY) and seven were at Mann L., Apr. 30 (JH, MH), where now regular.

Only two Eur. Wigeon sightings were reported from Montana's Flathead Valley (DC). The species is usually much more common there in spring. In Idaho, the number of Eur. Wigeon sightings was about average. Singles were at Kootenai N.W.R., Mar. 22 (JRe), Market Lake W.M.A., *Jefferson*, Mar. 16–18 (BH, CT), and Boise Mar. 1–30 (MC, FK), and two were at St. Maries Mar. 25 (KD, DNS).

A Harlequin Duck pair May 5 by North Fork, ID provided a very rare e.c. Idaho record (LH), while four on the Moyie R., *Boundary*, ID May 27 (C.A.S.) were more expected. A new systematic survey of the

Lochs R., *Clearwater*, ID found 33 Harlequin Ducks Apr. 27 along 40 mi of river, encompassing one-third of the birds believed to be in the entire state (FC). Although a few Red-breasted Mergansers are seen each spring in s.w. Montana, 13 at Brown's L., *Powell*, were unusually numerous (JB). This species was also particularly common at A.E.R., peaking at 85 Apr. 19 (DT).

### Hawks to Owls

Idaho's 10th **Broad-winged Hawk** was at Cherry Springs, w. *Bannock*, May 2 (CT, m.ob.). Swainson's Hawks are normally rare in n. Idaho, but several were spotted this spring, including single birds by Moscow May 15 & 30 (KD) and Harrison May 22 (C.A.S.), and two birds by Genesee Apr. 30 (JH, MH). A Ferruginous Hawk was in Missoula's Bitterroot Valley May 1 (CB), where very unusual.

Up to 40 Black-necked Stilts were on Holter Res., *Lewis and Clark*, MT in late April (TH), 4 times the previous local high count. A single stilt was on nearby Hauser Res. during the same time period (TH, DSk). Ten Am. Avocets were in Heyburn S.P., *Benewah*, ID, where rarely seen (WK). A Willet put in a rare appearance near Kalispell, MT May 7 (DC). Upland Sandpiper were believed to be nesting this spring in Missoula's Bitterroot Valley (CB), which would represent a new breeding location for this declining species. Long-billed Curlews returned again to the isolated "colony" by Bonners Ferry, ID April 1 (EC). A Long-billed Dowitcher was at Salmon May 13 (LH); like most shorebirds, Long-billed are very rare throughout mountainous e.c. Idaho. Red-necked Phalaropes, unusual in spring, were s. of Lewiston, ID May 12 (CW, C.B.), and at Mann L., May 20 (DJo).

Immature Herring Gulls lingered in the Flathead L. Ring-billed/California gull colony through May, and seemed ready to overwinter (DC). If so, they would furnish the first record for w. Montana. A first-winter **Glaucous-winged Gull** was at Somers, MT Mar. 14 (DC), and another was at the Fighting Cr. Landfill by Coeur d'Alene Mar. 31 (DNS). Although there are still <ten Glaucous-winged Gull records for Montana, it is likely that it will prove to be a

rare, irregular winterer in the Flathead Valley, just as it has in n. Idaho. A Com. Tern at Pend Oreille L., May 21 was an unusual spring sighting (DNS). A Black Tern was at Salmon, ID May 13, where it is a rare migrant (LH).

Barn Owls again nested at Dumrose's Moscow area home (KD, ph.). The Snowy Owl which overwintered in Moscow was last seen Mar. 8 (KD). An active Great Gray Owl nest was found adjacent to a Georgetown L., *Granite*, MT parking lot (T&CT). An injured Great Gray picked up in the Craig Mountains, *Nez Perce*, ID in May suggests local breeding may occur (FC).

### Woodpeckers to Crossbills

Seven Lewis' Woodpeckers were noted near Helena, MT (GH), 3 times the normal count. Single Williamson's Sapsuckers were near Winchester, ID May 12 (CW, C.B.) and near Whitefish, MT May 16, where very unusual (DC). Two Horned Larks May 22 by Post Falls, ID (SHS) were noteworthy, as breeding has yet to be confirmed in the state's 2 northern-most latilongs.

A ♀ **Purple Martin** May 12–13 at Deer Flat N.W.R., *Canyon*, was only Idaho's 9th (JG ph., BHo, EH). A new Bank Swallow colony was discovered in Coeur d'Alene in late May (C.A.S.). The species is local throughout n. Idaho.

More stragglers from last fall's mighty Blue Jay invasion were noted throughout the Region. Montana birds included one throughout the spring in Helena (GH), and pairs persisting into May in Somers (DC) and Kalispell (DC). In Idaho, single birds were still in Grangeville (*vide* DNS), Boise (MC, FK), Springfield (*vide* CT), Lewisville (*vide* CT), St. Maries (CM), and Payette (GJ) until at least early May. Up to four Blue Jays could still be seen in Moscow Apr. 28 (m.ob.), while seven spent the spring in Salmon (HR), and a pair was noted in Lewiston Orchards Mar. 1–Apr. 15 (FC).

As now expected after a mild winter, several Bewick's Wren were reported from n. Idaho. Singles were by Lewiston May 8 (C.B.), Lapwai May 13 (JH, MH), Kamiah May 14 (DNS), and in Heyburn S.P., Mar. 25–May 19 (KD, DNS, WK). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nest in extreme s.e. *Jefferson*, ID provided a first confirmed breeding for latilong 22 (SR).

An early Hermit Thrush was killed after hitting a Missoula window Mar. 26 (PW). It is possible this was the same bird that provided a rare winter record last season. Locally rare, single Loggerhead Shrikes were at Swan Lake N.W.R., *Lake*, MT May 10 (DC, LHi) and Troy, ID May 17 (DT). The species was noted as being more common than usual in the Boise area (DJ).



A ♂ breeding-plumaged **Golden-winged Warbler** brightened downtown Missoula May 28 (WKr, CTo, PW, DH, ph., m.ob.), providing Montana's first record.

Clay-colored Sparrows again returned to their localized breeding grounds in n.w. Montana but, like many local nesters, they arrived 1–2 weeks later than usual (DC). A Harris' Sparrow was unusual by Troy, ID May 5 (KT).

Three Great-tailed Grackles were by Am. Falls Dam, *Power*, Mar. 26 (TG), a new location for Idaho's newest resident. Common Grackles are regular in Idaho only in the extreme e. portion of the state, making the male at Deer Flat N.W.R., May 12 (JG, BHo) of interest.

Locally rare White-winged Crossbills were seen with Red Crossbills near North Fork, ID Mar. 7 (DSc) and Coeur d'Alene May 15 (CC).

### Addendum

Cape May Warbler is currently considered hypothetical in Idaho, but a recently discovered photograph will change that. The photo was taken by B. Kendall while the bird visited a feeder at his Dover, *Bonner*, ID home Jan. 5–17, 1980. The bird successfully survived weather Jan. 8 that included high winds and a low of 8° F, before disappearing a week later.

**Observers cited (Subregional editors in boldface):** IDAHO: Canyon Birders (C.B.), Corinna Cameron, Francis Cassirer, Earl Chapin, Coeur d'Alene Audubon Society (C.A.S.), Pat Cole, Mark Collie, **Kas Dumroese**, Todd Garlie, John Gatchet, Lucinda Haggas (LH), Evelyn Hainey, Brad Hammond, John Hirth (JH), Marty Hirth (MH), Bob Holbrook (BHo), Dick Johnson (DJo), **Dean Jones** (DJ), Gary Jones, Wallace Keck (WK), Florence Knoll, **Merlene Koliner**, Dave Larson, Cody Montgomery (CM), John Nigh, Jimmy Reynolds (JRe), Sharon Ritter, **Hadley Roberts**, **Shirley Sturts** (SHS), Diane Schuldt-hickey (DSc), Dan Svingen (DNS), Dan Taylor, Karen Toews, **Charles Trost**, Donna Young, Roger Young, Clare Wisner. MONTANA: Clif Barry, Jim Brown, Tim Burns, **Dan Casey**, Mike Hensler (MHe), Liz Hill (LHi), Denver Holt (DH), **George Holton**, Troy Humphrey, Will Kerling (WKr), **Terry McEaney**, Don Skaar (DSk), Chris Tonkinson, Terry and Chris Toppins (T&CT), Kathy Williamson, **Philip Wright**.

—Dan Svingen, P.O. Box 132, Grangeville, ID 83530.

# Mountain West Region

## HUGH E. KINGERY

The Region experienced a prolonged spring which started warm and ended cool and wet. A continuous series of cold fronts produced six weeks of cloudy, rainy, overcast skies from Pueblo to Casper. Individual birds of many species arrived on normal to early dates, but when they encountered barely leafed-out trees (and probably low insect/food levels) they stayed, and more poured in and stayed. The contrary spring produced one new species for the Nevada list and two for Wyoming.

Abbreviations: L.L.B.L. (*Longmont/Lyons/Berthoud/Loveland area, CO, using Foothills Audubon Club records by Ann Means*); R.E. (*Regional Editor*); 1st Lat (*first latilong record [a latilong is outlined by one degree each of latitude and longitude, and measures about 50 by 70 mi]*); ph (*photograph on file with R. E.*); † (*written description on file with R. E.*); ‡ (*written description on file with, and subject to approval of, state or local records committee*); # (*no written description submitted to or photograph not seen by R. E.*).

## Loons to Ibises

A Pacific Loon reportedly spent one day at Riverside Res., Masters, CO Apr. 27 (#JHi, DE, WL). At Walker L., NV the annual census produced 904 Com. Loons Apr. 12, on the high side (LN). The two wintering Yellow-billed Loons at Pueblo stayed through May 11 (MJ, BP). Rawhide Res. near Wellington, CO attracted a high 162 Horned Grebes Apr. 23 (RAR) and a Red-necked Grebe May 4–19 (DL, DE, RAR). Walker L. also had counts of 138 Eared and 79 Western/Clark's, considered low (LN). Counts of Eareds included 125 at Quichapa L., UT Mar. 19 and an early 20 at Rock Springs, WY Mar. 18. Counts at L/L/B/L found 1125 Westerns in April, compared with last year's spring total of 222. Anaho N.W.R., NV held 3265 Am. White Pelican nests May 25, a good start (GC, WH). The Lahontan Valley, NV census of colonial waders came up with 2000 White-faced Ibis, 40 Great Blue Heron, 85 Great Egret, 225 Snowy Egret, 30 Cattle Egret, 70 Black-crowned Night-Heron, and 21 Double-crested Cormorant nests. A Great Egret appeared at Devils Tower, WY May 6 (G&MS). Snowy Egrets at Fish Springs N.W.R., UT peaked at 344 (JB). At Rocky Ford, CO May 1–8 a Little Blue Heron in calico plumage stood next to a Snowy Egret for comparison (BP, †MJ). Vivid details of plumage and feeding style described a likely **Reddish Egret** at Jackson, WY May 29, Wyoming's first record if accepted by the Records Committee (‡B&GE). In Colorado observers identified **Glossy Ibis** in 3 places: one Apr. 26–28 at Cheraw (JRo, †MJ); two at Las Animas May 7 (‡MJ); and one at Denver May 12–13 (no description provided). Both descriptions emphasize

