

# middlewestern prairie region



## LOONS TO IBISES

The season's only Red-throated Loon appeared at H.B.S.P. Mar. 22 (KMe, EB, RHn). Common Loons were plentiful with numerous reports of birds lingering through the period. The famous Table Rock L., MO, Yellow-billed Loon appeared again this spring (CB). Red-necked Grebes were well represented on the Region's ledger with eight in Ohio, five in Iowa, and one in Illinois. Eared Grebes were reported in all 4 states e. of the Mississippi R.; noteworthy sightings included two at McElroy L., KY, May 6 (DR), plus singles at Holden Arboretum, OH, Apr. 11–19 (HP m.ob.), and in Lake, OH, May 14–15 (JPg). The only W. Grebe e. of the Mississippi R. was in Boone, IL, May 9–10 (ABi). American White Pelicans were reported in all 6 states; notable reports included 1300 in Union, IL, Apr. 1 (KMc); 157 on Barkley L., KY, Mar. 30 (MB); four at Pine Creek W.M.A., IN, Apr. 12 (BD); two at Ottawa N.W.R., OH, May 17 (EP, RHa, SW); and one in Indianapolis, IN, Mar. 26–29 (BB et al.). A Neotropical Cormorant, a species that is becoming a regular visitor to the Region, was seen at S.C.R. May 17 (SD, BR).

It was a superb spring for Am. Bitterns, with more than 30 reported from the 4 n. states. Peak counts included seven at the Ayrshire Mine, IN, Apr. 17 (ML); six at Prairie Ridge W.M.A., IL, May 9 (JW et al.); and four at Miami-Whitewater W.M.A., OH, May 9 (NK). A record-late migrating Least Bittern was found in Chicago's Lincoln Park June 13 (EW, IM). Small numbers of Snowy Egrets were widespread; the maximum count away from the s. rookeries was three at L.Cal. Apr. 26 (WM). The Region's only Tricolored Herons, all singles, were found at Mingo N.W.A., MO, Apr. 19 (SD); L. Renwick, IL, May 9 (†JMi); and Black Bottoms, IL, May 18 (†FB). Cattle Egrets nested in s.w. Indiana, where a rookery at the Ayrshire Mine contained 20–50 birds in May (ML). The peak Black-crowned Night-Heron count at the L.Cal. Big Marsh was May 9, when 712 birds were seen departing in the evening (WM); this constituted Illinois' only sizeable colony (*vide* PC). In addi-

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Except for an early March cold snap, spring weather across the Region was quite mild. A warm, wet April stimulated early leaf development and left standing water in many fields. May was delightfully pleasant; temperatures were above normal and mid-month was characterized by persistent south winds.

Waterfowl and gulls departed in late winter, forcing most birders to look forward to the shorebird and passerine flights. Shorebirds were spotty, with many areas reporting poor to mediocre numbers, whereas others experienced excellent diversity and numbers. Kentucky's McElroy Lake, which yielded numerous fine reports, was clearly an example of the latter.

Passerines, however, were a different matter. Although most April passerines arrived on schedule and in good numbers, the May flight was the perfect antithesis of the unforgettable 1996 spring migration. In contrast to that spectacular fallout, in which grounded migrants overwhelmed

astonished birders, May of 1998 was characterized by an acute absence of birds. Indeed, birders from Ohio to Missouri were thoroughly "underwhelmed" by the May flight. Perhaps Paul McKenzie's statement, "this was by far the most boring excuse for bird migration I have ever seen in over 26 years of birding," captured the sentiment of most observers.

Explanations covered the spectrum from a massive overflight of the Region to a major crash of neotropical populations. Declines were widely attributed to tropical habitat loss, fires in Mexico, and/or El Niño. Whatever the cause, the spring migration of 1998 provided a sobering experience for birders across the Region. It clearly behooves us all to closely monitor the breeding season and autumn flight.

**Abbreviations:** H.B.S.P. (*Headlands Beach S.P., OH*); L.Cal. (*Lake Calumet, Chicago*); Jax.P. (*Jackson Park on the Chicago lakefront*); S.C.R. (*Squaw Creek N.W.R., MO*); R.E.D.A. (*Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, MO*); Spfld. (*Springfield, IL*).

tion, a new Black-crowned rookery, containing 30 active nests, was discovered on the Inland Steel landfill in *Lake*, IN, May 20 (JCs). It was a good spring for ibis, with all 3 species recorded. An imm. White Ibis was reported at Big Oak Tree S.P., MO, May 13 (DKJ), and another was at Mingo N.W.R., MO, May 17 (TP). Two Glossy Ibis were identified in *Lucas*, OH, May 9 (RHa, SW, MS, m.ob.), with singles reported at L. McElroy, KY, May 17 (SK, †MB, LK); in *Winnebago*, IL, May 26 (†GD); and at Frank Holten S.P., IL, May 29 (†KM). Two White-faced Ibis lingered at Oakley, IL, from Apr. 25 through May 5 (MD, †RCh et al.), and two more were at Sandhill L., IA, May 9 (BH). Additionally, two unidentified *Plegadis* ibis were at Frank Holten S.P., IL, May 28 (KM).

#### WATERFOWL

The mild winter stimulated many waterfowl to move northward in late February; consequently, spring counts were generally below normal. Iowa's 6th **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck**, discovered in Tomahawk Marsh, *Sac*, Apr. 9 (†RR), remained through at least May 19 (†PE, †TK, †JFu, †m.ob.). A Greater White-fronted Goose wandered E to Buck Creek S.P., OH, where it was seen Mar. 28–29 (DOv). Despite the dearth of geese, Ross's Geese were reported in every state except Kentucky and Ohio. The peak count e. of the Mississippi R. was five in *Sangamon*, IL, Mar. 2 (DBo). Bucking the spring's general scarcity of ducks, Blue-winged Teal appeared in good num-

bers as shown by a peak count of 5000 at Carlyle L., IL, Apr. 10 (DKb). In concert with the heavy Blue-winged Teal flight, Cinnamon Teal numbers were also up; four were reported in Iowa, two in Missouri, and single males appeared in Illinois in *Lake* Apr. 3 (†DJ), and at Mendota Apr. 14–25 (BP, C&JM, DSh, DaW). In addition, male Cinnamon × Blue-winged hybrids were reported at Spfld. Apr. 15–May 3 (†DBo) and at Clinton L., IL, May 18 (MRe, TD). Other notable puddle duck counts included 3000 N. Shovelers and 2000 Gadwall at Carlyle L., IL, Apr. 10 (DKb).

Spring bay duck tallies were uniformly low across the Region. Notable reports included a Greater Scaup at McElroy L., KY, Apr. 27 (DR), which was unusually late. Small numbers of Oldsquaw were scattered across the Region; the latest was in *Jasper*, IL, May 1 (EK, JHo). Surf Scoters were reported widely across the Region, including singletons at Falls of the Ohio, KY, Mar. 6 (MB), and Barkley L., KY, Mar. 14 and May 4 (BPB, DR); otherwise scoters were scarce. The rarely seen Com. Goldeneye × Hooded Merganser hybrid was found at Clinton L., IL, May 14 (DKb). Iowa's 3rd Bufflehead breeding record was logged May 31, when a female and six young were found at Dan Green Slough, *Clay* (*fide* TK).

#### HAWKS TO CRANES

Two pair of nesting Osprey were reported at Kentucky/Barkley Lakes, KY (CP); nesting was also reported in *Portage* and *Coshocton*, OH (*fide* LRo). Mississippi Kites returned

to traditional areas in Illinois and Iowa. Nineteen territorial Bald Eagle pairs, with a record 20 young in the nests, were reported by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (JCs). Only four N. Goshawks were reported, a figure about one-third the normal count. Major movements of diurnal raptors included 100+ N. Harriers at Taberville Prairie, MO, Mar. 14 (DA); 97 Sharpshinned Hawks at Conneaut, OH, Apr. 18 (ES); 300 Broad-winged Hawks in *Holmes*, OH, Apr. 16 (ES); and 306 Red-tailed Hawks at Johnson Beach, IN, Mar. 29 (HC et al.). Tardy Rough-legged Hawks were sighted at Pine Creek W.M.A., IN, May 4 (BD) and at Potato Creek S.P., IN, May 9 (T&LS). An impressive 31 Merlins were reported; the peak count consisted of three in Chicago Mar. 25 (JL). Regarding Peregrine Falcon observations, Paul Clyne underscored the importance of observers making a greater effort to separate reintroduced birds from the migrant *tundrius* race. This distinction will allow a better assessment of both the success of local nesting birds and the health of the migrant population.

Eighty-four male Greater Prairie-Chickens were counted at in *Jasper*, IL, in April (SSi, JW et al.), and extralimital birds, a male and possibly two females, were discovered e. of Enfield, *White*, IL (†DvW). A better-than-average rail flight was highlighted by single Yellow Rails at Santee Prairie, IA, Apr. 10 (M. Muhm, *fide* DH) and in *Champaign*, IL, Apr. 22 (RCh). Single King Rails were seen at Miami-Whitewater in s.w. Ohio May 2 (PW) & 17 (JBe). Virginia Rails were widely reported and a nest containing



A notable concentration of eight Marbled Godwits was observed at Caesar Creek State Park, Ohio, April 26, 1998. Photograph/Larry Gara

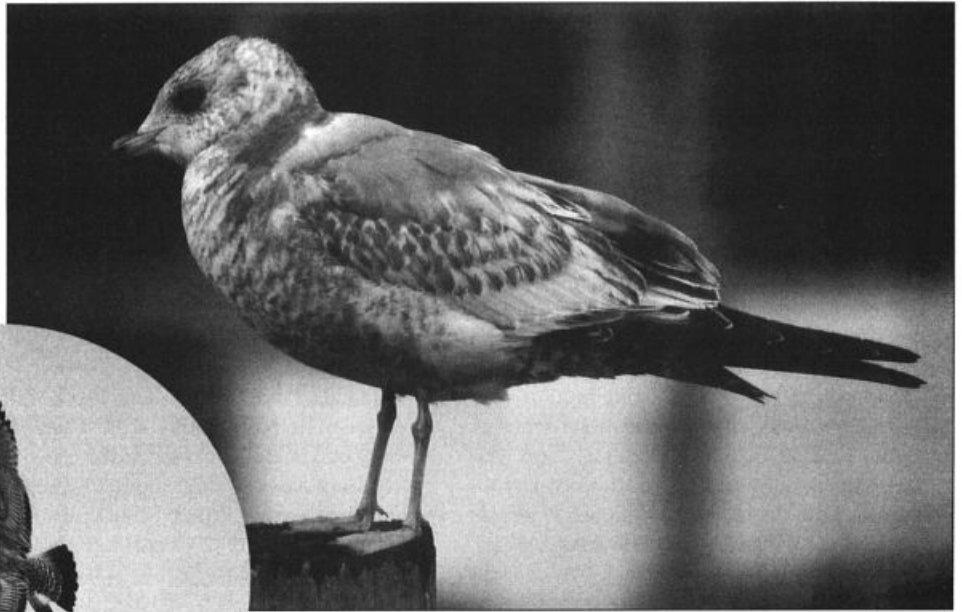
12 eggs was found at Salamonie Res., IN, Apr. 26 (JMc et al.). Common Moorhens remained scarce, with reports only from Illinois, Iowa, and w. Ohio; the peak count was four at McHenry Dam, IL, May 31 (RBa). A majority of the migrant Sandhill Cranes departed the Region in late February; however, stragglers lingered well into May with sightings in Ohio at Ottawa N.W.R. May 13 (RHs, SW) and in Lucas and Ottawa May 16 (DOv).

## SHOREBIRDS

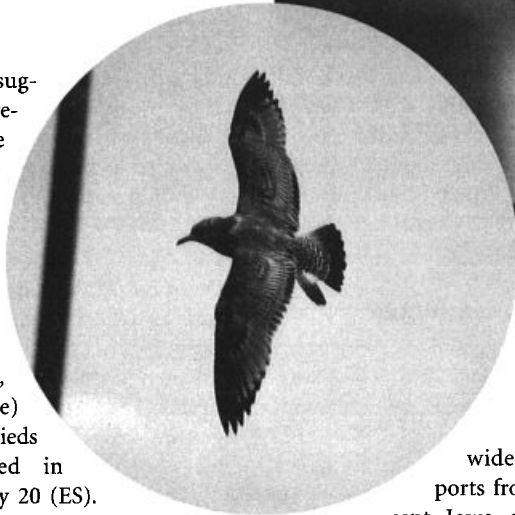
Most observers suggested that the shorebird flight was late and insipid. Two blatant exceptions to this pattern involved the appearance of 10 extremely early Black-bellied Plovers in Massac, IL, Mar. 27 (†FBe) and 140 Black-bellieds that were counted in Ohio's w. basin May 20 (ES).

By far the Region's largest Am. Golden-Plover count consisted of 3500 in Douglas, IL, Apr. 18 (RCh). An impressive concentration of Semipalmated Plovers accumulated in the excellent shorebird habitat at McElroy L., KY; 150 were found Apr. 16–17 (DO, MB) and 200 were present May 15 (BPB). Migrant Piping Plovers were recorded only in Boone, MO, Apr. 17 (BG) and Waukegon, IL, May 16 (SM). As Black-necked Stilts strengthened their foothold in the Region, spring records were logged in every state except Indiana and Ohio. State tallies included: nine in Illinois, five in Kentucky (with at least one incubating), two in Missouri, and one in Iowa. American Avocets were scarce except in Iowa, where 99 were counted in Fremont (B&LP) and 62 in Woodbury Apr. 26 (BH).

Peak counts among the flocking species included: 100 Greater Yellowlegs in Hickman Bottoms, KY, Apr. 11 (CP); 600+ Lesser Yellowlegs at Four Rivers W.M.A., MO, Apr. 21 (MRo); 32 Willets in Coles, IL, Apr. 29 (RBr); 250+ Semipalmated Sandpipers at McElroy L. in late May (BPB); 250 Least Sandpipers at Glacial Park, IL, May 16–17 (RBa); 400 Pectoral Sandpipers in Vermilion, IL, Apr. 11 (RCh); 50 Dunlin at Coralville Res., IA, May 18 (CE); ten Stilt Sandpipers in Hickman Bottoms, KY, May 23 (BPB); and 80 Short-billed Dowitchers at Coralville Res. May 18 (CE).



Two views of the first-winter Mew Gull present during March 1998 at Fairport Harbor, Ohio. Photographs/John Pogacnik



Whimbrels were widespread with reports from every state except Iowa and Illinois. The largest count, by far, consisted of 17 seen on McElroy L. May 5 (DR). Hudsonian Godwit numbers were down in Iowa (fide TK). East of the Mississippi R., four Hudsonians were recorded at 3 locations in Illinois, two were in Gary, IN, May 17 (JMc) and one was at Lorain, OH, May 17 (CH, RHn). A typical Marbled Godwit flight was highlighted by eight at Caesar Creek S.P., OH, Apr. 26 (†LG ph.) and five at Clark Fish Hatchery, KY, Apr. 22 (LK, BPB). Ruddy Turnstone tallies of 26 at R.E.D.A. May 19 (PBa) and 22 on McElroy L. May 22 (LD, JEL, DR) provided excellent counts inland. Surprisingly, the Region's only Red Knot reports came from inland sites with singletons reported in Decatur, IL, May 14 (MD) and Urbana, IL, May 16–17 (GL, RCh, EC). Kentucky's best Sanderling flight ever was logged at McElroy L. with a peak of 21 May 27 (DR). Two other noteworthy reports from McElroy L. included several dozen White-rumped Sandpipers in late May (BPB) and a single Baird's Sandpiper May 1 (DR). The spring's only Ruff consisted of a male seen in Ottawa, OH, May 23 (RHs, SW, EP). Long-billed Dowitchers were reported in unusually high numbers with counts exceeding 10 birds in 3 states, including a record count of 50 birds in Hickman Bottoms, KY, May 4 (BPB). A peak 23 Wilson's Phalaropes was reported at Riverton

W.M.A., IA, Apr. 30 (B&LP), and up to three were logged in the remaining states. Only two Red-necked Phalaropes were recorded; single birds were seen at McElroy L. May 6 (DR) and in Sac, IA, May 23 (JDi).

## JAEGERS TO TERNS

The ad. and 2nd-year Pomarine Jaegers reported in February at H.B.S.P. lingered well into spring, with the adult remaining until Apr. 5 (LRo, RHn, NB, ph.). Laughing Gulls were reported in every state except Iowa. The most unexpected occurrences were at Kentucky Dam, KY, where up to five were reported between Mar. 11 and May 24 (DR, MM, BPB), and at R.E.D.A. where two were identified May 18 (JM, JS). An alternate-plumed Franklin's Gull that arrived at Big Creek L., IA, Mar. 1 (P&RA) was quite early. Little Gulls were restricted to Ohio, where a maximum of six were counted in Cleveland Mar. 17 (LRo, RHn, TL). An ad. Black-headed Gull was discovered at Kettleson W.M.A., IA, May 17 (ET); this is the area in which an adult was observed feeding a juvenile in August 1994. The only other Black-headed was seen at Cleveland Mar. 14 (JDu) and at Conneaut, OH, Mar. 22 (†JPg). The Region's only Mew Gull report came from Fairport Harbor, OH, where a first-year bird lingered Mar. 5–27 (JPg, ph. m.ob.). A mid-May census of Ring-billed Gull nests on steel company landfills along the Indiana lakefront (*Lake*) counted 17,723 nests at Inland Steel and 16,438 nests at nearby LTV steel (JCs et al.). This

census also yielded 59 and 401 Herring Gulls nests at these respective sites.

Compared to recent years the spring gull flight was considerably diminished. Many birds apparently took advantage of the mild weather and departed the Region in late winter. A worn first-summer California Gull lingered at L. Spfld. from May 16 into June (†DBo). A below-par Thayer's Gull season did yield extralimital reports that included two immatures at Kentucky Dam, KY, Mar. 8–15 (MB, DR, BPB), a first-year bird at Lost Island L., IA, Apr. 18 (LS), and a first-year bird at Spring Run, IA, May 2 (LS). Single Iceland Gulls were reported in Indiana, where a first-year bird was found Mar. 14 at Michigan City Harbor (JCd, SB et al.), and in Illinois, where an adult was seen in Evanston May 3 (JEn). Remarkably, two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were found at Kentucky Dam: a 3rd-year bird was present Mar. 13 and an adult was seen Mar. 14–15 (DR, BPB). Most unexpected was a first-year Black-legged Kittiwake that appeared at Rathbun Res., IA, Apr. 26 (†RCu, †TJ).

Good Caspian Tern numbers were reported across the Region, with peak counts of 681 migrating off Evanston, IL, May 9 (EW, JEn, IM), 255 off Beverly Shores, IN, May 9 (JMc, KB), and 125 below Kentucky Dam Apr. 29 (JEr, CP). Common and Forster's terns did not fare as well; only small to modest numbers of both were reported. Single migrant Least Terns were reported at Schell-Osage W.M.A., MO, Apr. 25 (CH, CL); Rathbun Res. IA, May 30 & 31 (TJ, RCu); and five were seen at Open Pond, KY, May 21 (CP). Although 613 Black Terns were reported at Saylorville Res, IA, May 16 (BEn), counts remained low e. of the Mississippi R., where the peak count was 18 in Berry, IL, May 16 (DBo).

#### DOVES TO WOODPECKERS

Eurasian Collared-Doves have become firmly ensconced in the Region. In addition to birds associated with established sites in Grinnell, IA, and Urbana, IL, spring reports also included one wooing a Ringed Turtle-Dove at Montrose Harbor, Chicago, May 30 (JL, m.ob.) and six that lingered throughout the period in *Cape Girardeau*, MO (LH, m ob.). Black-billed Cuckoos remained scarce; however, Yellow-billed numbers were much improved across the Region. A peak count of 15 was made at Carlyle L., IL, May 9 (DKb).

Barn Owl reports include singletons in *Champaign*, IL, Mar. 29 (†RCh); *Taylor*, IA, May 25 (P&RA), and a roadkill discovered

along the *Marshall-Calloway*, KY, line Apr. 8 (CM). An almost pure-white ad. male Snowy Owl, found in *La Salle*, IL, Mar. 8 (C&JM), provided the season's only report. The largest "eared owl" accumulations consisted of 25 Long-eareds at Rathbun Res., IA, Mar. 10, with eight still remaining Mar. 28 (TJ), and 12 Short-eared at the Ayrshire mine, IN (ML). Northern Saw-whet Owls were unusually common, with six in Iowa, four in Illinois, and one in Indiana. Early Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were logged near *Cape Girardeau*, MO, Mar. 31 (BEd) and at *Lacey-Keosauqua*, S.P., IA, Apr. 17 (DP). In *Sangamon*, IL, Red-bellied Woodpeckers are increasing at the expense of Red-headed (DBo). A modest highlight of a below-average Yellow-bellied Sapsucker flight was a count of 15 at H.B.S.P. Apr. 5 (LRO).

#### FLYCATCHERS TO SHRIKES

Flycatchers were generally late, with many migrants lingering well into June. Noteworthy reports included 19 E. Wood-Pewees at Carlyle L., IL, May 9 (DKb); 18 E. Phoebes at H.B.S.P. Mar. 29 (RHn); and 13 Great Crested Flycatchers in *Sangamon*, IL, May 25 (DBo). Extralimital W. Kingbirds were seen at Montrose Harbor, Chicago, May 16 (KMo, JL) and in Evanston May 19 (JEn). A noteworthy longshore E. Kingbird flight occurred at Michigan City Harbor, IN, during the early hours of May 13, when 146 kingbirds were counted in 2 hours (JMc, KB). The only sizable swallow accumulation consisted of 3000 Tree Swallows in *Moraine View S.P.*, IL, May 6 (MRe).

Two Black-billed Magpies returned to last year's nesting site in *Plymouth*, IA, Apr. 30 (P&RA). Four Fish Crows were recorded at *Four Rivers W.M.A.*, MO, May 13 (RMc), and seven were logged at *Hickman Bottoms*, *Fulton*, KY, May 21 (CP). Following last fall's invasion, Red-breasted Nuthatches were numerous across the Region, with widespread nesting reported in n.e. Ohio (*vide* LRo) and attempted nesting at *Kingsbury W.M.A.*, IN (M. Carlisle, *vide* JCs). A Brown Creeper seen at the *Cincinnati Nature Center* May 2 (EH) also raises the possibility of local nesting. Bewick's Wren reports included the following (all singletons): Mar. 28 *Adams*, IL (KV); Apr. 7 in *Sangamon*, IL (DBo); Apr. 10 in *Fairfield*, IA (DP); Apr. 13 in *Barren*, KY (DR); and Apr. 27 at *McElroy L.*, KY (DR).

Though Golden-crowned Kinglet tallies were low in many areas, an excellent count of 150+ was logged in *Cook*, IL, Apr. 5 (CA, SF) Many correspondents noted an acute

absence of *Cartharus* thrushes, especially Gray-cheekeds, during the spring flight On a more positive note, two Hermit Thrushes were reported in *Hocking*, OH, May 30 (DOv), where this species has previously nested. Appropriately, a Varied Thrush appeared at Gateway Arch in St. Louis about Apr. 10 during the A.O.U. joint conference (*vide* MRo). Two-hundred-fifty Am Pipits were found in *Jasper*, IL, Apr. 6 (JW, EK), and a tardy pipit was still at *McElroy L.*, KY, May 18 (BPB). The period's only N Shrikes were seen in Iowa Mar. 7: *Saylorville Res.* (DT) and *Clay* (LS). A Loggerhead Shrike wandered N to *Montrose Harbor*, Chicago, where it was first seen Mar. 21, it remained in the area through Mar. 29 (JL)

#### VIROES TO BUNTINGS

Blue-headed Vireos, reported in n. *Porter*, IN, Apr. 18 (JMc, JCd et al.) and at H.B.S.P. Apr. 28 (RHn, LRo, NB), provided local early records. An over-zealous Yellow-throated Vireo arrived in *Ft. Wayne*, IN, Apr. 5 (DG). Several correspondents suggested that spring Philadelphia Vireo numbers were disturbingly low.

There was resounding consensus that the spring warbler flight was somewhere between exceptionally poor and disastrous Correspondents with years of experience in the Region characterized the numbers of most species as average at best and 80 percent below normal at worst. Although variation between observers existed, there was general agreement that the following species were down significantly: Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Black-and-white, Ovenbird, Wilson's, Canada, and Yellow-breasted Chat. On the brighter side, an unprecedented 158 Nashville Warblers were counted in *Cook*, IL, May 9 (DSt) and Connecticut Warblers were slightly more numerous than normal, with two to nineteen reported in every state except Kentucky. Unusual observations included slightly out of range Black-throated Blues at *Weston Bend S.P.*, MO, May 7 (CH) and *Boone*, KY, May 9 (LMc), plus a very late ad male Yellow-rumped in *Maryville*, MO, May 18 (DE). Warbler rarities included a first-year male **Black-throated Gray Warbler** in *Evanston*, IL, May 4–8 (†JEn, m.ob.), and a singing male Black-throated Gray found in *Cook*, IL, May 20 (RHu), these constitute the first Illinois records since 1984.

Iowa's wintering Summer Tanager remained in *Iowa City* until Mar. 5 (M Noble, *vide* TK). A phenomenal 150+ Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were counted at Ur-

hana, IL, May 13 (AR); this total is 7.5 times larger than the highest spring one-party count listed in *The Birds of Illinois*. The Region's only Painted Bunting report consisted of a male seen n. of Lee's Summit, MO, May 10 (SR).

## TOWHEES TO FINCHES

A **Spotted Towhee**, seen briefly near Boone Grove, IN, Apr. 5 (†JO), provided one of few records for that state. The general dearth of passerines did not extend to sparrows, as numerous excellent counts were reported. Clay-colored Sparrows were reported in every state except Missouri; the most unexpected records were logged at Salamonie Res., IN, May 5 (†Haw, FH, SSc); in *Jefferson*, KY, May 11 (DO); and in H.B.S.P. May 16 (EB). A carefully studied **Brewer's Sparrow** was identified at Fermilab, *DuPage*, IL, May 31 (†DKn, PK, Jpm, DSp). A remarkable 152 Field Sparrows were counted in the Midewin Tallgrass Prairie, IL, Apr. 15 (DSt). A Lark Sparrow nest found in *Muhlenberg*, KY, June 1 contained 5 eggs (BPB), and an out-of-range bird appeared in e. St. Joseph, IN, May 9 (J&AF). The Lark Bunting reported in *Holmes*, OH, last winter, remained until Apr. 4 (ES). Two of the Le Conte's Sparrows that wintered at Reelfoot Lake N.W.R. were still present Mar. 15 (BPB). It was a good spring for Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows, with three reported in Illinois, one in Iowa, two in Missouri, and one in *Lucas*, OH, May 16 (BF, ph.). A remarkable 510 Song Sparrows were counted in Chicago's Grant Park Mar. 27 (DSt). Two early Lincoln's Sparrows arrived in Grant Park Mar. 29 (DSt). A single-party record count of 587 White-crowned Sparrows was logged in Jax.P. May 6 (PC). The only Harris's Sparrow reported e. of the Mississippi R. was at Gibson Woods Preserve, IN, May 6-13 (MP, JBo, m.ob.). A tardy Dark-eyed Junco lingered at the Chicago Botanic Gardens until May 21 (†DJ). Smith's Longspurs appeared in good numbers with reports from every state except Missouri and Ohio. The report of a Smith's in *Fulton*, KY, Mar. 11-12 (DR, BPB), was noteworthy.

An estimated 50,000 Red-winged Blackbirds, 50,000 Com. Grackles, and 20,000 Brown-headed Cowbirds were counted at a *Sangamon*, IL, roost Mar. 19 (DBo). Single Yellow-headed Blackbirds were recorded at McElroy L. May 18 (DR) and at Walden Stable Pond, KY (a female), May 24 (†MB). Additionally, single early May male Yellow-headed were seen at 3 Ohio locations. An unprecedented 300-

Brewer's Blackbirds were recorded in Santa Fe Bottoms, *Clinton*, IL, Apr. 4 (DKb). According to Kent, Great-tailed Grackles are now widespread in Iowa; this spring's peak count was 174 at Waubonsie W.M.A. Apr. 14 (B&LP). A fine longshore Baltimore Oriole flight was observed at Michigan City Harbor, IN, May 13, when 182 were counted in 2 hours (JMc, KB).

Red Crossbills were only reported in Ohio and Illinois; the peak count was 13 in Mohican S.F., OH, May 9 (LY). In contrast, White-winged Crossbills were recorded in all 4 n. states; the peak count was eight in Fort Wayne, IN, Mar. 16 (DG) and at Kirtland, OH, Apr. 4 (HP, m.ob.). A White-winged straggler lingered in W. Des Moines, IA, until May 21 (P&RA). Two late departing Com. Redpolls remained in *Winneshiek*, IL, until Mar. 29 (DCa). Modest numbers of Pine Siskins were reported across the Region with many birds remaining through late May. One to four Evening Grosbeaks were reported in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Ohio. Eurasian Tree Sparrows were reported expanding in both Illinois and Iowa.

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Lambeth, Jim Landing, Midge Lechner, C. Litterst, Tom LePage, Walter Marcisz, Paul McKenzie (PMc), Jeff McCoy (JMc), John & Cindy McKee (C&JM), Keith McMullen, Roger McNeill, Kevin Metcalf (KMe), Igal Milchtaich, Mike Miller, Joe Milosevich (JMi), Steve Mlodinow, Jeannie Moe (JMo), K. Monday (KMo), Carl Mowery, Darrin O'Brien (DO), John O'Brien, Doug Overacker (DOv), Babs & Loren Padelford (B&LP), Brainard Palmer-Ball (BPB), Terry Peacock, Clell Peterson, Haans Petruschke, Ed Pierce, John Pogacnik (JPg), Mike Polomchak, Jack Pomatto (Jpm), Diane Porter, Steve Reese, Bill Reeves, Russell Reisz, Michael Retter (MRe), Adam Reburn, Mark Robbins (MRo), David Roemer, **Larry Rosche** (Lro) (Ohio), Sandy Schacht (SSc), Ed Schlabach, Lee Schoenewe, Darrell Shambaugh (DSh), Scott Simpson (SSi), J John Solodar, Dave Spleha (DSp), Tom & Lavetta Stankus (T&LS), M. Stephenson, Douglas Stotz (DSt), Dennis Thompson, Ken Vail, Eric Walters, Sandy Wagner, Jeffrey Walk, Paul Wharton, Dan Williams Jr. (DaW), Dave Williams (DvW), Leroy Yoder. Many other individuals who could not be personally acknowledged also submitted notes to the various state reports.

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Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as "C.B.B.T." or "W.P.B.O." Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *Field Notes* are keyed on page 295.