

ate sw. winds under clear skies (CB). From 0600 to 0800, about 34,000 were tallied as they flew southward! A good flight was noted at Hart 12 May (EJS et al.), with 17 species of warblers on the small patch of woods on that island. A local rarity was an apparent *albilora* Yellow-throated Warbler videotaped well in Stasz's North Beach, *Calvert* backyard 21 Apr. Breeders in the Coastal Plain are of the nominate subspecies, and obvious migrants are rarely found and even more rarely identified to subspecies. A wintering Nashville Warbler at Hurlock, *Dorchester* remained through 7 Mar (ph. C. Diedrich).

Uncommon in the Piedmont, 2 Summer Tanagers at Great Falls, *Montgomery* 12 May (MH, K. Caughey) were noteworthy. Three single Dickcissels were noted at E.S.V.N.W.R. between 1 and 19 May (CB). A male **Painted Bunting** at a Frederick feeder 21 May (L. Solomon, *fide* M. Balestri) was new for *Frederick*, Maryland's 14th, and the first report since 1995. One of the wintering Le Conte's Sparrows at n. Vaughn was seen again 24 Mar (SHD), while the bird at Beltsville Agricultural Research Station, *Prince George's* was last seen 13 Mar (P. Osenton, M. Gustafson, ph. MJI, MH). A Lark Sparrow was seen 10 Mar (T. Barry) in the Baylake Pines section of Virginia Beach, fairly rare in the Region in spring and possibly a wintering bird. Surprisingly, other Lark Sparrows were at Back Bay N.W.R., VA 4 May (R. L. Ake) and Merkle N.W.R., *Prince George's* 16 May (F. Fallon). A much rarer **Lark Bunting** was described from a Lincoln, *Loudoun*, VA feeder 12 Mar (†M.A. Good) and is under review by the Virginia Avian Records Committee. Chino Farms continues to hold a near-monopoly on recent Regional **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrows**: another imm. was banded there 6 May (ph. J. Gruber et al.). A singing Clay-colored Sparrow discovered at Kinder Farm Park, *Anne Arundel* 12 May (DM, LB) remained into summer, the first such record in the Region. This bird appeared to be unpaired, but breeding should be watched for in the Region. The 2 wintering Clay-colored were still at n. Vaughn 31 Mar (S. Sanford). Eight Lapland Longspurs among a Horned Lark flock at Sparks Rd., *Caroline* 1 Apr (B. Schreitz) made for one of the latest reports for Maryland.

A male Brewer's Blackbird 12 Apr (ESB) at Sunset Beach, *Northampton*, VA was the season's only unusual blackbird. For a year without any winter crossbill reports, it was surprising that a *Calvert* first Red was found at a Dunkirk feeder for a week around 13 Apr (J. Bourdat, DBy). Unfortunately, call notes were not recorded, and the type is unknown.

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Southern Atlantic Coast



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The spring migration through the Region was generally uneventful, with mostly fair weather keeping birds on the move. Temperatures were about normal, with April's temperatures below average. Precipitation was also below average, and quite dry conditions persisted until mid-May, when several systems brought rain and produced the spring's only observed grounding of migrants. With low numbers of migrants and no new rarities found,

many observers felt that this was one of the slowest, poorest spring migrations in years.

Abbreviations: B.R.C. (Bird Records Committee); C. Hatt. (Cape Hatteras, NC), E.L.H. (E. L. Huie Land Application Facility, *Clayton*, GA); H.B.S.P. (Huntington Beach S. P., SC); K. Mt. (Kennesaw Mt. National Battlefield Park, GA); P.I. (Pea I. N.W.R., NC); S.S.S (Savannah Spoil Site, *Jasper*, SC).

LOONS THROUGH SPOONBILL

Always good finds inland, single Red-throated Loons were in *Gwinnett*, GA 6 Apr (EH) and 6 May (*fide* TM). The only Red-necked Grebes

reported were at H.B.S.P. 9 Mar (JE et al.) through 24 Mar (GP), with a peak of 3 there on 15 Mar (MB et al.). Eared Grebes were found away from traditional spots, with one at H B S P. 9 (JE et al.) & 15 Mar (MB et al.) and 2 at L. Crabtree, *Wake*, NC 13 Mar (JPi). Highlights from North Carolina pelagic trips in May included 5 Herald Petrels during a two-week period, 2 **Fea's Petrels** off Oregon Inlet 25 May (BP et al.), one **Bermuda Petrel** off Oregon Inlet 27 May (MT et al.), and a single **Red-billed Tropicbird** off Oregon Inlet 27 May (MT et al.). Numbers of shearwaters and storm-petrels were down somewhat from previous springs, most likely indicative of a late seabird migration. This season's Magnificent Frigatebirds were found at Portsmouth I., NC 23 Mar (TMa), near C. Hatt. 30 May (JHo), and most amazingly inland at L. Lanier, *Hall*, GA 22 Mar. (BZu, *fide* JS). The latter sighting is all the more remarkable, as there were no storms that might have brought the bird inland.

Long-legged waders were found sparingly inland as usual. The most interesting reports were of a well-described **Great White Heron** at Lake Park, GA 8 Apr (KA), 5 Black-crowned Night-Herons at Granby Park, Columbia, SC 1 Apr (TK), and 12 Glossy Ibis over Brickhouse Rd., *Durham*, NC 11 May (SP). Georgia had the only Reddish Egrets, with three reports, including one white morph on Sapelo I., GA 10 Apr (DC). The White-faced Ibis at Savannah N.W.R., SC, present since last fall, was last seen 11 Mar (MTu). The only report of Roseate Spoonbill away from the usual s. Georgia coast was of one at Bray Plantation, *Beaufort*, SC in early May (*fide* TP).

GEESE THROUGH CRANE

Lingering geese included a Greater White-fronted at Eatonton, *Putnam*, GA 9-10 Apr (JFI, MF), a Snow in n. *Mecklenburg*, NC 5 May (TP et al.), and a Brant at Buxton, NC 27-28 May (ESB, DH). Locally rare but not unexpected was a Mottled Duck at H.B.S.P. 18 Apr (JP). The Sunset Beach, NC Cinnamon Teal was last noted 4 Apr (MM), the Atlantic Beach, NC Common Eider was last seen 8 Mar (JF), and the West Point L., GA Long-tailed Duck was present until at least 11 Apr (EH). A good inland report of Surf Scoter involved 4 at Sweetwater Creek, S.P., GA 1 Apr (*fide* JH); one ad male lingered at Hatteras Village to 25 May (ESB). Nesting Hooded Mergansers were found again near Trenton, *Jones*, NC 10 May (CB), where a female with 6 young was observed. Eight Common Mergansers were locally noteworthy at L. Crabtree, NC 18 Mar (RD et al.), but one flyover at K.Mt. 4 May (*fide* GB) was not only late but totally unexpected.

Swallow-tailed Kites were reported at least nine times from North Carolina, with the best count being 3 at Buxton 2 May (SM) and the farthest inland being one in e. *Halifax* 12 May (JW). In Georgia, one was extremely early near Eulonia, *McIntosh* 6 Mar (BW). Easily one of the best birds of the period, a well-described **White-tailed Kite** was a one-day wonder near Waterlily, *Currituck*, NC 16 May (S&LMO). There are only three accepted sightings of this species in that state. The best Mississippi Kite number reported was of 22 at the Savannah N.W.R., SC 1 May (GB, PL). At the same location, 2 were extremely early 3 Mar (AC, MBo). Another real rarity was the subad. **Northern Goshawk** seen well near Decatur, GA 25 Mar (JS, JB, DB). The description left little doubt as to the identity of this bird, a review species in that state. Other raptor reports of note included a migrating kettle of 45 Broad-winged Hawks over Roswell, GA 16 Mar (SZ) and a locally rare ad. Golden Eagle at Savannah N.W.R., SC 3 Mar (RC et al.).

Purple Gallinules are prone to wandering to unusual locations, but the one found near the top of K. Mt. 20 Apr (RH, *fide* GB) was totally out of place! Continuing a recent trend of Regional sightings, the **Limpkin** staged a minor invasion! One at Savannah N.W.R., SC 1 Mar—5 May (ph. GB, TE, m. ob.) was followed by one at Magnolia Plantation, Charleston, SC 13 May (PN et al.). Then 2 were near Bucksport, *Horry*, SC 31 May (ph. AD, *fide* LG). And finally, Georgia had one at Harris Neck N.W.R. 29 Apr (MTe, *fide* JH). The only Sandhill Crane report of note involved one near Greenville, NC late Apr—early May (JWi, JW).

PLOVERS THROUGH RAZORBILL

The rare-in-spring American Golden-Plover was found twice, with 5 at Eufaula N.W.R., GA 20 Mar (WC) and 4 at the S.S.S. 25 Apr (SC). A rare event in the Region, nesting was confirmed for American Avocet: a nest with four eggs was observed at the S.S.S. 25 May (SC). The nest failed when the eggs disappeared, apparently predated. Rare inland Willets were found 27 Apr, with 7 near Rome, GA and 8 at L. Lanier, GA (*fide* TM). Upland Sandpipers were hard to find this spring, the best count being 3 at the Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm 22 Apr (TK). Apart from the several usual Georgia sightings, one Long-billed Curlew was at Shackleford Banks, *Carteret*, NC 1 Apr (JF) and 14 Apr (JD). Purple Sandpipers lingered late this spring, with 9 at the Little R. Inlet, SC jetty 18 May (GT) and 6 at the Ft. Macon S.P., NC jetty the same day (RN, *fide* JF). Very rare anywhere in the East in spring, a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was at E.L.H. 24-28 May (BH, CL). The Ruff was

found only at the S.S.S., with single birds 25 Apr and 2 May (SC). This location is becoming one of the most reliable spots in the Region for this species. Wilson's Phalarope was reported once, a single bird at H.B.S.P. 28 Apr (*fide* JP). Several other inland highlights involved a Black-bellied Plover at the drawn-down Tar R. Res., *Nash*, NC 10 May (RD), a Sanderling at Oxbow Meadows, GA 6 Apr (WC), and a Stilt Sandpiper in *Miller*, GA 23 Apr (MBe).

Three Great Skuas off Hatteras, NC 3 Mar and one South Polar Skua off Oregon Inlet, NC 25 May (BP et al.) were the only skuas reported. Jaegers were reported in average numbers, but only one Long-tailed was found, that being off Hatteras 28 May (BP et al.). Noteworthy gulls included two Littles and a Thayer's off Hatteras 3 Mar (BP et al.), an Iceland at C. Hatt. 4 Mar (MT et al.), a Glaucous x Herring hybrid at New Bern, NC on the late dates of 8-10 May (BHo, ph. EK); and Black-legged Kittiwake at West Point L. Dam, GA 11-15 Apr (WC, EH, BZ, SD). Another kittiwake was late at Oregon Inlet, NC 30 May (*fide* TP). Arctic Tern numbers offshore were down again, with only 2 off Oregon Inlet, NC 26 May (MT et al.) being reported. The most unusual inland terns were the 2 Least near Stateburg, *Sumter*, SC 19 May (DF). A good total for Georgia waters, 48 Bridled Terns off Savannah 28 May (GB et al.) constituted a high count for a spring trip. That same pelagic trip also produced an amazing total of 66 Black Terns, normally rare off that state in spring. The Hatteras pelagic 3 Mar found 252 Razorbills (BP et al.), and one was late and out of place in Pamlico Sound, NC 14 Apr (*fide* TP).

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

White-winged Doves continued in the Region, with one at Oxbow Meadows, GA 8-10 Mar (WC) and one at a feeder in Wilmington, NC 14-15 May (BS). Only one Black-billed Cuckoo was reported, that being a record-early individual at K. Mt. 14 Apr (BZ et al.). Of real interest was the finding of multiple **Short-eared Owls** at Alligator R. N.W.R., NC this spring. At least 6 were present as late as 16 May (KW, CH) and at least 4 as late as 27 May (ESB, DH, Field Guides, Inc. tour). In the last several weeks of the period, several observers saw possible territorial breeding behavior! This species has not been documented as a breeder in the Region. The wintering Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker in *Grady*, GA was last seen 23 Mar (*fide* MBe). The always noteworthy Olive-sided Flycatcher was reported once, that being an individual near Southern Shores, *Dare*, NC 22 May (JL, JF et al.), providing a very rare coastal sighting. *Empidonax* flycatchers were sparse as is usual in spring. The farthest e. were single Willows in

Gaffney, SC 12 May (*vide* LC) and e. Moore, NC 12 May (BPe). Georgia had another Vermilion Flycatcher, this time a male, at Reed Bingham S P near Adel 4-7 Mar (JFI, EH, TJ). Last year's nesting Scissor-tailed Flycatchers returned for a 2nd year. The McDonough, GA birds were back by 29 Apr (BZ) and the Monroe, NC birds showed up during the first week of May (A&BO). Both sets of birds were seen building nests in the same towers they used last year. Another Scissor-tailed was a one-day visitor near Elgin, SC 26 May (*vide* RC).

Loggerhead Shrikes were reported a little more frequently this spring. One in *Catawba*, NC during May was considered to be at the w. edge of the normal range as a nester (D&LM, WI), and a nest with 4 young was found in *Jones*, NC during May (CB, WI), at the e. edge. The Warbling Vireo that wintered on Roanoke I., NC was last seen 2 Mar (JL). Last year's nesting Warblings at Anilorac Farm, *Orange*, NC returned for a 2nd season by 26 Apr (DS), and a nest was discovered 13 May (AJ). Philadelphia Vireos were found sparingly, with singles at Columbia, SC 24 Apr (CE), K. Mt. 11 May (GB et al.), and Roanoke I., NC 15 May (JL). A Common Raven was a surprise in n. *Greene*, GA 17 Mar (PS, CK), a first county record. This species has wandered into the piedmont of North Carolina (and Virginia) for some years now will it start doing the same in Georgia? Nesting **Tree Swallows** were documented in South Carolina when a nest with eggs was photographed at Table Rock S.P. 29 May (SS). The summer report will have more details on this event. A Red-breasted Nuthatch was late at Bodie I. Lighthouse woods, NC 1 May (JL), and a Golden-crowned Kinglet was quite late at Bahama, *Durham*, NC 3 May (T&JKr). The thrush migration was once again generally poor. Highlights included a peak of 7 Gray-cheeked and 375 Swainson's heard during a predawn count at K. Mt. 10 May (GB) and a late Hermit at Spartanburg, SC 12 May (*vide* LC). Also of note were a Gray-cheeked at Southern Shores, NC 21-22 May (JL) and a Swainson's on Tybee I., GA 16 May (DCh).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

The warbler migration was considered to be rather poor across the Region. Some of the rarer, unusual reports included an early male Brewster's at Eufaula N.W.R., GA 8 Apr (WC), a Nashville at H.B.S.P. 30 Apr (JP, PR), a Blackburnian at Tybee I., GA 24 May (DCh), a record-early Louisiana Waterthrush in ne. *Tift*, GA 4 Mar (JFI, EH), a Louisiana Waterthrush at C Lookout, NC 31 Mar (JF), a record-early Canada at K. Mt. 16 Apr (GB et al.), and a

Canada at Bodie I., NC 18 May (JL). Blackpoll Warblers came through in good numbers, as evidenced by 22 on K. Mt. 6 May (GB et al.) and 33 on the Currituck Banks, NC 24 May (JL). Cerulean Warblers have been decreasing along the Roanoke R., NC for some time now, but a survey 12-14 May located 38 singing males (JR). On the positive side, a survey in the Bond Swamp area near Piedmont N.W.R., GA in May located 75 Swainson's Warbler territories (*vide* TM), certainly one of the densest populations of this species ever documented. Always noteworthy, Connecticut Warbler reports included one in *Clayton*, GA 7 May (PRa), one near New Ellenton, SC 21 May (*vide* PC), and one at K. Mt. 26-29 May (BZ, TE et al.). Hooded Warblers made news at K. Mt., where on 18 Apr a record one-day count of 66 was tallied (GB et al.). The best Wilson's Warbler sightings were one at K. Mt. 14-16 Apr (VD, GB et al.), one at Ellenton, SC 13 Apr (PC), and a somewhat late one on Roanoke I., NC 23 May (JL).

Two Clay-colored Sparrows were holdovers from the winter in *Worth*, GA 4 Mar (JFI, EH), as was one in *Baker*, GA 30 Mar (MBe). Other Clay-colored included one in n. *Greene*, GA 6 May (PS) and one singing in n. *Mecklenburg*, NC 5 May (TP), not far from where one was found during the winter. Lark Sparrows were reported twice, with one at Folly Beach, SC 11 Apr (SPA) and 2 at Bodie I., NC 6 May (JL). The latest Le Conte's Sparrow reported was the one at Broad River W.M.A., *Fairfield*, SC 28 Apr (TK). A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was a good find inland at Falls Lake, NC 18 May (GBr). Lincoln's Sparrows were found more than usual for spring, with at least eight reports received. The latest ones were near Irmo, *Lexington*, SC 2 May (RC) and Macon, GA 3 May (NK et al.). Very unusual in spring, a Lapland Longspur was a surprise at the Cedar I., NC ferry terminal 14 Apr (*vide* TP). Dickcissel reports were sparse, with only three received. Always noteworthy in the Region, a Yellow-headed Blackbird at Morehead City, NC 12 Apr (JF) provided the only report. And finally, a male Evening Grosbeak was at a feeder in Ridgeland, *Jasper*, SC 30 May-1 Jun (*vide* WP), providing an amazing occurrence, considering that this species was absent from the Region this winter.

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