

This Whooping Crane, the first documented in Québec region, was identified 3 May 2005 from a car as it flew over Maple Grove, a small municipality west of Montréal. The observer just had enough time to stop the car and take a few photographs. Photograph by Pierre Bannon.

while a male was sighted at Jonquière 13 May (C. Samson, D. Côté). A Louisiana Waterthrush at the Gatineau Park in May occupied the same site as last year (C. Savignac). The strong passerine migration of 29 May produced a vagrant Kentucky Warbler at Saint-Georges-de-Beauce (P. Rodrigue, N. Jolin).

Vagrant *Piranga* tanagers were represent-

ed by a second-year male Summer Tanager pausing at Grande-Rivière 7–9 May (*vide* D. Mercier) and a Western Tanager, also a presumed imm. male, frequenting a feeder at Sainte-Pétronille 18–23 May (R. Bérubé, m.ob.). A male Eastern Towhee at Montbeillard, Abitibi 14–15 May was far n. of this species' typical range (C. Champagne). Away from the usual sites in *Témiscamingue*, single Clay-colored Sparrows were reported from at least five different localities across the Region. A Swamp Sparrow in the Philipsburg sanctuary 6 Mar was probably a wintering bird (A. Labelle, F. Riou). The Lower St. Lawrence recorded a Blue Grosbeak for the 2nd spring in a row, with one at Lac-des-Aigles 20 May (*vide* G. Rivard). A male Painted Bunting that brightened feeders at Saint-Alexis-de-Matapédia 11–13 May was a first for the Gaspé Pen. and a 9th Regional record (L. Dubé et al.). The Region's only Dickcissel this spring was at Lévis 17 May (G. Drapeau). A House Finch at Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé 3 May was well e. of its

ever-expanding range (M. Larrivée).

Exotics: a subad. Harris's Hawk, certainly an escapee, was nicely photographed sitting on a lawn at Angers 27 Apr (É. Côté).

Corrigendum: the Sandhill Crane reported at Arundel 20 Nov 2004 (N.A.B. 59: 39) should not be considered our latest Regional record: one was recorded at Les Cèdres 5 Dec 2001.

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New England

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From a birder's standpoint, the 2005 spring season was nothing short of spectacular. However, from the birds' perspectives—especially certain species of seabirds, colonial waterbirds, and insectivores—it was a nightmare. In a nutshell, the season was cool and stormy.

The single most influential weather event was a remarkable series of back-to-back-to-back, slow-moving (at times, stationary) nor'easters that produced persistent northeasterly gales for roughly a week in late May. What made this event especially exciting for birders but very taxing for birds was the late date. Because it coincided with the peak of migration for various pelagic species, many seabirds, especially phalaropes and Arctic Terns, "wrecked" along most east-facing shores. And, because of the persistence of the cold, wet weather associated with the storms, locally nesting birds were impacted. The storms also delayed many migrating passerines.

Rarities abounded, the rarest being a large, dark unidentified swift, the Region's first Clark's Grebe, a Yellow-nosed Albatross, a Dark-bellied Brant, and a Fork-tailed Flycatcher, the latter especially rare in spring. Other notables included multiple Swallow-tailed and Mississippi Kites, White-faced

SA Typically, by late May, the climatological conditions that contribute to the formation of nor'easters have given way to a more stable, summer-like pattern. Certain migrating seabirds are therefore usually spared heavy weather and pass offshore undetected. Not this year. Between 20 and 27 May, a series of storms produced a seabird wreck in Massachusetts the likes of which had not been seen in the Region in spring for nearly 30 years. The last big late-May nor'easter passed in 1977, a storm that had similar effects on migrant seabirds. Typically, First Encounter Beach in Eastham, Massachusetts produces the avian jackpot during the passage of nor'easters, but in May 2005, many of the birds seemed to miss the Outer Cape, for reasons that are not clear. As expected, the numbers of birds seen in New Hampshire were much lower than those seen in the Bay State, and reporters in Maine, Rhode Island, and Connecticut made no mention of storm-blown seabirds, though Long Island and New Jersey also witnessed this wreck on a smaller scale as did n. Nova Scotia.

Seabirds most affected were phalaropes and Arctic Terns, birds whose usual northbound migration route lies far to the east of our coastlines. Among the rarest of the storm-blown seabirds were at least 5 Long-tailed Jaegers and 2 Sabine's Gulls, two other species that also typically pass far offshore in spring. With the exception of a few storm-petrels, tubenoses were essentially non-existent in the flight.

We will never know even approximately how many phalaropes were observed along the Massachusetts coast. Suffice to say that, during the peak of the storms' activity, virtually every east-facing harbor and cove between the New Hampshire border and Cape Cod contained small to medium-sized flocks, certainly totaling many 1000s of individuals; it was the largest phalarope wreck on record in spring. A few selected counts of seabirds seen from shore during the peak of the storms 24–27 May are summarized in Table 1.

East-facing or not, most low-lying beaches were completely inundated by storm tides, including many Massachusetts sites that support nesting terns and plovers. As a result, the beach-nesters suffered nearly complete nesting failure. However, because these species are adapted to such events, and because the storm came early in the breeding season, many of the birds re-nested immediately afterwards. Herons, egrets, and ibises probably suffered high losses; in Massachusetts, these species nest on relatively exposed coastal islands. However, this supposition was not confirmed because most colonies were not visited in the storms' aftermath.

Insectivores also suffered in the storms, especially Eastern Bluebirds, Purple Martins, and Tree Swallows. What made matters worse for these species was that, in addition to the loss of eggs and young, adults also died in numbers. Purple Martins suffered particularly high mortality except where people intervened. All 26 adults in a colony in Smithfield, RI succumbed and were found dead either in their boxes or on the ground nearby (*vide* RF). However, in Lakeville, Massachusetts, a colony manager kept nest gourds warm with heat lamps, and when failing adults were found on the ground, they were brought inside, warmed, fed, and released. As the foul weather wore on, some birds curtailed their nesting efforts, fending for themselves instead. A swarm of swallows in Exeter, NH 21 May (PH) included 1500 Tree, 500 Bank, and a staggering 500 (mostly migrant?) Cliff Swallows, plus 500 Chimney Swifts.

Table 1. Notable from-shore counts of seabirds from New Hampshire and Massachusetts, 24–27 May 2005.

Location Code	NH	NH	NH	PI	AP	AP	GL	GL	S	SN	CB	CB	CB	CB	FE	FE	NS	T
Species/Date	5/25	5/26	5/27	5/26	5/24	5/25	5/25	5/27	5/26	5/25	5/24	5/25	5/26	5/27	5/26	5/27	5/25	5/26
Red-throated Loon					10										35			
Nothern Fulmar												3						
Sooty Shearwater										3		23						
Manx Shearwater					13					2		4						
Wilson's Storm-Petrel					22			30		204	120	293						
Leach's Storm-Petrel										627								
Northern Gannet		400			1106							1320						
Red Phalarope		24	0	25+	83	37				408		60					12	
Red-necked Phalarope		155	0	300+	2420	310				2024	160						17	
Pomarine Jaeger										1								
Long-tailed Jaeger	1				2											1	1	
Parasitic Jaeger	2				11					6		27		6				
Black-legged Kittiwake					83						14+	30						
Sabine's Gull									1								1	
Arctic Tern				350		400+	57+			73							2	3
Common/Arctic Tern					113	450+					150	1440	320	800				
Black Tern							8											
Common Murre					7												1	

KEY TO LOCATIONS

NH = New Hampshire coast (B. Griffith, S. Mirick, J. Smith)
 PI = Plum I. (T. Wetmore)
 AP = Andrew's Pt., Rockport (R. Heil)

GL = Gloucester (R. Heil, C. Leahy)
 S = Sandwich, east end of Cape Cod Canal (I. Nisbet)
 SN = Sand Neck, Barnstable (W. Petersen et al.)
 CB = Corporation Beach, Dennis (P. Flood, B. Nikula)

FE = First Encounter Beach, Eastham (C. Goodrich, B. Nikula)
 NS = Nantucket Sound ferry (R. R. Veit)
 T = Tuckernuck I. (R. R. Veit)

Boldfaced numbers indicate seasonal maxima in the Region.

Ibis, California Gulls, Great Gray Owls, and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers. And at long last, this Region has now has its first record of Eurasian Collared-Dove!

Abbreviations: Monhegan (Monhegan I., Lincoln, ME); Plum I. (including Parker River N.W.R., Newburyport/Newbury/Rowley/Ipswich, Essex, MA); S.B. (South Beach,

Chatham, MA); Tuckernuck (Tuckernuck I., Nantucket, MA).

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

A Pacific Loon was at Owls Head, ME 6–13 Mar (J. Wells, ph. DR), and up to 2 Pacifics were ensconced through at least 10 Apr at Race Pt., Provincetown, MA (PF), a site that has become the most reliable spot in New

England for this species. An Eared Grebe in breeding plumage was present in Rogue Bluffs, ME 9–12 Apr (J. Markowsky et al.), and the Eared Grebe in Gloucester, in its 10th consecutive winter there, remained through 8 Apr (B.O.). A well-documented Clark's Grebe at Owls Head, ME 2–22 Mar (KG, ph. DL, P. Vickery et al.) represented the first record for the Region and only the 3rd for the



This Clark's Grebe at Owl's Head State Park, Maine was a state first and just the third for the East Coast. Photograph by Derek Lovitch.

Eastern Seaboard (the other records are from Virginia and North Carolina).

There was much Regional discussion of ardeids this season, particularly on the Internet. An enigmatic egret that appeared at Nantucket 29–31 May (ph. RRV) possessed two very long, narrow, Little Egret-like nape plumes, but those feathers emerged from a shaggy, Snowy Egret-like crest. These confusing egrets have popped up before in the Region. Individuals fitting this description were carefully studied at Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison, CT in the springs of 1995 and 1996, another was in Norwalk, CT in spring 1995, and yet another was found in New Hampshire in Apr 1997. The first of these mystery egrets, in Hampton Falls, NH 29 Apr 1990, was reported by S. Perkins as the first New Hampshire (and 2nd U. S.) record of Little Egret (ph. *American Birds* 44: 379). However, it is possible that some or all of these egrets have been hybrids, in which case the status of the latter record may need to be reevaluated. A Green Heron at Nantucket 9 Apr (N. Slavitz) was rather early, and the only Little Blue Heron reported inland was in Amherst, MA 15 May (J. Merriam). Each year, the few scattered reports of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons do little to elucidate their status here at the n. limit of their breeding range. They are known to breed annually in Connecticut, where they recently established a new easterly outpost in Stonington (*vide* GH), and they probably also breed annually in Rhode I., at least at Block I. North of Rhode Island, their status as breeders is unclear. Their habit of appearing inland during the breeding season is perplexing, as they are not known to nest anywhere away from the immediate coast within New England. Two of the 5 individuals reported from Massachusetts this spring were inland: in N. Andover 16 May+ (P. Brown et al.) and Southborough 11 May

(L. Taylor). What was an ad. Yellow-crowned doing in the Gulf of Maine at Monhegan at the end of May (LB)?

White-faced Ibis may have begun a pattern of spring appearances like that seen from New Jersey to Virginia in recent years. Two different individuals appeared in Essex, MA: the first was at Plum I. 24–28 Apr (D. Noble et al., ph.); the other was seen initially nearby in Newbury 8 May (P. & F. Vale et al., ph.) but was also noted in Essex, Ipswich, and finally Rowley, where last reported 28 May (F. Bouchard). The birds were distinguished by an obvious difference in bill length. Another report in Jamestown, RI 2–3 May (J. Magill, P. Capobianco, ph.), probably a 3rd individual, represented the 3rd record for the Ocean State. An American White Pelican made a brief showing in Winthrop, MA 31 May (J. Pike, *vide* S. Zende).

A maximum of 31 Black Vultures in Sheffield, MA 28 Apr (B.O.) represented a new state high count, but in light of the current trend, such counts may soon be as rou-



Quite rare in New England, California Gull was recorded twice in spring 2005. This adult in alternate plumage was at Lynn, Massachusetts 29 April–5 May 2005 (here 30 April); it provided a fourth state record. Photograph by Jeremiah Trimble.

tine in the Bay State as they have become in Connecticut. A Turkey Vulture found nesting in a shed on Nantucket (EFA) established a first breeding record for that island 15 years after the discovery of the first (and still only) breeding record for the neighboring island of Martha's Vineyard (1990).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

A single Greater White-fronted Goose spent four days in Hatfield and Whatley, MA 27–30 Mar (TG), and 5 were seen during the season in Connecticut (*vide* GH). A Dark-bellied Brant at Tuckernuck 1 Mar–14 Apr (RRV) may have wintered locally; this nominate subspecies from Europe has been reported just once before in Massachusetts, but it may be that greater observer awareness of Brant identification has led to these recent reports. A Barnacle Goose and an apparent Canada Goose × Barnacle Goose hybrid were in Bolton, MA

29–31 Mar (B. Kamp, ML et al.). Possibly the same birds were seen in Québec at Baie-du-Fabvre 6 Apr (*vide* DAS). The only Tundra Swan in the Region was noted in Great Barrington, MA 20 Mar (K. Reed). For the 2nd consecutive year, 30+ Northern Shovelers were found at one of the two known Maine nesting localities, at L. Josephine, Easton in mid-Apr (BS); at the other Maine breeding locality, Stratton I., Saco, a pair of shovelers was nesting by 5 May (*vide* DL). Far from either of these two sites, 2 in Hermon, ME 27 May (B. Barker) may have been prospecting. A season total of 11 Eurasian Wigeons included a fairly late drake in Rhode Island at South Kingston 4 May (*vide* RF). Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal continued to make a strong showing, with 2 each in Massachusetts and Connecticut, and one each in Rhode Island and Maine. A tally of 13,200 Greater Scaup in upper Narragansett Bay, RI 13 Mar (RF) represented the highest Regional count for that species in 30 years. The "odd duck" of the season was a male *Aythya* in Damariscotta Mills, ME 7 Mar (J. Adams et al., ph. DR) that appeared to be a Ring-necked Duck × scaup hybrid. This year's only Tufted Duck, a drake, was on L. Champlain, Colchester, VT 31 Mar–12 Apr (TGM et al.). A census of Harlequin Ducks around Vinalhaven and Isle au Haut, ME 17 Mar (KG et al.) produced 925 birds. Regular, systematic surveys for this species here would probably reveal that this total is more or less typical for this Regional stronghold.

Single Swallow-tailed Kites in Massachusetts were in Chilmark, MV 28 Apr (H. & J. Taylor), Orleans 19 May (*vide* M. Lowe), and Leverett 30 May (B. Normark), and the only Mississippi Kite in Massachusetts, at the Pilgrim Heights hawkwatch in Truro 25 Apr, represented one of the earliest ever in the Region. One or 2 Swallow-tailed Kites were at Block I., RI 28 Apr (C. Blane) and 16 May S. Tsagarakis et al.), and a Mississippi Kite was at Jamestown, RI 12 May (W. Munns). As is true of the above reports, virtually all kite records in New England have involved "fly-by" birds; thus a Connecticut Swallow-tailed Kite that appeared 9 Apr in East Had-dam (D. Rottino) and Lyme, then floated over to Chester 10 Apr and East Lyme 12 Apr, before settling in at Deep River 14–19 Apr (*vide* GH, m.ob., ph. M. Szantyr) was unexpectedly cooperative. A late Rough-legged Hawk passed the Truro, MA hawkwatch 19 May (D. Manchester), and a Swainson's Hawk was noted from Bradbury Mt., Pownal, ME 22 Apr (DL et al.).



These two Great Gray Owls were among four that were found in Maine in winter 2004-2005 into spring 2005 (at Belgrade 21 March [left] and South Berwick 25 March). Oddly, none was found in northern Vermont or New Hampshire, in areas closer to Québec, where several were present. Photographs by Derek Lovitch (left) and W. and R. Morgridge.

WILD TURKEY THROUGH ALCIDS

Wild Turkeys have repopulated virtually every corner of the Region (including the Connecticut Lakes near the New Hampshire/Québec border), so few birders bother reporting them anymore. However, a flock of 126 in Sunderland, MA 20 Mar (R. Packard)

must have been quite a sight. Among an above-average Regional total of roughly 14 Common Moorhens was a high single-site count of 5 at Dead Creek W.M.A., Addison, VT 15 May (TGM). Numbers of Sandhill Cranes continued to increase this spring, with a record-high 20+ reports from just

three states. Ten in Massachusetts included a flock of 3 in Carlisle 7-8 Apr (S. Spang et al.) that was last seen late on 8 Apr climbing to several thousand feet and setting off in a northeasterly direction; 3 in New Hampshire included one that returned to Monroe, Grafton, NH 7 Apr (S. Turner) for the 7th consecutive year; and 7 in Maine included nesting pairs in Belgrade (6th consecutive year nesting) and Smithfield (new this year). The Belgrade nest contained two eggs 29 Apr, and the Smithfield nest held two eggs 30 Apr (S. Melvin).

Three reports of golden-plovers included a very early bird in basic plumage at S.B. 20 Mar (ph. PF), another (unknown plumage) in Edgartown, MV 13 Apr (VL), and another, also at S.B., 1-14 May (ph. BN). Whether these reports refer to the same individual is not known. The May bird was first found while still in transitional plumage, during which time observers attempted to identify it as either American or Pacific based on structural features such as bill structure, leg length, the number of primaries projecting beyond the tertials, the extent to which the primaries projected beyond the tail, and its overall build. The results of these efforts were equivocal. When it completed its molt in mid-month, it was identifiable as an American Golden-Plover and provided an excellent lesson in the difficulties in identification of these sibling

SA An ad. Yellow-nosed Albatross of the nominate (Atlantic) subspecies was a spectacular sight at Tuckernuck I., Nantucket 29 May (ph. RRV). The bird spent roughly 45 min cruising back and forth along the bluff on the s. shore of the island before disappearing to the west. It vocalized frequently, particularly whenever a territorial Great Black-backed Gull began chasing it. An albatross, perhaps the same one, was also reportedly seen flying eastward past the s. end of South Monomoy I., Chatham 31 May (E. Banks).

Despite the fact that *Thalassarche* species have been reliably reported in Massachusetts at least 14 times, the images accompanying this report represent the first photographs taken of any albatross species in the state, and they are among rather few taken of any albatross species anywhere in the w. North Atlantic. An (Atlantic) Yellow-nosed Albatross was photographed as it flew around Matinicus Rock in the Gulf of Maine for two hours on 6 Jul 1999, and in spring 2000, one or more were reported from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Long Island, and New Jersey. The two sightings in Massachusetts came from Penikese I. (*Dukes*) and Nantucket. In light of albatrosses' long life spans and (especially) their strong nest site fidelity, and given the fact that they rarely fly over land except at or near their colonies, it is not unreasonable to think that the Tuckernuck bird may have been the same individual that approached Matinicus six years ago and made several passes over Penikese and Nantucket five years ago—and that each time it was possibly prospecting for nest sites. In fact, such repeat performances among albatrosses wandering in the North Atlantic are not unprecedented. The most famous example was that of a Black-browed Albatross that returned to the same gannetry in Scotland for over 20 years!

Veit, a seabird ecologist who specializes in Southern Hemisphere tubenoses, espouses an alternative theory: that most, if not all, of the Regional albatross records pertain to different individuals, and "what we are witnessing is a history of population-level, long-distance dispersal in Yellow-nosed Albatrosses, and the frequency of these dispersal episodes appears to be increasing."



This adult Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross was photographed nicely as it flew around Tuckernuck, Massachusetts 29 May 2005. It provides the first photographic evidence of any albatross species for the state. Photographs by Richard R. Veit.



White-faced Ibis
Parker River NWR
April 23, 2005

White-faced Ibis
Newman Rd., Newbury
May 22, 2005

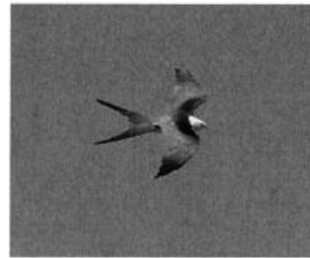


Rhode Island and Massachusetts both enjoyed White-faced Ibis in spring 2005. In the upper pair of images are single birds at Plum Island 25 April and Newbury 22 May; at lower left is another view of the Plum Island bird 26 April, and at lower right, a different adult at Jamestown, Rhode Island 2 May. Photographs by Phil Brown (upper), Charles Lipson (lower left), and Peter Capobianco (lower right).

species. A rather early Wilson's Plover at Seabrook, Rockingham, NH 1–8 May (B. Clifford et al., ph.) furnished the 2nd record for the Granite State. One or 2 Curlew Sandpipers were noted in Newburyport, MA 17–19 & 29 May (RSH et al.), and 3 Ruffs in the Region included a Reeve in Stratham, Rockingham, NH 26 Apr (I. MacLeod), the first in New Hampshire in more than 30 years, and single males in Wellfleet, MA 10–13 May (G. Page et al., ph.) and at Plum I. 25–26 May (T. Wetmore et al., ph.). Two Short-billed Dowitchers in Newbury, MA 4 Apr (WRP) were markedly early, and a Long-billed Dowitcher put in a rare spring appearance in Newburyport, MA 17 Apr (RSH et al.). Not included in Table 1 above were 3 Red and 2 Red-necked Phalaropes roughly 30 km inland at Great Meadows (Concord Unit) N.W.R., Concord, MA 26–29 May (P. Marshall et al., ph.) and a single Red-necked roughly 60 km inland on the Nashua R., Pepperell, MA 26 May (T. Pirro).

Included in Table 1 above, but worthy of mention here because they are much rarer in spring than in fall, were 5 Long-tailed Jaegers and 2 Sabine's Gulls. The jaegers included 2 at Andrew's Pt., Rockport, MA 24

May (RSH), one in Rye, NH 26 May (B. Grif-fith), and one each on 26 & 27 May at First Encounter Beach, Eastham, MA (CG). Single Sabine's were seen in Sandwich, MA 26 May (I. Nisbet) and First Encounter Beach,



Rarely do Swallow-tailed Kites linger at any one place in New England long enough to be photographed. Much to the delight of scores of birders, this individual was exceptionally cooperative during its six-day stay in Deep River, Connecticut (here 17 April 2005). Photographs by Mark Szantyr.

Eastham, MA 27 May (CG). A Sabine's Gull in Rockport, MA 30 May (M. Taylor) was probably also storm-related. Among 7 Little Gulls in the Region, 3 were together at Plum I. 26–29 May (B.O.). While Little Gull is a

regular fall visitor to L. Champlain, a first-year bird off S. Hero, VT 27 May furnished a rare spring record (TGM). The first-year California Gull lingered at Nantucket Jan+ (ph. ER); an ad. was at Lynn 29 Apr–5 May (J. Quigley et al., ph.). This past Nov, a new high count of 106 Lesser Black-backed Gulls was reported from their New England stronghold at Low Beach, Nantucket, where 45 and 30+ were still present 13 Mar (ER) and 31 May (RRV), respectively. Also at Low Beach, a state high count of 163 Iceland Gulls in Feb was eclipsed 13 Mar by a dizzying count of 198 (ER). Two ad. Forster's Terns were back in Newburyport, MA 1 May (RSH) at the only known breeding site in the Region, and one in Biddeford Pool, ME 10–18 Apr (JW) may have represented the first spring record for the state. The appearance of an Arctic Tern in Northampton, MA 24 May (R. Packard) was probably storm-related. Most unexpected of all storm waifs was a Dovekie grounded at Nantucket 26 May (ph. E. Rivoir).

DOVES THROUGH SWALLOWS

Single White-winged Doves visited feeders in Watertown, MA 22 Apr–1 May (RHS et al., ph.) and Crystal, ME 6 Apr–3 May (*vide* BS). A well-described Eurasian Collared-Dove in Essex, MA 28 May (D. Mako, B. Bieda et al.) was heard and seen briefly; if accepted by the Massachusetts A.R.C., would represent the

first for the Region. Vying for the rarest and, without question, most intriguing bird of the season was an unidentified, large, all-dark swift that cruised by several experienced observers at a hawkwatch site in Truro, MA 28 May (BN et al.). Except on Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard, where artificial nest boxes are provided, Barn Owls are very scarce in the Region, so one in Holyoke, MA 15 May (D. McLain) was noteworthy. Though only one Great Gray Owl appeared in the Region last winter, (Gray, Cumberland, ME), 3 were found in spring, also in Maine: at Belgrade 17–27 Mar (*vide* DL), at Kent's Hill, Readfield 23 Mar (*vide* DL), and at S. Berwick 25 Mar (ph. W. & R. Morgridge). Most surprising was that none were found in the Champlain Valley, VT, which is a short distance from

the areas around Montréal that hosted several.

Many passerine migrants that became "dammed up" behind the late May storms were "released" immediately following its



Before it molted into alternate plumage, this American Golden-Plover in Chatham, Massachusetts (here 5 May 2005) provided a clinic in the finer points of differentiating this species from Pacific Golden-Plover. Photograph by Blair Nikula.

passage. By the morning of 28 May and through 31 May, a few sites in northeastern Massachusetts were crawling with migrants—but oddly, virtually nothing of this wave reached Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, or Nantucket. The wave included some very tardy migrants and many migrating flycatchers. High warbler counts 28 May at Plum I. included 30+ Northern Parulas, 30+ Chestnut-sided Warblers, 100+ Magnolia Warblers, 420 American Redstarts, and 30+ Canada Warblers (B.O.), and late migrants included 5 Blue-headed Vireos, 3 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, a Golden-crowned Kinglet, and a White-throated Sparrow, all at Plum I. 31 May (RSH). A few sample single-day counts of flycatchers, all at Plum I. 28–31 May, included 22 Least, 26 Yellow-bellied, 12 Alder, 25+ Willow, 30 Willow/Alder, and 20+ unidentified *Empidonax*, plus 15 Eastern Wood-Pewees (B.O.). Unexpected in spring, a Fork-tailed Flycatcher dropped in at Nantucket 18–20 May (S. Finlay et al., ph. K. Blackshaw). Two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported from Rhode Island, one in Jamestown 18–19 May (M. J. Murray et al.) and another at Block I. 23 May (fide RF, m.ob.). An Eastern Kingbird in Kingston, RI 1 Apr (A. Joslin) was very early, and also early, though less so than the kingbird, were a Yellow-billed Cuckoo in W. Tisbury, Martha's Vineyard 25 Apr (K. Parsons) and a Common Nighthawk at Plum I. 30 Apr (ph. B. & B. Lawless). In Massachusetts, Chuck-will's-widows once again returned to Wellfleet and Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard; another

in Lyme, CT 28 Apr+ (J. Gaskell et al.) stayed the season.

CORVIDS THROUGH FINCHES

Common Ravens continued to reoccupy pre-colonial portions of their range. A pair

nested for the 2nd or 3rd consecutive year in Milton, MA within sight of downtown Boston (fide N. Smith), and when a pair was found nesting in May on a telecommunications tower in Cumberland, RI (fide RF), the Ocean State became the last remaining state in New England in which the species was confirmed as breeding. A Sedge Wren was somewhat off track at Monhegan 18 May (ph. G. Dennis et al.), and a Townsend's Solitaire was discovered in Union, ME 19 Mar (ph. DR). A Varied Thrush photographed in Campton, Grafton, NH 22 Mar (J. & A. Downing, ph.) was reportedly present for roughly two weeks, and another was in Mendon, MA 1–10 Mar (G. Christianson et al.).

As witnessed farther south in New York to a greater degree, a late-Mar fallout brought several very early s. migrants to coastal Rhode Island and e. Massachusetts: single Prothonotary Warblers at Block I., RI (29 Mar), Newport, RI (31 Mar), and Vineyard Haven, Martha's Vineyard (29 Mar), a Kentucky Warbler in Tisbury, Martha's Vineyard (29 Mar), and a Summer Tanager in Dennis (31 Mar). Northernmost southern warblers reported this season were a Kentucky and 2–3 Hooded Warblers at Monhegan in May, an early Prothonotary in Kennebunkport, ME 4 Apr (J. Junker), and a Yellow-throated Warbler in Dover, NH that spent the winter at a feeder and was



This drake *Aythya* (at rear) in Damariscotta Mills, Maine 7 March 2005 was probably a Ring-necked Duck × scaup hybrid. Photograph by Don Reimer.



This wrecked Dovekie was a surprise find at Nantucket Island, Massachusetts 26 May 2005. Not only was it very late, but it was the only one of its kind among various other species of seabirds that appeared in coastal New England during a series of back-to-back ocean storms in late May. Photograph by E. Rivoir.



White-winged Dove has become an annual visitor to New England. This beautifully photographed individual visited a feeder in Watertown, Massachusetts from 22 April (here) through 1 May 2005. Photograph by John Harrison.



Rare in any season, but especially so in spring, this Fork-tailed Flycatcher at Nantucket, Massachusetts 18-20 (here 20) May was photographed while "processing" an insect. Photograph by K. Blackshaw.

last seen 2 Apr (D. Carr). Also, an above-average total of 7 Summer Tanagers made it to s. Maine, the northernmost being in Richmond (*vide* JD). An even more intrepid Summer Tanager was found in Bethlehem, Grafton, NH 3 May (D. & T. Tellman).

Seven Clay-colored Sparrows included 4 in Massachusetts, 2 in Maine, and one on territory through the Period at Grand Isle, VT (DH). Above-average numbers of migrant Lincoln's Sparrows in Massachusetts included a high count of 15+ in Marblehead 15 May (K. Haley). This was a productive spring for Lark Sparrow; one was at Pt. Judith, RI 19–20 May (J. St. Jean), one was at Plum I. 18 May (D. & I. Jewell), and 2 in Maine included one in York 27 Mar–5 Apr (DL) and a wintering bird that remained in Scarborough through 21 Apr (G. Carson). Two feeders about 8 km apart hosted either 2 different or the same Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow at Nantucket 6 May (EFA) and Tuckernuck 14 May (RRV), and a very late Lapland Longspur was a surprise find at South Beach, Chatham, MA 14 May (BN).

The northernmost Blue Grosbeaks in the Region are typically found at Monhegan in spring, and this year was no exception: up to 3 were there on various dates 12–31 May (*vide* JD). Painted Bunting is not annual in the Region in spring, so a total of 3 this year was surprising: in Edgartown, MA 23 Apr (J. Chapman), Chatham, MA 23–25 May (P. Bailey), and Saco, ME 14–18 May (*vide* L. Woodard, m.ob.). Dickcissel reports totaled four in Massachusetts, two in Rhode Island, and one each in New Hampshire and Maine, and Orchard Orioles were also cited by editors in Rhode Island and Maine as being more numerous than usual. In Maine, for example, the appearance of 6 at one feeder in Yarmouth the week of 22 May was exceptional. Five Yellow-headed Blackbirds included 2 in Massachusetts and a healthy spring total of 3 in Maine. The only report of Hoary Redpoll came from Fairfield, ME 29 Mar (L. Bevier). A European Goldfinch, presumably an escapee, was reported from Biddeford, ME 19 May (*vide* DL).

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