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verall, the spring in Ontario was warmer than normal, with cold nighttime temperatures in early March contrasting with warm days. With the exception of cool nights in the first few days of the month and a cool wet spell in the third week, May was very warm, with temperatures breaking 30° C at the end of the month. Despite the warm temperatures, numbers of wintering birds were found lingering in southern locales surprisingly late into the spring. The regular spring overshoots that birders see during May did not arrive in the usual numbers, inhibited by the general lack of southerly winds during the first half of the month. However, Ontario's spring highlights were rare vagrants, many of which were oneday wonders, including Garganey, Bandtailed Pigeon, Black Swift, Painted Bunting,

and Great-tailed Grackle. Rarer shorebirds such as Wilson's Plover, Black-necked Stilt, and Curlew Sandpiper also tantalized observers with short visits to the province.

Abbreviations: L.P.B.O. (Long Point B.O., Norfolk); N.P.H (Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch, Niagara); P.P.B.A. (Point Pelee Birding Area; Point Pelee N.P. and environs, Essex); s.l. (sewage lagoons); T.C.B.O. (Thunder Cape B.O., Thunder Bay). Place names in italics refer to districts and regional municipalities as well as to counties.

WATERFOWL THROUGH VULTURES

A good number of Greater White-fronted Geese was observed throughout the province this spring. Two were at Minesing, Simcoe 13 Mar (DMi), an amazing 20 were observed at Rondeau, Chatham-Kent 11 Mar (BAM), surpassed by the 22 at Dry L., Decewsville, Haldimand 25-26 Mar (JG), and singles were at Beachville, Oxford 15 Mar (JHo), ne. of Carlsbad Springs, Ottawa 26-31 Mar (TAH, RC), at Cobden, Renfrew early Apr-9 Apr (MF, CR), in Ottawa 2 Apr-3 May (PW, m.ob.), at Ridgetown s.l., Chatham-Kent 22 Apr-13 May (DSm et al.), and at Algonquin P.P., Nipissing 4-20 May (LT, RGT et al.). The two small flocks of Greater White-fronted Geese at Hillman Marsh, Essex during the early part of 2006 were last seen 6 Mar (AW et al.), and 4 were there 22-27 Mar (DJW et al.). The 3 Ross's Geese present at Hillman Marsh, Essex in Feb were last seen 21 Mar (DJW et al.); 2 were at Ste-Rose, Prescott-Russell 5 Apr (BDL), and 2 others were in Thunder Bay 27 Mar, moving to the mouth of the Current R., Thunder Bay 10 Apr (BM; GWi).

Single Ross's Geese were near Manotick Station, Ottawa 18 Apr (TBe), n. of Navan, Ottawa 23 Apr (TBe), and at Winchester s.l Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry 8 May (RC). The Brant ne. of Carlsbad Springs 6 Apr was record early for Ottawa (H. Tremblay). Unusual for the location, a Trumpeter Swan was at the Tip of Long Pt., Norfolk 1 May (KGB, ODB). The maximum count for Tundra Swan for the spring in the Pinery P.P. area, Lambton was 15,000 (AR).

A high count of 80 Wood Ducks was at Hillman Marsh, Essex 10 Mar (AW). Single male Eurasian Wigeons were present at Presqu'ile P.P., Northumberland 10 Mar-18 Apr (DS), at Townsend s.l., Haldimand 11 Mar (KGB, MVB), at Hillman Marsh, Essex on 11-16 Mar (AJH, RAH, ACP et al.), 30 Mar (DJW), and 27 Apr-9 May (RGT et al.), at Lee Brown W.M.A., Norfolk 15 Mar-3 Apr (RWW, TB), at Aylmer, Elgin 21-25 Mar (SR), e. of Bourget, Prescott-Russell 2 Apr (MT, m.ob.), at Neibauer's Marsh, Wellington 14-16 Apr (JM), at Rice L., Peterborough 15 Apr (PB, CDJ), at Oshawa Second Marsh, Durham 23 Apr-8 May (AP, m.ob.), and at Chippewa, Thunder Bay 26 Apr (BM). A Garganey toured s Durham 5 May, visiting Thickson's Pt., then Oshawa Second Marsh before disappearing during the night (DBa).

Hillman Marsh hosted high numbers of waterfowl this spring, with 800 Northern Pintail 8 Mar (IMR, AW) and 1200 Green-winged Teal 11 Apr (AW) being noteworthy numbers The 4th and 5th records of Eurasian Teal for the P.P.B.A. were represented by single males at Hillman Marsh 31 Mar (DJW) and 7 May (BRH, EWH et al.). An ad. male King Eider was off Stoney Creek, Hamilton 22 Mar (IG),

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and a female was there 23-26 Mar (RZD). A male Barrow's Goldeneye was in Ottawa until at least 11 Mar (m.ob.).

A Pacific Loon at Pt. Pelee N.P. 14 May (MKP, GB, GC) provided the P.P.B.A. with its 9th record. A high count of 2270 Horned Grebes was at Rondeau P.P., *Chatham-Kent* 9 Apr (JTB), and 663 Red-necked Grebes were talhed off *Halton* and *Hamilton* 2 Apr (RZD, JW) Single Eared Grebes were at Toronto 13 Apr (NM, NMcH) and at Pt. Pelee N.P. 14 Apr (AW) and 2 May (GTH et al.). The P.P.B.A. had up to 16 American White Pelicans 17-20 May, split between Hillman Marsh and Pt. Pelee N.P. (TAH et al.). Another 11 were at Red Bay, *Bruce* 8 May (*fide* CC), and 9 were at Ashbridge's Bay Park, Toronto 31 May (AD).

Single Snowy Egrets were at Hamilton 12 Apr (RZD), at Courtright, Lambton 25 May (CRo, GW, JA, POH), at Peacock Pt., near Nanticoke, Haldimand 28 May (DG), and e. to Kanata, Ottawa 31 May (SG, TBe, RC). A Little Blue Heron was at Tobermory, Bruce 2 May (JHa), and another was at Toronto 17 May (NM, AA). A very early Cattle Egret was observed flying over Hillman Marsh, Essex 13 Apr (AW), and others were at St. Clair National Wildlife Area 25-26 Apr (JH), Amherst I., Lennox and Addington 5 May (fide PG), and Milford, Prince Edward 15 May (fide TS). Pt. Pelee N.P. hosted an ad. Yellowcrowned Night-Heron 5-10 May (MBR et al) A Black Vulture at Rondeau P.P., Chatham-Kent 4-5 May was well watched by many observers.

RAPTORS THROUGH SANDPIPERS

An observer looking up from his home on Crosby L., *Leeds and Grenville*, identified a Swallow-tailed Kite flying along the shoreline 31 May (P. Stothart); another was at Amherstburg, *Essex* 8 May (James W. Hunt). Recordhigh counts of eagles were noted at Beamer C A , *Niagara* 1 Mar–15 May, with 85 Bald Eagles and 13 Golden Eagles (N.P.H.). Single Gyrfalcons were at Hare's Creek, *Manitoulin* 25-26 Mar (ST), at Beamer C.A., *Niagara* 17 Mar (N.P.H.), and at Sault Ste. Marie 6 Apr (KMcI); the Gyrfalcon seen in Ottawa in Feb was still present 29 Mar (SA, IW).

The Rainy River area was extremely dry this spring, and not a single Yellow Rail was noted during surveys conducted in late May and early Jun, which contrasted sharply with the abundance of these birds during 2005 (DHE). Several **Whooping Cranes** wandered through Ontario this spring, including one reported from Chesley, *Grey* 6 Apr (S. Brownell), another associating with Sandhill Cranes flying over Sault Ste. Marie 13 Apr (KMcI), 2 reported from Sandford, York 14 Apr (JF), and 2 that spent the night in *Peterborough* before flying s. to New York 14-15 Apr, being tracked by researchers as they went (DB).

A Wilson's Plover first reported 17 May at Presqu'ile P.P., Northumberland (anonymous observer) was refound 26-27 May (WG, DM, m.ob.). A Piping Plover banded last year in Michigan briefly visited Presqu'ile P.P., Northumberland 29-30 May (DS), and an unbanded individual was at Windy Pt. on Lake of the Woods 31 May (DHE, MCE, AB, JB). Two Black-necked Stilts were well watched at Brighton, Northumberland 10-15 Apr (B&MR). Two American Avocets were at Nonquon s.l., Durham 5-9 May (BFA), one was at Thunder Bay 10 & 14-15 May (AG), and 5 were n. of Wheatley, Chatham-Kent 15 May (BG). The American Avocet at Hillman Marsh, Essex 21 May was record late for the P.P.B.A. (m.ob.), as was the Upland Sandpiper at Pt. Pelee N.P. 22 May (IMR). However, also at Hillman Marsh, the Lesser Yellowlegs 18-20 Mar (AW et al.), the Hudsonian Godwit 27 Apr (GBM), and the Rednecked Phalarope 6-8 May (AM et al.) were all rather early. P.P.B.A.'s 2nd spring record of Purple Sandpiper came from the e. side of Wheatley Harbour, Chatham-Kent 29 Apr-1 May (AW et al.). Townsend s.l., Haldimand hosted a Curlew Sandpiper 23 May+ (JL, m.ob.). A male Ruff was at Wallaceburg, Chatham-Kent 29 Apr-2 May (LCo), followed by a female there 8-10 May (BAM); a female was also at Alfred s.l., Prescott-Russell 19 May (JBo).

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Single Laughing Gulls were at Pt. Pelee N.P. 9-13 (BDL et al.) & 15-17 May (AW, MS et al.), at Pelee I., Essex 14 & 16 May (fide PC), at Rondeau P.P., Chatham-Kent 13-16 May (JTB), at Hillman Marsh 18 May (AJH, RAH), and at Long Pt., Norfolk 18 (KGB, MVB) & 27 May (MDB). An imm. Franklin's Gull was at Wheatley Harbour 27 May (AW), and 6 were at Windy Pt., Rainy River 31 May (DHE, MCE, AB, JB). Northumberland's 12th ever Black-headed Gull was at Cobourg 23 Apr (CEG). An ad. Mew Gull w. of Wheatley Harbour 31 Mar was P.P.B.A.'s 6th record (AW), and an imm. California Gull was at Kingsville, Essex 20 Mar (DJW). A Ring-billed Gull in Thunder Bay 9 Mar (MC) was very early for the district. Ad. Arctic Terns were at the Tip of Long Pt., Norfolk 18 May (RR, SAM, ODB, DRB) and at Presqu'ile P.P., Northumberland 26 May (FH). The 207 Forster's Terns in the P.P.B.A. 29 Apr was a remarkable high count (AW), and the imm. Forster's Tern at Presqu'ile P.P. 26 May+ was unusual at that location (FH).

Observers at Hullett Provincial Wildlife Area, Huron had brief but good views of a Band-tailed Pigeon before it flew out of sight 29 Mar (LS et al.). A Eurasian Collared-Dove was at the Tip of Long Pt., Norfolk 25 May (MDB) for the site's first record, and a Whitewinged Dove was there 12-13 May (MDB, ACK). Snowy Owls and Great Gray Owls appeared at many locations in early spring where they had not been all winter, with many lingering well into the season, as late as mid-May in some locations in s. Ontario (m.ob.). Rare for Rainy River, a displaying Long-eared Owl was at Atikokan 14 Apr (DHE, DRE). A Chuck-will's-widow at Wheatley P.P., Chatham-Kent 1 May furnished the earliest record for the province (AK); one was at Rondeau P.P., Chatham-Kent 9-31 May (RWW et al.).

The bird of the spring was an apparent Black Swift at the Tip of Long Pt., Norfolk 21 May (SAM, DRB, HR). The bird was seen well as it flew with a small flock of Chimney Swifts low over L. Erie and appeared larger and wholly blackish without pale feathering on the throat; this would represent the first record for Ontario if accepted by the Ontario B.R.C. Record-early Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were observed at Pt. Pelee N.P. 13 Apr (SER, DRJD, CM) and at Algonquin P.P., Nipissing 17 Apr (TW). A Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird was photographed as it visited a Thunder Bay feeder 7-9 May (S&MB); there are very few spring records of the species from the northeastern quadrant of the continent. Very early migrant woodpeckers at Pt. Pelee N.P. included a Red-headed Woodpecker 11 Apr (FJU) and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 23 Mar (AW).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Say's Phoebe was at the Tip of Long Pt., Norfolk 28-29 Apr (PHC, MDB), and an Ashthroated Flycatcher at T.C.B.O. was an exciting find 26 Apr (ph. JWo), a first for n. Ontario. The first Loggerhead Shrike seen in the P.P.B.A. in five years was at Pt. Pelee N.P. 31 Mar (AW et al.). A well-documented Bell's Vireo was at Rondeau P.P., Chatham-Kent 20 May (BAM, SC); a White-eyed Vireo at Pt. Pelee N.P. 15 Apr was very early (AW); and a Red-eyed Vireo was there 23 Apr (SM, RM). A pair of Common Ravens in Flamborough, Hamilton 5 Mar+ (RZD) was later confirmed nesting in a quarry, representing the first confirmed breeding record for Hamilton. The Tip of Pt. Pelee N.P. had a very early Barn Swallow 31 Mar (AW), and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Windsor, Essex 1 Apr (FJU) was also significantly early. The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Ottawa 23 Apr (MBo) was a rarity for the area. A Boreal Chickadee was a surprise capture at Prince Edward Pt. B.O., Prince Edward 18 Apr (fide TS), well s. of their breeding range in Ontario. The wintering Townsend's Solitaire near Kars, Ottawa stayed through at least 11 Mar and was seen again nearby 1 Apr (RN, SL). Single Varied Thrushes were at Verona, Frontenac 2 Mar (fide IGr), at Shallow L., Grev 3 Mar (m.ob.), at Southampton, Bruce 9 Mar-28 Apr (fide MP), and at Brooklin, Durham mid-Mar-early Apr (R. & A. Mason); the bird wintering at Batchawana Bay, Algoma was present through 19 Apr (m.ob.). A Sage Thrasher at Chippewa park, Thunder Bay 24 May was a wonderful addition to a birdathon big day (S&MB, RBr).

Very rare in Ottawa, a singing Blue-winged Warbler established a short-lived territory w. of Dunrobin 16 May (RH). A Yellow-throated Warbler was at Pt. Pelee N.P. 10 May (TT, DSk, RWB), and a Kirtland's Warbler was there 21 May (AW et al.). A very late migrant Pine Warbler was at Pt. Pelee N.P. 25 May (SM, RM). Although it was not relocated by other birders, a singing Swainson's Warbler at Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Toronto 12 May was well described (AF). The Common Yellowthroat at Windsor, Essex 12 Apr was record early for Ontario (FJU). Summer Tanagers overshooting their breeding areas s. of the Great Lakes were not as numerous this spring; only 5 were found at P.P.B.A., up to 5 were at Rondeau P.P., and 2 were at Long Pt. in May (m.ob.).

A well-described Spotted Towhee visited a feeder in Port Hope, Northumberland 29 Apr (L&AJ), but it did not linger long enough to allow other birders to see it. A Lark Sparrow was banded at the Tip of Long Pt. 26 Apr (PHC, MDB), and Algonquin P.P.'s 4th Lark Sparrow was observed at a feeder, associating with Chipping Sparrows, 12 May (S&TO). A Lark Bunting was e. of Nipigon, Thunder Bay 18-19 May (SB). Although no Le Conte's Sparrows were found at Pt. Pelee this spring, one was at South Cayuga, Haldimand 11 Apr (BS), one was observed at Long Pt., Norfolk 26 Apr (MDB, PHC), and another was reported from the Toronto Is., Toronto 23 May (NM). Several weeks earlier than normal, a Lincoln's Sparrow arrived at Prince Edward Pt., Prince Edward 11 Apr (fide TS). The wintering Harris's Sparrow at Holiday Harbour, Chatham-Kent was last seen 28 Mar (IMG, JNF et al.); another was at Pt. Pelee N.P. 21 May (REL et al.). A White-crowned Sparrow at Pt. Pelee N.P. 20-21 Apr was very early (AW). A Chestnut-collared Longspur was at Reesor Pond, York 25 May (SLo et al.); there are fewer than 10 reports of this species for

the province.

An imm. male Blue Grosbeak was at Pt. Pelee N.P. 15 May (KS, JN, WK), and one was at Rondeau P.P., Chatham-Kent 16 May (m.ob.). An imm. male Lazuli Bunting was captured and banded at Prince Edward Pt., Prince Edward 23 May (fide TS), for the countv's first record, and remarkably, a male Painted Bunting was in the n. at Sudbury 26 May (ph. C&SM). The only Dickcissels reported this spring were 2 at the Tip of Long Pt. 11 May (MDB). A singing Western Meadowlark near Port Hope, Northumberland 16 Mar (MB) was the first for the county since 1995, while the first in the P.P.B.A. since 1999 was at Pt. Pelee N.P. 15 May (WGL, KAM, BSC, LC); another was at Long Pt., Norfolk 23 May (SAM). A Yellow-headed Blackbird successfully wintered e. of Embrun, Prescott-Russell, lingering through at least 12 Mar (m.ob.); one was at Toronto 29 Apr (HC et al.), and one at Presqu'ile P.P. 21 May was a very good sighting for Northumberland (ML et al.). Three Brewer's Blackbirds were at Stoney Creek, Hamilton 12 Mar (KAM), and single birds were at Long Pt., Norfolk 8-11 (SAM) & 20 Apr (SAM, RR), Beamer C.A., Niagara 26 Apr (BRH et al.), Shrewsbury, Chatham-Kent 4 May (JTB), and Hillman Marsh 7 May (GTH), the last being the P.P.B.A.'s 2nd spring record. Ontario's 5th Great-tailed Grackle was at Colchester, Essex 8 May (DJW). An Orchard Oriole coming to a feeder n. of Rainy River 31 May was a very rare sighting for Rainy River (CG).

An unbanded European Goldfinch at Ear Falls, *Thunder Bay* 4 May (GS) and an unbanded Common Chaffinch at Atikokan, *Rainy River* 7 May (DHE, MCE) were presumed to be escapees; other presumed escaped European finches were reported from several locales in s. Ontario. Several Hoary Redpolls were reported across Ontario during the spring, but the individual near Leamington, *Essex* 7-8 Mar (HTO et al.) provided the P.P.B.A.'s 5th record. Also rare in the s., an Evening Grosbeak was at the Tip of Long Pt., *Norfolk* 4 May (KGB).

Corrigenda: In the spring 2005 report, the Little Blue Herons listed on 20-25 and 27 Apr-4 May pertain to the same-bird, not to different birds. The American Avocets at Wheatley Harbour (12 on 28 Apr; 14 on 1 May), were different flocks, not an increasing flock as published.

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