



Rudolf F. Koes
Peter Taylor

Spring "came grudgingly" to southern Alberta (TK), was generally cool and wet with widespread late frosts in Saskatchewan (GK), and was interrupted in Manitoba by prolonged northerly winds in the first half of April and cool, wet weather in the second half of May. Migration was lackluster and late overall, though there were some early arrivals for dedicated observers, especially in the passerine "gravy" for Mt. Lorette, Alberta raptor watchers. Several observers remarked on relatively sparse shorebird and warbler numbers. Only one major wave of Neotropical migrants was noted at Winnipeg 21 May. Rarities were sprinkled evenly but sparingly across the three provinces.

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

A figure rarely used in these reports, one million or more Snow Geese were reported along the Souris R. in Saskatchewan 7 Apr (MB, CB) and at Davidson, SK the following day (GK). Trumpeter Swans, mostly first-year birds, made a good showing in se. Manitoba, with up to 6 near Brightstone 29-30 May (C&LB, ph. PT) and a probable 3 at Moose L. near Lake of the Woods about 20 May (*vide* RP). Early waterfowl arrivals included a Ross's Goose at Windygates, MB 22 Mar (PT, RK, A&DS) and 14 Northern Pintails near Taber, AB 5 Mar (LB). As usual, there were 25+ reports of Eurasian Wigeon in s. Alberta (m.ob.), including 8 males at Fin-castle L. 24 Mar (LB). Cinnamon Teal made a fair showing in Saskatchewan, with a pair in the Qu'Appelle Valley 29 Apr (BL) and singles 26 May at Nickle L. (VT, DT) and near Morse (MD, LD). Apparently changing their migration patterns in recent years, Greater Scaup were reported in large numbers throughout s.

Alberta, including 211 at Pine Coulee Res. 31 Mar (TK). A male Smew photographed near Mountain View, AB 7 Apr (GKu) furnished a first provincial record, with the usual questions about provenance.

Rare in spring in s. Alberta, 4 Pacific Loons visited Herbert L. in Banff N.P. 24 May (JH, *vide* JR). An American White Pelican was early at Taber 27 Mar (LB), as were 2 at Saskatoon, SK 4 Apr (NS), while one was far n. at Churchill 29 May (LM). A pair of Great Egrets returned to the Hastings L., AB breeding site in early May (*vide* JW), and one visited Pense, SK 25 Apr (LS). A Cattle Egret was found near Last Mountain Wildlife Refuge, SK 14 May (RD). An ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was at Oak Hammock Marsh, MB 27 May (VR et al.).

Four Turkey Vultures, including 3 on 30 Apr, was a high season's total at Mt. Lorette, with just nine previous records since 1993. Record seasonal and daily Bald Eagle totals were tallied at Windygates: 1267 between 5 Mar and 18 Apr, with a peak of 318 on 24 Mar (A&DS, m.ob.). About 60 Bald Eagles gathered to gorge on Richardson's Ground Squirrels at Pine Coulee Res. 18 Mar, along with 200+ Common Ravens (TK). Three Red-shouldered Hawks appeared in Manitoba: one near Whitemouth 25 Mar (ph. PT) and 2 at the St. Adolphe hawkwatch 30 Mar (BS, ACs). A good movement of Rough-legged Hawks included 26 near McTaggart, SK 15 Mar (VT, DT) and 80 in the Whitemouth-Hadashville area, MB 15 Apr (PT). The Golden Eagle total of 2141 at Mt. Lorette, AB was 35% below the 1993-2006 average,



Although there were at least three previous reports of Audubon's Warbler in Manitoba, this bird in Winnipeg on 2 May 2007 was the first one documented photographically. Photograph by Bob McKay.

though coverage at 1019 hours was 20% above average (PS). The 91 Golden Eagles at Windygates 5 Mar-18 Apr (A&DS, m.ob.) comprised a new season's record for that site.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A fine total of 323 Black-bellied Plovers was

noted at Kitsim Res. near Brooks, AB 18 May (JD). Black-necked Stilts made an excellent showing in Alberta, with 300+ estimated altogether (TK); 7 were found between four Saskatchewan locations (m.ob.). A pair at Reed L., SK already had 3 young 31 May, but



Red-shouldered Hawk is a less-than-annual visitor to Manitoba, so three birds documented in one season was above the norm. This bird was near Whitemouth on 25 March 2007. Photograph by Peter Taylor.

last year's breeders did not return to Whitemouth L., MB. The Whimbrel migration near Taber has become a regular feature of the Alberta birding calendar; this year, several large flocks totalled 1458 birds 12 May (LB, m.ob.). Elsewhere, 5 Whimbrels were noteworthy near Regina 24-25 May (JC, m.ob.), with a few scattered individuals in s. Manitoba (m.ob.). Almost annual in the Region, a Western Sandpiper visited Tyrrell L., AB 1 May (LB).

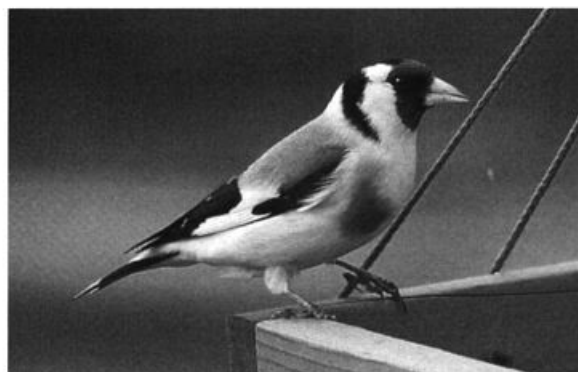
Three California Gulls were early at Calgary 7 Mar (BB). Lesser Black-backed Gulls made a good showing at Calgary: a second-cycle bird 18-22 Mar (RSt, m.ob.), 2 ads. 14 Apr (JP, m.ob.) and single ads. 29 Apr (TK) and 2 May (DF). An ad. Great Black-backed Gull paused at Grand Beach, MB 16-20 May (B&SS, ph. NSy). A first-cycle Iceland Gull visited Saskatoon 18-20 Apr (RJ, m.ob., ph.), and there was a possible Kumlien's at Calgary 28 Apr (TK). An Arctic Tern was a surprise visitor to Blackstrap L., SK 26 May (SS, JS).



This first-spring male Summer Tanager at Clavet on 31 May was one of two reported in Saskatchewan in spring of 2007. It represents about the fifth sighting for the province. Photograph by Lou Baudru.



Saskatchewan has hosted several Painted Buntings in recent years, all of them at feeders. This male, the province's fifth, was at Aberdeen on 21 April 2007. Photograph by D. Bruce.



Although most European Goldfinches reported in North America no doubt involve escaped or released birds, they are nevertheless curiosities where they appear. This bird visited an Ituna, Saskatchewan feeder from 1-4 (here 4) May 2007. Photograph by William Anderson.

A Band-tailed Pigeon visited Brule, AB 29 Apr (*fide* JR). Eurasian Collared-Doves were reported from several s. Alberta locations, westward to Calgary (m.ob.). Eastern Screech-Owl maintains a westerly toehold at Medicine Hat, AB, where one was observed in Mar and Apr (*fide* DB). A noteworthy owl concentration within about a square mile near Regina's Cinema Six Slough 31 Mar–7 Apr gave peak

counts of 16 Snowy Owls 2 Apr (JC, JN) and 27 Short-eared Owls 7 Apr (GK). Three Lewis's Woodpeckers were observed in Alberta: at Mt. Lorette 10 May (PS), e. of Milk R. 25 May (BC, ET), and w. of Turner Valley 26-27 May (AC, MH). A well-described Red-bellied Woodpecker in Calgary around 1 Mar (EO, *fide* TK) would be an Alberta first if accepted; less exceptional was one at a Seven Sisters Falls, MB feeder 9-10 May (RLo).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was photographed at Dinosaur P.P., AB 20-21 May (ES, MS, m.ob.). A Yellow-throated Vireo was w. of its limited Saskatchewan range at Regina 31 May (BL). Following last winter's incursion, a few single Gray Jays lingered in the Winnipeg area until mid-Apr (m.ob.). A male Western Bluebird was near Longview, AB, where the species has previously nested, 25 May (JM, MM). A group of 3 or 4 Townsend's Solitaires made a special find at Regina 16 Apr (JN, m.ob.). Single Wood Thrushes visited St. Jean Baptiste, MB 8 May (LBI) and, exceptionally far w., the Cypress Hills, SK 31 May (RL, *fide* BL). At least 5 Varied Thrushes apparently wintered in Saskatchewan: one in Regina and 2 each in Saskatoon and Montgomery (m.ob.).

An early American Pipit was at Fish Creek P.P., AB 7 Apr (TK), while a late one at Hecla I., MB 30 May appeared to be slightly injured (PT, RK, LV). An Audubon's Warbler in Winnipeg 2 May (ph. BM) was perhaps the first to be documented

in Manitoba. Other noteworthy warblers were single Black-throated Blues near Last Mountain Lake N.W.A., SK 16 May and in Saskatoon 24-25 May (ph. NS) and a Yellow-breasted Chat near Melita, MB 29 May (KDS).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

In keeping with recent years, some single, wandering male tanagers were noted: Sum-

mers at Regina 14 May (BL), Clavet, SK 31 May (*fide* NS, ph.), and Winnipeg, MB 27 May (JB, NB), and Westerns in different areas of Winnipeg 11 (LC) & 12 May (AD). A Green-tailed Towhee was a one-day wonder at Banff, AB 22 May (RS, EW). Well e. of breeding range were migrant Spotted Towhees at Headingley, MB 9 May (BS) and Grant's Lake, MB 10 May (KG). The season's passerine highlight at Mt. Lorette was a Field Sparrow with a flock of Chipping Sparrows 14 May (PS). Two Black-throated Sparrows were reported in Alberta: one at Irricana 12 May (DE, *fide* TK) and another at Lethbridge 26 May–1 Jun (DD, TD, m.ob.). A Golden-crowned Sparrow was well described near River Hills, MB about 21 May (AJ, *fide* AE).

A male Indigo Bunting was exceptionally early at Delta, MB 28 Apr (AE, PF), and another was far w. at Black Diamond, AB 22-25 May (RM, m.ob.). Saskatchewan's 5th Painted Bunting visited Aberdeen 21 Apr (Dbr, ph.). Unexpected in a Winnipeg city park was a Dickcissel 15 May (ph. CA). Common Redpolls lingered exceptionally late in Calgary, with the last stragglers still visiting feeders in early Jun (m.ob.). A European Goldfinch visited an Ituna, SK feeder 1-4 May (SA, WA, ph.), presumably an escapee. A flock of 800 Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches was an impressive sight as the birds "swept back and forth like a cloud of smoke" at Mt. Lorette 25 Apr (PS).

Observers (provincial compilers in boldface): S. Anderson, W. Anderson, C. Artuso, M. Bailey, D. Baresco, B. Barnetson, N. Bays, L. Bennett, C. Bjorklund, L. Blanchette (LBI), J. Bourgeois, D. Bruce (Dbr), C. & L. Burnell, J. Clarke, B. Clibbon, L. Cocks, A. Cole, A. Courcelles (ACs), J. Davis, K. De Smet, D. Dolman, T. Dolman, L. Dudragne, M. Dudragne, R. Dudragne, A. Dyck, D. Elphinstone, A. Ens, P. Fast, D. Faulder, K. Gardner, J. Hagen, M. Harrison, A. Jansen, R. Johanson, R. Koes, T. Korolyk, G. Krätzig, G. Kurtz (GKu), R. LeBlanc, R. Lofstrom (RLo), B. Luterbach, R. Manning, J. McDonald, M. McDonald, L. Michael, J. Nordquist, J. Nordquist, E. Orr, R. Parsons, J. Pilny, V. Reimer, J. Rogers, B. & S. Saunders, N. Saunders, A. & D. Schritt, L. Scott, J. Shadick, S. Shadick, P. Sherrington, B. Shettler, R. Sommerhalder, E. Spitzer, M. Spitzer, R. Storms (RSt), N. Sylvestre (NSy), P. Taylor, D. Thomas, V. Thomas, E. Tull, L. Veelma, J. Warden, E. Whittingham. 🐦

Rudolf F. Koes, 135 Rossmere Crescent
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2K 0G1, (rkoes@mts.net)

Peter Taylor, P. O. Box 597
Pinawa, Manitoba R0E 1L0, (taylorp@granite.mb.ca)