

The Spring Migration

April 1–May 31, 1977

NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

/ Peter D. Vickery

The spring was generally quiet. Most reports noted the unimpressive migration with few, if any, days of heavy movement. This was particularly true of the passerines. Readers will note, however, that the period April 6–8 brought a great



many noteworthy birds into the region. Although the warblers slipped north in small numbers, large waders were widespread and the shorebird migration was heavier than usual; exceptional was the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper in Connecticut. Four White-fronted Geese were surprising and the Scituate Steller's Eider was a remarkable occurrence. Other extraordinary sightings which elude ready explanation were the Willow Ptarmigan in southern Maine, the Hermit Warbler in New Haven and the Golden-crowned Sparrow in Nova Scotia.

The weather in April was mild across much of the region. The most significant weather of the period was the major northeastern storm that struck Massachusetts and New Hampshire, May 9–10. Up to 8 inches of snow fell in some interior sections and Cape Cod experienced heavy northeastern winds that pulled a great many pelagics into the Bay.

Coverage of the region was again excellent. All provinces and states contributed reports, for which I am grateful. The various comments, explanations and especially descriptions of birds identified were of great value. Particularly interesting was the brief note from Bruce McTavish upon his return from L'Anse-aux-Meadows, at the northern tip of Newfoundland. "It was like stepping into paradise when I got off the ferry, I was just about overwhelmed by all the beautiful birds and their songs. All those Starlings, grackles, robins and Song Sparrows. You can't live on Ivory Gulls and Gyrfalcons alone." A harsh winter diet many would like to share.

LOONS, GREBES—An Arctic Loon, in breeding plumage, was identified off Pt. Judith, R.I., May 21 (RAC, *vide* CW). In late May the flight of Red-throated Loons was unusually

heavy along the Massachusetts coast with 40+ birds seen each day from the Cape (BN). Farther north, "large numbers" were seen passing by Schoodic Pt., Hancock Co. Me. (WCT) and in the Bay of Fundy four Red-throated Loons were observed from the deck of the "Princess of Arcadia" between St. John, N.B. and Digby, N.S., May 20 (PDV). Interestingly, no unusual numbers were noted from Nova Scotia. Red-necked Grebes continued their extraordinary incursion off s. New England. In March 463 grebes were counted from five flocks, the largest being 183+ at Manomet Mar. 5 (WRP), 118+ off Scituate Apr. 2, and 152 off Manomet Apr. 7 (WRP). In New Hampshire two flocks totaled 52, the largest 39 birds at N. Hampton Mar. 31 (EWP, *vide* DJA). Combined with the totals noted in the Winter Season Report, no fewer than 1966 Red-necked Grebes were seen in the period February–April. This figure, derived from only the major concentrations observed, was no doubt a fraction of the actual numbers present. Off Schoodic Pt. Me., Mar. 6, a bird observed at close range was almost certainly an Eared Grebe, constituting the fifth state record (WCT).

TUBENOSES—The M.B.O. trip to George's Bank May 27 produced the only N. Fulmars, 100 (4 dark), the only Cory's Shearwater May 31 and two Manx Shearwaters on the same date (*vide* TLL-E). The consistent numbers of Manx Shearwaters off Rhode Island continue to suggest possible breeding in the area. An early bird was seen from Pt. Judith Apr. 3 with two noted at the same location Apr. 24 (SSD, DLK, KK, FP CW). Three Manx were seen at Cox's Ledge May 14 (NSP CW *et al.*) while three occurred off Jamestown, May 23 (KK) and two were studied 8 mi s.s.e. of Block I., May 25 (NH). Intriguing is a single Manx Shearwater seen off Bailey I., in Casco Bay, Me., Apr. 28. The bird was observed circling the outer islands, possibly prospecting for a breeding site (PKD).

S.A.

On May 9–10 a violent NE storm raged across s. New England bringing with it an extraordinary number of pelagic birds into Cape Cod Bay. May 10–11 no fewer than 10,000 Leach's and 30+ Wilson's Storm-Petrels were seen from First Encounter Beach, Eastham. On the same date 148 Red and 618+ N. Phalaropes, single Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers, 63 kittiwakes and 200+ Arctic Terns were observed (BN, WRP *et al.*). Also clearly storm-related were the 10 Dovekies off Rockport and the 60 Dovekies off Plum I., May 10–11 (*vide* RPE). A bird identified as an Audubon's Shearwater was found on Middle Congamond Pond in Southwick, Mass., May 10–11 (*vide* RPE). Unfortunately the bird was not described and the observer remains unknown.

PELICANS, BOOBIES, GANNETS—On Mar. 12, a Brown Pelican was found dead on Cockenoe I., off Westport Conn. (DM, EM, *vide* JS). In such poor condition that the skin could not be preserved, the skeleton was taken to the

Peabody Museum. Apparently death was from starvation but there seems no reason to doubt that the bird managed to get itself into Connecticut waters under its own power. The two previous Connecticut Brown Pelican specimens occurred in 1902 and 1905. There is a single sight record at Penfield Reef, Fairfield in 1939. A single ad. Brown Booby found 8 mi s.e. of Block I., May 25, constituted the first Rhode Island record (NH, *vide* CW). An imm. Gannet off Milford Pt., Conn., Mar. 27 was a rare occurrence for that state (NSP).

HERONS, IBISES—The season was excellent for its herons, as unusual numbers of 'southern' herons occurred throughout the region. At least five Little Blue Herons were found in Maine this spring. The likelihood of Little Blues breeding on some island other than their traditional breeding site on Wood Island in Casco Bay, seems quite good. A single imm Little Blue was at Mary's Pt., N.B., May 12 (MM, *vide* DSC). Cattle Egrets swept into s. Maine this spring in unprecedented numbers. Twenty-one were seen together at Biddeford Pool in April (AT, *vide* RC), and up to 18 were on Stratton I. in May (JP). Single Cattle Egrets were at Seal I. (ELM *et al.*), Amherst Pt. (SIT *et al.*), and North Sydney (*vide* RDL), N.S. Great Egrets wandered as far N as New Brunswick with one at Cape Jourimain Apr. 23 (BMCT, SIT) and another at Musquash May 25 (NM *et al.*, *vide* DSC). Great Egrets in Nova Scotia were single birds at Matthews L. and Port Maitland (*vide* RDL). No fewer than 12 Snowy Egrets occurred in both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, the earliest being a pair on Sable I., Mar. 24 (A. Richard, *vide* IAMcL).

Louisiana Herons again made a strong showing this spring. Only one or two individuals were noted in Connecticut and Rhode Island. Farther north seven were sighted in Massachusetts, one in Rye, N.H., and 4-5 in s. Maine—a total without precedent for the state. A single ad. Louisiana Heron was easily studied at Chance Harbor, N.B., May 23 (Phyllis Mullin, *vide* DSC), the species being decidedly rare in the province. The total of 13 records from Massachusetts north suggests the possibility of a breeding range extension north of the region's first nests found last year on Chimon and House Is., Conn. The putative breeding on Scarborough Marsh, Me., in 1976 seems dubious at best. In the s. part of the region the Glossy Ibis migration was widely noted as excellent with 254 in Ipswich, Mass., Apr. 25 typical of the large numbers (*vide* RPE). Overshoots included a single bird at Alexander, Washington Co., Me., as early as Apr. 3-10 (SBa), two on Prince Edward I. (P.E.I. below), Apr. 22 (Earle Hickey) and "several" on e. Cape Breton, N.S. (*vide* RDL).

WATERFOWL—A single Whistling Swan was seen at Milford Pt., Conn., Mar. 27 (NSP) and five more were photographed at Fryeburg, Me., Apr. 4 (Jim Elledge, *vide* WGi). Especially noteworthy were seven Canada Geese flying N over L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld. on the very early date of Mar. 23 (*vide* BMCT). The only Brant far inland was a single bird at Moosehead L., Me., Apr. 20 (PJ). Extraordinary this spring were the four White-fronted Geese found in the region. An adult and an immature were in S. Britain, Conn., Mar. 9-10 (JM *et al.*), a single adult with yellow feet was in Guilford, Conn., Mar. 17 (NSP) and a lone adult occurred in Woolwich, Me., Apr. 19-23 (HH, TH *et al.*). The origin of these birds remains in some doubt as none was clearly identified as either *gambelli* or *flavirostris*. The March dates of the Connecticut birds suggest *gambelli*, as *flavirostris* migrates to Greenland in late April and early May (Palmer, R S 1976, *Handbook of N.A. Birds*, vol. 3). *Flavirostris* seems a less likely spring occurrence, more readily expected

in fall, and preliminary review of photographs of the Woolwich, Me. bird appear to indicate a good example of *gambelli* (pers. comm. R. S. Palmer).

The Snow Goose migration seemed more widespread E-W than is normal. In Connecticut the flight was termed excellent with 185 geese at Branford Marsh Mar. 31 (NSP). Farther e in Massachusetts 500+ Snow Geese occurred at Plum I., Apr 16 (*vide* RPE) and in Maine 200+ stopped at Scarborough Marsh (WGi). There were at least 10-15 Snow Geese in New Brunswick (DSC) and a total of 20 in Nova Scotia, a flock of eight noted at Brier I., Apr. 30 (ML, WL, *vide* CRKA). Late-lingering birds include two adults at Sharon, Conn., May 19-20 (*vide* AG) and two at Plum I., May 20 (*vide* RPE). Gadwalls returned to Cape Jourimain, N.B. with two pairs present May 8 (SIT). The only Green-winged (Eur.) Teals reported were a drake at West Harwick, Mass., Mar. 19-30, two drakes in Lusby Marsh, N.S., Apr. 16 with a third bird "showing both shoulder patch and horizontal white line" there later (CD). At the same locality a Eur. Wigeon was found Apr. 16-24 (CD). Northern Shovelers continue to increase their numbers in the Northeast. Fourteen N. Shovelers were found in three locations in New Hampshire, a pair was discovered in Perry, Me., 12 were in St. John, N.B., and 11 were noted in McGowan Corner, N.B. (*vide* DSC).

Four Redheads were in Dummer, N.H., May 1 (VHH, *vide* DJA) while a pair was located in Perry, Me., May 14-20 (GB, MLu). Although considered rare in e. Maine six pairs were found farther e. at Cape Jourimain, N.B. (SIT) and two pairs were seen at Jemseg, N.B. (*vide* DSC). Two Redheads were carefully studied at Boularderie, N.S., Apr. 20 (RBF, *vide* CRKA). Unusual this spring in s. Maine were small flocks of Canvasbacks, numbering perhaps 40 individuals (PC *et al.*). Three late Harlequin Ducks were reported in May, the latest a drake at Prout's Neck, Me., May 28 (BP *et al.*) A Barrow's Goldeneye was found inland on Turkey Pond in Concord, N.H., Mar. 21 (R. Beyer, *vide* DJA) and a storm-related King Eider was discovered there May 9 (R. Beyer, *vide* DJA). Only four other King Eiders were reported. Of interest was the observation of 175+ ♀ Com. Eiders flying N between Newport and Bangor, Apr. 21 (GF, PDV); though mixed flocks of eiders have been known to cross Maine to the St. Lawrence R., all of the above were unpaired females, presumably non-breeding birds, that were apparently flying to the vicinity of nesting areas farther north. Of equal interest was a flock of 25 White-winged Scoters seen flying NW over Baker L. in the St. John watershed in n. Maine May 23 (CBT)

S.A.

Certainly the rarest duck of the spring, perhaps the rarest bird, was the ♂ Steller's Eider seen off Scituate, Mass., Mar. 29-Apr. 7 (RV *et mult. al.*). The bird was a delight to many observers who watched his wide variety of courtship displays directed at apparently uninterested ♀ Com. Goldeneyes. How the Steller's arrived in Massachusetts waters remains a mystery though there is strong support for the theory that this bird, like the Ross' Gull, was a trans-Atlantic vagrant from n. Europe. Steller's Eiders occur regularly along coastal Finland, there are at least eight records for the British Isles and three for Greenland (Salomonsen, F 1967. *Fuglene på Grønland*). Other than a single Baffin I. record and two birds on the north shore of the Gulf of the St. Lawrence, the only other w. Atlantic coast record is a drake shot Dec., 1926 at Scarborough, Maine (Palmer, R. S. 1949. *Maine Birds*), there is considerable question regarding a Maryland record of eight birds, three shot, January, 1967 (WRP)

VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES—Turkey Vultures returned to the Northeast in good numbers again this spring; five were observed migrating over Provincetown Apr. 22 (BN), while 19 were seen in e. Massachusetts in May (*vide* RPE). In New Hampshire an estimated 22 vultures were reported, the earliest was in Henniker, Mar. 9 (BH, PE, *vide* DJA). Twenty Turkey Vultures seen in scattered locations across s. Maine was a remarkable number; pairs seen for five or six weeks along the Saco R. (RC) and in the W. Baldwin area (PDV) might very well be Maine's first breeders. *Nineteen* Goshawk nests found within a 15-mi radius of Sharon, Conn. (MR, MRo *et al.*) indicate that this bird is a common breeder farther s. than it was generally supposed. It seems reasonable that the decline in Cooper's Hawks may be related to such widespread Goshawk success (R. Smart). Sharpshinned Hawk flights were noted on Campobello I., N.B. with 42 birds Apr. 16 (PDV *et al.*), on Plum I. with 52 Apr. 30 (*vide* RPE), and at Truro on Cape Cod with 20 Sharpies on May 20 (CAG, *vide* BN). Only five or six Cooper's Hawks were seen migrating over Cape Cod (BN) and a single immature was observed on Campobello I., Apr. 16 (PDV *et al.*).

Many observers have commented that Red-shouldered Hawk numbers continue to improve; indicative are the 16 nests found in w. Massachusetts. Sixty plus Broad-winged Hawks were observed over Cape Cod May 12 (BN) and 53 were noted at Brier I., N.S., May 6 (ML, WL, *vide* RDL), this observation being especially interesting since the province is not known as an area for spring hawk flights. Unusually far north for Apr. 11 were two Broad-wingeds, closely scrutinized, in Linneus, Aroostook Co., Me. (SR *et al.*). Two Swainson's Hawks were noted in Maine. The first, a light-phased adult, was seen sporadically at Moosehorn N.W.R., Apr. 23–May 5 (GB, Mlu, NR *et al.*), the second was observed on Mount Desert I. (WCR). The season's only Golden Eagles were single adults at Mary's Pt., N.B., Mar. 20 (DSC, MM) and on Block I., R.I., May 14 (RH, HL, RP, CP, *vide* CW). After an excellent winter flight, a single nearly white Gyrfalcon was seen in Salem, Albert Co., N.B., Apr. 28 (MM, *vide* DSC). A total of five Gyrfalcons seen in March and April at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld., was considered an unusually poor spring flight (BMcT). The season's total of 15 Peregrine Falcons seems inexplicably low, six of these were noted in New Brun-

s. (RDL); the latter representing a second or third provincial record. A Purple Gallinule was found in Madison, Conn., Apr 22–May 8 (*vide* NSP).

S.A.

Most extraordinary and perplexing is the record of a Willow Ptarmigan found on Bailey I., Me., May 14 (PKD *et al.*). Seen by five competent observers for a period of several hours and identifiably photographed (showing feathered toes), there is no possible confusion with albino Spruce Grouse. Preliminary speculation about this very odd occurrence centered on the massive n.e. storm May 9–10 (May 11–12 further northeast) but ptarmigan is not the kind of bird likely to be storm-tossed for hundreds of miles. Two previous Maine occurrences are both spring records: one shot in Kenduskeag Apr. 23, 1892 and the second a bird captured in Sherman Mills May 19, 1951. There exists a lone Massachusetts sight record: May 10, 1895. A study of old weather records for both the Kenduskeag and the Massachusetts ptarmigan sightings indicates no correlation with any large storm systems. The consistency of the spring dates, all within the 3½ week period, Apr. 23–May 19, indicates that these misguided occurrences might be related to either a reversed migration, or possibly, something gone berserk in the breeding cycle.

SHOREBIRDS—American Oystercatchers reported this spring were ten at Monomoy, four at Nauset and two in Chatham (*vide* RPE). A single bird was observed at Milford Pt., Conn., May 1 (NSP). The region's only Am. Avocet occurred on Nantucket Apr. 26 (*vide* RPE). An enormous flock of 1000 Killdeer was seen in a cornfield in Saco, Me., Apr. 10 (*vide* RC). A Wilson's Plover was closely scrutinized at Nauset, June 1 (*vide* BN). Scarce in spring, solitary Am Golden Plovers were found in Squantum, Mass., Apr. 21 (*vide* RPE), at Bridgewater, Mass., May 9 (WRP), and two were observed at Sandy Neck on Cape Cod May 9 (*vide* BN). Single Marbled Godwits occurred at Stratford, Conn., May 15 (NSP) and at Newburyport, May 29 (*vide* RPE). Unusually early was a Lesser Yellowlegs at W. Harwick Mar. 30 (*vide* BN) and on the same day a second bird was seen in Rye, N.H. (EWP, *vide* DJA). Willets were reported in at least five Massachusetts locations.

Wilson's Phalaropes are becoming too numerous to accurately quantify. This spring there were at least 32 birds reported with high counts of eight at Plum I. and six at Monomoy (*vide* RPE). Interestingly none was reported from the Maritimes. Around George's Bank in late May 2416 Red Phalaropes were counted (M.B.O., *vide* TLL-E). Four Long billed Dowitchers were apparently carefully identified in Ports mouth, N.H., May 17 (EKDL, LSL, *vide* DJA). Pectoral Sandpipers had an excellent spring migration. In Massachusetts flocks numbered 46 in Marshfield, 34 in Bolton, and 85 in Newburyport (*vide* RPE). Sixteen Pectorals were found in New Hampshire and 26 occurred in Maine. Rare in the Maritimes in spring, a single Pectoral Sandpiper was discovered in the border region of New Brunswick in late April (BMcT SIT). Seasonally the rarest shorebird reported was a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Milford Pt., Conn., May 8 (NSP). This constitutes the first state record and is only the second spring regional occurrence. Two Curlew Sandpipers, the first in breeding and the second in winter plumage, were found at Milford Pt., Conn. in mid- and late April respectively. A Curlew Sandpiper was at Newburyport May 26–28 (*vide* RPE) Stilt Sandpipers reported were singles at Guilford, Conn., Apr. 17 (NSP) and a breeding-plumaged bird at Newburyport,



Willow Ptarmigan, Bailey I., Me., May 14, 1977. Photo by Jan Pierson.

PTARMIGAN, CRANES, GALLINULES—Single Sandhill Cranes were in Baring, Washington Co., Me., Apr. 30 (NR *et al.*) and Great Village, N.S., May 2 (Enid Cooper, *vide*

Apr. 10–May 14 (RRV). Ruffs reported numbered six, four in e. Massachusetts and two in Connecticut.

JAEGERS, SKUAS, GULLS—Eleven Pomarine and two ad. Parasitic Jaegers were identified off George's Bank in late May (*vide* TLL-E). Elsewhere, two Parasitics were seen near Seal I., N.S., May 21–22 (ELM, PDV).

The skua confusion/controversy continues unabated. An unambiguous South Polar Skua was seen at Cox's Ledge, R.I., May 27 (NSP, CW *et al.*), this being the first *incontestable* record for the state. Salient features noted were "wing patches—more extensively white and the nape of the neck which was white—distinctly white (NSP)." The M.B.O. George's Bank trip reported ten skua sp. and in a later trip to George's Bank Dick Veit saw as many as 25 skuas, most if not all, he believes to be South Polar (photographs and further details to appear in the Nesting Season report). Late Glaucous Gulls included two birds whipped into Cape Cod Bay May 10 (WRP) and a second year bird seen in Newport, Me., May 28 (PDV). An ad. Mew Gull was seen with Ring-billed in St. John harbor, N.B., May 20 (PDV), apparently providing a fourth provincial record. Inexplicable were two circling Franklin's Gulls at Cox's Ledge May 27 (NSP, CW *et al.*), furnishing a first state record. Concluding the Ivory Gull bonanza noted in the Winter Season report, were six, the last of the season, seen off L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld., Mar. 14 (BMcT).

TERNs, SKIMMERS, ALCIDS—An Arctic Tern at Milford Pt., Conn., May 14 constitutes a first sight record by more than three observers (Fred Sibley *et al.*, *vide* NSP). Caspian Terns were especially scarce with no more than eight individuals counted; five from Massachusetts and three from Rhode Island. Considered early were 15 Black Terns in Jerusalem, R.I., Apr. 27 (DW, *vide* CW) and unusual for s. Connecticut was a single Black Tern in Greenwich May 29 (T. Baptist, *vide* TB). The season's only Black Skimmer was seen at Plymouth Beach, Mass., May 27 (*vide* RPE). The last remnants of the extraordinary Razorbill and Thick-billed Murre incursion departed the region in late March, very few alcids being seen by early April (BN). Noteworthy were three Razorbills at Sandy Neck, Barnstable, Apr. 24 (*vide* RPE), a single Com. Puffin in Provincetown Apr. 2 (*vide* RPE) and a Com. Murre in Casco Bay, Me., Mar. 27 (PDV *et al.*).



Immature Saw-whet Owl, Marlborough, Conn., April, 1977. Photo by Thomas Bradbury.

OWLS—Barn Owls nested successfully on Martha's Vineyard with two young observed (*vide* RPE). Late-lingering Snowy Owls included one at Leominster, Mass., Apr. 11 (*vide* RPE) and a late bird at Presque Isle, Me. on the re-

markable date of May 30 (John McLennan, *vide* WGi). Certainly the most noteworthy owl record comes from Connecticut where a pair of Saw-whet Owls was found nesting near Marlborough (HJM *et al.*). This is apparently only the second or third nesting record for the state, although the retiring habits of the species make it quite likely that previous nestings have been undetected.



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Old Lyme, Conn., May 18, 1977. Photo by William Burt.

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS—A Pileated Woodpecker, rare in s.e. Massachusetts, was noted in Halifax May 8 (WRP). A single Red-bellied Woodpecker occurred in Bass Harbor, Me., May 17 (*vide* WCT). One Red-bellied and only three Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported from Massachusetts. Rare for the province was a Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker seen this spring near Winter R., P.E.I. Even more unusual was a N. Three-toed in the same locality observed in February (Kevin Hughes). Another N. Three-toed was studied near Douglas, N.B., Mar. 6 (MHS, *vide* DSC). Strikingly early, perhaps without precedent, was an E. Kingbird, closely observed, in Orono, Me. Apr. 2 (NF). A W. Kingbird, rare in spring, was fully described from Falls Village, Conn., Apr. 10 (Mary Moore *vide* NSP). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was in Old Lyme, Conn. May 17–22 (CG *et al.*, *vide* WB). Acadian Flycatchers appear to have spread from their lone breeding area at Devil's Hop yard S.P., Conn.; two singing males were noted near N Windham (RJC), one pair was territorial near Greenwich (*vide* TB), a singing male was found in Stonington (CW) and five Acadians, four banded at M.B.O., were identified in e. Massachusetts. Although this report is written too early for breeding confirmation there seems little doubt that this species is expanding and strengthening its position throughout Connecticut and possibly e. Massachusetts. Northernmost Willow Flycatchers were three reported from New Hampshire the first in Exeter May 22 (DJA, HWP) and a pair found in Amherst May 28 (WVG, *vide* DJA). A pair of very early Bank Swallows was studied in Orono, Me., Apr. 6 (NF). The only Rough-winged Swallows reported in the Maritimes were two birds found on Seal I., N.S., May 23 (ELM *et al.*).

CROWS, WRENS—Three Fish Crows in the Hartford area May 15, present for the second successive year, are strongly suspected of breeding (PJD). Fish Crows in New Hampshire have apparently increased to ten birds, five observed in E. Kingston Apr. 16 (DWF) and on the same date another five were in Kingston (EWP). Carolina Wrens wintered without serious losses along the Connecticut and Massachusetts coastlines but inland, numbers in Connecticut are reported to be severely reduced (RJC). A single Short-billed Marsh Wren was heard singing May 22–28 in Old Lyme

Conn , but apparently the bird did not remain in the area to breed (WB).

MIMIDS THROUGH SHRIKES—Brown Thrashers were again noted on Seal I., N.S., May 20–23 (ELM *et al.*). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers are considered “abundant” in Connecticut (NSP) and in higher-than-usual numbers in Massachusetts; the northernmost individual was a bird on Monhegan I., Me. in late May (TM, *vide* JC). The last Bohemian Waxwings reported were nine birds in Lincoln Center, Me., Mar 17 (PDV), 20 birds from Debec, N.B., Mar. 23 and a surprising 71 in Frederickton, Apr. 14 (*vide* DSC). This last flock, probably the largest of the winter, was notably late in departing. Loggerhead Shrikes remain one of the region’s scarcest birds. This spring only six were reported; three in Massachusetts and three in Maine.

VIREOS, WARBLERS—Two White-eyed Vireos, being seen with slowly increasing frequency in the state, were identified in s. Maine. The first was on Bailey I., May 7 (PKD) and the second was seen and heard in Brunswick in mid-May (*vide* PKD). A rarity in the province, Yellow-throated Vireo was banded on Brier I., N.S., May 26. Two Philadelphia Vireos, less rare but nonetheless notable, were banded at the same location (MA, RA, *vide* SC).

Although the warbler migration was widely considered unimpressive the number of rarities north of their usual limits is startling. Single Prothonotary Warblers were in Durham, Conn , Apr. 25 (NSP) and Provincetown May 12 (N. Mazzarese, *vide* RRV). Worm-eating Warblers were common throughout Connecticut (RJC). A single Worm-eating Warbler was found on Seal I., N.S., May 18 (BCS *et al.*). Apparently Golden-winged Warblers were relatively scarce in Connecticut (RJC), a single individual was found as far n. as Mt. Desert I., Me. in mid-May (*vide* NF). The northernmost Blue-winged Warbler was a lone individual in West Bath, Me., May 16 (JP, LP, *vide* PKD). A single Lawrence’s and three Brewster’s hybrids were reported from Connecticut (*vide* NSP). A surprising five Brewster’s occurred in e. Massachusetts (*vide* RPE). Certainly the most startling warbler of the season was the ad. ♂ Hermit Warbler found at East Rock Park, New Haven, May 1–2 (RLE *et al.*). Clearly a first state record, this is only the third regional occurrence, the two previous birds, identifiably different individuals, on Sable I., N.S., May and June, 1975. Cerulean Warblers were widespread in Connecticut with singing males at New Haven (1), East Haddam (3), Kent (4), Hadlyme (1), and N. Windham (3). Farther north two individuals were identified in e. Massachusetts, a single bird occurred on Monhegan I., Me. (*vide* JC) and farthest north was an individual on Seal I., N.S., May 18 (BCS *et al.*).

No less than six Yellow-throated Warblers were identified in Massachusetts this spring—three each in April and May (*vide* RPE). A Yellow-throated Warbler, thought to be *albiflora*, was in Newport Neck, R.I., Apr. 16–18 (RS, *vide* CW). A Louisiana Waterthrush on Sable I., N.S., May 18–19 (IAMcL *et al.*) provided the only record of this species much north of its normal breeding range. There were a staggering six, quite possibly eight, Kentucky Warblers in e. Massachusetts, two in s. Connecticut, two in Rhode Island, and a single bird was banded in Cushing, Me., May 22 (JC). Connecticut Warblers are virtually unknown in the region in spring so two birds in Pembroke, Me., May 10–16 (NR *et al.*) are extraordinary. If the birds had not been meticulously described and the song carefully identified, such a record would be difficult to accept, as such it should be considered hypothetical. Not far from Pembroke, a possible Connecticut Warbler was identified in Tracy, N.B., May 17 (ES,

vide DSC). Possible confusion among the Oporornis warblers and variations in Mourning Warblers being what they are, identifiable photographs of spring Connecticut Warblers would undoubtedly help resolve the uneasy feelings shared by many careful observers and a skeptical editor. The northernmost Hooded Warbler was a single bird on Bailey I., Me., May 18 (FA, *vide* PKD).

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS—The region’s only Yellow-headed Blackbird was a male in Kingston, R.I., Mar. 8 (DW, *vide* CW). Orchard Orioles were especially widespread this year, and even considered common throughout Connecticut. Four to six birds were found in Maine and three in Nova Scotia, one each on Seal, Brier and Sable Is. (*vide* PRD). Especially interesting was a “Bullock’s x Baltimore” hybrid seen in Connecticut May 1. The bird was described as “looking closer to Baltimore, but with big (white) wing patches and singing a Bullock’s song (NSP).” Two Rusty Blackbirds were found nesting in Savoy, in w. Massachusetts but apparently this nest was abandoned May 15. Not far away another nesting pair with four eggs was found in Florida, Mass., and is believed to be a first nesting record for the state (RF, BH *et al.*) Summer Tanagers in the region included seven in e. Massachusetts (*vide* RRV) and two in Maine (*vide* WCT).

FRINGILLIDS—The incursion of Blue Grosbeaks in the region was notable both for numbers (at least 10) and for widespread distribution. All birds appeared from mid-April to early May. Four were found in e. Massachusetts (*vide* RRV), three occurred in e. Maine (*vide* WCT) and especially noteworthy were the three birds in Nova Scotia, a male and female in Liverpool and a male in Middle Musquodoboit (*vide* PRD). Indigo Buntings were again numerous and widespread this spring. Unusually early birds included singles at West Pubnico, N.S., Apr. 5 (RD’E, *vide* PRD) and E. Sullivan, Me., Apr. 6–9 (*vide* WCT), and three in St. John, N.B., Apr 6 (*vide* DSC). The only Dickcissel of the season was a bird in Billerica, Mass., Apr. 8 (*vide* RPE). Pioneering House Finches presage the spread of this species farther north and east. Single individuals were found in Damariscotta, Me., May 1 (WSE) and in Sorrento, Me., Apr. 26 (WCT). Previously House Finches have bred as far north as Biddeford Pool. This spring a sizable population, undoubtedly breeding birds, has been established in Brunswick (PKD). During March and April four Hoary Redpolls were carefully identified near L’Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld. (BMcT) and a bird thought to be this species was found on Sable I., N.S., Apr. 18 (IAMcL, *vide* PRD).

An early Grasshopper Sparrow was observed in Durham, N.H., May 4 (CAF, *vide* DJA), one was banded in Brunswick, Me. in late May (*vide* PKD) and very unusual was a single bird on Seal I., N.S., May 17–21 (BCS *et al.*). A rare spring Lark Sparrow was in Provincetown May 15 (CAG, BN). The only Clay-colored Sparrows of the season were two on Monhegan I., Me., May 15 (TM, *vide* BBC); though rare anywhere in the region the species has been previously recorded at that locality in spring. White-crowned Sparrows were especially common this season, many individuals remaining until late May. The only White-crowned (Gambel’s) Sparrow was an individual on Monhegan I., May 15 (BBC). Extraordinary by any standards was the ad. Golden-crowned Sparrow seen and photographed at Turtle L., Queens Co., N.S., May 8 (NB *et al.*). The only previous provincial and regional record was of a bird on Sable I., Oct., 1967. Especially wary, the bird appeared notably disoriented before it departed May 15. A breeding-plumaged Lapland Longspur on Sable I., N.S., May 17–21 (IAMcL, *vide* PRD) was unusually late

EXOTICS—Problematic in origin was an imm. ♂ Eur. Greenfinch photographed in St. John, N.B., Mar. 31–Apr. 3 (CJ, *vide* DSC). Since it is unlikely a caged bird in that area one wonders if it is an escapee, a natural vagrant, or an assisted (perhaps by boat or plane) vagrant. Conventional wisdom declares all such finches escaped caged birds but the question arises if a domesticated caged bird could survive brisk March and April weather in New Brunswick. Also who would want a drab, imm. male as a caged bird?

Equally perplexing are the Eur. Goldfinch reports, especially a bird seen in Sorrento, Me. in late April (*vide* WCT). The distinctive plumage variations of this particular bird lead observers to believe that the same individual has returned to the Sorrento area for four of the last five years, each time in late April with migrating Am. Goldfinches. The Long Island population having vanished many years ago, subjective analysis again declares current sightings as escapees. However if individuals can survive, unaided, for long periods of time, as may be the case of the Sorrento individual, can all such sightings be easily dismissed?

LATE REPORTS—One hopes it will not be necessary to rely on this section too frequently. In it will be listed, without comment, any especially noteworthy records received too late for the appropriate season. A Franklin's Gull was seen on Cape Sable I., N.S., Jan. 8 (MBS, *vide* RGG) and two Sabine's Gulls were seen at the same location Dec. 28–Jan. 19 (MBS, *vide* RGG).

CORRIGENDUM—The Brewer's Blackbird photographed in Lockeport, N.S., Jan. 3–23, 1977, does not constitute a first confirmed provincial record, there being at least one (possibly more) previous Brewer's Blackbirds photographed in Nova Scotia.

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QUÉBEC REGION

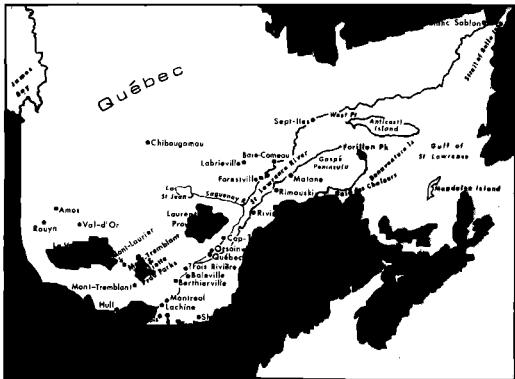
/ Normand David and Michel Gosselin

March and April offered similar weather patterns: the unusually warm days of the first half of each month were followed by a much colder period. May was very dry and hot, causing numerous and untimely forest fires. Temporary droughts hit rural areas. Except for several record early arrivals in March, and a small-scale invasion of Turkey Vultures in April, no unusual ornithological events marked the season. All in all it was a most normal spring migration. The almost complete lack of weather conditions that

could have grounded migrants explains observers' comments on a dull migration of songbirds in May.

GREBES THROUGH IBISES—Some 150 Horned Grebes and six Red-necked Grebes appeared on R. des Prairies, Montréal, May 2 (FH), probably one of the highest counts ever in the region. Only 25 active nests of Great Blue Herons were counted on Heron I., Montréal, Apr. 27 (JLD), one sixth of the 1970 total; however, the number of Black-crowned Night Heron nests on this island (c.150) has remained unchanged for at least 10 years. An ad. Little Blue Heron, a first spring occurrence in Québec, was feeding near Rigaud May 21–28 (BB, MM). Four Cattle Egrets were present at Henryville Apr. 21 (RP); single birds were also found at Boucherville May 3 (T. Labelle) and, surprisingly, at L. Taureau in the Laurentians May 22 (FH). Other southern herons included a Snowy Egret at Rimouski May 21 (JPL) and Ile du Moine May 28 (BB *et al.*), a Great Egret at Pike River May 7 (FH *et al.*), and ten Glossy Ibises off Pt. aux Trembles (St. Francis Valley Naturalist Club, *vide* PB).

WATERFOWL—As last year, a "Black" Brant was found at Rimouski May 27 (J. Larivée). A White-fronted Goose recorded at Henryville, Apr. 3–16 (BB, MM) appeared to be of the Greenland subspecies (*A. a. flavirostris*); another (?) White-fronted, present at Ottawa, Ont., Apr. 23–26, was also seen at Aylmer, Qué., across the Ottawa R. (D. Carlisle). A possible Snow × Canada Goose hybrid (similar to the latter, with a smudged necklace, a pink-tinged bill and a "Barnacle"



type hood) was noted at Québec City, Apr. 17 (PL *et al.*), and a Mallard \times Pintail turned up at Maskinongé Apr. 30 (ND) A pair of Mallards in the L. Bienville area, c. 600 mi n. of Montréal May 17 (JPS, RB) was a striking example of the presence of Mallards in the Black Duck stronghold.

Over 100 Green-winged Teal, also in the L. Bienville area May 16 (JPS, RB), were noteworthy, since breeding is questioned in this part of the province. The ninth and tenth "Common" Teals of this region were reported from Henryville Apr. 11 (BB *et al.*). Incidentally, there are more records of this form here since 1973, when it lost its species status, than before (all the records are since 1965). However, the pattern of Eur. Wigeon occurrences is more easily related to the increased number of observers: an average of two birds per year in the 70s, one per year in the 60s, and one per 7 years 1900–1960. This spring, single drakes were noted at South R., Apr. 19 (S. Lemieux), Isle Verte Apr. 30 (R. Fortin), and Montréal May 2–29 (JLD, m.ob.). Early birds recorded during the mid-March "wave" included a Blue-winged Teal at St Paul I.-aux-Noix, Mar. 16 (JS) and two Wood Ducks at Pt Fortune, Mar. 10 (GH), both were record first arrivals. An influx of Redheads was noticed in L. St-Jean this season, with some 20 birds involved (*vide* NB). Also noteworthy among Anatidae outside their usual range were a pair of Buffleheads at L. Bienville May 15, and eight Harlequin Ducks in the same general area May 21 (JPS, RB).

RAPTORS—The recent upsurge of Turkey Vultures was obvious again this year, c. 15 birds being sighted (all but three in April), ranging from Shawville to Charlesbourg; the number of spring reports in the period 1970–76 have been 1-0-0-8-9-11-5. One wonders where all these birds are going, since summer reports are very few. Probably because of the still weather the hawk migration went almost unnoticed across the province; the largest flock reported for a single species was 38 Red-tailed Hawks at I. Perrot Apr. 15 (MM). An occupied nest of Red-taileds found at St. Anicet Apr. 30 (PC) seems to be only the second in the Montréal area; an ad. Red-tailed at L. Bienville May 16–20 was by far the northernmost published record for the province (JPS, RB). A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks nested for the first time at L. St-Jean, considerably n. of their normal range; unfortunately their eggs were destroyed by crows (NB).

COOTS THROUGH TERNS—An Am. Coot caught alive at Lotbinière Mar. 13 (*vide* D. Lever) and an Am. Woodcock seen at Ville St-Laurent Mar. 11 (MH) were two record early species related to the warm temperatures of March. Eleven Purple Sandpipers were reported May 22 from Alma (MS), an inland locality n. of their usual stop in the St. Lawrence estuary. Pike River saw the only Marbled Godwit of the season, May 7 (FH *et al.*). The ever increasing Wilson's Phalarope was at two new and highly suitable localities: Maskinongé May 8 (JR) and Boucherville I. (*vide* PB); a flock of 14 was turned up at Baieville May 22 (DC) and many were also present in L. St-Jean (*vide* NB). Off Carillon I., an ad. Long-tailed Jaeger was observed May 27 (EG, BL); while at Beauharnois a Laughing Gull occurred Apr. 30 (D. Bellemare). Arctic Terns appeared again inland; some 60 birds were reported at the mouth of the Ottawa R., May 27 (EG, BL), and an unspecified number near Hull the same day (*vide* RMP). The landfall of northbound Arctic Terns seems restricted to late May and early June, and the Ottawa valley looks like a favored spot (see *Can. Field Nat.* 87:51–52). At Sabrevois, a Black Tern watched on Apr. 2 was three weeks earlier than the previous record arrival date (GT)

OWLS—For the second consecutive year a brood of Screech Owls was raised at Summit Park, in the middle of Canada's largest city (MA, m.ob.). At Nuns' I., a **Burrowing Owl** was studied at close range for one half hour May 14 (GS); the observer gave a complete description emphasizing the long legs, short tail, yellow eyes and bill, black collar, white longitudinal stripe dividing the breast spotting, etc This would be a third Québec occurrence, a bird having been present at Arvida, L. St-Jean, Sept. 26–Nov. 7, 1959, and another taken at Matagami, Abitibi Co., May 10, 1971

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GNATCATCHERS—The record of two Willow Flycatchers near Sherbrooke in the Eastern Townships, May 21–27 (PB), is not at all unexpected, since the species can be found in s.w. Québec without too much difficulty when one knows its favored habitat. There is only one other record (previously unpublished) in the Townships: four birds near Granby in June, 1974 (*vide* JL) A pair of Rough-winged Swallows building a nest at Rivière-du-Loup May 30 (BC, JLD, JL) set an easternmost breeding record, and was one of the very few sightings in that area since the species' establishment in the province in the late 1950s. Single Mockingbirds at Hull May 28, and Thurso May 22 (*vide* RMP), and a pair at Pointe-des-Monts May 30 (FL), are indicative of the numerous sightings all along the St. Lawrence Valley. The E. Bluebird and the Loggerhead Shrike, both already moving in at the end of March, were however reported less frequently in April than the Mockingbird which arrives mainly in early May. Only one Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was reported this year, at Breckenridge May 22 (J. Harrisson)

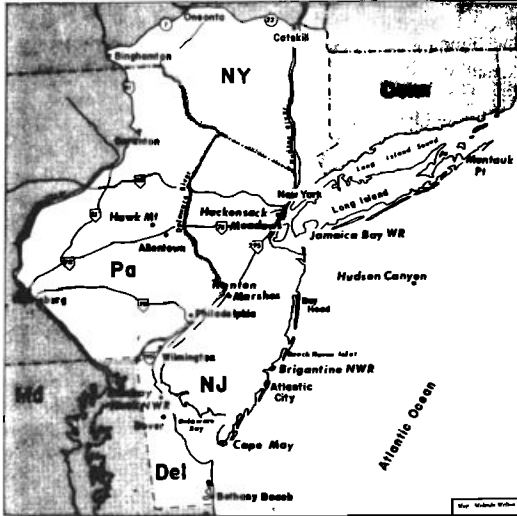
VIREOS THROUGH SPARROWS—The bird of the season was undoubtedly the very early White-eyed Vireo which frequented a Montréal woodlot Apr. 27–May 25 (CD, RM, m.ob.); the same or another bird was seen May 26 on Mt Royal (JH), only a few miles away. Photographic evidence (on file, Nat. Museum of Canada) was secured to document this second provincial occurrence, the first having been recorded in fall (*Can. Field Nat.* 88:360; *AB* 26:38). It must be noted that the July, 1924 sight record (*Auk* 43:524) is better disregarded (see *Auk* 44:154–5). Golden-winged Warblers were turned up at their summering localities: 7–8 birds near L. LaPêche, Gatineau P. P., May 22 (*vide* RMP), and a male at Philipsburg May 15 (BB, MM). A Grasshopper Sparrow at Eardley, near Hull, in May (*vide* RMP) represented one of the very few reports from that general area (offering suitable breeding habitat) since the first record in June, 1898 D Banville visited Great Pilgrim I., May 20–22, and failed to record Fox Sparrows, which were in evidence in 1975 and 1976 The chain of islands stretching along the s. shore of the St. Lawrence R., from Kamouraska to Rimouski, is the host of the species; it has been recorded on the Pilgrims, the Brandy Pots and Cacouna Is. (see *AFN* 6:277).

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HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

/ Robert O. Paxton, P. A. Buckley, and David A. Cutler

Following one of the most punishing winters on record, spring in this region was dry with above-average temperatures. Vegetation developed precociously, and there were many individual early arrivals. (See Black Skimmer, Common Nighthawk, swallows, House Wren, and warblers below.) These instances prompted some observers to term the season an early one.



The bulk of migrants, however, seems to have moved with several relatively late warm fronts, the largest of which produced classic "big days" on May 5-6 and 14-16 along the coast (less so in the interior). These warm fronts, in turn, were interrupted by incursions of cold air masses that held migrants back. Migration was still apparent in mid-June, well after the end of the reporting period. Other observers, therefore, called it a late season. In fact, it was an "on and off" season (RB) with much local variation and fluctuation attributed to weather.

The main interruption was a cold front following a coastal storm May 9-11, which lowered the New York City temperature to a near-record 36°F on May 9 and brought snow to higher ground, up to 10-12 inches of it in the mountains around Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Migrants paused or even retreated (see swallows). A spectacular rush followed this cold interlude, at least along the coast. On May 14, BCH found six species of vireos and 27 species of warblers at Manahawkin N.W.R., New Jersey. Forest Park, Queens, was a carnival May 15 as dozens of brilliant male warblers dashed nervously to drink at a small pool.

Most observers looked for evidence of last winter's mortality. Tropical migrants had not been affected, of course, and, except for hummingbirds, their numbers seemed good. It was several recently expanding half-hardy species that aroused concern. Carolina Wren was the species most often singled out. Some observers also feared that bitterns, rails, sapsuckers, Eastern Phoebe, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, and Eastern Bluebird had suffered losses. All too often these assessments were impressionistic. We shall cite numerical evidence where it was furnished to us. But it must be said that assessments were not unanimous for any species, that no species was altogether eliminated from its northern outposts in the region, and that some recently advancing half-hardy species—Red-bellied Woodpecker, for example—

seemed altogether unfazed by the winter. Even Brant, whose winter difficulties elicited much public comment but little hard evidence last season, appeared "in good numbers" along the New Jersey coast in late May (PWS). In short, our censusing techniques are still too primitive for a fine-grained measurement of winter kill from the vantage point of the succeeding spring. Only repeated Breeding Bird Censuses or, in the case of Brant, successive winter counts, will offer the requisite numerical comparisons with past seasons. Even if winter kill turns out to have been substantial, we suspect that where habitat is intact recuperation will be rapid in normally fecund populations. One of the regional editors, while working on this column in a neighboring state, was shown the vigor of that recuperative fertility by a female Eastern Phoebe well on her way to fledging her third successful large brood of the season.

Highlights of the season include White-faced Ibis, White fronted Goose, Bar-tailed Godwit, Western Kingbird, Townsend's Warbler, Boat-tailed Grackle, Painted Bunting, and European Goldfinch.

LOONS, GREBES—Common Loon migration along the ridges reached its seasonal high Apr. 15, when 217 passed PD's hawk watch on Raccoon Ridge, Warren Co., N.J. A remarkable inland count was 124 Apr. 26 at Marsh Creek S.P., Eagle, Pa. (B&FH). While this region's late winter incursion of Red-necked Grebes hardly matched New England's inundation, unusual numbers lingered into spring. Exceptional inland birds were at Marsh Creek S.P., Pa., Mar 20 (RC) and White L., Warren Co., N.J., Apr. 8 (FPW); late were singles at Atlantic City Res., Apr. 4-14 (JDD) and at Democrat Pt., L.I., Apr. 25 (AJL). Very high concentrations of Horned Grebe were 225 at Pleasantville, N.J., Mar. 27 (JDD) and 90 inland at Struble L., Pa., in mid-March (LL).

S.A.

The outstanding rarity of the season was a White-faced Ibis[†] discovered Apr. 17 at Brigantine N.W.R., N.J. by J. Galli and J. Pankala and rediscovered by them for further study Apr. 21 at nearby Tuckerton. Their impeccable description, complete with the diagnostic red eyes and lores as well as the white-feathered "face," left no room for doubt, and made one wonder only whether others might have been overlooked now that Glossy Ibises have become commonplace. This is a first regional record, and the fourth for the east, following two old Buffalo area specimens (1844, 1908) and a previously unpublished report of a breeding-plumaged adult at Pea Island N.W.R., N.C. in mid-May 1973 (J. Williamson, pers. comm.). We note that the species has recently been discovered breeding e. to coastal Alabama (AB 30:966).

TUBENOSES TO IBISES—Northern Fulmars, unknown off our region a decade ago, can now be numerous around the fishing fleets well offshore, at least in the colder months. No less than 27 were at Hudson Canyon, 85 mi e.s.e. of Barnegat Light, N.J., Mar. 5 (AB *et al.*). The only later spring record was two at Hudson Canyon May 22 (AB, CWy, RRA *et al.*). Area pelagic specialists are wondering how the removal of foreign fishing fleets beyond the new 200-mi limit will affect the concentration of pelagic birds, especially scavengers like fulmars. As late May shearwater and jaeger reports form a unit with early summer observations, they are deferred to the next issue for fuller study.

Twelve Cattle Egrets near L. De Forest, Rockland Co

N Y , May 5 (A. Heinsohn) was a high inland count. Since the first county record in 1960, no more than two birds at a time had been seen there (RFD). Yellow-crowned Night Herons nested for a second successive year at Rye, N.Y., this time two pairs strong (M.F.N.), while six on May 28 were unprecedented at Tinicum N.W.R., near Philadelphia (B&FH), where there is usually one pair.

WATERFOWL—Several individuals of one of the mallard-sized Canada Goose races were reported this season: one in Dutchess County, N.Y., Mar. 27 (†M&JK *et al.*), and two at Marsh Creek S.P., Pa., Mar. 26 (NP). Specimens of both *hutchinsii* (several) and *parvipes* (one) have been taken in the region. Single "Black" Brant, another straggler from the Northwest, were noted Mar. 3 at Riis Park, N.Y.C. (B&W Baumann) and May 12 at Brigantine N.W.R. (PAB). An ad. **White-fronted Goose** at Amenia, Dutchess Co., N.Y., Apr. 10–19, with a flock of annually-arriving wild Canadas (T. Strauss, PA&FGB, m.ob.) appeared to be of the Greenland race and gave every indication of being a wild bird. No less than four apparently wild **White-fronted Geese** were reported from s.e. Pennsylvania where there had been only one previous area record: one for two weeks after Mar. 11 at Landenberg (JL), another after Mar. 12 at Green Lane Res. (AM, RB), and two at L. Ontelaunee Mar. 12–May 7 (MS).

A pair of Green-winged Teal with young May 14 was only the second Dutchess County, N.Y. breeding record (C. Terhune *et al.*), although this northwesterly species has bred sparingly since 1960 as far s.e. as Long Island, Brigantine N W R. and Bombay Hook N.W.R. Breeding was also reported at a new interior New Jersey location, Whitesbog, Burlington Co. (LL). Gadwall, another western duck that has established local breeding areas on Long Island and in coastal New Jersey and Delaware since the late 1940s, may be colonizing some new inland breeding areas. A pair lingered at Trenton Marsh, N.J., where they have not been known to breed, for a month after Apr. 13 (RB), and one at Wyoming, Pa., May 16 was a month later than wintering birds' normal departure (WR). The usual Eur. Wigeon were reported this season, such as two that lingered at Mecox, L.I. until May 5 (GSR), as well as an unusual inland record Mar. 19 at Spruce Run Res., Hunterdon Co., N.J. (GH).

The high numbers of diving ducks present this season may reflect abnormally southerly wintering in the effort to find open water. Following good winter numbers, Redheads were commoner than usual everywhere, with a high count of 135 at Henlopen, Del., Mar. 6 (JL, PGD). Exceptional counts of Ring-necked Ducks included 125 at Assunpink Wildlife Area, near Hightstown, N.J., Mar. 10 (WW), 150 at Struble L., Pa., Mar. 26 (NP), some 200 at L. Genevieve, in n.w. New Jersey Mar. 28 (EL, FPW), and 218 at Pine Run L., Doyles, Pa., Apr. 9 (AM). An impressive 3000 Canvasbacks were counted Mar. 6 at Henlopen, Del. (JL, PGD). Greater Scaup peaked Mar. 21 on Brigantine L., at 25,000 (JAK). Three White-winged Scoters over Raccoon Ridge, N.J., Apr. 23 (PD) and four at Huntsville, Pa., Apr. 25 (WR) were spring counterparts of the increasing fall use by sea ducks of inland lakes and rivers. An Amazing 400 Com. Mergansers were at Spruce Run Res., N J , Mar. 12 (JE, RK).

VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES—A few Black Vultures are to be expected in the s. of this region, but more striking was the observation of what were probably two different individuals at Sandy Hook, N.J.: one found Apr. 9–11 by N.P.S. personnel (*vide* D. B. Stone) and another Apr. 18 (WSC). It was the second year in a row for Black Vultures on this outer coastal spit

The establishment of Goshawk as a breeding species in this region continues apace. We have received reports this season of no fewer than four active nests in New York (two in Orange County, first breeding records for that area, RS, RFD; one in Dutchess County, where the species was first discovered breeding in 1970, R.T.W.B.C.; and one in Westchester County, RKe) and an additional territorial pair in Warren County, N.J., where it bred successfully last year (FPW). By contrast, we received reports this season of only one settled pair of Cooper's Hawks, in Warren County, N.J. (PD), and one active Sharp-shinned Hawk nest, in Orange County (RS). The commonly accepted lore that Goshawks are supplanting Cooper's Hawks is reinforced by RFD's recollection of observing a Cooper's Hawk nest in two successive seasons, 1939–40, in "almost the identical spot" as one of the 1977 Orange County Goshawk sites.

Three spring hawk watches were operated daily this season in the region. Tuscarora Summit, near Fayetteville, Pa., was manned 22 days in April (C. Garner). For the second successive spring, PD kept daily counts at Raccoon Ridge, Warren Co., N.J. His grand total of 3838 raptors when he was obliged to stop the count on May 1, was ahead of 1976 tallies in every category except eagles. The third of this season's hawk watches was set up at Sandy Hook, N.J. by WSC to determine the extent of spring coastwise raptor movement, and to see whether any birds banded in previous falls at Cape May might turn up in spring, concentrated on Sandy Hook's northward-projecting spit in a manner analogous to Cape May's effect in fall. A grand total of 4687 raptors observed and 642 banded gave a resounding affirmative answer to the first question. Indeed, the total raptor passage may have been as much as one-third larger than could be seen from the blinds. The second question also received a striking affirmative answer. Four banded hawks were recaptured, all of which had been banded at Cape May in previous falls: three kestrels and one Sharp-shinned Hawk, one kestrel banded in fall 1975 and the other birds in fall 1976. These results give substantial weight to WSC's contention that raptors which pass Cape May in fall form a population distinct from the ridge migrants, with different geographic origins.

The species composition of ridge flights differs considerably from that of coastal flights in fall, as earlier hawk watches have shown. These differences are if anything even more marked in spring. Nearly two-thirds of the raptors that passed Raccoon Ridge were Broad-winged Hawks. Over one-half at Sandy Hook were kestrels (7% at Raccoon Ridge) and another one-fourth were Sharp-shinned Hawks (12% at Raccoon Ridge). As in fall, the coast had far more Cooper's Hawks than the ridge (137 at Sandy Hook; 26 at Raccoon Ridge), and the proportion of Cooper's to Sharp-shinneds was far higher on the coast (137 to 1130 at Sandy Hook, or better than 1:10; 26 to 546 at Raccoon Ridge, or 1:21). Banding ratios at Sandy Hook were even higher, with about one Cooper's for every four Sharp-shinneds, which WSC attributes in part to trap siting. In any event, weight and wing length preclude misidentification of the banded birds.

A regional total of ten Bald Eagle reports was poor, with only one at Raccoon Ridge where seven had been counted last spring. Golden Eagle reports (13) actually outnumbered them. No less than seven were seen at Tuscarora Summit in April, and although there was no systematic daily count at Hawk Mt., Pa., this spring, two Golden Eagles were seen there Apr. 20 (K. Bethwaite, J. Tobias, D. Steffey). Osprey figures

were encouraging everywhere. An excellent 240 were counted at Raccoon Ridge (153 in spring 1976) and 114 at Tuscarora Summit.

Peregrine Falcons were ominously scarce. None was observed in two months at Raccoon Ridge, and only three at Sandy Hook. Elsewhere only one was reported from the whole of s.e. New York State, one from Delaware, and none from this region's portions of Pennsylvania. One at Trenton Marsh Apr. 30 (RB *et al.*) seems to have been the only observation in interior New Jersey. Only in the Brigantine-Tuckerton area were Peregrines noted regularly this spring. Many of these reports doubtless were of the hand-reared birds released last summer, though three or four unmarked birds were presumed migrants (PWS).

TURKEY TO GALLINULES—Several wild Turkeys, including hens with poults, were reported from the Kittatinny Ridge area of New Jersey (FPW, MH, PD), where they are increasing. A Sandhill Crane was found Mar. 29 at two Sussex County, N.J. localities: Ross Corner (G. Johnson) and, presumably the same bird at Newton (D. Adelberg). This vagrant has now been reported somewhere in New Jersey at least once each year since 1969.

Elusive King Rails were present at the entrance to Brigantine N.W.R., May 22 (*vide* PWS) and steadily after May 18 at Millbrook, Dutchess Co., N.Y. (RWS). DAC found it "the worst spring railing season that I have experienced" in Delaware, for all species. He found no Black Rails in three trips to Broadkill Beach. On the other hand, in coastal New Jersey, six-eight were calling after May 15 at Turkey Pt., Cumberland Co., for the first time in several years (DK), and some were also heard at the traditional Manahawkin site. The one Long Island location, which has been somewhat overworked by birders, was nevertheless still occupied this spring (WP). Common Gallinules were estimated diminished by 50% in Trenton Marsh in May (RB). Purple Gallinules had returned by May 16 to their now celebrated n. outpost at Dragon Run Marsh, Delaware City (DAC *et al.*). This notorious wanderer seems to have a propensity to crash in city streets in late spring. One was picked up injured in Harrisburg, Pa., about May 15 (C. Jones) and another in Easton, Pa., on the extraordinary date of June 20 (N. Mutchler), recalling a similar incident following the Eastern warm front last year.

SHOREBIRDS—American Golden Plovers were scarce, with only singles at Brigantine I., Apr. 28 (JAK) and at the Montauk, L.I., dude ranch May 15 (PAB). A Whimbrel with a white rump, presumed to be of one of the palearctic races, was observed at Linwood, N.J., Apr. 21–May 8 for the fifth consecutive spring (JDD). Willets continue to fill in the gap in breeding territory opened up in the 19th century between s. New Jersey and Nova Scotia. They are now common nesters in the marshes e. of Jones Beach S.P., L.I., where the first nest of this century was discovered in 1966, and in Moriches and Shinnecock Inlets, and a pair suspected of breeding this season at Conasonk Pt., Union Beach, Monmouth Co., would, if authenticated, be the first breeding record for the n. New Jersey coast in this century (*vide* PWS). A straggler turned up in Long Island Sound, at Rye, N.Y., Apr. 22 (A. Beall).

A flock of 300 Red Knots in flight at Newton Sq., May 22 (JG) was a number unprecedented in s.e. Pennsylvania. An excellent count of 35 Pectoral Sandpipers near Mt. Holly, N.J., Apr. 5 (*vide* JKM) was typical of reports from inland pools where drought kept water levels low. Exceptional counts of White-rumped Sandpipers included up to six in mid-May at Oak Beach Marsh, L.I. (J. Greenlaw, ROP), 24 at Brigantine May 11, and a remarkable 50 at Little Creek, Del., May 15 (JL). It was the best spring in a number of years for Curlew

Sandpipers, with five birds in four reports, all, as usual, at coastal locations, and all in New Jersey now that the traditional New York sites have been destroyed: Longport May 12, in three-quarters breeding plumage (PAB); two at Heislerville, Cumberland Co., May 22–27 (JDD, KS); Brigantine May 12 (*vide* PAB) and May 27 (*vide* PWS); and S. Amboy in brilliant breeding plumage, May 26–28 (RB, EB *et al.*) That this palearctic species is found more often in spring than in fall in this region may reflect merely its obscure fall appearance. Six-eight W. Sandpipers, a species probably under-reported in spring, were seen in breeding plumage, and heard at J.B.W.R., May 18 (PAB). Three were near Princeton the same day (CL).

Three Marbled Godwits at Brigantine May 29 and a single at Moriches Inlet, L.I., June 3 (PA&FGB, M. Gochfeld) were the only reports for the season. A Bar-tailed Godwit was at the Longport, N.J. sod banks May 7–21 for the fifth time in the last six years (JDD *et mult. al.*). Although Ruffs were found in no exceptional concentrations, a fair number was reported, all at characteristically early dates: one from Apr 28 into early May at Bombay Hook N.W.R. (AM), and up to three at Heislerville, N.J., Mar. 20–Apr. 25 (DK, M. Glaspey). Twelve Wilson's Phalaropes, all in May and all near the coast except for two at Tincin N.W.R. near Philadelphia (NP), was an exceptionally large spring total. Six N. Phalaropes were even more unusual. In addition to coastal birds (DAC, H. Armistead *et al.*) one was at Squibb L., Lawrence, N.J., May 24 (PBA) and a female at a beaver pond in Stokes State Forest, Sussex Co., N.J., May 22 (TH, B. Boyle) was unexpected.

GULLS TO ALCIDS—Adding to the growing e. records of the past decade, two ad. Franklin's Gulls were at Cox's Ledge May 27 (ph. NPr). Of the nine New York records, only two (both in June) could be construed as spring birds (see AB 31:158), though there were seven in May, 1976 in Maryland. Four Black-headed Gulls (Mar. 3–May 3) were relatively few for the season. A major build-up of Little Gulls at Little Creek, Del., reached a peak of 25 on Apr. 3 (H. Todd) while at least five lingered at various Long Island points into mid-May in full breeding plumage.

Two Arctic Terns were impeccably photographed resting on driftwood 56 mi off Barnegat Light May 28 (AB, PWS, D.V.O.C.) for one of the few fully confirmed New Jersey records. One previous spring photograph taken at S. Amboy was published in *Cassinia* 53:39 (1972). Two other Arctic Terns were described in great detail from Cape Henlopen Del., May 30 (JL, PGD), although no photo could be taken for final confirmation. Also at Henlopen the same day were



Arctic Terns, 60 mi e. of Barnegat Light, N.J., May 28, 1977
Photo by Alan Brady.

four Roseate Terns, rarely found ashore now in this region s. of Long Island. Eleven Caspian Terns at J.B.W.R., May 7 (P Bernarth) was an exceptional spring count. An extraordinary **Sandwich Tern** was reported May 24 at Mecox, L.I. (M Cashman), only the second New York spring record and the second unrelated to any tropical storm (cf. AB 29:135 for a June 1, 1974, observation). A very early Black Skimmer was at Brigantine I., Mar. 21 (fide PWS).

While two remarkable Black Guillemots at Manasquan Inlet, N J , Apr. 23 (TK) were the only alcids reported inshore, pelagic trips found good numbers offshore in March, the remnant of the Northeast's strong late winter flight. Five Razorbills and one **Common Puffin** were at Hudson Canyon Mar 5 (AB). At Cox's Ledge, Razorbills were present on all three March trips with a maximum of 13 on Mar. 6 (fide CW). On Mar. 12 a Com. Murre, three Thick-billed Murres (the "commoner" in these waters), a Black Guillemot in breeding plumage (as is frequent at that date) and a **Common Puffin** in winter plumage were an exceptional score there (fide CW).

OWLS TO WOODPECKERS—Barn Owls occupy three of six boxes installed by ST in unused silos in Sussex County, N J He knows of two additional breeding pairs in Sussex County and another in Bergen County. We have reports of six more breeding pairs elsewhere in New Jersey, a small fraction, no doubt, of the actual total, but heartening indeed. In n Nassau County, L.I., OH located 16 sites occupied by single or paired Great Horned Owls. The eight pairs known to have attempted breeding produced a total of nine young, one of them only 96 ft from a college building. According to RFD, Great Horned Owls are supplanting Barred Owls in the Bear Mt., N.Y. area except in deciduous woods at the s. edge of the park. The best owl record of the season was that of a Long-eared Owl nest in Muttontown Preserve, n. Nassau Co , L.I. (A. Lundberg, fide OH).

While up to seven Chuck-will's-widows were calling in late May at their northernmost permanent breeding site at Leed's Pt , near Brigantine, they were absent from Sandy Hook and other occasional n. New Jersey sites. Nevertheless a calling bird in E. Quogue, L.I. in late May (E. Salzman, GSR) seemed settled well e. of the new Long Island breeding locality of the past two years. Although Whip-poor-wills remain abundant in the pine barrens, upland observers report continued declines. Only two were recorded this season in n.e. Pennsylvania where WR remembers counting 14 in a single dawn 15 years ago. An astonishingly early Com. Nighthawk was reported from Harmony, Warren Co., N.J., Mar. 16 (JE), fully two months before normal arrival dates. Another early one reached Kingston, Pa., Apr. 30 (T. Baltimore) and large numbers were in n.e. Pennsylvania by May 6 (WR).

Red-bellied Woodpeckers were found in new areas around Tunkhannock, Pa., where a nest has yet to be discovered (WR). We learn belatedly of the first Rockland County, N.Y., nest discovered in May, 1976 (D. Connor, fide RFD), the culmination of a steady spread since 1968; there had been only two county records prior to 1963. Red-headed Woodpeckers persist as breeders in this region only locally along the s.e. coast. The small colony of two-three pairs remains at Cape May Court House, and four since Apr. 28 at the Atlantis Country Club in Tuckerton suggest a possible new breeding site. Many observers commented upon the apparent scarcity of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS, CORVIDS—Two Western Kingbirds, which would cause no comment in fall, are astonishing in spring. One was at Sandy Hook May 19 (MF), providing a first New Jersey spring record if confirmed; another was inland, to compound the astonishment, at Media,

Pa., also on May 19 (CUA). No less exceptional, although in this case previous records are balanced between spring and fall, was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher seen departing Sandy Hook in the direction of Staten I., May 16, following a major warm front (MF). Although the first E. Phoebe arrived early (Mar. 11 in n.w. New Jersey, Mar. 12 in Westchester County) RB saw only three in the season around Princeton where 50 would have been more normal. While Acadian Flycatchers continue in their frontier outposts at Red Rock, Pa (May 18, WR) and in Dutchess County, three calling males were at a new Dutchess County location in late May (RWS)

Swallows arrived early, with a record Barn Swallow Mar 30 at Hardwick, Warren Co., N.J., a Cliff Swallow at Cape May Mar. 19 (fide PWS), a record Purple Martin at Quogue, L.I., Mar. 2 (K. Helms *et al.*) and others at Cape May Mar 7 & 19 (PWS). Although no reverse migration was witnessed during the May 9-11 cold spell, the snow and cold backed up characteristic concentrations of these weather-sensitive diurnal migrants. Thousands of swallows gathered at the Raritan R., N.J. on May 9-10 (FD, CL) and on May 11 all six species were observed at once in Westchester County, N.Y. (M.F.N.). It was a big season for the diminishing and irregular Cliff Swallow, the "best year I've ever seen in New Jersey" (MH). Fifteen were at Newport, Cumberland Co , N.J., May 9-10 (fide PWS), 49 were recorded on a May 14 "big day" in Dutchess County, where the average is ten (R.T.W.B.C.), and they were "abundant" in the May 9-10 Raritan R. concentration (FD, CL).

Four Com. Ravens at Red Rock, Pa., May 18 (WR, K McGuire), an area with one other recent record, may herald further expansion in the c. Appalachians. Another lingered Mar. 9-30 at Raccoon Ridge, N.J. (PD). Fish Crows are expanding inland as well as coastally. Interesting reports were of over 20 on Apr. 17 at Poughkeepsie (DN) and a suspected breeding pair at Flemington Jct., Hunterdon Co , N J (fide GH).

WRENS TO VIREOS—A very early House Wren was at Brigantine Mar. 19 (fide PWS). Carolina Wrens, whose 1960s decline was popularly attributed to cold winters, was expected to be a major casualty of the freeze of January-February 1977. Some precipitous declines were carefully documented RB could find only one in March-April on 7 mi of Trenton-Princeton canal towpah, an estimated 75-90% decline, three out of four known pairs did not return to breed on D Hartman's New Hope, Pa. property. The species was not extirpated from any n. outposts, however, and Rockland County, N Y , had "more reports than normal" in late May, some of them in new areas (RFD). Dutchess County birds were already into second broods in late May (R.T.W.B.C.).

The Locust Valley, N.Y. Varied Thrush remained until May 5 (Mrs. J. Ward). Although many observers believed E Bluebirds had declined during the hard winter, our reports are too impressionistic to permit any firm conclusions. A singing ♂ White-eyed Vireo established at Millbrook School, Dutchess Co., N.Y. since mid-May (RWS) marks continued expansion up the Hudson.

WARBLERS—Thirty-six species of warblers were reported in the region this spring, only some of which deserve comment. Four Prothonotary Warblers in N.Y.C. parks Apr 24-May 6 were a good number, but although the species nests well n. of this region inland, the males that sang at Wilkes-Barre, Pa., May 7-12 (surviving the snowstorm) (WR) and at Shu Swamp, Nassau Co., L.I., May 13-22 (m.ob.) evidently remained unmated. A Swainson's Warbler Apr 30 at the Bronx Botanical Garden (D. Rafferty *et al.*) appeared to

be about the ninth New York state record and the third there. Two Orange-crowned Warblers were unusual in spring: Media, Pa., May 14 (CUA) and Manahawkin, N.J. the same day (BCH). An early N. Parula arrived at Assunpink Apr. 17 (WW), and the species seemed unusually common in Westchester County (over 20 at one site May 6) and on Long Island where it was second only to Com. Yellow-throat among species banded at Tobay Pond May 19 (ROP).

The warbler of the season was unquestionably the ♂ **Townsend's Warbler** present for only a few hours Apr. 15 at Hempstead Lake S.P., L.I. (B. Spencer, AJL), the seventh for the N.Y.C. area, of which all but two have occurred in spring Cerulean Warblers were rather widespread in small numbers at the n. and e. edges of their range. Two singing males were found in Westchester County in May (M.F.N.). Five were divided between Princeton's Institute Woods and Trenton Marsh, N.J., May 10–15 (*vide* RB) and two were along the New Jersey coast where they are uncommon (*vide* PWS) The spring's one Cerulean Warbler at Wilkes-Barre was singing during the May 9 snowfall (WR). The somewhat similarly distributed Yellow-throated Warbler was even more widely reported at the n. limit of its range than last spring with nine in the N.Y.C. area Apr. 14–May 16, but none n. of N Y C. and none along the coast. Blackpoll Warblers were still migrating June 11–12 in s.e. Pennsylvania (KR, JG), as is often the case, but a June 8 Blackburnian Warbler in Carpenter's Woods, Philadelphia (KR) was unprecedented.

A very early Kentucky Warbler was at Rye, N.Y., Apr. 23 (TWB). Although less common in n. New Jersey than in recent springs, this species continues to press at its n. limits. One was at Wilkes-Barre May 27 (WR) and another at Great Gull I off Orient Pt., L.I., May 1 (*vide* R. Pasquier). An *Oporornis* warbler banded June 5, at Fire I. Light, L.I. (D. Ford) whose damaged tail feathers precluded measurement of the wing-tail ratio, was identified from photographs by W Lanyon as a "probable" Connecticut. The species is a very rare spring migrant in this region. Though Yellow-breasted Chats remained highly localized in the n. sections of the region, there were more reports than usual in n. New Jersey (RB, RK), Westchester County (at least four singing males, TWB), and elsewhere in s.e. New York.

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS—This spring's Bobolink migration was the largest in many years. Flocks of 3–400 were reported from Delaware and s.e. Pennsylvania, while up to 600 were present at Lamington, Somerset Co., N.J., May 7–21 (RK), some of which remained to breed. Bobolinks were noted in several forested localities feeding on inchworms and singing from the forest canopy. The only known colony in Westchester County, however, at Purchase, is down to one male and five females (M.F.N.). Orchard Orioles returned Apr. 29 to the E. Millstone, N.J. yard where the species has bred for 45 consecutive years (J&M Jubon). The Trenton, N.J. "big day" had a good count of 15 Orchard Orioles May 14. A ♂ **Boat-tailed Grackle** lingered at J.B.W.R., Apr. 12–22 (JA, m ob.), but no breeding locality n. of Brigantine I. is as yet known to us.

Summer Tanagers returned in mid-May to their one known breeding location in the region, at Dividing Creek, Cumberland Co., N.J. (DK) and another seen after May 19 at Cold Spring, Cape May Co., may mark a new breeding area. Wandering individuals to the north were somewhat less numerous than in recent years, with only four in the N.Y.C.—L.I. area May 1–June 4 (H. Hirschbein, P. Bernarth, J & M Yrizarry, AJL), and none n. of there.

GROSBEAKS TO BUNTINGS—The sparsely distributed Blue Grosbeak seems to be consolidating its hold in n New

Jersey, with a pair at Assunpink (WW) and three territorial males in the Hackensack Marshes (RK). Single pioneers were at Forest Park, Queens May 10 (NW) and at Jones Beach S.P., L.I., May 13–14 (AJL, ROP), both characteristically subadult males. An apparently subadult ♂ **Painted Bunting** was studied and heard singing in Forest Park, Queens May 10–11 (NW, THD), one of several recent N.Y.C. area records Several Dickcissels lingered at feeders. One was at Fords, near Woodbridge, N.J. for several days after Mar. 18 (J Nestel), and, at Salem, Westchester Co., a wintering bird had acquired full breeding plumage when last seen after the feeding stopped in late May (ph.—L. Blum, F. Mantlick) We have no report of any pair settled in this region, however. Virtually no winter finches appeared in the region except a few returning Evening Grosbeaks, as was to be expected after last winter's death.

S.A.

A **European Goldfinch** turned up Mar. 28–30 at a feeder in Brookhaven, Suffolk Co., L.I. where, we now learn belatedly, one had been present for some time last fall (GSR). This site is at least 50 mi. e. of Massapequa Park, in s. Nassau Co., the species' last-known Long Island breeding area, where birds were seen again two years ago. This, in turn, is at least 12 mi from the Muttontown Preserve in n. Nassau Co., where the release of some captive birds was observed in 1976 (AB 30:822). Contrary to the statement in *Birding* 9:42 (1977), the release site and the former breeding site are not close to one another. Since Eur. Goldfinches have occurred historically on Long Island both as naturalized breeders and as escaped or released captives, and since there have been increased reports in recent years, the Brookhaven location needs close observation

A Lark Sparrow in full breeding plumage, rare here in spring, was at Lenape Park, Westfield, N.J., May 17 (D. Knowlton) Another migrant far less rare in fall than in spring, a Clay-colored Sparrow, was singing in Forest Park, Queens May 12–15 (ph.—TWB, NW, THD). Now that this species breeds e. into Ontario and W. New York, more spring records are to be anticipated here.

UNCONFIRMED REPORTS—The meticulous description furnished us of a possible Le Conte's Sparrow at Montauk Pt., May 7 does not exclude Grasshopper Sparrow. Observers should be aware that Grasshopper Sparrows as well as Le Conte's Sparrows have purplish napes and white crown lines, a fact not given due emphasis in either the text or illustrations of most field guides. Subadult Grasshopper Sparrows may also retain some streaking on the flanks. Le Conte's Sparrow continues to be a major field identification problem in this region

OBSERVERS—(sub-regional compilers in boldface) Jim Akers (JAK), Jim Ash, C. U. Atkinson, Pete Bacinski (PBA), Louis Beck, Ray Blicharz, Edwin Bloor, Alan Brady, Robert Brody (RB), F. G. Buckley, T. W. Burke (Westchester Co., N.Y.: 26 Onondaga St., Rye, N.Y. 10580), W. S. Clark, Robert Cook, David A. Cutler (s.e. Pa., s. N.J., Del.: address below), J. D. Danzenbaker, Thomas H. Davis, Jr. (s.e. N.Y., L I 9446 85th Rd., Woodhaven, N.Y. 11421), Robert F. Deed (Rockland Co., N.Y.: 50 Clinton Ave., Nyack, N.Y. 10960), Frank Deis, P. G. DuMont, Peter Dunne, J. Ebner, Michael Fahay, Florence Germond, Jesse Grantham, Barbara and Frank Haas, T. Halliwell, Greg Hanisek, Michael Hannisian, Otto Heck, B. C. Hiatt, Edwin Johnson, Richard Kane (n N J Scherman Wildlife Sanctuary, Box 693, Bernardsville,

N.J. 07924), Richard Kelly (RKe), Mary and Jim Key, Timothy Koebel, Don Kunkle, A. J. Lauro, Charles Leck, Jay Lehman, Larry Lewis, J. K. Merritt, Brad Merritt, A. Mirabella, Nick Pulcinella, Rick Radis (RRa), Gilbert S. Raynor, William Reid (n.e. Pa.: 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18702), Keith Russell, Richard Ryan, R. M. Schutsky, Keith Seager, R. W. Smart, P. William Smith, Robert Speiser, Mathew Spence, Fred Tetlow, Stiles Thomas, Dick Thorsell, Greg Toffic, N. Wagerik, Wade Wander, O. T. Waterman (Dutchess Co., N.Y.: 11 N. Jackson Rd., Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12603), Peter Wickham, R.E. Wiltraut, Charles Wonderly (CWy), Charles Wood, F. P. Wolfarth, Alvin Wollin. Symbols used: †-detailed description on file. Abbreviations used: D.V.O.C.-Del. Valley Orn. Club; J.B.W.R.-Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; M.F.N.-Mianus Field Notes; N.P.S.-National Park Service; N.W.R.-National Wildlife Refuge; ph.-photographed; R.T.W.B.C.-Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club.—ROBERT O. PAXTON, 560 Riverside Drive, Apt. 12K, New York, N.Y. 10027, P. A. BUCKLEY, North Atlantic Regional Office, National Park Service, 15 State St., Boston, Mass. 02109, and DAVID A. CUTLER, 1110 Rock Creek Drive, Wyncote, Pa., 19095.

MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/ F. R. Scott

The above-normal temperatures that began in late February continued throughout the period, with March in particular breaking many temperature records. Precipitation was not consistent over the whole region but was in general deficient, especially in May, and by the end of the period water levels were quite low.

Observers who confidently expected an early migration were disappointed, for although there were as usual a few early records, the bulk of the migrants were mostly on time during March and early April, only to become quite late during May. So much for the theory that a warm spring produces an early migration! Contributors used such words as "peculiar," "erratic," and "mixed" to describe the migration, and there were no real waves of May warblers reported except in the Baltimore area.

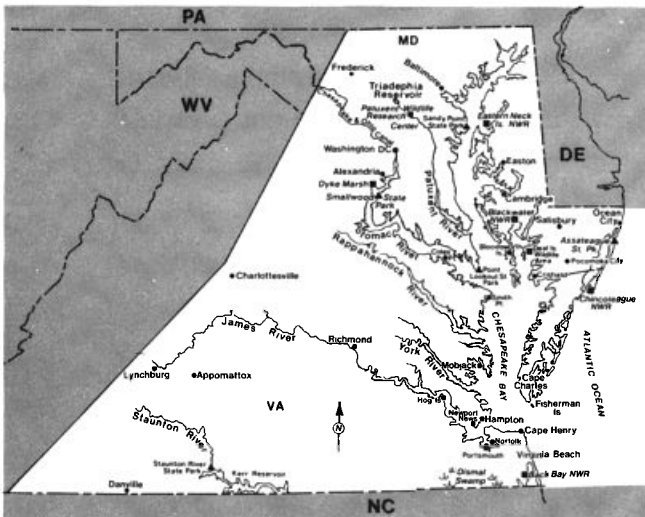
The jury is still out on the long-term effects of the record cold spell in January, but most observers agree that the

Carolina Wren was hit hardest, and the Belted Kingfisher caused worried comments from a number of contributors.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS—A boat tour of the Chesapeake Bay from Annapolis, Md. to Mobjack Bay, Va. Apr. 17 yielded 216 Com. Loons and 282 Red-throated Loons, with the Commons predominating in the n. part of the trip and the Red-throats in the s., saltier sections (HGS, SJM, HLW). The maximum count of Commons near Annapolis was 309 on Apr. 9 (HLW). The early inland flight of Red-necked Grebes detailed in the winter report left small numbers on the Potomac R., near Washington until Mar. 14 (LT), near Annapolis until Apr. 9 (HGS *et al.*), and at Baltimore to Apr. 16 (EATB *et al.*). A peak of 100+ Horned Grebes at Kerr Res., Va., Mar. 20 (PEM) was an excellent inland count, and breeding of the Pied-billed Grebe was proved in Amherst County, Va. with the finding of three adults and three downy young near Lowesville May 13 (RMC) Pelagic trips off Ocean City, Md. produced 13 N. Fulmars Mar. 5 (JBB, RAR *et al.*) and a somewhat early Sooty Shearwater May 8 (JBB, SHT *et al.*). Two Brown Pelicans were noted off Virginia Beach, Va. the third week of April (DSD), and on Fisherman I., Va. an unprecedented flock of 22-25, almost half immatures, was seen May 23, followed by another flock of five later in the day (DSD, DFH, JS). A single Gannet was found inland at Mt. Vernon, Va., Apr. 1 flying S high over the Potomac R. (DFA), one of the few records of this species w. of Chesapeake Bay. Concentrations of Double-crested Cormorants on the lower Potomac R included 1000+ each at Heron Reef, St. Marys Co., Md., and Mathias Pt., King George Co., Va., both on Apr. 1 (JMA) On the coast Williams noted a flight of 1200-1500 at Fisherman I., May 18, and inland records of interest included one near Alexandria, Va., Apr. 30-May 31 (JMA, OEF *et al.*) one on the James R., in Bedford County, Va., May 8 (RMC *et al.*), and 19 near Hopewell, Va., May 22 (FRS).

HERONS AND IBISES—The disappearance of most herons and ibises from the region during the winter gave observers a chance to record some spring arrival dates. The first transient Great Blue Heron was noted at Sandy Point S.P., Md. (S.P.S.P., below) Mar. 12 (HLW) and at Green Springs, Va., Mar. 13 (JBB). At Chincoteague N.W.R., Va., first arrivals included Great Egrets Mar. 1, Black-crowned Night Herons Mar. 2, Snowy Egrets Mar. 18 Glossy Ibises Mar. 22, and Little Blues Louisianas, and Cattle Egrets Mar. 26 (LKM) A Green Heron at Green Springs Apr. 3 (JBB) was somewhat early, while Dyke's Apr. 3 observation of a Least Bittern on Assateague I broke the spring arrival record for Maryland by one day. An ad. Little Blue Heron was found on Virginia's Piedmont in Goochland County, Apr. 23 (FRS), and Armistead recorded three adults and one immature May 8 at Bellevue, Md., in an area where this species has been increasing as a breeding bird. Cattle Egrets showed up inland first Apr. 2 when two were found near Scottsville, Va. (MWB, TFW), and flocks of up to 50 were counted in the Hopewell, Va. area during April and May (HCO *et al.*).

Single Glossy Ibises were seen at Dyke Marsh, Fairfax Co., Va., Apr. 3 & 27



(JMA, OEF *et al.*), and numbers were reported way down from last year in the Virginia coastal heronries (MAB). One or more ad White Ibises were present in the Fisherman I. heronry during April and May (PF).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAILS—An imm. Whistling Swan spent the period Apr. 17–May 20 at Green Springs, Va (JBB). At least four pairs of Canada Geese nested in the Alexandria-Dyke Marsh area (JMA *et al.*), and nine Brant were still present at Chincoteague Ref., May 17 (BWK). The White-fronted Goose that wintered at Green Springs was last seen Mar. 8 (JBB), and one was still present near Chestertown, Md., Apr. 17 (FLP). At Back Bay N.W.R., Va., a Fulvous Whistling Duck was noted Apr. 28–May 5 (RLA, GMW *et al.*). Harlequin Ducks were last reported along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Va., Mar. 26 (DFA, OEF), but at Wallops I., Va., two were present Mar. 12–Apr. 10 and one remained to May 15, an extremely late date (CRV). A ♀ Hooded Merganser with one young was found at Dismal Swamp N.W.R., Va., Apr. 21 (DS *et al.*), the first Virginia breeding record in a number of years.

The spring hawk migration was relatively good in the Annapolis and Alexandria areas. A Goshawk at Bellevue, Md., Apr. 4 (HTA) was rather late, and Wierenga had a peak count of 55 Sharp-shinned Hawks in the Annapolis area Apr. 22 with a total of 370 for the period Mar. 11–May 13. A Red-shouldered Hawk nest near Charlottesville, Va., held three eggs Apr. 1 and two young and one egg May 20 (MWB), and very late Rough-legged Hawks were found at Blackwater N.W.R., Md., Apr. 23 (HTA) and near Ivor, Va., Apr. 24 (RLA). The only reports of Golden Eagles received were one in Kent Co., Md., Mar. 28 (FLP) and another at Back Bay Ref., Apr. 27 (WWF), the latter extremely late. The Chesapeake Bay Bald Eagle nest survey found 78 active nests, of which 77 were rechecked. Of these, 33 were abandoned and 44 produced at least 65 young (JMA *et al.*). Although in terms of bare numbers this is the best year since the survey began in 1957, the improvement is possibly at least partly owing to more intensive coverage this year. The number of active nests in Virginia continues to decline. A very late Osprey passed over Alexandria June 2 (*vide* JMA), and a Peregrine Falcon spent the period from late March to early May in downtown Norfolk, Va. (DLH, GMW *et al.*), much to the delight of the local TV and newspaper reporters. The Abbotts observed four Peregrines over Alexandria Mar. 28–Apr. 17, and one was noted over Annapolis Apr. 27 (HLW). Merlins were recorded inland in unusual numbers with at least 17 birds in five localities, the best count being four at Alexandria Mar. 28 (*vide* JMA).

After disappearing from the upper Chesapeake during the winter, rails began to appear at S.P.S.P. in early April (HLW). Nevertheless, numbers were extremely low in the Maryland part of the Bay all spring (HTA, JR). A Black Rail was found near Baltimore Apr. 29 and three the next day (EATB *et al.*), but numbers appeared poor in the usually excellent marshes at Elliott I., Md. (HTA). In lower Somerset Co., Md., however, Hills recorded 12 Black Rails on May 7.

SHOREBIRDS—An Am. Oystercatcher at S.P.S.P., Mar. 13 (HLW, SJM) was the first record so far up the Bay as well as being one of the earliest state records for the species. Moore and others found a concentration of 500+ Killdeer near Massies Mill, Nelson Co., Va., Mar. 23–24, a very unusual number for the spring migration. There was an Am. Golden Plover at S.P.S.P., Mar. 18 (HLW), two at Green Springs Mar. 30 (JBB), and one at Wallops I., May 14 (MH). Ruddy Turnstones had their annual feast of horseshoe crab eggs at Chincoteague Ref. in May with a peak count of 840 on May 23 (BWK). One at Rumbley Pt., Md., May 29 (CFH)

was unusual as were others farther inland at Dyke Marsh, Va., May 19 (OEF) and near Charles City, Va., May 20 and 26 (EW). Armistead felt that numbers of Am. Woodcock were down this spring in s. Dorchester Co., Md., and the only nest reported had four eggs in Buckingham County, Va., Mar. 15 (MWB). Unusual inland shorebirds near Alexandria included a Willet Apr. 27 (DFA) and two Dunlins Mar. 4–6 (OEF), and a Pectoral Sandpiper at Oxon Hill, Md., Mar. 9 was early (LT, CPW). Red Knots joined the turnstones feeding on crab eggs at Chincoteague Ref., and Lund estimated a peak of 2000 here May 13. Perhaps the most unusual shorebirds of the season were two Baird's Sandpipers well described on a pasture near Powhatan Courthouse, Va., May 18 (FM). It should be pointed out here that there are no spring records of this rare bird for Virginia that have been confirmed by specimens or photographs, and thus all spring sight records are suspect. Two other observations of this species this spring are not included here since no particulars were given. A Curlew Sandpiper was observed at Wallops I., May 15–22 (CRV, LKM *et al.*), and Stilt Sandpipers were recorded in the Chincoteague-Wallops I. area May 5–18, with a peak of 15 at Wallops May 15 (CRV *et al.*). A single Am. Avocet was seen in the Chincoteague area Mar. 18–22 (BWK, LKM, JR), and the high numbers at Craney I., Portsmouth, Va., in the late winter had decreased to 41 by May 8 (DLH *et al.*). Single Black-necked Stilts were reported from Blackwater Ref., Apr. 4 (HTA), the earliest spring date for Maryland, and Craney I., May 8 (DLH *et al.*).

PHALAROPES THROUGH TERNs—The May 8 pelagic trip out of Ocean City to Baltimore Canyon yielded 45 Red and 10 N. Phalaropes, one Skua, and a Long-tailed Jaeger, among others (JBB, PGD *et al.*). An unidentified jaeger was noted in Chesapeake Bay off Smith Pt., Va., May 25 (HLW). A gull concentration at Baltimore was estimated at 21,000 on Mar. 27, including 12,000 Herring, 5000 Ring-billed, and 4000 Bonaparte's Gulls, most of which were gone by Apr. 12 (EATB *et al.*). White-winged gulls continued in good numbers for this region. Peak counts were again in the Baltimore area with at least two Glaucous Gulls up to Apr. 30 and at least six different Icelands up to May 7 (EATB, JLS *et al.*). The two ad. Lesser Black-backed Gulls that appeared at Baltimore in midwinter remained until Apr. 12 (JLS *et al.*), and a subadult was seen in Chesapeake Bay just s.e. of Baltimore May 30 (EATB), a record late date for Maryland. There were four different Lesser Black-backed at S.P.S.P., May 2–14 (HLW, SJM *et al.*). An ad. Black-headed Gull was noted at Baltimore Apr. 9–11 (JLS *et al.*), and Little Gulls were found in five localities, the latest one in Calvert Co., Md., Apr. 17 (HGS, SJM, HLW).

A Gull-billed Tern at Ocean City Apr. 23 (SJM) was a record spring arrival date for Maryland by seven days. For the second successive year Arctic Terns were reported off Ocean City. This time at least 16 "positives" were recorded at Baltimore Canyon May 8, and there were probably more (JBB, PGD *et al.*). Confirmation of these records, however, is still awaited. An incredible record was of two Roseate Terns carefully compared with Forster's and Common Terns at Baltimore Apr. 12 (JLS, JT, JMre). Not only is this the only report in recent years for Chesapeake Bay, it is also over two weeks earlier than the next earliest spring record for Maryland. The Caspian Tern flight inland was rather poor this spring, and the maximum count near Alexandria was only 12 on Apr. 1 (JMA).

CUCKOOS THROUGH MARTINS—Single Black-billed Cuckoos at Norfolk May 11 (GMW, DSD) and Sinnickson May 16 (BWK) were unusual for the Virginia coast. De-

tection of migrating Barn Owls moving over Annapolis increased this year with a new high seasonal total of 73 between Mar 3 and May 13 and a peak of 29 in 2.5 hours Mar. 15 (HLW). At Chincoteague Ref., Screech Owls utilized several of the nest boxes put up for the Delmarva Fox Squirrel, and eggs were found in four boxes Apr. 13–14 (LKM). No Long-eared Owls could be located in the National Arboretum, D. C., though eight had been present there in early 1976 (HLW). The last wintering Long-eared was noted at S.P.S.P., Mar. 27 (HLW), and one was seen at Alexandria May 14 (DFA). Observers in most sections of the region reported noticeably low numbers of Belted Kingfishers, with a report from Baltimore of a 75% reduction from last year (EATB). Since breeding birds are assumed to have migrated out of the region for the winter, it would appear that the cold winter could not be blamed for this decline. A Red-headed Woodpecker at Fisherman I., May 18 (GMW, DSD, BW) was quite out of place. Although such occurrences at the end of this long south-oriented peninsula are common during the fall, they are extremely rare during the spring migration.

Flycatchers (other than *E. Phoebes*) were extraordinarily late in arriving in the region, with some observers reporting Acadian Flycatchers and *E. Wood Pewees* as much as ten days or more later than normal. A pair of Tree Swallows nested again near Brightwood, Madison Co., Va., with young in the nest May 14 (JWS). It has belatedly been found out that one or two pairs have nested here since 1971, but this is still the only known nesting station for this species on the Virginia Piedmont. There were unusual numbers of Cliff Swallows in the e part of the region, with at least four reports from the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Among the more interesting observations were one captured on the screen porch of a cabin in Dismal Swamp May 12 (DS & JMer), a single bird on Hooper I., Md., May 14 (HTA), and up to ten per day near Alexandria May 7–14 (JMA *et al.*). Nesting populations of Purple Martins were higher than last year in Worcester and Somerset Cos., Md. (CRV), but numbers seemed lower in Fairfax County, Va. (JWE).

WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS—A Bewick's Wren sang as if on territory at Amherst, Va., Mar. 19–26 (RMC, CE) but did not remain to breed, and another singing bird was found near Chestertown, Md., Apr. 20 (FLP). The spring season confirmed the heavy reduction in the Carolina Wren population from the winter's cold spell, particularly in the n. and w. parts of the region, though the decline on the Eastern Shore was not as bad as that w. of Chesapeake Bay. At Baltimore they were described as "almost nonexistent" (EATB). A singing Long-billed Marsh Wren near Charlottesville May 16 (MWB) was unusual for this area of the Piedmont, and a Short-billed at Dyke Marsh May 14 (AC, JMA *et al.*) was the first local record in years. On Maryland's Eastern Shore, Short-billeds were in good numbers in s. Dorchester County (HTA). Bazuin felt that Mockingbirds showed a 70–85% decline in Louisa County, Va., following the winter, but numbers seemed to pick up later in the spring, perhaps due to one-year-old birds moving in from the south. A White-eyed Vireo in Worcester County, Md., Apr. 2 (CRV) beat the state arrival record by six days. Solitary Vireos were noticeably scarce in the Alexandria area (JMA), and one found singing here May 31 (RJA) was extremely late.

The spring warbler flight was considered good but average except at Baltimore where it was excellent with waves "almost common" (EATB). Early warblers included a Cape May at Alexandria Apr. 23 (OEF), an Ovenbird near Richmond, Va., Apr. 3 (FRS), and a Mourning Warbler singing at Dyke Marsh Apr. 30 (JMA). A "Brewster's Warbler" at Alexandria May 14 sang a song typical of a Golden-winged, had yellow wing bars, but was otherwise like a Blue-winged (DFA) A

Cerulean Warbler at Chincoteague Ref., May 1 (LKM) was apparently a unique record for Virginia's Eastern Shore, and a *Connecticut Warbler* at Sweet Briar, Va., May 3 (RMC) was one of the few spring records for the state. In addition to the early record noted above, single Mourning Warblers were found at Piscataway Park, Md., May 30 (LT) and at Richmond May 31 (FRS), the latter a first spring record for this area. Late warbler reports included a Black-throated Blue at Dyke Marsh May 28 (JMA).

BOBOLINKS THROUGH LONGSPURS—The last Bobolinks at S.P.S.P. were eight on June 1 (HLW), and a singing ♂ Rusty Blackbird was at Dyke Marsh May 14 (JMA *et al.*), probably the latest spring record for Virginia. McQuarry observed a ♂ Brewer's Blackbird at Kerr Res., Apr. 7, and Blue Grosbeaks seemed to be continuing to increase in the Baltimore area (EATB). Northern finches were unexciting during the spring. Evening Grosbeaks faded away in general by late April, though one at Chincoteague May 17 (BWK) was unusually late, and siskins and crossbills were unreported. Wintering House Finches were last seen at Chifton, Va., Mar. 23 (JWE) and Alexandria Apr. 1 (JMA), but two were found in nearby Arlington May 9 (DFA) At Annapolis at least ten adults were present at feeders through May, the first juveniles appearing with them May 15 (HLW). Henslow's Sparrows were locally in good numbers in s. Dorchester County, Md., with a maximum of 15 on May 7 (HTA, FLP). Elsewhere, the only reports were of one at Chincoteague Ref., Apr. 13 (LKM) and two singing at Saxis, Va., May 10 (JHD). May 14 was apparently a flight day for Lincoln's Sparrows. On this date singles were noted at S P S P (HLW), and Chincoteague Ref. (BAL), and two were seen at Fort Belvoir, Va. (OEF). A Lapland Longspur at S.P.S.P., Mar. 12 (HLW) was only the second recent spring record here, and several at Craney I., Va., Mar. 13 were almost in full breeding plumage (JHD, DLH *et al.*).

CORRIGENDUM—The report of a Rough-winged Swallow at Blackwater Ref., Nov. 27, 1976 (*AB* 31: 162) was apparently in error and has been withdrawn.

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Western Great Lakes Region Please Note—We regret to report the loss of Robert B. Janssen as co-editor. Bob Janssen has served us loyally and capably for several years, and we thank him. He will be succeeded by Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Drive, Duluth, MN 55804, who will alternate seasons with Daryl D. Tessen of Illinois. Eckert is an acknowledged authority on the birds of the Great Lakes region, and author of "A Birder's Guide to Minnesota" (1974). We welcome him in his new role. Autumn migration season reports should be sent to him at the above address.

SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/ Robert P. Teulings

By all accounts the 1977 spring migration was the duller than in years. Observers throughout the region complained about the lack of discernible waves and the low numbers of transients seen. Weather conditions were generally mild, dry and stagnant, causing little forcedown of migrants by cold fronts and rain. The warbler flight was especially thin with a notable scarcity of trans-Gulf migrants.



The appearance of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks in Georgia was perhaps the most newsworthy record of the season. An unusually conspicuous flight of Upland Sandpipers highlighted the shorebird migration.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRD—A good inland count of 47 Com. Loons was recorded at L. Greenwood near Greenwood, S.C., Mar. 30 (RL, LL). Other inland observers noted four loons on the Tugaloo R., near Toccoa Falls, Ga., Apr. 23 (RSt), six on L. Lanier near Atlanta Mar. 6 (DM), and 17 at L. Hartwell near Clemson, S.C., Apr. 30 (HL). A Red-necked Grebe was a lingering visitor at Forest L. near Fayetteville, N.C. from early February through mid-March (PC). An estimated 160 White Pelicans were seen in a flock leisurely gliding over the Georgia side of Eufala N.W.R., Apr. 28 (SP). This impressive number is the largest known to have been recorded in the region, where the species is a rare spring and fall coastal visitor and of casual occurrence inland. Double-crested Cormorants were widely reported as inland visitors during the period, appearing at eight interior locations, highlighted by the presence of eight at the newly constructed Beaverdam Res., near Raleigh Apr. 24 (JM) and 18 at Roanoke Rapids L., near Vulture, N.C., May 15 (ML). Of note in the coastal area were 600+ cormorants seen in a single large flock at South Carolina's L. Marion Apr. 2 (RL, LL). At Jekyll I., Ga., a Magnificent Frigatebird was observed May 28 (DC).

LONG-LEGGED WADERS, WATERFOWL—Two Great Blue Herons of the white form were seen along the Georgia coast, one at Savannah May 21 (VM, TM) and the other at Jekyll I., May 2 (AC), lingering most of the month. A Glossy Ibis at Chapel Hill, N.C., Apr. 3 provided a rare inland record (HM), as did the appearance of another at Fayetteville June 7 (PC). Five Am. Flamingos turned up at Morris I. near Charleston, S.C., May 8 (JWN). At Pea Island N.W.R. there were 300 Brant still present in early March (NFW), a reminder of the unusually large numbers seen in the North Carolina coastal area this past winter. Two

Black-bellied Whistling Ducks were an unexpected find at Jekyll I., Apr. 14 (FM, *vide* EY), and a wintering Harlequin Duck was still present at Bulls I., S.C., Mar. 6 (RL, LL). Four Harlequins were also seen on L. Hartwell near Madison, S.C., Mar. 8 (LSh, LS, HS, *vide* HL), the first inland record for the region. Three Black Scoters were uncommon inland visitors at L. Greenwood Mar. 30 (RL, LL). Migrating Red-breasted Mergansers were also noted at the latter location where a peak count of 47 was recorded May 1 (RL, LL). At L. Wheeler near Raleigh, 100+ Red-breasted Mergansers were observed Mar. 30 (JM).

BIRDS OF PREY—A Swallow-tailed Kite was seen at Harkers I., N.C., May 14 (SP, *vide* JF). Two were also noted in the Hatteras area in the vicinity of Buxton, N.C. May 16 (JH) and another at Long Beach May 19 (ST). An imm. Goshawk was a good find at Oak I., N.C., Mar. 9 observed and photographed by William Brokaw. This was the only reported occurrence of this northern raptor in the region during the past winter and current spring period. Inland observers sighted a Golden Eagle at Greenville, S.C., Apr. 15 (WG, RG), an imm. Bald Eagle at Roanoke Rapids May 12 (ML), and a Peregrine Falcon near Clemson Apr. 27 (PG *vide* HL).

CRANES AND SHOREBIRDS—A Sandhill Crane was an unusual spring visitor near Townville, S.C., Mar. 12 (SG HL *et al.*). Four Am. Golden Plovers were found inland near Dublin, Ga., Mar. 13 (TP), while other individuals were noted as rare spring migrants at Clemson Apr. 10 (HL) and Columbia, S.C., Apr. 10 & 13 (JA, BC, CW). A Black-bellied Plover was a late and locally rare inland transient at Winston-Salem May 27–28 (RS, RW). Upland Sandpipers made a surprisingly conspicuous showing in the region this spring, being reported in much higher than normal frequency and numbers. Reports received from ten coastal and inland locations were highlighted by sightings of 27 Upland Sandpipers in the Columbus area from late March through April (SP), a flock of 11 at Columbia Apr. 9 (BC, CW), 15 near Dublin Apr. 16 (TP), and sightings of a half dozen in the Clemson area during April and early May (*vide* HL). A flock of 25 Willets at L. Hartwell May 9 (HL) was a noteworthy inland count, as was a count of 65 Pectoral Sandpipers in a Laurens County, Ga., pasture Apr. 10–11 (TP). Single Stilt Sandpipers were seen at the latter location near Dublin Apr. 2 (TP) and along the Chattahoochee R., near Atlanta May 14 (*vide* VM), both uncommon inland sightings.

Ponds at Winston-Salem's sewage treatment plant attracted a variety of migrating shorebirds including two ♀ Wilson's Phalaropes in full breeding plumage May 15 (RHo *et al.*), and a N. Phalarope May 25–26 (RS, FB *et al.*). An inland migrant of the latter species was also seen near Fayetteville N.C., May 23 (PC, HR, MEW). A coastal observation worthy of special mention was a Long-billed Curlew on the Ocracoke I., N.C., flats May 13 (JH). Thousands of other shorebirds were seen there on that date, including a flock of over 2000 Red Knots (JH). In late May at Savannah over 60 pairs of Black-necked Stilts were preparing to nest on spoil banks in the Savannah R. Despite almost continuous dredging activities by the Corps of Engineers for harbor maintenance, prospects appeared good for a successful nesting season by the stilts (*vide* PY).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS—A Parasitic Jaeger, two Pomarine Jaegers, and a skua (sp. ?) were observed off Hatteras May 20 (PD & party). Another cruise party sighted a Long-tailed Jaeger and a second skua off Oregon Inlet May 25 (DL *et al.*). Arctic Terns were also found in the same

waters, one May 18 (DL) and five May 20 (PD *et al.*). Interesting, too, was the far offshore sighting of 15+ Com. Terns some 40 mi out of Oregon Inlet by David Lee and party May 20. Along the Outer Banks onshore, a Glaucous Gull was found near Frisco Mar. 13 and a large, imm. white-winged gull also thought to be a Glaucous was seen at Cape Pt., Hatteras I., Mar. 27 (JH). An ad. Iceland Gull was present at Cape Pt., Mar. 5 & 13 and two imm. gulls, one believed to be of this species and the other of intermediate size between typical Iceland and Glaucous, were seen there Mar. 27 (JH). On the South Carolina coast an "easily identified" Iceland Gull was seen at Mt. Pleasant near Charleston Apr. 3 (HL, SG, PH, JCe). Uncommon inland sightings of Laughing Gulls, Forster's Terns and Caspian Terns were reported from Greenwood, S.C. (RL) and Raleigh (JM, RD) where one to several individuals of each species were seen at L. Greenwood and L. Wheeler during the period. An additional half dozen migrant Caspian Terns were observed at L. Hartwell near Clemson (HL, SG) and Roanoke Rapids L. (ML). Also, good numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls were seen at several of the larger inland reservoirs, topped by a count of 200+ at Raleigh's L. Wheeler Mar 30 (JM).

CUCKOOS THROUGH SWALLOWS—An early Yellow-billed Cuckoo was recorded at Columbus, Ga., Mar. 30 and Chimney Swifts arrived there as early as Mar. 13 (FL). A Whip-poor-will was early at Augusta Mar. 14 (CB). Coastal observers noted a Gray Kingbird at Isle of Palms, S.C., Mar 31 (PG, *vide* HL) and one at Atlantic Beach, N.C., June 3 (JF). Single Olive-sided Flycatchers were noted as rare spring migrants May 7 (VM) and May 16 (LE) in the Atlanta area. Purple Martins returned to Columbus Feb. 21 (EC, *vide* SP), and Rough-winged Swallows were rather early at Chapel Hill Mar. 26 (JP, ET). A Cliff Swallow was a locally rare visitor at Southern Pines May 10 (JC), and Bank Swallows were late and uncommon migrants at Chapel Hill May 11 (JP) and Toccoa Falls, Ga., May 24 (RSt). Horned Larks were seen feeding young in Franklin County, N.C., near Louisburg in mid-April (EP, GB), and a pair of Barn Swallows nested near Thomasville, Ga., in May (CW), a first record for that locality which is at or near the s. limit of the species' breeding range.

CROWS, KINGLETS, VIREOS AND WARBLERS—Fish Crows arrived at Greenwood and Clemson in late March and early April (RL, HL), but as yet have not definitely been proven to be breeding in that w. piedmont area. There were strong indications that kinglets were hard hit by the past winter's severe cold weather, with observers at Atlanta (VM) and Clemson (HL) reporting abnormally low numbers of Ruby-crowneds during the spring period. Philadelphia and Warbling Vireos were noted as rare spring migrants at Winston-Salem during the first week of May (*vide* RS). A very early N. Parula was recorded Mar. 19 at Raleigh (CO). Prothonotary Warblers were unusually early the last week of March at Greenwood and Clemson (RL, HL), and a Swainson's Warbler was heard singing on the early date of Apr. 2 at Fairlawn Plantation near Charleston (JCe). Other unusually early arrivals were a Black-throated Green Warbler at Columbus Mar. 19 (*vide* SP) and a N. Waterthrush at Atlanta Apr. 9 (*vide* VM). A warbler of the hybrid Brewster's form was well seen at Toccoa Falls, Ga., Apr. 14 (RSt).

BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES AND SPARROWS—A ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird was an unusual find near Piedmont, S C., Mar 30 (MR, GE, DMA), as was a **Pine Grosbeak** at

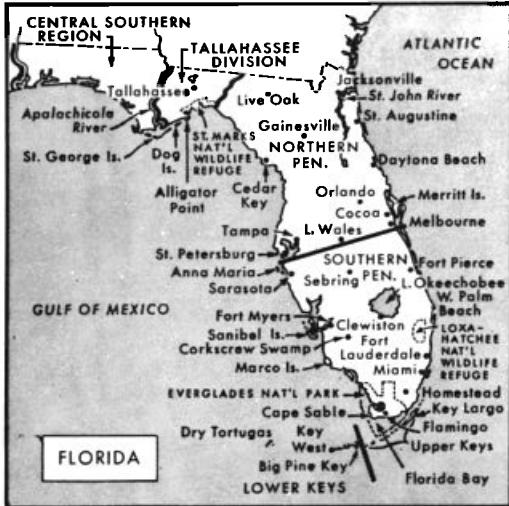
Greensboro, N.C., Apr. 17 (CD *et al.*). A strong likelihood of House Finches remaining to nest at Atlanta and Raleigh was indicated by the presence of singing males at the end of May at both locations (VM, KH). Further details on the emerging status of the House Finch as a breeding species in the region will be reported in the forthcoming nesting season summary. A Henslow's Sparrow was found near Clayton, Ga., Apr. 23 & 24 (TB, JS, *vide* VM), and a very late White-crowned Sparrow was seen near Darien, Ga., May 25 (TM *et al.*). A singing ♂ Bachman's Sparrow, possibly a breeding resident, was seen and heard near Greenwood, S.C., May 1 by Robert and Lisa Lewis, while other individuals believed to be transients were seen Apr. 9 near Lousburg, N.C. (EP), and Chapel Hill Apr. 20 (JPa, ALB). Several Lincoln's Sparrows were noted in the Clemson area Apr 13–May 11 (HL), and individuals were recorded as uncommon or locally rare spring visitors at Atlanta, Raleigh and Winston-Salem during the same period. A few Lapland Longspurs were present as winter visitors in the w. piedmont section of South Carolina through mid-March with a last sighting of two recorded near Townville Mar. 12 (HL).

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FLORIDA REGION / Herbert W. Kale II

After one of, if not *the* coldest winter on record for Florida, spring temperatures were close to normal (warm days, cool nights), and although many of the local breeding birds began nesting several weeks later than normal, by mid-May most of them had newly fledged young. John Edscorn commented that species decimated by the hard winter (See the region's winter report, *AB* 31:332) never did seem to recover their earlier numbers, suggesting that they had indeed died instead of flying farther south. It will be interesting to see if this past winter's mortality is reflected by the 1977 Breeding Bird Censuses.

On the whole it was one of those springs that was great for the migrants, but not for the migrant watchers. Six cold fronts penetrated the Florida peninsula in March, one or two weekly, but most of these were weak or passed during daylight hours. Only three fronts passed through in all of April (April 4–6, 8–9, and 23–25), and only the last one was accompanied by much rain. A single front crossed the state in May (May 8–10), hence during the peak migration period,



most birds had little reason to drop down to earth where bird-watchers could see them. The dry season in south Florida was one of the wettest in recent years, with rainfalls occurring throughout the winter months, and although April was typically dry, this came to an abrupt end on May 4 when 11.6 inches fell at Miami International Airport within a few hours, and 4.6 inches fell in West Palm Beach the next day. This mini-tropical storm arrived from the south unannounced and never did appear on any weather maps that I have seen (perhaps because it was never forecast?). The storm caused termination of a second nesting attempt (the first one was aborted by the freeze) by Wood Storks in Everglades National Park, and may have been responsible for a fantastic display of birds seen offshore on May 8 by participants in the American Birding Association's (A.B.A.) south Florida field trip.

The most outstanding finds of the period (details below) were the first sight records of three species in Florida—a Gray-breasted Martin on Big Pine Key, a Lazuli Bunting at Sharpes, and a Greater Antillean Bullfinch at Hypoluxo Island; several records of Arctic Terns; and a Lark Bunting at Apopka. As usual, Mullet Key, at the tip of the Pinellas peninsula, was under almost daily surveillance by birders, and even in a relatively dull spring, such as this year, most of the species that migrate through Florida were found there at one time or another. St. George Island, (hereafter, St. Geo. I.), off the mouth of Apalachicola Bay, is first landfall for many trans-Gulf migrants, and is another hot-spot worth visiting after passage of cold fronts. Jim Stevenson, the birdman of St. George to many of the locals, reported a mouthwatering list of species and numbers in April and May. Unfortunately much of the forested portion of this beautiful barrier island is now being developed.

Pelagic trips are becoming S.O.P. for many birders (at least those with strong stomachs!) and spring trips can be especially productive off the Florida coast, as the next paragraph will reveal.

TUBENOSES, TROPICBIRDS—Four Cory's Shearwaters were in the Atlantic Ocean e. of Ponce de Leon Inlet (hereafter, Ponce Inlet), Volusia Co., May 21, along with 21 Audubon's Shearwaters. One Audubon's was off Islamorada May 1 (GC, HB, AD, SE) while an unprecedented 420 were actually counted there May 8 (A.B.A.), and five were off Boynton Inlet, Palm Beach Co., May 30. A Wilson's Storm-Petrel sitting on the Marco R., several mi. e. of the Gulf, Apr. 25, finally flew when approached within

a few yards (THB). Three more off Clearwater May 8 were the first for Pinellas County (LH, CB, MH, DC, JF), and 54 off Ponce Inlet must be some sort of record. One of the rarest birds on the Florida list is the Black-capped Petrel, and the three previous records were all birds that came ashore via storm or illness. Sykes and party counted 13 off Ponce Inlet May 21. One or two White-tailed Tropicbirds were present at Ft. Jefferson, Dry Tortugas (hereafter, Dry Tort.), Apr. 30 (JJA, WCR) and May 5 (WCR), while one off Siesta Key Sarasota May 31 (Mr. & Mrs. Lester Gavin) was a rare sight

BOOBIES, CORMORANTS—All three Atlantic boobies were present at Dry Tort., this spring. A rare Red-footed, seen for several hours resting with frigatebirds on Bush Key May 2-3, was the earliest for the Lower Keys, and up to four Blue-faced (=Masked) and two ad. Browns were also present (JBE *et al.*). Brown Boobies, of course, are regular summer visitors in the Tortugas area, but an adult, or near adult, bird seen from the ferry between Carrabelle and Dog I Franklin Co., May 28 (Caroline Eastman, Robin Carter) provided the first record for the Tallahassee Division (hereafter, Tally Div.). [?-Ed.]. At least five Great Cormorants wintered on Florida's East Coast (see winter report), and some of these, or different birds—all immatures—appeared at the following locations during the spring period: St. Petersburg Mar. 17-Apr. 16 (LH, MH, m.ob.) and (same bird, but different site?) May 3-31 (LH, KT); Port Canaveral Apr. 7 (DH), joined by another bird May 1, with both still present as of June 16 (RDB), and one in the Indian R., at Ft. Pierce May 10-28 (W&HD, m.ob.).

WADERS—A "Great White" Heron present from May 12 onward furnished the first record for Nat'l Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary near Immokalee (Jerry Cutlip & staff). I will leave discussion of nesting wading bird populations for John Ogden's more detailed summer report, except to note that for the third successive year, Reddish Egrets again nested at Alafia Banks in Hillsborough Bay (as did Roseate Spoonbills—Frank Dunstan), and a nest with three 2-day old chicks was on one of the nesting islands in Marco Bay May 29 (THB). Three pairs (but no nests found) were on Hemp Key, the site of the 1970 nesting (OHH). White-phase birds were seen near Port Canaveral Mar. 11 (R&CS), Ponce Inlet Mar. 16 (HWK), and as far north as Ft. George Inlet above Jacksonville, where they rarely occur, May 31 (RWL) Others undoubtedly were seen along both lower coasts, but they are no longer considered rarities outside of the Keys Observers should remain alert for Reddish Egrets breeding in heronries along both coasts. One never knows what to say about reports of brilliantly-plumaged Scarlet Ibis that pop up throughout the state. Are they escapees from Busch Gardens in Tampa, or Greynolds Park in Miami, or from some other captive population? One such bird was seen flying over McKay Bay, Apr. 2 (D&GL). Another species presenting the same puzzle in interpretation is the Am. Flamingo. Up to six were at Cape Canaveral Nat'l Seashore Apr. 19 (JBE A&JF), and one on Hall I., Cocoa Beach, Mar. 11 (R&CS) Nicolas King (39 E. 79th St., N.Y. 10021) has the mounted specimen of one of a flock of the last putative breeding flamingoes in Florida (collected by his father at Cape Sable in 1902) and he requests anyone who might have data on past breeding in Florida to contact him.

DUCKS—Year-round sightings of Fulvous Whistling Ducks throughout s. Florida suggest that the simple presence of this species is in most cases no longer a noteworthy feature. A Bahama Duck remained on a small pond on Cudjoe Key from Mar. 16 (TW, m.ob.) to 26 (FTH), when very little water

remained in the pond. Two Black Scoters May 11 & 17, and a Surf Scoter May 5 & 13 at Alligator Pt. (CHW) were either late migrants or summering birds. Of the nine **Masked Ducks** at the Loxahatchee N.W.R. in February, at least four (3 females, 1 male) remained throughout March (PWS, R&CS), and then, presumably, departed, Possibly Florida's fourth breeding record (and first since 1929) of the **Hooded Merganser**—a female with a brood of 9 young—was found on the Occidental Chemical Co. phosphate mining property n. of White Springs Apr. 19 & 22 (JHW, RR). Only two full-grown young remained there by May 27 (HMS, GEM, JHW).

RAPTORS—Note to birders in the Palm Beach County area—an imm. Griffon-type Old World vulture from Lion Country Safari escaped being pinioned, and flies in and out of this tourist attraction daily to parts of the surrounding country (PWS). Over 600 Turkey Vultures were counted moving NW in groups of 40–50 over Jacksonville between 8:30–9 a.m., Mar. 23 (MCD), and a flock of 17 Black Vultures May 27 near L. Lafayette, Leon Co., was the largest flock there since 1973 (HMS). Two Mississippi Kites, one at the Bayway Apr. 5 (DG), and one e. of Gainesville Apr. 12 (JJC) were the earliest for the Northern Peninsula (hereafter, N. Pen.), and another kite was at Mullet Key Apr. 13 (WB). A pair of Everglade Kites was found in the Savannas Recreation Area s. of Ft. Pierce Mar. 30 (W&HD). Subsequently, four adults appeared there, and on May 6 young were seen being fed by adults (W&HD, PWS), the first nesting ever recorded for the area. Fortunately, the state has recently acquired most of the Savanna marshes, and it is hoped that proper management will preserve the kite habitat. A number of Everglade Kites nested this spring in the e. part of Conservation Area 3A in Dade Co., just w. of Site 14 of the proposed Dade County jetport (PWS). A dark-phase Short-tailed Hawk was at Parker I., Highlands Co., Mar. 4. A rarer, light-phase bird was on its usual territory, 2 mi. e. of Palmdale, Glades Co., Mar. 4 (FEL), and was seen by many F.O.S. members Apr. 24. A rare Rough-legged Hawk, one of few ever seen in the Lower Keys, was observed carefully at close range May 4 (TW). A Golden Eagle was observed flying slowly N at about 300 ft, near Palmdale Mar. 25 (Lovett Williams & David Austin). Seven **Peregrines** were reported this spring Mar. 11–May 1, from throughout the peninsula—the most reported in recent years. **Merlins** reported were one each at Mullet Key Apr. 10 (MH) and Apr. 24 (LH, LA), three on St. Geo. I., Apr. 23 (JMS, BC), and one at Dry Tort., Apr. 30–May 2 (PWS, JBE *et al.*) A very small ♂ kestrel with reddish underparts present throughout May on Big Pine Key may well have been from the Cuban population (PWS).

SHOREBIRDS—A threatened species under severe stress along most of the Gulf coast, the **Snowy Plover** again hatched two nests in late April on Johnson Shoals, w. of Cayo Costa I., (OHH) An **Upland Sandpiper** at Mullet Key Apr. 5 (LH, DG, KT) was the first one seen there since 1973. A **Spotted Sandpiper** Mar. 23 near Tallahassee (JMS) was the earliest in the Tally Div., although they do winter along the coast. A cohesive, wheeling flock of eight **Solitary Sandpipers** over a rain pool on Middle Torch Key May 4 was an unusual sight (JBE, A&JF) A **Pectoral Sandpiper** carefully observed and heard at Wakulla Beach May 28 (RLC, Beth Meschinelli) made the latest record for the Tally Div. As usual, **White-rumped Sandpipers** were widespread with one at Toytown Dump, St. Pete, Apr. 29 (LH, KT), and four there, May 28–31 (LH, CG), one each near Tampa May 7 (RM), Dynamite Pt., Ft. Pierce May 14 (W&HD), and two near White Springs May 11 (RR). Although no longer the rarities they once were, a **Ruff**, especially in spring still merits bold type—one was at Mullet

Key Apr. 7 (CB, DC), tying the previous spring date for the N. Pen. An ad. ♀ **N. Phalarope** at Toytown Dump May 25 (LH) represented the second **Pinellas** record, and the only phalarope reported this spring.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS—A **Pomarine Jaeger** was watched harassing **Laughing Gulls** less than 100 ft from the Bolte's boat in Pine I. Sound May 29 (J&WB). A rare **Long-tailed Jaeger**, 20 mi. e. of Patrick A.F.B., May 29 (RDB, DH, CB, D,S&GL) was the latest in spring for the N. Pen. Two **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were still at the Key West dump on Stock I., an adult Mar. 7 (NH) and Apr. 30 (DWF, PWS *et al.*), and an immature May 7 (DWF, WCR, PWS *et al.*) This was the year the **Arctic Tern** deigned to make its first uncontroversially confirmed visit to Florida *en route* to its breeding grounds. On May 5, as the heavy rains moved N along the coast, Bill Dowling at Dynamite Pt., observed a half dozen or so short-legged, black-capped, red-billed terns, and concluded they were **Arctic Terns**. A half hour later the storm arrived, and the terns were gone by the next morning. Three days later, May 8, an **Arctic Tern** was identified s.e. of Islamorada (A.B.A.), and on May 21, Sykes collected one of three seen in the Atlantic e. of Ponce Inlet (details to be published) Florida's first sight record goes back 25 years to Apr. 20, 1952 by the late F. V. Hebard and R. G. Kuerzi, off Fernandina Beach. In 1975, a freshly skinned **Arctic Tern** was left at the U. of Miami bird range by Reed Pierce, a visitor from California who related that the bird had flown in from the sea onto Key Biscayne Apr. 27, 1975, then dropped to the ground dead. Unfortunately, Pierce's address was not recorded by laboratory personnel, and it has not been possible to contact him to verify these data, otherwise, this specimen represents the first record for Florida (Oscar Owre). Hopefully, Mr. Pierce will read or hear of this account and will contact Dr. Owre (Dept. Biol., U. of Miami, Coral Gables, FL 33124). **Bridled Terns** are considered to be primarily Atlantic Ocean pelagics, hence three in the Gulf, 65 mi w. of Clearwater Apr. 16 (D,S&GL) are noteworthy. **Roof-top nesting** by **Least Terns** continues to spread throughout Florida. But not everyone is accepting this fortuitous (for the Least) tern of events with good cheer. Some occupants of condominiums are unhappy about "those noisy, dirty birds" leaving droppings on their sidewalks and cars. As more and more of the natural beach, sandbar, and spoil habitat is being destroyed or expropriated by man, the wide gravel roofs of tall buildings are attracting more and more colonies.

S.A.

Irony of ironies—we cheered when two threatened species began nesting on the old Imeson airport industrial site n. of Jacksonville. The **Least Tern** nested on the huge 18-acre gravel roof of the Sear's warehouse, over 100 ft above the ground, with 100+ pairs in 1975, increasing to 400 pairs in 1977. The second species, the **Burrowing Owl** began with one pair in 1973 or 74, and now numbers 13 birds, the northernmost breeding site in Florida. This year most of the tern nesting was disrupted by predation—by **Burrowing Owls**! Numerous tern wings and feathers, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service bands from banded chicks, were found around each owl burrow. Both young and adults were being predated, and the tern colony produced relatively few young this year (Bryant Obst).

The fragility of some nesting colonies is further underlined by events at the huge **Royal Tern** colony on Bird I. in Nassau Sound. Last year 1800+ young were produced. This year the

colony failed because of predation by—of all things—Ruddy Turnstones puncturing eggs! (RWL—details to be published). Two Caspian Terns on Newnan's L., Apr. 13 (JJC), and one at Bivin's Arm May 22 (JEH) were inland rarities in the Gainesville area. The rare Black Noddy, not seen at all in 1976, appeared at Ft. Jefferson May 8 (HPL, JCO, m.ob.), but soon disappeared again.

PIGEONS, PARROTS, CUCKOOS—Sykes and Hames observed that White-crowned Pigeons were abundant throughout the Keys this spring, and this may explain the presence of a bird at Loxahatchee N.W.R., Apr. 16, and two on Hypoluxo I., the week of May 7 (GSH *et al.*), with one still there on May 10 (RST *et al.*) and one at Hugh Taylor Birch S P, Broward Co., on the same day (J&WB). These comprise the most northerly records yet in Florida for this species. Stevenson's comments in his winter report concerning the extraordinary numbers of White-winged Doves near Davie, Broward Co., prompts me to report that for the past two breeding seasons, the Fla. Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission has been capturing and transporting doves from the Upper Keys-Homestead population and releasing them in c. Florida (Highlands County) "to provide another game bird for the Florida sportsman." Unhappily, the basic stock of the introduced Keys birds was from South America, not the western U.S. population. It will be interesting to learn the race of a White-winged Dove collected on St. Geo. I., May 9 (JMS)

Apparently, a colony of Budgerigars is successfully breeding somewhere in the Jacksonville area. Three different observers have reported that budgies appear each spring and summer at their feeders, and each year, more birds are involved (VMM). Mangrove Cuckoos were scarce most of the period, with none being found on Sugarloaf Key in April and early May where they are usually certain to be found. Perhaps the cold winter caused them to depart the Keys. By mid-May several birds were reported throughout the Lower Keys. An early Mangrove, however, was near Mullet Key Apr. 9 (BF, AS, PJF). All three cuckoo species were seen on Big Pine Key May 28 by Sykes' group.

OWLS, NIGHTHAWKS—"Several" Burrowing Owls were on a golf course on Marathon May 8 (Josephine Estes). An albino Barred Owl at Mullet Key Mar. 3 (CB, KT) is apparently the first owl recorded for Ft. DeSoto Park, although Burrowing Owl nest on the Bayway approach n. of the park (JBE). An Antillean Nighthawk was on Sugarloaf May 1, with many there by May 24 (JBE). A lone nighthawk calling "pity-pit-pit" repeatedly over Merritt I. for 10–15 minutes May 15 (DH) provides the first record of an Antillean thus far north on the East Coast.

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS, AND KINGFISHERS—Several Chimney Swifts over the home of Eva Dickie in Miami, May 28, were either late migrants or rare breeders this far south. A ♀ Cuban Emerald Hummingbird was seen on Hypoluxo I., Aug 10 (RHP) and closely observed and identification confirmed (MME, GSH, HPL, PWS), and furnished the first spring record for the S. Pen.

WOODPECKERS AND FLYCATCHERS—A Com. Flicker with red feather shafts revealed the presence of a bird of the w race—the "Red-shafted" Flicker—at Alligator Pt., Apr. 23 (JMS, BC) and is only the second or third observation of this race in Florida. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers at Mullet Key (DC, MH, JF, LH) and Anclote Key (AB, RM) Apr. 30, were the latest for the N. Pen. All good birders receive small rewards in one form or another, and Harold Langridge's was a Red-

cockaded Woodpecker in his yard at Lantana, Apr. 29, 20 mi from the nearest colony. An E. Kingbird along the Tamiami Trail Mar. 9 (R&CS) was the earliest in migration for the S. Pen. One of the difficult duties that occasionally befalls a Regional Editor is to act as referee and identify birds from descriptions and photographs of varying quality. An "odd" kingbird on Sugarloaf Key Apr. 29 (MB, LPB), seen subsequently by Frances Hames, and photographed by Ida Cantwell May 7, was, in the opinion of the observers, definitely not a typical Gray Kingbird, but either a Loggerhead, or a Gray-Loggerhead hybrid. The photos and slides before me illustrate this difficulty in determination. In my opinion it is a Loggerhead, but final determination awaits an expert's examination. I dwell on this particular report only to emphasize the value of either a specimen or good quality photographs (plural) when it is not possible to easily identify a bird in the field. A Gray Kingbird was early on Islamorada Mar. 19 (JCO), and one at Mullet Key Mar. 23 (KT, EB) was the earliest for the N. Pen. Late rarities were a W. Kingbird at Alligator Pt., May 10 (CHW), and a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Mullet Key May 8 (D,S&GL). The first record of a Least Flycatcher in the N. Pen. was of a bird seen and heard at Mullet Key Apr. 20 (SP). Two E Wood Pewees on St. Geo. I., May 20 (JMS, HWK) were late migrants.

SWALLOWS, CROWS, MIMIDS, THRUSHES—Two ad Bahama Swallows were observed flying above pine woodland just n. of Watson Hammock, Big Pine Key, May 7 (WCR, PWS *et al.*). One of these years someone will find evidence of breeding by this species. A flock of 40 Barn Swallows over Bivin's Arm in Gainesville May 22 was probably late in migrating, although the species does breed on nearby Paynes Prairie. Two Cliff Swallows at L. Jackson May 14 (JMS, BC) was the second spring record for Leon Co. Marking the first sight record for Florida, a ♀ Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*) was observed by Paul Sykes May 7, just north of Watson Hammock, and by several observers on May 14, a mile or so away at the Blue Hole, where it was closely examined with a scope at a distance of 60 ft, for 10–15 minutes (PWS, BM, WDM, HPL).

Crows are rarities in the Florida Keys, especially outside of winter, hence a Fish Crow flying SW over Plantation Key Apr. 27 (JCO, Maryanne Bigger) was notable. The latest Long-billed Marsh Wren for the S. Pen., was singing in the Savannas s. of Ft. Pierce May 13 (PWS, W&HD). A Gray Catbird near Gainesville May 22 (PB) was late. By far the latest dates ever for migrating Brown Thrasher on the Lower Keys were recorded by a bird on Big Pine Key May 16 (MME, GSH, TM, PWS) and another one on Sugarloaf Key May 28 (AL, HPL, PWS, *et al.*). There is one summer record for the Lower Keys. Few thrushes were reported this spring. Wood Thrushes were singing at various sites: n. Pinellas Co., May 17 (JBE), Highlands Hammock S.P., May 20 (Jack Reinoch), San Felasco Hammock, Alachua Co., May 22 (*vide* JHH), and White Springs May 27 (GEM, HMS). The two southernmost birds were probably migrants. A Swainson's was on Sugarloaf Key Apr. 27–29 (LK), and one 20 mi e. of Cape Canaveral May 31 (latest, N. Pen.) attempted several times to land on the boat (RDB). Several Gray-cheekeds were in Miami Apr. 24 (ESD, JCO), and one spent several days between May 6–9 around Frances Hames' patio in Key West, while a very late Veery was there May 22–23 (FTH). A Veery on Big Pine Key May 1 (DWF, WCR, PWS) and several at Birch S.P., May 10 (J&WB) were the only others reported.

GNATCATCHERS, VIREOS—Two fledgling Blue-gray Gnatcatchers being fed in n.e. Naples marked the first confirmed nesting for the species in this coastal s.w. Florida area

Compared with other years, the greatly reduced numbers of White-eyed Vireos that Stevenson noted returning to the Tallahassee Division in March was strong evidence that this species was hard hit by the extremely cold winter. Black-whiskered Vireos appeared to be more common this spring on the s.w. coast according to Hewitt, but I found just the opposite to be the case on the e. coast between Volusia and Martin Counties, where the mangroves were severely killed back by the freeze. Black-whiskered Vireos were on St. Geo. I., Apr. 8 (JMS) and Apr. 23 (JMS, BC), the former being the earliest for the Tally Div. A Philadelphia Vireo at Sarasota, Apr. 13 (DHM) was the earliest for the S. Pen.

WARBLERS—Most observers agreed that the warbler migration was the most subdued of recent years—with only a few peaks here and there, and none involving large numbers of birds. Each frontal passage was accompanied by small fallouts of warblers, chiefly the usual West Indian migrants—Black-and-white, N. Parula, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Blackpoll, Com. Yellowthroat, and Am. Redstart. Swainson's Warblers were reported at several places with 13 records between Apr. 8–24 at Mullet Key (m.ob.); one in Miami Apr. 24 (ESD), and an early bird that hit the WCTV Tower on Tall Timbers Mar. 29 (RLC). Worm-eating Warblers were also fairly common with up to ten daily at Mullet Key Apr. 5–May 4 (m.ob.) and four on Hypoluxo I., Apr. 25 (PWS). Two Blue-wingeds were at Mullet Key Apr. 6 (LH, KT, DG, MH), and again Apr. 16 (B&LA, AS, PJJ), while Tennessees were seen there Apr. 6 (LA), 17 (JBE, A&JF), 20 (two birds—WB, SP, CG), and May 10 (LH). A Nashville was a rarity at Mullet Key Apr. 16 (LA, WB). A Yellow Warbler in Gainesville Mar. 7 (CHC) was the earliest by several weeks for the N. Pen., and a Cape May on St. Geo. I., Mar. 24 (HMS) is the earliest in spring migration for the Tally Div. The **Black-throated Gray Warbler** first reported on Mullet Key last fall, was last seen in the same locality Apr. 15 (LA). Ceruleans were at Mullet Key Apr. 17 (B&LA) & 24 (DL), and in Jacksonville May 9 (JPC), tying the latest spring date for the N. Pen. Other warblers at Mullet Key were Blackburnians Apr. 17 (Margaret Wall), 30 (DC), May 1 (WB), & 8 (D,S&GL); Chestnut-sided Apr. 20 (SP) & 29 (DG); Bay-breasted May 10 (three-KT, EB), & 14 (four-CB, DC, JF, MH). Two Bay-breasted were reported on Longboat Key May 11 (MCS). An unusual occurrence in Florida was a singing Palm Warbler, found at Mullet Key Apr. 16 (JBE, A&JF). Two Palms at St. Geo. I., May 9 were late (HMS, JMS). An Ovenbird in Miami June 3 (ESD) was the latest by one day in the S. Pen. Four Louisiana Waterthrushes on St. Geo. I., May 6 (JMS, CHW) were the latest in migration for the Tally Div. This was the spring of the Connecticut Warbler in Florida with 21 reports from throughout the state (m.ob.).

ORIOLES AND TANAGERS—The Spot-breasted Oriole made its first appearance in Indian River County, at Vero Highlands, May 21 (Kathleen Minch). The ♂ **Stripe-headed Tanager** present at Matheson Hammock, Coral Gables, since December 1976, was last seen Apr. 29 (HB, GC, AD, SE).

FRINGILLIDS—Late Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were on Big Pine Key May 7 (PWS *et al.*), Stock Is., Key West, May 14 (HPL, WDM, PWS), and St. Geo. I., May 20 (JMS, HWK). A Dickcissel near the Ramada Inn on S.R. 60 in Tampa June 1, (Florence Graves) was the latest by several weeks for the N. Pen. Florida's first probable **Lazuli Bunting** was seen and photographed by numerous birders. The male coming into breeding plumage first appeared on Mar. 6 in Dr. Mary Mann's yard in Sharpes, n. of Cocoa (Helen Cruickshank)

and remained until Apr. 6 (W&HD, Ollie Olsen). Another first for Florida was a sight record of a ♂ **Greater Antillean Bullfinch** on Hypoluxo I., Apr. 24 (Cynthia Plockelman, AL) observed in detail as close as 10 ft, for 20 minutes. The fourth or fifth **Lark Bunting** for Florida, and the first for the N. Pen., was a male that sang daily in the yard of the Randall Parsons in Apopka Apr. 18–May 6 (m.ob.). The cold winter that sent numbers of Le Conte's Sparrows so far south resulted in several late spring records, with the last of the birds that wintered in a Tampa field being seen Mar. 15 (D,S&GL), and migrants at Mullet Key Apr. 3 (PJJ, CG), and Apr. 16–17 (B&LA)—latest dates for the N. Pen.

S.A.

The most discouraging note of the period, perhaps of the year, is the realization that the *Dusky Seaside Sparrow* is now close to extinction. Only 28 singing males were found in an intensive census of the population in the St. Johns marshes during the 1977 breeding season, and only one or two pairs remain in the salt marshes on Merritt Island N.W.R. (James Baker) It has suddenly become one of the most endangered populations in North America.

A rare Lark Sparrow was on St. Geo. I., Mar. 17 (JMS), and a Field Sparrow was very late at Alligator Pt., May 3 (CHW), while one singing n. of Falmouth, May 27 furnished only the second summer record in the Lake City region (HMS). A White-crowned Sparrow collected on St. Geo. I., May 20 (JMS, HWK) was the latest for Florida, although the poor condition of the bird—an improperly healed broken leg, and extremely tattered rectrices—suggest that it may have been held in captivity; how it reached St. Geo. I., in such condition is a mystery. Five Lincoln's Sparrows were seen in the St. Pete area in March and April (sev. obs.).

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ONTARIO REGION
/ Clive E. Goodwin

The past spring was one of the poorest in many years for visible bird migration. Average temperatures for all three months were above normal, and this brought many early arrival records, particularly in March and April. These two months, and the beginning of May, had variable weather which alternately encouraged migration and grounded migrants, but by mid-May most of the province was enjoying sunny warm days and clear nights—and the birds apparently took advantage of the good conditions to go straight through to the breeding grounds without delay!



While the fine weather in May could account for small numbers of later migrants, it was a less convincing explanation for those species that moved earlier, when conditions were less stable. Absences—or small numbers—of phoebes and flickers, Winter Wrens and thrushes, Golden-crowned Kinglets and some sparrows were thought to be a product of the severe winter, and associated heavy mortality. Reporter after reporter mentioned the scarcity of some or all of these species, and although Breeding Bird Surveys should yield a more accurate picture, some of the reports already give an indication that the scarcity was not merely the result of the observing conditions of the spring. For example, in Algonquin Provincial Park on May 28 three parties of observers covering the highway corridor from dawn to dusk recorded 123 species—but only two Winter Wrens! This, of one of the Park's commonest birds, where their songs "are normally as typical of an Algonquin spring as is the call of the loon" (RJP *et al.*).

Noteworthy movements occurred in conjunction with warm fronts in March and April. Periods of widespread heavy passage were March 6–12, April 10–13, and April 18–21. In May there were fewer waves, but May 5–6 and 12–13 were productive in the Lake Erie sector of the province. Ironically, even by those dates snowbanks in sheltered sections of Bruce County were two feet thick, and ice floes were still to be seen offshore (JWJ), a reminder of the severity of the past winter!

Two noteworthy kills were recorded: 422 birds of 37 species were killed at Long Point Lighthouse on the night of May 17–18, and on May 22 dead birds were being washed ashore on Manitoulin Island after a severe thunderstorm overnight over Lake Huron. Most of the birds in this kill seemed to be

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Swainson's Thrushes and Oven birds, and 70 bodies were counted over a short stretch of shore, with many others in the vicinity (RRT). Ovenbirds and Swainson's Thrushes were also among the most numerous species in the lighthouse kill, with Veeries and Common Yellowthroats also well represented (L.P.B.O.).

LOONS THROUGH GREBES—Mississagi Light (below M.L.) continues to be the major known concentration point in the province for both Com. Loons and Red-necked Grebes. The grebes raft offshore, but the loons are recorded in flight and this spring an estimated 3000 loons were thought to have passed the light. John Nicholson's account of the movements is interesting, as the birds come from three different directions all assuming a NW heading out over the North Channel. Some birds appear from the SE, moving up L. Huron and continuing N up the Strait; some appear following the s. shore of Manitoulin I., and then turn N, and the third group moves overland on a S-NW bearing. The flights are confined to early morning, usually peaking one to two hours after sun rise. The largest single count was 237 on May 8, and the movement seemed to be virtually over by May 17 (JN). Yet 200 mi to the s. the Toronto spring "roundup" May 21, recorded 254 loons (T.O.C.), suggesting a later movement, perhaps of immatures. The Nicholson counts and the L. Ontario concentrations again emphasize the relative lack of knowledge of the waterfowl movements on the Great Lakes. The peak M.L. count of Red-necked Grebes was 450, Apr. 23–24 (JN). This was the largest group recorded in the province since the 1960s, and there were good numbers elsewhere: the 340 at Hamilton Apr. 16 (AW) was the highest count there in many years, and there were scattered individuals and small groups spread all along the lower Great Lakes, with 25 at Dyer's Bay Apr. 30 (JWJ), an unusual Bruce Pen. concentration. Two of the three Eared Grebes reported were early at Hamilton Apr. 16 (AW).

CORMORANTS, HERONS—There were scattered sightings of Double-crested Cormorants all along the lower Great Lakes, and an unusual report of 20 on Canoe L., Kingston May 19 (RKE). Early herons included a Great Blue at Kings ton Mar. 10 (AC), an Am. Bittern there Mar. 29 (RDW) and another on Manitoulin I., Apr. 17 (CB). One of the two Sudbury area Green Herons also was early, on Apr. 23 (JN). Two Cattle Egrets occurred on L. Ontario, and 15 were recorded from L. Erie, about average for recent years. The rarer herons also appeared in their usual small numbers: Little Blue Herons at Pt. Pelee N. P. (below, Pelee) May 7 (DR) and Amherstberg May 20 (RKE, KFE), and a Louisiana Heron at Port Colborne May 11–15 (BF *et al.*) and possibly the same bird at Long Pt., June 4 & 10 (GWM *et al.*). All the Snowy Egrets this year were from L. Ontario, with birds at Pickering Apr. 10–May 1 (EP *et al.*), Oshawa from Apr. 19 (m.ob.) and Kingston May 11 & 24 (ASM, RKE). Finally there was a Yellow-crowned Night Heron at Rondeau May 28 (PAW).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS—The waterfowl story continued to be one of high numbers, and the early season resulted in many early sightings, of which only a few can be noted here. Five Mute Swans on the St. Clair R., Apr. 9 (DR) and up to 13 at Whitby over the period are evidence of the continued expansion of this species. Whistling Swans were widespread along the lower Lakes in late March, with 500 at Tillsonburg Mar. 29 (WmC) and 311 over Hamilton Mar. 10–13 (*vide* RC). These were the largest numbers away from Kent County, which had some 17,000 this year (m.ob.) There were 15,000 Canada Geese at Bradley's Marsh, Kent

Co., Mar. 24 (MF) but in the east the main period of movement was Apr. 27–May 4, when Kingston had 23,000 in all, peaking on May 1 with 18,200 there and 10,000 at Ottawa following the Rideau R. (RDW *et al.*). Southern Ontario only gets a sampling of the Brant movement, and the flight at Kingston was good in spite of the mortality reported from the e. coast: there were 2400 at Bath May 23 (K.F.N.). A Barnacle Goose at Long Pt. from Mar. 29 would be the first for the province if it was a wild bird, but in my view the balance of probability favours an escapee. Ottawa had a White-fronted Goose Apr. 23–27 (RMP *et al.*) and there were at least 143 Snow Geese seen, with heaviest numbers in the east.

Gadwalls and Pintails were again in large numbers, but the 10,000 of the latter in n.w. Middlesex Mar. 19 (ML) was still an exceptional count. Some of the earliest arrivals included six Green-winged Teal Mar. 13 and two Blue-winged Mar. 6, all at Hamilton (AW, BW, MR); two N. Shovelers on Amherst I., Mar. 29 (MM, GMA); a Wood Duck on Mud L., Oxford Co., Mar. 17 (DB); six Lesser Scaup on Manitoulin I., Apr. 2 (CB); and a Hooded Merganser at Peterborough Mar. 6 (DCS). There were three N. Shovelers at Marathon May 8 (NGE), and the season's Eur. Wigeon was at Mountsberg May 22 (RC *et al.*). Valens and Mountsberg Reservoirs both had good concentrations of waterfowl: there were 500 Redheads and 300 Ring-necked Duck at Valens Apr. 10 (AE *et al.*), for example.

In recent issues the significance of the growing number of sewage lagoons has been referred to on several occasions, but the impacts of an earlier group of developments, the Conservation Authority river management programmes, have not received much comment. Environmentally they have had mixed effects, reducing riverside vegetation and habitat, and sometimes flooding out fine woodland and marshes, but they have also created wetlands and inland lakes where none formerly existed. These have been a boon for migrant waterbirds and to some extent breeding species as well, as the records above indicate. The wintering Barrow's Goldeneye at Ottawa was last seen Mar. 26 (*vide* RAF), but there was another bird there on Mar. 30 (PM). This year the heaviest flights of Oldsquaw and White-winged Scoter were off Amherst I., and 10,000 squaws moved May 21–23, while a similar number of scoters was recorded on May 21 & 24 (K.F.N.). There were six reports of Surf Scoter including two at Tiny Marsh, Simcoe Co. (EAW, CJM); and six Black Scoter in Algonquin P.P., May 11 (WC, GT) was one of two reports for the province this spring.

HAWKS—The main hawk news came from the Beamer Pt. Conservation Area located on a break in the Niagara Escarpment above Grimsby, where coverage of movement was maintained Mar. 8–May 3, and 9947 hawks in all were counted (DC *et al.*). An early Turkey Vulture was seen in Quetico P.P., Apr. 9 (SP) and there were three Algonquin P.P. area records later (*vide* RJP). There has been no satisfactory record in Ontario of Mississippi Kite, although additional data on a report from the early 70s have just come to light and have still to be considered by the Ontario Records Committee; an unsupported sighting of a well-described bird from Wainfleet May 28 this year (TWW) is in any event of interest. Beamer Pt. had 4343 Sharp-shinned to 113 Cooper's Hawks, but no comparative figures are available to allow this ratio to be interpreted. The main Red-shouldered movement was Mar. 10–Apr. 4, with a total of 651 birds in all. Again the lack of comparative figures is frustrating, because the story from observers across the rest of the province suggests a slight recovery for this species on the breeding grounds, but nothing to reflect a movement of 600 birds. Presumably Beamer Pt. has been experiencing heavy spring flights throughout, but

how heavy is a movement of 600 birds? The Red-shouldered is a hawk of the woodlands of agricultural s. Ontario, an area of 12 million acres, and if the Beamer Pt. flight represented the total population for that area it still only works out to one pair for every 40,000 acres, or about 60 square miles! Formerly almost every sizable woodlot had its Red-shouldered, and although this species enters Ontario through other routes, one does wonder what counts of Red-shouldered would have been recorded at Beamer Pt. 20 years ago!

Four Broad-winged Hawks at Ivy Lea Mar. 31 were very early (RDW) and on May 2, 2000 were seen moving at Sarnia (AR); the Beamer Pt. total by contrast was 1513, but there was a sighting by experienced observers of a very rare melanistic bird Apr. 30 (ES, WK, DC). An ad. light phase Swainson's Hawk was reported from Grimsby Apr. 10 (GM), the first spring sighting of the species since 1968. Five Golden Eagle reports included one of an injured bird nursed back to health at Ottawa Apr. 9–16 (*vide* RAF), and the nine Bald Eagles seen in the south included the Arner pair, which had at least one young in the nest (JPK). Other noteworthy Beamer Pt. records were an early Osprey Mar. 26 (ES), and a Gyrfalcon Apr. 20 (WK). In all there were 19 Peregrine Falcon reports and the same number of Merlins across the province, although some duplication probably occurred.

CRANES, RAILS—There were six Manitoulin Sandhill Crane reports, and three birds reappeared at Massey on Apr. 12 (LS). A bird was seen again at Richmond on May 22 & 28 (MG, RTy, JH). Farther s. one was in Kent County Mar. 28 (PAW), and a flock of 17 birds flying high over Toronto Mar. 27 (JC-B) was probably this species and one of very few flocks ever recorded along the lower Great Lakes. The Southwest had eight King Rails in three localities, and Yellow Rails returned to Richmond, where at least ten were calling by the end of the period (BD *et al.*). Early arrivals in this group included a Sora at Toronto Mar. 29 (JAK) and an Am. Coot at Peterborough Mar. 5 (DCS).

SHOREBIRDS—The exceptions to the generally poor migration were shorebirds, and most areas reported outstanding movements as water levels were lower than in recent years in many prime localities. Many species normally rare or absent in spring appeared, and in good numbers. Analyzing the accounts was more like summarizing a fall migration than a spring one! Eight Piping Plover returned to Long Pt. by the end of the period (L.P.B.O.) and elsewhere there was one at Toronto Apr. 29 (HL, RP) and another at Pelee Apr. 30 (JF *et al.*). The Southwest had good flights of both Am. Golden and Black-bellied Plover: Am. Golden moved from Apr. 16 and there were up to 3000 birds at Rondeau, while there were flocks of up to 1500 Black-bellied in several locations (*vide* AHK). There was a host of early records, with many of the earliest from the Hamilton area: these included a Solitary Sandpiper Apr. 14 (AW), a Lesser Yellowlegs Mar. 6–7 (MR, RF), a Greater Yellowlegs Mar. 12 (RC), a Least Sandpiper Apr. 24 (KMCL) and a remarkably large flock for the date of 223 Dunlin Apr. 12 (MJ, RHW). Earliest arrivals from elsewhere included an Upland Sandpiper at Cheltenham Apr. 7 (RG) and a Spotted Sandpiper at Dorchester Mar. 30 (CEH). Pectoral Sandpipers are common birds both spring and fall, but this year there must have been a huge movement from early April to late May the species was present in numbers, with as many as 1500 at Rondeau, several counts exceeding 100 birds elsewhere and report after report of smaller flocks.

Among the species usually common in fall but rare in spring, there were six Baird's and five W. Sandpipers from May 21 on, mainly along the lower Great Lakes, but n to

Gore Bay. No less than 14 Stilt Sandpipers were seen—there were nine at Angus alone (CJM)—May 1–20, the most ever recorded in spring. There seems no logic in nine N. Phalaropes moving from Cheltenham May 7 (RG) to Exeter May 19 (MD) but there is also no precedent for such a number in spring in s. Ontario. Finally, a winter-plumaged Long-billed Dowitcher was seen at Smithville Apr. 17–24 (RC, HHA *et al.*) completing the catalogue of “fall” migrants! Two species, Marbled Godwit and Ruff, continued their steady increases of recent years: the five godwits were mainly along L. Erie and east to Whitby May 2–19; and four Ruffs were n to Ottawa and Exeter Apr. 24–May 15, and the numbers of both species probably represent the most-ever in s. Ontario for spring migration. Three rarer species appeared in their usual numbers: two Willets were both at Appin Apr. 13 (DM); two Hudsonian Godwits were at Richmond May 28 (RAF, RMP *et al.*) and Hamilton May 22 (RC, AW, BW); and there was an Am. Avocet at Port Rowan May 14 (EN, AL, DTH). Wilson’s Phalaropes not only maintained their gains of last year, but appeared in unprecedented numbers everywhere. At least 147 birds were reported, most of them at sewage lagoons, and apparently paired. The highest single count was of ten pairs at Amherstberg May 22, birds were being reported from Apr. 24 on, and many of the lagoons would seem to offer suitable breeding habitat. Sightings were concentrated in the agricultural south and Sudbury-Manitoulin, but two at Atikokan May 6 (DHE) were the second-ever there. If the species can maintain this apparent expansion it will exceed even the Gadwall as a success story: just a decade ago three spring records, one pair found breeding and seven fall reports represented an increase over past years!

GULLS, TERNS—Glaucous Gulls reached a peak of 17, Mar 20 at Marathon (NGE) and were unusually widespread in May with as many as seven at Sarnia (DR) and the last May 21 at Bowmanville (DBa, RT, JR). A late Iceland Gull was at Long Pt., May 29 (RF, BD, AW). Kingston experienced an influx of 1000 second-year Herring Gulls and some imm Great Black-backed at each of several sites, and these birds remained and appeared to be summering. This is a new development (*vide* RDW), and the birds can hardly be from the impoverished Great Lakes colonies. Only 15 Little Gulls were reported from the lower Lakes, but two on L. Scugog May 21 represent a new, inland locality for these birds (RT). Laughing Gulls were at Pelee May 2 (DR) and Hamilton May 29 and June 4 (AE, KMCL). Arctic Terns were again at Ottawa May 26–June 1 with a high of 30 birds (*vide* RAF), and single reports from Erieau and Pelee await further assessment. Kingston had an early Caspian Tern Apr. 11 (RDW).

CUCKOOS, OWLS—A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was at Ox-tongue L., May 30 (WC, DS *et al.*) and Black-billed were both numerous and early, with one at Tillsonburg May 7 (WMC). Owls not previously noted in the winter summary include Hawk Owls at Desoronto Mar. 28 (TJ) and Manitoulin I., Mar. 12 (JN, R&VR), and Great Gray Owls at Atikokan Apr. 11–May 4 (SP) and Burwash Apr. 10 (BR). The surprising owl report was a well-described **Burrowing Owl** at M L., May 18 (JN): there are three prior reports and a specimen for the province. A Boreal Owl was heard at Kingston Mar 11 (RDW) and there were birds at Atikokan Mar. 9–11 (SP) The last report of the late winter was from Bronte Mar 20–26 (MJ, m.ob.). A Saw-whet Owl was seen at Go Home Bay May 4 (CH).

NIGHTHAWKS THROUGH WOODPECKERS—Two Chuck-will’s-widows were at Pelee from May 11 (DR) and another at Prince Edward Pt. (below, P.E. Pt.), May 21–25

(K.F.N.). Whip-poor-wills seemed in generally good numbers—Ottawa had a three-fold increase (*vide* RAF)—and the earliest of several reports was a bird at Waterloo Apr 20 (CAC, JC). Red-bellied Woodpeckers were seen at Toronto Mar. 13 (ES) and Long Pt. Early woodpeckers included a Com. Flicker in Algonquin P.P., Apr. 2 (WCa), a Red-headed on Manitoulin I., May 1 (CB) and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Nottawasaga Bay Apr. 2 (CH, DS). The last N. Three-toed Woodpecker at Ottawa May 22 was late (RAF, RMP)

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS—There was an Acadian Flycatcher banded at P.E. Pt., May 23 (MJE *et al.*) The earliest of many early flycatcher reports included an E Kingbird at Toronto May 4 (JAK), an Alder Flycatcher at London May 5 (TNH), a Least at Colpo Bay Apr. 26 (LR), an E. Wood Pewee in the Georgian Bay Islands N.P., Apr 19 (DS), and an Olive-sided Flycatcher in King Twp., May 6 (AD). The Manitoulin area’s first Willow Flycatchers were two on Great Duck I., May 20 (JN). Tree Swallows set a record-early date in Algonquin P.P., Mar. 30 (RT) and there were 3000 over the Grand R., at Caledonia the following day (RF) Gray Jays at Dyer’s Bay Mar. 8 (JWJ) and Listowel Mar 13 (GG) were the last of the winter. Pelee had a Bewick’s Wren May 1 (AW, KJB).

MIMIDS THROUGH VIREOS—A Mockingbird was seen at Atikokan May 13 (TN) and Marathon also had one from May 20, as well as a Gray Catbird the next day and a Brown Thrasher May 26 (NGE). A thrasher in Algonquin Apr. 26 (RT) and a Veery on Manitoulin I., May 8 (CB) were both very early. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were widespread, with an early bird Apr. 21 at Mud L. (DB), and records n to Tobermorey May 19 (RB) and east to P.E. Pt., where six was rather a low total for recent years (RDW). Water Pipits were unusually common for spring, the largest flock being 120 at Long Pt., May 5 (L.P.B.O.). A Bohemian Waxwing was seen at Toronto Mar. 17 (CJO) and there was an encouraging number of Loggerhead Shrikes reported—at least 35. White-eyed Vireos were seen e. along the lower Lakes to P.E. Pt., where there were two, and as early as Apr. 13 at Long Pt. (PC)

WARBLERS—Variations in warbler numbers may have been the product of the strange weather, although both observatories (P.E. Pt. and Long Pt.) agree that Cape Mays were down, although Tennessee and Bay-breasted numbers continued high. As last year, there were many early records and some were quite exceptional: a Black-and-white Warbler at Kettle Pt., Apr. 2 (AR); an Orange-crowned on Manitoulin I., May 1 (JN); a Nashville at Pimisi Bay Apr 30 (LdeKL); a Black-throated Green at Pelee Apr. 11 (JAG), a Cerulean at Long Pt., Apr. 18 (PC), and a Pine at Tillsonburg Mar. 30 (WMC). There were the usual “rarities”, although perhaps in smaller numbers than recent years. Away from the Southwest there were four Prothonotary Warblers seen, with one as early as Apr. 17 at Toronto (GBe). There were five Worm-eating Warblers in all, ten Louisiana Waterthrushes, nine Kentucky and nine Hooded Warblers. All of these birds were along the lower Great Lakes, with Pelee, Long Pt. and P.E. Pt. providing the bulk of the records, although Toronto also featured largely. The rarest warbler, however, was on Great Duck I., where a Yellow-throated was seen May 22 (JN). Golden and Blue-winged Warblers again made a strong showing, supporting the idea that these species are expanding once again in the province. An early Blue-winged at Pelee Apr. 19 (AW) started the push, and there were as many as seven at Newbury May 28 (GEM). Golden-winged were e. to Miller Creek in the Peterborough area May 23 (DCS).

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS—A Bobolink at Peterborough Apr. 3 (RTn) and a N. Oriole at Pelee Apr. 17 (*vide* AHK) were both early. Toronto had a Yellow-headed Blackbird May 3–5 (JAK, m.ob.) and Marathon had two, Apr. 20 & May 13. Marathon also had three Scarlet Tanagers May 20–21 (NGE). Orchard Orioles appeared at M.L., May 16–17 (JN) and in record numbers at P.E. Pt., with six May 6 and three May 10 (K.F.N.). At least three pairs of Brewer's Blackbirds were present at Erieau throughout the season (JPK *et al.*) Only one Summer Tanager was reported at Pelee May 7 (DR).

FINCHES, SPARROWS—The earliest Rose-breasted Grosbeak sighting was from Manitoulin I., of all places, Apr. 15 (*vide* JN), and Algonquin had its earliest-ever Indigo Buntings May 16 (DS). Limited winter finch movement developed in March. There was an influx of Evening Grosbeaks early in the month, with small numbers of Purple Finches and larger numbers of Am. Goldfinches present until well into April. These movements seemed heaviest in the c. part of s. Ontario (*vide* GB, JM, CJM). Two pairs of Red Crossbills with nesting material were watched at Midhurst Mar. 6 (CH). **House Finches** appeared again for the second successive year: there was one at Dundas Apr. 20 (GC *et al.*) and the first recorded full-plumaged male for the province at Kingston Mar. 21 (GW). Lark Buntings appeared at Whitby Apr. 17–21 (DCa, m.ob.) and at Long Pt., May 8 (CBu); recently two birds per year has been about average for this species in Ontario.

Sparrows yielded a host of early records: a Savannah and two Fox Sparrows at Long Pt., Mar. 12 in a huge movement of Song Sparrows (GBr, RC), a Vesper at P.E. Pt., Mar. 19 (RBS, RDW) and a Field at Waterloo Apr. 1 (RBr) were just a few of the most noteworthy. Three Henslow's Sparrows at Long Pt. were the most ever banded there (L.P.B.O.) and there was a bird on Great Duck I., May 21, where a Lark Sparrow was also seen three days later (WRL, JN). Le Conte's Sparrows were at Pelee Apr. 19–May 12 (m.ob.). Two of the four Harris' Sparrows seen were in the London area (DM, RGC, WRJ *et al.*) in March, and the others were

at Long Pt., May 7 (m.ob.) and Marathon May 12–14 (NGE) Lapland Longspurs continued their winter abundance into spring, and birders were treated to the unfamiliar but delightful sight of flocks of full-plumaged longspurs in early May. The largest flock was 75 at Melbourne May 8 (JWL *et al.*) and the last seen at Bowmanville May 11 (RT), the same day a tardy Snow Bunting appeared in Algonquin P.P. (WC, GT)

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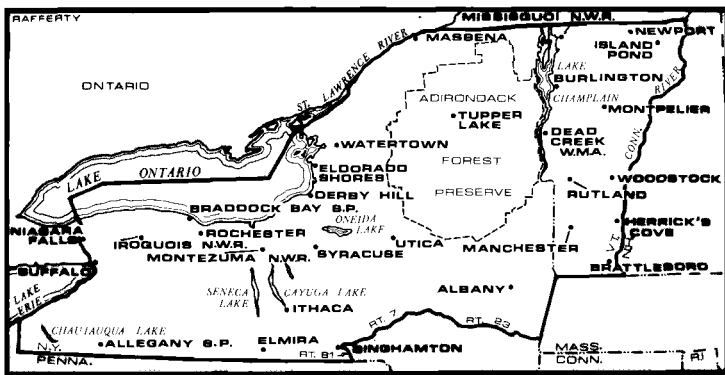
NIAGARA—CHAMPLAIN REGION / Douglas P. Kibbe

This spring resembled last year's, with alternating hot and cold spells in March and April followed by a snowstorm which dumped up to 15 inches of flakes on some areas the second week of May. For the most part, however, May was a month dominated by unrelenting mild, dry weather which allowed migrants to pass through without forming notable waves. Advanced foliage development made land birding difficult and observers sought solace in the fact that drought conditions late in the season gave promise of exceptional shorebirding.

Regional trends included declines in some 'southern' species (*e.g.*, Mockingbird and Carolina Wren) owing to winter kill, and circumstantial evidence that the Southeast's exceptionally severe winter caused declines in several of our breeding

species that winter in that region (*e.g.*, Eastern Phoebe, Winter Wren, both kinglets, and Eastern Bluebird) Two hundred seventy-five species were reported this spring

Regional trends included declines in some 'southern' species (*e.g.*, Mockingbird and Carolina Wren) owing to winter kill, and circumstantial evidence that the Southeast's ex-



ceptionally severe winter caused declines in several of our breeding species that winter in that region (e.g., Eastern Phoebe, Winter Wren, both kinglets, and Eastern Bluebird). Two hundred seventy-five species were reported this spring.

The Vermont Breeding Bird Atlas Project got well underway this spring. Destined for completion in 1981, 150 of the 179 priority blocks have already been assigned to 120 observers. In addition, 14 blocks containing fragile or unique habitats have been identified and are receiving at least partial coverage. More observers and information on unique habitats are still sought and interested individuals are urged to contact the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, Woodstock, Vermont.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS—Only three Red-throated Loons were reported, while the best Com. Loon tally was 200 near Rochester, both totals low. Lake Ontario hosted an incredible influx of Red-necked Grebes in April when daily counts w. of Rochester peaked at 1210 birds (RCL, CP). Although normally rare throughout the region, a similar influx was recorded in April, 1958 in the same general area (*vide* AK, WL). The environmental conditions which cause such a concentration, which this year grew and waned over a three week period, peaking Apr. 10, defy explanation at this time. An Eared Grebe courted Am. Coots at Island Cottage near Rochester throughout May (CT, KG, m.ob.). Double-crested Cormorants were well reported with more than a dozen sightings including eight birds at Hamlin May 14 (R.B.A.) and 25 on May 1 at Cocksackie, the best regional tally in many years.

Cattle Egrets staged their best showing to date in the L. Champlain valley and are apparently breeding again on Vermont's Sister Is., as well as New York's Four Brothers Is. Four Snowy Egret sightings included singles near Springfield, Vt (DCI, EE) and on the Hoosic R. in Washington County (JD, *vide* RG) and three at Braddock Bay (R.B.A.). Black-crowned Night Herons were well reported for the first time in years. Rochester sported another Yellow-crowned Night Heron this spring at Irondequoit Bay May 2-7 (MM, m.ob.). Reports of both bitterns showed an increase this spring; hopefully this is more than a reflection of better coverage. An astonishing 15 Glossy Ibis at Herrick's Cove Apr. 23 (DCI, EE *et al.*) ties both state and regional maxima. No further evidence of an influx was apparent; the only other reports being of singles at Missisquoi N.W.R. (FO *et al.*) and Montezuma N.W.R. (R.B.A., JG) the third week of May.

WATERFOWL THROUGH HAWKS—Peak Canada Goose estimates at Montezuma N.W.R. matched the previous high of 85,000 (WB). White-fronted Geese appeared in New York for the second consecutive spring with three at Royalton Mar 20 (RA *et al.*, *vide* B.O.S.). Other vagrant waterfowl sightings included ♂ Eur. Wigeons at three New York localities and one in Weybridge, Vt., Apr. 12-15 (WS, m.ob.). An ad. and first-year ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye were present at Braddock Bay during April (G.O.S. & R.B.A.) and the ♂ Harlequin Duck at Greece continued through Mar. 12 (G.O.S.). Black Scoters moved through the e. portion of the region the second week of May with at least one-half dozen localities reporting sightings. Best tally of the season, however, was ten at Irondequoit Bay outlet Mar. 20 (RO).

Concurrent with its phenomenal increase, the Turkey Vulture seems to be returning to the region much earlier. First-comers this year appeared at Cherry Creek in w. New York Mar 5, at Braddock Bay Mar. 9, and at Cornwall, Vt., Mar 19. Hawk watch tallies clearly reflect the Turkey Vulture's population increase; 879 were sighted at Braddock Bay, including a single day's total of 196, Mar. 30 (R.B.A.). Seasonal totals 1963-1969, at the region's best watch, Derby Hill, never exceeded 280 birds and vultures were rarely seen before

April. This year over 300 soared past the Braddock Bay lookout during March alone and they represented 4% of the total flight; whereas during the 1960s they comprised only 0.3-1.2% of the Derby Hill counts. Compilations from Braddock Bay provide some revealing facts about the current relative abundance of our other migrant raptors. Accipiters accounted for about 10% of the 22,583 birds recorded, with Sharpshinned outnumbering Cooper's and Goshawks by a 133:51 ratio. Broad-winged Hawks made up the vast majority (74%) of the flight with Red-tailed forming another 7%. Red-shouldered Hawks, considered a species in trouble in the Northeast, constituted only 2% of the total this spring, *cf* an average of 3.1% of the birds 1963-1969 at Derby Hill. Much of this species' decline has been in regional breeding populations. Using yearly comparisons to deduce population trends must be done cautiously for many reasons. In the cases just cited the counts come from two widely separated lake-shore points.

The most unusual raptor sighting of the season was a Black Vulture which passed over Derby Hill Mar. 30 (*vide* FO). A Broad-winged Hawk was engaged in an aerial bout with a Com Raven in Essex County Mar. 15 (PB, *vide* H.P.A.S.), an extremely early date for an Adirondack area. Golden Eagle reports outnumbered Bald Eagle's by nearly 2:1, with at least 15 of the Golden's at Derby Hill, five of them Mar 30 (*vide* FO) and another ten on Apr. 21 (*vide* R.B.A.). These and the four or five sightings away from the lake plains probably reflect increased observer willingness to call Golden's in e. North America and better coverage rather than a population explosion. Two Peregrine Falcons were closely observed in Vermont (BP, WN), while as many as five may have been sighted in New York.

GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS—A Sandhill Crane passed over Chazy in Clinton Co., N.Y., May 18 (SS) becoming the second record from the L. Champlain area in six months. Single Whimbrels were studied at Montezuma N.W.R., May 24 (JG, B&LL) and Eldorado Shores May 30 (RW, *vide* LC). Two Am. Golden Plovers appeared at Kianton, N.Y., Mar. 19 (RSu *et al.*, *vide* VP), a record early date. A Willet, always rare in the spring, was photographed at Kendall May 22 (CT, m.ob.). Four reports of Red Knots in late May included 18 at Montezuma N.W.R. (G.O.S.) and an excellent tally of 28 at Croil I. in the St. Lawrence R., May 28 (JV). A record-breaking total of 508 Pectoral Sandpipers was compiled at Newstead and Clarence, N.Y., Apr. 16 (DF). Two extraordinarily early Pectorals were closely observed at Dead Creek W.M.A., Mar. 11 (WS) breaking the Vermont arrival date by over a month. White-rumped Sandpipers are considered rare in Vermont in the spring, so a May 20 sighting at Panton (WE, CR) is noteworthy. A Baird's Sandpiper appeared in the region for the second consecutive spring at a Yates County beaver pond (ML, *vide* WB). Least Sandpipers arrived very early with two at Hamlin (RCL, CP) and another at Times Beach Apr. 21 (DF). A Semipalmated Sandpiper at Perinton, N.Y., Apr. 17 (MT) set a regional arrival record.

Long Pond near Rochester provided some of the best shorebird counts, including 350 Semipalmated and an astonishing flock of 60 W. Sandpipers, reportedly photographed, May 27 (*vide* R.B.A.). The previous regional high count, also from the Rochester area, was five Westerns. A Marbled Godwit appeared off Coles Creek Marina on the St. Lawrence R. (JV, *vide* LC) on the same date. There are only two previous regional spring sightings, both near Rochester. A Ruff May 12 and two May 27-28 near Rochester (R.B.A. & G.O.S.) are that species' first spring reports in three years. Up to two N. Phalaropes, very uncommon in the spring, were observed at Montezuma N.W.R., May 15-24 (WB, m.ob.). Wilson's Phalaropes were well represented with five near Rochester,

and singles at Montezuma N.W.R., Tonawanda W.M.A., and on May 21 at Missisquoi N.W.R., constituting Vermont's first spring record (G&WE *et al.*).

GULLS THROUGH OWLS—Glaucous Gulls lingered past the previous late departure date of May 22 including: second-year birds at Plattsburgh May 25 (PW) and another on the St. Lawrence R., May 29 (JV, *fide* LC). A Lesser **Black-backed Gull** identified at the Colonie dump near Albany Apr. 13 (KA) provided the second local record in six months. The Rochester area appears to be surpassing Buffalo as the region's best **Thayer's Gull** site. One ad. Thayer's was positively identified in flight before it landed in a field near Parma with about a dozen "suspicious looking" gulls and fifty ad. Herrings May 9 (CP). Too far away for positive identification, the dozen become another chapter of the Thayer's Gull mystery evolving in Rochester (see *Am. Birds* 31(2):175). A careful survey of Ring-billed Gulls on Four Brother's Is. in L. Champlain indicates that the breeding colony has increased threefold in the past ten years to 7500 pairs presently (H P A). An adult-plumaged Laughing Gull was sighted May 22 at Sodus Bay (D,M&TT) and another (possibly the same one) appeared one week later at Rochester's Long Pond (CP). The appearance of an adult in inland New York unaided by a severe storm system is particularly unusual.

Forster's Terns proved very scarce with only two reports from Braddock Bay (R.B.A. & G.O.S.). Both Caspian and Com Tern reports were down. Considering the incredible increase in several gull species in recent years and their possible effects upon tern colonies, an inland nesting colony survey seems overdue. The appearance of two Black Terns at Saratoga L., near Albany Mar. 26 (BN, *fide* KA) is unprecedented and breaks the previous arrival date by nearly a month. A pair of red-billed, short-legged grayish terns, possibly Artic, was sighted Apr. 26 near Elmira (MW, *fide* WB). Unfortunately they vanished before photographs could be taken.

Both cuckoos and tent caterpillars were common this spring. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Dead Creek W.M.A., May 21 (BP) was only the third Vermont spring sighting in five years. Single Barn Owls were found at Somerset (JDU), Cocksackie Flats (RG), and Frewsburg (FE), N.Y. The customary, single Vermont Screech Owl report comes this time from Middlebury. One suspects, however, that the species is widespread in the Champlain valley. The only Long-eared Owl report away from the lake plains was of a single bird in Winhall May 1 (WN). The artificial owl nest program initiated on the L. Ontario plains a year ago continues. Only a small fraction of the 30+ nests already in place were checked this spring. None had avian occupants. Thirty Short-eared Owls continued to linger on Nations Rd. into March, however, no breeding records were received from this or any other area. A Short-eared at Dead Creek W.M.A., Apr. 10 appeared to be sporting a radio antenna on one leg (B&GG) although there are no known radio telemetry studies currently being conducted on the owls in the region. Saw-whet Owls were sighted only in four locations; Craftsbury (FO) and Middlebury (WS), Vt., being probable breeding sites.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH KINGLETTS—The death of American elms of Dutch elm disease has contributed immensely to the restoration of Red-headed Woodpecker populations in the region. The most remarkable Red-headed report comes from Avon, N.Y., where 35 were counted Mar. 12 (FD, *fide* G.O.S.). This count is more than four times the previous spring high for the region. Nearly as remarkable were 20 Red-bellied Woodpeckers in the same area Mar. 12 (FD, *fide* G.O.S.). An almost equivalent number (18) were tallied in Avon in midwinter nearly 20 years ago. All four

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers observed were near Ferdinand and Lewis, Vt. (WE *et al.*). Perhaps as a consequence of the severe Southeastern winter E. Phoebe were very scarce in several areas. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher seen May 7 at E. Amherst (DF, *fide* B.O.S.) establishes a record early arrival date for the region. Four Acadian Flycatchers were reported from three locations (G.O.S. & R.B.A.), all near Rochester. Observers are urged to check other lake plains and c. New York mature woodlands for this species so that a more realistic picture of its distribution can be developed. Best lakeside counts of Blue Jays were 3000 at Greece May 6 (G.O.S.) and 5000 past Braddock Bay May 15 (R.B.A.). As usual these major flights occurred after resident birds had already commenced nesting. The re-appearance of Ithaca's Fish Crow is overshadowed by the presence of two or possibly three birds at the Niskayuna landfill near Albany Apr. 20 (KA).

Despite a precipitous drop in c. New York populations owing to the severe winter, a pair of Carolina Wrens in Middlebury, Vt. (WS) is a portent of continued expansion of this southern colonist. Mockingbirds were also reportedly devastated by the winter in w. New York however, numbers were up in s.e. Vermont and birds were found in several n. Vermont localities. Other species noted in lower numbers by several observers included Hermit Thrush, E. Bluebird, and Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. All of these winter in the Southeast and suspicion runs high that some increase in winter mortality occurred. Probably owing in large part to better coverage many more nesting Blue-gray Gnatcatchers are being discovered. A nesting pair on the Ausable R. delta in Clinton Co. (PW *et al.*) extended the northern limit of breeding in New York. Interestingly, this pair was almost directly across L. Champlain from the region's northernmost nest record at Sand Bar W.M.A. Disproving theories that the gnatcatchers are limited to the L. Champlain and Connecticut R. valleys were birds at Piercefield in the Adirondacks and Plainfield in the Northeast Kingdom.

WAXWINGS THROUGH WARBLERS—Flocks of **Bohemian Waxwings** lingered at two locations into March; 80 at Cornwall, Vt., through Mar. 19 (BP) and 14 until Mar. 28 at Dry Hill near Watertown, N.Y. (RW, *fide* LC). Cedar Waxwings were moving along the L. Ontario shore in immense numbers May 22. At Braddock Bay the 5000 tallied (R.B.A.) is five times the previous state and regional high. There were numerous reports of N. Shrikes, the last Apr. 15. Loggerhead Shrikes were noted a record 26 times; however, no nesting pairs were found and concern for the species remains high. This species, perhaps better than any other reported this season, exemplifies the need for caution when using the number of reports in evaluating species trends. Early Loggerheads were found Mar. 5 at Oak Orchard W.M.A., Mar. 10 at Kendall, and Mar. 16 at S. Hero; the latter (WE *et al.*) apparently Vermont's earliest. Their spread as insidious and undesirable as urban sprawl, Starlings seem to be continuing to invade rural areas. White-eyed Vireos were well reported again this spring in New York with singles at Hanover (FR), E. Amherst (DF), Island Cottage (HS), and Altamont (*fide* RG).

A Prothonotary and a Prairie Warbler, carefully identified near Rochester Apr. 23 (R.B.A.), were extremely early. These individuals represent an overflight from populations south of the region since these southern populations return to their breeding grounds long before our breeders normally reach the region. Single Worm-eating Warblers were found at Elmira (WH), where they breed, and at Island Cottage (R&DC) and Thatcher S. P., near Albany. Blue-winged Warblers are clearly swamping Golden-winged Warblers in the region. Clearest evidence of this comes from the B O S, May 15 count

in which Blue-winged outnumbered Golden-winged by 10:1. Three Orange-crowned Warblers were identified in w. New York this spring, about average for this season.

"Myrtle" Warblers were almost the only species recorded in above-average numbers; the highest tally being 500 Apr. 23 (RCI, CP) along the lake shore w. of Rochester where they were termed "unbelievably abundant". Ceruleans were sighted at Elmira and Greece as well as their normal breeding areas near Albany and at Iroquois N.W.R. A Yellow-throated Warbler at Tiff Farm near Buffalo May 22 (RW, *vide* B.O.S.) was the only one to reach our region this spring. An estimated 150 Bay-breasted Warblers at Braddock Bay May 22 (JS *et al.*) was nearly twice the previous regional high for this formerly uncommon species which has shown progressively greater numbers (presumably thanks to spruce budworm infestations to the north). A Louisiana Waterthrush spotted Mar. 31 in Alleghany County (SE) made the earliest regional record ever. A Kentucky Warbler was found near Vandalia May 15 (SE, *vide* VP). Considering the increase in Yellow-breasted Chat reports in recent years, the dearth this spring comes as a surprise.

ICTERIDS THROUGH SPARROWS—A Western Meadowlark at Murray in Orleans County was found paired with an Eastern in May (R.B.A. & G.O.S.). Conflicting reports of the bird's sex were received (as if one identity crisis weren't enough for the poor bird). Vermont's first pair of nesting Orchard Orioles was discovered in Woodstock (CRP, m.ob.). At last report the first year male and his mate were feeding young. This nesting climaxes a progressive increase in reports over the past seven years, previous to which there had been no reports from the state for over sixty years. Presumably the species is spreading N via the Hudson or Connecticut R. valleys. Other regional reports came from Pt. Breeze and Oak Orchard, the latter a new but not unexpected location. A Summer Tanager was seen at Iroquois N.W.R., May 4 (JM, *vide* B.O.S.). A first year ♂ Dickcissel is spending an idyllic, though apparently celibate, summer at Addison, Vt., in the Champlain valley. First discovered May 21, the bird continued through the end of the period (TA, BP, WS). The only other report was of the bird at the Cuba, N.Y., feeder which continued until Apr. 16 (AS).

Purple Finches continued in record numbers in the e. half of the region. Over 700 were banded in March and April alone in Schenectady (RY). A nest with three eggs located in Burlington May 3 (WE), the earliest date ever. House Finches continued their phenomenal increase undaunted by the preceding winter. An early April nesting attempt established Plattsburgh (PW) as the northernmost breeding area in the region. Pine Siskins apparently nested extraordinarily early again this year because a young of the year was captured and banded in Plainfield, Vt., May 3 (MFM). American Goldfinches were also present in record numbers in c. and e. portions of the region. Over 900 were banded at Schenectady during March and April (RY). Red Crossbills were scarce and local, with only one sighting outside the Adirondacks. White-winged Crossbills were also limited, all but a single report coming from the Green or Adirondack Mountains. Opinions regarding the status of the region's grassland sparrows were anything but unanimous but most felt that Grasshoppers were up and Vespers were continuing to decline. Late lingering fringillids included two Tree Sparrows May 15 in w. New York (*vide* B.O.S.) and a Snow Bunting Apr. 15 in Elmira (WH). An "Oregon" Junco dined at a Dorset, Vt., feeder in mid-April (*vide* NS). Could three singing Clay-colored Sparrows at the Watertown airport May 27 (FC, *vide* LC) denote a range expansion? If so, does an absence of lake plains reports signify a route of spread n. of L. Ontario? White-crowned

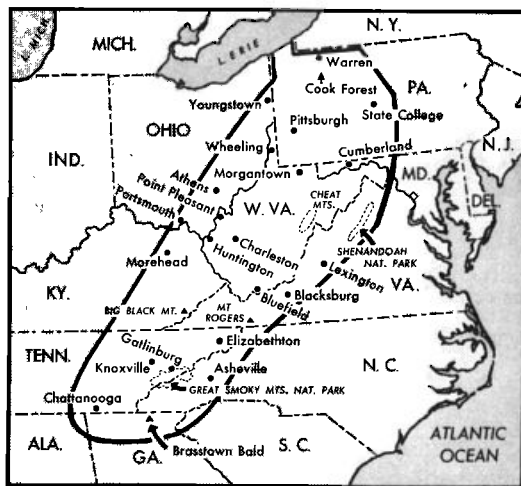
Sparrows staged an exceptional showing, particularly in c. New York, where, in the words of one veteran observer, it was the "best migration in 65 years of birding". Because of its secretive habits little information exists on the timing of migration in Lincoln's Sparrows, so a count of six at Greece May 22 (M&RMc, *vide* G.O.S.) is of interest.

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APPALACHIAN REGION

/ George A. Hall

On the whole the spring migration in this region was uneventful and rather slow. The rigorous winter was followed by a fairly mild spring which showed few interruptions in the form of cold fronts and so the migrants tended to pass through steadily and no great "waves" were seen. After the cold winter, March temperatures were on the mild side with an excess of 186 day-degrees at Pittsburgh. Precipitation was about normal and there was little snow. April had normal temperatures, and slightly less than normal precipitation. There was a cold spell in early May which produced some freezing and light snow in places as late as May 9. Follow



ing this, temperatures soared to summer levels and the month finished with a temperature excess of 106 day-degrees. After the first week of the month there was essentially no precipitation

In March the movement northwards of the early bird species was about on time, or even a little early. At most places, however, numbers of migrants were low. The April migrants were usually somewhat early but most of April was rather dull. The May migrants started to arrive early, in the last week of April. This movement was slowed down by the cold weather. With the return of warm weather in the second week of May the migrants moved rapidly through the region and after the 21st the migration appeared to be over. Most species were in short supply, however. A few migrants, mostly females, did trickle through even as late as the first few days of June

WINTER CASUALTIES—With the start of the breeding season it has become possible to more accurately evaluate the losses suffered by some species during the cold winter. As mentioned in the last report the hardest hit species was the Carolina Wren. North of about Charleston, West Virginia this species has been almost completely wiped out. Hard work on the part of observers will usually result in finding a few birds, even in the far north, but the average observer will not see or hear any for days at a time. South of West Virginia the populations have also been reduced, but not so drastically. At Knoxville only 84 were reported on the Spring Count compared with 200 last year (JBO); at Elizabethton, Tennessee populations are down by one-third (GE); and at Toccoa Falls, Georgia they are down about 15 per cent (RS). Another species that was apparently hard hit was the Golden-crowned Kinglet, which winters in numbers in this region as well as farther south. Most reporters remarked that the northward migration was very poor, and some even failed to find it. In the West Virginia spruce belt nesting populations are drastically lower than those of recent years during which this species had been enjoying a population boom. Ruby-crowned Kinglets winter somewhat farther south and were not hit as hard but they too seemed reduced in numbers. On the other hand the Eastern Bluebird, which has been a disaster species in the past when hard winters occurred in the south, seems not to have suffered great mortality. Several other species are commented on in the accounts that follow.

LOONS AND GREBES—It was a season for unusual records in this group. There were four reports of Red-throated Loons: Boone L., Tenn., Apr. 7 (DL *et al.*), L. Arthur, Pa., Apr. 8 (WR, SR), Montour County, Pa., Apr. 23–24 (SS), and Rose Valley S.P., Pa., May 14 (very late—PS). Also unusual for the region were the numerous reports of Red-necked Grebe: L. Arthur, Pa., Mar. 28 (CF), and Apr. 8 & 12 (WR, SR), Erie, Pa., Mar. 2 (DS), Wayne County, O., Mar. 25 (JB), Edinboro L., Pa., Apr. 9 & 17 (BS), Montour County, Pa., Apr. 26 (SS), and State College, Pa. (no date given—MW). Also most unusual were **Eared Grebes** from Patrick Henry L., Tenn., Apr. 9 (*vide* TF) and Presque Isle S.P., Pa., Apr. 24 (BG). A Horned Grebe at L. Julian, Buncombe Co., N.C., Apr. 1–11 was unusual for the area (RSA) and some noteworthy concentrations of this species were 600 at L. Arthur, Pa., in early April (WR, SR) and 645 at Edinboro L., Pa., Apr. 8 (DS).

HERONS AND IBISES—The Great Egret continues to be rather commonly reported in the spring, a situation that did not obtain a few years ago. Snowy Egrets at Montour County Apr. 18 & May 15 (SS), Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., Apr. 28–29 (DP), and Toccoa Falls, Ga., May 2 (JR, AG) were

noteworthy as were the Little Blue Herons at Butler, Pa., May 15 (FP) and L. Arthur Apr. 24 (PH—probably the same bird), and near Toccoa Falls Apr. 23 & May 2 (RS). Cattle Egrets were reported from Waynesboro, Va., Mar. 31 (MH), Lock Haven, Pa., Apr. 23 (MC, CH), Christiansburg, Va., May 2 (*vide* JM) and Pymatuning L., Pa. (*vide* RFL). Near Warren, Pa., five Great Blue Heron nesting colonies had 88 nests; only one of these colonies had fewer nests than last year (WH). Another new heronry was added to those already known in Potter County, Pa. (DJ). The seldom reported Am Bittern was reported from seven localities representing all parts of the region. Glossy Ibises were found at Stephens City, Va., Mar. 30 (RSI) and near State College Apr. 3 (MW).

WATERFOWL—Except in n.w. Pennsylvania the waterfowl flight was rather unimpressive. The mild March weather coupled with an early ice break-up sent the ducks through the area without stopping. The only great concentration was reported from L. Arthur Apr. 9 after a very cold night when "thousands" of ducks were present (FP). Birds seen there included 1155 Ruddy Ducks, 2000 Lesser Scaup, and 900 Red-breasted Mergansers (*vide* PH). The flight was also good at Presque Isle, Pa. (DS) and Pymatuning L. (RFL). At Elizabethton, Tenn., a good flight was observed (GE). The Ring-necked Duck was the only species that seemed to be universally in good numbers. In n. West Virginia dabbling ducks were practically non-existent (GAH). Common Mergansers staged a very good flight throughout the region after several years in which they had been at low levels. The more unusual reports were: Snow Geese, 60 in Allegheny County, Pa., Mar. 3 (JG) and 6 (Blue morph) at Erie County, Pa., Mar. 22–Apr. 8 (JGS, JHS, SST); Eur. Wigeon, Butler, Pa., Mar. 11 (FP); White-winged Scoter, Charleston, W. Va., Mar. 14 (NG), L. Arthur Mar. 27 (WR, SR), Edinboro L., Apr. 8 (DS), Lock Haven April to end of period (MC), Yellow Creek S.P., Pa., Apr. 24 (J&BB), and Montour County, 29 on Apr. 24 (SS); Black Scoter, near State College late March (MW) and Montour County Apr. 24 (SS); and Surf Scoter, L. Julian, N.C., four on Apr. 9 (RSA), L. Arthur four on Apr. 8–9 (WR, SR), Edinboro L., Apr. 25–26 (DR) and Montour County Apr. 24 (SS). Canvasbacks at Boone L., Tenn., Mar. 18 & 24 (GE) and L. Julian Apr. 3 (RSA) were noteworthy for those areas. A White-fronted Goose was in Erie County Mar. 13–Apr. 23 (m.ob.).

RAPTORS—The only concerted effort at hawk counting this spring came from the s. shore of L. Erie near Lake City, Pa., where the peak day was Apr. 20. From 10 to 11 45 a.m. a total of 1145 hawks was seen, including 991 Broad-winged and 112 Sharp-shinned (JBa). Black Vultures in Cambria County, Pa., Apr. 2 (G&RS) and Buncombe County, N.C., Apr. 30 (JGE) were noteworthy for those areas. Cooper's Hawk remains at a low level but the three resident buteos were in normal numbers. Rough-legged Hawks did not winter in n.w. Pennsylvania in the normal numbers, but one was seen near Indiana, Pa., Mar. 20 (CW). More than the usual number of Ospreys were reported this year. Bald Eagles were reported from five localities, all in n.w. Pennsylvania. At Geneva, Pa., a nesting pair that had produced young last year had its nest blown down in March, but the birds started re-nesting. The other pairs in Crawford County did not nest (RFL). There was an unconfirmed report of a nesting near Lock Haven (PS). Golden Eagles were at Burkes Garden, Va., two Mar. 19 & 24 (NM) and in Montgomery County, Va., May 3 (RCO). Merlins were reported from Presque Isle, Pa., Mar. 29 (JGS), Latrobe, Pa., Apr. 30 (J&MC), and Leeper, Pa., Apr. 30 (LC). Most encouraging was the best spring report of Peregrines in many years with sightings at

Austin Springs, Tenn., Apr. 15 (SG, MD), Kingsport, Tenn., May 1 (FA), and three sightings from Erie County Apr. 10, 26, and May 19 (DS *et al.*).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS, CRANES—The Ruffed Grouse, whose populations have been on the low side, apparently suffered little mortality during the winter and the same may be said for the Turkey. However in the n. part of its range the Bobwhite suffered very heavy winter mortality, and in n. West Virginia it seemed to be completely absent (GAH). The only report of Sandhill Cranes came from Dalton, Ga., where 20 were seen Mar. 22 (L&MM).

RAILS, SHOREBIRDS—Common Gallinules and Soras were more commonly reported than usual but the most interesting rail news was the unusual rash of reports of Purple Gallinules: singles were present near Mackeyville, Pa., Apr. 24—May 8, the tenth Pennsylvania record (m.ob.), Wayne County, O., Apr. 9 (JB), and Dalton, Ga., May 9 (third local record—DC, HW).

It was not a good year for shorebirds, even on the L. Erie shore. While all the commoner species were present numbers were not high. Fifty-six Am. Golden Plovers at Pymatuning L., Apr. 19 was an unusual number (RFL), as were the 15 Short-billed Dowitchers at Presque Isle, May 15 (DS). Of the rarer sandpipers in this region the W. Sandpiper was reported from Jennerstown, Pa., Apr. 17 (BM), Cranesville Swamp, W. Va.-Md., May 7 (FPo), and near Terra Alta, W. Va., late May (WW). White-rumped Sandpipers were at Butler, Pa., May 15 (FP), Pymatuning L., May 19 (MS), Presque Isle May 26 (DS), Montour County May 31 (SS), and Daleville, Va., June 2 (BK, NM). Wilson's Phalarope, seldom seen this far east, was reported from Canfield, O., two May 2 (WB) and from Montour County May 11 (SS), but most remarkable was a fully-plumaged ♀ N. Phalarope on a beaver pond on Allegheny Front Mt., W. Va., at about 3800 ft, May 22 (*vide* RC).

GULLS, TERNS—The flight of Bonaparte's Gulls across the mountains was unusually good this year with counts of 150 at L. Julian, N.C. (RR) and 35 at Cherokee L., Tenn. (JH) being high for those areas. A very late Glaucous Gull was at Presque Isle Apr. 27 (SST), but most exciting was the first Pennsylvania record for the **Iceland Gull** at L. Arthur Mar. 26 (m ob.). Caspian Terns, rare in this region, were reported from six locations including two in Ohio: Seneca L., Apr. 10 (JS) and Tappan L., Apr. 16 (CB) where they are quite unusual. A **Least Tern** at Presque Isle May 18 (DSt) provided the first local record and probably the third for w. Pennsylvania.

DOVES, OWLS, GOATSUCKERS—Mourning Doves experienced considerable winter mortality in n. West Virginia (GAH). As mentioned in the previous account Screech Owl populations were hard hit by the winter weather and the same is probably true for Great Horned Owl populations. These last are normally so low that it is difficult to assess the losses. A Snowy Owl was seen near Craggy Gardens on the Blue Ridge Parkway, N.C., Mar 31 (*vide* RR), and there was a belated report of one on the Shenandoah R. in Virginia Feb. 5 (*vide* RSi).

Both species of cuckoo were either in low numbers or were unreported by the first of June. Chuck-will's-widows were reported from Fincastle, Va., May 27—28 (BK), from S. Charleston, W. Va., late May (GK) and from near Martinsburg, W. Va., late May (CM).

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS—Chimney Swifts were somewhat late in arriving and were in normal numbers,

but may have had some mortality during the early May cold spell. At Powdermill Nature Reserve, Pa. (hereafter, P N R) only 16 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were banded compared with an average of 30 over five years (RCL), and elsewhere they were uncommon. Belted Kingfisher numbers were low at most places. Common Flickers were scarce at P N R (RCL) and in n. West Virginia (GAH), while Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were in the lowest numbers on record at P N R (RCL) and were completely absent from the Morgantown area (GAH). A Red-headed Woodpecker nested at Indiana, Pa (CW). The Red-bellied Woodpecker is now firmly established in n.w. Pennsylvania and came through the winter in good shape.

FLYCATCHERS, LARKS, SWALLOWS—Eastern Kingbirds continued to decline in w. Pennsylvania and n. West Virginia, while populations were low at most other places. Great Crested Flycatchers were late and in low numbers everywhere. The populations of the E. Phoebe were highly variable. At Morgantown only two were seen all season (GAH) and at P.N.R. only two were banded (RCL), but elsewhere populations were normal or only slightly down. Least Flycatchers were down at P.N.R. where only 11 were banded compared to a six-year average of 45.5. Acadian Flycatchers were in good numbers and the Willow Flycatcher continued to expand its range and increase in numbers. Both Willow and Alder Flycatchers were present in Cranesville Swamp, W. Va.-Md. (WW). Eastern Wood Pewees were scarce and were still arriving at some places at the end of the month. Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported from Lithia, Va., May 7 (BK), Dalton, Ga., May 15 (HD, AH), P.N.R., May 19 (RCL) and Terra Alta, W. Va., late May (WW).

Horned Larks apparently had severe winter mortality, as they were completely missing at some places and in low numbers at most. The Purple Martin seemed well on its way to recovery from the decimation in 1972 but was still indistinct in some places. Barn Swallows were slightly lower in numbers than normal but all other swallows were greatly reduced.

CORVIDS AND NUTHATCHES—Common Ravens continued to increase in the West Virginia and Virginia mountains. One was seen at Cook Forest S.P., Pa., Mar. 26 (RFL, MNL) and two nestings were located in Avery County, N C (DG). Eight Fish Crows near Petersburg, W. Va., May 17 (RC) were unusual.

White-breasted Nuthatches are beginning to increase in numbers in n. West Virginia (GAH). The Red-breasted Nuthatch migration was very poor at most places.

WRENS, THRASHERS AND THRUSHES—House Wrens were thought to be in short supply at Warren, Pa (WH) and at P.N.R. (RCL), but were in good numbers in most of West Virginia. The only reports of Bewick's Wrens came from the Virginia-West Virginia border, Apr. 30 (WM) and from Grant County, W. Va., May 17 (RC). Winter Wrens were not widely reported and may have suffered some winter mortality, but a report of 16 singing males in Allegheny County, Pa., Apr. 15 (SR) was remarkable both for the numbers and the amount of singing during migration.

A Mockingbird was at Warren May 3 (BH). American Robins enjoyed an excellent early nesting season in the mild weather and in n. West Virginia at least we have been inundated with young robins at rather early dates. The most remarkable thrush was a **Varied Thrush** at Tididoute, Pa., Mar. 10 (JK), providing the first record for the Appalachian region. The Wood Thrush migration was very good and an Apr. 19 date at Clarksville, Pa. was rather early (RB). The other spotted thrushes were not numerous anywhere, but the

early May snowstorm at Lock Haven grounded a sizable number of all four species (CS). As mentioned above, E. Bluebird numbers were not affected by the winter weather as much as might have been expected. Populations in the "Operation Bluebird" boxes at Warren, Pa., were about 15–20% below normal (WH) and at Clarksville, Pa., the same percentage of boxes was occupied as last year (RB).

WAXWINGS, PIPITS AND VIREOS—Cedar Waxwings were almost totally absent from n. West Virginia (GAH) and no great concentrations were reported anywhere this year. Water Pipits were widely reported and on Mar. 20 a light snowfall in Montour County brought "thousands" out to the highways (SS). A heavy migration was also noted near Lock Haven at that same time (MC, CH) and a late record there was May 14 (PS).

White-eyed Vireos continued to do well. At P.N.R., 11 were banded compared with an average of 7 (RCL) and one was seen at Presque Isle May 14 (PH). Red-eyed Vireo populations may have been down somewhat, but Solitary Vireos were widely reported and at Lock Haven had their best migration in ten years (PS). Warbling Vireos continued to increase in w. Pennsylvania, and Philadelphia Vireos, usually unreported in spring were found at P.N.R. (three banded—RCL), and at Presque Isle, one, May 14 (PH) and two banded May 22 (JHS, JGS, SSt).

WARBLERS—The warbler migration was generally disappointing. Many observers saw very few. In part this was owing to the constant mild weather after the first week in May which caused the birds to move through without stopping; no great waves occurred. However, there is some evidence from the West Virginia spruce belt that breeding populations of the n. warblers may be below normal in numbers (GAH). There were a few exceptions. In n. West Virginia, Tennessee Warblers had their best flight in years (GAH) and they were common elsewhere. At Terra Alta, W.Va., the Wilson's Warbler was unusually common (WW). On the other hand Blackburnian Warblers were generally scarce and breeding populations in the Cheat Mts. of West Virginia were low (GAH). Most of the resident species were in normal numbers. Blue-winged Warblers were increasing and moving northward. They were up by 25% at Toccoa Falls (RS) and were seen at Leeper, Pa., May 6 & 7 (LC), well north of the usual limits. At Morgantown, Blue-wingeds are gradually displacing Golden-wingeds (GAH). Brewster's hybrids were reported from Toccoa Falls, Ga., Apr. 14 (RS) and at State College in early May (DP). The Yellow-throated Warbler continued to increase and expand its range. One was seen in the white pine-hemlock forest at Cook Forest S.P., Pa., at the very early date of Mar. 26 (RFL, MNL). Other unusual records were Swainson's Warbler banded at Morgantown May 4 (GAH) and seen at Toccoa Falls May 8 (RS); Orange-crowned Warbler in Buncombe County, N.C., Apr. 30 (JW); Kentucky, Worm-eating, and Prairie Warblers all banded at Presque Isle, Pa., well north of the normal ranges (JGS, JHS, SSt), and Connecticut Warbler at Leeper May 12 & 14 (LC). Yellow-breasted Chats are still on the decline in s.w. Pennsylvania and n. West Virginia to the extent that they are now hard to find. Even though the migration of warblers largely ended by May 20 a few migrants were still in the region after June 1.

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS—In n. West Virginia, E. Meadowlarks were in low numbers (GAH), but at most other places they were normal, suggesting a localized catastrophe (*i.e.*, storm) in the wintering areas of some populations. Both oriole species were in excellent numbers throughout and the other blackbird species that winter in the s. United

States seemed unaffected by the winter. Scarlet Tanagers were in excellent numbers and Summer Tanagers continued to move northward.

FRINGILLIDS—During migration the Rose-breasted Grosbeak was unusually abundant and populations in the breeding range seemed high. Indigo Buntings were in lower-than-normal numbers as evidenced by 17 banded at P.N.R., compared with 31 average (RCL) and 17 banded at Morgantown compared with 50 average (GAH). Dickcissels were reported from Staunton, Va., where a wintering bird remained until Apr. 9 (RSn), Daleville, Va., May 12 (*vide* BK), and Waitville, W.Va., May 18 (NL).

A few Evening Grosbeaks appeared in the region in February and these remained in n. localities until late April or early May. No great concentrations were reported and none were seen very far south. Five Pine Grosbeaks were seen along the Blue Ridge Parkway near Waynesboro, Va., Mar 3 (MCo). The Purple Finch migration was very good at most places and the House Finch continued to expand. It has now consolidated its numbers in w. Pennsylvania and n. West Virginia and has crossed the Ohio R. to Steubenville (CB), East Liverpool, (NL), Youngstown, (MS) and Wayne County, O. (JB). It has also been reported from Erie, Pa (BG) and Buncombe County, N.C. (RSa). Red Crossbill was reported in small numbers from a number of places along the Blue Ridge axis in w. Virginia.

A Clay-colored Sparrow was seen at Green Springs, W. Va., Apr. 28–29 (CL), providing the first record for the state. Field Sparrows and Song Sparrows did not migrate in very large numbers, but both White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows staged heavy and long-lasting migrations. A White-crowned "Gambel's" Sparrow was banded at Clarksville, Pa., May 3 (RB).

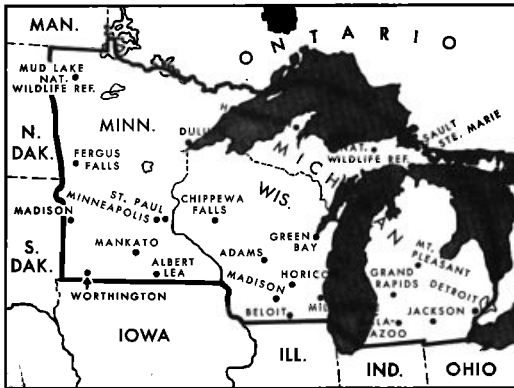
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WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

/ Robert B. Janssen

Probably every migration report written for *American Birds* could start out with the statement "This was a most unusual season". One Detroit observer ended her report with the statement "Very queer spring here". In analyzing the numerous reports from the three states, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, that comprise the Western Great Lakes area, one is forced to repeat that statement—this was a most unusual season. Based on my own personal observations in Minnesota, combined with the reports from other active observers, I would have to say it was unique when compared with spring migrations of the last 20–30 years.



One should defend such a bold statement with as many facts as possible. In any region as large as this, it is difficult to make absolute statements that cover all situations in all areas, but I feel that this migration season in the three states had more in common than any in recent years.

First, it was generally hot across the region. The gradual warming trend that began in early February continued throughout the period, with, of course, some regional variation. By May it was hot and it was the warmest on record in many areas. Temperature records were broken all across the region, in the Twin Cities, many Wisconsin areas, and in Detroit. By early May, the foliage was so advanced that the few migrants passing through the area were almost impossible to see. Later in the month, the general appearance of the landscape was one of late June.

Another very important aspect of weather has been the severe drought that began over a year ago here and over three years ago in some Michigan areas. Conditions were greatly improved this year across Minnesota with near adequate rainfall over the whole state. Much more is needed to return soil moisture and lake levels to normal. Conditions were not as favorable in Wisconsin with some areas still experiencing drought conditions and many areas in Michigan were still under extreme drought conditions by the end of the period.

What kind of a migration did we have with these unusual and record-setting weather conditions? With few exceptions, observers reported a lackluster migration, no warbler waves and a thrush migration that was almost nonexistent. Many observers reported common migrants such as kinglets, sparrows, waterfowl—in fact, all the major groups as being very low in numbers or totally lacking. Specifically, a good example would be my own experience in not recording a single Golden-crowned Kinglet in migration, the first time this has occurred in 30 years of record-keeping in the Twin Cities area.

What I believe was a fairly typical migration pattern region-wide was what occurred in southern Minnesota. The chron-

ology follows: the warm weather of early March opened lakes and streams earlier than usual and this brought good numbers of waterfowl. Many species were recorded at or near early record dates. This pattern continued from late March into mid-April with many of the typical migrants of this period showing up at the early end of their migration period. During this time, in checking my own personal migration dates for southern Minnesota over the last 30 years, I found that I had established record early dates for 26 species! An unprecedented number for one season.

An interesting phenomenon appeared to happen in the latter part of April. Up to this time, most species typical of late March and early April had been passing through the region much earlier than normal, but they at least were being observed. Weather conditions in mid-April were warm and clear. One beautiful day after another was experienced and the migration seemed to come to an end at this time. Few waves of any birds were reported after this time, with the exception of a small influx in the Detroit area on May 5–6 and 17 and in Duluth on May 20 and 22. Otherwise, it was dull and drab as far as migration was concerned. The birds seen were residents busy with nesting activities, the migration was literally "over" by late April.

Observers in northern Minnesota during the first few days in May reported warblers and other typical northern species on territory in the boreal forest. Species reported were those usually seen in migration during mid-May. This bit of evidence would indicate that the bulk of the migration "passed over the top" of southern Minnesota during the latter part of April. Many of the species referred to as typical mid-May migrants had to be in the state in mid-April. What makes this unique is that few, if any, of these mid-May warblers, thrushes, flycatchers, etc., have ever been recorded in the state in April!

Beginning on May 20 another unusual phenomenon occurred primarily in Minnesota. What had been a season of lackluster migration with few unusual species suddenly produced many rarities: White-eyed Vireo, Western Wood Pewee, Baird's Sparrow, Red Phalarope, Snowy Egret and other unusual species appeared, causing a flurry of activity among birders.

Thus, the season ended with quality, which did make some amends for the earlier lack of quantity. One Wisconsin observer summed up the season quite well, I thought, with "I had the unerring ability to be at the right place at the wrong time." I couldn't agree with him more, as I missed two Minnesota "lifers", White-eyed Vireo and Red Phalarope by a few hours!

LOONS THROUGH HERONS—Red-throated Loons were present in two places in Wisconsin, an amazing nine birds noted Apr. 3–May 5 in Ozaukee County (DT) and two May 6 in Polk County (CF). There were two reports of this species in Michigan, one Apr. 8 in Oakland County (AEV) and another May 24 at St. Joseph, Berrien Co. (RS). None was reported in Minnesota. Disturbing was the fact that few reporters mentioned Horned Grebes and if they did, their numbers were extremely low. Western Grebes are doing very well in Minnesota good numbers were reported from many lakes in the w. part of the state; e.g., 37 were noted on a small lake in Polk County May 25. Double-crested Cormorants are doing well across the region with increasing numbers nesting in heronries. Colonies at Big Stone N.W.R. and Pelican L., Grant Co., Minn., contained over 500 cormorant nests at each location. So-called "southern" herons continued to increase in the area. Little Blue Herons are being reported much more frequently. Birds were reported at the Pelican L. colony, mentioned above, and were nesting by the end of the period. An early Little Blue Heron was seen in Meeker County, Minn., Apr. 10. Cattle Egret sightings are increasing in Wisconsin, with a maximum of

25+ at the heronry at Oconto Marsh, Oconto Co., May 14. Numbers of this species appear to be stabilizing or possibly decreasing in Minnesota. Fewer birds are being reported in the heronries around the state. An early Cattle Egret was in Scott County, Minn., Apr. 14. A Great Egret was seen on the record early date of Mar. 9 near Fergus Falls, Otter Tail Co., Minn. (SM). Snowy Egrets are on the increase with several reports in Michigan during April and May, three reports from Wisconsin with a high of seven birds at the heronry at Oconto Marsh May 14. A Snowy Egret was seen at Big Stone N.W.R., May 12 and several more were reported at the heronry in the same area later in the month. A single Louisiana Heron was seen at the Oconto Marsh May 14 (DG). Yellow-crowned Night Herons continued to do well. They were reported from seven localities in Wisconsin, and five in Minnesota (Mower, Otter Tail, Hennepin, Cottonwood and Houston Cos.). The Am. Bittern population on the Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall Co., Minn., has been reduced to disaster levels, according to refuge personnel. Only a tenth of the number of two years ago was censused this year (SV). Two White-faced Ibises were reported in Mahan County, Minn., Apr. 25 (DP).

WATERFOWL—Mute Swans are doing well in Michigan, with one reporter from Benzie County stating that there are "too many". They were reported from three localities in Wisconsin, with a high of 21 in Ashland and Bayfield Cos. A major movement of Whistling Swans passed through Minnesota the first week in April. There were 600 in the Weaver Marshes, Wabasha Co., Apr. 3. Of special interest were three flocks of 40 birds each passing over Anoka, Minn., on the extremely late date of May 29 (KL). There were 30,000 Canada Geese at Horicon N.W.R., Mar. 30. An excellent movement of White-fronted Geese occurred this spring, especially in w. Minnesota, with scattered individuals seen in Wisconsin and Michigan. A single Ross' Goose was carefully identified among a group of Snow Geese in Cottonwood County, Minn., Apr. 6 (ED). Ducks were generally earlier than usual, with most common species present during the first 10 days of March. Unusual species included Cinnamon Teal in Minnesota (Clay, Lincoln and Grant Cos.), and one as far e. as St. Ignace, Mich., May 2 (JK). A European Wigeon was present with hundreds of Am. Wigeons Mar. 19–26 on the Schoenberg Marsh, Columbia Co., Wisc. (RH). One of the more interesting phenomena concerning waterfowl is the continued increase in Wood Ducks in Minnesota. This species is abundant in almost all areas of the state and is now expanding significantly into the boreal forests of the northeast. There was little to report as far as diving ducks were concerned, most species appeared in good numbers and few rarities were reported. Interesting was the report of a carefully identified ♀ Harlequin Duck in Goodhue County, Minn., Mar. 30 (JD). On Apr. 25 there was a report of a ♂ Harlequin Duck in the same area. A ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye was seen and carefully described at Upper Herring L., Benzie Co., Mich., Apr. 2 (KW).

HAWKS—The few comments about hawks this spring were mixed. For example, several areas in Michigan reported good numbers of Broad-winged and Am. Kestrels, other areas reported them as being down. Marsh Hawks were up in some areas of Michigan, but in Minnesota, Agassiz N.W.R. personnel urged that the species be kept on the Blue List. In 1973, peaks of 15 birds were censused, this year the peak was six! Swanson's Hawks are definitely on the increase in Minnesota, with more nesting sites reported and birds being recorded in new areas. Unusual reports in this group included the fourth and fifth Wisconsin records for the Mississippi Kite. Two different individuals were seen by one party less than 30 mi and three hours apart May 14. One was observed at the Oconto Marsh

and the second at Atkinson Marsh (DG *et al.*). The only Gyrfalcon report was a very late individual Apr. 3 at Fergus Falls, Minn. (GO). There were seven reports of Peregrines in Wisconsin from late April to early May; Minnesota observers found only two, one in Lac Qui Parle County, Apr. 23 and the other in Goodhue County, May 6. Michigan observers also reported only two Peregrines both on May 14, one near Ludington and the other in Mason County.

GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS—Spruce Grouse were reported in three Wisconsin counties (Oneida, Vilas, Douglas) during April and May. Gray Partridge continued to do well in Minnesota, outnumbering pheasants in many areas. Turkeys are doing well in the area; large flocks were present in Winona and Houston Cos., Minn., and 52 were found Mar. 6 in Juneau County, Wisc. King Rail reports were encouraging in Wisconsin and Michigan. In the former, there were four reports from Kenosha (Apr. 15), Waukesha, St. Croix and Dodge Cos. At Pt. Mouillee, Mich., habitat for this species is reported to be improving and various observers reported up to eight birds in the area. Another King Rail was seen May 8 in Grand Rapids, Mich. A very early Yellow Rail was flushed by a dog from a dry field near Holt, Ingham Co., Mich., Apr. 6. This is the first record in over 40 years for the area (TA). This species returned to its usual habitat near MacGregor, Aitkin Co., Minn., May 18 (TS). Five were heard at Crex Meadows N.W.R., Wisc., May 28–29 (DT).

Shorebird migration was good to excellent across the region. Many species were exceptionally early. Good numbers of Semipalmated Plovers (200+ in Steele County, Minn., May 14) and Piping Plovers were reported from Minnesota and Wisconsin. Many observers from all three states reported on the large numbers of Am. Woodcock. Whimbrels were reported in good numbers from Michigan, with 210 at Whitefish Bay May 21, and on the same date, 30 were found along L. Michigan in Door County, Wisc. A record early Greater Yellowlegs was seen at Marshall, Lyon Co., Minn., Mar. 21 and a record early Lesser Yellowlegs for Wisconsin was reported in Jefferson County Mar. 17. Willets were early and common in Minnesota. The earliest, a record date, was Apr. 2 in Anoka County. Flocks of up to 25 birds were reported later in the month in the s. part of the state. Pectoral Sandpipers were abundant and early in Michigan; two at Mason, Ingham Co., Mar. 10, were five weeks ahead of the previous early date! Flocks of 70–100 were reported in the Detroit area. A Least Sandpiper at Marshall, Lyon Co., Minn., Mar. 21 was there on a record early date, as was a W. Sandpiper at the same location Apr. 3 (HK). A Stilt Sandpiper at Marshall Apr. 24 provided Minnesota with its first April date (HK). A Marbled Godwit at Fergus Falls, Minn., Mar. 26 marked the first March record for the state (GO). Hudsonian Godwits passed through Minnesota and Wisconsin in good numbers and unprecedented numbers of Am. Avocets were seen in Minnesota. On May 1, a flock of 36 was photographed near Rochester, Olmsted Co., and on the same date, 27 were seen at Frontenac, Goodhue Co. Both of these localities are in the e. part of the state where occasional single individuals are more the norm. The only Ruff for the region was a breeding-plumaged male at Atkinson Marsh, Green Bay, Wisc., May 14 (RK). Minnesota's first spring Red Phalarope was a single individual that spent three days, May 27–29, at the Moorhead Sugar Beet Lagoons (EA *et al.*). Wilson's Phalaropes were more common in Minnesota than this writer can remember. The species was reported in good numbers all across s. and w. parts of the state. Individuals ranged e. into Michigan, where many observers commented on their presence. All things considered, it was an excellent spring for shorebirds across the region.

GULLS THROUGH OWLS—A Glaucous Gull was last seen on May 12 in Door County, Wisc., a very late date. Iceland Gulls were reported from two localities in Michigan: Grand Haven, Ottawa Co., Apr. 9 (BM) and another at Belle Isle in the Detroit R., on several March and April (latest Apr. 24) dates (AK). A single bird was seen Mar. 8 in Racine County, Wisc. (LE). Two Great Black-backed Gulls were reported in the Erie Marshes near Detroit in early March and another was seen at E. Lansing, Mar. 23, one of the few inland records for Michigan (RC). The only Little Gull report came from Duluth when one adult was seen May 21 (RJ). The usual Franklin's Gull colony at Agassiz N.W.R. was deserted this year. In past years, this colony has numbered up to 50,000 birds. In Marinette County, Wisc., 112 Caspian Terns were counted May 17. Black Terns were reported absent from many areas near Detroit owing to habitat destruction. The species, however, was reported as very numerous in c. Michigan, around sewage ponds. Conflicting reports were received on both species of cuckoos in Michigan, very scarce in the Detroit area, good numbers in Ludington and Big Rapids. The Black-billed seemed more common in Minnesota than usual. Two pairs of Barn Owls were nesting in Monroe County, Mich. (AM). The severe winter was considered a possible cause for scarcity of Screech Owls in Detroit. Late Snowy Owls were seen on May 4 in Ashland County, Wisc., and May 6 at Whitefish Pt., Chippewa Co., Mich. There were three reports of Burrowing Owls, all in Minnesota; Apr. 10, in Wilkin County, Apr. 15 in Lincoln County, and Apr. 16 in Jackson County. Barred Owls were reported as common in Benzie County, Mich., throughout the period. Great Gray Owls were seen in Roseau County, Minn., Mar. 21 and Aitkin County May 9. Single Boreal Owls were found dead at Agassiz N.W.R., Minn., Mar. 10 and Rogers City, Mich., May 13. Saw-whet Owls were heard from late April to late May in Aitkin County, Minn.

GOATSUCKERS THROUGH CREEPERS—A **Chuck-will's-widow** returned to Dane County, Wisc., where one had spent two months last summer. It was first noted in mid-May and was heard and seen frequently until early June (GM). Whip-poor-wills arrived early: Apr. 14 at Detroit and Apr. 18 in Dane County, Wisc. Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported as scarce in the Detroit area, but several observers in w. Michigan reported them as very common. Numbers seemed normal in Minnesota. Eastern Phoebes were seen in good numbers in n.w. Minnesota during May and a number of Michigan observers reported them as more common than usual, however, they were scarce in the Detroit area. On May 28, 12 singing Acadian Flycatchers were seen and heard at Beaver Creek Valley S.P., Houston Co., Minn. (KE). Minnesota's first confirmed **Western Wood Pewee** was found in Roseau County by Dennis Paulson May 29. A pair nested and further details will be reported in the summer report. A Com. Raven nest with two young was found May 12 in Alpena County, Mich. Several Michigan observers reported on the scarcity of Black-capped Chickadees, but numbers seemed normal in other areas.

WRENS THROUGH SHRIKES—Only one report of a Bewick's Wren was received, that of a single bird in Chippewa County, Wisc., May 8. Carolina Wrens continued very scarce with only one report of a pair in Racine County, Wisc., and one pair and two other individuals in Wayne County, Mich. Mockingbird reports were about normal for Minnesota (Wadena and Anoka Cos. in late May) and Wisconsin (Ashland, Iron and Door Cos.) but there were no reports from Michigan, which was surprising. Most active observers reported the scarcity or almost total lack of thrushes this spring. What caused this paucity of birds de-

fies explanation at this point. A single **Mountain Bluebird** was carefully identified in Lake of the Woods County, Minnesota, Mar. 28 (PH). Many observers are concerned with E. Bluebirds. The scarcity of birds is reported across the whole region. An example of the decline is reported from Stoney Creek Metropark near Detroit, where only ten nests were noted (BP) this year as compared to 23–25 for the past two years. An early Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was in Houston County, Minn., Apr. 20. The kinglet migration was the poorest on record. Both species are common April migrants in the region. This spring Ruby-crowneds were very scarce and the Golden-crowned was entirely absent over wide areas. A record early Water Pipit was seen near Fergus Falls, Mar. 14 (SM). Sprague's Pipits were noted at two localities in Minnesota: Polk County May 25 and Felton, Clay Co., May 27. Bohemian Waxwings were seen throughout April in Ashland County, Wisc., with one remaining until the late date of May 13. Most observers still are reporting the scarcity of Loggerhead Shrikes, but the increase in sightings this spring in Minnesota may indicate a more encouraging future.

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS—Of special interest was the number of White-eyed Vireo sightings. Minnesota had at least two and possibly three sightings to finally confirm this species on the state list. The first was a bird captured in a mist net in Washington County May 3 (BW). The second was a bird that spent the day, May 26, in a brushy backyard in suburban Minneapolis. It was seen and heard by many observers. The species was surprisingly abundant in Milwaukee County, Wisc., with one arriving on the record early date of Apr. 17 (JJ). This was followed by seven additional birds seen from early to mid-May. The species was also recorded in Detroit, E. Lansing, Leelanau and Berrien Cos., Mich. A record early Red-eyed Vireo was in Minneapolis Apr. 18. The most prevalent complaint from active observers this spring was the almost total lack of any warbler waves. One exception to this took place on May 20 & 22 in Duluth. Hundreds of Magnolias, Cape Mays, Blackburnians, Chestnut-sideds, Bay-breasteds and Blackpolls were reported in the area, especially on May 22. Other than this, only scattered individuals were reported, but many record early dates were established for this group. The following are record early dates for warblers in the region: Black-and-white, Mar. 30, Berrien County, Mich.; Orange-crowned, Apr. 17, Dane County, Wisc.; N. Parula, Apr. 11, Moorhead, Clay Co., Minn.; Magnolia, Apr. 23, Hubbard County, Minn.; Louisiana Waterthrush, Mar. 30, Berrien County; Hooded, Apr. 20, Milwaukee County, Wisc. Other reports of interest concerning warblers were: Worm-eating Warblers in Grant County, Wisc., May 7 & 21, and Milwaukee County, May 14. Good numbers of Blue-winged Warblers were reported in Michigan, outnumbering the usually more common Golden-winged. There were two sightings of Yellow-throated Warblers in Berrien County, May 6 and another May 21. There were conflicting reports from various Michigan localities on the Yellow Warbler, very scarce in the Detroit area but abundant in Benzie County. Pine Warbler numbers appeared to be up in several areas of Michigan and n.c. Minnesota. Northern Waterthrush numbers were down in Michigan and they seemed more scarce than usual in Minnesota. Good numbers of Prairie Warblers were reported from Benzie County, and one was seen and heard near Madison, Wisc., May 5. A singing male was in Wayne County, Mich., May 6. Yellow-breasted Chats were reported from their usual areas around Detroit and from Milwaukee, Walworth and Racine Cos., in Wisconsin. There was only one report of the species in Minnesota, that of a single bird in Anoka County May 15 (KL). Additional Hooded Warbler reports from

Michigan came from Wayne County Apr. 26, Lansing May 6, Berrien County May 21, Kalamazoo County May 21 and Ann Arbor May 10–21. Wisconsin reports for the species in addition to the Milwaukee County birds included two singing males in Waukesha County.

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS—There were two exceptionally early reports of Scarlet Tanagers, one Apr. 7 at Detroit and another Apr. 12 at Reads Landing, Wabasha Co., Minn. Cardinals continued to extend their range in Minnesota. One was seen in Pipestone County May 22. Blue Grosbeaks returned to s.w. Minnesota in late May, one was in Murray County May 27 and others were seen in Blue Mounds Park, Rock Co., May 18–31. An unusually late Pine Grosbeak was seen in Ashland County, Wisc., May 15 (DV). Also very late was a Com. Redpoll at Marquette, Mich., May 23 (EM). A Pine Siskin nest was found along the shores of L. Calhoun in Minneapolis Apr. 25. Rufous-sided Towhee reports were way down in Minnesota, and there were no reports from Wisconsin and very few from Michigan. The wintering ♂ Lark Bunting in Winona County, Minn., remained until Apr. 22. There were two additional reports of migrant Lark Buntings in Minnesota: Murray County May 17 and Lac Qui Parle County May 21–22. Of special interest was the return of **Baird's Sparrows** to the Felton Prairie, Minn. Two birds were first observed there May 29 (TS). At least three were singing May 30 (RJ). A **House Finch** was carefully described and photographed in a yard in Grand Rapids, Mich. The bird was first seen Apr. 27 and was seen daily for one week (HL). Henslow's Sparrows remained scarce in the Detroit area and the species was unreported from Wisconsin. Never a common species in Minnesota, numbers were about normal this spring, but they were not found in their Steele County location where they had been the past two years. This species seems to require very specific habitat and moves from area to area. I wonder if it is

as scarce as we think or if it abandons previous areas where birders have seen it and then moves to new areas of which birders are not yet aware? Sharp-tailed Sparrows were heard singing at Crex Meadows N.W.R., Wisc., May 28–29 (DT). This species was also seen in Morrison County, Minn., May 22 (TS). The migration of sparrows was generally poor with numbers far below normal. White-throateds, White-crowns and Harris' Sparrows are normally encountered in good numbers, but most observers complained about the lack of all three species—especially poor numbers of the usually common White-throated Sparrow. In contrast to this, migration of the earlier-appearing Fox Sparrow was excellent across the region. There were 1400 Lapland Longspurs in a field in Kenosha County, Wisc., Mar. 7. A flock of 20 Snow Buntings was still in Benzie County, Apr. 14.

CONTRIBUTORS—The number of observers contributing reports for the region continued to increase, 122 from Michigan, 106 from Wisconsin and 94 from Minnesota for a total of 323. Listed below are the Regional Editors, plus those individuals whose initials are used in the text. Elizabeth Anderson, Tom Arter, Walter Booth (s.w. Mich.), Robb Carr, Joanne Dempsey, Edward Duerksen, Kim Eckert, Louise Erickson, Craig Faanes, Dennis Gustafson, Randy Hoffman, Pauline Henson, John Idzikowski, N.J. Inlicky (Upper Peninsula, Mich.), Robert Janssen (Minn.), Alice Kelley (s.e. Mich.), Joseph Kleiman, Randy Korotov, Henry Kyllingstad, Kenneth LaFond, Helen Lyman, George MacLean, Al Maley, Frank Mantlik (w. Mich.), Alan Marble (Benzie Co., Mich.), Bill Martinus, Edith McGowan, Doug McWhirter (c. Mich.), Steve Millard, Gary Otnes, David Parmelee, B. Pinkowski, James Ponshair (w.c. Mich.), Roy Smith, Terry Savaloja, Daryl Tessen (Wisc.), A. E. Valentine, Sarah Vasse, Dick Verch, Keith Westphal, Barbara Wojahn.—**ROBERT B. JANSSEN, 14321 Prince Place, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343.**

MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

/ Vernon M. Kleen

What happened to spring? It seemed as if the days which followed the winter freeze began a warm and dry trend which turned into summer-like conditions, bypassing spring completely. Foliage was much advanced—in some cases more than two weeks, and migration waves were nonexistent. The overall impression was that there were fewer birds and those which were here were difficult to see.

Total rainfall was low compared to normal and coupled with the drought conditions of last year led one to believe that this would be a rather poor season, which it was. Temperatures ranged well above normal, so the "springless" season was all but desirable for most reporters.

Frosts in late April were detrimental to some areas and certainly hindered migration; however, warm fronts did not follow and birds migrated through often undetected; if birders had not been out every day, many species may not have been seen at all. Some species were definitely scarce and the Carolina Wren was almost totally absent. A substantial migration occurred on the heels of the first warming trend in February and continued into March. As usual there were many new records of early arrival dates, as well as late departure dates but the late departure of some of the winter-associated species cannot readily be explained. Observers were definitely ready for spring; however, many felt they missed it.



Since all extraordinary sight records, such as the presence of species out of expected range or normal species at an abnormal time of year, must now be thoroughly documented at the time of observation, more accurate and informative data are being collected. A total of 70 documentations was received this season: Illinois, 23; Indiana, 17 (plus an additional 16 not reported in the Winter Season); Iowa, 14; Ohio, 11; Missouri, 3; and Kentucky, 2. All documented records are denoted by a dagger (†). Specimens are denoted by an asterisk (*). Records which were not satisfactorily documented appear in the UNCORROBORATED REPORTS section.

LOONS, GREBES, PELICANS AND CORMORANTS—Common Loons were scarce this spring; some areas where

good numbers are regularly reported (such as Cleveland) drew blanks. As usual, a few lingered into May, but not as many as in past seasons. Single Red-necked Grebes were detected at Springfield, Ill. (hereafter, Spfld.), Mar. 14 (H) and Shreve, Ohio, Mar. 26 (†DeK). Fewer-than-expected numbers of Horned Grebes were encountered (only about 10% of regular numbers at Cleveland, *vide M*); however over 800 were present at Mosquito Creek L., Trumbull Co., Ohio, Apr. 16 (CJ). Only eight Eared Grebes were reported, one as early as Mar. 8 near Springfield, Mo. (CB), and one as late as May 21 near Marble Rock, Ia. (PK). A pair of W. Grebes was observed in nuptial display at Spfld., May 6–7 (H) and one was found at the Schell-Osage Wildlife Area, Mo., Apr. 30 (R, DT). The majority of White Pelicans passed through the w. part of the region in late March and early April; the maximum recorded was 250 at Squaw Creek Ref., Mo., (hereafter, S.C.R.), Apr. 10 (L); others were found in e.c. Iowa Apr. 2–6 (m.ob.). The greatest number of Double-crested Cormorants observed was 36—at Maryville, Mo., Apr. 19 (R); most reported numbers ranged from 1 to 7 individuals at scattered locations in all states; some areas where at least one is found each spring recorded none; the first birds returned by Mar. 13 (JEa) to E. St. Louis, Ill. (hereafter, E St L.) and to the Thomson, Ill., breeding location by Mar. 26 (P)

S.A.

HERONS THROUGH IBISES—Many Ciconiiforms seem to be in trouble; Dr. Richard Graber, surveying and censusing Illinois colonies indicated that “The decline in the breeding population of Great Blues, Great Egrets, and Black-crowned Night Herons which we have been observing in recent years appears to be accelerating. Where there were three colonies on the lower Mississippi (hereafter, St. Louis) last year, there is now but one, and I expect it to be gone next year. . . . I am more convinced than ever that these herons (at least these) must be on the [Illinois—Ed.] endangered list, especially the southern populations. Every remaining colony site should be given rigid protection, and even then I fear that most of the Illinois breeding populations will fade away, except possibly on the northern Mississippi.”

Great Blue Herons were considered scarce in Iowa, even in known colonies. There was an increase in the number of Little Blue Herons reported; the majority of early reports were of birds found (8 locations) Apr. 3 (Westville, Ill.—MC)—Apr. 23 (m.ob.); most were of single birds. A second, but smaller influx (or birds previously undetected) occurred from early to mid-May. The species was observed two or more times in four states but missed entirely in Kentucky and Iowa. Cattle Egrets were as widely dispersed as the Little Blue Herons (but none in Kentucky); however, the earliest was not reported until mid-April (several locations) and they appeared in somewhat larger groups (up to 13 in some flocks); a second influx was noted May 6–22 (m.ob.). If a Great Egret had not been found at Land-between-the-Lakes, Ky., Apr. 10 (JER), this is another species that would have been missed in the state; as it was, few were reported anywhere. Two Snowy Egrets had returned to the E St L. colony Apr. 12 (JEa) and singles arrived at Spfld. (first Sangamon County record) Apr. 13 (H); S.C.R., May 13 (R, E) and Cleveland May 29 (Dh, JHo, *vide M*). The only Louisiana Heron reported appeared at Waukegan Apr. 18 (†JN). Except for the 26 Black-crowned Night Herons at Louisville, Ky., May 8 (m.ob.) and 22 at Peoria, Ill., May 26 (VH), the species was poorly represented this spring. The first Yellow-crowned Night Herons appeared in mid-April and a nest was found (Illinois Beach S P) by May 8 (JN). Single dark ibises, species

undetermined, were noted at Bays Branch, Guthrie Co., Ia., May 1 (†GBu); S.C.R., May 3 (R *et al.*); and Indianapolis May 9 (†TiK, *vide CK*).

WATERFOWL—It was a disappointing migration for n Ohio observers as few Whistling Swans were found; the maximum there was only 60 in a cornfield Mar. 19, (LV); a few others were noted in n.e. Iowa in early April and one lingered at St. Lucas, Ia., until May 3 (JSc). Canada Geese began leaving s. Illinois refuges in early March; the maximum number passed over Spfld., Mar. 5 (H) and “major movements . . . arrived in n. Illinois . . . approximately 1300 hours on Mar. 7. Observers were alerted by a radio report to pilots warning of large movements leaving s. and c. Illinois. Movement was essentially over by Mar. 8.” (RM). A pair of geese successfully bred for the third consecutive year in Coles County, Ill. (LH). This was a good season for migrating White-fronted Geese; most were reported from the west, however fair numbers passed through c. Illinois and one lingered near Iowa City, Ia., until May 14 (N). There were also excellent flights of Snow Geese, especially through Missouri and Iowa. Four Ross’ Geese were observed near S.C.R., Mar. 26 (E) and one was present at Maryville, Mo., Mar. 10 & 27 (E). There was no mention of possible hybridization in either of the Cinnamon Teal reported: S.C.R., Mar. 19 (L,E) and Oakland City, Ind., Apr. 7 (†CM). A Green-winged Teal was still present at Charleston, Ill., June 7 (LH)

Good numbers of Canvasbacks were reported; up to 300 were found at Spfld., Mar. 3 (H). One Greater Scaup was identified at Iowa City, Ia., Mar. 22 (†N) and from 1–9 occurred at Bloomington, Ind., Apr. 7–May 1 (SG). Two Oldsquaws were present at Prospect, Ky., Mar. 26 (JE1) and one at Spfld., Apr. 8 (H). A pair of White-winged Scoters was present at Coralville Res., near Iowa City, Ia., Mar. 23 (†N) and four were found at Iowa City, Mar. 26–28 (†N, m.ob.); two others were reported from Columbus, Ohio, Mar. 4 (TT). A Surf Scoter was reported from Carbondale, Ill., May 23–31 (†MM) and a Black Scoter from Brookville Res., Union Co., Ind., May 1 (†EH *et al.*) The first breeding record for Hooded Mergansers at Mosquito Creek L., Ohio, was established when three young were noted there May 21 (CJ).

DIURNAL RAPTORS—The return of Mississippi Kites to s. Illinois was first detected at the Union County Conservation Area May 1 (K, P); one was noted within a St. Louis suburb May 17 (JEa); four were observed along the Mississippi R., near Hickman, Ky., May 18 (JER) and a pair was found well north of its current range but within its former range along the Illinois R., in Cass County, May 21 (RS). The latest Goshawk reported was observed near Elgin, Ill., Mar. 31 (RM). Authentic reports of Cooper’s Hawks continued to be discouraging, “none” during the period in s.w. Missouri; only one in n.w. Missouri; only one in all of Kentucky; three in Iowa; and three in c. Illinois. Nesting Red-shouldered Hawks were reported from diagonally opposite ends of Indiana (n.e. and s.w.) and another was spotted near W. Lafayette, May 28 & 30 (DA), at least five were reported from Iowa and an amazing 59 out of 112 total hawks counted Mar. 9 at Magee Marsh, Ohio, were Red-shouldered (LV, AM). A few kettles of Broad-winged Hawks were reported; however, none were very large, the earliest occurred at Land-between-the-Lakes, Ky., Apr. 10 (JER). Seven Swainson’s Hawks in one group were seen at Honey Creek Wildlife Area, Mo., May 1 (L); others were also reported from w. Missouri and w. Iowa. The latest Rough-legged Hawks reported were found in Allambee County, Ia., Apr. 16 (JD) and Waveland, Ind. (three) Apr. 6 (AB).

Late-departing Bald Eagles were noted at Reelfoot L., Ky., Apr. 3 (JER) and S.C.R., Apr. 2 (L). Iowa observers reported a good season for migratory Marsh Hawks; possible nesting was

suggested for Pike County, Ind. (CM) and definite nesting occurred at the Pigeon River Fish & Game Area, Ind. (LCs *et al.*). The total number of Ospreys reported was: Kentucky 2; Ohio 23, Indiana 8; Illinois 12; Missouri 11; and Iowa 9; the range of occurrences was Mar. 24–May 21 with the majority noted in mid-to-late April. Four Peregrine Falcons were documented: Coralville Res., Ia., May 3 (†N); L. Chautauqua, Ill., May 4 (†RS); Decatur, Ill., May 5 (†RPa); and Willow Slough, Ind., May 13 (†TiK). Two Merlins were documented: Coralville Res., Mar. 20 (†N) and Union County Conservation Area, Ill., May 10 (†H, K).

BOBWHITE AND GRUIFORMS—Almost everyone reported a noticeable decline in the Bobwhite population. Early March brought the first of the northbound Sandhill Cranes back to Jasper-Pulaski, Ind.; 204 were observed flying over W. Lafayette, Ind., Mar. 6 and smaller numbers seen flying over n.e. Illinois through Mar. 25 (m.ob.); one appeared near S.C.R., Apr. 26 (E) and two were found near Iowa City, Ia., May 7 (ToK); five were present near Antioch, Ill., May 22 (DJ). A Sora had arrived at Spfld. as early as Mar. 12 (H). The only Yellow Rails reported were singles at Sangchris Lake S.P., Ill., Mar. 29–30 (H) and Pigeon River Fish & Game Area, Ind., Apr. 1 (†TiK). The first Com. Gallinule reported was found near Champaign, Ill., Apr. 25 (*DF); another appeared at S.C.R., Apr. 30–May 8 (L); 22 were present at Mosquito Creek L., Ohio, May 21 (CJ).

SHOREBIRDS—At least 122 Semipalmated Plovers were counted at Willow Slough, Ind., May 7 (EH). Piping Plovers were most noteworthy in April first arriving at S.C.R., Apr. 9 (E, R, L), Waucoma, Ia., Apr. 11 (JSe), Waukegan, Ill., Apr. 17 (JN, m.ob.), St. Louis Apr. 21 (JEa), and Willow Slough, Ind., Apr. 24 (†EH). Large numbers of Am. Golden Plovers were noted this spring; hundreds passed through W. Ohio (m.ob.); first arrivals were noted from Mar. 9–20 regionwide and lingered in some areas well into May. One Whimbrel had arrived at Waukegan by Apr. 16 and four were there May 17 (JN). There were encouraging reports of Upland Sandpipers; the earliest reported was one bird near Newton, Ill., Apr. 5 (†KA); none was reported from Kentucky. Willets were also widely reported in good numbers; only Ohio observers missed them. There were no migratory influxes as the largest numbers (flocks of 10–30 birds) were reported as early as Apr. 23 (Waukegan and Louisville) and as late as May 15 (Holt County, Mo.). Single Greater Yellowlegs arrived during the second week of March at three locations and Lesser Yellowlegs were even somewhat earlier. A breeding-plumaged Red Knot arrived May 15 at both S.C.R. (†R, E) and Waukegan (JN). Two Purple Sandpipers were found at Michigan City, Ind., Apr. 2–24 (†TiK *et al.*). Very early-arriving White-rumped Sandpipers were noted at Iowa City, Ia., Apr. 10 (†N) and near S.C.R., Apr. 30 (E), as usual the species was rather common from mid-May to early June. Baird's Sandpipers, too, were found exceptionally early: Mar. 13 at S.C.R. (L) and Mar. 26 at Sangchris L., Ill. (H). The first Least Sandpipers were: Mar. 19 at Iowa City (*Net al.*) and Mar. 27 at Spfld. (H). A Dunlin had arrived at Spfld., by Apr. 2 (H, K).

Maximum numbers of Short-billed Dowitchers were 82 at Iowa City May 13 (MN) and 60 at Waveland, Ind., May 11 (AB). Single Stilt Sandpipers were reported from six areas (Iowa, Illinois and Ohio) Apr. 28–May 24 (m.ob.). Western Sandpipers were reported from four areas; the first 12 were found at S.C.R., Apr. 2 (R, E) and later; another was detected at Iowa City Apr. 10 (N) and three at Rend L., Ill., June 4 (MM). The only Buff-breasted Sandpipers found were six near S.C.R., May 22 (R, E) and one at Willow Slough, Ind., June 1 (EH)

Three Marbled Godwits were documented, one each in Kentucky, Indiana and Iowa Apr. 23–May 7. Only Indiana, Iowa and Missouri observers reported Hudsonian Godwits and most were in Missouri as evidenced by the 106 at S.C.R., May 13 (R, E); however, 15 appeared at Iowa City May 14 (ToK *et al.*), one was present at W. Lafayette, Ind., Apr. 23–30 (†EH). The only Am. Avocets reported were the two at Waukegan Apr. 24 (DJ) and eight at Chicago May 7 (JN). One Red Phalarope was reported from Cleveland May 22 (†JHo). Good numbers of Wilson's Phalaropes were found; reported numbers were of singles to groups up to ten, however 40 were present at Willow Slough, Ind., during mid-May and 150 were tallied at S.C.R., Apr. 28 (E); dates of occurrence ranged Apr. 28 to May 18. Smaller numbers of N. Phalaropes were observed Apr. 29–June 1 with the majority during the last two weeks of May, the maximum number was six at Maryville, Mo., May 22 (E, R)

GULLS AND TERNS—This was an amazing season for "white-winged" gulls. Seven Glaucous Gulls were reported (at least one in each state except Kentucky) with the latest reported at Ottawa N.W.R., Ohio (hereafter, O.W.R.), May 21 (†LV); four others were April records. A few Iceland Gulls, too, were exceptionally late in departing—the latest being Apr. 30 at Waukegan (†JN) and Mar. 22 at Cleveland (†JHo). An amazingly early Laughing Gull was detected at Iowa City Mar. 26 (†N) and others were found at Louisville May 2 (BP-B *et al.*); S.C.R., May 8 (TBa, †R, E); and Thomas Hill Res., Mo., May 28 (*JR). A Black-legged Kittiwake was reported from Hamlet, Ind., Mar. 20 (†TiK *et al.*). There were a few comments pertaining to tern migration; it appeared that all species were reported—but not necessarily in normal or above-normal numbers. The Black Tern was reported as "declining" in Ohio.

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS—In contrast to last year, both species of cuckoo were relatively common migrants this spring and appeared during the heart of the migration season rather than near the end. Three Barn Owls were reported. The final total of Snowy Owls for Iowa this winter and spring reached 206—the last was reported Apr. 2; one was picked up dead along a Holt County, Mo., highway Apr. 24 (*E). Documentary evidence for nesting Long-eared Owls came from Carlyle, Ill. (MJ); Willow Slough, Ind., (EH), and Wilcox Ref., Marion Co., Ia. (GB). Two Saw-whet Owls were still present at Magee Marsh, Ohio, Apr. 3 (m.ob.). Single extralimital Chuck-will's-widows were encountered at Decatur, Ill., May 16 (RPa); Charleston, Ill., May 26 (†LH), Willow Slough May 20–June 5 (†EH); n.w. Atchison County, Mo., May 20 (E, R); and several areas in Gibson County, Ind. (CM). Although a Whip-poor-will arrived at Spfld., Apr. 7 (H), the species was considered rather scarce this spring, another early arrival was the one at St. Joseph, Mo., Apr. 12 (*vide L.*). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and Belted Kingfishers were both scarce this spring. Nesting Pileated Woodpeckers were found at Charleston, Ill. (LH) and in Daviess County, Ind. (DA); another noteworthy observation was of a single bird in Champaign County, Ill., Apr. 9 (JP) & May 6 (JOS)

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS AND CROWS—At least ten W. Kingbirds were encountered in the Big L., Holt Co., Mo., area during May (R). The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher is still regular in the Columbia, Mo. area (*vide WG*). This was apparently an excellent spring for Olive-sided Flycatchers, many arrived earlier than usual and more were detected, including Kentucky where they are rarely encountered. Tree Swallows have continued to nest (only one pair) in Jefferson County, Ky. (S). A Fredericksburg, Ohio barn supported 59 Cliff Swallow nests this season (DaK). Three Fish Crows were some-

what n. of their usual Mississippi R. range when they were heard and seen at an inland St. Louis suburb Apr. 21 (JEa).

CREEPERS THROUGH SHRIKES—Late spring records of Brown Creepers are increasing each year which leads one to believe that the species is becoming a more common breeder in the region—especially Illinois and Kentucky (and probably Indiana). The reports of Bewick's Wrens in Kentucky are less than usual this spring as the total number reported is down; arrivals in Missouri were first noted in late March, but only recorded from three areas; one had arrived at Spfld., by Apr. 7 (H) and a pair may have nested in Jerseyville, Ill. (HWu). As noted during the winter, the Carolina Wren population was nearly decimated; a few survivors were detected and it will be noteworthy to observe this species during its period of recovery. Both species of marsh wren were relatively scarce this spring. A few Mockingbirds returned to the Cleveland area after the winter absence (M). Widely scattered reports suggested that the Swainson's Thrush was an erratic, but abundant migrant; however, the Gray-cheeked Thrush was anything but abundant. Kentucky and Iowa reporters believed that the E. Bluebird population was hurt by the prolonged winter conditions, similar comments were not received from other reporters. Single Townsend's Solitaires were present at Ashland, Mo., until Mar. 6 (L); Corydon, Ia., Mar. 17–27 (†KM); and Sterling, Ill., Apr. 8 (†BSh). The Golden-crowned Kinglet population was definitely down and many observers failed to encounter a single bird all season; Ruby-crowned Kinglets were also somewhat scarce compared to past numbers reported. The last of the wintering N. Shrikes were observed at Cleveland Mar. 21 (*vide* M); Iowa City Mar. 19 (RD); and Rockford, Ill., Mar. 8 (LJ).

VIREOS AND WARBLERS—As usual, the most significant notes pertaining to these species were the earlier-than-usual arrival dates; however, a few expanded ranges or new breeding localities were locally important. There were several scattered records of White-eyed Vireos in the Cleveland area (M), one returned to the same Seneca County, Ohio location for the third consecutive year (ToB); and one had arrived at Anchorage, Ky., by Apr. 2 (BM). A Bell's Vireo at Magee Marsh, Ohio, was considered noteworthy May 15 (†TT); one had arrived at Land-between-the-Lakes, Ky., by Apr. 10 (JER). Possible new locations for Swainson's Warblers included Mammoth Cave (LaS, HJ) and Beattyville, Lee Co., Ky (DC) and Dunklin County, Mo. (PH). An early-arriving Worm-eating Warbler appeared at Spfld., by Apr. 6 (H). Late-departing (or nesting?) Golden-winged Warblers were still present at Pigeon River Fish & Game Area, Ind., May 29 (LCs) and Shades S.P., Montgomery Co., Ind., June 3 (AB). The Cape May Warbler at Spfld., Apr. 19–20 was exceptionally early (†H) and the one at Danville, Ky., May 24 was a new record late departure date for that state (FL). Between 15 and 25 Pine Warblers were noted at Cincinnati Mar. 13–14 (*vide* W), a pair was reported from Yellowwood L., Brown Co., Ind., Mar. 31 (SG). A Prairie Warbler was present at Columbus Apr. 22 & 27 (TT); Toledo May 6 (BSt) and Iowa City (singing vigorously), May 21 (†MN). Regular numbers of Connecticut Warblers were reported; as usual, the majority were seen in the Illinois in late May. An early Mourning Warbler was encountered at Energy L., Ky., Apr. 16 (JER *et al.*) and a late one at Danville, Ky., May 30 (FL). There were only a few extralimital reports of Hooded Warblers; one in Missouri, three in Iowa and one in Ohio.

BLACKBIRDS—The number of Bobolinks using the O W R. seemed to be increasing (LV). The breeding populations of Yellow-headed Blackbirds in Iowa " have been

wiped out by the drought at Lakin Slough, held steady at Cone Marsh and increased at McCords Pond near Bayard. A new colony is being established at Mud Lake County Conservation Park north of Dubuque." (N). There were nine scattered marshes supporting such colonies in Lake County, Ill., during May (JN); one bird was seen at O.W.R., May 13, (LV). A Brewer's Blackbird was documented in Holmes County, Ohio, Mar. 15 (†DeK); one was present at Antioch, Ill., May 26 (DJ) and three pairs were breeding in Waukegan in early June (JN).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH CROSSBILLS—The population of Blue Grosbeaks in s. Indiana is becoming better known, one bird was even present as far n. as Indianapolis in mid-May (m.ob., *vide* CK). All House Finch reports were from Ohio Warren Mar. 16 (CJ); Cleveland Mar. 7 (†ES) and Shreve Apr. 18 (DeK); one pair is also breeding in Cleveland (*vide* M). Very few Com. Redpolls were reported; one was banded at Davenport, Ia., Mar. 19 (P). Only a few Pine Siskins were around, most were observed in early April and two as late as May 2 (TN, P). Red Crossbills were practically nonexistent; six were found at the Sand Ridge State Forest, Ill., Mar. 12 (VH) and one at Champaign, Ill., Mar. 27 (DF).

SPARROWS THROUGH LONGSPURS—An early-arriving Grasshopper Sparrow was found at Spfld., Apr. 1 (H), as a whole, the population was doing well in some areas but decidedly down in many areas. An excellent documentation was prepared for the observation of a Baird's Sparrow in St. Louis County, Mo., Apr. 24 (†WBa, †WW, †VB). Fair numbers of Le Conte's Sparrows were encountered Mar. 19–May 7. The number of Vesper Sparrows was reported as increasing at O.W.R. (LV). An early Clay-colored Sparrow was found at Monticello, Ill., Apr. 14 (RPa); one was encountered as far e. as Cleveland May 8 (PP, †JHo). Iowa was again the place for one of the exceptional records this spring—a Golden-crowned Sparrow; it was located in Jamaica May 3–4 and documented by many (†GBu, WBr, DM *et al.*). Good numbers of Lapland Longspurs were reported; the last were gone by the end of April. Searches in appropriate habitat have continued to improve knowledge concerning migratory movements of Smith's Longspurs through the region. As observers learn more about the habitat and how to search for the birds, more birds are encountered; although the total number of birds passing through c. Illinois was considered low, the species was encountered more often than usual in e. Illinois and w. Indiana with 30 being found Apr. 2 at Enos, Ind. (TiK).

UNCORROBORATED REPORTS—Louisiana Heron near Cincinnati May 1; White-fronted Goose near Cincinnati Mar. 19; Black Vultures near Columbus, Mar. 4; Peregrine Falcon near Cincinnati May 8; Hudsonian Godwits (2) near Cincinnati June 5; Black-legged Kittiwake at Loraine, Ohio, Mar. 13.

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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

/ Thomas A. Imhof

After a severe January, the region enjoyed a warm March, resulting in development of vegetation in April that was about normal. As usual many earliest and latest dates were recorded—some significant, some not. It is often difficult to assess the importance, for instance, of an earliest ever date in a southern location when an area to the north records the same species even earlier every year. The first record, however, may be a distinct achievement in a poorly birded area where proper habitat is scarce. Thus many times we

are reporting news of birders as well as of birds. Generally spring seasons appear loaded with early migration dates and fall seasons with late ones, so caution is needed in their interpretation. One reasonable statement about this season is that waterfowl and some other locally-wintering species were late, and shorebirds, terns, and some small insectivores early.

Spring is supposed to be a real pleasure to the birder but sometimes the absence or scarcity of common and familiar species dulls the enjoyment. Observant birders found some blank spaces on their lists this year and lower numbers for some formerly abundant species. It is alarming to discover at the end of a day afield that you have not recorded certain common species. On May 1, 1976 in Birmingham we recorded 104 Ruby-crowned Kinglets in 163 party-hours (*AB* 30:854); this year 30 party-hours on April 30 and May 1 produced *none*. We have had similar experiences this spring in Alabama with Common Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, House and Carolina Wrens, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, and Chipping and White-throated Sparrows away from feeders. It is our considered opinion that all of these species suffered severe losses during the January cold, at least in Alabama. Some species however seemed to be in higher than usual numbers, especially water birds. Some of the most noticeable of these were Red-shouldered Hawk, Mourning Dove, Great Crested Flycatcher, Barn Swallow, Brown Creeper, Veery, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and White-eyed Vireo; only the first two and the creeper are present here in January in numbers.

WEATHER—In Birmingham January, with an average of 31.6° F and averaging over 12° below the daily mean, was still not as cold as January 1940 when the temperature reached -10° and the Warrior River froze over. February was almost 2° below the normal daily mean and had 12.6 inches of precipitation. About March 7 the weather changed and we had strong southerly winds. March averaged 4° above the daily mean and April and May about 2°. March and April had over two inches above normal precipitation, but May was about normal. On the Alabama coast there was very little measurable precipitation after late March, and as of late June we are very close to drought conditions. Very few significant cold fronts crossed the coast after early March.

FLICKER—Our main concern is the Common Flicker, which dropped on the Birmingham Spring Counts from an average for 1966–1971 of .675 bird per party-hour to .242 in 1977. We feel that this champion eater of ants is probably getting a large dose of chlorine—Mirex is ultra persistent and contains far more chlorine than DDT, which is banned—and the weakened birds were not able to survive the bitter cold. In any case, flickers are in lower numbers than ever before which has been verified on some Breeding Bird Surveys.

AROUND THE REGION—Bob Newman reported on the s.w. Louisiana coast that precipitated warbler migration was unpredictable, thin, and disappointing, except that it included the rarest of rarities, a Bachman's Warbler—details not as yet on hand. Off this coast, 100 mi s. of Cameron, Paul Blevins saw a Cattle Egret Mar. 13, a Whip-poor-will Mar. 15, and a Yellow-rumped Warbler Mar. 16 and Cliff and Tree Swallows Mar. 16, Great Egret and Yellow-rumped Warbler Mar. 17, and another Yellow-rumped Mar. 21—position mentioned only for Mar. 13. Fairly Chandler noted that "frontal systems ceased this year after the first week of April and we saw few of the migrants on the Alabama coast." Lib Toenes reported that from Dauphin I., "This is the worst late March and early April ever." Margaret Miller



reported from there, "Banding and birding were slow again this year. However I did get a few good species." Tuck Hayward elaborated that since the last of April, "birds have been scattered but more interesting." Mary Gaillard simplified and consolidated it all, "a very disappointing migration." Curtis Kingsbery reported that we had "only two cold fronts . . . thus very poor migration birding all spring . . . Summer residents showed up on schedule, but we had reports on only seven passerine migrants."

Alabama is happy this spring to have live-wire Louisiana birder Brent Ortego studying Canada Geese at Eufaula Refuge. Brent helped to fill in some gaps in a poorly-birded region, but noted about shorebirds that, "Most of the mud flats were covered during April and May . . . very few concentrations were observed." In Birmingham some migration was delayed in spite of strong southerly winds. Normally Wood Thrushes are first noted around Birmingham about Mar. 25, the earliest being Mar. 11; this year the first reported was Apr. 15 (HHK) and I saw my first Apr. 18 the same day that 100 were noted (JVP). At Nashville Mike Bierly summarized, "Small early flight in late March, then the bulk mid-April as usual—transients did not linger, probably because of the heat." Because of the poor visible migration and the drop in abundance of certain common species, most counts and Big Days fell far short of expectations—no need to litanize the disappointment.

Paul Hamel of Clemson University spent May 5–14 in Mississippi County, Ark., and Dunklin County, Mo., as part of a systematic search for Bachman's Warbler. Although no Bachman's Warblers have thus far been found, the by-products of the investigation have made it well worthwhile. For instance, in a count of the 121 species observed, daily counts show the following 17 species (seen ten or more per day) in decreasing order of abundance: Red-winged Blackbird, Com Grackle, Starling, Dickcissel, Indigo Bunting, House Sparrow, Tennessee Warbler, Brown-headed Cowbird, Barn Swallow, Mourning Dove, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Prothonotary Warbler, Carolina Chickadee, Wood Duck, Chimney Swift, Tufted Titmouse, and Horned Lark.

Norman Lavers reported from Jonesboro, Ark., "during the balmy weather of early spring . . . practically no visible migration . . . cold fronts of Apr. 21 and May 9 brought big falls . . . birds pretty steady . . . until the end of May." Edith Halberg commented from Little Rock, "Flycatchers late and sparse . . . Carolina Wrens seem far less common . . . thrushes more common than in recent years . . . White-eyed and Warbling Vireos in usual good numbers . . . warblers dribbled through . . . all-in-all a sparse migration here" Some outstanding Arkansas records: Louisiana Heron at Burdette Heronry, Mississippi Co., May 20 (FS) & 27 (HNNH); 43 Upland Sandpipers at Texarkana Apr. 10 (CM), Burrowing Owl in Jefferson County Mar. 7 (CHD, JES, taped); Mourning Warbler at Texarkana May 7 (CM), and at Little Rock May 8 (HNNH, EMH); Great-tailed Grackle, first breeding for Arkansas in Little River County (CM); Red Crossbill in Little Rock Mar. 28 (HNNH, EMH).

PELICANLIKE BIRDS—A flock of 43 White Pelicans at Tuscaloosa June 1 (RKC) constituted the only spring record for Alabama between the coast and the Tennessee Valley. A peak of only 36 Brown Pelicans on Dauphin I., May 12 held only two adults (LRT), a sign of good reproduction but far below peaks of 1973 and 1975. The only reports from n w Florida were three at Destin Apr. 2 and ten at Ft. Pickens May 21 (both CLK, m.ob.). Blue-faced Boobies were noted on the Alabama coast for the seventh consecutive year: ten on Dauphin Apr. 9 and many Apr. 15 (both RWH) and an immature there June 5, the three light areas on the hindneck,

sides of tail, and belly and lack of coarse spots noted well (CD). Last year a Gannet was about ten mi inland at Cameron, La., Apr. 17 (AB 30:852); this year one was 50 mi inland at Marianna, Fla., Apr. 21 (DDM). Most sea birds have been recorded inland especially after storms, and many migrate overland, but Gannets are very rare inland, in fact birds in the n. Gulf are believed to migrate only around the s. tip of Florida.

DARK IBISES—Glossy Ibises are known to have bred on Cat I., near Dauphin for ten years (many photos, m.ob.) yet two local specimens, May and October, are both White-faced Adult Glossies are still common on the island and in its vicinity and in 1976 knowledgeable Louisiana observers recorded 12 Glossy and 50 White-faced on Cat I., June 10 (AB 30:966). This year six ad. White-faced were photographed there June 4 (PGJ, CD) thus confirming the third area of sympatry. It is apparent that these two dark ibises are American and European forms, whether species or subspecies but certainly in large part allopatric. Possibly the Glossy Ibis, a much stronger fier than the Cattle Egret, invaded the American continent a few centuries ago in a similar fashion and we are now witness to the process that will determine whether these two birds have evolved sufficiently to maintain specific integrity.

WATERFOWL—Many were late; 11 species including Canada Goose were listed on May 1 in the Tennessee Valley of Alabama (TAI, ALM). The records below are the latest locally except as otherwise noted: Pintail, Mar 26, L. Purdy, Ala. (HME) and Apr. 15, Mobile (DMB, CDC, SG); Canvasback, Apr. 5, Eufaula Ref. (JBO) and May 4, two, Gallatin, Tenn. (D&PC); Com. Goldeneye, Apr. 8 at Eufaula Ref. (JBO); ♂ Oldsquaw, Apr. 26 near Ft. Morgan (ALM, PFC), the latest for Alabama; White-winged Scoter, Feb 26, Decatur (DCH), the latest for inland Alabama; ♂ & ♀ Surf Scoter, Gulf Shores (ALM), the latest for Alabama; Ruddy Duck, May 18, Gallatin (D&PC) and May 28, Wheeler Ref (DMB); Com. Merganser, Mar. 28, three, Decatur (DCH), Red-breasted Merganser, Apr. 19, 125, Eufaula Ref. (JBO)

GARGANEY—Paxton *et al.* (AB 30:819) listed four Garganey records for the East since 1957 which prompts me to mention a fifth which was originally dismissed as an escape. The bird, a male, was seen with a flock of wild Blue-winged Teal on L. Shelby, Gulf Shores, Ala., Mar 11, 1968 by H. Lee Jones. Upon his return to California, Jones notified Fairly Chandler who, on Mar. 19, confirmed the observation.

HAWKS—Swallow-tailed Kites were widespread; seven records of 13 birds in coastal Alabama Mar. 17–Apr 22 (MAG, m.ob.); an early one Feb. 26 at Panama City Beach (MAO); one Mar. 11 at U.S. 90 and Pearl R., Miss.-La. (GCh), and one Apr. 10 at Collierville near Memphis (E&RWM), the first record for w. Tennessee since the turn of the century (BBC). The only Bald Eagle reported was an adult at Eufaula Ref., Apr. 23 (JBO), however two unidentified eagles Mar. 26 at Pt. Clear, Ala. (PFC) were probably Balds. The fourth dark-phase Rough-legged Hawk for Alabama, over I-65 near Evergreen Apr. 22 (JF, HHF), was also the latest for the state. If dark-phase birds are more northern, this would support the contention that the most n. birds are the latest to migrate because their breeding grounds take longest to become hospitable. Ospreys were first noted at Eufaula Ref., Apr. 8; nine were counted flying N from the refuge this spring, and two, hopefully nesting locally, remained (JBO) A Peregrine Falcon was noted Mar 27 on Blakely I, Mobile,

putting thousands of shorebirds and even White Pelicans to flight (TAI, HNW) and late ones were noted at Wheeler Ref., Apr 29 (DMB, ALM, MMcD) and on Dauphin May 8 (REH), the latest for Alabama except for former breeders.

SHOREBIRDS—Probably because of the weak tides and consequent small area of regularly exposed mudflats, much of the n. Gulf coast is poor shorebird habitat. Henry Stevenson, investigating Shell I., just off Panama City June 1, found the following unusual in June in n.w. Florida: Am. Oystercatcher, Greater Yellowlegs, Marbled Godwit, and Black-necked Stilt First for Tennessee was a **Snowy Plover** at Gallatin May 19–25, photographed and well described (D&PC, m.ob.). A Piping Plover at Eufaula Ref., May 8 (JBO) was the third found inland in spring in Alabama. A count of 275 Am. Golden Plovers Mar. 15 in Decatur (DMB, m.ob.) was the highest ever for Alabama. Also in Decatur were Ruddy Turnstones May 14 (DMB) & 31 (DCH), the third and fourth spring records for inland Alabama. The Long-billed Curlew, another shorebird rare in n.w. Florida, was seen at Pensacola Mar. 6 & 12 (SJS, BHS). Alabama tallied an encouraging seven records of 43 Upland Sandpipers, the last two May 28 at Eufaula Ref. (JBO), the latest for the state except for three summer records years ago.

Exceptionally early for n.w. Florida was a White-rumped Sandpiper, carefully identified at Malone, Jackson Co., Apr. 2 (MGr, DDM, PM, KW) and yet also early were two, 50 mi n. at Eufaula Ref., Apr. 26 (JBO). Two Baird's Sandpipers there May 14 (JBO) bring inland Alabama's spring total to four records of 12 birds. Three Semipalmated Sandpipers at Decatur, seen and *heard* Mar. 5 (DMB, CDC, SG) constitute the earliest record for inland Alabama. Two Sanderlings at Eufaula Ref., May 14 (JBO) were the first for the Inland Coastal Plain of Alabama and in line with records n. of the Fall Line. Earliest locally were 15 Short-billed Dowitchers at Decatur Mar. 15 (DMB, ALM, HHK, HHF). A summer-plumaged Hudsonian Godwit at Cochrane Causeway, Mobile, June 7 (CD) was the latest of four spring records for Alabama. At Old Hickory L., Apr. 18 a flock of 14 Am. Avocets made the sixth Nashville record (BM, *vide* MM). Second in spring for Alabama was a N. Phalarope at Blakely I., Mobile, Apr. 29 (CD, HME).

JAEGER, GULLS—Very late for any jaeger was an unidentified one at Port St. Joe, Fla., May 25 (DD). A Great Black-backed Gull at Navarre Mar. 12 (BHS) was the fourth this winter for n.w. Florida—seven of the eight records have been since 1973. Glaucous Gulls on Dauphin I., Apr. 13 (RWH) & May 7 (REH) made the fourth year of record for Alabama's coast. The Laughing Gull is possibly becoming a fairly regular migrant in inland Alabama; one Mar. 30 at Wheeler Ref. (DMB, ALM) was the eighth for the Tennessee Valley, the first in March; four records of 22 birds at Eufaula Ref., Apr. 12–May 17 (JBO) helped verify L. A. Wells' observations from L. Oliver that the species is regular in the Chattahoochee Valley. The species is not known to breed on the Great Lakes, although a few summer, so one might ask where the birds are going. Two Alabama banding recoveries are of a Virginia bird found at Gadsden, Etowah Co., and a North Carolina bird in Covington County, indicating that some Atlantic coast birds migrate overland. An ad. Franklin's Gull in summer plumage at Decatur Apr. 24 & 25 (TAI, GMI, DMB) was the seventh Alabama record, first in April and fourth for the Tennessee Valley. The species is obviously easier to find in the Tennessee Valley where there are few if any Laughing Gulls to sort through and the birds are more likely to be in identifiable plumage Bob

Newman pointed out in 1973 the scarcity of black-headed Bonaparte's Gulls in the region (*AB* 27:783) when he and others saw 25 in Cameron Par., La., Apr. 14–15 Gary Graves saw two in Texarkana Apr. 12, 1975 (*AB* 29:864) This year 50 were seen at Guntersville, Ala., Apr. 2 (TAI, ALM, CDC). It appears that development of the black head and the urge to migrate are concurrent and could be triggered by the same hormone level.

TERNs—The following terns broke local early records in Alabama: Forster's, two Apr. 12 at Eufaula Ref. (JBO) and one Apr. 24 at Decatur (TAI, GMI); Common, Apr. 12 at Eufala Ref. (JBO), in line with data from n. Alabama, Caspian, two Apr. 1 at Eufaula Ref. (JBO) and two Apr. 25 at Decatur (DMB); Black, eight Apr. 16 at Gulf Shores (DMB, CDC, SG), two May 8 at Birmingham (JVP, RWL).

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS—White-winged Doves at Pensacola May 15 (B&THo) and at Gulf Breeze May 23 (LRD) were the latest for n.w. Florida. One can only guess at the number of secretive Long-eared and Saw-whet Owls that winter in this region, but enough of them come to light to make one realize that there are many more than our usual birdfinding techniques reveal. For instance, a Long-eared Owl found freshly dead (specimen salvaged) on a barbed wire fence at Ashland City Marsh Mar. 19 (RJM), furnished the seventh and latest Nashville area record. Locally early goatsuckers were a Chuck-will's-widow in Shreveport, Mar. 28 and a Whip-poor-will there the next morning (JRS, ES). Riding the same strong SW winds, six Chimney Swifts at Scottsboro Mar. 28 (BGW) and six more at Wheeler Ref., Mar. 29 (DMB, ALM) were all the earliest locally. A ♂ Ruby-throated Hummingbird in Basin Spring Mar. 26 (KAG, MG) was the earliest for the Nashville area.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS—With over a half-dozen birders resident on Dauphin I., the conspicuous Gray Kingbird is probably first noted the day it arrives. This year this was Apr. 2 (RWH), by nine days the earliest ever for Alabama. Probably responsible were the predominant E and SE coastal winds this March and April. (See also Black-whiskered Vireo, Black-throated Blue and Connecticut Warblers below.) Early for the Nashville area were a singing Willow Flycatcher in Dickson County Apr. 30 (RJM) and an E. Wood Pewee at Old Hickory Apr. 11 (S&WF), yet a singing Least Flycatcher at Shreveport May 28 (JRS) was by 12 days the latest for Louisiana. Early swallows, a Barn at Decatur Mar. 13 (DMB) and five Cliffs there Mar. 22 (DCH) possibly indicate their continued abundance.

CREEPER, WRENS, THRUSHES—The Brown Creeper showed signs of nesting in Tennessee's two northwestern-most counties. Near Walnutlog, Obion Co., a pair was seen May 7 (H&HD), and near Roellen, Dyer Co., two were seen carrying nest material to under the loose bark of a tree 80 yards out in the water Apr. 29, 30, May 1 & 9 (GCr)—apparently the first nesting in w. Tennessee (BBC). Another species moving S as a breeder is the House Wren which was seen this year May 28 at Wheeler Ref. (DMB) On Ark. 115, 100 yards s. of the Missouri line at 1:50 a.m. May 29, four Short-billed Marsh Wrens, apparently on territory, were singing to an almost full moon (BBC). Early Veeries were an earliest for Alabama on Dauphin Mar. 28 (REH) and one Apr. 18 in Birmingham (JVP).

KINGLETS, VIREOS—Early Blue-gray Gnatcatchers included two at Wheeler Ref., Mar. 19 (DMB). A late Ruby-crowned Kinglet was at Wheeler Ref., May 7 (CDC,

DMB). First noted Red-eyed Vireos were on opposite sides of Mobile Bay Mar. 20 at Spring Hill (MAG) and Fairhope (MN). First Black-whiskered Vireos were found Apr. 6: one banded on Dauphin (MEM), the earliest of 11 Alabama records, and one at Ft. Pickens, Fla. (RAD, A&BL); another was at Ft. Pickens Apr. 23 (SJS, BHS). An early Warbling Vireo was at Eufaula Ref., Apr. 8 (JBO).

WARBLERS—An early Swainson's Warbler was at Scottsboro Apr. 20 (BGW) and an early Prothonotary at Old Hickory, Tenn., Mar. 30 (S&WF). Only the second Cape May Warbler for the Inland Coastal Plain was at Eufaula Ref., Apr. 10 (JBO). On Dauphin in late April and early May 11 Black-throated Blue Warblers were banded (MEM, REH); in Birmingham the latest for Alabama was seen May 11 (HME). A ♂ Black-throated Green Warbler on Perry Mt., Ala., Mar. 19 (HHK, B.A.S.) was the earliest for the Inland Coastal Plain but also may have been the farthest south local breeder on this outlier mountain. Late ones were at Decatur May 27 (DMB) and at Shreveport May 28 (JRS), the latest for Louisiana. Early warblers were a ♂ Cerulean at Shreveport Mar. 30 (JRS), a Yellow-throated at Wheeler Ref., Mar. 26 (DMB), an Ovenbird at Eufaula Ref., Apr. 10 (JBO), N. Waterthrush there Apr. 12 (JBO), Louisiana Waterthrush in Memphis Mar. 16 (OFI), and yellowthroats at Wheeler Ref., Mar. 5 (DMB, CDC, SG) and in Nashville Apr. 2 (ATT). A Palm Warbler was late at Wheeler Ref., May 14 (DMB, JMH, TAB). For the second consecutive spring a Connecticut Warbler was banded on Dauphin Apr. 30 (MEM, A.O.S.), the second April record for the state.

BLACKBIRDS—Four early ♂ Bobolinks were at Ft. Morgan Apr. 16 (DMB). A ♀ Rusty Blackbird in Decatur Apr. 17 (DMB) tied the latest for Alabama and a Brewer's in Panama City Apr. 16 (SJS, BHS) was very late. On the n. Gulf coast the Yellow-headed Blackbird is more common in fall, thus a bird at Pensacola Apr. 15 (RAD) registered only the second spring record of 17 local records. Near Daphne a male Mar. 24 (BVM) & Apr. 1 (MN) was only the fourth in spring of 12 records for Alabama. Boat-tailed Grackles seem to be moving around; away from usual haunts were six females in Escambia Marsh, Pensacola Mar. 6 (SJS, BHS), and at least 20 birds, probably a new colony, were present late February into June, 4 mi e. of Daphne in a habitat of pecan orchards, cemetery, small pond and extensive row crops (A&MN, TAI, PFC *et al.*), the first time in Alabama away from marine habitats.

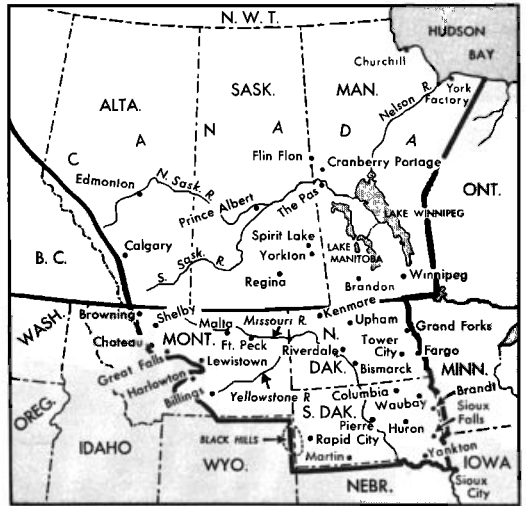
FINCHES—The well seen and photographed ♀ House Finch in Decatur remained to Mar. 16 (DMB); a female in Nashville remained to Mar. 19 (D&PC); a male in Ashland City Mar. 6 (RJM) provided the fifth Nashville area record. The species is scarcely migratory in the West, yet these records suggest that the birds are wintering in this region. Other Alabama records (September and December) and Georgia records (January to April), substantiate the species' potential status as a winter bird in the South. Late finches were a Le Conte's Sparrow in Shreveport May 11 (JRS), the latest for Louisiana; a Dark-eyed Junco Apr. 26 at Panama City Beach (MAO), the latest for n.w. Florida and probably all of Florida; and a Lincoln's Sparrow Apr. 16 also in Panama City (SJS, BHS) the latest for n.w. Florida.

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NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION
/ Esther M. Serr

March and April were very dry and unseasonably warm which prompted early migration. The provinces were in dire need of moisture in early spring, with dust storms and marshes going dry. Saskatoon soil had so little moisture that excavations could be dug without the usual melting by surface fires. Then came May with abundant rainfall to the point that



some crops needed re-seeding and there were probably some losses to ground-nesting birds. The states in the region followed the same pattern, but with more moderate conditions. Total number of birds was lower for most species than in 1976; yet there was evidence that birds don't always follow the expected migration paths and the numbers fluctuated. Rare wading birds came back to many of the same places this year as in 1976. Reporters wondered if they could be the same birds.

LOONS THROUGH BITTERNS—The region had 28 sightings of Com. Loon with the earliest date of Apr. 12 when two were observed at Fargo, N.D. Red-necked Grebes gathered in close groups because of the water shortage and individuals counted totaled 100. They peaked at 37 on Apr. 24 in the Red R., n. of Winnipeg (RFK, RWK) and a total of 28 was observed in s. Saskatchewan (EKH, CGH). Horned Grebes were in a concentrated group of 100 on Apr. 24 at Lostwood N.W.R., Burke Co., N.D. (GBB) and there were 111 on Apr. 30 at Saskatoon (JBG). Eareds peaked at 200 on May 22 at Frontier, Sask. (JJW). Western and Pied-billed Grebe numbers showed some increase.

White Pelicans numbered 2723 May 5 at Lacreek N.W.R., Bennett Co., S.D. (JMN) and 630 nests were found May 12 at E Shoal L., Man. (RME). Double-crested Cormorants totaled 600 over South Dakota, mainly away from refuge areas. At the mouth of the Milk R., Valley Co., Mont., there were 60 on Apr. 21 (TCH). There was a total of 151 Great Blue Heron nests reported from South Dakota. Nine Green Herons were found in five areas of s. Manitoba (JPG, RJS, GEH); three were in s.e. North Dakota (RM, FJC); and five sightings of Green Herons were widespread over South Dakota May 7–21 (RLH, VBV, WH). A Little Blue Heron was observed May 14 at St. Norbert, Man. (WDK).

Again rare egret species appeared over the prairie. One Cattle Egret was found Apr. 28 in Lyman County, S.D. (WCT); two were seen at Gimli, Man., May 23 (DRMH, GCP) and three in Cass and Rolette Cos., N.D. (Blayne Doty, PCH). Great Egrets totaled 12 in South Dakota (RRJ, WH), Manitoba and Saskatchewan (MB, RBD). A single Snowy Egret was at Freezeout L., Choteau Co., Mont., May 7 (RWW) and another was a first for Saskatoon May 15 (JBG). An ad. Louisiana Heron was seen May 23 at Oak Hammock Marsh where one was seen in 1976 (RFK). Black-crowned Night Hérons reported totaled over 500 in the region, a sizable increase. One Yellow-crowned Night Heron was a rare find in e. Tripp County, S.D. (GLS). One Least Bittern was seen in a tree on May 9 at the Fish Hatchery at Valley City, N.D. (RM). American Bittern showed most often in South Dakota, with 12 observed Mar. 27–May 10 (RLH, JMN, WH). The White-faced Ibis continued to appear in Montana, with four observed May 5–14 (RWW, HWC, BBF, JRF) and another was in Edmunds County, S.D., May 11 (KFH).

SWANS. GEESE—A winter storm that built up from noon to 6 p.m. on Mar. 27 brought at least 5000 Whistling Swans to Freezeout L., Mont. (M. Adams). In LaMoure Co., N.D., 2000 were concentrated at one time (JA). White-fronted Geese numbered 600 in North Dakota, Mar. 16–Apr. 6 (RAS, DCM, DLS).

S.A.

Snow Goose migration was most spectacular as it came out of the Mississippi flyway into s.e. North Dakota Apr. 13. At sunrise, C. Clark of Des Plaines, Ill., was driving 40 mi w. of the Minnesota border when he drove under a 15-mile-wide horde of migrating geese. Geese were in the sky everywhere in all directions. He estimated several hundred thousand, mainly Snows. Devil's Lake, N.D., is the major staging ground of the Snow Geese that arrive there the second week of April and remain nearly a month. When leaving they appear to fly W or E of the Turtle Mts., and then turn sharply toward Winnipeg. From there they follow around the w. side of Hudson Bay to their e. Arctic nesting grounds.

Ross' Goose was reported as common in the w. fourth of Saskatchewan (JMH); Benton Lake N.W.R., Mont. had five May 8 (JBR); small numbers were observed in mid-April at Glenboro, Man. (DRMH) and there was one Apr. 17–28 at Lacreek N.W.R., S.D. (JMN *et al.*).

DUCKS—Two Black Ducks were observed Mar 26 at Calgary (BMF); a single was at Glendive, Mont., Apr 29 (TCH) and one was at Oak Hammock, Man., May 28

Pintail numbers seemed high, with 75,000 seen in s. Alberta Mar. 27–Apr. 3 (RJB). Nearly 17,000 were at Benton Lake N.W.R., Mar. 11–24 (LAS). Cinnamon Teal have increased to an observed total of 45 in the area. Frank L., and Calgary, Alta., attracted 16 of them, Apr. 8–May 23 and Benton L. had eight Apr. 16 (BWi). Wood Ducks seemed to be flourishing in the Dakotas away from the wildlife refuges that have been producing them.

The most excitement was created over the Garganey at Benton Lake N.W.R., May 27, but only Refuge Manager, Lyle Stemmerman saw it. Montana birders have studied references and Alberta records and believe the duck was a Garganey, with the possibility that it was an escaped captive (PDS).

Canvasbacks showed a good increase from all reports, with a peak of 1559 at Benton L., Mar. 18–Apr. 29 (LAS) Greater Scaup peaked at 44 on the Red R., n. of Winnipeg, Apr. 22 (RWK, RFK). Benton Lake N.W.R. boosted the totals of most duck species so much that when combined with the other reports all species showed a decided increase

Single Eur. Wigeons were seen at Aubigny and Selkirk, Man., Apr. 14–16 (C. Dixon, DRMH) and at Moose Jaw, Sask., May 23. Six Barrow's Goldeneyes were around Calgary Apr. 6–May 9 (CO, HWP, DD). Six White-winged Scoters were at Irricana, Alta., May 15 and one was at Calgary May 21 (RJB, RO). Another seven were found farther north at Emma L., Sask., May 23 (BCG, KMM). An Oldsquaw was at Portage, Man., Apr. 17 (B. Batt, REJ). All three mergansers were more numerous than usual (ACS, GS) The most noteworthy observation was of 200 Red-breasteds Apr 5 at Hailstone N.W.R., Stillwater Co., Mont. (TCH).

RAPTORS—Reports seemed to show that all hawk species were late in migration, but in most instances the numbers showed an increase over 1976. An interesting sighting was that of 15 Red-tailed Hawks circling a grass fire near Regina May 22 (FHB). Saskatchewan reporters complained about the absence of Ospreys. Eastern Montana had five sightings Apr 19–29 (TCH) and five Ospreys were noted in South Dakota Apr 12–May 30 (RLH, GLS, JLM). The Ospreys were slow in leaving the states. The same was true for the Rough-legged Hawks, it is unusual to have a May date for them in the United States Ferruginous Hawk numbers were most surprising with a total of 43 in Saskatchewan and ten in North Dakota Mar. 19–May 29 (TLF, JWM, GAE). Swainson's Hawks sighted totaled 248 with 181 of those in Saskatchewan. Thirteen Broad-winged Hawks were seen at Prince Albert, Good Spirit L., Qu' Appelle and Saskatoon Apr. 27–May 10 (WJA, WCH, SML).

Three Gyrfalcons were in the provinces, Apr. 1–20 (WCH, GW). One had caught a Mallard and was subsequently robbed of a meal by a Snowy Owl (PAH). One was near Crosby, Divide Co., N. D., Apr. 4 (RAS). There were increased numbers of Prairie and Peregrine Falcons and Merlins (LAS, HMM, KM, GW, JWC, EH, TMH, NJH). South Dakota had the best population of Am. Kestrels.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS—There were 11 Willow Ptarmigan at La Loche, Sask., Apr. 2 (WCH). Six Greater Prairie Chickens were on booming grounds Apr 29 in Ransom

and Steele Cos., N.D. (DLK). A count of Sage Grouse in North Dakota showed 17.7% increase over 1976 (GDK). Sage Grouse have spread into s.w. Saskatchewan where they have not been seen since the 1930s (MAG). The Gray Partridge seemed to be doing best of all (JLMu, RJW, WMN). South Dakota had good numbers across the state with the best concentration in Perkins County (AH, MHP, WH, KJH).

CRANES, RAILS—The Sandhill Crane migration was either lacking or unnoticed this spring (MS). What route did they follow? Sister A. Brady, Ft. Chipewyan, Alta., reported that four Whooping Cranes flew beneath her bush plane on May 6 as they flew over Golden L., s.e. of Ft. McMurray, Alta. Five more were sighted Apr. 17 at the n. end of Last Mountain L (WCH), and six were seen near Waseca, Sask., May 9 (CDP). Four Whooping Cranes were also seen Apr. 9 over Burke County, N.D. (CSP).

Most Virginia Rail sightings were in North and South Dakota (JMN, JLM, RM, EGA). Saskatchewan had a total of 24 Soras of the 42 reported and South Dakota had 11 (KFH, RLH, JLM, JMN). A Yellow Rail was heard in Benson County, N.D. during mid-May (Douglas Kibbe).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS—The spring movement was quite unusual with only a few places being really productive. Banders at Brookings, S.D., May 16–17 netted a total of 228 shorebirds of 14 species (NJH). Saskatoon counted almost 4000 N. Phalarope (PON). Plovers are especially attracted to the gravel flats at the w. end of Ft. Peck Res., Mont. Two Mountain Plovers were unusual at the C. M. Russell Refuge, Mont., May 7 (RAH, ETH). At least 100 Black-bellied Plovers were counted near Bowdoin N.W.R., Mont. (HWC). There were 300 Ruddy Turnstones at Waubay N W R., S.D., May 18 (MHP). April 23 and May 14 were the best shorebird days in s. Alberta, and Frank L., and Irricana seemed to be the favored locations (RJB). Oak Hammock Marsh in Manitoba always has good shorebirding.

Unusual was the total of 12 Whimbrel in Montana (JBr, RWW, HWC), Saskatchewan and South Dakota (GGA, MB, FHB, KJH). Just as unusual was the total of 55 Hudsonian Godwits reported from every state and province except Alberta. An unprecedented total of 90 Red Knots was counted in the area. A flock of 40 was at L. Oahe, Emmons Co., N.D., May 14 (D.P.Kibbe). A similar flock of 38 was seen at Raymore, Sask., May 28 (WCH). Might it have been the same flock? An uncommon sight was 50 Dunlin in a field May 13 s. of Mylo, N.D. (PCH). White-rumped Sandpipers are seldom mentioned in observer reports. There were 200, May 14 in Kidder County, N.D. (DLK) and 90 were at Regina May 14. A total of 77 Buff-breasted Sandpipers was irregular May 15–28 at Saskatoon (WSR, CAM, ARS, GWB).

Black-necked Stilts provided much interest in e. Montana when 31 were sighted and believed to be nesting at Benton Lake N.W.R., Freezeout L., and Westby, Mont. (PDS, RWW, BWi). Two were also seen on May 10 in n.w. Divide County, N.D. (JTL, HFD). Hugh Kingery wrote that shorebirds got bottled up at Bear River, Utah, in enormous numbers so we might speculate that these birds were a spill-over from that situation. The stilts occupied a type of marsh habitat at Benton L., that previously had not been available (CMC, LAS). Three Am. Woodcock were seen on Apr 4 at Sandilands Prov. Forest, Man. (PT); three were at Fargo and Pembina County, N.D., Apr. 16–May 17 (JYW, DLK); and one was in s.e. Yankton County, S.D., Apr 2 (WH).

OWLS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS—A total of five Screech Owls was noted at Fairburn, Pierre, Yankton and s

Clay County, S.D., during the period (BMN, RLH, WH). Great Horned Owl young were first noted Apr. 27 in s. Alberta. There was a total of 50 adult and young sighted in South Dakota with 25 of those at Lacreek N.W.R., Apr. 13 (JMN, ERE). Snowy Owls were on the move when 22 were seen on a 45-mi drive from Rosetown to Kyle, Sask. (BCG, KMM, JKG). Saskatchewan showed a count of 90 Burrowing Owls (FB, JHP) and 34 Short-eareds were an increase in that province (MAG, PRK). Two Barred Owls were seen at Ricinus, Alta., May 23 (JJP). Singles were at Valley City, N.D., Mar. 25 and at Candle L., Sask., May 26 (RM, WCH). Common Nighthawk counts continued to be very low. Three Poor-wills were calling at dusk May 3–26 at Rapid City (NRW, DSM) and one was in Harding County, S.D. (K. K. Johnson). Two Whip-poor-wills were at Sandilands Prov. Forest, Man., May 3 and one at Fargo May 4 and 5 (RLN).

PICIDS—There were ten Pileated Woodpeckers noted on eight dates in Saskatchewan (WCH). Red-headeders were reported most often from South Dakota with 12 there, May 8–13 and one over-wintered at Yankton (WH, JHH). North Dakota had a total of eight Red-headeders Apr. 22–May 16 (DDi, RNR). One Lewis' Woodpecker came to a feeder for cracked corn May 21 at Rapid City (BLG). Hairys seemed to be in good numbers.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS—Thirteen species of flycatchers were more than are usually reported, but most were few in number. One Cassin's Kingbird was special on May 7 in the Bull Mts. of Montana (HWC, BBF). Least Flycatchers were most numerous with 96 reports. There were 60 of them at Raymore, Sask., May 17 (CGH). Say's Phoebe numbers were increased throughout (m.ob.). Cliff Swallows seemed to be swarming around all the highway bridges on the prairies (KFH, MEK). The Purple Martin population seemed healthy only in South Dakota.

CORVIDS—Blue Jays continued to spread to new territory on the Marias R., Mont. (HMM). A Com. Raven roost of 60 was found at Nipawin, Sask., Mar. 29 (GAA) and two were very unusual at Billings, Mont., Mar. 9. Fifteen Clark's Nutcrackers were at Cochrane, Alta., Apr. 13 (JJP).

WRENS THROUGH THRUSHES—Six species of wrens were reported. Short-billed Marsh Wrens totaled 18, of which 12 were at Bismarck, N.D., May 22 (JCS). Six Mockingbirds were seen, with three in Saskatchewan. A Sage Thrasher was extraordinary at Billings May 11 (HWC, BBF). Wood Thrushes have become regular migrants through Fargo (EGA) and one was near Bissett, Man., in mid-May (CWC). A pair of Varied Thrushes was present during May at Sturgis, S.D., after a male was there most of the winter (EEM).

The E. Bluebird population continued to increase, with 28 sightings in South Dakota. There were two nesting pairs in Saskatoon (MIH) and on May 28 there was the first documented sighting (of two males) at Calgary (JF *et al.*). A pair of W. Bluebirds was seen in the s. end of Roosevelt N. Mem P., N.D., May 22 (GGB). The Mountain Bluebird population seemed to be normal.

SHRIKES, VIREOS—Loggerhead Shrike reports totaled 103, which should mean a good increase for 1977. South Dakota had 80 of that number. Only one Bell's Vireo was seen and heard May 17–27 at Highmore, S.D. (JHH). One Yellow-throated Vireo was at Cavalier, N.D., May 13 and two were at Winnipeg Beach, Man., May 15 (RWK, RFK). A total of nine Philadelphia Vireos was an increase, with five of those in Saskatchewan

WARBLERS—Warbler species definitely migrated north along the Minnesota-North Dakota border and the Red R. of the North. North Dakota and Manitoba tied with 24 species each The Yellow Warbler was most often reported, with 196 sightings; 141 of which were counted in Saskatchewan. Tennessee Warbler numbers were up at 116 with most of those in North Dakota and Saskatchewan. At Minot, N.D., 13 were noted on May 17 on a four-block walk (GBB). Four Yellow-breasted Chats were observed in w. South Dakota May 8–21 (JLM,RAW).

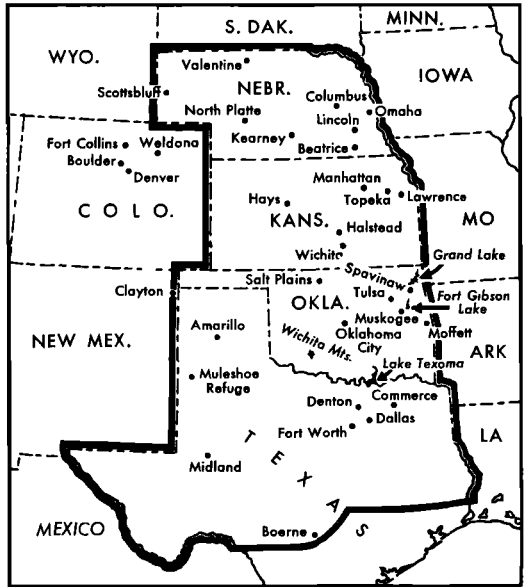
BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES—Rusty Blackbirds increased substantially with 1000 on Apr. 23 at Seven Sisters, Man (PT); 200 were seen at Good Spirit L., and 30 at Moose Jaw, Sask., Apr. 15–30 (WJA, EWK). A Summer Tanager was rare May 5 at Pierre, S.D. (C. Nagel, *vide* RLH). Rose-breasted Grosbeak reports totaled 72, with every state and province reporting them. Lazuli Bunting numbers seemed low this spring (LAW, KJJ).

SPARROWS—Sparrows followed the same migration route as the warblers. Manitoba and North Dakota were high in number of species observed. Grasshopper Sparrows are still too scarce but the best areas are probably s.w. Manitoba and n w South Dakota. Baird's Sparrows were singing in idle, mixed-grass prairie in Kidder County, N.D. (DLK). The Vesper Sparrow population seemed to be thriving in the region. This is the second successive year for the Lark Sparrow to be scarce. A Brewer's Sparrow was unusual in Perkins County, S D., May 21 (WH) and another was sighted at Billings May 11 (HWC, BBF). Only two McCown's Longspurs were seen—Apr 13 & 23 near Billings (HWC, BBF).

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SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION
/ Frances Williams

Spring was very warm and very early and there were no cold fronts of consequence. The birds dribbled through with no major waves observed. "The only good thing about the spring migration is the fact that it is behind us," wrote Kelly Bryan from east Texas. "Spring migration was a major pass-over," said Melba Wigg at Omaha. "Latest, thinnest migration I've ever seen," noted the veteran, Peggy Acord in the Texas Panhandle.



Banders with their nets gave statistical backup to these statements by field birders. In Johnson County, Kansas, Mary Louise Myers stated that she increased her number of nets by one-third over last year, but numbers of all species except Tennessee Warblers and Fox Sparrows were down. Ralph Moldenhauer's banding operation in Walker County, Texas netted only slightly over 600 birds compared to 1800 last spring.

LOONS THROUGH ANHINGAS—Common Loons remained in Lyon County, Kans., until May 2 and at Tulsa until May 10. A Red-necked Grebe was sighted in Osage County, Okla., Mar. 12–13 (EH). Horned Grebes lingered until Mar 20 in Crosby County, Tex., and until Apr. 4 in Wichita County, Tex. Very late W. Grebes were noted in Omaha May 27, Lubbock Apr. 30 and Dallas May 7. While Pelicans crossed the e. half of the region Mar. 26–Apr. 24 in flocks comprising up to 500 birds. Wanderers were noted at Balmorhea L., Reeves Co., Tex., Apr. 26 and El Paso May 4. Double-crested Cormorants were reported more widely and in larger numbers than in many years. Keith Arnold emphasized the importance of careful study of cormorants on inland lakes and reservoirs, since Olivaceous Cormorants are appearing regularly at several inland localities. In Clay County, Tex., there were 70 of the latter species May 23 and two were sighted at San Angelo, Tex., May 1. A single Anhinga was observed at Fort Worth Apr. 30 (TW) and a flock comprising 45 birds was present in Grimes County, Tex., Mar 18 (JR)

HERONS THROUGH IBISES—In Concho Valley of w. Texas 22 Great Blue Heron colonies were located. Two Green Heron nests containing four eggs each May 1 provided a new breeding record at San Angelo. A Little Blue Heron was present in Big Bend N.P., Apr. 20. A Cattle Egret in Randall County, Tex., May 14 constituted a first spring record. There were late April sightings of Black-crowned Night Herons in trans-Pecos Texas at Alpine, Balmorhea L., and Big Bend N.P. Least Bitterns are rare on the plains, so sightings at Fort Worth Apr. 23 (WP, m.ob.), Rogers County, Okla., May 14 (RAS, m.ob.) and San Angelo May 1 were noteworthy. There were many more reports than usual of Am. Bitterns. White-faced Ibises were also abundant and provided many first county records. A White Ibis was seen at Arlington, Tex., May 1 (BP) and 100 were noted in Walker County, Tex., Apr. 19 (KBB, m.ob.).

WATERFOWL—A Whistling Swan was observed in Lancaster County, Neb., Feb. 25–Mar. 7. Five Ross' Geese remained at Hagerman N.W.R., Tex., Mar. 16–27 (m.ob.). Six Black-bellied Whistling Ducks were discovered at Arlington May 4 and at least one remained until May 17 (RLN, m.ob.). Two Black-bellied Whistling Ducks in Brazos County, Tex., May 20 were the first in that area since 1973 (MH, DD). A Fulvous Whistling Duck was located in Walker County Apr. 20 (KBB *et al.*). Broods of Blue-winged Teal ducklings were present at many localities by early May. In Texas these often provided first nesting records, since this species has always been a very rare breeder in the state. A Mexican Duck nest in Jeff Davis County, Tex., contained eleven eggs Apr. 27 (PE). Wood Ducks are not normally expected in mountain ponds or creeks in the trans-Pecos, but they were found in the Chisos Mts., Apr. 10–14 and the Davis Mts., Apr. 14–15. An Oldsquaw was seen repeatedly at Oklahoma City Mar. 5–Apr. 8. A flock of Ruddy Ducks comprising 135 birds visited Linn County, Kans., Mar. 5. A Masked Duck at Dallas Apr. 3 (SC, m.ob.) was possibly the prize observation of the season. A Hooded Merganser was noted in Coffey County, Kans., Mar. 20, and a Red-breasted Merganser provided a first park record in Big Bend N.P., May 1 (SCF).



Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, Tarrant County, Tex., May 4–17, 1977. Photo by Robert L. Neill.

VULTURES THROUGH FALCONS—Three kettles of Turkey Vultures, comprising about 100 birds in each kettle, were observed just before dark Mar. 7 at the Black Gap W.M.A. downriver from Big Bend N.P. (KBB *et al.*). On Mar. 16 there were approximately 1000 Turkey Vultures along the Rio Grande near Ruidoso, Presidio County, Tex. A White-tailed Kite was sighted in Brazos County, Tex., May 4.

A Mississippi Kite in Sarpy County, Neb., May 18 was the first at that locality since 1975 (RG). Also noteworthy was a pair at Big Bend May 15 to the end of the period. A Cooper's Hawk nest containing four eggs May 14 provided a new breeding record at San Angelo. Red-shouldered Hawks were reported from eight localities. Several Zone-tailed Hawks were reported in Big Bend Mar. 14 to the end of the period, and a single Black Hawk appeared briefly in Santa Elena Canyon May 24. Four pairs of Black Hawks were nesting in the Davis Mts., by the end of April (PE).

The energetic young scientists at the Chihuahua Desert Research Institute in Alpine, Tex., locate more Peregrine Falcon nests in the trans-Pecos area each year. A Peregrine sighted in Walker County May 30 was very late. The Am Kestrel is well established as a breeding species in riparian habitats just e. of the Llano Estacado in w. Texas. Nests with eggs were found in a rock cavity in a bluff in Crosby County May 1 and in a hole in a cottonwood tree in Motley County Apr. 25 (KH). A pair was also nesting in the attic of a building in Ft. Davis (JM).

QUAIL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS—Gambel's Quail were sighted in Big Bend N.P., May 15. The park is on the e. edge of the species' range and it is rarely reported there. Two Whooping Cranes were seen Apr. 1 near Gibbon Neb. (GJ *et al.*). A King Rail at Tulsa was the first at that locality since 1962. Yellow Rails were flushed by mowing machines on a ranch e. of Tulsa on three occasions in late April and early May. A Com. Gallinule was discovered at El Paso May 26.

Nearly all the reports had one aspect in common—the absence of shorebirds. Only Schulenberg in e. Kansas, Pulich Randolph and Neill in the Fort Worth-Dallas area and Zimmer at El Paso were enthusiastic about shorebird migration. Species usually considered "uncommon" appeared at those locations in large numbers. At El Paso, 30 Semipalmated Plovers were counted Apr. 30. Piping Plovers were noted at Oklahoma City Apr. 7, 17 & May 5. Snowy Plovers were seen only in Osage County, Kans., Wichita County, Tex., and Midland. As many as seven Mountain Plovers a day were seen in Crosby Co., Mar. 8–Apr. 17. In Osage County, Kans. 205 Am. Golden Plovers were present Apr. 24 and 113 were counted at Tulsa Apr. 3. Hudsonian Godwits appeared in Lancaster County, Neb., Osage, Coffey and Linn Cos., Kans., Oklahoma City, Arlington and San Angelo. Marbled Godwits provided a first record at Tulsa Apr. 17 (A&BR), while 36 in Wichita County, Tex., Apr. 24, and 22 at El Paso May 1 represented unusual concentrations. Whimbrels were sighted in Osage County, Kans., May 15 and Oklahoma City May 21. A Long-billed Curlew in Walker County May 7 provided a first area record. At Fort Worth 200 Willets were recorded Apr. 26 and 22 were at El Paso May 1. A Willet in Walker County Apr. 20 provided a first area record. Ruddy Turnstones were noted during May at Cheyenne Bottoms N.W.R. Kans., Osage County, Kans., Oklahoma City and El Paso. In Canadian County, Okla., 25 Ruddy Turnstones were present May 31.

In Harrison County, Tex., Lin Risner almost ran over a hen Am. Woodcock and four chicks Mar. 18. He stopped, backed up slowly, and discovered the hen and two chicks on one side of the skid marks and the other two chicks on the other. He was able to catch and photograph one of the chicks, then he released it to rejoin its family. This provided the first documented breeding of woodcock in the n.e. corner of Texas. The only other woodcock reported was in Johnson County, Kans., May 4.

At Buffalo Lake N.W.R., two Red Knots in breeding

plumage were present on the late date of May 8 (KS). Sanderlings visited Sarpy County, Neb., Apr. 9 & 25, Osage County, Kans., May 8 & 15, Bartlesville May 17 & 21. Why was the earliest date at the most northern locality and the latest at the most southern? At Arlington there were 300 White-rumped Sandpipers May 23, but that didn't compare with the "thousands" in s.-c. Kansas May 24 to the end of the period (DV). At Hagerman N.W.R., 30 Dunlins were observed Feb. 26 and six were in Osage County, Kans., May 8. On May 24, 80 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were sighted at Wichita and single birds were at Bartlesville Apr. 30 and Fort Worth Apr. 22.

GULLS AND TERNS—The Glaucous Gull which spent the winter in Oklahoma City left Apr. 9. This species also visited Wichita May 24 (DV, SJ) and Osage County, Kans., Mar. 6 (JS). Bonaparte's Gulls, which were so common all winter, remained through April at many localities. Laughing Gulls, rarely reported in the region, were seen in Lancaster County May 21 (RGC, RG), Presidio County, Tex., May 14 (JM), San Angelo May 1 (CCW) and Kerrville Apr. 15 (E&KM). Forster's Terns were present throughout the region during April and May, with a peak of 150 at Hagerman N.W.R., Apr. 2. Black Terns were also abundant and widespread, but there were only three reports of Least Terns. Twelve Caspian Terns nested in Osage County, Kans., May 9 represents an unusual number for an inland locality. This species was also noted in Osage County, Okla., May 14 and in Rogers County, Okla., May 14.

DOVES THROUGH GOATSUCKERS—Over 200 Band-tailed Pigeons fed in mulberry trees in Fort Davis in May. Food in the high country must have been very scarce for so many Band-taileds to descend to the 5000 ft elevation. Black-billed Cuckoos arrived in Johnson and Lyon Cos., Kans., May 8 and a nest containing four eggs was located by Mrs. Myers May 30. This species briefly visited Rogers County May 11 & 15 (RAS), Tarrant County (RLN, BC) and Dallas May 13 (MB).

The Snowy Owl which arrived in Comanche County, Okla., the last day of the winter period remained only one day and was not seen after Mar. 1 (JMM). Elf Owls were calling at Black Gap W.M.A., Mar. 8 (KBB *et al.*). A Long-eared Owl nest containing one owlet was found in Reno County, Kans., Mar. 27. A group of five Long-eared Owls stopped at Midland the first week of April (TSJ, m.ob.). Lone Short-eared Owls were observed in the Big Bend desert Apr. 1, Tarrant County Apr. 8 and five were in Coffey County, Kans., Mar. 13. A Saw-whet Owl was found at Garland, Tex., Mar. 4 (M&JF). A Chuck-will's-widow was discovered at Bellevue, Neb., May 31. Whip-poor-wills were noteworthy in Saunders County, Neb., May 29, Bartlesville Apr. 13 and Osage S.P., Okla., Apr. 13.

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS—Blue-throated Hummingbirds arrived in Big Bend Mar. 15, an early date, and by Apr. 12 a female was incubating. Red-bellied Woodpeckers seemed to be at an all-time low in Tarrant County, but this was not apparent in other parts of the region. A Red-headed Woodpecker at Abilene, Tex., in early April represented one of the few records at that locality. Acorn Woodpeckers were found near the Kerr-Bandera County line May 23 (RFM, JHM). The seldom-seen Hairy Woodpecker was recorded in Tarrant County May 14 and Lubbock County Apr. 24. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was noted in w. Jeff Davis County Mar. 30. In Lubbock an E. Kingbird appeared on the early date of Mar. 23. Cassin's Kingbirds again nested in riparian habitat in Big Bend N P

There are very few breeding records of this species in the park. There were May records of Olive-sided Flycatchers throughout the e. half of the region where this species is an irregular migrant. Wied's Crested Flycatcher was seen in Kerr County May 21 (E&KM) and Val Verde County, Apr. 18 (FW). It is not known whether these birds remained to breed. A Vermilion Flycatcher in Hale County, Tex., Mar. 27 was considerably north of its usual range (J&FD). An *Empidonax* flycatcher which spent a week at Midland on the very early dates Mar. 22–27 was possibly a Dusky Flycatcher (RMS, m.ob.).

MARTINS THROUGH JAYS—Purple Martins now nest at Del Rio, Tex., and were seen westward as far as Alpine. Several contributors remarked that population of Purple Martins was at an all-time high, which probably explains the increasing number of sightings in the w. plains where the species was formerly absent. A new colony was established at Borger, Tex., and martins were sighted in Hutchinson and Midland Cos. A Blue Jay migration was observed in Washington Co., Okla., Apr. 29, when flocks of 30 birds or more flew N all morning. Blue Jays were still present at Kerrville May 11 and single birds were seen in Big Bend N.P., Apr. 29 and at Fort Davis throughout April. Since the development of Abilene S.P., Tex., for "recreation" rather than scenic use, Blue Jays have almost replaced the formerly common Scrub Jays (DMW).

NUTHATCHES THROUGH PIPITS—Red-breasted Nuthatches were still present at El Paso Apr. 23 and in the Chisos Mts., May 22. A Winter Wren was netted at Black Gap W.M.A., Mar. 7. During the Tarrant County spring count May 14 no Bewick's Wrens were located and the number of Carolina Wrens was the lowest in 13 years. Dr. McHugh in Linn County, Kans., reported that Carolina Wrens were completely absent from that area but Mrs. Myers in Johnson County said two pairs survived the winter at her home. All species of mimics were low in numbers in Tarrant County and Johnson County. A Curve-billed Thrasher in Briscoe County, Tex., May 15 provided more evidence of the range extension of this species. A Sage Thrasher in Palo Pinto County, Tex., Mar. 6 had probably wintered there. The only locality where thrushes were abundant was the Dallas area. Half the usual number of thrushes were banded by Mrs. Myers in Johnson County, and observers at Omaha and Midland also noted very few thrushes were found during the period. In Kerr County, where Am. Robins are normally only winter residents, a pair had fledged young by the end of the period. Wood Thrushes were recorded at Tulsa, Clay County, Tex., Dallas, Buffalo Lake N.W.R., and Hagerman N.W.R. Gray-cheeked Thrushes were located in Big Bend N.P., May 6, Randall County, Tex., May 1, Waco May 20. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were noteworthy in Sarpy County Apr. 18–27 and Hueco Tanks S.P., Tex., Apr. 17. Sprague's Pipits were reported in Mayes County, Oklahoma, Apr. 19 (JG) and Tulsa on the same date (ES *et al.*). This species is so little known that plains birders should make a special effort to document any sightings.

VIREOS—Migrating vireos were scarce to absent throughout. In localities where vireos breed populations were normal for all species except Bell's. A Black-capped Vireo in the Davis Mts., May 5 provided a new county record (PE). Other first records were White-eyed Vireo in Amarillo May 1 (PA) and Red-eyed Vireo in Wichita County, Tex., May 23 (NM, MBr). Yellow-throated Vireos were noted at San Angelo, El Paso and Wichita in early May. Philadelphia Vireos were re-

corded in Sarpy County, Johnson County, Tulsa and Rogers Counties during May.

WARBLERS—The great diversity of the region makes summarizing warbler migration very difficult. Observers in the third count it a poor season if they record less than 25 species while in the c. portion at least 20 are expected. But in the west 15 species are good and 18 spectacular, while the Big Bend N.P. is a world in itself. Disregarding the ten most common species, most species were represented at a given locality by a single individual. As one contributor noted, "There was a dearth of backyard sightings of warblers."

A Prothonotary Warbler was recorded in Big Bend Apr. 12–16 Swainson's Warblers were present at Tulsa the last two weeks of April and Wichita County, Tex., in early May. Worm-eating Warblers "overshot" W to Sweetwater, Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Lubbock, Odessa and Valentine, Tex. A Golden-winged Warbler was present in Randall County June 1 (E&NE). Tennessee Warblers were unusually abundant in the c. half of the region and wandered W to Lubbock and El Paso Virginia's Warblers were seen at Lubbock Apr. 30 and Davis Mts., May 5. Three N. Parulas were netted at Black Gap W.M.A., Mar. 3 (KBB *et al.*), and were sighted at Lubbock and El Paso in early May. Magnolia Warblers were noted at Norman, Okla., Fort Worth, Arlington, and Tulsa the last two weeks of May. A Black-throated Blue Warbler netted in Walker County May 7 provided a new county record. A Townsend's Warbler was sighted in Lubbock Apr. 29 Blackburnian Warblers appeared at Arlington, Oklahoma City, Bartlesville and Wichita May 11–22. Yellow-throated Warblers wandered W to Big Bend N.P., Apr. 1 & 29, Lubbock May 3 and Comanche County, Okla., May 24. There were "swarms" of Grace's Warblers in the Davis Mts., May 3.

A Chestnut-sided Warbler at Tulsa Apr. 29 was early; other records were May 8–31. A Bay-breasted Warbler was discovered at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., May 22. Blackpoll Warblers moved N across the region Apr. 27–May 10, with one late sighting at Oklahoma City May 22. Pine Warblers were noteworthy in Sarpy County Apr. 17 and Wichita May 11. Palm Warblers, which are seldom recorded away from their breeding areas, were sighted at Lubbock Apr. 30, Tulsa Apr. 22 and Wichita Apr. 28. Northern Waterthrushes appeared at Midland Apr. 29 and Crosby County May 10. Louisiana Waterthrushes were seen at Fort Worth and Adair County, Okla., Mar. 19 but did not appear at Arlington until May 3. Mourning Warblers visited the c. portion of the region May 10–26, with a late record at Crowley, Tex., June 1. A Kentucky Warbler at El Paso Apr. 27 was astounding (AG *et al.*). Hooded Warblers were noteworthy in Crosby County, Berger and Wichita Apr. 30–May 20. Canada Warblers were seen in c. Oklahoma and n.-c. Texas May 18–23. A Painted Redstart was seen well at Odessa Apr. 11–14 (BE, MC) and there were over a dozen reports of this species in Big Bend N.P. Once again the Rufous-capped Warbler made an appearance at Big Bend N.P., this time in a tamarisk and cane grove in Santa Elena Canyon. First reported this period Apr. 15 by Burnell Hill and Lori Schaezen, one bird was observed by several parties over the next two weeks. It was last reported Apr. 28. Birders searched in vain during May.

ICTERIDS THROUGH TANAGERS—Bobolinks almost missed the plains, appearing at only Walker and Denton Cos., Tex., and Payne, McClain and Washington Cos., Okla., May 3–22. Hooded Orioles edged N into Gillespie and Kerr Cos., in April. Scott's Orioles are increasing on the w. Edwards Plateau each year or there are more birders to see them. Great-tailed Grackles were nesting in Nebraska at Hastings and Boys Town at the end of the period (*vide*

MW), providing an unwanted first state record. Other first nesting records for this pest occurred in Washington County, Okla., San Angelo and Midland. Although migrating W Tanagers were slightly more common in w. Texas than last year, numbers were still much below normal. Hepatic Tanagers were scarce in Big Bend N.P. Scarlet Tanagers were observed in Johnson and Coffey Cos., Kans., in mid-May and at Dallas, Waco and Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Apr 17–May 22.

FRINGILLIDS—An unusual number of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks was observed Apr. 29–May 23 but Black-headed Grosbeaks were scarce. A Black-headed Grosbeak at Garland, Tex., Mar. 8 was further evidence of the very erratic early spring wanderings of this species. A very unusual migration of Indigo and Lazuli Buntings was observed in Kendall County, Tex., May 5. About 200 birds were present, scattered widely in mixed flocks of about 20 individuals with nearly equal numbers of both species (E&KM). Indigo Buntings, never common in w. Texas, were reported in Crosby, Lubbock and Midland Cos. Lazuli Buntings were seen at Lubbock May 13–15 and Jeff Davis County May 13. Outside Big Bend N.P., Varied Buntings are difficult to find, so one in the Davis Mts., May 5 was noteworthy. A Painted Bunting in Johnson County, Kans., May 28 provided one of the few records there. Dickcissels arrived in Midland May 8 in record numbers and were still present at the end of the period, apparently nesting. Evening Grosbeaks were sighted at Lubbock Apr 23–24. Two Red Crossbills were still present at Omaha May 19. Pine Siskins continued to be as scarce as they were all winter and were sighted only at Midland Mar. 23, Palo Pinto County Mar. 19–20 and Johnson County, Kans., Apr. 7.

Baird's Sparrow was seen in Cowley County, Kans., Apr 2 (DV, RW) and Davis Mts., mid-April (PE, JM). Grasshopper Sparrows migrated across c. and w. Texas in unprecedented numbers Apr. 24–May 10. In Glasscock County May 1 Sue Corson watched three flocks of over 100 birds each moving across the ranchlands. There were reports of nesting Grasshopper Sparrows in Tom Green and Crockett Cos., at the end of the period. Le Conte's Sparrows which wintered in Big Bend N.P., left in mid-March. Their progress N must be very spasmodic since they appeared in Kerr County Apr. 16, Palo Pinto County Apr. 2, Osage County, Okla., May 2 and Tulsa Mar. 1. The sole report of Sharp-tailed Sparrow came from Brazos County Mar. 25 (KR). A Black-throated Sparrow in Briscoe County, Tex., Apr. 10 provided a first record (KS). A Gray-headed Junco remained in Odessa until the late date Apr. 7 (BE). A Swamp Sparrow in Kerr County Mar 11 constituted a first record there (E&KM).

Some very late departure dates were established for all the longspurs: McCown's in Tarrant County Mar. 30, Lapland in Burleson County, Tex., Apr. 2, Chestnut-collared in Tarrant County Mar. 30, Smith's in Coffey County Mar. 20. Chestnut-collared Longspurs at Tulsa were the first at that locality since 1957.

A belated report was received of Snow Buntings in Kingman County, Kans., Jan. 23–Feb. 19 (m.ob., *vide* DV).

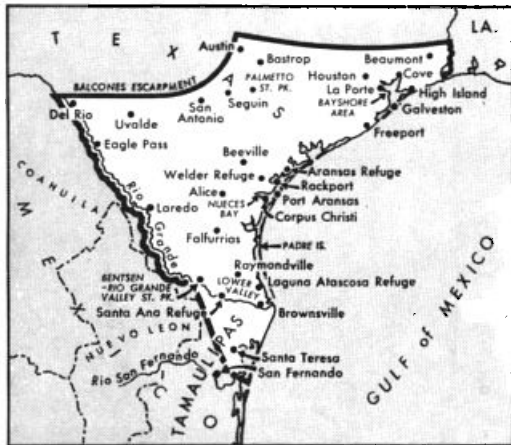
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SOUTH TEXAS REGION

/ Fred S. Webster, Jr.

A poor migration may be defined as one in which birders are more conspicuous than birds. That was South Texas in the spring—at least most of the time. One must assume that birds, taking advantage of good flying conditions, made landfall well beyond the barrier islands of the Texas coast, thereby leaving hordes of expectant birders holding their



binoculars in such transient harbors as High Island. This assumption will give little comfort to inland observers who found the viewing even skimpier away from the coast. One factor makes any generalization shaky: we have reports from only a minority of those who birded the region. However, we do feel that this lack of data is reflected in a scarcity of localized "pushes" or "fallouts" rather than in a critique of the season as a whole by observers who were frequently in the field. So without further apologies we postulate a generally poor migration of *passerines*, especially beyond the immediate Gulf coast, despite good habitat, food and water conditions overall. The villain asserted itself at the outset—little precipitation and above-normal temperatures in March;

migration seemed slow and thin. April started in the same pattern. High pressure hung over the region; associated strong winds off Yucatan, it was thought, may have suspended northbound takeoffs—certainly, incredibly few migrants were being found on the Texas coast during this period. But all was not lost. Rains fell generously for a while during the last half of April and those birders who were at the right place at the right time were blessed. To be at the right place was to be on or near the Gulf beaches, and the right time was almost invariably during or following heavy rain. As for May, had birders possessed fore knowledge of weather conditions, considerable expenditure of energy could have been averted. May was characterized by moist southerly winds, near normal temperatures, and moderate rainfall without much turbulence—not a combination to arouse the instincts of the migration watcher. And yet May was the time of greatest harvest for the upland birder; arboreal passerines made a belated rally at San Antonio (especially May 15–20) and at Austin (May 12–24, with breaks). A few concentrations were evident along the coast as well, mostly early in the month. Most observers labeled the migration "late", by one or two weeks. Total numbers of most passerine species were well below the higher counts of recent years.

The earliest reported—and one of the best—passerine "fallouts" occurred at High Island, April 16, apparently precipitated by a noonday thunderstorm followed by light intermittent rain during the afternoon. On this occasion, however, groups of warblers started appearing *before* the rains. Numbers had diminished but variety was even better on April 17 (TLE, JGM *et al.*). Wolf reported a classic fallout on the upper coast April 20. "A very strong front with severe winds and flooding moved from west to east and then out over the Gulf. By the time we arrived at the west end of Galveston Island about 5:00 p.m. the front had passed and the clouds were breaking up. We stopped to check the first grove of salt cedars and found so many grounded migrants that it was dark before we left this one spot! The whole area covered was little more than 100 square yards but it was swarming with restless migrants. More were dropping as others took off over the marshes, but most were sitting exhausted in or beneath the bushes." The Northern Water thrush was the most abundant species present (250). Others, in order of abundance, were: Indigo Bunting (150), Orchard Oriole (125), Eastern Kingbird (90), Common Yellowthroat (75), Gray Catbird (50), and Northern (Baltimore) Oriole (50) "April 21 was cloudy with showers at sunrise on Galveston Island and with northerly winds. Much to our surprise, no large numbers of migrants were found on Galveston Island in the morning, but by early afternoon birds were falling out again and many migrants were seen in the live oak grove on Bolivar Peninsula and at High Island. It was an especially good day for warblers—28 species party total—and many were moving through the treetops so rapidly that we could not identify them." Ms. Rowlett reported a fallout at South Padre Island April 21, "following rains and passage of a front with north winds. The salt cedars were full of birds, especially Northern (Baltimore) Orioles, Indigo Buntings thrushes and Eastern Kingbirds." April 24 and 25 were good at Rockport, with birds migrating into northerly winds (RAR)

Perhaps the most spectacular migration reports this season was witnessed by Ms. Rowlett and party on Mustang Island and adjoining North Padre Island, April 30. Heavy rain fell intermittently from 9:00 a.m. to 5:15 p.m., C.D.T. A sample count on Mustang Island from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. produced 1628 passerines plus uncounted hundreds of swallows. Most numerous of the former were Dickcissel (942), Northern (Baltimore) Oriole (281) and Eastern

Kingbird (226). These birds were counted as they flew north just above the dunes and across a beach access road. "During the heaviest part of the intermittent rains, passerines vied for position in the dense foliage of salt cedars on Padre Island—as many as 60 birds to a tree. As soon as the rain abated, northward movement resumed." During this period, a count at Packery Channel Park included Northern (Baltimore) Orioles (500 to 600), Indigo Buntings (300), Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (200), Northern Waterthrushes (110), Swanson's Thrushes (75+), Tennessee Warblers (75), and Warbling Vireos (60). Good pushes were evident at Rockport (RAR) and High Island May 1 (JGM), and at Rockport May 9 (RAR). Good numbers of only a few species were found on a Galveston to High Island run May 10 (MH, DW); notable were Bay-breasted Warbler (62), E. Kingbird (52), and Swanson's Thrush (30). A "good late day" at High Island May 22 (DTD, TLE, JGM) featured 20 Red-eyed Vireos, but was also noteworthy for the very late appearance of several species of warblers, including: Worm-eating, Blackpoll (4), N Waterthrush (2), and Am. Redstart (7). Peak days at Austin were May 16 and 18, and the most persistently observable species on these dates and later were Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, and Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, and Bay-breasted Warblers. At no time did total numbers of individuals recorded inland approach counts made along the Gulf coast.

PELAGIC SPECIES—On the Mar. 8 run of the fishing boat *Scat Cat* from Port Aransas to the snapper banks, about 40 mi out, O'Neil recorded a remarkable variety of pelagic species for Texas waters: **Audubon's Shearwater**, **Masked Booby** (2), **Brown Booby**, **Gannet** (2), **Red Phalarope** (11—four females in fairly good plumage), **Pomarine Jaeger**, and **Long-tailed Jaeger**.

WATERFOWL—A late flock of Canada Geese (150) was seen in Wilson County, May 5 (WS). Fulvous Whistling Ducks were reported in small numbers despite excellent habitat. Three **Masked Ducks** in ♀ plumage were found in a marsh on N Padre I., Mar. 4 (MA) and one was seen there as late as Mar. 15 (DW).

HAWKS—At least nine Swallow-tailed Kites were reported on the coastal plains in March and April. Sharp-shinned Hawks (30) were observed along Bolivar Pen., bordering the Gulf, Apr. 23 (DD, HH). On Lamar Pen., upcoast from Rockport, 128 were counted between 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. C S T., Apr. 24, and 90 between 10:20–11:45 a.m., Apr. 25. Northerly winds blew on both days. Hawks were crossing a two-mile-wide channel, the narrowest stretch of water, to reach Lamar Pen. to the north, many flying just above the water (RAR). This site is about 10 mi in from the Gulf beaches. Information on March Broad-winged Hawk flights is lacking or incomplete, but the species was moving by the thousands by late March at Santa Ana N.W.R., and in the Corpus Christi area. Reinoehl recounts a flight observed near Corpus Christi, Apr. 2. Between 12:30–2:00 p.m. an estimated 15,000 Broad-wingeds passed over, including "two immense groups." Smaller numbers were seen as the observer moved toward L. Corpus Christi, about 30 mi n.w., where at about 4:00 p.m. he witnessed "one immense kettle (4–5000 birds) so high against a cumulus cloud as to be virtually invisible without binoculars." At Beeville, about 50 mi n.w. of Corpus Christi, a season high count of 5000 was made Apr 3 (AHG, JT). Just n.w. of Corpus Christi, Apr. 4, Blacklock saw an estimated 65,000 Broad-wingeds between noon and 2:00 p.m. Following this flight a lull of about 10 days occurred; its relation to early April weather, previously

described, is not known. The major movement had passed, but the migration yet to come was numerically impressive nonetheless. A large flight was suspected at San Antonio Apr. 14, based on a brief sampling (JAM), and a high for the season, 2550 Broad-wingeds, was set in Wilson County Apr. 19 (WS). Ms. Rowlett's observations at Santa Ana N.W.R., Apr. 20 showed that migrants were still crossing the border from Mexico. Overnight transients had begun forming kettles by 7:25 a.m., C.S.T. It was a mild, humid day with a low, bright overcast and southerly winds. From the vantage point of the levee outside the refuge, she observed "kettles south over the refuge and extending east and west into the distance. Kettle after kettle enlarged and lifted into the clouds s. of the levee. We saw not a single kettle head N before disappearing into the clouds. By 8:15 a.m. all hawks were gone." Total estimate: 5–7000. A Broad-winged flight was watched from Lamar Pen., Apr. 24 (see Sharp-shinned Hawk above). More than 5000 Broad-wingeds were recorded during the watch period. They "seemed to be rising on thermals to the s.w. that were being generated somewhere near the n. shore of Copano Bay . . . then gliding rapidly N" (RAR). A **Gray Hawk** was present at Santa Ana N.W.R., Apr. 4–5 (JGM *et al.*). A **Golden Eagle** was seen w. of Austin Mar. 21 (CWE).

SHOREBIRDS—The shorebird migration was rated good, with feeding areas abundant. American Golden Plover (30+) was seen early, Feb. 27, on Bolivar Flats (DTD, TLE) In Jefferson County, 1500 White-rumped Sandpipers were seen May 13 (DTD, TLE). This species showed in good numbers at Austin's sewage ponds. "Huge flocks" of Dunlins were at Rockport Apr. 11 (DNW), 2000+ Short-billed Dowitchers were in a rice field near Anahuac N.W.R., Apr. 22–23 (DW *et al.*), and "huge flocks" of W. Sandpipers were at Rockport Mar. 29 (DNW). Most reports of Buff-breasted Sandpipers came from the upper coast with the high count (50+) reported in an overgrazed field near Houston May 12 (JR) It was a good season for Hudsonian Godwits on the upper coast, and plenty of wet rice fields to accommodate them, as many as 100 were seen together. This late migrating species was recorded Apr. 22–May 14, with most May 8–12 One at San Antonio May 9 (AH, JAM), was a first for Bexar County.

S.A.

Mrs. McCracken related the strange behavior of Wilson's Phalaropes at Corpus Christi May 11: "A flock of 20, in fine plumage, spun around a pair of Blue-winged Teal, keeping the teal in the middle. The phalaropes dipped and spun, the teals dipped also—and probably stirred up goodies. When the ducks parted, half the phalaropes went with each one, spinning, and keeping the duck in the middle. When the teals reunited, again the phalaropes gathered around in one circle, no bigger than a truck tire."

NIGHTHAWKS, HUMMINGBIRDS—A **Lesser Nighthawk** was seen in w. Harris County May 14–15, and compared on the spot with Com. Nighthawks (JGM *et al.*). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were in good numbers on Bolivar Pen., in mid-April, but were unusually scarce in Rockport this season. A **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** appeared at a feeder in San Antonio May 2 (MJ). A Buff-bellied Hummingbird visited Rockport's Live Oak Pen., Apr. 19–May 10 (JLR *et al.*), and several were reported at Corpus Christi (*vide* KM)

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS—The Tropical Kingbird was seen at Rockport Apr. 23 (HK) and at Beeville May 13 (AHG). Great Kiskadees were found at High I., Apr. 29 (2-REM, PMR) and 30 (1-GC, PC), and at Beeville May 21 (1-AHG). Apparently both represent new county records; the former location is about 200 miles n.e. of the species' "wandering limits." Great Crested Flycatchers and *Empidonax* species flycatchers were unusually scarce along the central and upper coasts, but the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, a late migrant, seemed normal away from the coast. Eastern Wood Pewees were scarce on the upper coast, but reported doing well on the c. coast. Olive-sided Flycatchers, never abundant, appeared in unusually good numbers on the c. coast. The swallow migration was, as ever, conspicuous, prolonged and impressive in numbers. Unbroken, day-long movements across the coastal plains are commonplace. Imhof wrote of seeing thousands streaming N across the Rio Grande, especially in late afternoon, May 15-19, and, as in most reports, Barn Swallows were most numerous.

MIMIDS THROUGH WAXWINGS—Gray Catbirds scored well on the upper coast but numbers were down farther west. Brown Thrasher migration was good on the c. coast; however, the highest one-day count (300+) was made in Fort Bend County Mar. 13 (GC, JGM). All thrushes were given good ratings on the upper coast, although data submitted failed to reflect this. Thrushes did very well on the c. coast, especially Swainson's, but were much below normal at Austin. At Corpus Christi, a tardy Cedar Waxwing was discovered half-swallowed by a snake, June 14 (KM).

VIREOS—Except for the Red-eyed, vireos came up short along the coast. High count for the Red-eyed was 200+ at High I., Apr. 16 (JGM *et al.*). Late Philadelphia Vireos were seen at Beeville May 16 (AHG); Santa Ana N.W.R., May 17 (HHK); and Austin May 24 (FSW).

WARBLERS—Warbler numbers were generally disappointing region-wide. Late Worm-eating Warblers in Buescher S.P., Bastrop Co., May 11 (EIS), and in Wilson County May 12 (WS) both furnished new county records. Yellow Warblers were comparatively scarce along the entire coast, and Magnolia Warblers were below par. The rare Cape May Warbler had an outstanding season. As many as 15 individuals were reported for the upper coast. One was seen at Corpus Christi May 8 (*vide* KM), and a pair was at Port Aransas May 18 (LT). A female at McKinney Falls S.P., May 13 (EIS), was a first for Travis County. Two Black-throated Blue Warblers were seen at High I., May 22 (DTD, TLE, JGM). Blackpoll Warblers were in good numbers on the upper coast. This eastern migrant was also found on N. Padre I., Apr. 17 (GWB), at Austin Apr. 23-24 (CM), and at Buescher S.P., May 11 (EIS), for a new county record. Ovenbirds were reported in low numbers. A ♀ MacGillivray's Warbler was seen in Wilson County May 25 (WS), for a new county record. Yellow-breasted Chats and Wilson's Warblers were extremely low in numbers in all areas reporting; nor did the Canada Warbler fare much better, although a good count (7) of this species was made at San Antonio May 20 (DW). American Redstarts were in much smaller numbers than usual.

ORIOLES, TANAGERS—Orchard Orioles slighted Laguna Atascosa N.W.R. on the lower coast (GAU), but held their own elsewhere. "Baltimore" Orioles were near normal at Laguna Atascosa, in excellent numbers on the c. coast, but made a mediocre showing on the upper coast and in the interior. Scarlet Tanagers were in excellent numbers on the

upper coast—and to a lesser extent on the c. coast—often far exceeding counts of the Summer Tanager. Highest counts were 175+ Scarlet and 75+ Summer Tanagers at High I., Apr. 16 (JGM).

FRINGILLIDS—Rose-breasted Grosbeaks had a good season on the upper coast and an exceptionally good one on the c. coast, while Blue Grosbeaks were in short supply. Eight Lazuli Buntings were reported in San Antonio Apr. 28 (SH).

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NORTHWEST CANADA REGION / Helmut Grünberg

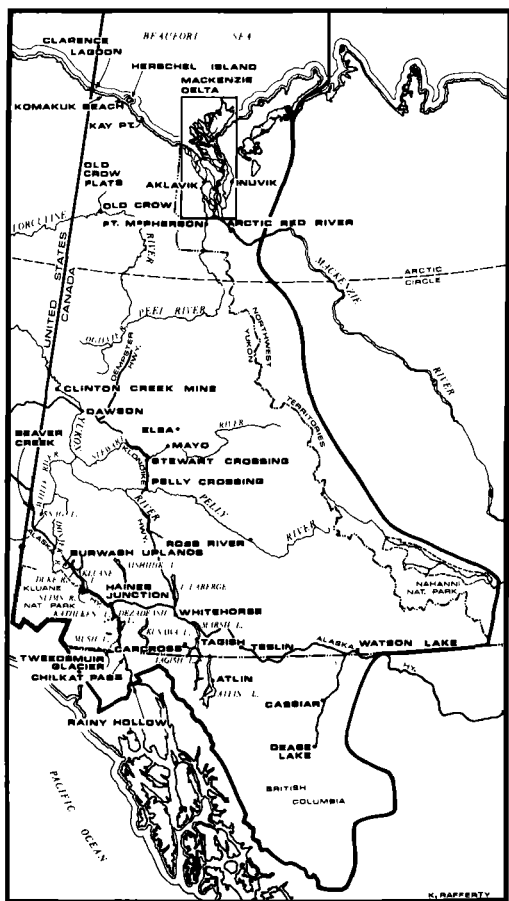
After the warmest winter on record in the Whitehorse area, we were looking at the spring season with some expectation. Because of the warm winter, many lakes and rivers were open earlier than normal, some rivers never froze up. This spring's migration was covered fairly well by observers in the southern Yukon, especially in and around Whitehorse. There was no coverage of the northern Yukon.

Since the Northwestern Canada Region is still very little known, we are still collecting baseline data. Discrimination between "highlights" and "normal" observations is not yet useful.

All records from the Yukon Game Farm (Y.G.F.) occurred in May.

LOONS, WATERFOWL—Three Common Loons were seen at Snafu L., May 21-23 (HG, DS), two Arctic Loons at Y.G.F. (BK). Whistling Swans were first observed at Marsh L., (M.L.) 500+ on Apr. 22 (MD, DM), with 200+ Trumpeter Swans, that remained in numbers up to 650 at M.L. until Apr. 27 (HG, DM). Eight Trumpeter Swans arrived at M.L. Apr. 7 (MD, DM), and built up to 271 by Apr. 15 (DM), and were there until Apr. 22 (m.ob.).

Canada Geese were early; 89 were first seen at M.L. Apr. 13 (MD, DM), up to 100 were observed there until Apr. 24 (m.ob.), two were at Swan L., May 15 (HG, PM) and 40 were at Y.G.F. (DN). Twenty White-fronted Geese were observed at Y.G.F. (DN) and one on Chilkat Pass, B.C., May 1 (RA, HG, DM). Mallards were seen from Apr. 13 on (MD, DM at M.L.), Apr. 22-27 up to 2000 gathered at M.L. (MD, HG, DM) and in smaller numbers elsewhere (m.ob.). The first two Pintails arrived at M.L., Apr. 14 (RA, DM) and peaked at 3000 Apr. 22-27 (MD, HG, DM). Two Am. Wigeons were first seen at M.L. Apr. 13 (MD, DM), and increased to 800 by Apr. 24 (DM). Northern Shovelers, ten of which were seen at M.L. Apr. 24 (DM) reached peak numbers of only 25 by Apr. 27 (HG, DM). The uncommon Blue-winged Teal was observed eight times this spring in numbers up to four, the earliest



May 5 at Y.G.F. (DN), others from the Whitehorse area (HG, PM, DS) and from Y.G.F. in May (DN). The first Green-winged Teal came from M.L. Apr. 18 (BG, HG, DM) and peaked at 300 on Apr. 24 (DM). Canvasback was first observed at M.L. Apr. 13 (MD, DM), and peaked at 100 on Apr. 24 (DM) A surprise was the migration of Redheads; two were first noted at M.L. Apr. 13 (MD, DM); up to ten were there through Apr. 26, and an unverified report of ± 50 came from Klwane L. (*vide* DM). Ring-necked Ducks arrived at M.L. Apr. 13 (MD, DM), about two weeks early. Only one Greater Scaup was identified, Apr. 24 at M.L. (DM). Although a few Com. Goldeneyes wintered in the Yukon, the influx of migrating birds began on Apr. 7, when about 100 were observed at M.L. (MD, DM) and peaked there at 1000 on Apr. 24 (DM). A single Barrow's Goldeneye was seen at M.L., Apr. 17 (HG, PM); they occurred more frequently in and near Whitehorse (m.ob.). Buffleheads were not seen until Apr. 22, when two were observed at M.L. (MD, DM), numbers peaked at 50 at Swan L., May 15 (HG, PM). One δ Harlequin Duck was observed this spring on a small pond near Whitehorse May 10 (HG). A White-winged Scoter was seen at Swan L. May 15 (HG, PM) and five on a mountain lake near Whitehorse May 27 (HG, PM). Eight Surf Scoters were noted at Swan L., May 15 (HG, PM) and five at Snafu L., May 21 (HG). Common Mergansers were first seen on the Yukon R., above Whitehorse Apr. 7 (MD, DM); they were rare this spring

RAPTORS—Only one Goshawk and two Sharp-shinned Hawks were observed at Y.G.F. (DN). Two Red-tailed Hawks were observed at Fox Cr., Apr. 26 (DL, DM) and two more at Y.G.F. (DN). One Harlan's Hawk appeared first Apr. 23 near Whitehorse (HG) and one was seen there May 8 (HG, PM). West of M.L. two Golden Eagles were seen Apr. 18 (BG, HG, DM) and another one at the Atlin Rd., May 21 (HG), while eight were observed at Y.G.F. (DN) Osprey was seen near Whitehorse Apr. 24 (RA) and one with a nest was reported at Snafu L., May 21–23 (HG) The only Gyrfalcon and Merlin observations, one individual each, came from Y.G.F. (DN). Only one Am. Kestrel was reported, from Whitehorse Apr. 14 (DM).

CRANES, RAILS, COOTS—There was only one sight record of Sandhill Crane from the s. Yukon this spring, one bird at Y.G.F. (DN). The Sora has now been known from a few places in the Yukon. The first report was from Whitehorse Apr. 30 (HG, DR, SR), another one of two birds from Y.G.F. (DN). Two individuals of the uncommon Am. Coot were seen at Y.G.F. May 5 (DM) and four were at Swan L., May 15 (HG, PM).

SHOREBIRDS—One Semipalmated Plover was seen at Y.G.F., May 5 (DM) and 14 were there later in May (DN) Individual Killdeers, first seen near Whitehorse Apr. 27 (HG, DM), were seen there several times Apr. 30–May 27 (m.ob.); there were 20 at Y.G.F. in May (DN). Common Snipe arrived near Whitehorse Apr. 24 (DR) and were seen regularly thereafter. The only report of a migrating Upland Sandpiper came from Y.G.F. (DN). Lesser Yellowlegs, the most common shorebird here, arrived on Apr. 24 (DM) at M.L. At least one Least Sandpiper was seen near the Haines Road s. of Haines Jct., May 4 (DM), 12 migrated through Y.G.F. (DN). A Long-billed Dowitcher was killed by a house cat at Tagish R., May 9 (HM). Five Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen at Y.G.F., May 5 (DM). A rare Hudsonian Godwit was observed at M.L., May 9 (FB). The second and third records for the Yukon of Wilson's Phalarope were obtained; one female at Swan L., May 15 (HG, PM) and a pair at Y.G.F. in May (DN). More common was the Northern Phalarope, which was first seen May 11 near Whitehorse (HG, PM).

GULLS, TERNS—The arrival and peak of Mew Gulls was on Apr. 27 at M.L. (150 individuals, HG, DM). This species was reported elsewhere in smaller numbers throughout May Arctic Tern arrived two weeks later than normal in Whitehorse, May 18 (HG); there were two at Snafu L., May 21–23 (HG, DS) and 15 at Y.G.F. (DN).

OWLS, HUMMINGBIRDS—Two Short-eared Owls were seen on the Chilkat Pass May 3 (RA, HG, DM) and five at Y.G.F. (DN), in addition to one Hawk Owl and two Common Nighthawks there late in May (DN). The only report of a Rufous Hummingbird came from the Takhini Hotspots Rd., May 10 (BK), where one bird was attracted by a red axe handle.

FLYCATCHERS, LARKS, SWALLOWS—The first two Say's Phoebes arrived at Y.G.F., May 5 (DM) where 12 were observed in May (DN); there were five other reports *Empidonax* flycatchers were noted from Apr. 26 on (one individual, HG) near Whitehorse; of the 17 observations of up to four individuals, eight near Whitehorse were reported as Least Flycatchers (HG, PM). The first W. Wood Pewee was seen near Whitehorse May 13 (HG), followed by three other observations there in May (HG, PM) and one from

Snafu L., May 23 (DS). The first Olive-sided Flycatcher was noted at Snag Airport June 5 (DM). Horned Lark arrived at Whitehorse Apr. 27, Barn Swallow at Fox Cr., Apr. 26, Cliff Swallow on the Yukon R., s. of Whitehorse Apr. 27 and Violet-green Swallow at M.L., the same date. Tree Swallow appeared at Whitehorse Apr. 24 and Bank Swallow Apr. 27 (m.ob.).

THRUSHES THROUGH STARLINGS—The arrival date of the first Am. Robin near Whitehorse was Apr. 21 (HG). The first Varied Thrush was noted near Whitehorse Apr. 25 (HG, PM) and afterwards regularly in small numbers only in that area (m.ob.). One Townsend's Solitaire arrived there May 6 (RA), others followed. The first Hermit Thrush report was of one bird at Snag Airport June 5 (DM). Three Swainson's Thrushes were seen near Whitehorse May 17 (HG, PM) and were common after that. The first Mountain Bluebird occurred Apr. 17 (PM). Five Golden-crowned Kinglets were observed at the s. side of the Chilkat Pass, B.C., May 2 (RA, HG, DM). Ruby-crowned Kinglet arrived in the Whitehorse area Apr. 22 (HG) and was observed regularly thereafter. Water Pipits (20) were observed at M.L. Apr. 24 (DM) and migrated through the Whitehorse area in smaller numbers through May 17. Ten Bohemian Waxwings were seen near Whitehorse on Apr. 5 (HG) and throughout the period; max. 100 on Apr. 25 (HG, PM). Six N. Shrikes at Y.G.F. (DN) were the only observations of this species. The only sightings of Starlings were of six from Y.G.F. (DN).

WARBLERS AND BLACKBIRDS—Tennessee Warbler is an uncommon species in our region, and one singing male was only noted June 2 (HG, PM). Orange-crowned Warblers were seen infrequently near Whitehorse on May 12–29 (HG, PM). Yellow-rumped ("Myrtle") Warbler was the most common warbler in the region; the first one arrived at M.L., Apr. 22 (MD, DM). The uncommon Townsend's Warbler was first observed near Whitehorse

Apr. 27 (DR, SR) and again May 25–27 (HG, PM). Blackpoll Warblers appeared to be more common than normal Northern Waterthrush was seen in two areas near Whitehorse from May 25 on (HG, PM). Com. Yellowthroat was seen only at Snafu L., May 21 (DS). Wilson's Warbler was first reported from the Whitehorse area May 4 (PM) and thereafter regularly.

There was a surprisingly large immigration of Red-winged Blackbirds; one was seen at M.L., Apr. 27 (HG, DM) although rare around Whitehorse, Red-wings outnumbered Rusty Blackbirds at Swan L., May 15 (HG, PM) and at Y.G.F.

GROSBEAKS THROUGH LONGSPURS—The major migration of Pine Grosbeaks had occurred in March, one to three were noted throughout April and May near Whitehorse (HG, PM) and eight at Y.G.F. in May (DN). Common Redpolls migrated through in March, but flocks were reported from various locations until May 6 (RA, HG, DM). One-to two Pine Siskins were noted in Whitehorse May 29 & 31 (DS)

Recorded arrival dates in the Yukon for sparrows included Savannah, Apr. 28, Whitehorse (HG), "Slate-colored" Junco Apr. 22, M.L., (MD, DM), Chipping Sparrow, Apr. 28 Whitehorse (HG), Tree, Apr. 22, M.L. (MD, DM), White throated, one only, May 6, Whitehorse (DS), White-crowned Apr. 23, Whitehorse (m.ob.), Golden-crowned, Apr. 28, Whitehorse (DR, SR), Fox, Apr. 27, Whitehorse and M.L. (m.ob.), Lincoln's, Apr. 28, Whitehorse (HG), and Song (two only) May 7, Whitehorse, and Snafu L., May 21 Lapland Longspurs arrived Apr. 27.

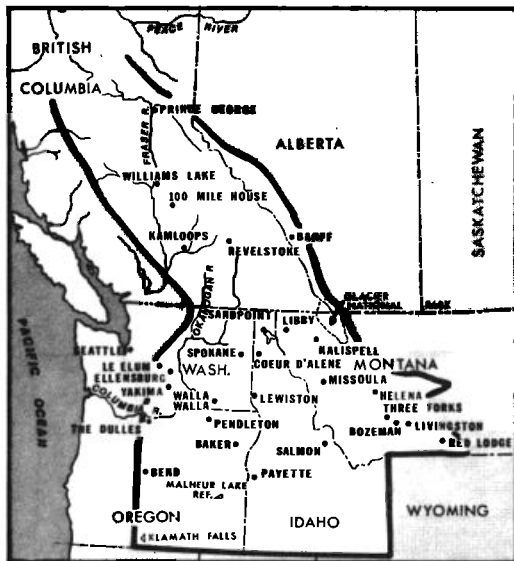
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NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN— INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/ Thomas H. Rogers

Effects of the continuing severe drought furnished the dominating theme for the story of bird activity during the region's spring. Water-associated birds were naturally affected most. Some species apparently moved northward with little pause or were diverted from their usual routes because of restricted water habitat. Egrets and Black-necked Stilts, normally rare in most of the region, made unprecedented appearances, presumably because drought to the south forced them northward. Scarcity of some groups, such as hummingbirds and warblers, may have been drought-related. Mild, very dry March and April resulted in many early arrivals, some extreme. May was about normal for both temperature and precipitation and in some cases slowed the trend toward early arrival; in other instances some very early appearances occurred during the month. The region entered the summer with the poorest prospects on record for water and vegetative growth, with rivers, lakes and reservoirs low, ponds dry and the snow pack in the mountains almost nonexistent. In a region of normally dry summers it was almost certain that the worst was yet to come.

LOONS, GREBES—An Arctic Loon in breeding plumage showed up on Emerald L., Yoho N. P., B. C., May 19 for the first spring record for that part of the province (DH, TH). A Red-necked Grebe at Three Forks, Mont., Apr. 11 made



only the third local spring record there (SC, RL). Eared Grebes formerly thought to be rare in Yoho N. P., were recorded on at least seven dates May 12–23 (RRH). About 2100 were

on Stinking L., Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., through April and were on territory by mid-May. Western Grebes there numbered only 730 compared to last year's 1700.

PELICANS, CORMORANTS—White Pelicans numbered 200 on Am. Falls Res., near Pocatello, Ida., May 28 and one at Salmon, Ida., May 9 was HR's first there. Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, Mont., had 25 active Double-crested Cormorant nests, up from 13 last year (MB).

HERONS THROUGH IBISES—A Cattle Egret arrived at Rupert, Ida., May 9 and by May 17 seven were there (WHS). At Malheur N.W.R., the species continued to increase since its first appearance in 1974 (LDN). One just s. of Dillon May 7 provided Montana's first record ever (LM). McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash., had two Great Egrets May 26 (EH, PM) and n Idaho had its first record of the species May 22 at Cougar Bay, Coeur d'Alene L. (SS, THR, BW). A few were at Malheur N.W.R., in late March (DMF) and Ninepipe N.W.R. had one Apr 9 (BC). A pond 3 mi w. of Clarkston, Wash., had one May 29 (JR) and Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont., hosted one Apr 2 & May 2 (GS). The species was reported at Rupert May 2 (WHS). About 50 Snowy Egret nests were believed to be on an island in the Portneuf R., near Pocatello (CHT). One bird was in the Helena Valley, Mont., May 5 (RT) and the species was reported at Salmon, Ida., Apr. 24 (HBR). The Nampa, Ida., area reported four Apr. 26 (G.E.A.S.) and one was photographed along the Snake R., w. of Clarkston, May 1, having been first seen in late April (SM, JW). One was at Badger L., s. of Cheney, Wash., May 20–27 (JA, WH, FO, BW).

The old Black-crowned Night Heron breeding spot near St Andrews, Wash., was devoid of the birds, apparently the victims of cultivation and too much bird-watching. The species seemed in normal numbers elsewhere. A new colony was discovered on the Portneuf R., near the Trout farm; 60 young were banded there. Trout farm personnel were reported to be still shooting herons; efforts to stop it had limited success (CHT). A Least Bittern was found 3 mi s.w. of Malheur N.W.R. headquarters Apr. 29 (LDN). White-faced Ibises showed an increase over past years there; drought in Nevada was the suspected cause. Flocks of 90+ were regular there in May. Rupert, Ida., had 62 May 2 and Manhattan, Mont., the only other locality, had them Apr. 30.

WATERFOWL—A Mute Swan was on a pond at the n. end of Okanagan L., B.C., Apr. 3 (JG). The peak of 11,118 Whistling Swans at Malheur was about 10% below last spring's and 50% below 1975's. Trumpeter Swans at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., had a peak of 25 in early May. Three were on Windermere L., s. of Radium Hot Springs, B.C., May 11 (JW). Canada Goose nesting pairs were down 17% on Malheur Ref., and 31% in the refuge vicinity. Seven Cackling Geese appeared at Reardan, Wash., Mar. 5 (JA). Three White-fronted Geese stopped at Mondovi, 7 mi n.e. of Davenport, Wash., Mar 19–Apr. 3 (JA) and one was at Tranquille just w. of Kamloops, B.C., Mar. 12 (JAn). Because of water lack, Snow Geese peaked at Malheur at about 18,000, about a third of last year's number. The Nampa, Ida., area had 1000 Apr. 6. A Ross' Goose was with a flock of 9000 Snow Geese at Crane, just e. of Malheur Ref., Mar. 23 (DMF).

A shortage of refuge reports made most waterfowl estimates risky. Mallards at Turnbull peaked at 2000, two-thirds of last year's number. Pintails at Malheur reached 79,000 compared to 248,000 last year. "Huge flocks" tarried only a few days in stubblefields near Pocatello. At Turnbull they peaked at 1500, twice last year's number. Green-winged Teals at Malheur dropped to 3500 from 1976's 23,000. And Am. Wigeons dropped from 30,000 in 1976 to 5700, N Shovelers from 17,000 to

4000; Canvasbacks from 4500 to 1500; and Ruddy Ducks from 21,500 to 19,000. Off the refuge duck pairs were down from 9060 pairs in 1976 to 1752. Surprisingly, Blue-winged Teals increased substantially at Malheur. Common Goldeneyes at 2000 at Turnbull were up nearly 100%. Unusual species records were: a Black Duck at Malheur May 5, the first since 1930 (DS, CT); single Eur. Wigeons at Kamloops Mar. 6 (JAn), at Reardan, Apr. 3, at Church Slough s. of Kalispell, Mont., Mar. 24 (LB), and at Ravalli N.W.R., Stevensville, Mont., Mar. 31 (DB). A ♂ Wood Duck May 19 was the first for Glacier N.P., B.C. (JW), and Yoho N.P. had three sightings in April and May. Two ♂ Greater Scaup at Malheur May 7–8 may have wintered (DD). The Harlequin Duck was reported only from the Entiat R., Chelan Co., Wash., Apr 6 and at Longview, Alta., May 8. Montana's first Black Scoter, a ♂ bird, appeared at Ennis May 29 (PDS, SC).

VULTURES, HAWKS—Unusual was the sighting of a Turkey Vulture Apr. 17 w. of Kalispell (SJ, WJ). Goshawk numbers were encouraging, with 11 individual sightings and "unusually high numbers along Boulder R., s. of Big Timber, Mont." (VY). Numbers of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks seemed reasonably good. A scattering of Swanson's Hawks was reported from c. Washington, s. Idaho, and the Bozeman and Helena areas. The scarce Ferruginous Hawk was sighted at six localities in Oregon and Washington, in the Flathead Valley s. of Kalispell, and on Snake R. Birds of Prey Natural Area s. of Nampa, where there were 15 pairs, with 32 pairs of Golden Eagles. Four active Bald Eagle nests were reported in Flathead County, Montana, one at Olney, one in a heronry near Kalispell and two near the mouth of the Flathead R. To the s.e., Swan L. also had one and two nests with nestlings were located about 60 mi n.w. of Helena (VY). Fifteen Prairie Falcon sightings were received, in addition to the report of 195 pairs [!?—Ed.] at Snake R. Birds of Prey Area. Four Peregrine Falcon sightings came in. There were nine reports of Merlins.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS—A lone Bobwhite was noted in the Nampa, Ida., vicinity and six were found at Umapine, Ore. A few Scaled Quail were in the juniper forest s.e. of Connell, and at the mouth of Crab Cr., Grant Co., Wash (EH, DW). The Wenas L. area n.w. of Yakima had eight Mountain Quail Mar. 25 (DHa). Japanese Green Pheasants were still holding on at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida., where at least one brood was seen. It has been four years since the last plant of the species there. The Nampa area had a Turkey sighting Mar. 28 and a few were seen near Lyle, Wash., on two dates in April. The species was mentioned without comment in the report from Montana's Flathead Valley.

— S.A. —

CRANES, COOT—Grays Lake N.W.R., in s.e. Idaho received 15–16 Whooping Crane eggs from Canada and about the same number from the captive flock at Patuxent Research Refuge in Maryland, for placing in Sandhill Crane nests. Refuge personnel feared the young cranes would starve since the drought caused a great scarcity of frogs and insects. Three subadult Whooping Cranes from previous years' hatch had returned, an encouraging event, and the birds showed antagonism toward the Sandhill Cranes, suggesting that the former might eventually pair with their own species (CHT).

The only substantial information on Am. Coots indicated a decline at Malheur to 43,000 from 54,000 in 1976 and

86,000 in 1975 and that, perhaps as a result, peak numbers at Turnbull N.W.R. increased to 5000 (2500 last year).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS—Single Semipalmated Plovers, a species rarely seen in s. Idaho, appeared in the Pocatello vicinity (MRC, CHT) and up to 15 were at the Yakima delta near Richland. Ten Black-bellied Plovers at Three Forks, Mont., May 8 furnished only the second spring record for that area and three at the Yakima delta May 14 were REW's first ever in spring. Long-billed Curlew numbers dropped from 1180 in 1976 to 770 this year at Malheur. Only three nesting pairs were found in the remnant colony near Pocatello, expected to be soon wiped out by agriculture and development. A single bird was sighted at Nicholson, B.C., May 2 (FK) A Whimbrel was observed with a 'scope at 60 ft at Mann's L., e. of Lewiston Orchards, Ida., May 29 (H). The only colony of Upland Sandpipers in the region, at Idaho Road in the Spokane Valley, comprised only four birds May 8 (JA) A Solitary Sandpiper at Tygh Valley just e. of Mt. Hood in Oregon May 2 was noteworthy (DD), as were 11 Least Sandpipers at a reservoir e. of Boise Apr. 24 (JH, NH, BS). A Short-billed Dowitcher at a pond 9 mi s.e. of George, Wash., May 7 furnished the state's fifth record (DP), and three at Central Park between Manhattan and Belgrade, Mont., Apr. 30 made the first spring record and the second record ever for the locality (PDS). A Sanderling in breeding plumage May 22 was believed to make the fifth record for Malheur N.W.R. (AC, DMF). Northern Idaho had a Marbled Godwit at Mann's L., s. e. of Lewiston Apr. 28 (JWW). American Avocets were down from nearly 4000 last year to about 1200 at Malheur but an influx was reported at Rupert, Ida., lending support to the hypothesis that drought drove shorebirds N. In line with this are a number of sightings in s. interior British Columbia, where the birds are of only casual occurrence. One in Yoho N. P. was the first there (RRH, DH).

S.A.

Black-necked Stilts, normally rare in most parts of the region, made a spectacular "invasion". At Malheur about 105 were on the refuge May 13 compared to 15 last year, apparently because their principal nesting area s. and e. of Burns was dry. Some birds may have been driven N by drought at Stillwater N.W.R., in Nevada. A few showed up in s.c. Washington at Richland, George, Othello and 25 mi w. of Soap L. In Montana they appeared at Ennis, at Swan L. in Lake Co., at Ravalli N.W.R. and Helena. In Idaho an influx was noted in the Rupert area and at Nampa.

Wilson's Phalarope appeared at Dry L. near Fortine, Mont., in by far the largest numbers WW had ever seen there, with a peak of 112 May 22; 90 still lingered at the end of May. Only a few pairs normally breed there. Weydemeyer had four N. Phalaropes May 22, only his third spring record in more than a half century there. Single Glaucous Gulls were identified Mar. 13 & 20 at Coulee City and an Iceland Gull, at Electric City, Wash., Mar. 13 (BW). An ad. Herring Gull at Malheur Mar. 26 was the first confirmed sighting there and probably for e. Oregon (DMF *et al.*). One was reported near Missoula Apr. 9 (TD) and the species was reported for the Flathead Valley (NS). Surprisingly, the nesting colony of California and Ring-billed Gulls 4 mi s.e. of Burns, Ore., was active even though the area, in an empty hay corral and normally completely surrounded by water, had no water at all. The 400 pairs, down from 500 last year, were about 70% Californians. A Black-legged Kittiwake was collected at Ninepipe N W R, Apr 27, * U of Mont (BC, JS, DB) Two Caspian

Terns at Three Forks May 18 and three at Ennis, Mont., May 29 furnished the third and fourth records for that area (RL, PDS, SC, RAH, ETH). The species, almost eliminated from the upper Snake R., was seen, (four), on Am Falls Res., and Market L. (MRC). Three Black Terns, common elsewhere in the region, were most noteworthy at Richland, Wash., May 30 (REW).

DOVES THROUGH OWLS—Three Band-tailed Pigeons were seen May 21 near Page Springs, Malheur N.W.R (FR) The species is increasing as a migrant in s.e. Oregon (LDN) One was photographed at Kamiak Butte, Whitman Co., Wash., May 19 (JWW). A ♂ Flammulated Owl was seen and heard May 9, 6½ mi w. of Satus Pass, Klickitat Co., Wash (EH). A nest of Great Horned Owls near Vernon, B.C., fledged two normal and one completely albino young (JG). The only Hawk Owls were one at Banff, Alta., Apr. 1 (HB), and one near Sorrento on Shuswap L., B.C., May 23–24 (JAn) A Barred Owl photographed at Kimberley, B.C., Mar. 29 was only the second for that locality (MVW). The species was reported for Glacier N.P., Mont., in March (JK) and was believed heard at Little Bitterroot L., w. of Kalispell the same month (BF). A Spotted Owl was found a mile s. of Blewett Pass, Kittitas Co., Wash., Mar. 20 (BR). A Long-eared Owl was near Kalispell in late May (LB). Short-eared Owl numbers were high at Malheur, accompanying elimination of grazing and increased rodent populations.

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS—A newly-discovered colony of White-throated Swifts at Dutch Cr., just s. of Fairmont Hot Springs, B.C., may be the most northeasterly in Canada (RRH). A few Black-chinned Hummingbirds were reported in the Parker Heights area s. of Yakima (Y.A.S.) and a male at Malheur May 29 added the species to the refuge list (KK). The only Anna's reported were two ♂ birds that frequented a feeder all winter at Skaha L. near Penticton, B.C., and left the first week of April, returning briefly May 1 (SRC)

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS—April 9 was the earliest by three weeks for Williamson's Sapsucker, near Winthrop in e. Washington (CP, JP, KA). One was at Little Bitterroot L., w. of Kalispell in April (BF). Two Ash-throated Flycatchers were on Columbia N.W.R., at Crab Cr., May 29 (JA). Three Say's Phoebe Apr. 24 were new for HR at Salmon, Ida. Several Gray Flycatchers at Mill Creek 10 mi s w of White Swan, Wash., were the earliest ever by 11 days for e Washington and furnished a new locality for the species. Several w. of Bickleton, Wash., May 3 were also in a new area (EH). Two very early Rough-winged Swallows were at Frenchglen, Harney Co., Ore., Mar. 25 (DMF).

JAYS THROUGH WRENS—Blue Jays appeared in many places. New localities were Coal Creek up the North Fork of the Flathead R., n. of Columbia Falls, Mont.; at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont.; at a feeder in Nicholson, B C., and in Yoho N.P. Except for two which wintered at Revelstoke and lingered to the end of May, all had apparently left for parts unknown. The other localities of occurrence were near Kalispell, in the Helena area, at Nampa, near Spokane, Kamiak Butte, Whitman Co., Wash., Walla Walla, Richland, and Kimberley. The only Piñon Jays reported were 16 seven mi e. of Sisters, Ore., May 29 (CR) and 4–6 at Gardiner, Mont., during March and again May 3 (JEQ). A few Com Bushitts were found along Satus Creek 30 mi s. of Toppensh, Wash. (EH). Additional sites for Bewick's Wren were Lyle, Wash., and Roza Dam and Wyler in the Yakima R. canyon, Kittitas Co., Wash. (EH). Two Rock Wrens appeared in a rock slide near Revelstoke, B C., in late April (EC)

THRUSHES THROUGH SHRIKES—A W. Bluebird appeared Mar. 19–26 at Golden, B.C., where the species is rare (RRH). Kimberley reported “a good population” of Mountain Bluebirds and a flock of 150, about 90% males was observed at Penticton Mar. 23. An amazing flock of 220 was sighted in the Alvord Desert of s.e. Harney Co., Ore., Mar. 24. A flock was reported near Stevensville, Mont., Apr. 12. Elsewhere the usual small numbers seemed to prevail. Up to 100 Ruby-crowned Kinglets a day were seen in the vicinity of Spokane near the end of April. A movement N of Bohemian Waxwings in Yoho N.P. culminated Mar. 29 in a flock of some 1000, the largest group on record there. Northern Shrikes lingered as late as Apr. 9 at Walla Walla, Apr. 10 in the Flathead Valley, and Apr. 12 in the Spokane area. A Loggerhead Shrike at Moberly, B.C., Apr. 24 furnished the first record for that locality and possibly the same bird was photographed Apr. 29 at nearby Golden (LW, FK, RRH).

VIREOS, WARBLERS—Four Tennessee Warblers were well-described May 28 at Wapta L., Yoho N.P. (TH). Nashville Warblers were sighted only at Salmon, Ida., Richland, and Spokane and their numbers were down. A pair of “Myrtle” Warblers passed through Kimberley May 10 (MVW). A Hermit Warbler in Ephrata May 14–15 was the earliest ever by seven days for e. Washington (BJ, SJa). A Blackpoll Warbler showed up near Missoula May 11 (DB) and Yoho N.P. had one May 27 (DH, TH). A window-killed Ovenbird was discovered May 12 at Pullman, Wash., * Wash. State U. (GTA). Wilson’s Warbler made a very poor showing in e. Washington but was mentioned for Flathead L., Lewiston, Ida., and the Yakima area. The Am. Redstart at Malheur May 22 and June 3–5 was noteworthy. Five singing males near Spokane May 16 were very early (THR) and a May 13 date for the species in the Flathead Valley was almost incredible (BF). The species was mentioned for the Helena and Bozeman areas.

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS—An encouraging number of Bobolink reports came in. At Kimberley the species was “very scarce but holding steady” and at Wolf Creek to the east a male was sighted May 21 (RRH). A small colony was located at Chase, e. of Kamloops, B.C. (JAN). Four males near Toppensish May 19 were the earliest ever by a week for e. Washington (EH). Helena Valley, Bozeman and St. Maries, Ida., also had them. The Apr. 15 arrival at Fortine, Mont., matched the previous early date there. A ♀ Rusty Blackbird was observed with Brewer’s Blackbirds at Yoho N.P., Apr. 19 (DH, RRH) and two Com. Grackles appeared near Dixon, Mont., in mid-April (JB). An apparently authentic sighting of a ♂ and a ♀ Scarlet Tanager near the end of May in Livingston, Mont., provided the first record for the state (JSi, LS).

FINCHES—A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Naramata May 29 was the first ever for s. British Columbia (DT). A ♂ Indigo Bunting banded and photographed at Pocatello, Ida., apparently provided a first state record (JHJ). A ♂ and a ♀ Purple Finch were carefully identified May 22 near Thorp, n w of Ellensburg, Wash. (DP), and the species was recorded near Rock I. Dam, Yakima Co. (PC, HO). Eight House Finches at Fortine May 5 furnished the fourth and largest sighting there (WW), and Apr. 16 was a record early date for the species at Manhattan, Mont. (PDS). A heavy movement of Gray-crowned Rosy Finches of both races through Yoho N. P., peaked with a flock of at least 3000 in a snowstorm Apr. 16.

SPARROWS—Several Grasshopper Sparrows at a pond 9 mi s e of George May 7 set a new early record for e. Washington (DP), as did the species at Spokane with the same arrival date but down in numbers. The sparrow was believed nesting again

in the Pocatello area (CHT). The Lark Sparrow, apparently rare in the Flathead Valley, was sighted May 27 near Bigfork, Mont. (MS). Washington’s fourth Black-throated Sparrow was identified at close range south of Walla Walla in the Blue Mts foothills May 10 (KK, VK). Two White-winged Juncos were reported at Smith’s Ferry, Ida., May 28 (Bfo, BS, WHO). A remarkably late Tree Sparrow was at Whitefish, Mont., May 23 (RWW). Seemingly late single Harris’ Sparrows were near Kalispell until May 2 (BRo) and at Seebe, Alta., May 13 (EHe). One that wintered in the Asotin, Wash., area was last seen Apr. 30 (EM). Single White-throated Sparrows were at Tranquille, B.C., May 11 (JAN), the Davenport, Wash. Cemetery “oasis”, May 4 & 10, Ephrata, Wash., May 15 (DM), Malheur N.W.R., May 31—two birds, and the e. base of the Steens Mts, Harney Co., Ore., Mar. 24 (DMF). A lone Lapland Longspur was sighted near Creston, Wash., Mar. 22 (JS, RA). The species was noted at Rupert May 22 (WHS) and at Penticton, B.C., Mar. 23, where they are uncommon any time (SRC). A Chestnut-collared Longspur in full breeding plumage flying over Big Southern Butte in the Pocatello area May 8 was the first for Idaho (MRC). Yoho N.P. still had Snow Buntings Mar 27

OBSERVERS CITED—(JA) James Acton, George T. Allen, (JAN) Jerry Ansell, Riley Atkins, Kerry Atkinson, Marcy Bishop, Ladd Bjorneby, H. Boerger, D. Bonham, J. Brown, Ernie Callin, Steve R. Cannings, Phil Cheney, Mark R. Collie, Alan Conteras, B. Cooper, Sharon Cotterell, T. Dahmer, Dave DeSante, (BF) Barbara Fenner, David M. Fix, (Bfo) Bob Ford, Golden Eagle Audubon Society, James Grant, Warren Hall, Terry Hammell, (DHa) Dudley Harrington, (DH) Dennis Horwood, R. A. Hays, Eve T. Hays, (EHe) E. Hebron, James & Naomi Heckathorn, Hickman, (WHO) Waneta Holiday, R. R. Howie, (EH) Eugene Hunn, Bert Jahn, (SJa) Sylvia Jahn, (SJ) Steve Jamieson, Wanda Jameson, Joseph H. Jeppson, Jane Kapler, Frances King, Ken Knittle, Vera Klopfenstein, Ron Lang, Phil Mattocks, Darlene Meyer, Lewis Myers, Shirley Muse, Ed McVicker, Larry D. Napier, Frank Ohme, Howard Oswald, Dennis Paulson, Curtis Pearson, Josie Pearson, Joyce E. Queckborner, Fred Ramsey, (BR) Bill Reichert, Jan Reynolds, Craig Roberts, Hadley B Roberts, T. H. Rogers, (BRo) Betty Rose, Belle Shaw, W. H. Shillington, (JSi) Judy Simpson, Lewis Simpson, Dick Sjostrom, P. D. Skaar, (JSm) Jan Smith, Gene Stroops, Shirley Sturts, Mae Sudan, Norm Sudan, (JS) J. Suntum, Caryn Talbot, Dudley Taylor, Charles H. Trost, Richard Trueblood, Lynn Wade, R. W. Waldt, John W. Weber, Doug Wechsler, Winton Weydemeyer, Bart Whelton, Mildred V. White, (JW) Jim Wolcott, (JWo) John Woods, Robert E. Woodley, Yakima Audubon Society, Vince Yannone.—**THOMAS H. ROGERS, E. 10820 Maxwell, Spokane, WA 99206.**

MOUNTAIN WEST / Hugh E. Kingery

A spectacular concentration of 500,000 shorebirds at Bear River National Wildlife Refuge, plus four new species for Wyoming’s state list highlighted what most observers characterized as a migration lacking in both numbers and variety.

Much of Colorado, Utah, and Nevada have suffered extremely dry conditions. Mountain snowpacks ran 20–40 per cent of normal, causing devastatingly low spring and summer runoff. Stock ponds near Eagle County, Colorado, are already dry, with cattle grazing where they ordinarily would have to swim (JM). May was the driest on record in many places (Denver precipitation for May, .34 inch, normal 2.64 inches). In contrast, spring in far eastern Colorado featured a March blizzard which severed telephone poles and



dropped snowdrifts so high that children walked from one to the roof of the Idalia school. A 2-6 inch rain in late April left mud in the river bottoms, ponds in the fields, and green, green prairie grasses. Along the northern boundary of the region, Ely, Nevada, and Ogden, Utah, had their wettest Mays in history (3 inches and 7.6 inches respectively). Wyoming enjoyed average moisture and mild temperatures.

In e. Colorado flowering of trees, forbs, and grasses advanced two to three weeks ahead of 1976 (G&SM). Strong south winds may have driven plains migrants to overfly their usual stops, or into the foothills. The Boulder spring count turned up 132 Virginia's Warblers May 14, most lurking in brushy foothills canyons instead of in plains cottonwood creek bottoms.

Wyoming enjoyed unusual diversity with Casper, Cheyenne, Sheridan, and Dubois all reporting more species than last year. Despite the general impression of fewer migrants ("at least down here on the ground"—BK) Colorado and Utah—and Wyoming—improved last year's totals: 339, 239, and 233 respectively. Nevada had only 222, reduced by Lawson's limited field trips this spring. The region reported 371 species, compared with 353 and 400 for the previous two years.

Gniadek offered an informative account of migration routes to Yellowstone National Park: "Many spring migrants travel south from Montana up the Yellowstone River to reach the northern portions of the park and maybe the higher central section. During a warming trend on May 28-29, following an extended period of cold wet weather, large mixed flocks composed primarily of Chipping Sparrows, Audubon's Warblers, with lesser numbers of Pine Siskins and Cassin's Finches, were seen moving up the Yellowstone Valley about five miles north of Gardiner, Montana, within a mile of the park boundary."

LOONS, GREBES, HERONS—Kashin observed a Red-necked Grebe at Utah L., near Provo, Utah, May 12; the state has only two other sight records. East Colorado reported more Horned Grebes than Eared Grebes, reversing the usual abundance. Eared Grebes departed from s. Nevada earlier than last year, and Bear R. counted a peak of 200 in April, only a fraction of last year's peak of 5000 (RK). In April White Pelicans flocked over much of n.e. Colorado; the state's sole nesting site, Riverside Res., had 850 by mid-May, a 20% increase over last year (G&SM). Double-crested Cormorants also increased at Riverside and some other Colorado sites; the warm cooling ponds at the newly-opened St. Vrain nuclear power plant at Platteville, Colo., attracted a few early in the season. Wyoming had its first Little Blue Heron at Hutton Lake N.W.R., May 8-9 (OKS *et al.*). Colorado boasted five different Little Blues

Apr. 26-May 16 at Ft. Collins (HG, CC), LaSalle (PG++) and McCoy (ME+). A Louisiana Heron reported by the Millers at Masters twice during May gave Colorado its fifth record. Six Cattle Egrets at Stillwater W.M.A., Nev., are the first reported in n.w. Nevada (JMi); Colorado's five May birds match recent springs. Although Snowy Egret reports have decreased in n.e. Colorado ("alarmingly so"—BK), the 18 at Riverside Res. settling down to nest constitute a 100% increase over last year. Their numbers at Bear R. are down markedly. White-faced Ibis appeared in reduced numbers throughout the region. "We are concerned about the status of White-faced Ibis in Nevada owing to loss of wetlands in w. Nevada and reduced habitat in c. Nevada." (PL).

WATERFOWL—Among the refuges, Ruby Lakes N.W.R. Nev., provides the one bright spot, with its breeding populations up (RLH). Stillwater W.M.A. still faces a dreary future, with the drought on top of its loss of water rights decimating the refuge. This spring Stillwater did attract 41,000 waterfowl, including an unusually high number of Ruddy Ducks (26,000) in mid-March (LCH). Bear R. reported its peak at 181,500 Mar. 24, including 64,000 Pintails and 39,050 Green-winged Teal (RK). Migrants at Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo. numbered 25% of last year (MTN). Boulder County, Colo., had 18,047 Redheads during March (B&CB) and Bonny Res. Colo., held 17,000 Mallards and 8500 Pintails Mar. 5 (MM).

Bear R. had only 825 Whistling Swans at its peak, well below the normal 2000-3000 (RK). The only others reported were at Las Vegas (three on Mar. 4, one Apr. 15-23—VM) and Durango (three Mar. 23-Apr. 24—EF). Snow Geese appeared in somewhat higher numbers than usual, with 1200 at Bonny Res., Mar. 25; after their departure a second wave of 800 arrived Apr. 6 (MM). In addition to Bonny's Snow Geese, n.e. Colorado had several other flocks of 200, and Bear R. had 250 Mar. 24.

Wood Ducks always attract interest, with several observations in e. Colorado, the first for the Casper area Apr. 23 (OKS). All other state records come from n. Wyoming. Reno's first in several years was May 2 (JA). Late Barrow's Goldeneyes included one at Indian Springs, Nev., Mar. 28 (GMe) and two at Walden, Colo., Apr. 17 (WWB). March saw four Oldsquaws at L. Mohave (SP) and one at L. Mead (VM). Brockner found three White-winged Scoters at Utah L., Apr. 13, for the first spring record there, and 12 visited Boulder Apr. 18 (B.A.S.) for a rare Colorado spring record. Ruddy Ducks appeared in unusually large numbers in Nevada, not only at Ruby L., but also at Reno, with six at the Eyres' c. Nevada ranch at Diamond Valley perhaps indicating a dispersal throughout that state. Other reports included a peak of 4900 at Bear R., 2000 at Colorado Springs Apr. 23 (CC), and one at a 10,390 ft elevation pond near Fairplay, Colo., May 30 (CLC). Reports of Hooded Mergansers increased ten-fold over previous springs, with about 50 reported from the region.

HAWKS—The Cache Valley (Logan, Utah) raptor census (Apr. 9-15, 40 man-hours) produced 265 hawks, including 174 Am. Kestrels, 29 Red-taileds, and 33 Marsh Hawks (Br.A.S.). A hawk watch at Boulder, for 5 hours on Apr. 9 produced 35 hawks, including 11 Golden Eagles, 9 falcons, and 8 accipiters (TVZ). Mississippi Kites drifted north of their known breeding limits in s.e. Colorado to Bonny Res., May 11-June 3 (MM, BM) and to Ovid, Colo., on the Nebraska line, May 29 (BA, BK). Goshawk observations compared to last year's, except for one in downtown Denver (KH). Observations of Sharp-shinned increased by 50%, to 55, and those of Cooper's

doubled to 65. In addition, Colorado observers found 4–6 Cooper's Hawk nests, rarely reported from the state by non-raptor specialists. A pair of Ospreys laid eggs in a nest at L. Tahoe, for the first recorded nest in Nevada (BO) and Sheridan may have two nesting pairs this year, for the first time (HD). Observations of migrating Ospreys declined in Colorado.

GROUSE TO RAILS—The Douglas County, Colo., spring count of Sharp-tailed Grouse was canceled because of the opposition of landowners to land use legislation. Under Colorado law the county's Sharp-tailed Grouse population has been declared endangered, and consequent restraints on development and subdivision have angered ranchers. The San Luis Valley, Colo., had three two-year old and two yearling Whooping Cranes which left Apr. 6–10. Two immatures were 35 mi n. of Pinedale, Wyo., May 27 (WA) and one may summer on the Green R., 80 mi s. of Jackson (BR). South of there near Lyman, Wyo., another died after colliding with a barbed wire fence. Grant Junction, Colo., had more major flights of Sandhill Cranes than it usually sees, with 1000+ seen flying over on Mar. 26, and Apr. 5 & 6. Few flew N along the Colorado piedmont, but further e. Bonny Res. had 400 Mar. 5 (MM) and Riverside Res. had 200 Mar. 27 (G&SM). The Nevada migration proceeded from Feb. 6, with high counts Feb. 28 & Mar. 3 of 850, fewer than last year; but the peaks do not necessarily reflect actual numbers passing through. They arrived in the Jackson-Yellowstone area Apr. 11–13. Common Gallinules appeared at Corn Creek, near Las Vegas Mar. 13 (CLH), Ruby L. during May (RLH), and Bear R., May 31 (RK)

SHOREBIRDS—The mass of shorebirds at Bear R. negates any regional complaints of scarcity. The Apr. 29 visitation by 250,000 Marbled Godwits, 200,000 Long-billed Dowitchers, 150,000 Am. Avocets, 50,000 Black-necked Stilts, 15,000 Willets, and 13,000 peep constituted the region's best-ever display of shorebirds (RK). [Estimates reliable?—Ed.]. Most observers reported fewer shorebirds, and less shorebird habitat than in previous years. From 2–5 Piping Plovers stayed at Bonny Apr. 6–30 (MJ, PM, MM). Sheridan found its first spring Ruddy Turnstone May 11 (HD, MC). Jackson observers reported Am. Woodcocks Apr. 17 (JK†) and May 15 (TH). Long-billed Curlews apparently thrived with the dry spring; in Baca County, Colo., Ryder found over 100 on May 27, with chicks already out. Four Whimbrels visited Durango May 3 (EF†), the first record for s.w. Colorado. Single Whimbrels also occurred at Fallon, Nev., May 12 (VM), Sheridan Apr. 27 (PH, HD, MC), and Cheyenne May 21 (OKS). Observers in e. Colorado found White-rumped Sandpipers in late May, with 60–70 at Red Lion by May 28 (BK, PM). Many reporters mentioned a dearth of the more common sandpipers—peeps, yellowlegs, Willets. Exceptions to the paucity of Marbled Godwits (apart from Bear R.) included four at Durango Apr. 26 (EF), a few at Hotchkiss, Colo., in May (TC), 31 at Bonny Apr. 28 (MM), and 101 at Sheridan Apr. 27 (HD, PH). A Hudsonian Godwit in breeding plumage excited observers May 28 at Crook, Colo. (BK, BA); last year the same place had one May 8 and 28–30 (JR, BL). Ending the dull season with class, Redfall found the first regional Ruff, a bird which stayed May 30–June 5 at a farm pond near Prospect Valley, Colo. Black-necked Stilt reports doubled in e. Colorado, but Wyoming had none. While Stillwater's stilts dwindled, Bear River's doubled, to 10,000 nesting adults; perhaps their numbers represent an adjustment to adversity elsewhere. Heavy rains in e. Colorado created numerous small vernal ponds on the plains; on May 8 four of them visible from the highway held 185 Wilson's Phalaropes

Meanwhile reports from Denver, Boulder, and Longmont dropped. Perhaps the phalaropes and other shorebirds found the temporary ponds more attractive than reservoirs prematurely full in anticipation of summer drouth. Late May also saw a movement of N. Phalaropes, with flocks of 100–200 reported from several e. Colorado farm ponds.

GULLS TO CUCKOOS—Seven of Colorado's winter Glaucous Gulls lingered into early March (D.F.O.) and observers reported four Thayer's Gulls, including two adults, from n.e. Colorado during March (MOS, TM, JR). A Laughing Gull visited Denver Apr. 17 (MOS, TM). Spring Franklin's Gulls increase in e. Colorado each year; Ft. Collins reported 200–300 May 1–14 (F.C.A.S.), as well as a very high count of 250 Bonaparte's Gulls Apr. 16 (F.C.A.S.). Eight Sabine's Gulls were at Utah L., Apr. 19 (MW). One Com. Tern was at Longmont May 29 (PM), and Julesburg, Colo., had two May 28 (D.F.O.) and eight June 4 (PM). A stray White-winged Dove reached Pawnee National Grassland May 3 (RP). Two Black-billed Cuckoos at Julesburg were engaged in courtship behavior and bill-clapping May 28–29 (BK, BA), but could not be found later, in June.

OWLS TO HUMMINGBIRDS—A surprising number of Barn Owls turned up in the Ogdén-Logan area, in old silos. The six active nests there (CM) plus four nests near Ft. Collins (BM), one at Pueblo (DG), and a possible one at Bonny, suggest that more nest in the region than previously thought. Casper had the region's only "spring" Snowy Owl Mar. 16 (OKS). A Pygmy Owl remained near Ft. Collins to May 9 (F.C.A.S.), a dead one was found at Buena Vista, Colo., Apr. 10 (JP), and a pair nested at Grand Junction (DG, C.F.O.). Jackson had a Great Gray Owl Mar. 18 (BR), and Moose, Wyo., had a pair Mar. 21 (MMu). Short-eared Owls in e. Colorado increased, with about 25 observed in three locations. Observers found Poor-wills e. of their foothills nesting sites, with five observed during the spring at Bonny and one at Ft. Morgan May 12. Common Nighthawks normally arrive in the region in late May, but this year we had reports from Ft. Collins Mar. 15 (CC), Estes Park in March (CK), and Bonny Apr. 26 (MM)—all extremely early dates. If Poor-wills can hibernate in Arizona, perhaps nighthawks do the same in Colorado; if they do, however, why don't they appear more frequently before the end of May?

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS—Observations of Red-bellied Woodpeckers all spring at Bonny (MM, DP) imply a small nesting colony there. Eastern Kingbirds began arriving May 1, and W. Kingbirds first arrived at Las Vegas Apr. 9, Kanab Apr. 23, and Bonny Apr. 29. The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Julesburg May 25 (BK) had strayed 225 mi n. of its nearest breeding colony in s.e. Colorado. During May, Knapp found nine Great Crested Flycatchers at four sites in n.e. Colorado, the most reported in the past five years. An E. Phoebe reached Cheyenne May 21 (H.P.A.S.) A flight of 50 W. Wood Pewees sat on the ground during a Las Vegas windstorm May 10 (VM).

SWALLOWS TO NUTHATCHES—On May 7 at Las Vegas 1000 swallows of six species huddled on the ground for protection from severe winds (VM). Swarms of swallows graced late May skies in e. Colorado. Pueblo's spring count May 14 had 11,868, including 5012 Violet-greens and 6200 Cliffs. On May 21, the Longmont spring count had 1556, and Julesburg Res. had over 10,000 including 500 Barns and 2500 Cliffs. Fort Collins reported several thousand during

the last week of May. As usual, Tree Swallows arrived first among the swallows, with early reports at Buena Vista, Colo., Mar. 16, Kanab, Utah, Mar. 17, and Yellowstone Apr. 8. Purple Martins made rare appearances at Kanab, with 12 on May 12 (SH)—first record for Kane County—and at Bonny Res., Apr. 27 (DP). Blue Jays stayed throughout the count period at Logan (KS), Salt Lake City had singles Mar. 8 and Apr. 15, and Cody had two more join its one wintering bird for a day, Mar. 15 (RMJ). Steller's Jays remained in Ogden and Salt Lake City into May, their only reported non-mountain locations. At about the n. limit of the range of the Scrub Jay, Logan had its first one Mar. 13–Apr. 20 (AS). Three Black-billed Magpies stayed at Kanab through May, the first time they have remained past February. Common Ravens can withstand the most severe weather and habitats, but spread themselves out so they do not seem numerous. Back's Mar. 19 count of 202 between Heber City, Utah and Dubois, Wyo. (368 mi) demonstrates their ubiquitousness. Scattered Red-breasted Nuthatches remained in piedmont towns from Cheyenne to Colorado Springs, and a pair reportedly was nesting in Denver.

WRENS THROUGH WAXWINGS—A Carolina Wren stayed at Casper May 8–13, furnishing Wyoming's first record (OKS). A Bewick's Wren moved into Ft. Collins Mar. 12–20 (LRH) and Pawnee Nat'l Grassland May 3 (RP). The Brown Thrasher at Ogden stayed until May 12 (MLK, see *Am. Birds* 31:357), and one at Eureka, Nev., May 25 was the first there since 1950 (AB). Wood Thrushes, apparently three different ones, were reported in Boulder May 20–24 (B.A.S., PHn) and Sheridan had one on May 1 (PH). Observers uniformly reported Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes as scarce during migration, but Hermits had reached nesting locations w. of Pueblo in early May and Swainson's had arrived in Yellowstone May 22. Similar reports on species like Sage Thrashers, Empidonax flycatchers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, W Tanagers, and Chipping Sparrows suggest that most mountain birds migrate directly to their nesting grounds; the plains and oasis migrants may represent birds displaced by adverse weather or misoriented. Several E. Bluebirds nested at Bonny and at Julesburg; a pair attempted nesting in a bird box at Boulder May 20, but abandoned the attempt May 31 (HT). A stray E. Bluebird even drifted to Rocky Mountain N. P., May 6 (PHn), the park's fourth record. Mountain Bluebird numbers compared favorably with those of recent years; Ely, Nev. had over 500 move through Mar. 15, and Boulder, Colo., noted a heavy influx the first week in April, including 250 grounded by a heavy snowstorm Apr. 3 at Longmont (PM). Cheyenne reported two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers May 21 (OKS, AG). A pair of **Black-tailed Gnatcatchers**, well-described, stayed at Ridgway, Colo., May 12–14, (JRG††), for Colorado's first record. Bohemian Waxwings remained in numbers throughout March, with counts like 100 at Las Vegas Mar. 20, 2000 at Boulder Mar. 12, 500 at Cheyenne Mar. 1 and 500 at Cody, Wyo., Mar. 19–20. The last reports came of 5–15 during April.

WARBLERS—As usual, observers measured the quantity and quality of the migration by warblers, and found this year deficient. Five Colorado spring counts found a paucity, an average of six species. Orange-crowns, Yellow-rumps, and Wilson's, ordinarily common migrants, made very poor showings—the peak of Yellow-rumps came in late April instead of the usual mid-May; and except for Reno, no locations reported more than a handful of Wilson's. Each reporting location had low numbers and diversity, but somewhere, someone saw 36 of the 43 species recorded in the region in the past four years.

Nevada had an unprecedented number of Black-and-white

Warblers, with two different birds at Reno Mar. 21–22 (BKn, CA; E&JK), birds at Las Vegas May 10 & 25 (VM), and one singing at Lida May 23–24 (PLe). Cheyenne reported three May 6–31. Colorado observers noted one Worm-eating Warbler Apr. 24 near Denver (JW, AW), one Blue-winged Warbler May 25 at Boulder (BFR), a Golden-winged May 7–9 at Barr L., near Denver (BA, BL) and one at Boulder May 14 (PJ); and a Prothonotary at Ft. Collins May 7 (F.C.A.S.). Nevada had a spate of N Parulas: a male May 16 (second state specimen to U N), a female May 29 at Lida (LRB, PLe); and two May 31—a singing male and a female—providing the first spring record at Las Vegas in five years (VM). Colorado had three Cape May Warblers: Rocky Mountain N.P., May 6—the first mountain record (PHn††)—Ft. Collins May 7 (DL††, CC), and Boulder May 19 (BA). Black-throated Blue Warblers visited Bonny Res., Apr. 27 & May 6 (MM), Cheyenne May 21 (OKS), and Sheridan May 25 (MC). Blackburnian Warblers appeared at Bonny Res., May 7 (two birds, PJ, HEK; PLG), Boulder May 30 (PHn), and Laramie, Wyo., May 18 (OKS, PW). Nevada picked up its first **Yellow-throated Warbler** Apr. 22, 16 miles s.e. of Austin, a bird foraging in low trees and providing good views; the observers furnished good details (BAS†, BGF). Colorado had almost as many Chestnut-sided Warblers reported as Orange-crowned, and one visited Casper May 18 (OKS). Four years ago Colorado had its second record of Bay-breasted Warbler; it is now regular, this spring observers saw six in the Denver-Boulder area. Utah's fifth Palm Warbler appeared Apr. 26–27, well-described, at Bear R., the same place as the last one (MAP† *et al.*). An Ovenbird visited Corn Creek May 19, and a N. Waterthrush was at Las Vegas May 10–11. Copious notes describe the **Louisiana Waterthrush** found at Bonny May 14, Colorado's second record (PM, MM, PGe, BL). Nevada's first **Kentucky Warbler**, observed Apr. 20 for five minutes at close range, bathed and preened for the observers at Red Rock Canyon (CL†, SL†).

BLACKBIRDS—Bobolinks may have established several colonies in n.e. Colorado, with reports of groups from three locations in Boulder County (BB, BK, PJ, B.A.S.) and 25 at Crook May 15–29 (BK). An Orchard Oriole, perched outside the Raynes' kitchen window at Jackson, had strayed 200 mi w. of its normal haunts (MR). At Unaweep Canyon near Grand Junction, a Scott's Oriole posed and sang May 21–26 (NG, PJ, C.F.O., DG); this made Colorado's fourth report. Great-tailed Grackles continue to spread, with the Las Vegas colony increasing, 25 birds seen at Davis Dam Apr. 19 (VM), plus three May 12 at Mesquite, Nev., on the way to Utah (CL, SaL). Colorado's one nesting colony, at Monte Vista, seems well established (JS). Common Grackles also spread; four at Utah L., Mar. 25 were new to Utah County (MW), a male May 11 at Las Vegas provided a rare record (VM), and w. Wyoming reports them as more common

TANAGERS—Western Tanagers achieved nothing close to the migratory abundance of last year; peaks hit only ten at Corn Creek May 8 and five at Boulder May 20. Colorado had an unprecedented nine Scarlet Tanagers this May, from Colorado Springs and Bonny n. to Boulder and Julesburg. In Wyoming one May 18–21 at Cheyenne (LC) and one at Casper May 30 (OKS) offered the first reports for that state in 20 years. The dark ear patch marked Wyoming's first **Hepatic Tanager** at Cheyenne May 22 (JP†), but a wet and disheveled Hepatic Tanager, at Boulder after a thunderstorm May 9, which did not show the dark ear patch, marked Colorado's third record (BK, StL). Completing the tanager grand slam in Colorado and Wyoming, Colorado reported four

Summer Tanagers (about average; DL, AW, JR, MJS), and Scott found one each at Casper May 15 and Cheyenne May 21. Las Vegas also reported four in May, also about average.

FINCHES—A Cardinal brightened the Great Sand Dunes Nat'l Mon., May 5, the first Colorado report w. of the Front Range, (D&CG); others came to Bonny in early March and Apr. 26 (MM), and Pueblo May 7 (D&CG). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks expand W unabated. Eastern Colorado had at least 110 reports, seven visited the Ouray-Ridgway area of s.w. Colorado (JRG, MF) and w. Colorado had three others (DG, DM, JRG), Wyoming had 14 reports including Dubois (MB), several at Rawlins (RL) and Jackson (BR), and Nevada had one at Ruby L., May 12-13 (RLH), one at Lida May 24-25 (PLe), and three at Las Vegas in May (VM). Evening Grosbeaks waved through Sheridan during May, with 501 counted May 13, and Durango had 579 on its May 14 spring count. Cassin's Finches are nesting on the valley floor at Jackson, and may nest in Reno. Large flocks of Pine Siskins moved around, feeding on seeds of dandelions and Chinese elms: 278 at Sheridan May 22, 500+ at Ely Apr. 25, 364 at Durango May 14, 490 at Colorado Springs May 15, and "hordes" in Eagle County in late May. Spring saw only a few Red Crossbills, and rare White-winged Crossbills appeared in Colorado Springs May 9 & 16 (CLC, SS), and Denver Apr. 11 (DT). A Rufous-sided Towhee, a species mystifyingly rare in n.w. Wyoming, was seen at Jackson May 17 (MR). A flock of 30 early Lark Buntings reached Stove Prairie near Ft. Collins Mar. 28 (F.C.A.S.).

SPARROWS—Sparrows were scarce in the intermountain desert, from Grand Junction to w. Nevada; the annual weeds did not grow either last season or this (DG). A tame Le Conte's Sparrow appeared Apr. 20-21 at Sheridan (PH, HD, MC†). Another lurked in a sedge marsh near Wellington, Colo., May 7 (EH†, JS†; ph). These are apparently the first for Wyoming and the third or fourth records for Colorado. A Black-throated Sparrow straggled to Boulder Apr. 14 (LH). Dark-eyed Juncos stayed late in Colorado, to May 5 in Ridgway (JRG) and May 14 in Boulder (VE); and with each high country snowstorm, they dropped into Cody, the last ones May 6 (UK). The normally high numbers of migrant Chipping Sparrows avoided the St. Vrain power plant; spring count numbers also were low, with an average of only 49 excluding 459 at Ft. Collins May 7. Harris' Sparrows lingered, with late records May 17 and May 22-25 at Lida, at the s.w. fringe of the winter range (PLe). At Logan a Golden-crowned Sparrow Apr. 29 wore a band; Balph surmised that the one she banded last spring during the same week returned. The Swamp Sparrow which wintered at Las Vegas remained until Apr. 23 (VM); one sang in the willows near the Wind R., May 24 at Dubois (MB). The two Lapland Longspurs at Diamond Valley, Nev., Mar. 2 were unusual (JE). Jackson's flock of 100 Snow Buntings Mar. 17 (BR) was unusually large, and late, for the Mountain West.

CORRIGENDUM—The Pine Warbler visited Pingree Park July 11, 1976 (*Am. Birds* 31:206).

ABBREVIATIONS—B.A.S.: Boulder Aud. Soc.; Br. A. S.: Bridgerland Aud. Soc.; C.F.O.: Colorado Field Ornithologists; D.F.O.: Denver Field Ornithologists; F.C.A.S.: Ft. Collins Aud. Soc.; H.P.A.S.: High Plains Aud. Soc.; †: Details on file with Reg. Ed.; ††: Details on file with C.F.O.

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SOUTHWEST REGION

/ Janet Witzeman, John P. Hubbard and Kenn Kaufman

Overall weather patterns in the Southwest during spring 1977 were not perceived to be particularly unusual. It could also be said that this season's bird records—despite the number of boldfaced species below—did not transcend the realm of the expected. In other words, the rarities of the season followed more or less logical extensions of pre



viously established patterns. Even the two first state records registered during the period (Costa's Hummingbird in extreme southwestern New Mexico and Rufous-capped Warbler in extreme southeastern Arizona) had been foreshadowed by sightings in adjacent areas. However this is not meant to imply that the season was uninteresting. On the contrary, a remarkable array of records was produced. The fact that many of these were "predictable" merely reinforces the idea that range extensions and rarities do not occur at random, but rather in patterns which may be discovered and extrapolated. If rarities amaze us, so do the patterns which they represent. Southwestern field observers, by discovering the former, are revealing the latter, and the reader may appreciate both in the paragraphs that follow.

GREBES, CORMORANTS—April 3 brought a Horned Grebe to Nogales (DS, SP) and an unprecedented concentration of *nine* to Tucson (C&EW *et al.*), two of the latter remaining to Apr. 4. The occurrence of spring migrants in s. Arizona is intriguing, since the species is virtually unknown to the south of us, in Mexico! Single Horned Grebes in breeding plumage were noted Apr. 30 on L. Havasu, Ariz. (LBa), and May 18 at McAlister L., N. Mex. (WS).

Olivaceous Cormorants continued to be seen at Patagonia L., Ariz.; between five and 16 were reported there at different times throughout the period (m.ob.). Three at Las Cruces Mar. 5–8 (WHB) were noteworthy.

HERONS—Records of Little Blue Herons, all adults, were one s.e. of Phoenix Apr. 13 (†DC), two at Albuquerque Apr. 16 (M. Milton, *vide* DDeL), one near Hereford, Ariz., May 23 (TC), and one near Nogales June 5 (†CM, BH *et al.*); in Arizona this species is now annual in spring in very small numbers. A Louisiana Heron photographed near Las Cruces Apr. 5 (WHB, C.R. Wahl) established the second verified record for New Mexico.

Cattle Egrets were recorded in three areas of s.e. Arizona, where the species is rare. One was at a ranch near Douglas Apr. 24 (DD), nine were on the Willcox golf course Apr. 26 (DS, BJo, MH), and three were on a ranch at 5000 ft on the w. side of the Chiricahuas June 7 (RW, JW).

IBISES—With only one previous record (involving a single individual) of the species in Arizona, we were totally unprepared for Bruce Campbell's report of six *White Ibises* seen May 3 on the Verde R., below Horseshoe Dam. But those who sought the ibis May 6 found *seven* individuals, and a



White Ibis, ne. of Phoenix, Ariz., May 11, 1977. Photo by Dick Todd.

flock of *ten* was seen repeatedly May 7–14—all adults or near-adults (m.ob.; ph., DT, JW). This record brings to mind the occurrence of nine at Bosque del Apache N.W.R., N. Mex., last autumn; apparently the northward wanderings of *White Ibises* can involve numbers of individuals on occasion

WATERFOWL—A ♂ Mexican Duck (accompanied by a ♀ Mallard) was s.e. of Phoenix May 18–25 (RN). Only once before has this sedentary form wandered n.w. to the Phoenix area: ca. 1943, specimen from Saguaro L.

A bird at Phoenix Mar. 12 (KK, DS) appeared to be a ♂ Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal hybrid; however, KK points out that owing to the possibility of erythristic Blue-wingeds this hybrid form is probably not safely identifiable in the field

A drake *Harlequin Duck* was seen by many and photographed (ph., RW *et al.*) Mar. 26–27 at Puerto Peñasco Sonora, apparently marking the first confirmed record for the Republic of Mexico. The bird had been reported about a week earlier (H. Hanson, R. Moss), and may have been present as early as Jan. 1 (H. & C. Norrid); last definite sighting was Apr. 9 (DAZ). Details will be published elsewhere. Also notable in Mexico (possibly the first record for Sonora) was a pair of Hooded Mergansers seen Mar. 24 on the Rio Mayo near San Bernardo (GM).

RAPTORS—On New Mexico's e. fringe, an imm. Broad-winged Hawk (quite rare in the state) was seen at Portales May 12 (JPH *et al.*); it was seen over the park with a Mississippi Kite, while a Blue Jay called below! Farther afield was an ad. Broad-winged in Cave Creek Canyon Chiricahua Mts., Apr. 14 (†WRS, HS), for Arizona's ninth record. A Zone-tailed Hawk at Kingman, Ariz., Apr. 3 (SL) was near the species' n.w. limit. A pair of Zone-taileds first noted Apr. 28 (DW) in the B.W. Delta was seen in courtship display May 9 (KVR, PM) and remained at least to the end of the period; the species has been known to nest in that area.

Seven pairs of Bald Eagles, the entire known breeding population of the Southwest, attempted nesting on the Salt Verde, and Colorado Rivers of Arizona this year. Three of these pairs succeeded in fledging two young each, but one of the young birds died subsequently (D. Rubink, KVR *et al.*)

A Caracara seen Apr. 23 over the B.T. Arboretum near Superior, Ariz. (ST, AG, S&LB), was far n.e. of its normal range.

CRANES, RAILS—As noted in our last report, the six transplanted Whooping Cranes left their New Mexico winter quarters in late February-early March; several were seen passing over Los Alamos, and five appeared in the San Luis Valley, Colo., by Mar. 18 (*vide* James Travis). One bird from Bosque del Apache N.W.R. went S, however, and showed up in the Uvas Valley of Luna Co., N. Mex. in late March (WW, Dale Shiftetts).

The first Clapper Rails heard this spring on the Colorado R., were Mar. 8 at Imperial Dam (JD) and Mar. 9 in the B.W. Delta (KVR). A pair found in May at the Granite Reef Camp ground e. of Phoenix (DT) provided the only record in c Arizona this spring.

SHOREBIRDS—The recent proliferation of artificial habitat and of observers in Arizona undoubtedly accounts for the number of exciting shorebird records in the past few migration seasons. In turn, the very recentness of these observational changes is certainly the reason why these shorebird records are still exciting: we are already beginning to sense that most of these "accidentals" will be regular from now on, given sufficient coverage in the right localities.

Most of Arizona's unusual shorebird records this spring were primarily unusual as to season, being traditional fall transient species which were previously unexpected here in spring. Single Baird's Sandpipers were present at Willcox as early as Mar. 20 (BR) and as late as May 11, with a peak of six individuals Apr. 19–25 (RS, TP *et al.*). This is perhaps the fifth year to produce spring records of Baird's in Arizona. Two Silt Sandpipers were at Phoenix May 5 (KK, EC, JW), with one remaining until May 19 (JW); Arizona had only three previous spring records. A Sanderling at Willcox Apr. 22–30 (DS *et al.*) was one of the very few ever recorded in Arizona in spring. At least 15 Marbled Godwits occurred in Arizona, largest concentrations being six below Imperial Dam Apr. 16 (KS) and four at Nogales Apr. 20 (GM); the species has been considered uncommon to rare in spring. Similarly unusual as to season was the N. Phalarope, with singles reported May 21 at Phoenix (RBr), May 27 at Sierra Vista (PJB), and May 30 at Tucson (GM); five were at Willcox May 24–28 (BJo, DS, MH), with one remaining to June 4.

On a higher plane of rarity, a **Ruddy Turnstone** seen and photographed (ph. CM; BH *et al.*) at Nogales Apr. 10 was only Arizona's sixth record and the first to occur in spring. A Whimbrel was at Phoenix May 19 (†RBr) and another was on the Colorado R., opposite Picacho S. P., May 25 (JD, PM); Arizona has less than a score of records so far. Four Red Knots, rare in New Mexico, were reported at Bitter Lake NWR, Apr. 25 (MW). Sanderlings are also rare in New Mexico, so three on Apr. 4 and four on Apr. 20 near Alamogordo (LM) were notable.

GULLS—An ad. California Gull was noted May 6 at Charette L., Mora Co., N. Mex. (JPH); the only other two recent state records have involved mid-summer concentrations at lakes in the n.-c. section.

In Arizona, Bonaparte's Gulls occurred in remarkable numbers. In the Yuma area two were noted as early as Apr. 16, with a high count of 12 on Apr. 29 (KS, SSpt). Farther up the Colorado R., at least 21 were seen between Apr. 22 and the end of May, and a few were still present in June (KVR, AEH *et al.*). At Phoenix, an ad. Bonaparte's was seen Apr. 7 (RBr), and several were present in late May and into June (JW *et al.*), with a high count of seven on May 28. The species was present at Willcox Apr. 18–June 19, the high count was eight on June 5, with two found dead the previous day (KK, EC, DS). Turnover seemed high at both Phoenix and Willcox, with new and different individuals seen at each visit. The concentration of individuals at both these localities in late May–early June was particularly surprising, since the species is generally absent after mid-May.

DOVES THROUGH OWLS—Four to five White-winged Doves at Socorro Apr. 19 and later (PB) represented an increase there, and two seen at Alamogordo in April (LM) may indicate a range expansion to that area. The first White-winged at Redrock, N. Mex., aside from one bird that wintered there, were noted in March (Alton Ford). A Ground Dove, considered rare in extreme s.e. Arizona, was seen near Portal Apr. 26–29 (Will Moir, *vide* SSpf); and one was seen May 21 near Carlsbad, N. Mex. (MW) where the species has become less regular.

Yellow-billed Cuckoos arrived in late May, which is early for the species, in the lower Pecos Valley (MW) and near Albuquerque (D. Cole); numbers appeared to be up in the Roswell area (MW).

Generally considered rare in the Lower Colorado Valley, Elf Owls were first heard in the B.W. Delta Mar. 7–8. The species was subsequently found in at least eight locations in

the B.W. Delta and n. of Needles, Calif., on both sides of the river (KVR *et al.*). A roost of at least 30 Long-eared Owls was found near Columbus, s.w. N. Mex., Mar. 24 (JPH, MCC). Several were seen on both sides of the Colorado R., n. of Needles Mar. 22–23 (LG, KVR).

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS—In the section of residential Tucson where Chimney Swifts summered last year, sightings of probable individuals recommenced early this May. The first records definitely pertaining to this species were one on May 21 (KK) and four on May 22 (DS, EC). Hundreds of migrating Vaux's Swifts were seen along the Colorado R. on May 9 & 13, in association with minor storm systems, but none was seen there after May 14 (KVR, AEH *et al.*), one individual at Tucson May 24 (DS, GG) was quite late. A *Chaetura* sp., at the mouth of Cave Creek Canyon, Chiricahuas, May 18 (MB), was in an unusual locality regardless of which species it was.

An ad. ♂ Lucifer Hummingbird was near Portal Apr. 27–29 (†SSpf *et al.*); Arizona records of this species are definitely increasing. An ad. ♂ Costa's Hummingbird was present and photographed May 7–22, and an imm. male netted and photographed May 21, in upper Guadalupe Canyon (WHB). These were the first verified records for New Mexico, following several sight records in the same area.

Indicative of the continued spread of Anna's Hummingbird was the discovery of a nest on the Colorado R., n. of Parker Dam, Ariz., with a female feeding two young Apr. 5 (KVR, AEH). This was the first known nesting for that area, where the species is still uncommon.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH JAYS—An Acorn Woodpecker was seen May 10 on the e. side of the Sandia Mts, central N. Mex. (RLT)—a range for which, unaccountably, there are almost no records. A late Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Parker, Ariz., Apr. 26 (KVR) appeared typical of the e. form, *S. v. varius*, a rare straggler to the Southwest. A Downy Woodpecker seen May 23 at Teec Nos Pos (BH) added to the handful of lowland records for n.e. Arizona.

The only Scissor-tailed Flycatcher noted in Arizona this season was one n.w. of Nogales Apr. 20 (GM), the earliest spring record for the state.

An *Empidonax* first found in the B.W. Delta Feb. 12 (KVR) was collected Mar. 21 and determined to be a Hammond's Flycatcher—apparently the first winter record for the Lower Colorado Valley (* to A.S.U.). As expected, Hammond's subsequently proved to be a common migrant in that area, outnumbering W. Flycatcher in April (AEH, KVR). The Dusky Flycatcher is virtually unknown as a migrant from the Lower Colorado Valley, but one was taken there in the B.W. Delta Apr. 9 (KVR; * to A.S.U.).

Migrant Purple Martins at lowland points in Arizona where they are rarely noted were a female Apr. 29 at Sierra Vista (BY), a male (* to A.S.U.) May 13 s. of Parker (ML, KC), and a female May 26 near Hereford (KK, MWR, G.G.A.S.).

A **Blue Jay** seen May 30 at Teec Nos Pos, extreme n.e. Arizona (†KK, JW, EC, DS), was only the second for the state. Also notably far west was one in the Mimbres Valley of s.w. New Mexico Apr. 29 (JPH, BI).

THRASHERS THROUGH VIREOS—Records of Bendire's Thrashers are few on the Arizona side of the Colorado R. Valley, so one collected Mar. 21 at the B.W. Delta (AEH, KVR) is of interest. The Rufous-backed Robins noted last fall and winter were all in Tucson or southward, but this spring singles were found Mar. 12–Apr. 12 at Phoenix (DS, KK, ST) and Apr. 9 at the B.T. Arboretum near Superior (DS). A pair of E. Bluebirds was nest-building May 4 at Bear

Canyon in the Santa Catalina Mts. (DS, BB, JBt); last summer marked the first record of breeding in this locality, the species' northernmost outpost in Arizona.

In New Mexico, Bohemian Waxwings from the winter invasion remained until mid-April at Los Alamos (LH) and Santa Fe (Mickey Lang). Despite the scarcity of Cedar Waxwings in s. Arizona last winter, a few were seen rather late in the spring with small numbers at Tucson on May 24 and one in Guadalupe Canyon June 4-5 (KK, DS *et al.*).

A migrant Gray Vireo, local in New Mexico, was seen Apr. 22 in Chihuahuan Desert scrub near Loving (JPH *et al.*). The Red-eyed Vireo is a rare transient in New Mexico; one seen May 6 in Cherry Creek Canyon n. of Silver City (KJZ, BRZ) may have been a local first.

WARBLERS—The usual rare-but-regular species occurred in about normal numbers. Four Black-and-white Warblers were reported in Arizona, all during May, with one at Teec Nos Pos May 23 (BH) being perhaps the first record for the northeast. Reports of N. Parulas were singles near Deming Mar 3 and Apr. 10 (WW), one near Superior Apr. 11 (RBo), one near Tucson Apr. 19-20 (ELS), two near Portal Apr. 23 (SSpf, E.M. Cutler), and one at Tucson June 10 (KK). Arizona recorded a total of five N. Waterthrushes and nine Am Redstarts Apr. 30-June 15. The Tennessee Warbler has become almost annual in spring within the last few years, and no less than five were recorded in the region this season. Singles were noted May 7 n.e. of Phoenix (ST *et al.*), May 11 in Cave Creek Canyon, Chiricahuas (DS, KK *et al.*), May 12 at Boone's Draw, e.-c. N. Mex. (JPH), May 14 at Santa Fe (JE), and May 18 below L. Patagonia, Ariz (KK).

Locally unusual, a Nashville Warbler at Socorro May 12 (PB) was outside the normal spring range. A ♂ Com. Yellowthroat at Percha Dam S. P., N. Mex., Mar. 26 (WHB) was either a very early migrant or a rare wintering bird. Migrant Red-faced Warblers occurred at unusually low elevations: Apr. 22 at Patagonia (BR *et al.*), May 6 at Redrock, N. Mex. (KJZ, BRZ), and May 9 at 4900 ft in Cave Creek Canyon, Chiricahuas (MB). A report of one or two individuals seen May 9 in the Sandia Mts. of c. New Mexico (G. Parker, H. Schwartz, *vide* RLT) constitutes a local first, and possibly the northeasternmost record for the state.

The region received a fine assortment of eastern warblers this spring. A Prothonotary Warbler was singing May 10 in the B. W. Delta (†KVR) and one was seen May 13 at Roswell (MW); there had been about five previous records for Arizona and about six for New Mexico. A Worm-eating Warbler at Boone's Draw May 8 (†JE) was the fourth or fifth sight record for New Mexico, while one at B.W. Delta May 10 (†KVR) was Arizona's seventh sighting, and the first ever for the w. part of the state. A ♀ Cape May Warbler meticulously described from the B. T. Arboretum near Superior Apr. 23 (†ST, S&LB, AG) was Arizona's third. Another Cape May Warbler was seen May 21 at Rattlesnake Springs, s.e. N. Mex (MW), for the state's fifth overall and second spring record. Single Chestnut-sided Warblers were seen May 19 at Round Valley, Chiricahua Mts. (BR, JG), and May 23 at Teec Nos Pos (BH), establishing the first spring records for Arizona. In New Mexico, where there are seven previous May records, single Chestnut-sideds were noted May 12 at Boone's Draw (JPH) and May 28-29 at Cottonwood Gulch (AM).

A Black-throated Blue Warbler was seen and photographed Apr 29 in Cave Creek Canyon near Portal, Ariz. (RPB *et al.*); it is interesting to note that three of the five previous spring records in the state have come from the same locality. A ♀ Bay-breasted Warbler was reported May 30 in the lower Mimbres Valley of s w New Mexico (RAF); the species is

quite rare in the state. Also very rare in New Mexico, a ♂ Blackpoll Warbler was seen Apr. 30 near Las Cruces (R Repass *et al.*). A Palm Warbler seen Apr. 25 at Roper L., s. of Safford, Ariz. (TP, MR, TJ), was the state's second spring occurrence. Another Palm Warbler was seen at Boone's Draw May 8 (JE); New Mexico had only four previous records of the species, three of them in spring.

Arizona records of Kentucky and Hooded Warblers have accumulated in very consistent and somewhat similar patterns: there have been close to ten state records for each, virtually all in spring or early summer in the southeast. Continuing the pattern this season, a Kentucky Warbler was in Ramsey Canyon May 25 (†CY *et al.*) and a ♂ Hooded Warbler was in Round Valley, Chiricahua Mts., May 20 (†MB *et al.*), another Hooded Warbler was at Cottonwood Gulch, N. Mex., June 1-4 (AM). Single Ovenbirds were recorded May 10 in the B.W. Delta (†KVR), May 11 near Albuquerque (J J Phillips), May 13 in Cave Creek Canyon, Chiricahua Mts (†MB *et al.*), and May 31 near Yuma (†KS, SSpt, S&MF). Some or all of these Ovenbirds may be migrants following a direct course between wintering grounds in western Mexico and breeding areas to the north of this region.

Unquestionably the warbler event of the season, however, was the appearance of Arizona's first Rufous-capped Warbler in Cave Creek Canyon of the Chiricahuas. Discovered May 9 by an observer thoroughly familiar with the species (†Mike Braun), it was seen again early on May 10 (B. Schaughency) but could not be relocated by a horde of subsequent searchers; a bird glimpsed farther up the canyon May 29 (WRS) may have been this species. Following recent sightings of the Rufous-capped in extreme n.e. Sonora (*Am. Birds* 30 109), this record constitutes a plausible extension of the species' Mexican distribution.

ICTERIDS—A ♀ Bobolink flushed from an alfalfa field at Teec Nos Pos May 30 (DS, †KK, JW, EC) provided the second spring record for Arizona, and the first ever in the northeast aside from a breeding colony noted at Show Low in 1937. The species is also rare and local in New Mexico, one was reported May 1 at Stone L., Rio Arriba Co. (CS). A ♂ Hooded Oriole seen Apr. 20 near Farmington (H.H. Lesperance) was the first ever recorded in n.w. New Mexico. The discovery of a small "colony" of Scott's Orioles (at least five birds seen) near Montoya, e.-c. New Mexico, May 11 (JPH) was unexpected; the locality is at the n.e. limit of the species' range. A ♂ Scott's Oriole was singing in a desert wash n. of Ehrenberg, Ariz., May 7 (KVR), marking one of the very few records in the Lower Colorado Valley. A subadult male of this species seen May 30 at Teec Nos Pos (†KK *et al.*) was exceptionally far north.

The Great-tailed Grackle, which began its invasion of this region over sixty years ago, continues to expand and consolidate its range. Localities of note in New Mexico during the period included the areas of Glenwood, Santa Rosa, and Portales (JPH *et al.*), and Truth or Consequences (Walton Hawk). In Arizona, unusual records of the species included Mar. 8 e. of Portal (SSpf) and Apr. 26 n.w. of Bagdad (CST), the first evidence of the species' nesting at Globe was established Apr. 19 (*vide* BJa). The Bronzed Cowbird, another expanding species, established second local records at two points in New Mexico with one near Socorro May 16-20 (PB) and at least three at Glenwood May 23 (JPH).

FRINGILLIDS—A ♂ Cardinal strayed to Santa Rosa, e.-c. New Mexico May 3 (M. Castillo). A Pyrrhuloxia was reported May 7 and 14 near Cliff, N. Mex. (H. Williams, *vide* RAF), where the species is rare. There was a substantial movement of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks through the region this

spring, as appears to be usual, with at least a score reported from almost throughout New Mexico and an equal number in s.e. and c. Arizona. At the single locality of Ramsey Canyon, Ariz., where observers (and feeders) were present constantly, no less than *eight* different individuals were recorded during the period (B&CY, DD *et al.*); if similar habitats nearby received similar numbers, the total of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks passing through s.e. Arizona this spring must have been in the hundreds.

A territorial δ Painted Bunting at Hagerman, N. Mex., May 13 (JPH *et al.*) was n. of the species' normal range in the lower Pecos Valley. A Dickcissel at Teec Nos Pos May 30 (DS *et al.*) provided the first record for n.e. Arizona, and one of the few spring records for the state.

Four Evening Grosbeaks at Alamogordo Apr. 8 (LM) were the only ones noted in the s. lowlands of New Mexico during the period, while at Cottonwood Gulch, N. Mex., several in late May and singles June 5 & 8 (AM, JPH) were late. A pair of Evening Grosbeaks with a nest was found May 28 in Sawmill Canyon, Huachuca Mts., Ariz. (PJB *et al.*); the species had been reported in summer from the Huachucas before, but this is the first definite nesting record there. Up to six Purple Finches were present at feeders at Portal Mar. 22–30 (M. Crutcher, SSpf). Although traditionally rare in s.e. Arizona, the species was recorded at this locality last spring also.

Pine Siskins were scarce in the lowlands of the region last winter, inexplicable, therefore, was the local abundance of the species at Teec Nos Pos, n.e. Ariz., where hundreds were present in a small area May 30 (KK, EC, DS, JW). Single Am. Goldfinches from the winter's flight lingered at Teec Nos Pos May 30 (KK *et al.*) and at Cottonwood Gulch, N. Mex., June 3 (AM). A pair of Lawrence's Goldfinches nested on the Verde R., n.e. of Phoenix (ST *et al.*), with nest-building first noted Apr. 10. This is the first breeding record for c. Arizona, and the easternmost ever for the species; details will be published elsewhere.

Four fully-fledged imm. Red Crossbills were seen Apr. 16–18 at Rose Canyon, Santa Catalina Mts., Ariz. (SM, TJ, GM), and family groups and juvenals were seen through the spring in the Prescott area (CST); our knowledge of the crossbill's breeding distribution here is still very sketchy. A few Lark Buntings lingered late near Palominas, s.e. Ariz., with 12 seen May 19 (BY) and one as late as May 26 (KK, MWR, G.G.A.S.). Eight Savannah Sparrows were singing e. of Cimarron, N. Mex., May 4–5 (JPH), indicating a new area of probable breeding for this rare and local summer resident. Grasshopper Sparrows are rarely detected in New Mexico, so four *singing* near Loving Apr. 22 (JPH *et al.*) were especially interesting. The status of the Rufous-crowned Sparrow in New Mexico e. of the Pecos and s. of the Dry Cimarron rivers is poorly known, so that singles near Montoya May 11 and at Cedar Pt., May 13 (JPH *et al.*) were noteworthy.

A Golden-crowned Sparrow present at Farmington, N. Mex., through Apr. 11 (Judy Nordstrom *et al.*) established the first local record. In Arizona, five individuals were recorded this spring from the southeast and the Lower Colorado Valley, including one that remained s. of Parker until the late date of May 11 (AEH, DW). At least a dozen White-throated Sparrows reported in new locations during the spring added more records to the largest invasion ever in Arizona; a late individual was at Patagonia May 16 (VE, *vide* BY). Notable because of the paucity of records for Sonora, a Swamp Sparrow was far s. near Alamos Mar. 23 (GM). Another at Silver City, N. Mex., Apr. 30 was unusual (DAZ).

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ALASKA REGION /Daniel D. Gibson

Spring 1977 was warm and sunny in much of the region. Individuals of various species occurred early or at the early end of "normal," while the bulk of the passages came later, although still on time. Some of the record early arrivals may have been a result of individuals wintering farther north than usual during the mild winter just past (*e.g.*, see Ring-necked Duck). In some areas the weather (extended highs, few storms, average or below average precipitation) resulted in poor showings of waterfowl and shorebirds. Most probably overflow populated areas, since May's weather was seldom bad enough to stop them. Records here are only the tip of the iceberg that was spring 1977, which extended on into June, with many exciting records to be mentioned at a later date.

Annual surveys at the Alaska perimeter are transferring additional species from the casual to the regular list every year, and there were completely new ones this spring as well. Species for which there are fewer than six Alaska records are boldfaced.



HERONS—A calling ♂ Am. Bittern was present from May 17 on at Barnes L., Stikine R., s.e. Alaska (SOM), the only locality where the species is suspected of breeding in the state (see *AB* 28:935, 1974).

SURFACE-FEEDING DUCKS—Gadwalls are rare migrants north of the Alaska Range, so a pair at Smith L., College, May 12 (BK) was of interest. Numbers of migrant Pintails on the Alaska mainland were variously reported as good to heavy in coastal areas (*e.g.*, 2367 in Kalsin, Middle, and Womens bays, Kodiak I., Apr. 24 [RAM] was maximum there). They apparently dispersed once inland, where no large concentrations were reported. Probably not directly related to this passage (*i.e.*, probably involving birds moving SW-NE off the Asian coast), there were also substantial numbers of Pintails in the w. Aleutians in late April-early May; maximum flock size was 110 birds at Shemya I., May 2 (DDG, GEH). A ♂ Garganey arrived at Shemya May 10 (DDG, GEH); a total of at least three was seen there through the third week of May, and at least one pair was present at Attu I. in late May (LGB, TGT *et al.*). Blue-winged Teal were widely accounted for in s.e., southcoastal, and c. Alaska; maximum flock size was 16 in mid-May at Juneau (DEM). A lone ♂ Cinnamon Teal was closely observed at Sergief I., Stikine R. mouth, May 20 (SOM), marking the only record this spring.

DIVING DUCKS—Very few Com. Pochards were recorded, at Adak, Shemya, and Attu islands in May; maximum was four at Attu May 13 (TGT *et al.*). Canvasbacks, Redheads, and Ring-necked Ducks were distinctly newsworthy this spring. All were more widely reported than in the last two springs, in s.e., southcoastal, and c. Alaska. Canvasbacks were seen from Juneau (two May 11 and five May 14, FAG), Cordova (May 5, REI), Kasilof (four Apr. 29, DBM), and Homer (two May 15, DBM) to Anchorage (pair Apr. 26, maximum nine May 4, and four through late May, PDA) and Fairbanks (17 on May 3, and maximum 34 on May 9, TGT). And there were extralimital records as far w. as *St. Paul I.* (five May 24, WER), the second Pribilof record, and *Shemya I.* (pair May 5-9, DDG, GEH), the first w. Aleutian record. Redheads were present in small numbers at Juneau (pair Apr. 20, FAG, CS *et al.*; male May 14, three birds May 26,

FAG), Sitka (*vide* DEM), Cordova (four May 5, REI) Kasilof (three pairs May 11, MAM), Anchorage (pair Apr 26-May 4, PDA), and Fairbanks (earliest, a pair May 3, TGT). Ring-necked Ducks did some peculiar things: a pair that arrived at Cordova Mar. 31 (MEI) may have wintered within the state; a male closely observed at Adak I., Apr. 19 (JLM, TJE), for a first Aleutian record, was far w. of the normal range. Single males were seen at Kodiak Apr. 3 & 18, two males May 7-14 (RAM), and one male was seen at Kasilof Apr. 24 (DBM). Earliest in Fairbanks were three May 4 (TGT, EPK). Lesser Scaup were numerous in c. Alaska, but Greater were hard to find there (*vide* BK). Tufted Ducks were scarce in the Aleutians this spring; the maximum was five May 13-18 at Attu (TGT *et al.*) A male at St. Paul June 2 (WER) was of interest, and a male with scaup at Womens Bay, Kodiak I., Apr. 27-May 6 (JLT RAM) was the second southcoastal record (see *AB* 30:754 1976). The only Smews reported were an ad. male at St. Paul May 22 (WER) and a ♀-plumaged bird at Shemya May 26-29 (DDG, GEH, BK).

S. A.

EAGLES—A pair of ad. White-tailed Eagles was carefully observed for 5-10 minutes flying over Henderson Valley, Attu I., May 27 (TGT, LGB *et al.*). The birds were described as diving at each other, tumbling over and over in the air, and nuptial activity was suspected, but they were not seen again. There are at least two old specimen records for Alaska; this is the first sight record substantiated by thorough details.

RAILS—At least three Soras were heard at Barnes L. Stikine R., May 17 (SOM), and one was seen on Farm I., lower Stikine R., May 20 (SOM). All were transients, as none was heard or seen subsequently. An Am. Coot at Potter Marsh Anchorage, May 19 & 21 (DB, EBR, *vide* DFD) provided only the third southcoastal record.

SHOREBIRDS—A pair of Killdeers arrived at Fairbanks May 2 (TGT). A second pair arrived later, and at least one pair *bred*, the second such occurrence in c. Alaska (BK) Mongolian Plover arrived on time, a male at Shemya May 15 (DDG, GEH) the earliest. Hudsonian Godwits are rare migrants in Southeastern Alaska, so one at Juneau May 10 and four there May 11 (FAG) are of interest. This species generally arrived on time, with an exceptional one at Cordova Apr. 28 (MEI). The only reports of Marbled Godwits were from the Copper R. Delta: six and five birds on May 8 & 9, respectively (SES). The only Greenshank reported was a single at St. Paul June 4 (WER). Wood Sandpipers and Long-toed Stints passed through the Aleutians in very small numbers (see weather) The former arrived to tie the early arrival record (one May 11, Shemya, DDG, GEH), but no more than a dozen birds were recorded in the Aleutians through June first. Long-toed Stints did not arrive until May 29 (one, Shemya) and May 31 (pair, Attu, TGT *et al.*). At least one White-rumped Sandpiper at Fairbanks May 26 (JPM, DE) represented only the third local record. Astounding was a closely observed Spoon-billed Sandpiper at Buldir I. in early June (RHD, EPK, RPS), furnishing the first Alaska record since 1914! A ♂ Ruff at Shemya May 1 (DDG, GEH) was the only one reported this period, but others were seen later, in June.

THRUSHES, OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS—Eye-browed and Dusky (*T. naumanni eunomus*) Thrushes were

recorded several times in the w. Aleutians in late May, and Siberian Rubythroats were seen at several locations: a male at Attu May 29 (TGT); at least three males and a female at Shemya May 31–June 3 (DDG, GEH, BK). A male at St. Paul June 5 (WER) was a first for the Pribilofs. A ♂ Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Ficedula parva*) closely observed at Shemya June 1 (DDG, GEH, BK) was a first for Alaska. It was quickly followed by a second bird seen at Gambell, St. Lawrence I., June 5 (WCR *et al.* and BFK *et al.*, *fide* GEH). Gray-spotted Flycatchers were recorded in small numbers in the w. Aleutians. Five at Shemya May 30 (DDG, GEH, BK) was maximum; ones and twos were seen there and at Attu (TGT *et al.*) and Buldir (RHD, EPK) during the following week.

WAGTAILS, PIPITS, TANAGERS—There were several early waves of Motacillids in the w. Aleutians. Record early arrivals were two ♂ White Wagtails (*M. a. lugens*) May 1 and two ♂ Red-throated Pipits May 12 (DDG, GEH). Yellow Wagtails (*M. f. simillima*) tied the record May 12 and occurred throughout the rest of the period in small numbers. An Indian Tree Pipit (*A. hodgsoni*) was seen closely at Shemya May 16 (DDG, GEH), and two were observed at Attu May 31 (TGT *et al.*). An ad. ♂ Scarlet Tanager seen briefly but well near Cordova May 7 (REI, AB) represented the second Alaska record, an almost incredible one from any standpoint!

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/ John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls

After 11 and 10 years, respectively, of devoted service, John B. Crowell, Jr., and Harry B. Nehls have asked to be relieved of their editorial chores. Their reports, always professional, have helped thousands to a better understanding of the birdlife of their region, and we thank them. The new editors will be Philip W. Mattocks, Jr., and Eugene H. Hunn, both of the Univ. of Washington, Seattle. We are delighted to welcome them. Send all autumn migration season reports to Mattocks, Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195.

March brought average quantities of precipitation to the Pacific Northwest, thereby breaking the string of seven consecutive preceding months of considerably less-than-average rainfall. The pattern of less-than-average rainfall, however, resumed for April and May. Temperature ranges were approximately normal for the report period.

LOONS, GREBES, PELAGICS, HERONS—Two dead Yellow-billed Loons were found on Sunset Beach, Clatsop Co., Ore., the first half of April (HN), single birds were seen at Yaquina Bay, Ore., on two March dates (*fide* FR), and the bird at Eld Inlet on s. Puget Sound was seen last on Apr. 8 (*fide* GH). Single Yellow-billed Loons were noted in the vicinity of Victoria twice in March and another remained at Cowichan Bay Mar. 10–Apr. 16 (VG). Approximately 2000 Arctic Loons each hour passed the s. jetty of the Columbia R., in migration May 7–8 (HN *et al.*). Two Eared Grebes were at Brookings on the s.w. Oregon coast

FRINGILLIDS—Bramblings arrived on time May 14 a pair at Attu (TGT *et al.*) and four at Shemya (DDG, GEH) Old World buntings were well accounted for. Earliest Rustic Buntings were a female at Shemya May 12 (DDG, GEH) and a male at Attu May 14 (TGT *et al.*), and ones and twos were seen irregularly at both locations through the end of the period. One well-described male at Adak May 24 (LRH) was the easternmost individual reported. A ♂ Gray Bunting (*Emberiza variabilis*) closely observed at Shemya May 18 (DDG, GEH) provided a first record for Alaska. And single ♂ Reed Buntings (*E. schoeniclus*) were seen at close range at Attu May 26 (TGT *et al.*) and at Shemya June 4 (DDG, GEH), for the second and third Alaska records (see AB 29:1020, 1975).

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Mar. 22 (CW), one was at Scoggins Valley Park, Washington Co., Ore., Apr. 2 (HN), and numbers were present with many W. Grebes on Davis L., in the Oregon Cascades Apr 23 (LM). A single Eared Grebe was noted at Quadra I., B.C., May 1 (HT) and one or two birds were in the vicinity of Victoria Mar. 9–Apr. 20 (VG *et al.*). The count of 3000 W Grebes at Saanich Inlet, Vancouver I., Mar. 18 was by far the highest total for this species during the season.

Good numbers of Black-footed Albatrosses were found at sea up to 100 mi off the Washington coast the third week

of April; on May 15, 62 were observed off Westport, Wash. (TW) A single Laysan Albatross followed the vessel from 25 mi off Westport to within five mi of the coast Apr. 15 (TW) Small numbers of N. Fulmars were found dead on Sunset Beach through much of the spring (HN); very few were seen at sea on the boat trips (TW). Although no Pink-footed Shearwaters were recorded in April, 50 were counted at sea from Westport May 15; on the same day two Flesh-footed Shearwaters were noted (TW). Hundreds of Sooty Shearwaters were to be seen at the mouth of the Columbia R., after May 7 (HN), whereas good numbers were found at sea from Westport by the third week of April (TW). Three freshly dead Short-tailed Shearwaters were picked up on Sunset Beach May 21 (HN). Only one Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel was found on the April cruise from Westport, but on May 15 six were observed (TW). Small and scattered numbers of Leach's Storm-Petrels were seen moving steadily northward 100 mi at sea Apr. 20-21 (TW).

On Apr. 6, 1000 Brandt's Cormorants were at Active Pass in the Gulf Is., on the s.e. side of Vancouver I. (KS, *fide* VG). Green Herons were widely noted in w. Oregon, were reported from two w. Washington localities, and a single individual was found at Duncan, B.C., during the spring season. Four Great Egrets were at Tillamook Bay Mar. 12 (JBC *et al.*), one was at Leadbetter Pt., Pacific Co., Wash., Apr. 9 (DD), and one was last recorded at Salem, where it had been much of the winter, Apr. 8 (RL). The Snowy Egret which had been at Coos Bay all winter remained for the spring season (AC). A Black-crowned Night Heron was found at Yaquina Bay, Mar. 10 (RB, *fide* FR).

WATERFOWL—A Whistling Swan was at Davis L., Apr. 21, where six had been present Mar. 6 (LM). Four Trumpeter Swans were at Cowichan Bay, Vancouver I., until Mar. 19; two were at Duncan, B.C., Mar. 29 (VG, RS). 'Thousands' of Canada Geese migrated over Campbell R., B.C., Mar. 30 (HT), and 2900 were observed over Tofino, B.C., Apr. 29-May 1, where many more were heard overhead in morning fogs (JCo). On Apr. 3 'thousands' of Brant had congregated at Jamestown Bay on Washington's Olympic Pen. (DS); 2500 had been at Netarts and Tillamook Bays Mar. 12 (JBC *et al.*). Two 'Tule' Geese in company with eight other White-fronted Geese stopped at Cowichan Bay May 5-7 (JCo). A ♂ Green-winged (Eurasian) Teal was at Saanich on Vancouver I., Mar. 17-Apr. 27 (VG *et al.*). On Mar. 12, 218 Green-winged Teal were at N. Saanich (VG *et al.*). A ♂ Garganey was seen and photographed at Sea and Iona Is., s. of Vancouver, B.C., May 14, May 17 & May 28 (BM, VG *et al.*); although the bird would apparently constitute the first record for British Columbia (the species has been noted previously in both Alberta and Manitoba), one cannot entirely dismiss the possibility of it being an escaped captive. European Wigeons were recorded at a few favored places in the region until Apr. 21. Five individual N. Shovelers were last seen at Saanich May 26 (LR, *fide* VG), but four pairs were still at Duncan May 31 (JCo).

On Apr. 23 several small groups of Redheads were noted on Davis L. (LM); five males were seen at Saanich Mar. 1 (M&BM, *fide* VG), and four individuals of this species were at Tillamook Bay Mar. 12 (JBC *et al.*). A concentration of 107 Ring-necked Ducks at Saanich Mar. 5 (VG *et al.*) is of interest. The 300 Canvasbacks at Tillamook Bay Mar. 12 (JBC *et al.*) comprised the largest reported concentration of the season for this species. A heavy migration of Greater Scaup occurred past the Columbia R. mouth Apr. 30 and May 7-8 (HN *et al.*); 1000 of these birds were 12 mi n. of Nanaimo, B.C., Apr. 10 (HT). Two ♂ Com. Goldeneye were at Genoa Bay, Vancouver I., May 31 (JCo), a pair was

at Lost L., on the Santiam Highway, Marion Co., Ore., May 20 (ME, TF, *fide* AC). Barrow's Goldeneyes were recorded at a number of lakes in Oregon's high Cascades after mid-April. Up to ten Oldsquaws wintered at Yaquina Bay, Ore., until Mar. 19 (RB *et al.*), 20 were at Olympia Apr. 27 (RSt, *fide* GH), and good numbers could be found around s. Vancouver I. during March (VG). Single subadult ♂ King Eiders were found Apr. 6 at Port Angeles, Wash., (WHO) and May 8 at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. (DF *et al.*). Small numbers of Black Scoters were mixed into the flocks of other scoters streaming N past the mouth of the Columbia R., Apr. 30 and May 7-8 (HN *et al.*); 50 were at Cannon Beach, Ore., Apr. 24 (DD). A concentration of 168 Hooded Mergansers at Saanich Mar. 5 (VG *et al.*) is of interest.

RAPTORS, GAMEBIRDS—The first Turkey Vultures of the season appeared in mid-March as far north as Hood Canal in Washington and at Sooke, B.C., on Vancouver I. A nest of the White-tailed Kite was found at Finley N.W.R. this spring where none could be found last year, despite the presence of a pair there which, judging by the two immatures which accompanied it by late summer, had nested successfully. This year's nest, when checked May 9, held one egg and three dead young (*fide* FR). A Goshawk was observed e. of Dungeness, Wash., Apr. 3 (DS). Sightings involving approximately ten Sharp-shinned Hawks and a dozen Cooper's Hawks were reported from w. Oregon, w. Washington, and s. British Columbia. An ad. Swainson's Hawk was seen at Saanich Apr. 23 (RS *et al.*, *fide* VG). Only three reports of Rough-legged Hawks—all from Oregon or Washington coastal points prior to the fourth week in March—were received. A copulating pair of Golden Eagles was observed n. of Victoria Apr. 30 (VG, RS); an immature was seen in the vicinity of Victoria Mar. 10-Apr. 3 (VG *et al.*). Bald Eagles numbering up to ten in a day were seen during the report period at approximately a dozen localities, ranging from the Cascades to the coast, single Marsh Hawks were observed at Davis L., and at five localities on s. Vancouver I., on various dates in March and April; two birds were seen in Tillamook County Mar. 12 and at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Apr. 30—altogether a very poor seasonal representation for this species. Ospreys were noted at a minimum of ten localities from s. Vancouver I southward during the spring season, most after mid-April. Only three observations of Peregrines were reported. Merlins were noted only slightly more frequently.

Ruffed Grouse were almost totally unreported, except from Victoria. A small group of Bobwhite was near Salem, Ore., this spring (JS); ten of these birds were seen s. of Sequim, Wash., May 26 (DS). A Turkey was seen Apr. 21 on Sidney I., B.C., where the species was introduced about ten years ago (MGS, *fide* VG). On Mar. 16 approximately 100 Sandhill Cranes flew over Brownsville, Ore. (HTA, *fide* FR); one on Apr. 5, then three on Apr. 12 were at Dungeness (DS). Ten localities reported Virginia Rails, sometimes repeatedly this spring, with only half that many noting an occasional Sora.

SHOREBIRDS—On Mar. 12 a flock of 70 Black Oystercatchers was observed at Malcolm I., off Vancouver I., B.C. (F.G. Hart, *fide* VG). On Apr. 29 there were 280 Semipalmated Plovers at Tofino, B.C. (JCo). Up to four pairs of Snowy Plovers were noted at Tillamook Bay, Sunset Beach, and Ocean Shores, Wash., in April. Single Black-bellied Plovers were found at Fern Ridge Res., w. of Eugene, Ore., Apr. 20 (LM), and at Sauvie I., w. of Portland Apr. 16 (JG, DI). Totals of 18, 30 and 86 Ruddy Turnstones were

seen at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. (DF *et al.*), at Ocean Shores, and on the Hoquiam, Wash. flats (G&WH) Apr 29–May 14. On Mar. 18 at Yaquina Bay 180 Black Turnstones were counted (DF, HN). Single Long-billed Curlews appeared at Corvallis Apr. 22 (E&EE, *vide* FR), at Yaquina Head Apr. 27 (JBC, *vide* FR), and at Ocean Shores May 23 (J&GM, *vide* GH); it is possible that the same individual was the subject of all three sightings. Numerous observations were made at coastal locations of Whimbrel Mar. 21–May 21, the 250 near Tofino, B.C., Apr. 29 (JCo) being by far the largest concentration.

A Solitary Sandpiper appeared at Yaquina Bay Apr. 21 (DFa, *vide* FR). A concentration of 60 Wandering Tattlers at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., May 8 (DF *et al.*) is noteworthy. A flock of Willets—number unspecified—was at Willapa Bay between Raymond and Tokeland in the first part of March (m.ob., *vide* PM). The 200 Red Knots at Ocean Shores Apr. 29–30 (G&WH) was by far the highest total for the season, the species being recorded only at three other localities. On Mar. 26 there were 50 Rock Sandpipers at Ocean Shores, where 20 were still present Apr. 29 (G&WH). Single Pectoral Sandpipers, rare in the region in spring, were observed at Corvallis Apr. 25 (HTa, *vide* FR) and at Port Townsend, Wash., May 21 (A&DSt). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was found at Clover Pt., Victoria, Apr. 20 (RS, *vide* VG); the bird is extremely rare in this region. Up to six Baird's Sandpipers were noted at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. on three occasions Apr. 17–May 7 (DD, JG, DI, HN); a flock of 8000 Dunlin was there on the latter date (HN). Hundreds of Least Sandpipers were found Apr 23 at Davis L. in Oregon's high Cascades (LM). The 200 Short-billed Dowitchers at Yaquina Bay Apr. 19 (DF, HN) and the 900 Long-Billed Dowitchers near Tofino Apr. 29 were peak counts for these two species this season.

Up to a dozen Marbled Godwits were recorded on three dates at Ocean Shores, and on one date at Sunset Beach, the s. jetty of the Columbia R., and at Tofino, Apr. 16–May 30. Two Hudsonian Godwits occurred at Ocean Shores May 14 (G&WH, AR). An estimated 20,000 Sanderlings were at Sunset Beach May 21 (HN). Single Am. Avocets were recorded at Fern Ridge Res., Apr. 23 (SG, *vide* LM) and at Reifel Refuge, s. of Vancouver, B.C., May 19 (JSK, *vide* TW). Two Black-necked Stilts were found at Brownsville, Ore., Apr 25 (HTa, *vide* FR). On May 7, there were 40 Red Phalaropes at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. (DF). Wilson's Phalaropes were seen a number of times during the spring in n Puget Sound and the Straits of Georgia (TW, JCo, RS). Hundreds of N. Phalaropes were at Ocean Shores May 23 (J&GM, *vide* G&WH); 15 were at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., May 7 (DF) while very few were seen at sea from Westport May 15 (TW).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS—On May 15 eight Pomarine and 15 Parasitic Jaegers were recorded at sea out of Westport (TW). Other Parasitics were observed at the mouth of the Columbia R., at Willapa Bay, Grays Harbor and at Bellingham during May. Glaucous Gulls were reported seen on six occasions at various coastal points in the region, mostly in March. Small numbers of Herring Gulls were found along the Oregon coast in May after being very scarce all winter Occasional California Gulls were noted at coastal points after mid-March. Bonaparte's Gulls were in migration along the coast from mid-April to mid-May, with concentrations of up to 900 individuals seen at two places in the Strait of Georgia on the first three days of May. Black-legged Kittiwakes were found at a few coastal points after mid-March, the 70 at Yaquina Bay Mar. 19 (RB, *vide* FR) being particularly noteworthy. In mid-April numbers of

kittiwakes were moving N at sea off Westport; in mid-May numbers were inshore there (TW). Up to a score of Sabine's Gulls were seen off the s. jetty of the Columbia R., May 8 (DF *et al.*), and at sea from Westport May 15 (TW).

On Apr. 23 there were ten Forster's Terns at Davis L., in the Oregon Cascades (AW, *vide* LM). An estimated 100 Com. Terns were noted at Ocean Shores Apr. 29 & May 14 (G&WH); it was the consensus that migrant numbers past the mouth of the Columbia R. were well below normal this season, although migrant Arctic Terns there were more in evidence than usual (HN *et al.*). As early as Apr. 16 there were 30 Caspian Terns at Ocean Shores (G&WH); two were at Scoggins Valley Park, near Forest Grove, Ore., Apr 22 (HN).

On the evening of May 21 an estimated 5000 Com Murres were trading in and out between the jetties at the mouth of the Columbia R. (JBC, JGO). Pigeon Guillemots were recorded mostly in the Straits of Juna de Fuca and of Georgia, but a few were also noted from time to time during the report period along the n. Oregon coast. Marbled Murrelets were less noted, but as many as six in a day could be found at Victoria in April and in May (VG). Cassin's Auklets were said to be in good numbers off Westport in mid-April and in mid-May (TW). On May 21 several dozen Rhinoceros Auklets were just off Sea Lion Caves, near Florence, Ore. (AC *et al.*); flocks of 15–20 birds were moving N 100 mi off the Washington coast Apr. 20–21 (TW), a few Rhinoceros Auklets could be found at Victoria from Mar. 24 to the end of May (VG *et al.*). Tufted Puffins were present at sea off Westport in mid-April, but on May 15 a high count of 35 was made (TW).

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS—On Mar. 5, seven Snowy Owls were recorded on the Samish Flats, near Bellingham (TW); an individual was at Beaverton, Ore., for several days the second week of March (DF *et al.*) A Burrowing Owl was found e. of Harrisburg, Ore., Mar. 16 & 18 (HTa, *vide* FR); another was seen at Gold Beach, Ore., Mar 22 (CW), one was at N. Portland Apr. 9 (*vide* HN), and still another was at Baskett Slough N.W.R., w. of Salem, Ore., May 4 (TM). Up to three Short-eared Owls were recorded at each of seven localities during the report period. Saw-whet Owls were reported from only three points.

S.A.

On May 3–6 a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was present at Howard Telosky's feeder, seven mi s of Campbell R. on the Strait of Georgia; the record is well documented through close observation and with some useful photographs. The bird was smaller than the Rufous Hummingbirds which were also present and which were dominated by the interloper; it moved with a quiet hum during the three times an apparent courtship flight was observed, and it had a decidedly forked rather than rounded tail, all of which serve to distinguish the bird from the more likely-to-occur Broad-tailed Hummingbird. It might be added that the bird was seen by a number of other observers. This represents the first regional record for the Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

An out-of-place Poor-will, which later died and was found to have no body fat or food in its stomach, was caught in a Portland warehouse May 3 (HN *et al.*). Up to a dozen Black Swifts were noted on s. Vancouver I. in the last three days of May (JCo, ARD, RM-G, *vide* VG). On May 16 there were 300 Vaux's Swifts at Corvallis, Ore., where a few had first

appeared Apr. 18 (DM). Anna's Hummingbirds were noted singly near Campbell R., B.C., Mar. 16-23 (HT), at Corvallis Mar. 22 (DM), and at Bellingham Apr. 2 (TW); at Saanich four or five males were present through the spring and a lone female was observed three times Apr. 4-May 3 (VG, RS *et al.*); at Portland a ♀ Anna's acted territorially most of April and early May at Reed College (DD) and a pair was at the Hagenstein residence much of the spring (*vide* JBC).

A Calliope Hummingbird appeared at Wolf Creek, Ore., Apr. 14 (EP), two were seen at Eugene Apr. 19 (AC, *vide* LM), and one was seen there Apr. 21 (LM). The only reported Lewis' Woodpeckers were the two found at Fern Ridge Res., w. of Eugene, May 28 (LM). A ♀ Williamson's Sapsucker was seen at White Pass in the Washington Cascades May 1 (G&WH).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRUSHES—There were five observations of W. Kingbirds in w. Oregon and two in w. Washington this spring; surprisingly, five of the seven records came Apr. 22-29 and could probably be explained by the wind patterns prevailing in the last few days of the third week in April. A Say's Phoebe was noted at L. Terrell, Whatcom Co., Wash., Apr. 13 (PD, *vide* TW). Willow Flycatchers were late and seemed down in numbers, but W Flycatchers seem to have been present in better numbers than several years ago when observers expressed concern about their status. A Bank Swallow was found in Manning P P., B.C., May 27 (VG). A very early Cliff Swallow was at Roseburg, Ore., Mar. 12 (GG). Purple Martins appeared first in the second week of April at Fern Ridge Res., Portland, and Chehalem Mt., s.w. of Portland; on May 21-22 a few appeared at Gold Ray Dam, Jackson Co., Ore., for the first time in years (TL).

Further evidence of the Blue Jay invasion to the Northwest of last fall and winter was furnished by records of individuals in this season at N. Bend, Ore., from last November to early April (BF, *vide* AC), at Duncan, B.C., Mar. 1-Apr. 9 (JCo *et al.*), and at N. Saanich Mar. 6 & Apr. 19 (*vide* VG). House Wrens were reported at Wolf Creek, Ore., by Apr. 19 (EP) and were thereafter noted at a number of locations in the Willamette Valley and Puget Sound trough as far n. as Quadra I., B.C. (HT). Bewick's Wrens were said to be very common at Campbell R. (HT) and to be readily found in the vicinity of Victoria (VG). Single Rock Wrens were seen at Portland Apr. 26 (DF *et al.*), at Eugene two days later (ME, *vide* LM), and at Vancouver, B.C., May 26-29 (DMA, RW).

A Mockingbird was present at Sidney, B.C., May 5-16 (Mrs T. Flint, *vide* VG), a Gray Catbird was found at Quadra I., B.C., Apr. 17 (WD, HT), and a Brown Thrasher turned up at Shady Cove, Ore., May 25 (JH). Swainson's Thrushes were late in migrating, few being present by the end of May; several observers have commented on the relative absence of this species in the region this year, causing speculation concerning the possibility of some major disaster to large numbers of these birds during migration. Western Bluebirds continue to be decidedly uncommon, appearing only at relatively few favored localities. Individual Mountain Bluebirds appeared w. of Eugene Mar. 6 (AS, AP, *vide* LM) and at Ocean Shores Apr. 9 (G&WH). Townsend's Solitaires were recorded s. of Powers, Ore., s.e. of Brownsville, at Eugene and at Victoria in April, and at Wolf Creek and on the Olympic Peninsula in May.

GNATCATCHERS, VIREOS, WARBLERS, BLACK-BIRDS—On May 29 Wayne Hoffman found a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Big L., on the Santiam Hwy., in Oregon's Cascade Mts., the bird was foraging in a stand of lodgepole

pinus and Douglas firs 15-20 feet tall; there was still a bit of snow on the ground. A large flock of Water Pipits was at Davis L., Apr. 23 (LM). A N. Shrike at Florence on the Oregon coast Mar. 25 (CW) was one of five March reports, the bird at Scoggins Valley Park, near Forest Grove, Ore., Apr. 2 (HN) was the last of the season. Hutton's Vireos were less uncommon than usual, at least in n.w. Oregon and s. Vancouver I. A Red-eyed Vireo was at Saanich May 29 (RS, *vide* VG). There were six reports of Nashville Warblers—some involving more than one individual—for w. Oregon Apr. 17-May 2. Good movements of Townsend's Warblers were noted at Corvallis Apr. 17 (LM), and in the Olympics May 5 (RJP, *vide* DS). The Palm Warbler which had been present at Scoggins Valley Park continued to be seen until late April (HN *et al.*). Common Yellowthroats arrived early, with the most striking evidence of that fact being the "many males" at Fern Ridge Res., Apr. 6 (LM). Up to six W Meadowlarks were recorded on the s. end of Vancouver I., in March. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were located at four places in the s. or middle Willamette Valley, at Sauvie I., at Siltcoos L., and at Davis L. in Oregon and at L. Terrell, Whatcom Co., Wash., all after the first week of April. Northern Orioles were scarce, the only record n. of Corvallis being a female at Saanich, May 21 (RM-G, *vide* VG).

GROSBEAKS, FINCHES, SPARROWS—Five Black-headed Grosbeaks as far n. as Dungeness, Wash., Mar. 28 (SS, *vide* DS) were inexplicably early, since it was a month or more until others were recorded in the region. A Lazuli Bunting at Grants Pass Mar. 25 (GG) was even farther ahead of the rest of its tribe, the next earliest recorded arrival not being until May 7 at Corvallis. While Purple Finches were said to be scarce on Vancouver I. this spring, they were unusually numerous in n.w. Oregon. A ♀ Cassin's Finch was at an Olympia feeder Apr. 22 (G&WH); numbers of this species were seen at Davis L., Apr. 23 (LM). A Pine Grosbeak was observed 20 mi s.e. of Brownsville, Ore., Apr. 24 (GG), five or six were seen at Big L., Ore., May 9 (DD), and a pair was noted at Manning P. P., May 5 (VG). The concentration of 110 Am. Goldfinches at Scoggins Valley Park May 13 (HN) is noteworthy. A single Lesser Goldfinch was seen in Portland Mar. 14 (DD). A **Black-throated Sparrow** at Sutton L., n. of Florence, Ore., Apr. 26 is said to have been recorded by good photographs (*vide* AC). Sage Sparrows were noted at Toledo, Ore., Apr. 12 (DFa), at Lebanon, Ore., Apr. 14 (WT), and at Olympia Mar. 16-Apr. 3 (DH, G&WH). A Tree Sparrow was discovered at Oak Bay, Victoria Mar. 25 (M&BM, *vide* VG), and a Brewer's Sparrow turned up at Ocean Park, Pacific Co., Wash., Apr. 22 (IB). A Harris' Sparrow was seen at Duncan, B.C., Mar. 29-30 (JCo) and one was at Campbell R., B.C., May 2 (HT). White-throated Sparrows were observed at Eugene, at Dungeness, at Carnation, Wash., and at Saanich, the last date being Apr. 28. On Apr. 29 twenty Lapland Longspurs were at Ocean Shores (G&WH) and on May 7 two were found at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. (DF). A ♂ **Chestnut-collared Longspur** was at Victoria May 1-3 (VG, RS *et al.*).

OBSERVERS—John Annear, Range Bayer, Irving Burr, John Comer (JCo), Alan Contreras, John B. Crowell, Jr., A. R. Davidson, Paul DeBruyn, Dave DeSante, W. DuBois, Mark Egger, E. & Elsie Eltzroth, Ben Fawver, Darrell Faxon (DFa), Ted Finnell, David Fix, Jeff Gilligan, Greg Gillson, Vic Goodwill, Steve Gordon, David Hayward, Joseph Hicks, Wayne Hoffman (WHo), Glen & Wanda Hoge, David Irons, Robert Lucas, Tom Lund, Jim & Gloria Maender, Bruce MacDonald, Don MacDonald, Rob Mackenzie-Grieve, David Mark (DMA), Phil Mattocks, Tom McCamant,

Larry McQueen, Michael & Barbara Meiklejohn, Harry Nehls, James G. Olson, Al Prigge, R. J. Pringle, Eleanor Pugh, Fred Ramsey, Allan Richards, Leila Roberts, Ron Satterfield, Michael G. Shepard, Jeff Skireltz (JSk), Aaron Skirvin, Dory Smith, Stan Smith, Jerry Smith, Roger Stanley (RSt), Al & Debbie Staples (A&DSt), Ken Summers, Howard Taylor (HTa), Howard Telosky, William Thackaberry, Terence Wahl, Clarice Watson, Robin Weber, Al Winter—**JOHN B. CROWELL, JR., 1185 Hallinan Circle, Lake Oswego, OR 97034** and **HARRY B. NEHLS, 2736 S.E. 20th Avenue, Portland, OR 97202.**

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION
/ Jon Winter and Joseph Morlan

The worst drought on record continued into spring with most of the water districts adopting compulsory water rationing. In the Central Valley most of the ponds and wet fields dried up early, displacing many migrating shorebirds to the few small ponds which remained. Cool and rather wet weather typified the first three weeks in May, with some

LOONS, GREBES—Three Com. Loons at Silver L. Mono Co., May 14 (TH) were late for the basin, and one at the Farallon Islands (below, F.I.) May 17 (RS, P.R.B.O.) represented one of the island's few records. The Yellow billed Loon found in February remained at Princeton Harbor through Mar. 29 (KVV). A late Red-throated Loon at L. Chabot, Solano Co., May 21 (MR) was the only one reported from the interior. Horned Grebes were widespread in small numbers in the Central Valley (below, C.V.) as is now expected, but ten at Redding May 12 (SAL) were late.

TUBENOSES—Black-footed Albatrosses were fairly common offshore but it is difficult to explain why so many appeared close to shore at Pigeon Pt. (see Table 1); a similar study conducted last year yielded only two birds. Two Laysan Albatrosses were seen from shore at Pigeon Pt. Mar. 17 and another appeared there May 15 (BSa). The only other Laysan found was washed up dead Mar. 2 at Sharp Park, San Mateo Co. (Matt Leddy, *vide* PM).

S.A.

A good description of a probable imm. Black-browed Albatross was received (BSa). Seen from shore at Pigeon Pt., Mar. 24 from a distance at times of less than a quarter mile, the bird was following a tanker in the company of two Black-footed Albatrosses. However, imm. Gray-headed Albatrosses look quite similar to imm. Black-broweds and only a closer look at the head could positively identify the bird in question. It is appropriate to mention that an unidentified white albatross was reported offshore in Monterey Bay Feb. 28 (Glenn Moffatt). It was described as "similar to the Laysans, with which it was associating, but slightly smaller and with a distinctly dark head." Observers should look closely at all light-bellied albatrosses and be aware of the field characters of the southern hemisphere species which may have generated these reports.



areas receiving nearly three inches of badly-needed rain. This late cool spell caused some nest abandonment in a few species and forced migrating Vaux's Swifts to seek shelter with tragic results (see below).

Many observers noted that some flycatchers, warblers, and vireos arrived earlier than normal. The most exciting finds of the period were Scaled Petrel, Little Gull, and another Hepatic Tanager. An impressive migration of landbirds was witnessed on Point Reyes and on the Farallon Islands in June: the summer report should be rather extraordinary.

Joe Morlan is kindly filling in for Dick Erickson for the summer months while Dick is in Alaska. Dick will return as our regular regional co-editor in the fall. Meanwhile . . . thanks Joe! A dagger (†) means that documentation is on file with the editors.

This spring a team of observers studied the migration of sea birds from shore at Pigeon Point, San Mateo County. In 433 hours on 54 days it logged an incredible 949,727 individuals of 43 species of migrating birds. Table 1 shows some of its results.

On May 1 Sarah Hutchinson and Georgia Saviers found a **Scaled Petrel** sitting on pickleweed along the w. shore of Bolinas Lagoon and brought it to P.R.B.O. It was force fed with shrimp and nursed for two days until it could be brought to International Bird Rescue in Berkeley where it died May 8 Heavy feather wear indicated that it was probably an adult (RS, BSo, P.R.B.O.). This was the first Scaled Petrel to be seen alive in the region. There are two previous records of beached birds found dead.

Last winter's flight of N. Fulmars left 13 in Monterey Bay Mar. 6, but there was only one present by the end of the period. Pink-footed Shearwaters were more common than usual, but the number of Short-tailed Shearwaters broke all previous spring records. Three to five were found in Monterey Bay Mar. 6 & Apr. 24 (RS). This species' status is still not well understood, but most reports are from mid-winter. A total of nine Manx Shearwaters was seen, all from shore Singles passed Pigeon Pt., Mar. 21, Apr. 3, 4, 15, 20 May 3, 14, 18 (BSa *et al.*) and one was noted at Santa Cruz Apr. 22 (DP). On all birds the dark vent was observed, and all were flying N with little delay! The evidence is compelling that a definite spring migration of Manx Shearwaters took place along our coast. No such migration has ever been noted in the region before, and the species' occurrence has been erratic.

Amazing was a movement of an estimated 250 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels going N past the F.I., Mar. 18 (RLeV P.R.B.O.). This was the largest concentration ever recorded

in the region. The only Leach's Storm-Petrel reported was one found freshly dead at Sharp Park Mar. 2 (Matt Leddy, *vide* PM). Although the species breeds on the F.I., it is seldom encountered away from its breeding areas except far offshore.

PELICANS, HERONS—For the first time in recent years the Brown Pelican successfully wintered in the region. At least five were present throughout the period at Pt. Pinos, and a rash of early returnees was reported, led by one Apr 7 at Pigeon Pt. (PM).

As usual Cattle Egrets were concentrated in Humboldt Bay with nine at the Arcata Bottoms Mar. 6 (*vide* DRu). Four in n.e. Contra Costa Co., Mar. 13 (R&LJ) were the only others reported. There was a Least Bittern at Gray Lodge Apr. 2 (BED, TM, JH). A White-faced Ibis at the Orange Cove Sewage Lagoon, Fresno Co., May 16 was late and out of place (RG).

WATERFOWL—Nine Whistling Swans at the Yolo Bypass Apr 10 (*vide* BK) were late. "Aleutian" Canada Geese were tracked from the San Joaquin Valley to Crescent City where they were found Apr. 7–8 (BED). One at the F.I., Mar. 15 (RLeV, P.R.B.O.) was attributed to this subspecies. Single light-bellied "American" Brant were observed migrating past Pigeon Pt., Mar. 27 & Apr. 9 (BSa, PM). A Snow Goose passing Pigeon Pt., Apr. 10 (PM) was the only one reported coastally. Two blue-phase Snow Geese were found: one present during April at Gray Lodge was last seen May 2 (BED) Another was at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Apr. 17 (*vide* MT). A single Ross' Goose keeping company with "Aleutian" Canada Geese at Crescent City Apr. 7–8 (BED) appears to provide the second Del Norte County record.

Blue-winged Teal had a banner year. In Tulare County, they were found "everywhere this spring" (RAB) with six males the maximum at Bravo L., Apr. 6. Observers found a total of 45 individuals, mostly in the C.V., with the peak in April. A hybrid Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal appeared at Los Banos Mar. 3 (RG † *et al.*). The description precludes the possibility that it was the same individual there last year. A hybrid Cinnamon Teal x N. Shoveler was described from the Caldwell Ponds, Tulare Co. (JLi †, *vide* RAB). There is one previous regional record of this form. Up to five Eur. Wigeons concentrated at Bolinas Lagoon through the end of March (RS *et al.*). A late Ring-necked Duck lingered to May 4 at the Bolinas Sewage Ponds (JE). A hybrid Ring-necked Duck x scaup *sp.* stayed at L. Merritt until Mar. 27 (SFB). Five Greater Scaup occurred at three interior localities, where they are scarce. Up to two were at Tule Lake N.W.R., Mar. 7–12 (DS, SJ *et al.*); two were at the Woodland Sugar Ponds Apr. 8–17 (*vide* BK); and one was very late at Lower Klamath N W R , May 16 (*vide* MT).

The **Tufted Duck** which had been present at L. Merritt was rediscovered across the Oakland estuary at the Pacific Marina in Alameda Mar. 19–28 (Kathleen Edises, DRo, AE *et al.*). The controversial Tufted Duck x Ring-necked Duck (x Greater Scaup?) was last seen at Rodeo Lagoon Mar. 6 (JM). Coastally Com. Goldeneye lingered late, the last being a female at the F.I., May 18 (RS, P.R.B.O.) where it is rare in spring. A total of six Barrow's Goldeneyes appeared, mostly along the coast, but an imm. male sitting in the Sutro Baths, S. F., Mar. 23 (PM) was at an odd locality. Three ♀ Buffleheads lingered at Bolinas until May 25 (RS). In the C V a late Bufflehead left Gray Lodge May 12 (BED).

Eight Oldsquaws stayed along the coast with a maximum of three at Princeton Harbor. One lingered late at Monterey until Apr 24 (RS). Only five Harlequin Ducks appeared along the coast, and one which spent the winter inside S. F. Bay at Brisbane left Mar 27 (AE, GB) Black Scoters peaked in

early March at Pt. Reyes with 40 present there Mar. 2 (DS) A maximum of 21 flew past Pigeon Pt., Apr. 21 and a total of 111 was counted there this season (BSa).

Hooded Merganser reports totaled 40, all at expected localities, with the last being two females at Pt. Reyes Apr 7 (DS, P.R.B.O.). The largest concentration of Com Mergansers was 200 at L. Success, Tulare Co., Mar. 5 (RAB) but they all left by Mar. 20. One was unexpected flying past Pigeon Pt., Apr. 14 (BSa). A total of 13 Red-breasted Mergansers penetrated to the interior of the region at nine localities Mar. 19–Apr. 17. This appears to be the time when this species is most likely to be found inland.

KITES, HAWKS, FALCONS—White-tailed Kites spread into Shasta County in earnest this year with pairs found at Anderson and Palo Cedro (PD), but only at the expense of the regular population at the n. end of the C.V. where there were fewer than usual (SAL). Three remained at Honey L through Mar. 12 (RS) where the species is still considered casual.

Goshawks nested at the low elevation of 1300 ft on the n coast (DAG), and another wandered down from its usual mountain habitat to Jacoby Creek, Humboldt Co., May 25 (Roy Lowe, *vide* DRu). Five hours' observation at San Bruno Mt., Apr. 14–26 yielded 12 migrating Sharp-shinned Hawks and five Cooper's Hawks (PM). An ad. Sharp-shinned above Kernville Apr. 30 was late for the C.V.

A Red-tailed Hawk of the form *B. j. harlani* at Tule L , Mar. 7 (DS, SJ) was the only one of this subspecies reported. A total of 22 Swainson's Hawks near Woodland Apr. 19 (RS) was the maximum reported. A late Rough-legged Hawk and a late Ferruginous Hawk remained in the Sacramento-Davis area until Apr. 18 (*vide* BK).

Most of the known Bald Eagle territories in the n. part of the region were active (*vide* PD), but one at Seiad Valley was thought to have failed (*vide* MT). Two seen carrying sticks near Juanita L. were in an area where there are no known nest sites (MT). A nesting attempt by Ospreys at Pt. Reyes apparently failed. One seen near the F.I., May 24 (RS) was a first spring record for the island.

Seven Peregrine Falcons were reported with only one from the interior; but of 11 Merlins found, about half were interior and half coastal. An unusual Am. Kestrel nesting site near Tiburon was in the enclosed eave of an unused building. Two young were fledged. The entrance was via a ventilation hole (BL).

GROUSE, CRANES, GALLINULES—Blue Grouse appeared regularly along the Mt. Shasta Ski Bowl Highway in late April, but one which spent the month of March feeding with chickens in a yard at Paskenta was very much out of place (*vide* SAL). The nearest grouse habitat was within a few miles. Ruffed Grouse were absent from most of their few known localities but seven found Apr. 10 at Maple Creek, Humboldt Co. (W. Heard, *vide* DRu) appear to be the most ever reported from a single locality. Over 70 Sage Grouse at Crowley L., Mar. 4 (CH) was a high count.

Thirty Sandhill Cranes were seen flying E over Cedar Pass (el. 6000 ft) in the Warner Mts., Mar. 6 (DS, SJ). They are very seldom seen in the mountains. A Com. Gallinule at Grenada, Siskiyou Co. (MT†) was in an area where the species is casual.

SHOREBIRDS—A Black-necked Stilt at Bolinas Lagoon Apr. 4 (GP) was out of place as were two at L. Merced, S.F., May 9 (PM). Two Semipalmated Plovers at Lower Klamath N.W.R. remained unusually late until May 30 (*vide* MT) A pair of Killdeer successfully fledged three

young from a nest built on white crushed rock on the roof of a school in Auburn (MA). The Snowy Plover is rare in the interior, but one arrived very early at the Orange Cove Sewage Lagoon Apr. 1 (RG). One found Apr. 5 at the Caldwell Ponds (RAB) was only the second Tulare County record, but it was followed by another there Apr. 23–24, and three on May 10 with one still there May 15. The last Mountain Plovers left Dunnigan, Yolo Co., on time Mar. 19 (SAL). There was an Am. Golden Plover at Pajaro Dunes Apr. 12 (J&RW). Two others occurred at Pigeon Pt., Mar. 13 (PM) and another was late there on May 14 (BSa). A Black-bellied Plover at Millville Plains Apr. 11 (SAL) furnished a first Shasta County record, but there were 210 at Cottonwood, Shasta Co., Apr. 24 (SAL).

Always rare in the interior, single Marbled Godwits were found at Davis Apr. 8 (*vide* BK) and at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Apr. 22 (*vide* MT). One at the F.I., May 21 (RS, P.R.B.O.) was only the second spring record for the island. Whimbrels were much more common than usual both along the coast and inland. Three at the Caldwell Ponds Apr. 7 (RAB) represented the first Tulare County records, but flocks of up to 200 appeared in the county later. The species was last seen there May 12. Most unusual were Whimbrels at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Apr. 17 (*vide* MT) and at Mono L., May 22 (Walter Halland) since these seem to be the first spring records of the Sierra-Cascade axis.

A concentration of 19 Lesser Yellowlegs near the Dumbarton Bridge toll plaza Mar. 6 (EM) exceeded all other reports combined. Single Solitary Sandpipers appeared at Gray Lodge Apr. 21 (BED) and at L. Shastina May 11 (*vide* MT). This species is irregular in spring. A sudden rainstorm in the northern C.V., May 11 grounded an amazing 20 Willets near Redding (PD) and one near Red Bluff (SAL) which marked the second Tehama County record. The only other C V report came from near Sacramento Mar. 26 (*vide* BK). A Wandering Tattler May 30 at Ano Nuevo (AE,GB) was late.

Remarkable was a Ruddy Turnstone at Lower Klamath N.W.R., May 13 (*vide* MT). There are only two previous basin records, both in fall. Even more unusual was a breeding-plumaged Black Turnstone at the Woodland Sugar Ponds May 12 (RS†) for the second C.V. record.

Over 20 territorial displaying Com. Snipe were found in May in n Tehama and s. Shasta Cos. (SAL). They have been suspected of breeding in this area for the last three years. When is someone going to find a nest? Short-billed Dowitchers are now expected in small numbers in the C.V., during migration, but one at Woodland Apr. 8–11 was the only one reported (J. Langham, *vide* BK).

The Sanderling is very rare in the interior, but seven were found away from the coast. Two were at Lower Klamath N.W.R., May 1 and two others were there May 30 (*vide* MT) which is very late. Three Sanderlings remained at the Orange Cove Sewage Lagoon Apr. 27–May 8 (RG) and a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** found there Apr. 24 stayed through May 2 (RG†) This was the second C.V. and fourth regional spring record. A few W. Sandpipers lingered until May 30 at Lower Klamath N.W.R., where they were late. The **Baird's Sandpiper** goes virtually unrecorded in California in spring but three were unquestionably present at Abbott's Lagoon Apr. 19 with one there Apr. 14 and Apr. 27 (GP†). Extreme caution should be exercised in identifying this species in spring, and observers should always note the distinctive call. Casual in spring, two Pectoral Sandpipers were well described from the Caldwell Ponds Apr. 7 (RAB†). Five Rock Sandpipers were reported, with three still at Bodega Head Mar. 20 (BDP) and one still at Princeton Harbor Mar. 30 (PM). The **Ruff** which spent the winter at Pacific Grove was last seen Mar. 19 (Debi Robinson, *vide* DRo)

Wilson's Phalaropes remained late along the coast with one at Ano Nuevo May 30 (AE, GB). In the C.V. one stayed at the Caldwell Ponds through May 23 (RAB). Forty Red Phalaropes passed Pt. St. George Apr. 13 (BED).

GULLS—Six Glaucous Gulls, mostly from coastal localities, were above average, but one near the Napa Airport Mar. 28–31 (KVV†) provided one of very few inland records and only the second Napa County occurrence. Seven Herring Gulls at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Mar. 5 (*vide* MT), four at L. Levitt Mar. 11 (RS, TM), and one at the Crowley dump Mar. 12 (TH) were more than expected in the basin. Gray Lodge had its first Thayer's Gulls, with seven there Mar. 24 (BED). A pig farm in n. e. Contra Costa County held 200 Thayer's Gulls Mar. 28 (DE, RS), the highest concentration reported this season. An ad. **Mew Gull** at Susanville Mar. 11 (RS, TM) was the first regional basin record.

Pajaro Dunes had two ad. Franklin's Gulls May 10 (J&RW†) Bonaparte's Gulls staged a minor invasion through the C V. One at the Caldwell Ponds May 3 (JLi), for a first Tulare County record, was followed by singles at other localities in the county and up to seven unexpectedly late at the Caldwell Ponds May 30 (RAB†). The region's second **Little Gull** described from Watsonville Slough Apr. 13 (RW†) was probably the same individual which passed Pigeon Pt., Apr. 16 (BSa†). Sauppe then drove 4 mi N to Pebble Beach and was able to observe the bird again the same day.

An injured Heermann's Gull remained at L. Merced, S F, through April (PM). An early arrival was Apr. 27 at Pigeon Pt., but as expected they were still scarce at the end of the period. A Black-legged Kittiwake at L. Merced Apr. 19 (PM) was slightly out of place. Some observers noted a major northward movement of kittiwakes in the third week of May which brought large numbers to shore at Pt. Reyes. Nineteen Sabine's Gulls were seen, 15 of which were recorded at Pigeon Pt., May 4 & 16. One at MacKerricher Beach S. P., Apr. 5 was extremely early (BDP). Three near the F I, May 18 (RS) were the only others reported. Numbers of Sabine's Gulls this year were quite low compared to last year's count of 323 at Pigeon Pt., Sauppe attributed this to the fact that last year strong NW winds prevailed whereas this year many low pressure systems moved in during April and May which resulted in S winds which tended to make birds migrate at great distances from shore.

TERNs—Always scarce in spring, eight Com. Terns were 10 mi off Pedro Pt., May 24 (RS) and two were in Monterey Bay Apr. 24 (DRo, DE). This was the best spring ever for Arctic Terns. In addition to the high counts from Pigeon Pt., (Table 1) there were three in Monterey Bay Apr. 24 (RS) and two there May 7 (JLu, JM). Least Terns arrived early with one passing Pigeon Pt., Apr. 1 (BSa, PM). They were first noted in S. F. Bay Apr. 29 (*vide* ER). Two very early **Elegant Terns** at Pajaro Dunes May 21 (J&RW) were the only ones reported. At Shasta L., Caspian Tern occurrence was correlated with the appearance of the Threadfin Shad, which come to the surface when the water temperature reaches 68°–70° F (PD). The only coastal reports of Black Terns were of one or two seen at Pajaro Dunes May 9–20 (J&RW) where they seem to be regular in spring, and one at Santa Cruz Apr. 23 (EM).

ALCIDS—Large numbers of Pigeon Guillemots arrived at the F. I., Mar. 12 (RLeV, P.R.B.O.). The winter waters of this species are still largely unknown. The highest count of Marbled Murrelets was 37 at Pigeon Pt., Apr. 7 (BSa). Up to two Xantus' Murrelets were in Monterey Bay Mar. 16–May 1 (RS, PM) Two Ancient Murrelets lingered Apr. 24 off

Monterey (RS, DRo, DE), and one was still there very late May 7 (JLu, JM). The region's first spring **Horned Puffin** was photographed at the F. I., Mar. 18–19 (P.R.B.O.). Seven Tufted Puffins were noted at nesting burrows at Castle Rock, Del Norte Co., Apr. 12–14 (BED).

Table 1. Pigeon Point Migration Study

Species	Total	High Count	Peak Date
Common Loon	6,301	537	Apr. 16
Arctic Loon	404,085	46,770	Apr. 22
Red-throated Loon	5,470	786	Apr. 20
loon sp.	16,915		
Black-footed Albatross	277	56	May 6
		52	May 7
Northern Fulmar	188	26	Apr. 1
Pink-footed Shearwater	649	55	Apr. 13
Sooty Shearwater	48,815	10,281	May 6
Brown Pelican	274	37	May 29
Brant	48,444	10,191	Apr. 20
White-winged Scoter	1,904	294	Apr. 20
Surf Scoter	85,186	17,710	Apr. 20
Red-breasted Merganser	186	16	Apr. 15
Whimbrel	2,976	1,642	May 15
Northern Phalarope	77,479	14,651	May 19
Red Phalarope	555	186	May 18
phalarope sp.	44,115		
Pomarine Jaeger	82	16	Apr. 13
Parasitic Jaeger	3		
jaeger sp.	59		
Bonaparte's Gull	181,925	48,740	Apr. 21
Black-legged Kittiwake	1,168	214	Mar. 24
Forster's Tern	5,826	3,270	Apr. 28
Common Tern	50	10	May 3
Arctic Tern	78	25	May 20
Common/Arctic Tern	148		
Caspian Tern	215	27	Apr. 22
Common Murre	14,424	1,870	Mar. 17
Cassin's Auklet	17	4	Apr. 24
Rhinoceros Auklet	1,213	261	Apr. 23
Tufted Puffin	5	2	May 16

Data from Mar. 8–May 30 courtesy of Barry Sauppe. Contributing observers: Peter Metropulos, Tony Bledsoe, Roy Carlson, Dennis Parker.

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS—A desiccated specimen of a Flammulated Owl was picked up at Mono County Park May 24 (TH). The bird was undoubtedly a migrant, since the area lacks suitable habitat for breeding (see *West. Birds* 5:25–44). A belated report was received of a juvenile bird not long out of the nest from near Klamath R., Siskiyou Co., during the summer of 1976. The bird was photographed and released (*vide* MT). Both records are within the known range of the Flammulated Owl. Six reports of Pygmy Owls were received; 13 birds from four locations in the Coast Range and three birds from two locations in the Sierras, where they are less common. Three reports of Spotted Owls were received, all from the Coast Range. In the Shasta Valley, Siskiyou Co., Com. Nighthawks have returned promptly on May 29 for the last 24–26 years. With skies clear and observers looking they arrived two days late on May 31 (*vide* MT)! At least 13 Lesser Nighthawks were reported from four locations in the Sacramento Valley. The population of this species may be increasing in the valley. All breeding locations should be reported. Black Swifts were seen in good

numbers in the Coast Range and in the Sierras. Early arrivals appeared in Yosemite Valley Apr. 27 (RS). A single nest was found at Lighthouse Pt., Santa Cruz, May 29 (PM *et al.*).

S.A.

Unseasonably cold and wet weather in the first half of May forced migrating Vaux's Swifts to seek shelter where they "rode out" the weather-induced food shortages. Many birds sheltered in chimneys in flocks of several hundred. People ignorant of this kind of behavior thought their houses were being "attacked" by birds. They lit fires in their fireplaces and killed, tragically, hundreds of swifts. The incident received wide coverage in the news media but, sadly, the behavioral reasons for the swifts' use of the chimneys were left out of their stories. In the end the public was no more enlightened than before and a good opportunity to educate them had been missed at the expense of the lives of several hundred Vaux's Swifts

Eight reports of Black-chinned Hummingbirds were received, all from inland areas as far north as Weaverville, Trinity Co., (DA) the earliest of which was noted at Springville, Tulare Co., Mar. 31 (*vide* RAB). The spring's first Costa's Hummingbird was seen at Del Puerto Canyon Mar. 27 (EM). An ad. ♂ Rufous Hummingbird near Little Norway, El Dorado Co., Apr. 16 (el 6800 ft) was probably an early "fall" migrant (WS). About 40 Anna's Hummingbirds at feeders in a single yard in Springville Apr. 9 were probably largely migrants (*vide* RAB). It is often erroneously assumed that this species is resident in California but there is considerable migratory movement through the state. The Springville birds were all but gone by Apr. 14. At least ten Pileated Woodpeckers were seen including nesting pairs in Placer and Mendocino Cos

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH PARIDS—Two Tropical Kingbirds that wintered at L. Merced and Golden Gate Park, S.F., stayed until Apr. 7 (D. Murphy) and May 27 (PM) respectively. There are only two previous April and May records for the region. An encouraging number of 30–40 Bank Swallows was observed along the American R., in Sacramento Apr. 30 (*vide* BK). A high count of 45 Purple Martins was seen throughout May at Grenada, Siskiyou Co., (*vide* MT)

S.A.

A **Yellow-billed Magpie** was observed only 4.4 mi s of the Oregon border by Greg Gillson Mar. 12. This represents the northernmost California record for this species. It is quite probable that Yellow-billed Magpies are wandering across the border into the southern part of the Rogue R. valley. Black Phoebe, White-tailed Kite, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher have recently expanded their ranges into s. Oregon. Yellow-billed Magpie appears to be following the same southern expansion pattern and since it has never been recorded in Oregon this presents a good opportunity for some enterprising birder to claim a first state record. When this happens California will lose the distinction of having the known world range of this species confined within its borders; it is our only true endemic bird.

A Black-capped Chickadee at Arcata Mar. 16 (*vide* DRU) and two at Crescent Beach, Del Norte Co., Apr. 12 (BED) were the only ones reported

NUTHATCHES THROUGH WAXWINGS—The Bendire's Thrasher that spent its second winter in Courtland was last seen Apr. 11 (*vide* BK). Twelve California Thrashers seen near Garberville, Humboldt Co., May 21 is a surprisingly high count as they are rather rare here (DRu). A Mockingbird nest photographed with four young in the Kilgore Hills near Yreka May 24 appears to represent the northernmost breeding record for California (*vide* MT). A single Bohemian Waxwing was seen May 8 in Scott Valley, Siskiyou Co. (MT) There are very few May records for this species.

SHRIKES THROUGH WARBLERS—Three N. Shrikes at Honey L., Mar. 11 were the last ones reported (RS *et al.*). The *plumbeus* race of the Solitary Vireo was seen 10 mi n.w. of Reeves, Inyo Co., in the Sierras May 28 (*vide* RAB). The area should be watched to see if this bird is breeding or just a migrant Warblers were noted by many observers as arriving a little earlier than usual. Single Black-and-white Warblers were seen at Fairhaven May 30 (*vide* DRu), Mt. Tamalpais, Marin Co., May 2 (D. Gomke†) and near Springville Apr. 10 (M Mirest†). A wave of 15 Nashville Warblers was seen passing through Fremont Apr. 27 (EM). A Lucy's Warbler was observed in the Carmel R. mouth Mar. 6 (RS†). "Myrtle" Warblers stayed as late as May 5 at S. Lake Tahoe where there are no spring records (WS). A well-described Hermit x Townsend's Warbler was seen at Moss Beach, San Mateo Co., Mar. 17 [The Hermit part was early!] (JM). This hybrid is probably more common than is generally suspected because it is often misidentified. Two ♂ Hermit Warblers seen on Pt Reyes Mar. 5 were probably wintering birds (BDP). A single Palm Warbler was seen on the F.I., May 5 (P.R.B.O., RS), and an Ovenbird was seen there May 25 (RLeV). A single N. Waterthrush was found on the F.I., May 22 (P R B O., RS). They are much rarer in spring than in fall. At least 11 Yellow-breasted Chats were reported from as many locations, the earliest of which was at Springville Apr 19 (*vide* RAB). A substantial wave of 30 Wilson's Warblers was reported passing through Fresno Apr. 30 (*vide* RH).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES—A single ♂ Bobolink was found at McKinleyville, Humboldt Co., May 31 (*vide* DRu). There is only a handful of spring records for the region. A ♀ **Hepatic Tanager** was seen and well described on the F I., May 22 (P.R.B.O., RS†). This bird was the fourth for the region but the first ever recorded in spring. Four Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported; single males on the F.I., and in Mono County (AE, GB), and a male and female at Arcata (*vide* DRu), all in May. At least 18 Blue Grosbeaks were noted; all but two were found in the interior, the earliest at Yuba City Apr. 2 (JH). More information is needed to determine its true status in the region. A ♂ Indigo Bunting was found singing May 22–23 in the same area near Olema Marsh, Marin Co., where a male was found last June (JM *et al.*). It is probably the same bird. Lazuli Buntings were noted by many as being much more common this spring than normally. About 300 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were seen just s. of Crestview, Mono Co., May 19 (E. Vollmer). Two Lark Buntings were reported: a female on the F.I., May 24 (P.R.B.O.) and one near Porterville Mar. 23 (RAB†). A rather late Vesper Sparrow was seen May 8 near Branscomb, Mendocino Co. (DAG).

Two Black-throated Sparrows were seen on the F.I., May 12 & 22; one was still present at the end of the period (P R B O.). Two to four Rufous-crowned Sparrows were found in Antelope Canyon, Tehama Co., May 18 (SAL). They appear to be the first ever recorded in that county Two Tree

Sparrows were banded on the F.I., May 24 (one present since May 20—P.R.B.O.) and another was seen at Honey Lake N.W.R., Mar. 12 (RS *et al.*). A Brewer's Sparrow seen at Pergoy Meadow, Yosemite Apr. 27 (RS *et al.*) and May 21 (BDP) [Same bird?] was in an unusual location. A ♂ Black-chinned Sparrow singing in the Kilgore Hills near Yreka, May 11 furnished the northernmost record for the state (*vide* MT) Three Harris' Sparrows were observed at Honey Lake N.W.R., Mar. 11–13 (RS) and another that wintered in Porterville was last seen Apr. 7 (*vide* RAB). A breeding plumaged ♂ Lapland Longspur seen May 7 three miles e of the Sonoma Creek Bridge, Solano Co., provided the latest regional record for this species (B. McLean†).

ADDENDUM—An E. Phoebe found Nov. 8–11 at Cape Mendocino (BC† *et al.*) was omitted from AB 31:(2).

CORRIGENDUM—A Philadelphia Vireo reported on the F.I., Sept. 12 in AB 31:220 was actually found Oct. 12

Many of the region's active observers will be saddened to learn that Gordon Bolander died suddenly on April 21, 1977 at the age of 63 while on his way to Costa Rica for a birding trip. Gordon has been one of the region's most active observers for over 50 years and was a regular contributor to *American Birds*. He was one of the founders and past president of the Redwood Region Ornithological Society, a group whose membership regard his death as a personal loss. He was the acknowledged authority on the avifauna of Sonoma County and was working on a book on the county's birdlife when he died. Hopefully this work can be completed posthumously with the aid of a co-author.

Gordon had lived and taught school in Santa Rosa since 1950. After retiring in 1973 he spent most of his free time birding and adding a species or two to his yard list which stands at some 229 species and is probably the highest list of its kind in the state. Gordon's skill in the field was a source of amazement to his fellow birders; he was particularly well known for his ability to identify birds by ear.

He is survived by his wife Lois, his two daughters, four grandchildren, and three generations of birders who admired and respected him.

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SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/ Guy McCaskie

The spring migration period proved more exciting than usual, with many of the summer visitors arriving relatively early, large numbers of birds being present in early May, and a great variety of rare and unusual species occurring throughout the period.



A series of storms in late April and early May, the period of peak movement for most West Coast migrants, grounded large numbers of landbirds. As a result most observers commented on the large numbers of flycatchers, vireos, warblers, orioles, tanagers and buntings present during the first half of May. These large numbers were every bit as prevalent inland as they were along the coast.

As usual a number of eastern species of landbirds was to be found in late May and early June. Warblers make up the bulk of these vagrants, and together with our regular West Coast migrants a total of 34 species was found, more than reported for the entire state by Grinnell and Miller (*Distribution of the Birds of California*, 1944). It is in this movement of vagrant warblers that most of the really rare and exciting finds were made, although such outstanding rarities as Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Little Gull, Veery, and Le Conte's Sparrow were also reported.

The early arrival dates for some of our key migrants were: Wilson's Phalarope Apr. 9, Salton Sea; Northern Phalarope Apr. 19, Del Mar; Common Tern Apr. 20, San Diego; Least Tern Apr. 10, San Diego; Elegant Tern Mar. 12, San Diego; Black Tern Apr. 19, Salton Sea; Lesser Nighthawk Mar. 22, San Diego; Vaux's Swift Apr. 13, San Diego; Ash-throated Flycatcher Apr. 9, Salton Sea and Big Pine; Willow Flycatcher Apr. 30, Isabella Lake; Hammond's Flycatcher Mar. 25, Los Angeles; W. Flycatcher Mar. 19, San Diego; W. Wood Pewee Apr. 9, Salton Sea; Olive-sided Flycatcher Apr. 20, Pasadena; Swainson's Thrush Apr. 21, Morongo Valley; Bell's Vireo Apr. 3, San Diego; Solitary Vireo Apr. 2, Anza Borrego Desert; Warbling Vireo Mar. 19, San Diego; Nashville Warbler Apr. 2, Anza Borrego Desert; Yellow Warbler Apr. 7, San Diego; Black-throated Gray Warbler Mar. 31, Lakeview; Hermit Warbler Apr. 12, San Diego; MacGillivray's Warbler Apr. 2, Anza Borrego Desert; Yellow-breasted Chat Apr. 13, San Diego; Wilson's Warbler Mar. 19, San Diego; Scott's Oriole Mar. 13, Morongo Valley; Hooded Oriole Mar. 11, Imperial Beach; N. Oriole Mar. 19, San Diego; Western Tanager Apr. 9, Salton Sea; Black-headed Grosbeak Mar. 30,

Los Angeles; Blue Grosbeak Apr. 14, Morongo Valley; Lazuli Bunting Apr. 1, San Diego; Black-chinned Sparrow Apr. 3 San Diego.

LOONS—Paul Lehman's seabird surveys from Goleta Pt. Santa Barbara Co., counted some 5000 Com. Loons, 23,000 Arctic Loons and 5500 Red-throated Loons during the period this well represents the relative abundance of the three species in S. California waters during the spring. A large loon seen flying N past Pt. Dume, Los Angeles Co., Apr. 20 (KG) exhibited all the characters of a breeding-plumaged Yellow billed Loon, a species for which there is but one regional record.

ALBATROSSES, SHEARWATERS, STORM-PETRELS—The only Black-footed Albatrosses reported were single birds off Santa Cruz I., Apr. 18 & 25 (JA) and two off San Diego May 14 (PU). A N. Fulmar off Ventura Apr. 23 (KG) was unexpected, considering how rare the species was during the winter. A Flesh-footed Shearwater, rare in California waters was found off Ventura June 5 (KG). The only Leach's Storm Petrel reported was a white-rumped bird off San Diego May 14 (PU). An Ashy Storm-Petrel was seen off San Diego May 14 (GMCC); a few occur in these waters during May every year

ANHINGAS, FRIGATEBIRDS—The ♀ Anhinga remained on Sweetwater Res., in San Diego until May 30 (WTE) An imm. Magnificent Frigatebird was seen soaring over Chino San Bernardino Co., Mar. 23 (BBI); a surprising location and amazing time of year.

HERONS—Five ad. Little Blue Herons were found during May with one at Goleta, Santa Barbara Co., May 14–18 (PL, BS), one at McGrath S. P., Ventura Co., May 27 (LRB), a single bird at the north end of the Salton Sea (hereafter N.E.S.S.) May 7 (DM), another at the south end of the Salton Sea (hereafter S.E.S.S.) May 20 (PL), and a totally unexpected bird at Oasis, Mono Co., May 30 (DRU). A Cattle Egret at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley May 24 (DRO) was at an interesting locality. An ad. Reddish Egret, a rare straggler to



Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Irvine, Calif., May 11, 1977
Photo by Don Hoehlin.

California, was around Imperial Beach, San Diego Co., Apr. 24–May 14 (DM, EAC) and another was at Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co., May 20–22 (LJ). One of the wintering Louisiana Herons remained around Imperial Beach to Apr. 28 (*vide* PU); unexpected was an adult at Penasquitos Lagoon June 1 (D&LD) and another at Goleta June 2 (PL, BS). Totally unexpected was an ad. Yellow-crowned Night Heron at Irvine, Orange Co., May 11 (D&BH, ph. S.D.N.H.M.), only the sixth ever found in the region.

GEESE, DUCKS—Black Brant were moving N along the coast during March and April with a high count of 10,000 made from Goleta Pt., Mar. 29 (PL). Inland a flock of 50 Black Brant was seen flying W over the Laguna Mts., near Julian, San Diego Co., Mar. 13 (GMcC) and 50 were at the N.E.S.S., Apr. 9 (GMcC). A Brant was seen from Goleta Pt., Mar. 29 (PL); one or two are found with "Black" Brant every year. The Ross' Goose remained on L. Miramar near San Diego to at least Apr. 6 (PU), which is late for the species to be present in S. California.

A Mallard x Black Duck was at S.E.S.S. May 15–20 (GSS, LJ); an unexpected hybrid for California. An Oldsquaw flying past Goleta Pt., Apr. 11 (PL) was the only one seen along the coast, however, two were at N.E.S.S., Apr. 16 (GSG), another was at nearby Salton City Apr. 27 (AS), and two more were seen along the Colorado R., n. of Blythe Mar. 19 (KVR); this species is rare inland. Thirty-two Black Scoters were seen moving N past Goleta Pt., Mar. 2–Apr. 19 (PL) and a late individual was at Port Hueneme, Ventura Co., May 2 (JA, LJ). Only 31 White-winged Scoters were seen from Goleta Pt. during the period indicating how scarce the species was in S. California during the past winter; one at Imperial Dam on the Colorado R., Apr. 22–23 (KVR) was the only one found inland. A ♂ Hooded Merganser at Malibu, Los Angeles Co., Apr. 24 (H&PB) appeared late, but the female at Santee, San Diego Co., May 28 (CGE) was exceptionally late.

HAWKS, FALCONS—An imm. Goshawk at Westguard Pass in the White Mts., Apr. 4 (CH) was a little outside its normal summer range. Small numbers of Swainson's Hawks were noted in the e. part of the region Apr. 2–May 15 but no large flocks were reported. An imm. Bald Eagle near McKittick, Kern Co., May 7 (GWK) was unexpected. An imm. Peregrine Falcon in San Diego May 16 (CGE) was late for a wintering bird. Two Merlins at Goleta Apr. 16 (PL) were the latest noted this spring.

OYSTERCATCHERS, PLOVERS, SANDPIPERS—An Am. Oystercatcher was at Frazier Pt., on Santa Cruz I., June 5 (JA) and the Anacapa I. bird was seen Mar. 6 (DRo), Apr. 23 (KG), and May 1 (PL). A Black Oystercatcher was on Pt. Loma, San Diego Co., Apr. 26 (MT); very few are recorded along the coast of S. California. Three Semipalmated Plovers in the Saline Valley May 7 (TH) and another at Furnace Creek Ranch (hereafter F.C.R.) May 24 (DRo) are of interest because few records exist for this area of California. A Mountain Plover at Goleta Apr. 5 (PL, BS) was exceptionally late and in an area for which there is but one previous record. A wintering Am. Golden Plover remained in Goleta to May 6 (PL). Single migrants were seen along the coast at San Diego May 14 (EAC), near Newport Apr. 23 and Santa Barbara Apr. 25 (LRB), and another found inland at S.E.S.S., May 15 (GMcC).

A Whimbrel in Afton Canyon, San Bernardino Co., May 16 (EAC, SC) was in an area for which few records exist. Two Solitary Sandpipers were in Afton Canyon Apr. 24 (SC), three were near Lucerne Valley, San Bernardino Co., Apr. 30–May 2 (GNV) and another was at Ford's Dry L., San

Bernardino Co., May 3 (SC); this species is always scarce in spring. A flock of 30 Ruddy Turnstones at N.E.S.S., May 7 (GMcC) was a large number for an inland locality. A Black Turnstone, accidental inland, was at Salton City May 7 (GMcC, ph. S.D.N.H.M.). A breeding-plumaged Surf-bird at Goleta June 2 (PL) was exceptionally late for a migrant. Six Red Knots at Salton City May 1 (GMcC) and two more there May 7 (GMcC) were the only ones found inland this spring. Sanderlings reached peak numbers on the Salton Sea during early May with 50 seen May 7 (GMcC); this species is rarely found inland in California away from the Salton Sea so two on L. Elsinore, Riverside Co., May 5 (SC) are of interest. Two Semipalmated Sandpipers were found at S.E.S.S., May 20 (PL) and one of these was still present May 24 (DM); one or two of these birds can be found on the Salton Sea every May if searched for. Unexpected were two Baird's Sandpipers at Baker May 4 (SC), one at S.E.S.S. May 15 (GMcC) and four there May 20 (PL); this species is exceptionally rare in California during spring with but a handful of documented records in April and May. Stilt Sandpipers were present at S.E.S.S., Apr. 9–May 20, with a high count of 70 there May 15–17 (LJ); two at Goleta Apr. 14 (PL, BS) were unexpected since there is only one previous coastal record for California during the spring. A Red Phalarope was found inland at S.E.S.S., May 17 (LJ, GSS)

SKUAS, GULLS, TERNS—A South Polar Skua was seen off San Diego May 14 (GMcC), another was found off Santa Barbara I., May 22 (LJ) and five were seen there June 5 (KG); it is becoming clear that small numbers of these birds appear in S. California waters during late May and early June every year. An imm. Glaucous Gull was in Santa Barbara Mar. 13–Apr. 18 (LRB, PL), another was at McGrath S. P., Apr. 23 (KG) and a third was in Long Beach Apr. 7 (VR); this species is normally quite rare in S. California with most gone by late March. A late Thayer's Gull was seen inland at S.E.S.S., May 20 (PL). A Mew Gull, rare inland, was at S.E.S.S., Apr. 9 (DRo). A Franklin's Gull was seen at Pt. Dume, Los Angeles Co., Mar. 30, Apr. 5 & 19 (JD, KG) and another was at N.E.S.S., Apr. 30 (DM) a few are normally found every spring. Bonaparte's Gulls were found inland in unprecedented numbers with over 150 at S.E.S.S., May 27 (DVT), up to eight at F.C.R., May 20–29 (DRo) and up to nine at Oasis, Mono Co., May 23–30 (DRo) giving an idea of the numbers frequenting the e. part of the region. Most exciting was an imm. Little Gull in



Little Gull, Goleta, Calif., Apr. 17, 1977. Photo by Robert Copper.

Goleta Apr. 14–22 (PL, BS); there are only three previous records for the region. Black-legged Kittiwakes became common along the coast during March and April with some still remaining at the end of the period; 500 were present in King Harbor, Los Angeles Co., Apr. 4 (BBr) giving an example of the numbers involved. Sabine's Gulls were more scarce than usual with four off San Diego May 14 (GMcC) and 40 off Ventura June 5 (KG) being the only ones reported.

A Gull-billed Tern at S.E.S.S., Mar. 24 (DVT) indicates the normal spring arrival date for the species to the Salton Sea. Again Arctic Terns were seen in S. California waters with three off San Diego May 14 (GMcC) and 15 off Ventura June 5 (KG); it is now clear small numbers of these birds move N along the West Coast during late May and early June.

ALCIDS—Common Murres appear to be increasing in numbers along the S. California coast and 266 seen from Goleta Pt. during the period (PL) would help to substantiate this impression. An Ancient Murrelet off Goleta Pt., Mar. 31 (PL, JD) was the only one reported. A breeding-plumaged Tufted Puffin was near Santa Barbara I., June 5 (SC); this species is rare in S. California waters.

PIGEONS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS—Two Banded Pigeons in the New York Mts., San Bernardino Co., May 30 (SC) were e. of their normal range and one on San Nicholas I., June 5 (LJ) was w. of its normal range. Small numbers of White-winged Doves were found throughout San Bernardino County during May with up to three May 20–June 4, as far north as F.C.R. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was at Ft. Piute in the Piute Mts., San Bernardino Co., May 25–28 (SF&KLB, DM); this is as early as the species ever reaches California. Most interesting was the finding of two migrant Flammulated Owls, with one at Deep Springs May 18 (KG) and the other at the base of Cottonwood Creek near Oasis May 26–27 (PU); there are virtually no previous records of migrants for California. A Com. Nighthawk at Mesquite Springs in Death Valley May 28 (EC) and another at F.C.R., May 29 (PL) were both clearly migrants, and indicate the normal arrival date for this species in California. A few Black Swifts were reported from along the coast during the overcast weather of May, but two over the Saline Valley, Inyo Co., May 7 (TH) were most unusual. Calliope Hummingbirds were more numerous than usual along the coast with at least ten found in San Diego County Apr. 10–23 (PU, EC); in addition the species was seen in Imperial County during April (WTE) and in Inyo County during May.

WOODPECKERS—A ♀ "Gilded Flicker" was near Cima, San Bernardino Co., May 20 (SC) and another was found there June 9 (SC); this form is becoming decidedly scarce in California. A Lewis' Woodpecker near Blythe Mar. 17 (KVR) was in an interesting locality. Totally unexpected were a Downy Woodpecker at N.E.S.S., Apr. 4 (MZ) and another in Afton Canyon Apr. 17 (EAC * S.B.C.M.); both localities are well to the east of the species' normal range in California and it will be interesting to learn the racial identification of the collected bird.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS—An E. Kingbird at F.C.R., May 27–30 (SF&KLB) and another at Oasis June 5 (H&PB) were the only two reported; small numbers occur in e. California every spring. Unprecedented were three Tropical Kingbirds, with one in Goleta Apr. 17 (LRB), another in San Pedro May 15 (JM), and the third at Afton Canyon May 1 (SC); whether these were southbound from more northerly wintering localities or spring overshoots

is subject to speculation. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, rare at any time of the year in California, was at Oasis May 31 (JS). A Wied's Crested Flycatcher was near Needles Apr 30 (DE) and another was in Morongo Valley May 1 (KG) indicating arrival dates for this year. A Least Flycatcher was well seen and heard at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley May 24 (PL, DRo); this species is now being found annually in California and there is an ever-increasing number of observers familiar with the finer points of *Empidonax* flycatcher identification. A ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher near Santa Barbara Apr. 7–9 (*fide* GH) was n.w. of its normal range. A ♂ Purple Martin in Afton Canyon May 9 (EAC) and two males over the Saline Valley May 7 (TH) were all in an area for which few records exist.

THRASHERS, THRUSHES, WAXWINGS, KINGLETS—A Gray Catbird was at Scotty's Castle May 26 (PU), this species is proving to be regular in very limited numbers along the e. border of the region in late May and early June. A Brown Thrasher, rare in spring, was at Oasis June 8 (DDeS). A Bendire's Thrasher at F.C.R., May 28 (KG) and another at Mesquite Springs May 23 (GMcC) were both north of their normal range. A Veery was well studied at Oasis May 29 (BDP); there is but one previous record for the region and that was during the fall of 1974. A Golden-crowned Kinglet was found in the New York Mts., Apr 5 (VR) and a late individual was seen on Pt. Loma Apr 14 (EC). A flock of 12 Bohemian Waxwings was found in San Bernardino Mar. 30 (EAC, SC).

VIREOS, WARBLERS—A Hutton's Vireo at Butterbread Springs, Kern Co., Apr. 24 (LJ) and another near Big Pine May 4 (TH) were both outside the species normal range. A ♂ Yellow-throated Vireo was in Morongo Valley Apr 30–May 1 (R&MW, KG) and another male was there June 13 (SC); this species is an exceptionally rare straggler to California. The only Red-eyed Vireo found this spring was one at Deep Springs May 28 (BDP). More than 20 Black-and-white Warblers were found May 2–June 5 with the vast majority occurring along the e. edge of the region May 20–30. Two ♂ Prothonotary Warblers were found with one near Imperial Beach June 1–8 (GMcC) and the other at Oasis June 11 (TH). A Worm-eating Warbler, extremely rare at any time in California, was at Yucca Valley, San Bernardino Co., May 14–16 (E&AM, EC). A ♂ Golden-winged Warbler was at Oasis May 31 (VR, JM) and another male was on San Nicholas I., June 4 (LJ); this species appears to be on the increase as a straggler to California. A ♂ Blue-winged Warbler at Ft. Piute May 28 (VR) was only the third ever found in spring here in California. As is now expected a few Tennessee Warblers passed through the region with almost 30 seen May 10–June 7. Five migrant Virginia's Warblers were seen at desert oases in the n.e. part of the region May 19–28. Nine N. Parulas were reported with a male near Blythe May 28 (KVR), a female at Kelso May 29 (EAC, SC), a male at F.C.R., May 29–30 (KG), a female at Mesquite Springs May 22–26 (TH) and five around Oasis May 27–June 5, this species occurs in similar numbers every spring.

Unexpected were three Cape May Warblers with a male at F.C.R., May 30 (LRB), a female on Pt. Loma June 1–3 (EC) and a male there June 9 (PU). A ♂ Black-throated Green Warbler, very rare in spring, was at Deep Springs May 29 (PL). Most exciting was a ♂ Grace's Warbler, the fifth ever seen in California, singing on Clark Mt., San Bernardino Co., May 21 (VR, SC). Five Chestnut-sided Warblers were reported with a male at F.C.R., May 26 (PL), a male at Deep Springs May 27 (CH), a female at Oasis May 30 (JM), another female there June 5 (H&PB) and the fifth on

Pt Loma June 5 (D&LD); this would appear to be an average number for the spring period. Three Bay-breasted Warblers were reported with a male at Morongo Valley June 3 (SC), another male at F.C.R., May 28 (VR) and a female on Santa Barbara I., June 5 (KG). A ♂ Blackpoll Warbler, still considered rare in spring, was on Clark Mt., May 20 (JK), another male was at Deep Springs May 27–28 (DP, BDP) and a third male was at Oasis May 30–31 (DRo). One of the wintering Palm Warblers in Goleta remained to Apr. 24 (PL) and another wintering bird was seen there Mar. 16 (PL); a Palm Warbler at F.C.R., May 28 (DM) was clearly a spring vagrant.

The Ovenbird that wintered in Riverside was last seen Apr 9 (SC). Ten Ovenbirds were found May 15–June 5, which may be slightly more than average for the spring period. Over 15 N. Waterthrushes were seen in the e. part of the region May 1–29. A ♀ **Kentucky Warbler** was well seen at Ft Piute May 27 (VR, SC) and a singing male was found at Oasis June 8 (DDeS); there are only two previous records of the species for the region. A ♂ **Mourning Warbler** was well studied at Mesquite Springs in Death Valley June 4 (KVV); there are only three previous records of the species for the region. Unprecedented was a ♀ **Red-faced Warbler** on Pt Loma May 21–24 (JB, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) and a male at Morongo Valley June 4 (CBI, DM). Normally one or two Hooded Warblers are found each year so eight comes as a surprise with two males at Iron Mt. Pump Station, San Bernardino Co., May 2 (MY), a male in Kelso Apr. 15 (SC), a female at Deep Springs May 29 (GMcC), a male there June 8 (DDeS), a male at Oasis May 23 (DRo), another male there May 29 (EC) and a male in La Jolla, San Diego Co., May 20 (JTM) About 60 Am. Redstarts were found this spring, with most in the n.e. part of the region May 20–31.

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, TANAGERS—As usual a few Bobolinks moved through the n.e. part of the region with about 20 seen at F.C.R., May 20–June 4 and a male at Oasis June 5 (KVV); a male near Imperial Beach June 3 (*fide* PU) was the only one seen along the coast. A ♂ “Baltimore” Oriole in Imperial Beach Apr. 7 (GMcC) and another male in Goleta Feb. 7–Apr. 23 (PL) probably wintered locally, but a male in the Saline Valley May 7 (TH) and another male at Essex, San Bernardino Co., May 23 (SF&KLB) were spring vagrants. A ♀ Rusty Blackbird was found in Goleta on the late date of Apr. 12 (RJ, ph. S.D.N.H.M.). A Com. Grackle, still decidedly rare in California, was at Scotty’s Castle in Death Valley May 28 (JM, DP) and another was at Deep Springs May 30–June 8 (BDP, DDeS). Great-tailed Grackles continue to expand their range in California with a pair at F C R. from May 18 to the end of the period (D&BH) and a female near Lucerne Valley Apr. 30 (GNV) marking the n and w. limits of the records this spring. A ♀ Bronzed Cowbird at Kelso May 25 (SF&KLB) gives us the northernmost record to date. There were four Hepatic Tanagers found at desert oases this spring with a male in Morongo Valley Apr 19 (R&MW), two females at Ft. Piute May 27 (VR,SC) and another female at F.C.R., May 28 (KG). Eight Summer Tanagers found in the n.e. part of the region May 21–June 5 along with five on the coast May 29–June 8 were all probably birds of the nominate race that had strayed too far W.

FINCHES, SPARROWS, LONGSPURS—Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were more numerous than usual with nearly 40 reported May 11–June 13. Similarly Indigo Buntings were relatively numerous with 35 seen Apr. 24–June 13. A ♂ Purple Finch on San Nicholas I., June 5 (LJ) was certainly lost The only Evening Grosbeaks reported were two on

Clark Mt., May 21 (DRo), one at F.C.R., May 23 (VR) and another in Big Pine May 13 (TH). Up to four Lark Buntings, a scarce bird in California, were near Campo, San Diego Co., Apr. 4–29 (GSS, LRB). A **Le Conte’s Sparrow** at F.C.R., May 21–24 (GMcC) was the first to be found in California during the spring. A Gray-headed Junco at Cima, San Bernardino Co., Apr. 16 (SC) was probably a migrant A Harris’ Sparrow in Morongo Valley May 7 (R&MW) and another in Redlands May 11 (SC) were the latest reported this year. Wintering White-throated Sparrows were reported through April, with one remaining in Julian, San Diego Co , to May 11 (LT); one at Scotty’s Castle May 23 (PU) and another at Deep Springs May 25–June 5 (GMcC, H&PB) were exceptionally late. A Clay-colored Sparrow, rare in spring, was in Long Beach May 28 (RS). The only Swamp Sparrow reported was one in Kelso Apr. 22 (SC) Totally unexpected was a ♀ Lapland Longspur in Kelso June 9 (SC, * S.B.C.M.); this must be one of the latest records for the contiguous states.

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HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION /C. John Ralph and Robert L. Pyle

No late winter storms reached the islands during the period, but precipitation generated by the trade winds ended the winter-long drought, bringing water levels to near normal Observers reported very few transients moving through, as is typical of the spring season, in strong contrast to the fall migration when many visitors appear in the islands.

GREBES THROUGH IBIS—The Horned Grebe present on the Wailua R., Kauai (hereafter, K.), attained breeding plumage by early April and apparently departed on May 30 (CFZ). Several Laysan Albatrosses were still present, some in aerial courtship, throughout the period at Kilauea Pt , K (CFZ), suggesting the possibility of eventual breeding The rare Mottled Petrel was observed from a SeaFlite hydrofool Mar. 20 (HDP *et al.*) between Oahu (hereafter, O.) and K. Another was seen on Apr 25 off Molokai (HDP, CJR, CPR)

