

# Western Great Lakes Region

JIM GRANLUND

The spring of 1996 will be remembered for its outstanding rarities. All three states had at least one new record for the Region: Minnesota had a Rock Ptarmigan, Wisconsin a Rufous-necked Stint, and Michigan contributed a White-collared Swift. Along with these extreme rarities there were numerous other excellent sightings, including first state records of Say's Phoebe in Wisconsin and Black Vulture in Michigan.

The weather was no less interesting than the bird records. Throughout the Region, March, April, and May had below-normal temperatures. Snow remained in the northern portions of the Region well into May, with new snow as late as the first week. Winter's grip was finally broken May 17 when a warm southerly breeze brought nice weather and a heavy migration of delayed migrants. After May 19 the cold weather returned and lasted through the month, with only a few brief respites. The migration was still going into early June as delayed migrants finally made their way north.

The migration from May 17–19 was one of the best in recent memory. Not only was the migration heavy and the diversity excellent, but the cool weather had retarded leaf-out and the lack of insects caused migrants to feed in unusual locations. Many observers reported arboreal birds such as Scarlet Tanagers and many wood warblers feeding on the ground with the thrushes and sparrows! What impact this stress had is not known; however, a high mortality must have certainly occurred.

This season had so many rare sightings and unusual records I was not able to include them all. I urge readers to consult each state's individual surveys in their respective journals to obtain a more complete record of the spring.

Abbreviations: M.B.R.C. (*Michigan Bird Records Committee*), W.P.B.O. (*Whitefish Pt. Bird Observatory, Chippewa Co., MI*)

## Loons to Ibises

Whitefish Pt. Bird Observatory, MI, recorded 583 Red-throated Loons, with an

impressive maximum of 83 May 21. Also in Michigan were 12 reported between Apr. 18–May 31 at North Pt., *Alpena* (BG). Inexplicably, this species is much rarer in other parts of the Region. Minnesota reported an individual May 23 in *Carleton* (MS) and four May 28 in Duluth (TW). Wisconsin reported a "few" from the L. Michigan shoreline, mainly in *Manitowoc*. A record number Com. Loons were seen at W.P.B.O., with 11,738 recorded during the period and a new single-day high of 2089 May 7. Whitefish Pt. Bird Observatory had the highest concentration of Red-necked Grebes in the Region, with 334 during the season and a high of 78 Apr. 22. Wisconsin reported significant concentrations of 40–100 individuals at Wisconsin Pt. in mid- to late April (RJ et al.). Eared Grebes were more common in Wisconsin, with ten individuals between Apr. 21–May 30 from 7 sites. Michigan also had increased sightings of this species, with reports from 7 counties. Wisconsin had W. Grebe reports Apr. 23 in *Barron* (AG), May 21 in *Crex Meadows* (JH), and from May 18–31 with courtship display at L. Maria (TWO). Minnesota had a rare sighting of this species in Duluth May 19 (PB et al.), while the high total in its main range was 200 Apr. 25 in *Todd* (KL, PL). Minnesota had a Clark's Grebe May 4 in *Freeborn* (DN). Unusual numbers of Am. White Pelicans were reported throughout the Region, particularly in Wisconsin, where "hundreds" were reported between *Pepin* and *Hudson* on the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers. North of normal was a Least Bittern at Duluth, MN May 17 (DB). Also more widespread than normal were

Snowy Egrets, with Minnesota having 6 reports, Wisconsin 10 reports, and Michigan reports from 3 counties, including a 2nd county record for *Berrien*. Wisconsin had reports of Little Blue Herons Apr. 25 in Green Bay (DT), Apr. 26 in Milwaukee (BD), Apr. 28 in *Ozaukee* (TU), and two Apr. 19 in *Chippewa* (JP et al.). In Minnesota, a single Little Blue was reported Apr. 22 in *Dakota* (SK). Michigan hosted the only Tricolored Herons, with one May 4 at Nayanquing W.A., *Bay* (MHu, JHu) and two May 24 at Pt. Mouillee, *Monroe* (CP). North of normal was a Cattle Egret at Lake-of-the-Woods, MN May 26 (PS). In Michigan, 14 near New Buffalo, *Berrien*, May 10 (PC) was an exceptional number for this species in the s.w. portion of the state. Far north of normal was a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in Baraga, MI May 9 (NI et al.). Wisconsin had an adult in late April–early May in Racine, and two birds in the first half of May in Milwaukee. Michigan had a cooperative Glossy Ibis, which remained from Apr. 26–May 12 at Erie Metropark, *Wayne* (KT, WP, CP), and a White-faced from Apr. 25–27 at the same location (KT, WP). Minnesota had two White-faced Ibises May 11–12 in *Cottonwood* and one–two birds from May 12–15 at Big Stone N.W.R., *Lac Qui Parle* (*vide* AH). In Wisconsin, 14 plegadis ibises were recorded May 11 in Milwaukee (DG) and one was seen May 19 in *Door* (JR).

## Waterfowl

More numerous and early in the Region were Greater White-fronted Geese. Minnesota reported its 2nd-earliest record with



ten Mar. 1 in *Olmsted*, while n. of normal for that state was a bird May 18 at Duluth. Michigan had an uncommonly large flock of 14 at Pt. Mouillee, *Monroe*, present at the beginning of the period through Mar. 14 (CP, KT). Unusual for spring was a Brant Apr. 6 at the Muskegon Wastewater, *Muskegon* (PC). Minnesota reported Ross' Goose from 6 counties, including a 2nd county record in *Hennepin* (SC, m.ob.). Wisconsin had reports from Feb. 29–Mar. 4 in Winnecone, Mar. 24 near Beaver Dam (TWO), Mar. 31 Apr. 8 at Arlington Ponds, and two Apr. 13–14 in *Dodge*. Michigan had four Mar. 29 at Fish Pt., *Tuscola* (JB, MW, TG) and another Mar. 30 and Apr. 5 at Nayanquing, *Bay* (MW, JSo). Cinnamon Teal reports in Minnesota included singles Apr. 11 in *Hennepin* (JPo), mid-April in *Chisago* (*fide* AH), and Apr. 27–28 in *Lac Qui Parle*, while Wisconsin had a male May 4 at the Mead WA (DBe). Eurasian Wigeons were reported Apr. 15–21 e. of Shiocton, WI (DNu), and another was seen from Apr. 8–May 4 at Maple River State Game Area, *Gratiot*, MI (JBa *et al.*). One–two Harlequin Ducks were reported Apr. 3 in Manitowoc, WI (DT, CS). In Minnesota the male Barrow's Goldeneye which overwintered in the Twin Cities was last seen Mar. 24 at Blue L. lagoons, *Scott* (*fide* AH).

### Raptors to Grouse

A **Black Vulture** Apr. 22 in *Barry* (RA, JG) provided Michigan its first well documented record. Also in Michigan were **Mississippi Kites** May 14 & 20 at W.P.B.O. (KT). A kite species was reported from *Green* in Wisconsin in early May. Bald Eagle numbers continue to increase at W.P.B.O.; this season 218 were recorded. Also at W.P.B.O. were individual Swainson's Hawks Apr. 21 and May 5. Elsewhere in Michigan the species was seen May 10 in *Washnaw* (MK), Apr. 19 at Port Crescent S.P., *Huron* (MW), and Apr. 25 at Estral Beach, *Monroe* (WP). Wisconsin had a single report Apr. 14 in

*Iron* (JE). In Minnesota a Prairie Falcon was reported Apr. 17 in *Clay* (CN). Gyrfalcons were seen in Michigan at Sault Ste. Marie to Mar. 24 (WPa), and Mar. 30 at Fish Pt., *Tuscola* (JB, MW, TG). In Wisconsin, this species was seen Mar. 23 & 25 in Green Bay, while in Minnesota the Duluth bird remained to Mar. 22 (*fide* KE). Unexpected was a male winter-plumaged **Rock Ptarmigan** May 20 at Grand Marias, *Cook* (KH, MH). If accepted by the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee, it would be a first state record and the first for the lower 48 states. Also in that state, Sharp-tailed Grouse numbers were down 24% on spring lek counts.

### Rails to Shorebirds

Unusual in Michigan were two Yellow Rails in *Alpena* May 27 (BG). Wisconsin reported this species from Comstock Bog, Navarino WA, Oconoto Marsh, and Crex Meadows, with numbers of  $\leq$ ten birds at some locations. Minnesota reported the species at Sax Zim bog, *St. Louis* (AH, PH, PS) for the 4th consecutive year, as well as in *Aiken* (WN) and *Kittson* (PS). King Rails were reported in Wisconsin from 4–7 sites, including four individuals at the Rat River WA. In Michigan, where the species is becoming increasingly scarce, the only observation came from Shiawassee N.W.R., *Saginaw*, May 31 (DP). Single Piping Plovers were reported in Wisconsin Apr. 30 in Milwaukee (DG), in Manitowoc May 1 & 3 (MP, CS), Ashland May 8 (JRa) and two in *Bayfield* May 15–16 (DV). Minnesota had two birds May 26 at their last breeding location at Lake-of-the-Woods (PS *et al.*). Michigan reports included individuals May 21 at Tawas Point S.P., *Iosco* (SR, GV), and May 9 & 16 at W.P.B.O., along with breeding pairs at Vermilion, *Chippewa*, and Grand Marias, *Alger*. Wisconsin had 3 sightings of **Black-necked Stilt** including one May 19 in *Fond du Lac* (DT, JBu, SB, TS), two at Horicon Marsh N.W.R. from May 22–23 (BBo *et al.*) and one May 31 at Vernon marsh (JS). American Avocets had an excellent showing in Wisconsin with between 65–70 birds at 5–6 locations and a maximum of 48 individuals at Milwaukee May 4. Minnesota also reported excellent numbers; noteworthy were 15 Apr. 27 in *Traverse* (DM, SM), 25 Apr. 27 at *Lincoln* (PJ), and 20 May 2 in *Washington* (EB, TB). Michigan had only a single record May 1 at Muskegon (ES, GW). In like fashion, Willets were very common, with Wisconsin reporting 100–115 individuals from 20 locations, and Minnesota having reports from 18 counties. Again

Michigan missed out, having only 2 reports of individuals Apr. 28 at Point Mouillee, *Monroe* (WP) and May 18 in *Alger* (DM). Minnesota reported Hudsonian Godwits from 11 counties with a high of 18 Apr. 18 in *Pipestone* (JPa). Wisconsin had 50–60 birds from various sites and Michigan had individuals in *Alger* May 18 (DM), and at W.P.B.O., May 18 & 23. Marbled Godwit reports in Michigan included one May 31 at Shiawassee N.W.R., *Saginaw* (DP) and three May 18 and one May 23 at W.P.B.O. Wisconsin had an outstanding migration with 40–45 birds from at least 10 sites, with a maximum of 23 in Madison. Western Sandpiper, a very rare spring species in the Region, was reported near Shiocton, WI May 16 (DT) and in Duluth, MN May 18 (KE *et al.*). A possible **Rufous-necked Stint** was photographed May 24–25 (Tba, JGr, MG *et al.*) at Marinette which, if accepted by the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology Records Committee, would provide a first for the state and the Region. A very rare spring visitor to the Region was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper May 23 in *Marshall*, MN (SSt). In Wisconsin a Ruff was found May 16 at Shiocton (DT).

### Jaegers to Terns

An excellent find was an ad. Parasitic Jaeger May 26 at Duluth (DB), one of <10 spring records for Minnesota. At W.P.B.O., where this species is annual in spring, Parasitics were seen May 26 & 27. Laughing Gulls made a major incursion into Wisconsin with records Apr. 20 at Green Bay (RM), May 13–20 in Port Washington (TU), May 22 in Madison (BH), between May 21–28 in Milwaukee (MKo, SD), May 19–23 & 29 in Manitowoc (CS, DT, JR), May 27 and in *Ozaukee* (BD). Michigan had a very unusual record of a first-winter bird which remained at the Muskegon Wastewater from Mar. 8–18 (KT, JG, m.ob.). Little Gulls were reported in Wisconsin from May 16–19 in Milwaukee (MK, DG) and at Manitowoc from mid-May into June. Michigan had an individual reported May 29 at Tawas Point S.P., *Iosco*. Wisconsin had large numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls this season, with concentrations of 5000–15,000 birds at various harbors along L. Michigan. An ad. **California Gull** Mar. 30 in *Otter Tail* (DM, SM) was Minnesota's earliest arrival for this species. Lesser Black-backed Gulls continue to spread through the Region. Michigan had reports from 6 counties, while Wisconsin had individuals from 6 sites. Minnesota, still on the fringe of the range expansion, had a 3rd-summer bird from Apr. 5–13 in



**A first for Minnesota [and apparently a first for the Lower 48 States] was this male Rock Ptarmigan at Grand Marias May 20, 1996. Photograph/Ralph Latham.**

*Dakota* and *Hennepin* (KB, SC *et al.*). Very rare in the Region in spring was an imm. **Black-legged Kittiwake** in Wisconsin Apr. 3 in Manitowoc (DT) and again Apr. 14 in Two Rivers (RM *et al.*). Observers at W.P.B.O. reported a flyby ad. Ivory Gull Apr. 28 (KT, MK, JRo *et al.*). The bird seen at several hundred yards was identified on flight pattern, shape, all white appearance, and dark bill. The record is pending acceptance by the M.B.R.C. A **Royal Tern** found May 26 at Milwaukee (DB) provided Wisconsin with only its 5th record. Less rare in that state were **Arctic Terns** May 14–19 at Oconto (KS, JSm) and May 26 at Manitowoc (BD). Casual in Minnesota was a **Least Tern** May 16 in *Winona*.

### Owls to Raven

The major invasion of n. owls from the winter continued well into the spring. Minnesota is still tabulating the results and will publish them at a later date. Wisconsin reported two N. Hawk Owls in the Brule area, and one in *Douglas* lingered to mid-March. Great Grays in that state reached record numbers, with 67 documented sightings, of which 32 were in the spring. Boreal Owls also reached record numbers, with 27 birds reported, 15 of which were found dead. In Michigan, six N. Hawk Owls were reported at W.P.B.O., including three May 14, two of which were doing courtship displays. Great Gray numbers at that location were also impressive, with 28 seen between Apr. 23–May 22, with a peak of five May 13. Sixty-one Boreal Owls were reported at W.P.B.O., which although impressive is still well below the record year of 1988, when 163 birds were banded. More unusual were the 17 banded between Apr. 5–27 near Rogers City, *Alpena* (BG), as well as numerous other reports well s. of their normal winter range. Long-eared Owls were reported from 11 counties in Minnesota, including a first record for *Waseca* Mar. 22 (RG). Also in that state were 42 Short-eared Owls from 11 counties, including a report of 13 migrating within 45 minutes in *Wilkin* Apr. 6 (DM, SM). In Michigan this species was also quite conspicuous, with reports from 14 counties.

Perhaps the greatest rarity in the Region was the **White-collared Swift** observed in Michigan May 19 at Tawas Point S.P., *Iosco* (JD, JB, TC, DL). This species has only been recorded a few times n. of the Rio Grande in coastal states such as Texas and Florida. Therefore the Tawas bird represents not only the farthest north record, but also the first inland sighting. A *Say's Phoebe* May 16 in Bayside, *Milwaukee* (FH) would constitute a first state record,



**Record numbers of Boreal Owls were found during winter 1995–1996 in Wisconsin, where this bird was documented March 8, 1996. Photograph/Mark Peterson.**

if accepted by the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology Records Committee. Another in Michigan May 21 in *Keweenaw* (LB) will provide that state's 9th record, if accepted by the M.B.R.C. Western Kingbird reports in Michigan include individuals May 18 at W.P.B.O. and May 19 at North Pt., *Alpena* (BG). In Wisconsin individuals were reported May 18 in Milwaukee (DG, PSu) and May 29 in *Grant* (DT). A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was seen in Wisconsin intermittently from May 13–15 in w. *Shawano* (RS, SO *et al.*). In Minnesota, Com. Ravens in *Houston* Mar. 23 (DK) and in *Wilkin* Apr. 7 (DM, SM) were s. of normal, and both constituted first county records. This species seems to be expanding southward in the Region.

### Thrushes to Warblers

A **Mountain Bluebird** was observed in Wisconsin Apr. 4 near Appleton (MBr). In Minnesota, individuals were seen in *Todd* Mar. 14 (JKr, SKr), in *Martin* Mar. 16–17 (BB), in *Marshall* Mar. 20 (*fide* SSr), and in *Kanabec* May 5 (KR). Minnesota recorded a **Townsend's Solitaire** in late April in *Olmsted* (DA), while Wisconsin had an individual at Bailey's Harbor Mar. 18–21 (JR). A **Varied Thrush** was seen Apr. 1–26 in *Pennington*, MN (SST, GM), while individuals lingered in Wisconsin to late March in *Ozaukee* and May 2–8 in Door (RSt, RSo). **Loggerhead Shrikes** continue to be rare in the e. portion of the Region. Wisconsin had only one report, a pair s. on Monroe, *Green* (JSm, KS *et al.*). Michigan had one near Hersey, *Osceola* Mar. 24–Apr. 14 (LS) and one on nest in *Allegan* May 11 (JG). Minnesota had reports from 17 counties, down from last year's 24 counties, although that number

may have been inflated by a statewide publicity campaign.

Casual in Minnesota, a **White-eyed Vireo** was reported in *Rice* May 25 (JL), while Wisconsin had reports in Virmond Park, *Ozaukee* Apr. 28 (TWO), and on territory in Governor Dodge S.P. A **Townsend's Warbler** made a brief appearance at W.P.B.O., May 18 (KT); if accepted by the M.B.R.C., it would represent the 2nd state record. Minnesota reported a **Yellow-throated Warbler** in *Kandiyoh* Apr. 26 (MH, m.ob.). In Wisconsin, individuals were reported in Dane May 25 (SRo) and on territory in Wyalusing S.P., *Grant*. In Michigan, individuals were back in *Berrien* at the traditional nesting areas, with other reports of migrants, or possible nesters, in *Allegan*, *Kent*, and *Hillsdale*. In Wisconsin, **Prairie Warblers** were found in Navarino WA May 18 (MP) and on territory at Wyalusing S.P., May 29 (DT *et al.*). In Michigan, the species was more widespread than normal, with reports from 5 counties. Seven **Worm-eating Warblers** were reported in Wisconsin, including birds on territory in Brooklyn WA (PA) and Hemlock Draw (TWO). In Minnesota, an individual was seen in *Scott* May 20 (*fide* AH), and in Michigan one was reported in *Allegan* May 11 (JG). **Kentucky Warblers** were reported in *Scott* May 20 (*fide* AH), and returned to *Nicollett* in Minnesota. Michigan had reports of this species in *Kent* May 18 (JP), in *Wayne* May 20–22 (JC), in *Berrien* May 21 (KM) and two in *Hillsdale* after May 24 (JR). In Wisconsin, good numbers were found on territory at Wyalusing S.P. **Hooded Warblers** in Minnesota included individuals May 9–11 in *Rice* (TBo), May 12 in *Hennepin* (SC), and May 18 in *Scott* (DN). Also in that state were **Yellow-breasted Chats** in *Houston* May 26 (KE *et al.*) and in *Rice* May 26 (JL).

### Tanagers to Finches

Summer Tanagers were more common than normal in Michigan, with reports in



**Male Western Tanager examining a bird feeder in Butte des Morts, Wisconsin, May 12, 1996. Photograph/Bill Rolf.**



**Male Smith's Longspur at Whitefish Point, Michigan, May 26, 1996. First spring record for this hotspot. Photograph/Jim Granlund.**



**Although the White-winged Crossbill has been presumed to breed in Minnesota previously, this was apparently the first actual confirmed nest, in Rice County March 22, 1996. Photograph/Jon Little.**

Inkster May 3 and at Oakwoods Metro-park May 11, both in *Wayne* (AC), in *Berrien* May 10–12 (MWa), in *Kalamazoo* May 12 (PD, JT), in Port Huron May 13 (BBo), in *Delta* May 18 (CT), and in *Oakland* May 14 (GB). Wisconsin had a single record May 18 in *Milwaukee* (DG). Minnesota had one in late May in *Olmsted* (JTh) and another May 5–10 in *Duluth* (NB). *Western Tanagers* were reported in Wisconsin in *Butte des Morts* May 6–12 (BR), in *Waukesha* May 11 (VA), and in *Sheboygan* May 13–17 (EK). In Minnesota, this w. stray was found in *Wabasha* May 10–11 (*vide* CSc), and two in *Aiken* May 15–20 (MGe, m.ob.). A *Rose-breasted Grosbeak* in *Hennepin* Apr. 7 (DC) was the earliest arrival of that species in Minnesota. Wisconsin had *Blue Grosbeak* sightings from May 11–12 in *Cedarburg* (GH) and May 18 in *Waukesha* (TSc). A *Lazuli Bunting* in *Wabasha* May 20 (GS, m.ob.) was a very rare visitor to Minnesota. A female *Painted Bunting* was photographed in Port Huron, MI May 13 (DD). In Wisconsin, the male *Spotted Towhee* remained in *Shawano* into early

May, while a female was seen in *Milwaukee* Mar. 31–May 9 (FH). A *Lark Sparrow* in *Washtenaw* May 18 (MK, m.ob.) provided a first record for that Michigan county. Also in that state were reports of 20 *Sharp-tailed Sparrows* May 16 (CT) and two May 18 (BA, DM) in *Delta*. *Harris' Sparrows* in Michigan included birds in *Berrien* May 14 (DVi), in *Marquette* May 18 (CW, SW), and in *Keweenaw* May 18–20 (LB). A male *Smith's Longspur* May 25–28 provided W.P.B.O. with its first spring record (JG, m.ob.). A *White-winged Crossbill* nest found in *Rice* Mar. 9 (JLa, JL) provided Minnesota its first confirmed nesting for this species, although evidence, such as fledged young, has suggested it for years. *Common Redpolls* lingered well into the season throughout the Region, in Michigan being found through the period at W.P.B.O. There were numerous *Hoary Redpolls* from all 3 states. A *Eurasian Tree Sparrow* was present in *Ellison Bay, Door*, Mar. 30 (CY), one of few records for Wisconsin.

#### **Addenda**

The maximum count of *Great Gray Owls* for Michigan in the winter of 1995–1996 was 14 in the vicinity of *Sault Ste. Marie, Chippewa*, Feb. 22 (RB). The Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee has determined the documentation for the *W. Sandpiper* in *Fairbouldt* May 12, 1995, and the *Wilson's Plover* in *Cook* June 8, 1995, lacked sufficient documentation and should be deleted from the respective surveys.

Table 1 in *AFN* Vol. 50, page 57, should read "Broad-winged Hawk 51,048," not 1048. In that same issue, page 58, credit for the *Glaucous-winged Gull* record should read *Bardon* and not *Barton*.

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# Middle-western Prairie Region

**KENNETH J. BROCK**

It was a long, cold spring that brought a classic weather-dominated migration. The season was uniformly cold through mid-May, and only sporadically warm thereafter. Precipitation was light until mid-May, when an intense wet spell arrived and stayed the month. The cold spring inhibited leaf development and delayed the passerine flight; indeed, in central Illinois the stark absence of birds during an early May count brought chilling thoughts of "Silent Spring" to Myrna Deaton. This dearth, however, was short lived.

The mother of all fallouts arrived in May, when an unusually humid Gulf air-mass stalled over the Region and was subsequently displaced by cold Canadian air. Though the grounding lasted from about May 9 to May 17, it was most evident Saturday, May 11. Birders afield on that day observed a passerine wave that extended from at least Kent, Ohio to Columbia,

Missouri. The fallout was most intense near the southern tip of Lake Michigan, where, in the presence of 16°F wind chills, the birds were literally forced to the earth for survival. Although the grounding was great for birders, it posed critical problems for the birds.

The following summary of the Chicago Audubon Society's bird report, taped May 11 by Rich Biss, aptly captures the local situation: "Last night's 45 mile-an-hour north winds blew most of the migrants away from the lakefront. Huge numbers of warblers are being seen inland, especially along the Des Plaines River forest preserves. Incredible looks are being obtained of all species, as they are all on the ground looking for insects. Not only are many of the birds underweight and starving, but many are also being hit by cars. I had over 20 species of warblers this evening on the driving roads in Schiller Woods. The starving warblers are totally oblivious to people or to cars, and can easily be approached to within three or four feet. They will even feed under the car if you park it for a few seconds. Hundreds of warblers are being hit by cars along the faster main roads that border the forest preserves. Over 60 dead birds were seen today on Montrose Beach. Tomorrow will be no different, as the high is only predicted to be 55 degrees. If the weather doesn't warm up soon, it may have a disastrous impact on many of these insect eating species."

Accompanying the fallout were large accumulations of grosbeaks, orioles, and buntings at backyard feeding stations. Found within this throng were some real

surprises, including unprecedented numbers of Western Tanagers and Lazuli Buntings. Joining these western visitors was a remarkable northward surge of herons and egrets across the Region. These factors, plus an interesting mix of rarities, generated a spring migration that few observers will ever forget.

Abbreviations: H.B.S.P. (*Headlands Beach S.P., OH*), L. Cal. (*L. Calumet, Chicago*); Jax.P. (*Jackson Park on the Chicago lakefront*); S.C.R. (*Squaw Creek N.W.R., MO*); Spfld. (*Springfield, IL*).

## Loons to Ibises

The spring loon migration was rather ordinary, with only one Red-throated, a basic-plumed bird in *Sioux, IA* Apr. 19 (†JVD), and typical Com. Loon numbers. Red-necked Grebe reports included ten in Ohio, four in Iowa, and two in Illinois. Eared Grebes were more numerous than normal, with sightings in every state except Kentucky. East of the Mississippi R., W. Grebe reports included a singleton at Horseshoe L., *IL* May 14-16 (JVb, DKa), and two in Hamilton, *IL* May 19-20 (OD, *vide* VK). American White Pelicans continue to flourish, with a peak spring count of 1750 in *Calhoun and Jersey, IL* Mar. 16 (HW), plus nine birds at Jonathan Cr., *Marshall, KY* Mar. 16 (HCh, CP). Double-crested Cormorant counts were also "off scale," with 2700 at *Riverside, Cook, IL* May 4 (WMA), 1800 at *Trumbull L., IA* Apr. 24 (LS), and 700 counted in 2.5 hours in *Ottawa, OH* Apr. 20 (VF). Accompanying the Double-crested hoard were increased numbers of Olivaceous Cormorants, with single birds reported at *Little River W.M.A., IA* May 4 (†SD), *L. Cal., June 2* (†JL), and at *S.C.R., Apr. 6* (CH) & 13 (JG *et al.*).

It was the best spring in several years for Am. Bitterns, with reports from every state, including >24 in Illinois, and 14 in both Iowa and Ohio. By far the most impressive Least Bittern tally consisted of 13 (a spring maximum for the state) counted at *Matanzas Prairie, IL* May 30 (KR). The n. states experienced a remarkable incursion of herons and egrets that produced unprecedented numbers and unexpected nestings at several locations. For the first time since 1953, Great Egrets attempted nesting in Indiana, with a few pairs building nests in *Gibson* (GBo, JcP *et al.*), and at least 13 nests in *Porter* (JMc, SB, CF, m.ob.). Snowy Egrets were also widespread, with a high count of 41 at *Fairmount City, IL* May 29 (DKa), and multiple sightings from all other states. Up to 20 Snowys were in *Gibson, IN* May 21,

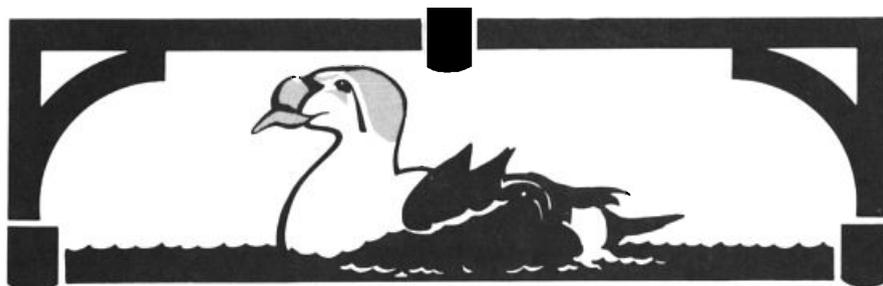


where that state's first nesting record was logged (GBo, JcP, ML, AT). Little Blue Herons were also unusually plentiful in the n. states; >150 were counted in *St. Clair*, IL May 29 (DKa), and  $\leq 30$  were seen in *Gibson*, IN, where the state's 2nd nesting record was recorded (GBo, JcP, ML, AT). Tricolored Herons invaded the Region; seven were seen in Illinois (including four in the Chicago area), one-two were in *Gibson*, IN May 22-31 (GBo, JcP, ML, AT, JMc), one was at the Outer Loop Landfill, KY May 16 (P&JB), and one flew past the Magee Marsh, OH, observation tower May 1 (VF). The Region was also awash with Cattle Egrets, but the most remarkable occurrence was in *Gibson*, IN, where Indiana's first nesting was attempted and abruptly aborted. On May 22, 500 Cattle Egrets were at the *Gibson* colony and many were actively constructing nests (GBo, JcP, ML, AT); by May 26 the site was abandoned (JMc). The Black-crowned Night-Heron count at the L.Cal. rookery peaked at 1558 May 4-5 (WMa). An early Yellow-crowned Night-Heron arrived at Oakwood Bottoms, *Jackson*, IL Mar. 17 (BDa). Yellow-crowns were reported in all 4 n. states, with a maximum of seven at Spring Valley, OH May 5 (*fide* NK), and nesting (2 nests) at Muscatuck N.W.R., IN, in late April (PW). The w. states experienced a major spring *Plegadis* ibis invasion. A breeding-plumed Glossy Ibis was at Sauget, IL May 28-June 8 ( $\dagger$ DKa,  $\dagger$ KMc, m.ob.) and excellent White-faced Ibis numbers were recorded in the 3 w. states. As expected, the largest numbers occurred in Missouri, where the peak count of 51 at S.C.R., May 17 (DE, KG) constituted an all-time high for the state. Additionally, 14 were at Snake Cr. Marsh, IA May 6-13 (SD), and the seven found in *St. Clair*, IL June 8, represented a state record (*fide* MDe).

### Waterfowl

The fine winter goose movement extended well into spring. In Iowa, Greater White-fronted Geese peaked along the Big Sioux R., *Lyon*, Mar. 17, when 10,000 were counted. Farther east, record state White-fronted counts were logged as follows: 800, in *Morgan*, IL Mar. 15 (MW), 59 at Kankakee W.M.A., IN Mar. 3 (JcD, WC), and >40 near Hickman, *Fulton*, KY Mar. 2 (CP). Accompanying a stellar Snow Goose flight were unusually high numbers of Ross' Geese, providing spring records for every state except Kentucky. Noteworthy records included singletons at Buck Creek S.P., OH Mar. 16 ( $\dagger$ DO *et al.*) and LaPorte, IN Mar. 9-10 (JMc, DG,  $\dagger$ m.ob.).

Many correspondents deemed the duck migration outstanding. Noteworthy among



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a myriad of excellent counts were: 4302 Wood Ducks at L. Chautauqua, IL Apr. 6 (S&RB), 8000 Green-winged Teal at L. Chautauqua, IL Apr. 1 (Illinois D.N.R.), 10,000 N. Pintails at L. Chautauqua, IL Mar. 12 (Illinois D.N.R.), 1989 N. Shovelers at L. Chautauqua, IL Mar. 28 (S&RB), 26,000 Canvasbacks at Nauvoo, IL Mar. 8 (Illinois D.N.R.), 10,500 Ring-necked Ducks at Nauvoo, IL Mar. 26 (Illinois D.N.R.), 10,500 Lesser Scaup at Nauvoo, IL Apr. 1 (Illinois D.N.R.), and 5000 Ruddy Ducks at Maumee Bay, OH Apr. 21 (RHa). Cinnamon Teal (all males) were also unusually common, with five in Iowa and three in Missouri. East of the Mississippi R.,  $\delta$  Cinnamon Teal were reported in *Morgan*, IL Mar. 25-Apr. 13 (MW, m.ob.), at Salamonie Res., IN Apr. 2-4 ( $\dagger$ Haw, MKr), and at Spring Valley, OH Apr. 25-26 (JWh,  $\dagger$ ST, JDu). Male Eur. Wigeon were identified at Bacon Cr. Park, IA Mar. 25 (BH), and at Fermilab, Batavia, IL Mar. 31 ( $\dagger$ JPo). A  $\delta$  Canvasback at S.C.R., May 30 (DE) constituted an all-time late spring record for Missouri. The season's best duck was an ad.  $\delta$  King Eider that first appeared at H.B.S.P., Mar. 4-5 ( $\dagger$ KMc, m.ob.), then moved w. along the L. Erie shoreline to Eastlake, OH, where it was seen Mar. 10 (LRo, ph. m.ob). Harle-

quin Ducks were restricted to L. Michigan, where three were seen in Chicago and three in Indiana. Noteworthy scoter records included:  $\delta$  Blacks at Saylorville Res., IA Mar. 30 (BE) and L. Jacomo, MO Apr. 8-14 (CH, m.ob.), 35 Surfs on Brookville Res., IN Apr. 25 (WB *et al.*), two imm.  $\delta$  Surfs on L. Jacomo, MO Apr. 7-14 (MBe, m.ob.), and a  $\delta$  White-winged at Black Hawk L., IA May 24 (PE).

A tardy Com. Goldeneye lingered in the St. Louis area until May 11 (BR). It was a great spring for Barrow's Goldeneyes, with three birds reported in Illinois. The first sighting involved a male (and possible female) on Clinton L., Mar. 5 ( $\dagger$ EK, JWa); a female was confirmed at this site Mar. 9-10 ( $\dagger$ MDe,  $\dagger$ DKa,  $\dagger$ RCh). The final observation involved a first-year male seen at Montrose Harbor, Chicago, Mar. 20 ( $\dagger$ RHu).

### Hawks to Cranes

Two active Osprey nests were found in Land between the Lakes, KY May 17 (CP). The Mississippi Kite expansion accelerated this spring, with reports from every state. Extralimital sightings involved six at S.C.R., in extreme n.w. Missouri, May 18 (BE, SA), two at Carlyle L., IL May 18 (DKa, MSe, KMc), and a first-

year bird at Metzger Marsh, OH May 19 (†NW, †ST, CM). Bald Eagle nesting reports included 14 in Indiana, four in Illinois, plus one each in Iowa, Kentucky, and Missouri. The spring Sharp-shinned Hawk flight peaked at Magee Marsh, OH Apr. 18 with 201 birds (VF). The season's N. Goshawk tally was six, which is fewer than in recent spring flights. A fine Red-shouldered Hawk movement was logged at Maumee Bay S.P., OH Mar. 14, when 68 were seen (ES). Swainson's Hawks were not reported from the traditional Kane, IL, nesting area, though it is unclear whether anyone specifically looked for them. The Region's only extralimital report involved an ad. light-morph Swainson's that accompanied a raptor movement over Indiana Dunes S.P., May 25 (†KB, †JCD, CF, LH, JMc). Tardy Rough-legged Hawks were more widespread than normal, with singletons in Marshall, IA May 30–31 (†M&BP), at Fremont, OH May 15 (VF), Porter, IN May 13 (KB), and Illinois Beach S.P., May 11 (RB *et al.*). Easternmost of the 13 Golden Eagle reports came from H.B.S.P., Apr. 12 (†KMe *et al.*). The season Merlin total, a hefty 43, constituted a record high for the Region. The season's most noble raptor was a white-morph Gyrfalcon, discovered in Fountain Grave W.M.A., Linn, MO Mar. 9 (†MBe, JR *et al.*). Prairie Falcons were reported in Sac, IA Mar. 12 (†RT) and in Champaign, IL 28 Apr. (†RCh).

A first county record was established in Nodaway, MO, when five Greater Prairie Chickens were found, three of which were booming, Apr. 20–21 (LM, †DE, ph.). An impressive 260 Wild Turkeys were counted in a single Davies, MO, flock Mar. 8 (TMc). Yellow Rails were reported only in Illinois, where singles were recorded at L. Clinton Apr. 6 (RCh), Chicago May 10 (m.ob.), and Riverwoods, Lake, June 10 (DD). Most surprising was a calling Black Rail at Grand Pass W.M.A., MO, in early May (BJ). Other noteworthy rail observations included a Virginia Rail at Silver Grove, KY Apr. 23 (FR) and 96 Soras at Miami-Whitewater, OH May 5 (*vide* NK). Perhaps the season's most colorful find was a Purple Gallinule at Spring Valley, OH Apr. 12–24 (†ST, CM, m.ob.). A 2nd Purple Gallinule was found dead in Fulton, OH Apr. 23 (JPh, *vide* NK). Sandhill Cranes were both abundant and widespread; noteworthy among many reports were 13 in Allamakee, IA, and Missouri's first nesting record (which failed) in Montineau May 17 (MDd).

### Shorebirds

A Snowy Plover at Saylorville Res., IA May 3 (†SD) provided the Region's only

report. Piping Plovers were well represented in the spring flight, with 27 birds scattered across every state except Kentucky. Three Black-necked Stilts, present in a flooded field s.w. of Ainsworth, IA May 18–19, added flavor to the spring Iowa Ornithological Union meeting (†M&BP, RW, †m.ob., ph.). Elsewhere, four were recorded in Illinois, and three in Missouri. Typically, Am. Avocets were widely distributed; peak counts included 12 at Jax.P., Apr. 28 (PC) and 11 at Grover's L., IA May 5 (ET). Willets staged an unusually strong flight, providing records in every state. Noteworthy counts included 44 at Waukegan, IL May 7 (RHu), 43 at Spfld., Apr. 26 (DBo), and 35 at Riverton W.M.A., IA May 3 (B&LP). Whimbrels were quite common in the w. states, with high counts of 13 at S.C.R., May 18 (GG, BE, SA), eight at Riverton W.M.A., IA May 18–19 (†M&BP, MW), and two at Miller Beach, IN May 29–June 1 (JMc, m.ob.). Marbled Godwits were also widespread, with reports from every state except Kentucky. The easternmost reports consisted of two birds at L. Rockwell, OH Apr. 21 (†VW), and two at Conneaut, OH May 8 (†R&SG). The 450 Baird's Sandpipers at Eagle Bluffs W.M.A., MO Apr. 21 (PMc) constituted an all-time high spring tally for the state. An astonishingly early Buff-breasted Sandpiper, carefully examined at Cone Marsh, Louisa, IA Mar. 29 (†JF), appears to constitute the Region's first March record. The following Ruffs were reported: one at Killdeer Plains W.M.A., OH Apr. 12–13 (ELu, VF), a female at L. Chautauqua, IL (KR), and a female in Polk, IA May 10 (BE). After several discouraging spring flights, phalaropes staged the Region's best migration since 1989. Both Wilson's and Red-necked phalaropes were recorded in every state except Kentucky, with astronomical Wilson's counts of 155 at Riverton W.M.A., IA May 7 (BE), 108 in Holt, MO May 11 (DE *et al.*), and 88 at Eagle Bluff, MO May 1 (BG). The peak Red-necked count was 21 at Blue L., IA May 2 (JF, TK), but other noteworthy reports included five at the Woodburn sewage ponds in n.e. Indiana May 15–15 (Haw *et al.*), two at Metzger



**Black-necked Stilt (one of three present) near Ainsworth, Iowa, May 19, 1996. Photograph/T. H. Kent.**

Marsh, OH May 17 (D&JH), and one at Riverlands W.M.A., MO May 11 (BR *et al.*).

### Jaegers to Terns

A dark jaeger, apparently an immature, was seen on Carlyle L., IL Mar. 20 (†JVb). Casual just a decade ago, Laughing Gulls are now well established in the Region. This spring Laughing Gulls were logged in all 6 states, with daily counts of three birds in both Illinois and Indiana. The westernmost reports involved adults at Horseshoe L., MO Apr. 29 (MR, DKl) and at Saylorville Res., IA May 10 (†SD). The season's most unusual gull was a leucistic Franklin's Gull at Mound City, MO May 9–11 (DE ph). Other good finds included a breeding-plumaged Little Gull that associated with Bonaparte's Gulls on Blackhawk L., Sac, IA Apr. 21–22 (†PE, †JF), and an ad. Black-headed Gull that flew past Michigan City Harbor, IN Apr. 20 (†KB, †JCD, m.ob.). Bonaparte's Gulls peaked on L. Michigan Apr. 24, when 13,100 were counted along the Chicago lakefront (EWA). Mew Gulls have definitely arrived in the Region. Illinois sightings, all adults, included birds at Montrose Beach, Chicago, Mar. 22 and Apr. 3 (†RHu), L. Clinton Mar. 23 (†RCh), and an alternate-plumaged bird on Lake Spfld. on the extraordinary date of May 23 (†DBo). The latter apparently constitutes the Region's first May record. Indiana's 3rd Mew Gull, an adult in alternate plumage, was discovered at Michigan City Harbor Mar. 29 (†JCD, ph.). The only California Gull was an adult at Montrose Beach, Chicago, Apr. 2 (†RHu). Arctic gulls lingered in the Region later than normal, as reflected by a Thayer's Gull at Waukegan, IL May 7 (LB), and imm. Glaucous Gulls at Rainbow Beach, Chicago (SM), and Michigan City Harbor, IN (SB), both May 11. Immature Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen at Alton, IL Feb. 2–Apr. 6 (DKa), at Montrose Beach, Chicago, Mar. 28 (RHu, JPu), Mel Price Dam, MO, through the period until Apr. 6 (*vide* CH), and on L. Michigan off Johnson Beach, IN Apr. 18 (JMc, KB, CF, LH).

Peak counts of the regular migrant terns included 586 Caspians at Lorain, OH Apr. 24 (TL), 2200 Commons at Michigan City Harbor, IN May 18 (LH), 290 Forsters' in Chicago May 4 (JL), and 500 Blacks in n.w. IA May 21 (TK). Additionally, Least Tern numbers were up, with reports from every state except Ohio; counts included 24 in Indiana, >22 in Illinois, ten in Kentucky, five in Iowa, and two in Missouri.

### Owls to Shrikes

A Great Gray Owl found injured in Des Moines, IA Mar. 1 died Mar. 3, and was

preserved as specimen #2643 at Iowa State University (\*JDi, ph.). The season's only Burrowing Owl was seen in *Lyon*, IA Apr. 26 (*vide* DH). Both "eared" owls were widely reported: Peak counts included six Long-eareds at Mid-Prairie Park, IA Apr. 2 (RT), and >20 Short-eareds in *Franklin*, IL Mar. 11 (LS). Northern Saw-whet totals included three in Iowa, three in Illinois, two in Ohio, and one each in Missouri and Indiana. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers staged a strong flight at H.B.S.P., where a peak count of 60 was logged Apr. 20 (LRO, RHn). Sapsuckers also lingered later than normal, providing several May records; the latest was in Jax.P., May 28 (KC).

It was a good season for *Empidonax* flycatchers, with excellent Yellow-bellied, Alder, and Least Flycatchers numbers across the Region. Reports of W. Kingbirds e. of the Mississippi R. included single birds at Eagle Park, IL May 11 (KL), in *St. Clair*, IL May 28 (DKa), Kingsbury W.M.A., IN May 31 (JMc), and Waukegan, IL June 1 (DD). The only extralimital Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was in *DuPage*, IL May 26–27 (HCo, m.ob.). The spring Purple Martin assessment was not good. In addition to mediocre numbers, a significant kill associated with cold weather was reported in the Chicago area (WS). Tree Swallows fared much better, with counts exceeding 5000 birds in Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa. The 1000 Cliff Swallows seen at L. Spfld., May 13 (DBo), constituted an exceptionally high spring tally. The ever expanding Fish Crow population was reported in s.w. Missouri at Roaring River S.P., May 2 (SA).

Bewick's Wrens were reported at five c. Illinois locations, at two Iowa sites, and in *Mercer*, KY May 31 (WD). Winter Wrens departed later than normal, with May records in 4 states; the latest was May 16 at Starved Rock S.P. (J&CM). A remarkably late Golden-crowned Kinglet was at Illinois Beach S.P., IL May 17 (DJ, EWa *et al.*). The season's only Mountain Bluebird was a male found on a roadside fence at Hidden Bridge W.M.A., *Lyon*, IA Mar. 12 (ET). *Catharus* thrushes were recorded in extraordinary numbers during the May fallout. The following daily totals reflect the magnitude of the grounding: 86 Veeries in Jax.P., May 17 (PC), 70 Veeries in H.B.S.P., May 11 (LRO, RHn), 57 Veeries in Indiana Dunes S.P., May 11 (LH), 40 Gray-cheeked Thrushes in *Knox*, IL May 12 (MBa), 200 Swainson's Thrushes at Moorehead Park, IA May 11 (PE), and 150 Swainson's Thrushes in *Piatt*, IL May 11 (RCh, BC). May Hermit Thrushes were reported in all 4 n. states and Missouri; the latest dates were May 24 in Evanston, IL (JE, EWa) and May 19 at H.B.S.P. (LRO, m.ob.). The Parma Heights,

OH, Varied Thrush lingered through May 7 (RHa). Sprague's Pipits peaked Apr. 23 at the Rosecrans Airport, MO, when four were counted (MR *et al.*). A record Cedar Waxwing flight was recorded at Michigan City Harbor, IN, as flocks migrated westward along the lakefront. Counts included 960 May 18 (LH), 5055 May 19 (KB), and 1610 May 22 (JMc). Following last winter's invasion, many N. Shrikes lingered in the Region, providing March records for every state except Kentucky. The most noteworthy reports were logged near Lexington, MO Mar. 10 (CH, SA) and in *Boone*, IL Mar. 31 (DFi).

### Vireos to Warblers

Several Illinois and Indiana observers reported low White-eyed Vireo numbers this spring. Solitary Vireos were unusually common in *Jackson*, MO, where 11 were counted May 11 (MBe), a total that almost doubles the state's previous maximum count. The season's peak Red-eyed Vireo tally was an impressive 300, found at Ledges S.P., IA May 29 (G&GB).

Accompanying the phenomenal May 9–17 grounding, many warbler counts established record daily totals. A sampling of the better warbler tallies include: 14 Golden-winged in *Tazewell*, IL May 16 (MF); 15 Orange-crowns in *Polk*, IA May 10 (SD); 80 Chestnut-sideds at Magee Marsh, OH May 10 (VF); 41 Magnolias in *Boone*, MO May 11 (PMc, BJ), and 150 at Magee Marsh, OH May 10 (VF); 55 Cape Mays at Magee Marsh, OH May 10 (VF); 2000 Yellow-rumpeds in c. Iowa May 11 (SD); 400 Palms at L. Chautauqua, IL May 11 (KR); 65 Black-and-whites in *Lake*, IL May 13 (SM); 49 Am. Redstarts in *Boone*, MO May 11 (PMc, BJ); 62 Ovenbirds in Indiana Dunes S.P., May 11 (LH); and 46 Wilson's at Algona, IA May 16 (MKe). Other noteworthy warbler reports included a hard-to-find "Lawrence's" hybrid in Columbia, MO May 14 & 16 (†FBr), and an extremely interesting hybrid in the Chicago area. The latter, which looked like a Hermit Warbler with streaked flanks, was seen in Van Patton Woods, *Lake*, IL May 4 (†RHu, ELA). The northward Yellow-throated Warbler expansion continued this spring, with 3 out-of-range sightings in Chicago, plus reports from *Hardin* and *Kossuth*, IA. It is also noteworthy that amidst the spring warbler plethora, Bay-breasteds were notably scarce; the peak count was only ten. The season's most pleasant warbler surprise was a very cooperative Swainson's Warbler that delighted perhaps 100 birders in Jax.P., Apr. 27–29 (†WMo, †PC, †DJ, m.ob.). A very tardy Louisiana Waterthrush was also identified in Jax.P., May 27 (PC). In Iowa, a late surge of



A small "invasion" of Western Tanagers reached the upper Midwest this spring. At Furnessville, Indiana, this individual present in May furnished the second state record, only days after the first. Photograph/Clyde Fields.

migrant warblers yielded 100 Blackpolls at Ledges S.P., May 29 (G&GB), and 16 Mournings at Moorhead Park May 25 (PE).

### Tanagers to Finches

Summer Tanager reports were up this spring with numerous birds reported at feeding stations during the May grounding.

**SA** The Region was brightened by the invasions of 2 colorful w. species; Western Tanager and Lazuli Bunting. Traditionally a vagrant in the Region, this spring male Western Tanagers were reported in every state except Kentucky. Several became regular visitors at feeders, allowing confirmation by many observers. The invasion vanguard, discovered by 9-year-old Amanda Fribleg Apr. 28 (†) at the family feeder in New Castle, provided Indiana's first confirmed record; the bird remained through May 5 (†T&BF, ph., †m.ob.). Remarkably, a 2nd bird was discovered in n. Porter, IN May 2 (BPI), and reappeared May 5 at the Furnessville feeding station of Thomas and Jo Peak (5 miles e. of the discovery site), where it remained through May 16 (CF, ph., †m.ob.). Subsequent sightings were made at Berger Park, Chicago, May 10 (JS, *vide* DJ), in Parkville, MO May 14–17 (*vide* CH), at Crane Cr., OH May 16 (†DFr, †GBe, KD, †MA), and one identified as a first-year male near Spirit L., IA May 23 (†ET). Lazuli Buntings, the 2nd member of the invading western duo, provided a remarkable 6 records in Missouri, plus one each in Illinois and Iowa (all males). Reports included: one at a feeding station near Weaubleau, MO May 6 (HJ ph.),

a 2nd-year bird seen briefly at Lake Spfld., May 7 (†DBo), one at Lebanon, MO May 11 (D&MW), one at a Shenandoah, IA feeder May 16 (†MTI), two males in Springfield, MO May 17–18 (TKn, LRi), a first-year male frequenting a Fairfax, MO feeder May 12–30 (EWr, †DE ph), and an imm. male in Columbia, MO May 28–June 2 (GR, †PMc, ph., m.ob.). As sightings of both species exclusively involved males, one wonders how many of the more sedately plumed females passed through undetected.

During the mid-May fallout, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks flooded local feeding stations; peak counts included 80 in Piatt, IL May 11 (BC, RCh), and 48 at Fairfield, IA May 11 (DP). The easternmost Blue Grosbeak was at Magee Marsh, OH May 19 (RHa). An impressive >200 Indigo Buntings were counted along a levee near Hickman, KY May 4 (HCh).

Illinois' first Green-tailed Towhee since 1979 visited a Popular Grove backyard May 20–21 (†ABr, DW, ph., m.ob.). Reports of the newly christened Spotted Towhee included four in Iowa, three in Missouri, three in Illinois, and one in Ohio. The latter was at Springville Marsh May 4–12 (VF, TB). Remarkably, a singing ♂ Am. Tree Sparrow lingered in Palatine, IL, until May 16 (Carolyn Fields). Clay-colored Sparrows were widespread; individuals wandered E to Ohio, where they were recorded at Springville Marsh, May 4 (TB) and in Lucas May 11–17 (VF, RHa). Extralimital Lark Sparrows appeared at Jax.P., Apr. 16 (PC *et al.*), Whiting Park, IN (JMc, m.ob.), and the Migrant Trap, IN May 15 (DG). An impressive >22 Henslow's Sparrows were logged at Taberville Prairie, MO May 4 (SA). A tardy LeConte's Sparrow was seen in Greene, IL May 25 (HW). Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were more common than normal; noteworthy records included four in Knox, IL May 12 (MB), and one at Cleveland Lakefront S.P., OH May 23 (TL). An extremely late Lincoln's Sparrow was still at Bilby L., MO May 29 (KG). Harris' Sparrows roamed farther east than normal, with seven reported in n.w. Indiana during the May fallout, and one at Maumee S.P., OH May 7 (FG). Female Chestnut-collared Longspurs were reported at Rosecrans Airport, MO Apr. 18 (MR *et al.*), and in Ray, MO Apr. 28 (BF).

An impressive Bobolink movement was recorded along a Fulton, KY levee May 4, when 500–1000 were counted (HCh). Well e. of their normal range were Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Miami-Whitewater, OH Apr. 27 (*vide* NK) and at Magee Marsh, OH Apr.



Another western invader was Lazuli Bunting. This male was in Atchison County, Missouri, May 26, 1996. Photograph/David A. Easterla.

23–30 (VF). An anomalous Brewer's Blackbird was identified at Ottawa N.W.R., OH May 12 (VF), and very late female was observed in Greene, IA May 11 (†SD). Great-tailed Grackles continued their eastward march, with nesting reported in Dallas, Guthrie, and Warren, IA. Additionally, an ad. ♂ Great-tailed was observed in Columbia, MO June 1 (†PMc). Small numbers of White-winged Crossbills were reported in Illinois, Iowa, and Ohio. Only a few Com. Redpolls lingered into the spring season; the peak count was 56, in Evanston, IL Mar. 5 (EWA). A ♀ Hoary Redpoll was identified at Mentor, OH Mar. 17 (RHn, †LRo *et al.*). Five Pine Siskins were still at Highland Cemetery, Kenton, KY May 5 (LMc). Small to modest numbers of Evening Grosbeaks were reported in every state except Kentucky; the latest report involved a singleton in Shelby, IL May 27 (KF).

### Corrigenda

The 81 N. Harriers reported n. of Chicago in fall 1995 (*AFN* 50:61), were counted Oct. 15, not Oct. 28, and the 97 Swainson's Hawks at Hitchcock W.M.A., IA Oct. 27 (*AFN* 50:61) were seen Oct. 2, not Oct. 27. The 250 Semipalmated Plovers reported (*AFN* 50:62) were actually Semipalmated Sandpipers. The Sabine's Gull reported at Smithville L., MO Oct. 31 (*AFN* 50:63) was actually seen Oct. 13.

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