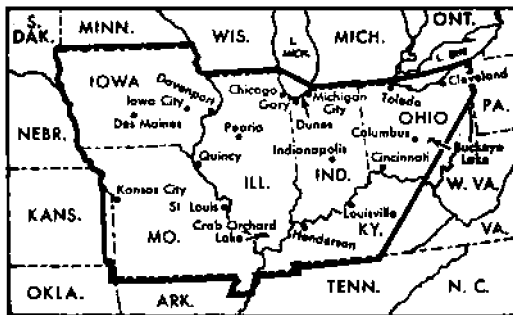


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MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION / Vernon M. Kleen and Lee Bush

What a complicated season! Unusual weather, a retarded spring, and unnatural migration patterns all were noted throughout the Region. Fol-



iage developed two to three weeks late and spring migrants arrived one or more weeks later than normal. Many winter and early-migrant species were reported later in the season than ever before, and some flycatchers, thrushes and warblers were still migrating through the Region in early June.

The season was very dry and cool. April was one of the driest on record for many areas; most precipitation for May occurred in two or three heavy downpours which provided near or slightly above normal rainfall for that month. A late, record-breaking, 2 in. to 10 in. snowstorm covered e. Missouri and the s. half of Illinois on Apr. 5 & 6, but completely melted the following day. Tornado watches were common in late April and early May in the s. part of the Region; on May 6 & 7 several tornadoes and heavy rainstorms were reported. Hail the size of "softballs" and 100 mph winds were reported in parts of s. Illinois late on May 7; the following morning many dead and near-dead blackbirds were found in the grassy fields of Williamson Co. Airport (VK, et al.).

Average monthly temperatures were as much as 7°F. below normal with frosts reported as late as May 13. North and n.w. winds predominated through late April and the first half of May; the southerly winds that did occur were weak, short-lived, and not conducive to migration waves. Very few species were found earlier than usual, but all expected species were reported; most seemed scarce or difficult to find. "Suddenly they were here! And almost as suddenly . . . they were gone." (AJW). Several reporters suggested that the scarcity of birds may have been due to population declines; however, these "observed" declines may not have been actual declines. The complicated season was probably responsible for the "observed" decline; migrants continuously filtered through the Region but were not stacked up in the mass waves that often occur in early May after strong southerly winds.

Clark reported a reverse migration along the Chicago side of L. Michigan for about an hour after sunrise on Apr. 11; he estimated nearly 2100 birds of 11 species (mostly blackbirds and Robins) flying south into a s.s.w. wind. Many of the birds were coming in off of the Lake from the n.e. or n.e.; 10 Rock Doves and 1 House Sparrow were among these birds.

Most observers felt that this spring produced one of the poorest migrations ever. However, many new records were established and several unexpected species were reported.

LOONS, GREBE, CORMORANTS—The May 16 presence of a Com. Loon at L. Shelbyville, Ill. is one day later than last year's late date (HDB). Red-throated Loons were found on Chautauqua L., Ill. May 1, and at Illinois Beach State Park, Lake Co., May 30 (HDB). A single W. Grebe appeared at Squaw Creek Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Mo., May 1-3 (FL). Double-crested Cormorants

continued to be scarce in the Region; an unusually large flock of 66 was seen at Horseshoe L., Alexander Co., Ill., Apr. 7 (JHa, fide DA).

HERONS, EGRETS, IBISES—Observers suggested that the numbers of Great Blue Herons returning to heronries have declined. Little Blue Herons, as in past years, continued to wander north of their breeding grounds: an adult near Pleasantville, Marion Co., Iowa, Apr. 26 (GB); a subadult at L. Calumet (Chicago) May 1 & 2 (LB & CC); and an adult at Waite Hill (Cleveland) Apr. 15-26 (AF, fide WAK). Cattle Egrets "are doing well with several thousand breeding in s.e. Missouri" (DA); they have also increased in n.w. Missouri (FL). Therefore, it is not surprising to find them increasing as Spring wanderers farther north: 5 birds at 4 scattered Iowa locations Apr. 25-May 5 (fide WB); 10 in Kane Co., Ill. May 6 (RM); 3 in the Chicago area between May 8 and 15 (CC); 4 at Crown Point, Lake Co., Ind. May 15 (GP, fide CC); and 2 at Port Clinton, Ohio, May 22 (OD, et al.). Com. Egrets have been reported in reduced numbers; the breeding birds at Heron Pond, Johnson Co., Ill. failed to return at all this year (VK). A Snowy Egret was found at L. Calumet on May 16, providing an exceptional record (LB, et al.). Two Louisiana Herons were found in the Region: the first at Iris Pond, near Terre Haute, May 5-8 (AM & JM); the second at Crane Creek, w. of Cleveland, May 30 (WH, fide WAK). Fifty-plus (record number?) Yellow-crowned Night Herons were seen at Squaw Creek Refuge in May (MR). Once again a Glossy Ibis appeared in Ohio, at Hueston Woods State Park, Butler Co., April 7 (DO, fide AJW), and was photographed by many observers the next few days. Six White-faced Ibises were observed at Squaw Creek Refuge between May 1 & 5 (HB, FL & MR).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS—Two Whistling Swans lingered at Girard L. near Vienna, Trumbull Co., Ohio until Apr. 20 (BS). Two Blue Geese were still present at the Union Co. State Wildlife Refuge, Ill. on May 8 (VK, et al.). Dabbling ducks migrated late this season, with individuals of several species remaining throughout the Region well into May. Three Cinnamon Teal were found in the St. Joseph, Mo. area Apr. 17-26 (FL & JLH). Most diving ducks left during the warm spell of the third week of April. However, there were still isolated records of interest: a Redhead on the Ohio R. near Louisville, Ky. May 7 & 9 (AS); a ♀ Com. Goldeneye at L. Calumet, May 16 (LB, et al.); and a ♂ on the Fox R. near Dundee, Ill., May 28 (RM); a Surf Scoter on L. Charleston, Coles Co., Ill. in a mixed flock of Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Ducks and Shovelers, Apr. 12 (MC) and Apr. 13 (LBH); three additional Surf Scoters, including an adult ♂, on Findley L. in s. Lorain Co., Ohio, Apr. 17 (OD). Two Red-breasted Mergansers were found at Whitewater State Park, Union Co., Ind. as late as May 10 (fide AM); four were counted in

the Louisville area, May 9 (fide AS); and a ♀ was still at L. Kincaid, Christian Co., Ill. May 25 (HDB).

HAWKS, EAGLE—Cooper's Hawks were ". . . much rarer than in past year" (AJW); "Few nests were found this year compared to frequent nests in the early 1960's" around Cincinnati (RA, JHa, fide AJW); one nest was found in April at Pomona, Jackson Co., Ill. (WG, fide VK). Near Cleveland, "migrant hawks occurred in good numbers over inland areas, while lakefront movements were poorer than usual. Good flight days occurred on April 3, 8, 25, 30, and on May 7, 11, 18, and 19, with over 100 birds on many of these days with all common species represented" (WAK). Late Rough-legged Hawks were encountered at two Indiana locations: Terre Haute May 8 and in Parke Co. (same bird?) May 9 (AM & JM); and at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, May 9 (DH, fide WB). An adult, light-phase Swainson's Hawk was observed at Half Day (Chicago) on May 9 (CC). A Ferruginous Hawk was found at Maquon, Knox Co., Ill. Apr. 28, and this species "may not be as rare in Illinois as once believed" (HDB). An imm. Bald Eagle was discovered at Illinois Beach State Park, May 30 (HDB). Ospreys continued to be scarce throughout the Region; one reported in Iowa (no location given) Mar. 17, was very early (DM, fide WB). A ♂ Peregrine Falcon was observed stooping shorebirds at Squaw Creek Refuge, Mo., Apr. 17 (MR) and one (same bird?) was present there May 9 (FL) and May 12 (MR); one was found in St. Charles Co., Mo. Apr. 27 (JEC).

CRANES, RAILS, GALLINULES—A Sandhill Crane spent nearly a month in company with tame Canada Geese at a farm pond s. of Oxford, Ohio (DO, fide AJW); another bird was found in an unusual location at a very late date: L. Calumet, May 8 (CC). King Rails, Virginia Rails and Soras were very common this spring throughout most of the Mississippi and Missouri river valleys. High concentrations occurred especially in the backed-up waters around Dardenne Creek in St. Charles Co., Mo. (DA). Yellow Rails were fairly common also, with several being studied closely: one in St. Charles Co., Mo. on Apr. 26 (EM & KM, fide JEC); three at Evergreen L., McLean Co., Ill. on May 1 (VH, et al.); one at L. Calumet on May 2 (BT, CC, et al.); and one dead at Evanston, Ill. on May 13 (JG). Two Black Rails were "identified" during the season: one at Evergreen L., McLean Co., Ill., Apr. 25 (LP, fide VH) and one at L. Contrary in n.w. Missouri, Apr. 28 (JF, fide FL). Purple Gallinules appeared in the Region again this spring; one stayed in the Cincinnati Nature Center pond Apr. 20-24 and was photographed several times (fide AJW); another was observed in w. Kentucky at Goose Pond, Hopkins Co., May 7 (JWH & JE, fide AS).

SHOREBIRDS—Piping Plovers appeared in three locations this spring: the normally expected ones at Squaw Creek Refuge, where they were fairly

common in May (MR); 1 at Waukegan, Ill., May 15 (LB, et al.); and one at Chautauqua L. in central Illinois, May 8 (HDB). A Snowy Plover was found again this year at Squaw Creek Refuge, May 15 (HB, fide DA). Golden Plovers migrated through the Region in large numbers; several flocks of over 200 birds were reported from Tiffin, Ohio between Apr. 26 and May 1 (JK); one flock of 896 was counted in a single field at the Union County Refuge, Ill. Apr. 10 (VK); a single bird lingered at Pleasantville, Iowa until May 16 (GB). A Com. Snipe was found at L. Calumet as late as May 29 (CC). Four Whimbrels were present at Squaw Creek Refuge, May 26 (HB), and 2 were still there May 30 (MR). Willets were reported more frequently than usual: 17 birds from 7 Illinois locations (m.ob.) between Apr. 29 (BSh, et al.) and May 22 (JG); 1 was found at Pleasantville, Iowa, May 9 (GB). White-rumped Sandpipers were also widely reported, but a flock of 60 at Chautauqua L. on May 23 was noteworthy (HDB). A W. Sandpiper was studied closely at a pond near Chicago on May 16 (LB, et al.); another was identified at Springfield, Ill., May 21 & 26 (HDB). Several observers saw both Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits in St. Charles Co., Mo. Apr. 24 & 25 (fide DA); two other Marbled Godwits were found in Marshall Co., Iowa, May 2 (JR, fide WB). Other Hudsonian Godwits included: 5 at Pleasantville, Iowa May 9, but 56 on May 16 (GB); 1 in Spring plumage at Skokie Lagoons (Chicago) May 22 (TN & JS, fide LB); and 1 in winter plumage at Waukegan, Ill. May 28 (LB). Am. Avocets were more common than usual: Iowa, Missouri and Illinois reported two records each between May 1 & 16. The ♀ Red Phalarope in spring plumage discovered near Lyndon, Whiteside Co., Ill. May 25 constitutes one of the few inland records for this species in the Region (BSh, et al.).

GULLS, TERNS—An imm. Glaucous Gull lingered along the Mississippi R. at Alton Dam, Ill. as late as May 10 (MS, fide DA). A Great Black-backed Gull was still present along L. Erie in Ottawa Co., Ohio Apr. 24 (OD). There was a noteworthy "invasion" of adult Laughing Gulls this spring. The first appeared in the Louisville harbor, May 8 (BLM); another was found along the Mississippi R. at New Boston, Mercer Co., Ill., May 19 (HDB); 1 appeared at L. Springfield, Ill., May 26 and was collected the following day (HDB); 1 was present at Waukegan, May 28 (LB), but 2 were there in company with an adult Franklin's Gull, May 31 (RR, LB & CC). Another adult Franklin's Gull was found at L. Springfield, May 27, along with the Laughing Gull that was collected (HDB). A peak of 11,000 Bonaparte's Gulls was noted on Chicago's n. lakefront April 22 (LB). An imm. Black-legged Kittiwake (see photograph this page) was found with several Bonaparte's Gulls on L. Springfield, Apr. 1 (HDB); it was present until Apr. 8. On May 31, a Forster's Tern in imm. plumage was still pres-

ent at Waukegan (CC, et al.). A **Gull-billed Tern** was among gulls behind a ferry crossing the Ohio R. about 60 mi. e. of Cincinnati on Apr. 16 (JRu, fide AJW).

OWLS, FLICKERS—A Burrowing Owl was found near L. Contrary in n.w. Missouri, Apr. 30 (JF) and remained through May (MR & FL). A Short-eared Owl was flushed from a marshy area of the Powderhorn Lake Forest Preserve (Chicago) May 2 where it had just finished eating a Sora; there was no evidence of breeding (CC, et al.). On Apr. 16, a ♀ Red-shafted Flicker was observed in Chicago's Lincoln Park (WK, fide CC); another appeared at Busch Wildlife Area in St. Louis, May 21 (JEC, et al.).

FLYCATCHERS, CROW, CREEPER—A W. Kingbird appeared n. of Chicago for the third consecutive year; it was found in Skokie Lagoons on May 21 (RC), May 27 (LB), and May 30 (RR); another was found near Moweaqua, Shelby Co., Ill. May 16 (HDB); a third was observed in the Busch Wildlife Area May 21 (GS, fide JEC). On May 29, the "fay-bee-o" song form of the Traill's Flycatcher was heard in Cowles Bog near Indiana Dunes Nat'l Seashore, Ind. Two of these birds were singing in the area known to be inhabited by the "fitz-bew" form (CC, LB & BT). According to Russell, the "fay-bee-o" form arrived about the end of May last year and peaked on June 8; it arrived at the end of May again this year and peaked on June 6 when at least 6 individuals were found in a local area just n. of Chicago; he also pointed out that the "fitz-bew" form has normally arrived in the area by the second week of May every year. A ♂ **Vermilion Flycatcher** at the Busch Wildlife Area on May 3 was very unusual for the Region (VB, fide JEC). Fish Crows continued to move farther up the Mississippi River, and at least two were found regularly in the St. Louis area during April and May. A Brown Creeper at Barkhausen Refuge, Cass Co., Ill. was thought to be a late migrant on May 8 (HDB); however, indirect evidence of breeding exists 150 miles south. Both last year and this year, adult ♀ creepers with brood patches were caught and banded during late May and early June in cypress swamps at Crab Orchard Nat'l Wildlife Refuge; nests have not yet been located (VK).

KINGLET, PIPITS, VIREOS—A Ruby-crowned Kinglet lingered as far south as Springfield, Ill. until May 25 (HDB). At least 10 Sprague's Pipits were found in the North Chagrin Reservation e. of Cleveland, Apr. 9 (AF, m.ob., fide WAK). In the immediate Chicago area, observation of 2 White-eyed Vireos in the same day (May 16) seemed unusual (CC, et al.); however, at the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation, slightly n.w. of Chicago, 6 birds (4 in view at one time) on May 16 was not considered unusual (RM); the species seems to be increasing as a breeder near Cleveland (WAK).

WARBLERS — Concerning migrants passing through, "most species did not arrive on time and did not stay for any period" (WAK). An interesting note for banders: 10 ♂ and 4 ♀ Prothonotary Warblers were banded on Crab Orchard Refuge in 1970; 9 of these ♂ and 3 ♀ returned to the same study area in 1971 (VK). Swainson's Warblers were found in s. Illinois again this year; the first was heard and seen at Pomona, Jackson Co., on May 8 (VK, et al.); this particular individual was caught, banded and photographed on May 20 (VK); every weekend since, observers from upstate Illinois have found this individual, and often the ♀, which responded well to tape-recorded song playbacks (fide VK); the species was also reported from Big Oak Tree State Park in s.e. Missouri (DA & PB). In central Illinois, Tennessee Warblers "outnumbered all other warblers put together May 14, 15 & 16" (HDB), while in the Cleveland area, "Tennessee Warblers were notably scarce" (WAK). A ♀ Audubon's Warbler was discovered in Chicago's Jackson Park, May 7 (RP); the same one (?) was found May 8 (CC, LB, et al.). What may be a new observation for nest-building by Cerulean Warblers was discovered at Indiana Dunes Nat'l Seashore May 29; a ♀ had just completed her nest, only 15 feet above ground (CC); Clark indicates that nests lower than 25 feet have not been previously reported. Hooded Warblers are not too common in the Region, but were reported from several areas; the one found at St. Joseph, Mo. May 6 is noteworthy (FL & MR).

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLE, BUNTINGS—A ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird was found near Pere Marquette State Park, Ill. Apr. 24 (HDB & PW) and there were later observations by several persons; 3 ♂ were discovered just across the Mississippi R. in St. Charles Co., Mo. April 27 (JEC, et al.); an imm. ♂ was found at L. Kincaid, Christian Co., Ill., May 16 (HDB). On May 30, a ♂ Bullock's Oriole was observed at La Grange, Lewis Co., Mo. (RQR). Lark Buntings have been appearing e. of their normal range recently: on May 1, an adult ♂ in Marion Co., Ill. (WJ & MH); and on May 16, another adult ♂ on the Chicago lakefront at Northwestern Univ. (CC, et al.) with observations for at least a week.

SPARROWS, LONGSPURS—Sharp-tailed Sparrows were reported twice this spring: 1 at L. Kincaid, Ill., May 13 (HDB); and 1 at the Powderhorn L. (Chicago) May 16 (BT, CC, LB, et al.). A Clay-colored Sparrow was heard and seen at Pere Marquette State Park, Ill., Apr. 27 (SV). Two late-occurring Harris' Sparrows were reported: 1 in breeding plumage in Jackson Co., Ill., May 8 (VK, et al.); and 1 (photographed) at Avon L. (Cleveland) May 9 (WAK). Many observers remarked that Lincoln's Sparrows were more common this year. Smith's Longspurs seem to exist only in central Illinois: flocks of 2 to 50 were found regularly within 100 miles of Springfield between April 3 and May 1; only 3 Lapland

Longspurs (Apr. 11) were among them (HDB); since these birds appear to be fairly common, more observers should find them.

REPORTERS (bold face) and OBSERVERS—**Dick Anderson, Ronald Austing, (LB) Lawrence G. Balch, Paul Bauer, Gladys Black, (HDB) H. David Bohlen, Woodward Brown, Viola Buchholtz, Dorothy Buck, (HB) Harold Burgess, Rheba Campbell, Larry Carter, Charles Clark, A. H. Claugus, J. Earl Comfort, Mike Conlin, Owen Davies, J. T. Erwin, Jim Fairlie, Annette Flanigan, William George, Joel Greenberg, (JLH) John L. Hamilton, Wayne Hammond, (JWH) James W. Hancock, Mrs. D. Hanna, (JHa) Jim Haw, Margaret Horsman, Virginia Humphries, L. Barrie Hunt, Jeff Jefferson, Winifred Jones, (WAK) William A. Klamm, Jean Knoblauch, (WK) Walter Krawiec, Floyd Lawhon, James and Amy Mason, Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Robert Montgomery, Dick Mooney, Ernie and Kay Mueller, Ted Nork, David Osborne, m.ob. many observers, Peter Petersen, Lambertus Princen, Ron Pulliam, George Pyle, (RQR) Robert Q. Randall, Mark Robbins, (JR) J. Rod, Robert Russell, (JRU) John Ruthven, Jeff Sanders, Milt Schaeffer, (BS) Brian Schultz, (BSH) Betty Shaw, William M. Shepherd, Gerry Smith, Anne L. Stamm, (BTh) B. Thomson, (BT) Bill Tweit, Sarah Vasse, Pat Ward, Arthur J. Wiseman.—**VERNON M. KLEEN, Dept. of Zoology, Southern Illinois Univ., Carbondale, Ill. 62901 and (LBu) LEE BUSH, Cambria, Ill. 62915.****

CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION / Thomas A. Imhof

Late was the word for this season. The few early birds include some rarer ones expected earlier and those that reached the coast in March. The 10-year trend of cold and dry



weather continued. Compared to their norms, March was warmer than April or May, and coastal areas were far drier than inland. De-