

was in keeping with the almost complete absence of seed-eating birds throughout the region all winter. A Green-tailed Towhee at Rapid City May 8-9 (LMB) was a good record.

There was a wave of finches at Regina May 4-6, with Chipping, Clay-colored, White-crowned and Harris' Sparrows, and there were 150 Tree Sparrows at Indian Head Apr. 8. Tree Sparrows peaked at Saskatoon Apr. 10-12 with one flock comprising 275 birds, the largest ever recorded here. A Gray-headed Junco at Rapid City Apr. 6-9 was likely the second record for the Black Hills (LMB), and another was seen Apr. 1-4 near Bowman, N.D. (JO). A ♀ Lark Bunting at Wau-bay Refuge, S.D. May 15 was unusual (HK), as was a slightly extralimital record of this species s. of Kelwood, Man. May 28 (VS). In North Dakota, there was a major flight of thousands of Lapland Longspurs near LaMoure Mar. 31 and 1400 at Edgeley Apr. 6; in Saskatchewan, there were 3500 at Raymore Apr. 7-11, 15,000 at Rose-town Apr. 9 and 19,000 at Saskatoon May 15.

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SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS / Frances C. Williams

The spring weather fronts which came across the plains from the north or west were mild and dry and did not cause any major grounding of migrants. The continuing drouth in Texas had



the usual effect of concentrating birds in favorable localities, thus making them easier to find. The mass of data always submitted for spring migration should be more susceptible of interpretation than when fewer records are available. But the only obvious deduction to be made this year is that winter residents stayed later than normal. Migrants arrived on their usual dates, with the usual scattering of early individuals. But the peak of migration was one to two weeks late, and many migrants were still present at the end of the period.

GREBS, PELICANS—A W. Grebe at Amarillo, Tex., Apr. 19-25 was one of the few records there (T.P.A.S.). Flocks of 600 or more White Pelicans were seen in Somervell Co., Tex., Apr. 24 (BCR, CCr) and at L. Overholser near Oklahoma City, Mar. 28 (JGN). This species remained until May 14 at Dallas (WP) and May 26 at L. Meredith in the Texas panhandle (BAL).

HERONS—A Green Heron's nest with eggs was found at Dallas, May 3 (TG), but wandering Green Herons were sighted at Midland, Tex., Apr. 30–May 12 (TSJ) and Longmont, Colo.,

May 15 (L.B.C.). A Little Blue Heron at Midland May 6-9 was a 5th record (M.N.). Reports of Cattle Egrets were numerous. The largest flock was seen at Palestine, Tex., May 22, where 3000 were estimated (Ty.A.S.). Others were seen in Tarrant Co., Tex., Apr. 11-19 (F.W.A.S.); Midland, May 31 (TSJ); Pontotoc Co., Okla., May 1 (DOD); Canadian Co., Okla., Apr. 10 & May 29 (HW, JGN); Adams Co., Colo., Apr. 20-May 21 (D.F.O.). Least Bitterns were noted in Tarrant Co., May 8 (F.W.A.S.); McClellan Co., Tex., Apr. 10 (RCh); Tulsa, May 15 (BR); Pueblo Co., Colo., May 21 (JLi, DGr).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS—The only Whistling Swan reported was at Midland; one of the flock that spent late winter there remained until Apr. 18 (M.N.). Snow and Canadian Geese remained in Brazos Co., Tex., until the late date May 7 (KAA, DJ). Black Ducks in El Paso Co., Colo., May 27 (SG) and Yuma Co., Colo., May 8 (JBe) were noteworthy. Cinnamon Teal were unusually abundant at Amarillo (T.P.A.S.) and in Oklahoma (JGN, Tu.A.S.). They were recorded at Dallas as late as May 20 (HN). A Com. Goldeneye was sighted at Dallas on the very late date of May 1 (HN). A ♂ Surf Scoter at Midland, Apr. 18-25 was a second record at that locality (M.N.). Red-breasted Mergansers are uncommon on the plains, but were reported this spring in McClellan Co., Apr. 3 & 14 (LMB); Oklahoma City, Feb. 27-May 7 (JGN); Washington Co., Okla., Apr. 18 (DGo, HGo); Stillwater, Okla., Apr. 9 (JG); Clayton, New Mex., Apr. 4 (WC, AK).

VULTURES, KITES—A flight of Turkey Vultures was noted at Amarillo, Apr. 7, when 60 passed overhead in three hours (PA). There were few reports of Mississippi Kites; Tarrant Co., May 9 (RD); Oklahoma City, May 9 & 18 (JGN); McPherson Co., Kans., May 15 (WH); Baca Co., Colo., May 30 (MPS, LJS). Mississippi Kites were common in w. Texas near Roscoe and Abilene this spring. Travelers on Interstate 20 between those two towns had a 50% chance of seeing a kite from the highway. There were 5 kites at Abilene State Park on May 14 (FW).

HAWKS—A Goshawk on Pawnee Nat'l Grassland, Colo. on May 15 was the only sighting in three years of field work there (RAR). A Broad-winged Hawk in Yuma Co., May 8 was out of range (HKi). The only flight of Swainson's Hawks reported was a flock of 75 in McClellan Co., May 2 (MB). A Rough-legged Hawk near Nunn, Colo., May 24 was five weeks later than any previous record (RO). Golden Eagles appear to be maintaining their numbers satisfactorily, but their adoption of power line poles as roosting sites has added to the hazards they face. Over 15 were found electrocuted on the Pawnee Nat'l Grassland (GC, RO). Bald Eagles which winter at most of the large impoundments on the plains normally depart by Apr. 1. Late sightings this year

were May 10 at Fort Worth, Tex. (F.W.A.S.); Pueblo, May 9 (VT); Morgan Co., Colo., May 9 (JW); Golden, Colo., Apr. 28 (BS). There were 23 reports of Ospreys in the Region, with dates ranging from Apr. 3 at Tulsa (Tu.A.S.) to May 19 at Gilmer, Tex. (SBu). Three Peregrine Falcons were seen at Midland, 1 Apr. 23 and 2 Apr. 25 (JHe). The only other reports were at Oklahoma City, Apr. 23 (JGN) and Adams Co., Colo., May 15 (HH). Good flights of Sparrow Hawks occurred at Oklahoma City, Apr. 4 (JGN); Nunn, Apr. 17-23 (RO); Manhattan, Kans., Apr. 27 (WPC); Longmont, May 15 (L.B.C.). A Caracara was sighted in Kaufman Co., Tex., Apr. 25 (MRo).

CRANES, RAILS—Two Whooping Cranes were seen s.w. of Hays, Kans. on Apr. 12 (HKr). By using taped calls, birders are finding more rails than ever before. Formerly, Virginia Rails were seldom reported, although they are probably widespread in the Region. Eight were heard at Fountain, Colo., Apr. 24 (MPS, LJS, SG). Other records were at Tulsa, Apr. 21 (AR, BR); Larimer County, Colo., May 1 (DB); 1 found dead near Sherman, Tex., May 16 (KWH).

SHOREBIRDS—Some areas in Colorado and Oklahoma reported lakes so full that there were no mud flats, but in w. Texas many playa lakes which normally have perfect shorebird habitat were completely dry. Because of this, no overall pattern could be detected, but there were many records of species usually scarce on the plains. A Piping Plover in Tarrant Co., May 12 was a first record (MRL, JLo). Another was seen at Oklahoma City, Apr. 10 (JGN). A Snowy Plover in Payne Co., Okla., May 25 was also a first record (ZM). Am. Golden Plovers were erratic throughout the Region, with dates from Mar. 17 at Tulsa (Tu.A.S.) to May 22 at Oklahoma City (JGN). A flock numbering 35 birds was recorded at Tyler, Tex., Mar. 22 (OCS). Ruddy Turnstones were sighted in Tarrant Co., Apr. 30 (MRL, JLo) and Oklahoma City, May 19 (JGN). A Whimbrel at Pueblo on May 18 was the first since 1885 (VT) and 9 in Baca Co., May 16 was an amazing number of this rare migrant in Colorado (HKi). There was an unusual number of Dunlins: Hagerman Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Tex., Apr. 23-25 (KWH); Tarrant Co., Mar. 26 (JLo, MRL) and May 11 (EB); Dallas, May 20 (HN, KB); Midland, Apr. 3 (TSJ) and May 16 (FW); Oklahoma City, May 15 (JGN); Payne Co., May 12 (JGN); Weld County, Colo., May 15 (RAR). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were sighted in Dallas Co., May 9 (WP); Hagerman Refuge, May 9 & 20 (KWH); Oklahoma City, May 7 (JGN); Pueblo, Apr. 27 (JT, VT). A Hudsonian Godwit was noted in Dallas County on May 9 (WP) and by May 20, 11 were present (HN, KB). This species was also recorded in Payne Co., May 12 & 19 (JG); Tarrant Co., May 12 (JLo, MRL); Hagerman Refuge, Apr. 23 & May 11 (KWH); Oklahoma City, Apr. 18 & May 9 (JGN). Sanderlings

were observed at Hagerman Refuge, Apr. 23 (KWH et al); Payne Co., May 24-27 (JG); Quivira Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Kans., Apr. 18 (KK et al). This species remained at Oklahoma City from May 7-18; on the latter date, 10 were present (JGN).

GULLS, TERNS—Bonaparte's Gulls continue to increase on the plains. They were reported from McClellan County, Apr. 3 & 14 (LMB); Midland, Apr. 25 (JHe); Dallas, Apr. 10 (LL); Amarillo, May 2 (PA); Salt Plains Refuge, Apr. 3-4 (SM); Fort Collins, Apr. 9 (RAR); Weld County, Apr. 24 (L.B.C.). Forster's Terns were noted in Tarrant Co., Apr. 23 (EB); Dallas County, Apr. 17 (WP); Midland, Apr. 23 (FW) & May 15 (TSJ); Amarillo, May 2 (PA). At Fort Collins, 60 were counted on May 15 (F.C.B.C.). Caspian Terns were seen on the Red River east of Denison, Tex., May 30 (RRy, KWH); Cleveland Co., Okla., May 15 (GR, FP); Dallas, May 15 (HN, KB); McClellan County, May 5 & 14 (LMB); Oklahoma City, May 8-19 (BP, JGN). The only Least Tern reported was in Payne Co., May 23-24 (JG).

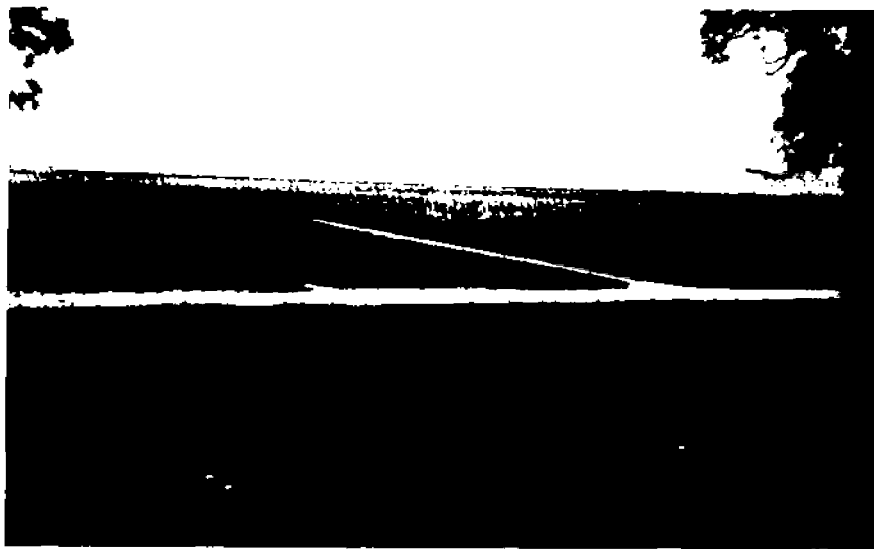
GOATSUCKERS, SWIFTS, WOODPECKERS—A Whip-poor-will heard and seen at Tulsa, May 17-24 was a first record (AR, BR et al). Poor-wills were seen at Buffalo L., Tex., May 6 (KS); Amarillo, Apr. 25 & May 2 (KS, PA); Hays, Kans., Apr. 29 (CAE). Chimney Swifts at Pueblo, May 15 were a first record (VT). They were noted at Fort Collins on the same date (F.C.B.C.). A Lewis' Woodpecker in Randall Co., Tex., May 22 was a second record (PF). Pileated Woodpeckers were present in Dallas Co. on Apr. 9 (WP, TG) and May 20 (HN); Cleveland Co., Apr. 3 (MAJ).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS—E. Wood Pewees, *Empidonax* and Olive-sided Flycatchers were

scarce in Texas. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was sighted in Pueblo Co., Apr. 29 (DS). Great Crested Flycatchers were late and very scarce at Hays (CAE). An Ash-throated Flycatcher was sighted at Denver, May 21, where it is becoming a regular but scarce visitor (MOS). A Vermilion Flycatcher was also found at Denver, Apr. 17-18 (BB). Violet-green Swallows were present at Amarillo, Apr. 25 (RRo) and at Canadian, Tex. on the same date (PA). Tree Swallows in Brazos Co. on May 17 were 45 days later than any previous record (KAA). They were sighted at Hays, where they are uncommon, on May 7 (CAE). Bank Swallows at Hays on May 10 were also noteworthy (CAE).

VERDIN, NUTHATCH, WRENS—A Verdin in Jackson Co., Okla., May 3 is noted as the first state record (KS). Red-breasted Nuthatches in Midland, Apr. 25 (TSJ) and Tyler, May 8 (LGH, JHu) were late records. A Short-billed Marsh Wren was found at Tulsa, Apr. 27-29 (AR, BR). A Rock Wren was present in Washington Co., Okla., Apr. 9 (SM).

MIMICS, THRUSHES—Three Catbirds were caught in mist nets at Clayton, May 12-14 (JPH), and another was sighted at Fort Collins, May 30 (DL). Brown Thrashers were present at Longmont, Apr. 30 & May 15 (AC) and Larimer Co., Colo., May 18 (DB). At Fort Collins, 19 Brown Thrashers were counted on May 15 (F.C.B.C.). Professor Ely at Hays wrote that the only way to appreciate the thrush migration is to net the birds. His statement was vindicated by the fact that he was the only observer to report numerous Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes. Wood Thrushes were seen at Dallas, May 5 (HN); Denison, May 30 (RRy, KWH); Amarillo, May



*Overview of the marsh, R. T. Moore farm, Brazos Co., Texas.
Photograph by Keith A. Arnold*

25 (RRo, VD); Tulsa, Apr. 24 (Tu.A.S.). At Hays, 22 Gray-cheeked Thrushes were netted on May 3, 11-16 (CAE). Veeries moved across the plains in good numbers, 16 being netted at Hays, May 14-31 (CAE). Other records were at Tulsa, Apr. 29-30, May 23 (AR, BR); Clayton, May 12-14 (JPH); Wichita, Kans., May 21 (KK); Larimer Co., May 18 (DB); Longmont, May 10 & 17 (AC). A Townsend's Solitaire at Midland on May 25 was late (TSJ).

KINGLETS, PIPITS, PHAINOPEPLA, VIREOS—Ruby-crowned Kinglets at Dallas, May 14 (D.C.A.S.) and Denison, May 30 (RRy, KWH) were late records, as was a Water Pipit in Cimarron Co., Okla., May 25 (WAC, JJH). A Phainopepla appeared at Midland during the last week of May (M.N.). A White-eyed Vireo at Hays, May 2-3 provided a first record (CAE). A Yellow-throated Vireo was sighted in Yuma Co., Colo., Apr. 24-25 (HKi, RB). Philadelphia Vireos were recorded at Amarillo, May 29 (KS); Dallas, May 12 (D.C.A.S.); Lamar, Colo., May 14 (SG, LJS); Hays, May 30 (CAE); Shawnee, Kans., May 26 (MLM).

WARBLERS—The predilection of birders for recording observations of warblers makes it possible to determine periods of peak migration for this group. This spring there were four such periods: Apr. 28-30, May 8-12, 17-18, 23. Some of the locally important records follows: Prothonotary, Amarillo, May 29 (EWA); Hays, May 21 (CAE). Swainson's, Tulsa, Apr. 30-May 23 (AR, BR et al). Worm-eating, Fort Collins, May 5 & 8 (RAR); Ellis, Kans., May 25 (RW). Golden-winged, Lancaster, Tex., May 4 (GM); Dallas, May 10 (MGB, AB); Washington Co., Okla., May 6-7 (B.A.S.); Hays, May 26 (CAE). Blue-winged, Tarrant Co., May 11 (JMS, MRL); Yuma Co., Colo., Apr. 24 (JW). Tennessee, Pawnee Nat'l Grassland, May 15 & 22 (MM, NH); Baca Co., May 15 (HKi); Hays, May 3 & 13 (CAE). Lucy's, Pueblo, May 15 (DS, VT). Parula, Cimarron Co., May 24 (WAC et al); Midland, Apr. 18 (FW). Magnolia, McClellan Co., May 23 (LMB); Washington Co., Okla., May 11 (B.A.S.); Hays, May 17-30 (CAE); Wichita, May 18 (KK). Black-throated Blue, Wichita, May 8-9 (KK et al). Cerulean, Washington Co., Okla., Apr. 20-May 30 (B.A.S.); Wichita, May 28 (KK); Shawnee, Kans., May 12 & 28 (MLM). Blackburnian, Irving, Tex., Apr. 26 (ML); Dallas, May 5 (D.C.A.S.); Sherman-Denison area, Tex., May 8-30 (RRy, KWH); Oklahoma City, May 23 (JGN, HW); Tulsa, May 23 (PP, VM); Washington Co., Okla., May 27 (DGo, HGo); Colorado Springs, May 29 (SG, RA); Boulder, Colo., May 25 (BF); Hays, May 26 (CAE). Chestnut-sided, Boulder, May 24 (BF); Pueblo, May 17-20 (VT). Bay-breasted, Boulder, May 27 (BF); Ellis, May 16 (RW); Wichita, May 27 (KK). Blackpoll, Dallas, May 6-12 (D.C.A.S.); McClellan Co., May 5 (LMB); Pontotoc Co., May 13 (DOD); Longmont, May

15 (AC); Security, May 12 (MPS); Oklahoma City, May 10 (BCa); Hays, May 11-20 (CAE). Pine, Wichita, Apr. 29 (KK). Prairie, Midland, Apr. 30 (FW). Palm, Denison, Apr. 23 (KWH et al); Tulsa, May 19 (AR, BR); Aurora, Colo., Apr. 28 (MOS); Shawnee, May 12 (MLM). Ovenbird, Fort Morgan, Colo., May 26 (AC); Fort Collins, May 15 (JC); Clayton, May 22-24 (WC). N. Waterthrush, Amarillo, May 23 (PA); Cleveland Co., May 22-23 (GMS, WH); Wichita, Apr. 22 (KK). Kentucky, Hays, Apr. 23 (CAE); Ellis, May 14 (RW). Mourning, Fort Morgan, May 26 (AC); Wichita, May 25 (KK); Hays, May 17-22 (CAE). Connecticut, Larimer Co., Colo., May 18 (DB). Canada, Ellis, May 16 (RW); Wichita, May 14 (KK).

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS—Bobolinks moved north during the second week of May. A flock of 75 birds was seen in Washington Co., May 11-13 (ED) and another of 60 birds appeared at Shawnee, May 15 (MLM). Other records included Dallas, May 11 (WP); Oklahoma City, May 9-13 (JGN); Tulsa, May 13-15 (Tu.A.S.); Hays, May 17 (CAE). The largest flocks of Yellow-headed Blackbirds ever counted at Amarillo were present on May 2. It was estimated that there were at least 5000 birds (PA). On May 15, approximately 2000 of this species were counted at Loveland, Colo. (F.C.B.C.). A ♂ Bullock's Oriole was netted at Ellis, May 4 (RW). A Rusty Blackbird was sighted at Clayton, Apr. 25 (WC). A Scarlet Tanager at Ellis, May 17 was a first record (RW) as was a W. Tanager at Hays, Apr. 30 (CAE).

FINCHES—Rose-breasted Grosbeaks arrived in Shawnee, where they nest, on Apr. 24 (MLM). They arrived later in areas where they are transient: Tyler, Apr. 25 (OCS); Tarrant Co., May 1 (JMS); Dallas, Apr. 29 (AH); Hagerman Refuge, May 2 (SBr, JA); Buffalo L., May 6 (KS); Washington Co., May 11 (B.A.S.); Security, May 12 (MPS); Longmont, May 15 (L.B.C.); Cleveland Co., May 24 (FE); Midland, May 9 (M.N.). Black-headed Grosbeaks wandered as far east as Tyler, May 8-11 (OCS) and Tarrant Co., Apr. 29 (EB). There were an unusual number of records of Lazuli Buntings in the e. half of the Region: Shawnee, May 20 (MLM et al); Wichita, May 2-20 (KK); Payne Co., May 8 (JG); Dallas, May 5 (D.C.A.S.); Denison, May 23 (RRy, KWH); Oklahoma City, May 4 (JGN). There were only two sightings of Indigo Buntings in the west: Longmont, May 15 (L.B.C.); Fort Collins, Apr. 26 (LM). A Painted Bunting at Ellis, May 22 was a first record (RW). Evening Grosbeaks remained at a feeder in Amarillo until mid-May (RRo) and at Hays until April 30 (MER). Two Pine Siskin nests at Hays were destroyed by wind and hail. On one nest the ♀ and eggs were crushed by a hail stone; the other nest was blown down with loss of all chicks (MER).

SPARROWS—With the exception of Song Spar-

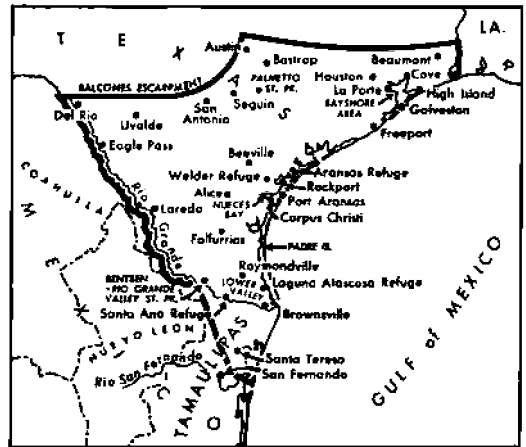
rows, wintering sparrows remained late at Amarillo (PA), Dallas (HN), Tyler (OCS) and Midland (M.N.). Grasshopper Sparrows were abundant near Sherman (KWH), Dallas (D.C.A.S.) and Tulsa (Tu.A.S.) in mid-April. A nest with four young was found in Pontotoc County, May 16, and another nest containing five eggs was located May 20 (WAC). Baird's Sparrows were found at Denison, Apr. 23 (KWH) and Wichita, Apr. 6 (KK). A Le Conte's Sparrow at Wichita, Apr. 13 was one of the few records there (KK) and 1 in Pontotoc Co., May 15 was unusually late (WAC). A nest of Bachman's Sparrow in Pontotoc Co. contained six eggs on May 7 and three young were fledged May 20 (JTG, WAC). A Cassin's Sparrow was collected May 25 in Noble Co., Okla. (JB) and singing birds were heard in Canadian and McClain Cos. in May (JGN). A Black-throated Sparrow was sighted at Clayton, Apr. 2 (WC). A Field Sparrow was still present at Fort Collins on May 15 (JC), and a Harris' Sparrow was at the same locality, May 5 (LM). A Golden-crowned Sparrow came to a feeder in Denver on Apr. 3 (CS et al). White-crowned Sparrows were still at Midland on May 24 (TSJ), Italy, Tex., May 15 (EWI) and Amarillo in late May (T.P.A.S.). Lincoln's Sparrows were present in Amarillo as late as May 24 (PA). Song Sparrows left Midland (M.N.) and Amarillo (PA) early and not a one was netted at Hays during the period (CAE).

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SOUTH TEXAS REGION / Fred S. Webster, Jr.

Temperatures near normal, rainfall below normal, winds high along the coast—these were the principal ingredients for a generally mediocre migration. Weatherwise it was a continuation of the winter season, with cool temperatures tapering off



seasonally. March had little rainfall; heavier showers were mainly confined to mid-April and mid-May. Concentrations of migrants, as usual, were associated with cold fronts and/or rainfall, and since both were rather scarce, so were well-defined waves. The exceptions receive more than the normal emphasis in this summary for lack of other newsworthy developments. One can point to the mid-May push at Austin and San Antonio as one of the greatest late waves on record, giving much weight to the impression of many observers that this year's migration was late—despite some very early observations to the contrary. At Austin, the big push was ushered in by a wind shift to the north between midnight and 0300 D.S.T. on May 19. The temperature drop was negligible, as was the trace of rainfall. Winds were easterly on May 20, temperatures slightly lower, and again a trace of rainfall was recorded. Sky cover averaged 80 per cent on both days, with midnight-to-dawn ceilings ranging from about 1400 to 5000 ft. on May 19 and 1900-4100 ft. on May 20. Migrants became conspicuous on May 19, increased sharply