

ville, March 26 This April unusual records of Scott's Orioles came from Kerrville, Texas, and Portales, New Mexico. The first Nevada record of the Baltimore subspecies of the Northern Oriole was a male found at Corn Creek, Desert Wildlife Range, on May 18. A Scarlet Tanager at Brandon, Manitoba, on May 20 was most unusual, and a female, only the fourth spring record for California, was watched on San Nicolas Island, June 1. A first-year male Summer Tanager occurred on April 22 at Braddock Bay, New York, and a total of 23 were reported from the Northeastern Maritime Region this spring.

A Cardinal at Colorado Springs on May 13 was the first record for that part of the state. Black-headed Grosbeaks made a good showing in the East this spring. A male visited a feeder in Atlanta in April, and another was on Mullet Key, Florida, in the company of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Northern Orioles, and Scarlet Tanagers on April 29. A male was at Corpus Christe, Texas, in May, and an immature male appeared in Norfolk, Virginia, on April 3 and remained about 10 days. Idaho's first records of the Indigo Bunting were birds at Alma on May 4 and 6, and another at Pocatello on May 28. A bright male Painted Bunting at a feeder in Port Huron, Michigan, was only the second record

for the state, and a male at Contoocook, New Hampshire, on May 8 was unique in the Northeastern Maritime Region.

A Dickcissel at Furnace Creek Ranch on June 1 was only the fourth spring record for the Southern Pacific Coast Region. A male Brambling was observed near Lake Andrew, Adak, in the Aleutian Islands May 20-21. Saskatchewan's first sight record of the House Finch was three males heard and seen at Regina on April 26. Another male photographed at a feeder in Calgary was only the third record for Alberta. A Green-tailed Towhee showed up at South Bend, Indiana, on May 2 for a most unusual record. A Lark Sparrow, quite rare on Vancouver Island, was recorded at Saanich in early April and again on May 13. The first positive record of the Clay-colored Sparrow for Atlantic Canada was a bird singing at Newcastle, New Brunswick, on May 26.

Reports from the Hudson-St. Lawrence Region and the Northern Rocky Mountain-Intermountain Region were not received; these Regions do not appear in the seasonal analysis. Gene Hayes and Anne Harshman kindly assisted in the preparation of the seasonal review.

The Spring Migration April 1—May 31, 1973

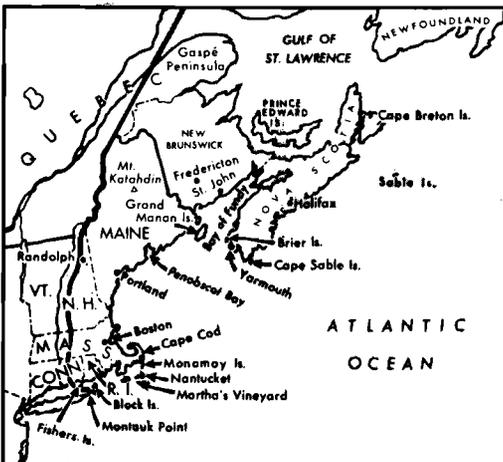
NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION / Davis W. Finch

Following a pattern more or less apparent in previous springs, the first week of the period saw a fairly well defined wave of overshooting southern species reach New England and in some cases the Maritimes, bringing early cuckoos, a few warblers, Summer Tanagers, Blue Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings. A second such

wave seems to have occurred about April 12. A heavy flight of Yellow-rumped and Palm Warblers took place in much of New England at the beginning of May, and a moderate kill occurred on the night of May 2-3 at Boston's Prudential Building (80 birds, almost all White-throated Sparrows). Thereafter the big waves came on May 10, 23, and 30.

GREBES, TUBENOSES—Single Eared Grebes at Seapowet, R.I., Apr. 14 (RB *et al.*) and at Manomet, Mass., Apr. 25 (TLL-E) brought to 14 the total of these birds in the Region in the last five years, only one other having occurred in spring. During a snow-storm on Apr. 2, Ed Thompson was startled to see a N. Fulmar fly by his office window on the University of Maine campus at Orono; inland records in the Northeast are extremely few. The only Manx Shearwaters reported were seen during storms along the Rhode Island coast: two at Weekapaug Apr. 10 (EAS), another there May 9 (KBK) and one at Pt. Judith May 28 (DLK). On Apr. 9, a Black-capped Petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*) was seen in the Gulf Stream north of Bermuda at 37°57'N 62°30'W, its extensively white head, neck and rump suggesting the nominate race (RBBB; see *Am. Birds* 26:832 for a recent and more properly Regional record of this species).

HERONS, IBISES—In Nova Scotia, an early Green Heron at Port Hebert Apr. 9 (R.S. Widrig, *vide* PRD) and two at Seal I., May 6-21 were the only



ones reported in the Maritimes, as was a Little Blue Heron at Amherst Apr. 25-28. The season's total of 109+ Cattle Egrets (*cf.* 29, 24, 32, 54 in the past four springs) included an early individual at Isleford, Me., Mar. 16 (Warren Fernald, *vide* CMP), three birds in the Maritimes, and maxima in Massachusetts of 18 at Ipswich May 6 (BGB) and 21 at Marshfield May 17-19 (*v.o.*). Four Great and 13 Snowy Egrets reached the Maritimes, 11 of the latter occurring at 6 localities in New Brunswick Apr. 7-late May, an unusual number. In the same province, single Louisiana Herons were seen at Cape Jourmain May 11 (photographed, ARGMcI) and at Castalia, Grand Manan May 14-15 (Ken & Mary Edwards, *vide* DSC): there were four previous provincial records. Farther south, three occurred in Maine, seven in Massachusetts and one in Connecticut, for a total of 13 (*cf.* 7, 12, 13+, 6 in the last four springs). A Yellow-crowned Night Heron at Saint John West May 26-28 (DSC, CLJ *et al.*) was a third New Brunswick record, and three others occurred in Maine and New Hampshire. The increase of Glossy Ibises in the Region is reflected by the five-year figures for spring migrants, including overshoots and birds returning to breeding areas: 19, 26, 322, 325, 491. Northernmost reported this year were five on the French island of St. Pierre May 13 (one specimen, *vide* ELM) and about 18 appeared at nine localities in the Maritimes. On Maine's Scarborough Marshes, near the Stratton I. colony, numbers had built up to 100 by Apr. 21 (HMC). Smaller groups were present at a number of nearby areas, and 38 at Rye, N.H., Apr. 27 exceeded any previous count in the state (LGP *et al.*).

WATERFOWL—Though the only Snow Geese reported from the Maritimes were a scattered nine birds in New Brunswick, the now usual large numbers passed through New England from late March to mid-April, with a peak of movement on the weekend of Apr. 7-8. Two-thirds of the 930 birds reported in New Hampshire and half of the 743 birds in Maine this season were seen at this time, while in Massachusetts on the Apr. 7 as many as 3847 were counted in the Connecticut Valley, the Greater Snow Goose's principal northbound route. Of the 11 "Blue Geese" reported in the period Mar. 27-Apr. 28 only a few were found in the company of the larger race. Gadwalls, which have yet to be found breeding north of Plum I., seem to be occurring more and more frequently as spring wanderers to the Maritimes. This year there were as many as 16 on Cape Breton; 10 at Morien Bay Apr. 18 (GS) and six at Framboise May 6 (IMacG); on Prince Edward Island there were two at Brackley Marsh May 31 (BMacL) and in New Brunswick two each at Saint John West May 13 (CLJ *et al.*), Cape Jourmain May 26 (ARGMcI *et al.*) and Eel River Bar June 2 (J-PL). Four Eurasian Green-winged Teal were reported (*cf.* 1, 4, 4, 8 in the past four springs), single birds as follows: in New Brunswick at Chance Harbor Apr. 8 and at Saint John West Apr. 16 (CLJ), at North Hampton, N.H., Apr. 15 (photographed, DWF *et al.*), and at Newbury and Plum I., Mass. from April to May 6 (RHS *et al.*). Uncommon in the Maritimes, 2 Harlequin Ducks were seen at Cow Bay,

N S, Apr. 8 (AAMacL), another at Port George, N S May 8 (RDL) and a pair was found inland at Fredericton, N.B., May 13 (KHD). About equally uncommon, single King Eiders were found at Point Lepreau, N.B., Mar. 25-31 (DS) and at Port George, N.S., May 6 (LN), and 22 of these birds at Cape Elizabeth, Me., May 1-23 was the largest group reported anywhere in the Region in at least five years (VS).

S.A.

On the Restigouche R. in n. New Brunswick, David Christie witnessed on May 1 a remarkable gathering of scoters in a raft extending 8½ miles upriver from just above Dalhousie and estimated at 150,000 birds, virtually all Black Scoters. Scoter enthusiasts will note that this is probably the highest count of the species ever made in the Region, exceeding even the three-month scoter totals of recent falls at Manomet, Mass., and can only be compared to the fall and winter eider-scooter concentrations off Monomoy.

VULTURES, KITES, EAGLES, FALCONS—Turkey Vultures seldom wander in spring north of about central New Hampshire, but this year at least seven appeared in the Maritimes: one at Seal I., N.S., May 5-6 (IAMcL, ELM) and six or more at two localities in New Brunswick, Apr. 18-May 14, while four or five others were seen in Maine. An ad. **Black Vulture**, only the third reported in the Region in the past five years, was well seen at Needham, Mass., Apr. 17 (MLG). Single **Swallow-tailed Kites** were seen in Massachusetts at Gooseberry Neck in S. Westport May 6 (Phyllis Regan *et al.*) and at Plymouth Center May 30 (*v.o.*, *vide* RPE). Although a number of these birds have been found north of their usual limits in recent years, these and the one last May at Provincetown were the only ones to reach the Region since 1965. Single Golden Eagles were seen at Holden, Mass., May 1 (Jane O'Regan, *vide* RPE) and at Concord, N.H., May 20 (DJA, EWP, LGP). The season's Peregrine Falcons totaled 18 (*cf.* 21, 9, 6, 9 in the past four springs).

CRANES, RAILS, GALLINULES—A South African Blue (or Stanley) Crane, two of which wandered about New England and e. New York last summer, was present in Welsford, N.B. Apr. 24-May 1, reappearing May 5 at Geary and May 6 at Cross Creek, where it remained several days, the route followed being a straight NNW line of about 60 mi. David Christie could find no evidence that the bird had escaped in the Maritimes. A King Rail was seen at Kittery Pt., Me., Apr. 24 (DH); the species is quite uncommon even a short distance beyond the probable northeastern limit of its breeding range at Plum I. A Purple Gallinule on Block I., R.I., May 20 (WBD) and another present at Squantum, Mass., from May 24 through at least the first week of June (DTB) brought to 12 the total Regional occurrences in the last five years.

SHOREBIRDS—In Massachusetts, Am. Oystercatchers returned to their breeding grounds at Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket and Monomoy by about mid-

April, and eggs and young were reported by the end of May. The only Stilt Sandpipers reported in the Region were single birds at Dipper Harbor, N.B., Apr. 14 (CLJ *et al.*) and at Nantucket, May 12-15 (EFA), the species being an uncommon spring migrant, especially in the Maritimes. In typical fashion, a few Curlew Sandpipers showed up near the end of May; in Rhode Island one photographed at Quonochontaug May 26 and a recognizably different individual at Card's Pond in Matunuck May 28-29 were the first state records (DLK, CW *et al.*). In Massachusetts one was seen at Wellfleet May 30 (Blair Nikula *et al.*, *vide* RPE) while another was present at Plymouth Beach May 30-June 2 (PKD *et al.*). An unusually high inland count of Short-billed Dowitchers was that of 300-400 at Dummer, N.H., May 20 (Paul Doherty, *vide* EWP). Respectively first and third spring records in the last five years were a Long-billed Dowitcher at Jerusalem, R.I., Apr. 29 (DLK, CW *et al.*) and a Marbled Godwit at Courtenay Bay in Saint John, N.B., May 13-14 (CLJ *et al.*). Of the eight Ruffs reported, seven were in more or less usual locales in e. Massachusetts, the other at Covehead Marsh, P.E.I., May 23-25 (AAMacL). Two Black-necked Stilts were seen on Cape Cod at Truro May 6 (WB), and Wilson's Phalaropes in the Region totaled 12 (*cf.* 8, 2, 2, 3, in the past four springs).



Franklin's Gull, Sable I., N.S., Photo / Jean Boulava.

GULLS, TERNS—Two Laughing Gulls at Port Morien, C.B., May 19 (IMacG) were somewhat north of the species' usual limits, as was a bird at Eel River Bar Apr. 21, a second record for n. New Brunswick (J-PL). A Franklin's Gull occurred at Newburyport, Mass. about May 22 (*v.o.*), another at Maces Bay, N.B., May 31 was a first spring record for the province (Joyce Golden, *vide* DSC) and one at Sable I., May 26-June 2 (photographed, JB) was a first record for Nova Scotia. An unmixed flock of ten imm. Little Gulls at Newburyport May 29 probably represents a Regional high (DJA, DWF) and one at Eel River Bar, N.B., June 2 was unusual there (J-PL *et al.*). A Gull-billed Tern at Plum I., May 6-14 was unique in the Region this spring (HD'E *et al.*), and four scattered Royal Terns were found during May in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

CUCKOOS, OWLS, WOODPECKERS—An early Yellow-billed Cuckoo was found dead in Providence, R.I., Apr. 11 (F. Sterrett, *vide* CW), and Ruth Emery reported that a few Black-billed Cuckoos appeared in Massachusetts as early as Apr. 4, although the details are not at hand. In New Brunswick the record of a red Screech Owl at Holt's Point, Charlotte Co., July 1, 1971 (not previously recorded here, WCT), the two seen on the Nackawic CBC this year, and more recently a red bird at Notre-Dame, May 1 (MM) suggest that the species is perhaps a very rare resident in the province. A few Red-bellied Woodpeckers appeared in New England during May: one was present at Concord, N.H., May 16-20 (Norman Chapman, *vide* EWP) and there were five others in Massachusetts and Connecticut. Somewhat similarly, eight Red-headed Woodpeckers appeared during the same month, the northernmost at Littleton, N.H., May 15 (RAB *et al.*) and Biddeford, Me., May 27 (WCR, WCT *et al.*). A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker on Cape Cod at Wellfleet May 13 was rather unseasonable (Michael Henderson, *vide* RPE), and the considerably rarer N. Three-toed Woodpecker was found at Bethlehem, N.H., May 20 (MLF) and Cambridge, N.B., May 17 (J. Thorne, *vide* DSC).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS, MAGPIES, TITMICE—A W. Kingbird found with a few Easterns at Seal I., N.S., May 22 was the fourth spring bird to occur in the Region in the last five years, and the third in Nova Scotia (RRH, AAMacL). In Massachusetts an Acadian Flycatcher at Newburyport May 30 was the northernmost to date in the recent upswing of spring reports in the Region, and apparently the earliest arrival in the state this year, a few others appearing in June (CAG, WRP). A Rough-winged Swallow at Seal I., N.S. was a not-unexpected rarity there May 21 (IAMcL, ELM *et al.*) and in New Brunswick where the birds are fast becoming routine, four were found at Saint John East May 10-14 (JGW) and two at Mill Settlement May 12 (DSC *et al.*). In the same province, an apparently wild Black-billed Magpie was present in Saint John West Apr. 22-26, the same bird or another 70 mi. east at Cape Enrage Apr. 26-27 (*v.o.*, *vide* DSC) and the same or another at Brier I., N.S., May 14-18 (DWL *et al.*). This route around the Bay of Fundy is one that might well be followed by a wandering bird and the dates suggest that such may have been the case. Another subject of speculation in New Brunswick was the origin of a (European) Great Tit at Aulac Apr. 1 (Stuart Tingley, *vide* DSC)!

WRENS, THRUSHES, GNATCATCHERS, WAXWINGS, SHRIKES—Two or three House Wrens were present at Seal I., N.S., May 19-22 (IAMcL *et al.*) and a Short-billed Marsh Wren found dead at Cape Elizabeth, Me., Apr. 20 was the only one reported in the Region during the spring migration (VS). On Prince Edward Island a Veery photographed at Dalvay May 25-26 (AAMacL, SMMacL) and another at Rustico I., May 31 (BMacL) were the first recorded in the province. What was by recent standards an average spring flight of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers brought six to New Hampshire and at least 12 to Maine,

mostly in May, and one appeared as far north as Mill Settlement, N.B., May 6 (DSC, MM). Two Bohemian Waxwings were found at Webster, N.H. in late May, one remaining to June 1 (HWP *et al.*); the birds were associating with Cedar Waxwings and gave no signs of nesting, but the date is probably unprecedented in the Region. Nine Loggerhead Shrikes reported from Rhode Island to New Brunswick, Mar. 8-Apr. 19 represented an average flight.

VIREOS, WARBLERS—A White-eyed Vireo at Concord, N.H., May 3-5 (HM *et al.*) and a Golden-winged Warbler at Whitefield May 30 (RAB, MLF) were quite far north. Among the rarer warblers an early Prothonotary reached Cole Harbor, N.S., Apr. 6 (Rosemary Eaton *et al.*, *vide* PRD) and in May single birds were seen in Maine at Addison May 27 (HJS) and Ocean Park May 29 (Webb, *vide* CMP), another in New Brunswick at St. Andrews May 20 (HWMacC), and five more appeared in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Seven Orange-crowned Warblers and the rather high total of eight Ceruleans were reported in New England, seven of the latter in Massachusetts and one in Rhode Island. Single Yellow-throated Warblers appeared in Massachusetts at Millis May 22 (John Marshall Jr.) and at Plum I., May 30 (George A. Wilson *et al.*) and single Kentucky Warblers occurred in Maine at Otter Point, Mount Desert I. about May 10 (WCR) and at Cape Porpoise May 24 (Bixby, *vide* CMP), with at least eight others reported at seven localities in Massachusetts. At the Isles of Shoals, a Hooded Warbler photographed at Star I., May 6 was one of only a few New Hampshire records (DJA, EWP *et al.*).

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS, FRINGILLIDS—In Maine, a W. Meadowlark was in song at Wells Apr. 8 (DJA) and at the end of May three Yellow-headed Blackbirds were discovered, one at Long I., May 30 (Gibbens, *vide* CMP) and two at Bowdoinham May 31 (Peterson, *vide* CMP). Orchard Orioles in the Maritimes were limited to single ?? at Markland, Yarmouth Co., May 13 (MWH *et al.*) and at Seal I., May 19-22 (IAMcL *et al.*). Two Scarlet Tanagers at Rustico I., P E I., May 30 represented the fifth provincial record, although the birds are apparently becoming more frequent there (AAMacL). The 23 Summer Tanagers reported in the Region were nearly four times the average of the past four springs (6, 5, 7, 6). The earliest was one at Chatham, Mass., Apr. 3, and seven others occurred later in the month; of the total, 11 were north of Massachusetts. It was an even more notable season for Blue Grosbeaks, no fewer than 44 of which were reported (*cf.* 3, 2, 13, 4 in the past four springs). The earliest appeared Apr. 14, with 13 others reported by the end of the month, and though in decreasing numbers northward, the birds were found virtually throughout the Region: two in Connecticut, 32 in Massachusetts, seven in Maine, one in New Brunswick and two in Nova Scotia. To a somewhat lesser degree, Indigo Buntings were conspicuous by their numbers and early arrival: single birds appeared at four localities on Cape Cod Apr. 3-4, another reached Cole Harbor, N.S. by the latter date, and by the end of the month 32 had been reported, mostly

single birds, from Connecticut to Nova Scotia. Nine others appeared in the Maritimes during May, and one was found as far north as Port-au-Port, Nfld., May 6-8 (Helen Abbott). A ♂ Painted Bunting at Contoocook, N.H., May 8 was unique in the Region (Carolyn B. Wallace *et al.*, *vide* EWP). In Maine, a Seaside Sparrow at Biddeford Pool May 27 was a rarity in that state (DJA, DWF *et al.*), and a Lark Sparrow at Brier I., N.S. May 25 (DWL *et al.*) was the only one reported in the Region this spring. Finally, a singing **Clay-colored Sparrow** at Newcastle, N.B., May 26 was a first positive record for Atlantic Canada (Harry Walker, *vide* DSC).

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HUDSON ST.-LAWRENCE REGION

/ **Ned R. Boyajian**

Except for a much better than average invasion of "Carolinian" species into southern areas and a number of interesting early returns concentrated in early and late April, it was a mediocre spring for observations in most locales. Few waves or groundings were reported, none of them major. A cold, wet spell in mid-April put a further damper on things, especially northward where some areas, virtually snow-free through the winter, received substantial accumulations.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS—Two Common Loons overhead at the Sharon, Conn. Audubon Center May 10 were the first recorded there. One at Stock-



bridge, Mass., May 20 and 4 at Croton Pt., N.Y. May 28 were considered rather late, although at New Jersey Palisades overhead migrants are regular each year until at least May 25. Inland reports of Red-throated Loons included 4 at Wilkes-Barre, Pa., May 14 and one at N.J. Palisades May 20. Nine Red-necked Grebes off Nun's I., Qué., May 6, was a very good count for that locale. Goodrich reported that the Pied-billed Grebe has virtually disappeared as a breeder in Berkshire County, Mass.

S.A.

The return of Tilefish, *Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps*, to the Hudson Canyon has spurred special sport-fishing trips which are proving a boon to observers hardy and patient enough to endure the 22-hour ordeal. On May 27, the Uner Ornithological Club recorded the following, approximately 95 miles offshore; 175 Greater Shearwaters, 50 Sooty Shearwaters, 2000 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, 17 Leach's Storm-Petrels, one Gannet, 18 Pomarine and 4 Parasitic Jaegers, 75 Red and 10 N. Phalaropes, 7 terns (sp?) and a Canada Warbler, the latter 65 miles offshore.

Highlights of a Linnaean Society of N.Y. trip to Cox's Ledge the previous day included 19 Sooty Shearwaters, 60 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, 50 Red and 70 N. Phalaropes and 4 Gannets. Best onshore report was 75 Sooty and 25 Greater Shearwaters at Smith's Pt., L.I., May 19. A Louisiana Heron appeared at E. Quogue, L.I. as early as Apr. 15. Reports of southern waders from Québec included a Com. Egret at St. Paul Ile aux Nois May 5, a Snowy Egret near Berthier May 12, 6 Cattle Egrets from two locations and a Glossy Ibis near Berthier May 12. A colony of 24 Black-crowned Night Herons was reported from an island in the Susquehanna R. near Wilkes-Barre and 2 prs. of Yellow-crowned Night Herons were found nesting at Stony Brook, L.I.

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS—A build-up of 70,000 Canada Geese at Baie St. Francois, Qué., in early May was one of the highest Regional counts on record. The nesting population of this species on Gardiner's I., L.I. has grown to 300 pairs, with broods doing well as of June 4. Further examples of the late May movement of Brant up the Hudson R. Valley were 1500 May 23-31 at N.J. Palisades, one off Croton Pt., May 27 and 500 in Dutchess County May 31. A flock of 250 was also seen off Nun's I., May 19. Seldom are more than a dozen together seen in that part of Québec. The main flight of Snow Geese occurred from Apr. 6-10 with reports of flocks of 100-600 from N. Arlington and N. J. Palisades north to Vermont. Several flocks of up to 16 Gadwall were noted in the Ile du Moine, Qué. area in late May. Puleston reported that this species is now the commonest breeding duck on Gardiner's I., L.I. with close to 100 pairs present. Presumably the Gardiner's I. environment is not changing appreciably. But in regard to the increase of this species vs. Black Duck decline in southern areas generally, it might be interesting to investigate the possibility of generally drier conditions, either naturally or artificially induced as a contributing factor.

A N. Shoveler was seen in early April at Ashley Falls, Mass. where it is quite rare in Spring. Eiders lingered remarkably late at Montauk Pt., L.I. where 23 Common and 4 Kings were still present Apr. 28 (DPo). An ad. ♂ King was also seen at Trois Pistoles, Qué. on the late date of June 2. In Québec, where there have been very few previous records, a Turkey Vulture was seen near St. Chrysostome Apr. 19, 2 near Mont St. Hilaire May 12 (P.Q.S.P.B.) and 3 others were noted during April in the vicinity of Québec City (*vide* MM). A territorial pair of Goshawks found at Pound Ridge Reservation, N.Y., Apr. 14 and last seen Apr. 28 might possibly have been nesting, although no nest was found nor young seen.

SHOREBIRDS—There were a number of interesting inland occurrence of shorebirds. Black-bellied Plovers appeared in remarkable numbers in e.c. Vermont with 75 at Dead Creek Ref., May 27 and 30 at Gale Meadows May 28. Also at Dead Creek on May 27 were 150 Short-billed Dowitchers and a Red Knot, the latter one of the very few Vermont records (WN *et al.*). At Croton Pt., N.Y. there were 130 Short-billed Dowitchers on May 27 and 56 Dunlin on May 28. Montreal, too, had some unusually high counts. On May 29 there were 120 Ruddy Turnstones, 400 Dunlin and 500 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Nun's I. As has been mentioned in the past, such occurrences are often the result of local conditions attracting birds which normally pass on overhead. Such was the case on the Susquehanna R. at Exeter, Pa. this year where 17 species were recorded for the spring. Included among them were, dowitcher (sp?) 1, May 28, Dunlin, 19, May 21-28, Western Sandpiper, 3, May 20-30, White-rumped Sandpiper, 3, May 30-June 1, and Sand-erling, 2, June 1 (WR). Other records of note were a Willet at Ile du Moine May 30, one of the very few Provincial records and single Pectoral Sandpipers at S. Windsor, Conn. Mar. 28, a very early date, and May 3 at Pittsfield, Mass. where very unusual in spring.

Two notable rarities were an **Am. Avocet** present at Rimouski May 27-June 2 for the first Province of Québec record and a **Black-necked Stilt** at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Ref., Apr. 20-25 (m.ob.) for one of the very few Regional records. Wilson's Phalaropes were again reported as apparently nesting at Ile du Moine. Further investigations will be made this summer. This species is now considered also annual at S. Windsor, Conn. (*fide* PD) though the date of this year's report, May 1, seems remarkably early. On May 14, a Wilson's was also seen on Staten I. (JT) where it has seldom been noted.

GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS—An interesting note on gulls came from the Wilkes-Barre area (WR). Since the 1950s, the Ring-billed Gull has been replacing the Herring Gull as the usual winter/spring species. Ring-billeds now occur in flocks of 100+ and Herrings are very scarce. Two or 3 this year were the first in almost five years. Berkshire County, Mass. (RG) reported a similar, though less extreme, situation this year, with Ring-billeds outnumbering Herrings on local lakes. Two Little Gulls were seen at Beauharnois, Qué. on May 28. The seldom-reported **Arctic Tern** was carefully identified at two locales in Québec. There were two at Ile du Moine June 2 and two at Nun's I., June 3 (P Q S P.B.). A total of 4 northbound Com. Terns were seen at N.J. Palisades during May and one was recorded at Cruger's I., N.Y., May 12 where it is quite unusual. A **Razor-billed Auk** was carefully identified at Montauk Pt. on the extremely late date of Apr 23 (DPu).

PARAKEETS THROUGH RAVENS—The first Monk Parakeet from the Wilkes-Barre area was reported May 14. A very early Com. Nighthawk was seen at Babylon, L.I., Apr. 28. **Chuck-will's-widow** appeared again on Long I. where one was banded May 11 at Fire I. Light (DFo) and recaptured there May 16 (RP). Red-bellied Woodpeckers continued to be reported with about the same frequency as the last two years from southern areas. Although one or two new sites are noted each year, old ones continue to be abandoned at about the same rate. A Com. Raven at the Delaware Water Gap, N.J., May 9 was both late and in an unusual spring location.

WRENS THROUGH WAXWINGS—A total of 4-5 Carolina Wrens in the Greenwich, Conn., area during April was unusually high for that location. Quite unusual was the occurrence of a number of Gray-cheeked Thrushes in the last few days of April. About 15 were reported, the greatest number from Long Island. This species is normally quite unusual until about mid-May. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers continued to show indications of spreading northward. Six were noted during the spring around W. Hartford, Conn., including one nesting pair, and several in the Wilkes-Barre area, where a pair also nested at Red Rock. They are now also considered rare but regular in Spring in Berkshire County, where 5 were seen for the season. There was also one at Montreal May 18. Good counts of Ruby-crowned Kinglet were 50 at Muttontown, L.I., Apr 14 and 70+ at Cherry Ridge, Sussex Co., N.J.,

Apr 29. The cold weather of late April apparently delayed this species somewhat, many areas reported it considerably more common in early May than usual. The latest report was one at Millwood, Westchester Co., N.Y., May 26. There has been a remarkable increase in the number of migrant Mockingbirds noted at N.J. Palisades in the past two years. This spring, no less than 34 were seen from early April to mid-May, including 11 in five hours on Apr. 7. In spring, they frequently move with Am. Robins and occasionally with Blue Jays; in fall they are more likely to be moving independently. At either season, seldom is more than one seen at a time, though often the total for any one day passes through within several minutes of one another, indicating at least some tenuous degree of association. On May 19, a Water Pipit was seen at Ravine L., N.J. on the very late date of May 19. The Bohemian Waxwings which invaded Montreal last winter lingered in small flocks until mid-April. A flock of 45 was also seen at Middlebury, Vt., Mar. 18. Cedar Waxwings were comparatively scarce at N.J. Palisades. Numbers during the last half of May averaged 10-15 per hours, about 1/3 peak year counts.

VIREOS, WARBLERS—A Yellow-throated Vireo was seen at Sharon, Conn. as early as Apr. 25 and a Northern Parula was seen at Quogue, L.I., Apr 12. Although many observers considered the season as generally uneventful in terms of waves and concentrations, there was a fine accumulation of notable rarities.

Southern Species. These occurred in especially good numbers in s. New York and New Jersey. At least 25 Prothonotary Warblers were reported for the season, the earliest on the remarkable date of Apr 9 (*fide* TD). But these were soon upstaged by the appearance of 2 **Swainson's Warblers**. One was carefully identified in Central Park, N.Y.C., May 11 (m.ob.) the other was banded and photographed at Tobay Sanctuary, L.I., May 20 (PB & AL, *fide* TD). Certainly the most intriguing report of the season was a meticulously described warbler seen in St. Paul's Chapel Churchyard, Manhattan May 19. It fit exactly the description of Sutton's Warbler except for the back, which had a distinct, Parula-type yellow patch rather than the yellowish wash depicted in field-guides. Reports of Yellow-throated Warblers, about 7, and Kentucky Warblers, about 12, seemed normal. It is always uncertain whether unusual numbers of peripherally-breeding species represent unusual concentrations of normal migrants, or overshoots. At any rate, 5 Worm-eating Warblers in Alley Pond Park, Queens is certainly worthy of note. A Hooded Warbler appeared at Jamaica Bay Ref. on the remarkably early date of Apr. 5; later in the season a scattering of individuals occurred north to Dutchess County, W. Hartford and Montreal.

Other warblers. Two Golden-winged Warblers at Mont Tremblant Park, Qué., June 9 was the farthest north this species has been recorded. One was also seen at Montreal May 31. Male Lawrence-type hybrids returned again to territories in Parsipanny, N.J., Yaphank, L.I. and Sharon, Conn. All apparently were mated with Blue-winged females. A few Orange-

crowned Warblers were seen at Westmount Summit, Montreal during May, the only place in the Region where they are reasonably regular in Spring. One other, at Fire I., L.I., May 2 was much more unusual. A Yellow-rumped Warbler lingered at Croton Pt. until May 27. The hodge-podge flight of Apr. 27-29 also brought some interesting warbler reports. On Apr. 29, two very early returns were noted, a Bay-breasted Warbler at Queens County and a Blackpoll Warbler at E. Orange, N.J. and a truly remarkable find was made at Quogue, L.I. where a very carefully identified **Townsend's Warbler** was found hopping about in the dune grass (E&LS). It was the second or third Regional record. A total of 5 Cape May Warblers during May at Middlebury, Vt. was considered high for that place. Territorial behavior was noted in Cerulean Warblers from the usual locales in n.c. New Jersey and also at Yaphank, L.I. where the species is not known to breed. Once again a spring Connecticut Warbler was reported from New Jersey, this one at Montclair May 13 (RR).

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS—The Boat-tailed Grackle seems to be assuming the status of a regular stray on Long I. This season one was seen at Gilgo Beach May 12 (FH, *vide* TD). The general impression of many observers through the Region that the N. Oriole is becoming increasingly more numerous seems to be borne out by observations at N.J. Palisades, where each season they become progressively more numerous, appearing in the last days of April and continuing into the first week of June. This year, 100+ were noted on 3 different four-hour watches. Overall average for the season was about 12 per hour. As is usual in years when southern warblers appear in numbers, Summer Tanagers were notably prevalent.

FRINGILLIDS—Flocks of 20+ Red Crossbills were still present at Bearfoot Mt. N.J. Apr. 21 and Franklin Lakes, N.J., Apr. 28 and one was noted at Pleasantville, N.Y., May 30. A **Lark Bunting**, carefully identified at Croton Pt., May 27 (WH *et al.*) was probably a first for Westchester County. There are only one or two other inland records for the Region and only a scattering for the coast, most of them in Fall. A singing **Clay-colored Sparrow**, apparently the first spring record for Connecticut, was present at Suffield May 7 to at least May 19 (m.ob.).

ADDENDA—Veteran observer William Reid of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., ill for some time, then flooded from his home last June by *Agnes* and still living in emergency housing, has been understandably remiss in his correspondence. The following observations, though no longer current, certainly warrant publication.

Black Vulture, Wilkes-Barre, June 22, 1972 during a lull in tropical storm *Agnes*. **Wilson's Plover**, Exeter, Pa., Sept. 21, 1970. Seen with William Evans. **Hoary Redpoll**, in a flock of 60 Com. Redpolls, Dallas, Pa., Mar. 18, 1972.

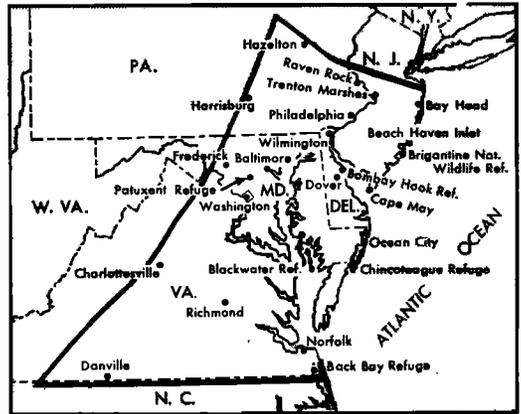
INITIALED OBSERVERS—P. A. Buckley, Thomas H. Davis, Paul Desjardins, Darrel Ford, Robert Goodrich, Fred Heath, William Howe,

Anthony Lauro, Mabel MacIntosh, William Norse, Roger Pasquier, Dennis Puleston, Richard Ryan, Eric and Lorna Saltzman, John Tramontano, Province of Québec Society for the Protection of Birds.—**NED R. BOYAJIAN**, Walnut Creek, Calif.

MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/ F. R. Scott and David A. Cutler

Following an extraordinarily warm March, April was fairly normal and May rather cool. Precipitation was somewhat above normal, much of it concentrated in the last ten days of May, creating rather poor conditions for nesting marsh and beach birds. The migration in general was fairly early during April but became quite drawn out in May, with heavy warbler concentrations during the last third of the month. Featured during the season were numbers of interesting pelagic observations, a result of a recent upsurge of interest in this subject by regional field observers.



LOONS THROUGH GANNETS—Late migrating Com. Loons were noted in many localities both offshore and along the coast during May. An exceptional record was 9 at Ocean City, Md., May 28 during strong easterly winds (PGD), and 4 were seen far inland at Penn Forest Res., Carbon Co., Pa., May 19 (RW). A movement of Red-throated Loons at Cape Henlopen, Del., Apr. 22 was estimated at 375 (PGD). DuMont noted several early Cory's Shearwaters offshore: one off Ocean City and 2 off Cape Henlopen May 6 and one off Virginia Beach, Va., May 20. Two boat trips to the Hudson Canyon, about 90 miles due east of Beach Haven, N. J., May 26, revealed some spectacular concentrations of pelagic birds for this region. One party of 17 reported 175 Greater Shearwaters, 50 Sooty Shearwaters, 17 **Leach's Storm-Petrels**, and 2000+ **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** (RK, AK, PWSm, *et al.*), whereas the other party found 50 Greater Shearwaters, 65 Sooty Shearwaters, 1 **Leach's Storm-Petrel**, and 600+ **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** (RJS). Several Greater Shearwaters were also found off Virginia Beach May 27 (RLake *et al.*) and off Ocean City May 28 (PGD). A few Sooty Shearwaters off Ocean City and Cape Henlopen seemed early May 6 (PGD), and other

reports included 2 off Virginia Beach May 20 (JMA *et al.*) and one picked up dead at Beach Haven May 29 (BCH). Good numbers of Wilson's Storm-Petrels were reported by all the late May pelagic trips, the earliest report being 25 at Norfolk Canyon 65 miles off Cape Henry, Va., May 14 (MLW). A few Gannets were reported both offshore and along the coast throughout May, including, on May 28, 4 at Ocean City (PGD) and one at Assateague I., Md. (HTA).

HERONS, IBIS—April 3 was the spring arrival date at Bombay Hook N.W.R., Del. of the Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, and Louisiana Heron (NEH), and the peak count of Louisiana Herons at Brigantine N.W.R., N.J. was 25 on May 22, an excellent number (JFA). A Cattle Egret at Lynchburg, Va., Apr. 13 was quite unusual so far inland (KF, RSF & PEM). The Armisteads found 60 pairs of Cattle Egrets in a newly discovered heronry on Barren I., Md. (Chesapeake Bay) May 20, a first nesting record for Dorchester Co. There were about 180 active Great Blue Heron nests on Bloodsworth I., Md., May 19 (HTA, MEA *et al.*), and Abbott found four other active Great Blue heronries in e. Maryland during the period totaling over 500 pairs. Yellow-crowned Night Herons seemed in very low numbers in the Norfolk, Va. area, with no nests found (WWF *et al.*). The first Dorchester Co., Md. nest of this species was found with 5 eggs May 19 on Bloodsworth I. (HTA), and 2 adults at a nest were seen Apr. 25 at Rocky Hill, near West Chester, Pa. (KK). Inland records of this bird included one at Lynchburg, Va., Apr. 20-May 6 (KF & PEM) and 4 at Camp Hill, Pa., May 8 (MK). Brooks saw 75 Glossy Ibis flying north at Cape Henlopen, Del., Apr. 23, and the species continued its increase inland in c. New Jersey where 30 were noted along the Millstone R., Apr. 30 (P&MT).

WATERFOWL—A Mute Swan appeared at Dyke marsh, Fairfax Co., Va., Apr. 15 (JMA), and a pair was seen at Chincoteague N.W.R., Va. May 19 (WWF). A pair was found nesting at the naval air station near Pomona, N.J., May 7 (JFA), apparently an overflow from the population at Brigantine N.W.R. Five unusually late Canada Geese were noted at Wallops I., Va., May 3 and June 2 (CRV), and 50 Brant at Brigantine N.W.R., May 15 were a good count for this date (JFA). Lawrence found 250 Snow Geese still at Brigantine Ref., Apr. 15, and the usual individual stragglers were reported into mid-May in several parts of the Region. Among about 150 Black Ducks and 50 Gadwalls at Deal I., Somerset Co., Md., May 27 were 3 Pintails and 3 N. Shovelers (HTA). Eighty Ring-necked Ducks were noted at Middle Creek Wildlife Area, near Kleinfeltersville, Pa., Apr. 7 (SRL), and among the many late diving ducks reported were a Canvasback at Middle Creek May 22 (EWtr) and 2 Oldsquaw at Cooks Pt., Dorchester Co., Md. on the same date (HTA *et al.*). All three scoters were noted in several localities along the coast and in Chesapeake Bay during May. Generally, these reports were of only one or two birds each, but DuMont reported 72 birds of all three species off Ocean City, Md., May 6.

HAWKS—Black Vultures continued to be very visible on the Delmarva Pen. during the spring, and peak counts included 13 in s. Dorchester Co., Md., Apr. 28 (HTA *et al.*) and 10 at Woodland Beach, Del., May 12 (WJW). Elsewhere along the northern edge of their range, 2 were found at Longwood, Pa., Apr. 15 (JGran). A Goshawk at Beltzville L., Carbon Co., Pa., Apr. 15 was the only report received (RW), a rather surprising occurrence considering the unusual fall and winter flight into the Region. Eighty-seven Broad-winged Hawks at Elverson, Pa., Apr. 22 was the best *Buteo* flight reported (REC), and a fairly late pair was still at a nest in Hunterdon Co., N.J., May 29 (OAH). An imm. Golden Eagle was last seen at Blackwater N.W.R., Md., Apr. 13 (HTA), and one was noted at Tuckerton, N.J., May 5 & 10 (BCH). Excellent counts of Bald Eagles continued in s. Dorchester Co., Md. with a peak of at least 6 adults and 10 immatures May 5 (HTA). This area has by far the highest concentration of nesting Bald Eagles in this Region. An Osprey seen 65 mi. off Cape Henry, Va., May 14 was probably still in migration (MLW). Along the Delaware side of Delaware Bay Brooks could only locate one active Osprey nest in an area where a dozen or more could be found in previous years. Abbott *et al.* found a transient Merlin inland at Dyke marsh, Va., May 12, and a remarkable flight of approximately 250 Am. Kestrels was observed at Bombay Hook Ref., Del., Apr. 3 (NEH).

GROUSE, MARSH BIRDS—A Ruffed Grouse near Princeton, N.J., Apr. 21 was rather unusual (RJB), and Black Rails were recorded by general observers, often in good numbers, in the traditional locations for this species, such as Broadkill Beach, Del. and Elliott I., Md. Two Com. Gallinules were noted near Struble Dam, Chester Co., Pa., Apr. 21, an unusual county record (SAF). A Com. Gallinule nest with 9 eggs was located at Deal I., Md., May 27 (HTA), but marsh birds in general were much reduced here over previous years, apparently due to fluctuating water levels in the impoundments.

SHOREBIRDS—Semipalmated Plovers were noted twice near Struble Dam, Pa., 4 on May 14 (PLH) and 2 on May 26 (REC), the first records for Chester Co. in nine years. The only reports of Am. Golden Plovers received were from Bombay Hook Ref., Del., where a number were present Apr. 1-May 6 with a peak of 37 on Apr. 14 (NEH, KR *et al.*). On a rainy May 20 Vaughn found more than 630 Black-bellied Plovers on the airfield at Wallops Station, Va. mixed in with other shorebirds and Cattle Egrets, and Grantham recorded an estimated 300 in flight at Longwood, Pa., May 28, an extraordinary number for this inland locality. This last record may have resulted from some strong coastal storms during this period. Near Mathews, Va. a pair of Am. Woodcock had 5 eggs Mar. 16 (MLW), and the first 3 Whimbrel were noted quite early at Tuckerton, N.J., Apr. 10 (BCH). On the Delmarva Pen. single migrant Upland Sandpipers were seen at Wallops I., Va., May 1 (CRV) and near Princess Anne, Md., May 13 (PGD). The peak count of 4000 Red Knots occurred at Cape May, N.J. on

the curiously early date of May 13 (AMk & HMor), and late counts of Purple Sandpipers included 58 at Cape May, May 14 (JTM) and 20 at Brigantine I., N.J., May 26 (JFA). Twenty-five White-rumped Sandpipers at Brigantine Ref., N.J., May 22 were a good count (JFA), and a Baird's Sandpiper was observed at Little Creek, De., May 12 (WJW). A Curlew Sandpiper was reported at Chincoteague Ref., Va., May 10 (JGrod, *fide* PGD) and 2 in the same area May 12 (PGD), the second and third sight records for the state. One at Brigantine Ref., May 14-26 was in the same area where the species has been seen annually for about 20 years (JD, RCR). Stilt Sandpipers were reported twice, one near Chincoteague, Va., May 13 (PGD) and 4 at Little Creek May 19 (NEH), and a W. Sandpiper inland near Hopewell, Va., Apr. 1 was unusual as to both locality and date (FRS). There were two reports of Marbled Godwits, 2 near Chincoteague May 13 (PGD) and one at Brigantine Ref., May 26 (KR), and a Bar-tailed Godwit at Longport, N.J., May 6-27 was seen by numerous observers (JFA, DAC, JD *et al.*). All reports of Ruffs were from Delaware: 3 at Smyrna Apr. 1 (NEH), one at Pickering Beach Apr. 22 (PGD), and one at Bombay Hook Ref., May 1 (NEH). Am. Avocets were first noted at Chincoteague Ref., Apr. 5 (LKM) and Bombay Hook Ref., Apr. 6 (NEH); up to 4 were present at the latter location up to May 3. Three Black-necked Stilts were first reported at Little Creek, Del., Apr. 21 (NP), and 10 were found here the next day (PGD) and later in the season. Elsewhere, one was found at Blackwater Ref., Apr. 20, the fourth and earliest record for Maryland (HTA), 2 were seen at Wallops I., Va., Apr. 27 (CRV), and one was observed at Cape May Pt., N.J., Apr. 28-29 (KS). A Red Phalarope was seen off Cape Henry, Va., May 6 (PGD), 20 were found at Norfolk Canyon, 65 mi. off Cape Henry, May 14 (MLW), and 75 were reported off Beach Haven, N.J., May 26 (PWSm *et al.*). Few Wilson's and N. Phalaropes were reported, the most interesting observations being 14 N. Phalaropes off Virginia Beach, Va., May 20, 6 in the same area May 27 (RLA *et al.*), and 10 off Beach Haven, N.J., May 26 (PWSm *et al.*).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS—Pomarine Jaegers were reported by at least five different offshore trips during May, the best counts being 6 or more off Virginia Beach May 20 (PWSy *et al.*) and 18 off Beach Haven, N.J., May 26 (PWSm *et al.*). In general, lesser numbers of Parasitic Jaegers were reported, an unusual turn-about for this Region. There seemed to be unusually few white-winged gull reports during the winter and spring; the only reports at hand were one Glaucous and one Iceland Gull at Shark R., N.J., Mar. 31 (KR). Similarly, the only Black-headed Gull reported was an immature at Brigantine Ref., N.J., May 2 (HD). Several interesting peak inland counts of Bonaparte's Gulls included 10 at Middle Creek Wildlife Area, Pa., Apr. 7 (SRL), 45 at Hatfield, Pa., Apr. 10 (AMla), and 250 on the Potomac R. off Dyke marsh, Va., Apr. 15 (JMA). After an all-night E wind of 20-30 knots, a bird thought to be an ad. Sabine's Gull in breeding plumage was seen off n. Assateague I. and Ocean City, Md., May 28 (PGD). The bird was seen in close com-

parison with Laughing Gulls and Com Terns. Three birds believed to have been Arctic Terns were carefully identified 45 mi. off Virginia Beach May 20 by many observers (JMA, RLake, PGD, RAR *et al.*), a first sight record for Virginia. Several Roseate Terns were reported along the coast from Cape Henlopen, Del south, and one at Fisherman I., Va., Apr. 6 was by far the earliest state record (RLand). Two Sandwich Terns were seen at Virginia Beach May 20, one well offshore (RAR) and the other close inshore (PGD *et al.*).

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS—A Barred Owl nest with 3 young was located in Bull Run Regional Park, Fairfax Co., Va., May 5 (JWE *et al.*), and Heck found four nesting pairs of Long-eared Owls in Hunterdon Co., N.J. in mid-May. By the end of the month one nesting attempt had failed, one pair had fledged 4 young, another 2 young, and the fourth was still incubating. A pair of Short-eared Owls again nested at the Philadelphia, Pa. airport, the 2 young first being seen June 3, just able to fly (NP), and 4 Saw-whet Owls were calling Apr. 27 near Chatsworth, N.J. in a previously established breeding area (AB). Early Chimney Swifts were noted in several localities, including Apr. 2 at Lynchburg, Va. (TH, *fide* RSF), Apr. 3 at Richmond, Va. (FRS), and Apr. 3 at Sea Breeze, N.J. (DEK). A Pileated Woodpecker nest at Finland, Bucks Co., Pa. during May was the first active nest found in the general Philadelphia area in many years (GAF, AMla *et al.*), and an ad. Red-cockaded Woodpecker was feeding young near Wakefield, Va., May 26 (RLake & WWF).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH RAVENS—Early E. Kingbirds included one near Ocean City, Md., Apr. 7 (PGD) and one at Wallops I., Va., Apr. 11 (CRV). There were more than the usual number of Olive-sided Flycatchers reported from n. Virginia northward. Most of these were concentrated in the last week of May, but one at Clarksboro, N.J., May 7 was quite early (JTM). Malone observed one well at Chincoteague Ref., May 27, the first spring record for Virginia's Eastern Shore. Cliff Swallows, usually unrecorded or very rare in s.e. Virginia, were reported here several times, as well as at Chincoteague and in e. Maryland. Some of the more interesting reports included 2 near Wakefield, Va., Apr. 29 (PGD), 2 at Lynnhaven Inlet, Virginia Beach May 20 (PWSy), 3-5 at Chippokes S P, Va., May 26 (RLake & WWF), and 7 at Shirley, Va., May 27 (FRS). Few reports of Purple Martins were received, but at Lewistown, Pa. only a handful had arrived by May 30 versus a usual population of about 350 (MB). In Fairfax Co., Va., however, Abbott reported a moderate northward flight along the Potomac R. Apr. 10-28 averaging 50-200 per day. A Com Raven at Waggoner's Gap, Pa., Apr. 29 was suspected of being a local breeding bird (CJ).

NUTHATCHES THROUGH VIREOS—The pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches at Longwood, Pa. previously reported as excavating a nest site disappeared about Apr. 16 after a gardener removed the dead limb being used (JGran). Another nest with at least two young was discovered at Swarthmore, Pa., May 26 by Helen McWilliams and confirmed later by

Alexander and Heckscher These nests represent a major range extension for this species into the Pennsylvania Coastal Plain. A singing **Bewick's Wren** at Sandy Point S.P., Md., May 12 was quite unusual (PGD), and an early Carolina Wren nest had 5 eggs at Gloucester, Va., Mar. 22, the young leaving Apr. 21 (MLW). Six extremely early Gray-cheeked Thrushes were banded at Island Beach S.P., N.J., Apr. 28 (JSW *et al.*) and were seen by many persons attending the Eastern Bird Banding Association annual meeting. In the Delaware Valley area nesting E. Bluebirds seemed to be in increased numbers, but nesting success seemed poor, at least to some extent due to harassment by Starlings (DAC, JGran *et al.*). Near Lynchburg, Va. bluebird nesting seemed delayed by rain and cold weather, but by May 27 Murphy reported that 21 of 33 nest boxes were occupied by 97 young. Cedar Waxwings were quite common in much of the Region and remained in flocks in some areas to the end of May. Over 100 were present at Clifton, Va., May 22 (JWE), for example, and Grantham reported 175 at Longwood, Pa., June 3. A Solitary Vireo at Mount Vernon, Va., May 29 was extraordinarily late (JMA).

WARBLERS—A Prothonotary Warbler banded at Wallops I., Va., Apr. 30 (CRV) and 2 seen at Finland, Pa., May 12 (GAF) were locally unusual. A Lawrence's Warbler color-banded at Glassboro, N.J. in 1972 (FG) was seen in the same area this year on May 3 (JKM), and 5 Cerulean Warblers were recorded at Sycamore Mills, Delaware Co., Pa., May 10, where there is a local breeding colony (NP). Yellow-throated Warblers were recorded from at least five localities in the Pennsylvania and South Jersey, an apparent increase over recent years. Bay-breasted Warblers seemed unusually common, with a number of records from the Virginia; one at Chincoteague Ref., May 27 was probably the first spring record from Virginia's Eastern Shore (LKM). A Kentucky Warbler banded at Wallops I., Apr. 23 was somewhat early (CRV). Late warbler records were commonplace, and it is probable that many species stayed around until early June. In the Alexandria, Va. area Magnolia and Canada Warblers as well as N. Waterthrushes were still present May 28-29 (JMA). A flight of Canada Warblers apparently occurred May 27, as 6 were recorded at Blackwater Ref., Md. on this date (HTA), and an astonishing 18 were banded at Island Beach S.P., N.J. on the same day, the most common of the 24 species trapped (*fide* H. W. Cooper). Other late reports included Cape May Warblers at Bala-Cynwyd and Wyncote, Pa., May 31 (DAC & DS), a Yellow-rumped Warbler near Lewisetta, Va., May 26 (FRS), Mourning Warblers at Bala-Cynwyd May 30 (DS) and Pomona, N.J., June 4 (JFA & JD), and a Canada Warbler at Glassboro June 2 (JKM).

BOBOLINKS THROUGH LONGSPURS—Bobolinks remained late at Spring City, Pa., with 75-100 present May 26-28 (RJM). Western Tanager were reported three times: an imm. ♂ in Chesapeake, Va. Apr. 10 (RLake & GAG), a singing ♂ in e. Anne Arundel Co., Md., May 5 (PGD), and an ad. ♂ in excellent breeding plumage at Millsboro, Del., May

5 (SS *et al.*) At Blackwater Ref., Md. 25 Summer Tanagers were recorded May 12 versus only 11 Scarlet Tanagers (HTA), a spring ratio perhaps not atypical of the c. Delmarva Pen. A Summer Tanager at Longwood, Pa., May 31 was well north of its normal breeding range (JGran). An imm. ♂ **Black-headed Grosbeak** appeared in Norfolk, Va., Apr. 3 and remained about ten days (LB, WWF). Early Indigo Buntings were noted at Chincoteague Ref., Apr. 19 (LKM) and Wallops I., Apr. 23 (CRV), and Malone, in fact, reported a "large influx" at Chincoteague in the last week of April and the first week of May. Evening Grosbeaks were last seen in Virginia and Maryland May 10 (JWE, RLP *et al.*) except for one late bird recorded at Chincoteague Ref., May 19 (PWSy). At Longwood a count of 125 on May 6 was unusually good for such a date (JGran). Purple Finches remained late and in numbers, 115 at White Hall, Carbon Co., Pa., May 4 was excellent (RW). Pine Siskins were very common about Washington, D.C. and were last reported May 12 at Chevy Chase, Md. (RLP) and elsewhere. Red Crossbills as usual were very erratic, with most records being from the Delmarva Pen., where they remained at least until early June (SHD). Elsewhere, a few were recorded in Richmond, Va. to May 31 (FRS), one was noted near Seneca, Md., May 26 (PGD), and 17 were seen at Longwood May 31 (JGran). A White-winged Crossbill picked up injured at Medford, N.J. in late April was the only report of this species (EWfd), and an early Grasshopper Sparrow was recorded at Elm, Pa., Apr. 17 (AMk). A Dark-eyed Junco banded at Wallops I., May 10 was late (CRV), and one seen at Bala-Cynwyd, Pa., May 31 was a record late date (DS). Cook observed a Harris' Sparrow at Leesport, Pa., Apr. 30-May 5, and late White-throated Sparrows were present at Chevy Chase, Md., May 23-26 (RLP). A Lapland Longspur in full breeding plumage was observed at Brigantine Ref., May 20, an unprecedented date (RJS & PWSm).

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SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/ Robert P. Teulings

The spring season was cool, wet and late. Over the Region summer residents were slow in arriving in normal numbers and the warbler migration appeared to be tardy. Most winter finches departed in late April and early May but lingerers were still present through the end of the period, notably flocks of Red Crossbills at several locations.



PELAGIC TRIPS—Increasing interest in the species to be found offshore resulted in reports from three parties who took cruises off the North Carolina coast. The trips were on consecutive weekends late in the period, from Hatteras May 19 (PD, RA, RAR, HW, BB, DJ), Morehead City May 26 (HL, EL, RAR, HW), and from the latter location June 3 (RR & students). Their censuses follow with the tallies for each species listed in the same respective chronological order: Cory's Shearwater 1,1,9; Greater Shearwater, 31,2,34; Sooty Shearwater 6,12,2; Audubon's Shearwater 16,6,0; Wilson's Storm-Petrel 116,150,110; Leach's Storm-Petrel 2,0,0; Northern Phalarope 17,30,0; Pomarine Jaeger 0,2,0; Parasitic Jaeger 0,0,1; Arctic Tern 1,0,0; Bridled Tern 9,8,1; and Black Tern 0,1,0. Other sightings of pelagics by observers on shore are listed in the species accounts below.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES—Com. Loons remained at Columbus, Ga. on the Chattahoochee R. as late as May 4 (LAW, SP, MF) and were also seen inland in good numbers at Roanoke Rapids, N.C. (JML), and Whispering Pines, N.C. (JHC). Peak counts of 33 and 21, respectively, were recorded at these latter locations Apr. 8. Other inland reports were from Raleigh (RSi) and Winston-Salem (RW *et al.*). At Jekyll I., Ga., eight Audubon's Shearwaters were seen near shore May 12 and three Greater Shearwaters May 27 (*vide* CM). Gannets lingered there as late as May 23 (FM). A Double-crested Cormorant found at L. Hartwell near Clemson, S.C., Mar. 31 was believed to be the first local record (SG). A single bird of this species was also present at Whispering Pines in late April with another seen there May 20 (JHC). Inland

occurrences were also reported from Raleigh (HL) and Roanoke Rapids (JML). An imm. Great Cormorant was at Croatan Sound near Manteo, N.C., Apr. 6 (EP, JP). A Magnificent Frigatebird was seen off Jekyll I. Apr. 28 (FM) and another sighting recorded the next day at St. Simons I. (MT). Again there was a report of a Great Blue Heron of the white form from the Jekyll I. area. The bird was seen by several observers during the period Apr. 29-May 16 (JB, FM, GD). A Reddish Egret was found well n. of its range at Morehead City, N.C., Apr. 13 (TLQ,RR; photos). A Glossy Ibis wandered inland to Northampton County, N.C. where it was seen near Gaston May 29 (JML). White Ibises appeared to be forming a small nesting colony at Pea Island N.W.R. in mid-May (NFW, DS). Events there will be watched closely to see whether this species is successful in further extending its breeding range northward along the North Carolina coast.

WATERFOWL—The peak movements of waterfowl occurred during the last half of March and early April. A flock of 800 Snow Geese was seen winging over Jekyll I. Apr. 11 (MD). A Eur. Wigeon was discovered there Apr. 4 (JBr). Inland at Roanoke Rapids L., peak counts of 139 Lesser Scaup and 155 Red-breasted Mergansers were recorded Apr. 1 (JML). Four Buffleheads lingered at Pea I. at least through May 26 (PW).

KITES THROUGH COOT—Swallow-tailed Kites sighted at Columbus Apr. 22 and at nearby Omaha, Ga., Apr. 29 were rare records for that area (GB, WG), as was one seen over Fort Fisher, N.C., Apr. 23 (HL, EL). For the second spring, Swallow-taileds were seen on the N.C. Outer Banks, well north of their usual range. One was observed at Buxton Woods Mar. 30 (PB) and two were seen there May 12 just 3 hours after a similar sighting at Pea I. 20 mi. to the north (GG). A Mississippi Kite was seen in early May at Oconeechee Neck, Northampton Co., N.C. (HL, JML), the same locality where the species was seen last year. These kite sightings give rise to speculation about possible nesting in the upper coast and coastal plain sections of North Carolina where no previous breeding records have been reported. In South Carolina, Bald Eagle nesting censuses in the Charleston, Huger and Georgetown areas turned up three pairs with young in mid-March (TB). Elsewhere there were sightings of single Bald Eagles in the Jekyll I. vicinity Apr. 29 (RO), at Oregon Inlet May 16 (NFW) and at Oconeechee Neck May 26 (*vide* JML). A significant tally of 40 Red-shouldered Hawks was recorded in Okefenokee Swamp Apr. 29 (SP). In February and March a total of 13 active Osprey nests were found at the Okefenokee N.W.R. by Wendell Metzen and John Holt. Other reports were mostly of transients. It would be highly worthwhile for observers to search out and report Osprey nesting information from other areas of the Region. Only two falcon records were received, both of Merlins. An individual was seen at N. Wilkesboro Apr. (WPS) and another in Caswell Co., N.C., May 6 (FD). A Black Rail was captured in the Phillips I. marsh near Morehead City Apr. 13

by T L Quay (*N C S M), and a Purple Gallinule was an unusual find on nearby Bogue Banks Apr. 14 (JF) Purple Gallinules were also found as far n. as Pea Island N.W.R. where several were seen during the period (NFW). Most conspicuous among several reports of late Am. Coots was one of 40 at W. Onslow Beach, N.C., May 27 (GG).

SHOREBIRDS—Given the proper habitat around inland lakes, reservoirs and ponds, good numbers of "coastal" shorebirds may be found by those who seek them, and this season a flood of such reports came from interior locations. Space permits only a brief account. Among the species listed were Semipalmated Plovers, Dunlin, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral, Least, Western and Semipalmated Sandpipers, along with the usual inland migrants. A Black-bellied Plover was found near Gaston, N.C., May 26 (JML). White-rumped Sandpipers were also noted there during May (JML), as well as at Clemson (SG) and Raleigh (CMA, RSi). Three Upland Sandpipers were seen near Atlanta Apr. 28 (RC, JD) and a rather late migrant was at the Greenville, S.C. airport May 14 (SG). Unusual numbers of Willets were found inland with 15 at Atlanta Apr. 29 (DC & DC), 10 at Clemson May 5 (JH), and 4 at Roanoke Rapids May 22 (JML). Another inland record of special interest was a Red Knot at Roanoke Rapids L. May 22 (JML). On the coast, Whimbrels were "very common all spring" at Jekyll I (CM), and at least 100 were found on the beach at Cape Lookout off Morehead City May 18 (JF) A Ruff in breeding plumage was an unusual sight at the Pea I. refuge May 21-25 (NFW). Elsewhere, a Wilson's Phalarope was seen in North River Marsh near Morehead City May 21 (JF), and a late Purple Sandpiper was found at nearby Fort Macon May 27 (RJH)

GULLS AND TERNS—A Black-headed Gull was at Pea I Apr. 19-23 (NFW, JW). On Apr. 13, Jay Carter watched Laughing Gulls moving n. at Wrightsville Beach, N.C., and counted 400 in 40 minutes. Inland sightings included a lone bird at Columbus Mar. 31 (LAW), 40 at Okefenokee Apr. 27 (JB), one at L. Wheeler near Raleigh Apr. 22 (RSi), and several at Roanoke Rapids L. May 6-15 (JML). Inland reports of migrant Bonaparte's Gulls were of up to 50 seen at Columbus Mar. 31-Apr. 22 (SP, LAW) and lesser numbers at Whispering Pines (JHC), Raleigh (RSi, RJH), and Roanoke Rapids (JML) during approximately the same period. A Gull-billed Tern was early at Cape Romaine N.W.R. Mar. 18 (PN). A small flock of Forster's Terns was found near Morehead City May 16-17 (RJH) and new evidence of that species breeding in the area was the discovery of a nest with one egg in salt marsh near Cape Lookout May 18 (JF). Two Black Terns at Roanoke Rapids provided the first inland spring record for that area (JML). Evidence of coastal migration of the latter species was very sparse, with only a few sightings reported. Nesting of Least Terns is being monitored along the coast. They are apparently in trouble in the Jekyll I. area where only one of four former nestings colonies remains active (CM) and their status is in doubt elsewhere.

CUCKOOS, OWLS, GOATSUCKERS—A Black-billed Cuckoo Apr. 28 at Columbus, Ga. (JM) and one May 26 at Occoneechee Neck, Northampton Co., N.C. (JML) were new local spring records for those areas. Among several other reports of this species from the Region, there was a late occurrence at Raleigh June 1 (DB, *vide* TLQ) and another at Chapel Hill June 3 (JOP). A Saw-whet Owl was unexpectedly found at Medoc Mountain, Halifax Co., N.C., Apr. 6 (JML). Chuck-will's-widows were noted at two locations well west of their normal coastal plain locale, with one heard May 5 in Forsythe Co., N.C. (*vide* RS) and another May 10 near Durham, N.C. (RJH) Equally unusual were the reports of Whip-poor-wills heard calling in Brunswick and Bladen Counties, N.C. in late April and early May (JHC), well east of their usual nesting range.

FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS—A Gray Kingbird was seen on the s. Georgia coast at Sea I Apr. 21 (TM, DH, SH, RSm) and two others on nearby Jekyll I. May 2 (CM). A third sighting was recorded at Sullivan's I. near Charleston, S.C., Apr. 17 (SW, *vide* DF). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers turned up this spring at Cumberland I., Ga. in early May (*vide* CM) and at Hilton Head I., S.C., May 12 (FH, *vide* CN) There was a convincing report of an Ash-throated Flycatcher at Raleigh May 15. The sighting was made by Ross Silcock, who studied the bird closely in good light and heard its call. This is a first record for North Carolina and evidently the first spring record for eastern U.S. Observers on a pelagic cruise May 26 off Morehead City encountered a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher which landed on the boat about 30 mi. at sea (HL *et al.*). Single Olive-sided Flycatchers were noted at Atlanta May 20 (WD) and at N. Wilkesboro May 25 (WPS). Tree Swallows were early transients at Chapel Hill Mar. 17 (JOP) and at Roanoke Rapids Mar. 18 (JML), and Bank Swallows were first noted at Raleigh Apr. 5 (RJH). Migrating Cliff Swallows were recorded at several locations in the e. Piedmont and upper coastal plain sections of N.C. Apr. 6-May 23 (JHC, RJH, JML, RR). Several of the latter were also noted at N. Wilkesboro Apr. 28 (WPS). Purple Martins arrived in the southern part of the Region in mid-February (EC, RLC, JD), with a few noted as early as Jan. 22 in extreme s. Georgia (Decatur Co., JBu). By Feb. 27 some were seen as far n. as Morehead City (BS).

RAVENS THROUGH CREEPERS—At Clemson, S.C., an unexpected appearance of two Com. Ravens was recorded Apr. 15 (SG). A Fish Crow, seen and heard there May 5, was also locally unusual, possibly the first for that n.w. sector of the state (SG). Red-breasted Nuthatches lingered in scattered areas of the Region until late April and early May, with one found in Wake Co., N.C. on the late date of May 18 (RR). Long-billed Marsh Wrens were noted as inland transients at Chapel Hill (RR) and at Raleigh (RJH) where single birds were seen Apr. 27 & 28, respectively. There were also inland sightings of Short-billed Marsh Wrens, with three birds recorded in the Clemson area May 1 (SG) and individuals at

Raleigh May 3 (HL) & May 17 (RSi) An extremely late Brown Creeper was found May 20 in Caswell Co., N.C. (GWo, *vide* PW).

VIREOS AND WARBLERS—Solitary Vireos had arrived in Umstead State Park near Raleigh by Mar. 20 (RSi), Durham by Mar. 25 (JOP, ET), and Hanging Rock State Park near Danbury, N.C. by Mar. 27 (ET, RT). A high local count of nine migrants was noted at Columbus, Ga., Apr. 14 (WMa). A pair of Solitary Vireos was found building a nest May 14 near Mud Creek in Duke Forest, Durham Co., N.C. (RLW, ET), the first known breeding attempt in that locality in many years. Warbling Vireos were noted as uncommon transients in Wilmington Apr. 6 & 8 (EA), Raleigh Apr. 21 & May 17 (GW), and Winston-Salem May 5 (*vide* RS). Repeated observations of a singing Swainson's Warbler at a spot s. of Atlanta in late April and early May indicated a possible rare nesting attempt in that area (DC & DC). Follow-up observations will be made to confirm the status. An Orange-crowned Warbler in Southern Pines Apr. 15 was the first spring record there (JHC). Two ♂♂ Nashville Warblers were found at Clemson Apr. 26 (SG), and another was seen Apr. 29 near Charleston (PN). Cerulean Warblers returned to the area along the Roanoke R. in Northampton Co., N.C. where they were found nesting last year (*Am. Birds* 26:847). Merrill Lynch estimated 25 singing ♂♂ on territory there at the end of the period. Two occurrences were reported of Blackburnian Warblers as rare migrants e. of the mountains, with four individuals recorded on the spring bird count in the Winston-Salem area May 5 (*vide* RS) and two birds near Roanoke Rapids May 12 (JML). Blackpoll Warblers passed through the Region in abundance, with peaks noted at Columbus May 6 (WMa) and in the Raleigh-Chapel Hill area May 13-21 (GW, JOP). Late Magnolia Warblers were seen at Durham May 23 (RR) and Raleigh May 26 (CMA, KKn). Two warblers rarely seen in the spring were noted this year: a Mourning Warbler banded May 26 at Hillsborough (CB) and a Connecticut Warbler observed May 5 in Forsythe Co., N.C. (*vide* RS). Wilson's Warblers were recorded with higher-than-usual frequency at Columbus, Raleigh and several other Piedmont locations, the dates spanning Apr. 28 to May 22. Canada Warblers also seemed more common than usual in the Piedmont.

BOBOLINKS AND TANAGERS—Observers at Jekyll I. (CM), Thomasville (RLC), and Roanoke Rapids (JML) commented on a conspicuous abundance of Bobolinks. The migration of this species was still in progress at the end of the period, with late transients seen at Wilmington May 20 (KK), Chapel Hill May 26-27 (JOP), and Georgetown, S.C. May 27 (RR). Scarlet Tanagers, considered rare spring migrants in the coastal section, were sighted in the Morehead City area Apr. 21, 28 & 29 (*vide* JF).

FRINGILLIDS—A ♂ **Black-headed Grosbeak** was a noteworthy visitor at a feeder in Dunwoody, Ga., a suburb of Atlanta, Apr. 7-12 (WD). Winter finches, for the most part, had departed the Region by late April and early May, but small numbers of hangers-on

set late records including Evening Grosbeaks seen at Thomasville, Ga. May 20 (RLC). One Purple Finch was noted in Durham as late as May 27 (JRH), and a ♂ House Finch still remained in Winston-Salem at the end of the period (RW, RS). Red Crossbills seemed to be the most reluctant of the winter visitors to move northward as evidenced by the presence of flocks lingering through the end of May at Raleigh (GW), Fayetteville (DBB), Southern Pines (JHC), and Roanoke Rapids (JML). Doris Cohrs reported seeing an ad Red Crossbill feeding 2 juveniles near Atlanta in early May, indicating that at least a few of these unpredictable invaders nested during their winter sojourn in the Region. There was a surprising sighting of a Sharp-tailed Sparrow near Winston-Salem May 24, far inland for the species (CF, RH, RS). At Clemson, a Clay-colored Sparrow was an unexpected visitor Apr. 29-30 (SG, JJH), one of the few spring records for the Region. A Lincoln's Sparrow seen in that same vicinity May 11 was also a very rare spring migrant (JJH, *vide* SG).

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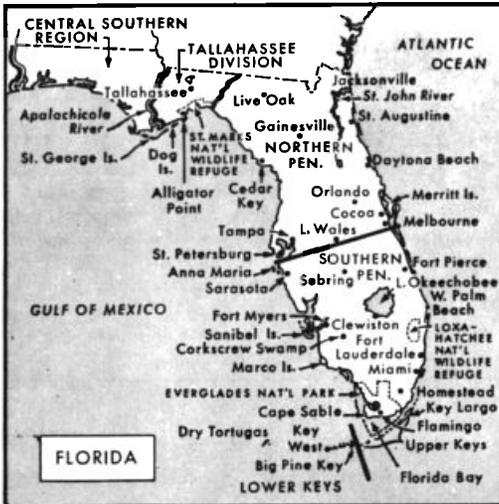
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FLORIDA REGION

/ Herbert W. Kale II

The spring of 1973 was a vintage one for watchers of migratory birds in Florida, especially along the Gulf coast. Three major northwest cold fronts passed down the state, Apr. 6-10, 19-23, and 26-30, grounding unre-



cedented numbers of migrants. Other fronts of lesser strength followed in May. Mullet Key posted 35 warbler species. Only the Canada, Mourning, Kirtland's, and Bachman's were missing from the list of eastern warblers from that mecca on the southern tip of the Pinellas Co., peninsula. The date of the first spring meeting of the newly-organized Florida Ornithological Society (F.O.S.) held in St. Petersburg Apr. 27-29 must have been pre-ordained by the great John J. himself. Picture the following view: A mulberry tree adorned with an Indigo Bunting, Northern Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Swainson's Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Palm Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Wood Pewee and a Cardinal, then double or triple each bird. Or, picture a tree-dotted golf course with a Wood Thrush, a Veery, a Swainson's Thrush, and 2 Gray-cheeked Thrushes—all within a foot or so of each other. The entire week-end was so replete with such kaleidoscopic scenes that John Edscorn exclaimed that "F.O.S. participants were almost deliriously overcome by the richness of the diet!" Over 136 species, including 25 warbler species, were recorded, the most outstanding of which were 75 Buff-breasted Sandpipers, 4 Wilson's Warblers, and a Black-headed Grosbeak.

As numerous as the migrants were along the Gulf Coast, Glen Woolfenden pointed out that migration at Archbold Biological Station (A.B.S.) near Lake Placid, Highlands Co., in central Florida could pass almost unnoticed except for Gray Catbirds, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, and Northern Parulas. The Gulf migrants one can see at Dry Tortugas or along the west coast just do not occur inland, which leads one to the

conclusion that they pile up and concentrate along the coast—and probably only in a narrow band of coastline, because while birds may be numerous on Mullet Key they remain scarce in Tampa only 30 miles or so to the northeast. A "good" wave of migrants on A.B.S. grounds occurred about May 4-7, and included West Indies winterers: Cape Mays, Black-throated Blues, Am. Redstarts, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, and Northern Orioles—but the total was probably not more than 60 birds.

Migration along the Atlantic coast, though nowhere near as spectacular as the Gulf, seemed better this year, from an observer's point of view, than in recent years. Numerous warblers landed on Johnnie Johnson's boat in the Atlantic 20 miles east of Cocoa Beach Apr. 6 (Black-and-white, Palm, Prothonotary) and 24 (Black-and-white, Palm, Am. Redstart, Blackpoll, N. Parula, N. Waterthrush). A wave of several hundred migrants of 15 species passed through Bear Cut, Key Biscayne and Matheson Hammock, Miami, Apr. 28 (JMK).

Except for 30 birds killed by the WCTV tower at Tall Timbers north of Tallahassee Apr. 26 (RLC), and about 300, chiefly West Indies winterers, killed by the huge Vehicle Assembly Building at the Kennedy Space Center May 10-11 (LEE), no other major tower mortality was reported during the period.

As usual, numerous migrants landed on the Dry Tortugas (below D. Tort.) throughout the spring and between May 2-7, 93 species, including a Bahama Mockingbird (see below), were recorded by members of the annual tern banding party (WBR, GEW *et al.*).

For the first time in several years reports were received from the Florida Keys—thanks to Frances T. Hames, the new area editor (606 Truman Ave., Key West). Unfortunately, the Southwest Gulf coast area is still not represented in these reports.

LOONS, SHEARWATERS, PETRELS—A Com.
Loon in full breeding plumage was a rare sight near Auburndale, Polk Co., Apr. 14 (JBE & PJF). Several shearwaters seen offshore were: A Greater, 20 mi. east of Cape Canaveral May 21 (JJ), a Sooty, 27 mi. east of Mayport May 20 (JH), and an Audubon's, south of East Key, D. Tort., May 2 (WBR *et al.*). The first record of *Harcourt's Storm-Petrel* for the S. Division and the second for the Florida region occurred June 1 when a bird was picked up alive in good condition under a street lamp in a parking lot on Upper Matacombe Key. After it was measured and photographed it was released (RTP & AS).

TROPICBIRDS THROUGH CORMORANTS
—Two White-tailed Tropicbirds were seen flying and calling over Fort Jefferson, D. Tort., May 6 (WBR *et al.*) and at least one was still there Jun. 2 (DRL) raising hopes that they might nest on the high brick "cliffs" of the fort. Boobies reported include 2 ad. Blue-faced near Middle Key, D. Tort., May 4, two Browns near Garden Key May 6, and one on May 7 (WBR *et al.*), and one on the Indian River near Sharps, Brevard Co., Mar. 9-Apr. 5 (ADC). A sick sub-adult Gannet came ashore at Ft. Pierce Apr. 30 (HWK*—U.S.F.), the latest for the S. Peninsula.

A subadult **Great Cormorant** was found perched on a channel marker at the inlet to Port Everglades May 19 (GH & BR) and subsequently seen by numerous observers through the end of May. This is the second (but first spring) record for the S. Peninsula and the southernmost occurrence in Florida.

WADING BIRDS—Wood Storks again failed to produce any significant numbers of young in the Everglades National Park (E.N.P.) and Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary (JCO). A heron roost on Tamiami Trail east of 40-mile bend contained *ca.* 1300 Glossy Ibis Apr. 3 (JCO & JAK), and a one on Stock I., Apr. 2 was a rarity for the Key West area (FTH). A relatively high count of 30 Flamingos was made at L. Ingraham, Cape Sable, E.N.P., May 6 (PAT).

GEESE AND DUCKS—An ad. Canada Goose with several downy young west of Panacea May 12 (HMS) indicates that these northern transplants appear to be taking hold. Fulvous Tree Ducks were last seen at Merritt I. N.W.R. May 9 (PWS) and at McKay Bay (Tampa) May 11 (WB—latest N. Peninsula). One pair of Mallards on Alligator L., May 26, and a ♂ Ring-necked Duck on L. Jackson, Leon Co., May 24 were either late migrants or summering birds (HMS). Five Red-breasted Mergansers on Ramrod Key Apr. 25 were late wintering, but one at Key West June 3 was presumed to be disabled (FTH).

KITES AND HAWKS—Mississippi Kites were noted at several localities, one at Sanibel I., Apr. 14 (FHS *et al.*), two south of Crawfordville, Wakulla Co., May 3, and two 9 mi. east on U.S. 98 on May 4 (HHA), and six flying over Gainesville May 20 (JEH).

S.A.

Although the Everglade Kite did not breed in the Everglades this year because of dry condition, 1973 was still one of the best nesting seasons in recent years, with 28 nests located in s. Florida—6 on the headwaters of the St. Johns R. in Indian River and St. Lucie Cos., and 22 at L. Okeechobee (PWS & RC). Nevertheless, aerial reconnaissance indicates that the habitat situation, i.e. suitable wet marshlands of sufficient size and distribution to enable snail populations to survive and reproduce annually, is such that the future looks bleak for this endangered kite.

There are a few summer records of Sharp-shinned Hawks in Florida, but no evidence of nesting. A bird near L. Iamonia, Leon Co., May 22 seemed too late to be a migrant (HMS). Several Sharp-shinned were on D. Tort., May 5-7 and at least 3 Broad-winged Hawks were there May 4-7 (WBR *et al.*) Migrating peregrines included 6 at Cape Canaveral during April (LEE), and one D. Tort., May 2-6 (WBR *et al.*). Only one Merlin, at Mullet Key May 5 (JBE), was reported in the Region.

SHOREBIRDS—Snowy Plovers, becoming rarer each year because of the evergrowing human population along Gulf beaches, are now barely holding their

own in n Pinellas Co Two birds each were seen at Tarpon Springs and Dunedin Beach Apr. 15 (JHH) The latter pair was apparently nesting May 16 (RCB) An Am. Golden Plover at L. Jackson Apr. 4 (HMS) and at Port Canaveral May 12 (ADC & HGC—latest for N. Peninsula) were far from their normal spring migration route. Upland Sandpipers appeared more numerous than usual with 12 reports totalling 36 birds from 10 locations throughout the region Apr. 1-May 7, including one killed at the WCTV tower Apr. 1 (RLC) Pectoral Sandpipers were also unusually numerous with one at D. Tort., May 6 (PAB—latest for Lower Keys) and 16 at Lakeland Mar. 29 (JBE), and 40 at L. Jackson Apr. 4 (HMS). White-rumped Sandpipers were reported at St. Marks light Apr. 30 (HHA, HMS) and May 4 (HHA), 16 mi. east of Cape Canaveral May 2 (JJ), D. Tort., May 5 (WBR *et al.*), and at McKay Bay May 10 (JBE). Stilt Sandpipers on the other hand seemed unusually scarce this spring with single birds seen near St. Marks light Apr. 26 (HHA), Lakeland May 12 (JBE), and 8 late at L. Jackson May 24 (HMS). Almost unheard of in spring, an unprecedented 75 **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** spent the day feeding in an open field on Mullet Key Apr 28 (F.O.S.—latest N. Peninsula). They were extremely nervous and flighty and shortly before sunset all departed northward over the Gulf (HMS & JBE) Three more were seen at St. Marks Light Apr. 30 (HMS & HHA). An Am. Avocet at Alligator Pt., Apr. 1 (RTT), and Black-necked Stilts at Carrabelle Beach Apr. 26 and May 16, and near St. Marks Light Apr. 30 (HHA, HMS) were uncommon in the Tallahassee area. A stilt at Key West Apr. 2, and two on West Summerland Key May 30 (RR) and at Key West Jun 4 (FTH) mark the earliest and latest dates for the Lower Keys. Over 65 N. Phalaropes sighted 18 mi east of Cape Canaveral May 4 (JJ), were the earliest for the N. Peninsula.

TERNs AND SKIMMERS—Confirming the observation that migration of most Com. Terns occurs well offshore, 45 were seen 18-45 mi. east of Mayport May 20 (JBE *et al.*). An unprecedented 150 were in the Gulf off St. James, Franklin Co., May 16 (HMS) Two Roseate Terns were spotted offshore 20 mi east of Cocoa Beach Apr. 24 (JJ). Also in the Atlantic 3 Sooty Terns and 32 Bridled Terns were 16 mi east of Cape Canaveral May 2 (JJ). Black Terns, rare in spring, were near St. George I., Apr. 25, and St. Marks Light Apr. 27 & 30 (HHA), and May 14 (HMS), L. Jackson, May 24, Orange L. May 31 (HMS), and offshore east of Mayport May 20 (JBE *et al.*). At least 2 rare Black Noddy Terns were present with Brown Noddies on Bush Key, D. Tort., throughout May (WBR, DRL). Four Black Skimmers at Key West Jun 8 (FTH) were the latest for the Lower Keys

DOVES, PARROTS, CUCKOOS—White-crowned Pigeons were abundant in the Keys (PWS) and 2 were seen far north on Hypoluxo I., Palm Beach Co., May 26 (G1H, DS *et al.*). A White-winged Dove appeared in Sarasota Apr. 27 (MCS) Reports of still another psittacid species seen flying loose in Dade Co., refer to the White-fronted Parrot, *Amazona albifrons*. Two were seen on Elliott

Key, Biscayne Nat'l Mon May 19 (JCO) According to Frances Hames, the much-sought-after Mangrove Cuckoo is seldom seen until May, and it is useless to look for it in March and early April as many out-of-state birders do. Two birds were on Summerland Key May 6-7 (PQR & RR), and at Sugarloaf Key there were 2 on June 2 (FTH) and 3 on June 3 (DRL). Unusual numbers of Yellow-billed Cuckoos migrated through the Keys with a dozen or so seen feeding on caterpillars on Sugarloaf May 1-5 (MMc) Two were feeding in the open field with Buff-breasted Sandpipers on Mullet Key Apr. 28 (F O S), and 2 were seen flying north 35-42 mi. offshore east of Mayport May 20 (JBE). Black-billed Cuckoos, uncommon in Florida, were seen at St. George I., 2 on Apr. 26 (HMS) and May 5 (JMS), and one on May 16 (HMS), while many F.O.S. observers saw 2 on Mullet Key Apr. 28 & 29. A nest of the Smooth-billed Ani containing 4 eggs and 2 young located west of Royal Palm May 22 is the first nesting record for this species in E.N.P. (HWW)

OWLS AND NIGHTHAWKS—Owls are rare on the Lower Keys, hence a report of a Screech Owl calling on Big Pine Key Mar. 26 (RWS) is noteworthy. A boat fishing offshore 18 mi. east of Grant, Brevard Co., provided a resting place for a migrating Com. Nighthawk Apr. 13 (JJ). The *peent* call of the southeastern race was first heard at Summerland Key Apr. 12, while the *killykadick* call of the Antillean form was not heard there until Apr. 27 (RR). However, both birds were reported calling on Plantation Key Apr. 6 (RTP—earliest for the Lower Keys and the Region) and at Key West airport Jun. 1 (FTH).

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS—The first bona fide record of the Red-headed Woodpecker on the Dry Tortugas and the Lower Keys was an adult seen on Loggerhead Key May 5 & 6 (WBR, details to be published elsewhere). Rare in Dade Co., one adult was calling from a dead palm tree that contained several old woodpecker holes northwest of Homestead May 31 (JCO). Single birds were apparently migrating near St. Marks Light (HHA) and at Mullet Key (DG) Apr. 28. Three W. Kingbirds were west of Homestead Apr. 8 (JCO) and one at Mullet Key Apr. 29 (HWK & RER). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were at Mullet Key Apr. 8-14 (PJF, WB & DG), Cedar Key Apr. 9 (JHH), near Trenton, Gilchrist Co., Apr. 20 (DWJ), and Carrabelle Beach May 6 (HMS). Two Cliff Swallows at Mullet Key May 10 (JBE & PJF) were very late. A Cave Swallow studied closely for over an hour at Cedar Key Apr. 9 (JHH) is the first record for the N. Peninsula.

CORVIDS THROUGH MIMIDS—Blue Jays are rare in the Keys, but have been occurring there recently (see Ogden, *Am. Birds*, 26: 851, also Stevenson, *Florida Field Naturalist* 1: 9-13 1973) hence, single birds on Key Largo May 15 (RTP) and Elliott Key May 19 (JCO) are noteworthy. No Blue Jays reached Key West this spring (FTH). A Scrub Jay was seen at Ponte Vedra Beach southeast of Jacksonville Apr. 6 (PCP). Formerly this species nested north to the

mouth of the St. Johns R., but it no longer does so. A Red-breasted Nuthatch on St. George I., May 5 (JMS) was the latest for the Tallahassee Division House Wrens near St. Marks Light Apr. 30 (HHA & HMS) and Mullet Key May 5 were late, but one at Jacksonville May 26 (JPC) exceptionally late. Undoubtedly, the most outstanding find for the period will have to be the **Bahama Mockingbird** (*Mimus gundlachi*) observed and described in detail (to be published elsewhere) on East Key, D. Tort., May 3 by Paul and Fran Buckley. This appears to be the first sight record for North America outside of the West Indies.

THRUSHES—Several Am. Robins lingered in the region with late birds at Newport, Wakulla Co. (HMS) and Mullet Key (DF, PJF, JBE) Apr. 21, Gainesville Apr. 26 (JRG), Payne's Prairie May 15 (LEW), but one singing at White Springs May 28 (RWL) was the latest in the N. Peninsula. A robin that was obviously crippled spent the entire spring period convalescing in the hammock around the Entomological Research Center 4 mi. south of Vero Beach, and was still present at the end of June (HWK & LAW). Four species of thrushes were unusually common along the Gulf coast throughout April and the first week or so of May with many reports of Wood, Swainson's, Gray-cheeked, and Veery. At Tall Timbers 11 Swainson's, 2 Gray-cheeked, and 2 Veeries hit the WCTV tower Apr. 26 (RLC). Over 100 Gray-cheekeds were present on Mullet Key on the evening of Apr. 28 where only 21 had been seen earlier in the day (JBE & HMS). On St. George I., 35 Swainson's, 7 Woods, and 5 Gray-cheekeds were counted Apr. 29 (HHA). Amazingly, I received only two reports of thrushes elsewhere in the state—5 Veeries at Bear Cut, Key Biscayne Apr. 28 (JMK), and 2 Swainson's on Merritt I., May 18 (ADC). The latter sighting was not involved in the cold front of Apr. 26-30, and was the latest for the N. Peninsula. The general paucity of migrating thrushes throughout the Florida region during springs when weather fronts are weak or non-existent, and the pattern of distribution of grounded birds occurring mainly along the Gulf coast when strong NW fronts do occur, clearly suggest that most thrushes simply do not normally migrate overland up the Florida peninsula, but rather, fly well out to the west over the Gulf of Mexico.

KINGLETS THROUGH VIREOS—Ruby-crowned Kinglets were late at Mullet Key Apr. 21 (PJF *et al.*), and near St. Marks Light where a male was singing Apr. 30 (HHA & HMS). A late Water Pipit was seen at a dump on Middle Torch Key May 7 (RR & PQR). Several Cedar Waxwings appeared in Rockledge in early May and remained until Jun. 3 when 12 were seen for the last time. (ADC & HGC) Four rare Philadelphia Vireos, one Apr. 27 at St. Marks N.W.R., and 3 on Apr. 29 on St. George I., were closely observed by the Axtells.

WARBLERS—Space limitations prevent an adequate summarization of the spring warblers. Most reports, especially of the rarer species came from the Gulf coastal regions. A Black-and-white Warbler at

Hollywood May 28 (RLP) was the latest for the S Peninsula. Swanson's Warblers were at Mullet Key from Apr. 7-May 5 (WB *et al.*—the latter date the latest for the S. Peninsula). Vero Beach, Apr. 17 (HWK), and Miami Apr. 28 (JMK). Worm-eating Warblers were reported statewide Apr. 8-May 4. Golden-winged were at Mullet Key Apr. 20 & 21 (DG, PJF *et al.*), and at D. Tort., May 5 (WBR). Blue-winged were on Mullet Key Apr. 7-29 (JBE, VM *et al.*), with 10 at Sarasota Apr. 8 (DHM), one at Cedar Key Apr. 9 (JEH), and Sanibel I., Apr. 15 (FHS *et al.*). Tennessee Warblers were reported along the Gulf from the Tortugas to St. Marks N.W.R., Apr. 8 (HMS)-May 6, with a high of 28 on St. George I. Apr. 29. (HHA). The rare Nashville Warbler was seen at Mullet Key Apr. 14 & 20 (WB & DG), Hypolux I. (PWS) and D. Tort., (LCB) May 5. An atypical Northern Parula in white plumage with a golden back spot and deep yellow throat was seen in Jacksonville, Apr. 25 (MCD), and the latest parula for the Tallahassee Division was on St. George I. May 16 (HMS). A Magnolia Warbler at Winter Haven Apr. 6 (PJF) was the earliest for the N. Peninsula. A Black-throated Green at Sharpes May 14 was the latest for the N. Peninsula (ADC). Several of the latter were at Mullet Key Apr. 28-May 10 (VM), Alligator Pt., Apr. 28, and St. George I., Apr. 29 (HHA).

The rare Cerulean was seen throughout April at Mullet Key (WB *et al.*), Sarasota Apr. 8-14 (DHM), D. Tort., Apr. 8 (RW *et al.*), and Gainesville Apr. 9 (JHH). Chestnut-sided were at Mullet Key Apr. 28-May 5 (WB *et al.*) and at St. Marks N.W.R. Apr. 27 & 28 (HHA). The Bay-breasted, usually rare, was reported at Muller Key Apr. 27-May 10 (GJH, VM *et al.*), Sanibel I., Apr. 16 (FHS *et al.*), Sarasota Apr. 30 (GCM & DHM), St. Marks N.W.R., Apr. 27-30, and St. George I., Apr. 26-29 (HMS & HHA). An est. 200 Ovenbirds passed through Bear Cut on Key Biscayne Apr. 28 (JMK). Three N. Waterthrushes on a small mangrove pond near Miami May 19 were late (JCO). Up to 3 Kentucky Warblers per day were seen at Mullet Key Apr. 4-28 (JBE *et al.*). Others were seen at Sarasota Apr. 2 (EVM), Cedar Key and Gainesville Apr. 9 (JHH & CHC). Connecticut Warblers were reported from D. Tort., May 7 (LCB), Mullet Key May 9 (DG), Greynolds Park Miami May 17 (JMK), and Key Biscayne May 26 (JBE). The Yellow-breasted Chat was scarce with only one report, a bird at Mullet Key Apr. 20 (DG). An unprecedented 4 Wilson's Warblers were on Mullet Key Apr. 29 (F.O.S.). A Canada Warbler, rare anywhere in Florida, was seen at Daytona Beach May 9 (GC & GSM).

WEAVERS, BLACKBIRDS, THRUSHES—A lone ♂ House Sparrow reached the Tortugas May 4-7 (WBR). Generally Bobolinks were late with only 5-6 in the Lower Keys Apr. 27 (RR) and at Mullet Key Apr. 27-29, but 2 near St. Marks Light Apr. 15 (JMS) were early, and flocks of 200 each were at Jacksonville May 5-9 (MCD) and Payne's Prairie May 18 (SAN). A Yellow-headed Blackbird at Winter Haven since January was last seen Apr. 14 (*vide* JBE). The cold front of Apr. 8-10 grounded 100 Orchard Orioles at Cedar Key (JHH) and an est. 200-300 on Summerland

and Sugarloaf in the Lower Keys Apr. 10-13 (MRB & RR). Seven Stripe-headed Tanagers (*Spindalis zena*), including 2 ad. ♂♂ were on Hypoluxo I., Mar 19-May 19 (HPL & PWS) and at least one was still present May 28 (DG). Blue-gray Tanagers were not found in their usual Miami nesting location [?Ed] May 26, but a singing ♂ was at Dania May 26-28 (JBE, WB & DG) where it had been for three weeks following several months' absence (*vide* JBE).

FRINGILLIDS—Rose-breasted Grosbeaks abounded along the Gulf Coast with birds at Mullet Key (PJF) and Alligator Pt. (RTT) Apr. 8, the earliest records for the N. Peninsula and Tallahassee Division, respectively. A single inland record was of a bird that struck a window Apr. 29 in Lakeland (JBE). A ♂ **Black-headed Grosbeak** was closely observed for several minutes in the company of a Rose-breasted, Northern Oriole, and Scarlet Tanager on Mullet Key Apr. 29 (HWK—latest for N. Peninsula). Blue Grosbeaks were reported from Mullet Key Apr. 6-May 9 (DG & WB), Laurel, Apr. 10 (PWL), Marathon Apr. 10-12 (MC), Sanibel Apr. 14 (FHS *et al.*) and D. Tort., May 2-6 (WBR *et al.*) Indigo Buntings were numerous throughout the peninsula until mid-May. An est. 100 were on Summerland Key Apr. 10-13 (MRB & RR) Dickcissels were reported from Mullet Key Apr. 8-29, Alligator Pt., and St. Marks Light Apr. 27 & 30 (HNA & HMS), and up to 10 were on Garden Key May 2-7 (WBR *et al.*). At least 14 Evening Grosbeaks were still in Gainesville Apr. 15 (JHH), and one ♂ visited a feeder in Jacksonville Apr. 30-May 7 (VMM—latest N. Peninsula), and an unspecified number frequented a Tallahassee feeder from Apr. 1-May 18 (MBM—latest Tallahassee Division).

Purple Finches were still in Tallahassee Apr. 1-8 (MBM) and Apr. 20 (FHS), and a late Am. Goldfinch was there May 13 (HMS). Four goldfinches in Rockledge May 14 (ADC) and one still there May 19 (HGC) are the latest for the N. Peninsula. Rare in spring, a Henslow's Sparrow hit the WCTV tower Apr. 2 (RLC). In spite of continuing destruction of the marsh 3 ♂♂ (Cape Sable) Seaside Sparrows were singing together near Ochopcoe May 26 (JBE & PJF), and 28 (WB & DG). The marsh was already dry and dredging and drainage is expected to complete the extirpation of the habitat and this endangered population sometime this year. It is utterly incredible that there seems to be no power on earth to stop the handful of selfish, greedy people who insist on exercising their sacred ownership right to rape the land because they have an investment in it.

A Dark-eyed Junco was incredibly late in Gainesville May 6 (PF—latest for the state). A Lark Sparrow on St. George I., Apr. 25 (HHA) and the second spring record for the Tallahassee Division of the Clay-colored Sparrow observed Apr. 22 near St. Marks Light (HHA) were two spring rarities. The Harris' Sparrow reported during the winter period was still present at High Springs through Apr. 27 (JHH—latest N. Peninsula) An extremely late White-throated Sparrow in Tallahassee May 31 (MBM) was the latest for the state. Other late sparrows were a White-throated in Tallahassee May 31 (MCM) and a Lincoln's on D. Tort., May 6 & 7 (WBR *et al.*)

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ONTARIO—WESTERN NEW YORK REGION

/ Clive E. Goodwin and Richard C. Rosche

ONTARIO—The mild March weather which stimulated early migration continued to influence movement into April, which in turn was a pleasant sunny month. The third week in particular was delightful, and observ-

ers almost subconsciously began to expect warblers and flycatchers, rather than sparrows and kinglets. They were not altogether disappointed, as a host of record or near-record early arrival reports indicate. But the weather was not entirely ideal and a wet, colder spell at the beginning of the month slowed some movement. May reverted to the pattern of recent springs, and was both cold and wet. We have had nearly a decade of cold springs, but they have been far from uniform either in pattern or effect and this year was distinctive in the degree to which it seemingly halted migration. Report after report emphasized the lack of movement in early May, and the extraordinary migration at the end of the month.



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Perhaps the succession of storm systems to the south of the Province in the earlier part of May explain the

delayed movement; events seemed to conspire to hinder passage. If the migrants negotiated the storms and unfavourable conditions to the south they encountered poor weather in Ontario itself. At Pickering on May 27 strong cold winds off L. Ontario had observers muffled in parkas, but in sheltered areas birds were so numerous that literally every step yielded new individuals (CEG *et al.*). At Prince Edward Point (below, P.E. Pt.) the same day "flycatchers, vireos and warblers had to be pushed out of the way." The day there yielded an amazing 20 Lincoln's Sparrows, and on the night of May 28 at Kingston flight calls suggested a rate of some 600 birds an hour crossing within earshot, between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m. (*vide RDW*).

The period was not without its casualties. At Long Point May 23 the lighthouse accounted for 966 birds of 42 species and the five-day period from May 22 to 26 had a record kill of 1032 birds (L.P.B.O.). At Lennox 127 birds were killed on May 28, even with the stack floodlights off (RDW).

Although the last 10 days of May provided observers in the south with a memorable spring, there were other periods when falls occurred, and areas where there were none. Around April 21 the week-long warm spell broke, and the next two or three days saw heavy reverse migration particularly in the area of Pt. Pelee National Park (below, Pelee) and many grounded birds (BM, TH). April 30-May 2 and May 9-13 were also productive. But not everyone was so fortunate. North of the storm line at North Bay Hazel Petty could report only the "poorest spring in 25 years" of summaries; seemingly the delayed birds spent no time on the ground once conditions cleared.

With such a complicated weather pattern it is not surprising that the pattern of arrivals was equally complex. Record early (below shown *) and late arrivals occurred at the same time, as at Mattice, with Tree Swallows two weeks early on Apr. 22 * and a Marsh Hawk arriving about the same time quite late (JHE). Further south a Marsh Hawk arrived at Pimisi Bay Mar. 8, where blackbird arrivals showed similar inconsistencies: a Red-winged Blackbird Mar. 11* and Brown-headed Cowbird Mar. 30 (LdeKL), while at Virginiatown the same species arrived Mar. 5 and Apr. 6 (PWR). In general earlier migrants were early—at Kingston 13 species set records but late migrants were 8

to 10 days late arriving in most areas, Pimisi Bay had 26 May species late, 6 early and 3 on the 30-year mean (LdeKL). At Long Pt., however, departures were closer to normal, running 3-5 days late (L.P.B.O.). Some species set both early and late records: for example, Solitary Vireos at Newbury Apr. 22 (WRJ)*, Kingston Apr. 25 (K.F.N.)* and Ancaster Apr. 22 (CW, SW); and again at Long Pt. June 2 (BJ, WC, JO).

LOONS, GREBES—There were few reports of Com. Loon concentrations: the largest was a group of 60 at Kettle Pt., Apr. 23 (DR, AR), although 63 were counted in northward migration in 2 hours over Pickering Twp. May 6 (RD). Three Red-throated Loons seen on L. Ontario off Pickering May 16 (RD) and 6 between Bronte and Burlington May 5 (AG, JLa, DEP) were the only numbers of this species seen. The largest concentration of Red-necked Grebes was in Mississagi Strait, with 103 Apr. 21 (CB, JN *et al.*) and the Lower Great Lakes could only produce 45 at Hamilton Apr. 8 (MJ); this continues recent trends. Inland a bird was at Waterloo Apr. 7 (CAC, PKB) and a late sighting at Ottawa May 20 (WEG), and one was also at P.E. Pt. on Apr. 23 (RDW). Good Horned Grebe counts were from Pickering Twp., with 166 on Apr. 24 (RD), and over 300 at Long Pt. Apr. 15 (AD, CEG, JEG). An unprecedented 7 Eared Grebes were reported: 3 at Strathroy, May 17-22 (WRJ *et al.*) were the first for Middlesex Co. and one at Port Stanley, May 13-25 (MHF) the first for Elgin Co., and the others were at Niagara May 1 (CEG, JEG), Pelee May 14-21 (CEG, HHA *et al.*) and Burlington from Apr. 20 (MJ, AW).

CORMORANTS, HERONS—There were 6 reports of small numbers of Double-crested Cormorants, the most being 20 at Hamilton May 25 (GB, RC), and 18 at Port Britain May 26 (GBe). Manitoulin I. is at the limit of Green Heron range: there was one there May 20 and two on May 27 (JN, CB, JL). The season yielded a good assortment of rarer herons, with the first record of a Little Blue Heron at Ottawa Apr. 22-25 (RHu, BM *et al.*), a Snowy Egret at Bronte May 8-11 (m.ob.), and possibly the largest influx of Cattle Egrets since their first breeding in 1962: there were many reports from s.w. Ontario (*vide* JPK) with highs of 9 at Shrewsbury Apr. 28 (JAG) and 10 at Pelee May 16-17 (m.ob.); and 8 birds elsewhere, ranging north to Gore Bay and east to Kingston. Glossy Ibis appeared in smaller numbers, with 3 at Long Pt. May 25 (L.P.B.O.) and another on June 2 (WC, BJ, JO), and at Whitby May 26 (THa *et al.*). Early reports included 6 Green Herons Apr. 17 (WB), and a Black-crowned Night Heron Apr. 3-7 (BD, JH) both at Ottawa; and a Least Bittern at Long Pt. Apr. 28 (RC).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCK—Mute Swans occur with ever-increasing frequency: there were 9 along the Pickering waterfront (RD) and a bird on L. Scugog Mar. 31 (WG). The high of Whistling Swans in Dover Twp. was 18,500 on Mar. 24 (DR). Canada Geese also staged a good movement, with 22,500 over Kingston, Apr. 30-May 8 including 11,200 on May 1; and there were 2100 Brant in the same area later, with

800 on both May 19 and 23 (K F N) Further north there were 200 Brant at Cache L., Algonquin Provincial Park (below, Algonquin) on May 21 (WCC). A teal at Hamilton on Apr. 15-19 had traces of white around the bill and tail, but otherwise appeared a good drake Cinnamon Teal (GWN *et al.*); there are four specimens and a scattering of sight records for the Province. Another rarity, but one that has been recorded annually since 1965, was a Eur. Wigeon at Pickering Apr. 17-May 6 (RD *et al.*). There were 64 Canvasback off Owen Sound on the early date of Mar. 14 (GBT), and Ottawa had good counts of this species with 42 on Apr. 17 (TH), and of Redheads with 16 on Apr. 15 (BM). Other Ottawa records included a Barrow's Goldeneye Apr. 15 (BM) and a Ruddy Duck May 6 (WEG). Scoters maintained the good numbers of recent years, and a Surf at Komoka May 14 (WRJ) and 2 late White-winged at Pelee May 18 (DR) were noteworthy. A count of 54 Ruddy Ducks at Pickering on Apr. 10 (RD) was exceptional for the Toronto area.

VULTURES, HAWKS—Six Turkey Vultures at Waterloo Apr. 9 (CAC) and 6 in the Sudbury area (*vide* JN) were the most interesting reports of this species, which continues in strong numbers. Widespread Goshawk reports followed the heavy fall and winter invasion. Hawk migration occurred at Kingston Apr. 25 & May 1, when Broad-winged Hawks were moving, and the peak of Rough-legged Hawks on Amherst I. came Apr. 12 when 20 were counted (K.F.N.). A late bird of this species was seen at Ottawa May 20 (MM). Adult Golden Eagles were seen at Melbourne Apr. 20 (ML, RPK) and near Combermere May 6 (RSB); but surely the outstanding raptor sighting was Mar. 5 at Lake of Two Rivers, Algonquin, when an imm. Golden Eagle was feeding on top of a deer kill surrounded by Com. Ravens, with an ad. Bald Eagle standing on the ice nearby (RT). Although neither species of eagle has bred in Algonquin the park attracts them in the winter months when they feed on the leftovers of wolf kills; Ron Pittaway notes further "it seems reasonable to assume no eagles could winter in the park without wolf packs supplying regular meals." There was at least another ad. Golden in the area. There were 13 sightings elsewhere of Bald Eagles, principally at Manitoulin I., Long Pt. and Ottawa, and 7 reports of Peregrine Falcons, all in the south.

GROUSE THROUGH GALLINULES—A Ruffed Grouse at Pelee Apr. 21 was well described (BM); there is no record for this intensively covered area and the bird may have been an escape. A Sandhill Crane was at Mattice May 13 (JHE), and far more unusual, another at Bradley's Marsh, L. St. Clair, Mar. 31-Apr. 15 (m.ob.). Two Yellow Rails at P.E. Pt. May 20 were the first Kingston records (K.F.N.), but this elusive species is always easy to miss. A Purple Gallinule made one of its erratic appearances in Ontario at Clarkson May 8-9 (m.ob.), the last one was in 1971 at Moosonee! Pelee had an early Com. Gallinule Apr. 7 (DR).

SHOREBIRDS—Record-high water levels along the Great Lakes eliminated most of the usual shorebird

habitat but flooded fields made a good substitute in some areas, such as Pelee. Passage was more than usually spotty for this group, but there was a "massive" movement at Ottawa May 28 (*vide* RAF) and a surprisingly good assortment of species reported with many early arrival records established.

Two Piping Plover at Pelee May 21 (HHA *et al.*) were the only sightings of this species. Black-bellied Plover were early at Vineland Apr. 21* (RC, JO) and P E Pt. May 8*, and in good numbers with a record 13,000 in Dover Twp., May 17 (DR). The same holds for Ruddy Turnstones, with an early bird at Kingston May 15* (K.F.N.), 100 at Ottawa May 28 (*vide* RAF), and 2 at Strathroy May 22 (DC); Whimbrel, with a bird at Amherst I. May 15* (JAW) and 52 at Ottawa (*vide* RAF); and Solitary Sandpipers, with an early arrival at Dundas Apr. 11 (AW) and 11 reports from Kingston, where the species is rare in spring (K.F.N.). Eight reports of Willets along the Lower Lakes between Apr 28 and June 2 represent the largest number of reports known to this compiler for a spring migration. Many shorebirds are significantly rarer in spring than in fall in this region: in this category come 2 Purple Sandpipers at Ottawa May 28 (BM, MM); single White-rumped Sandpipers May 17 at Pelee (DR) and in Vaughan Twp., May 23 (TD); an unprecedentedly early **Baird's Sandpiper** which was well described seen at Hamilton Apr. 12-18 (RC, GB, CW *et al.*); and a Stilt Sandpiper at Pelee May 11-14 (DR, m.ob.) and Sarnia May 16 (DR, AR). Red Knots failed to be reported from locations where they are regular, but instead turned up unexpectedly on Amherst I., with 19 on May 20 (K.F.N.), at Ottawa in the May 28 push when 75 were seen (*vide* RAF), and there were 4 on Manitoulin I. May 26 and 3 at Sudbury May 28 (CB, JL, JN). Algonquin's largest ever flock of shorebirds was 75 Dunlin, May 20, at Lake of Two Rivers (JW, DS, RP) and a bird at Kingston on May 3 was early*. Kingston also had 22 Short-billed Dowitchers on Amherst I., May 19 (K.F.N.) and 2 birds at Hamilton June 3 were late (RC). The first Middlesex Co. record for a W. Sandpiper was one at Strathroy May 14-17 (TNH, WH). There were 4 godwit reports: Marbled at Sarnia May 20-22 (RTy, DR) and Rockhouse Pt. May 27 (CW, SW) and Hudsonian at Pelee May 20 (HHA *et al.*) and Chelmsford May 21 (JN). For the third spring in succession 2 Ruffs were sighted, but this year both were high plumaged birds: the first at Walsingham Apr. 23-28 (DRB, m.ob.) with a white ruff, the second, at Pelee May 13-17 (DRG, m.ob.), almost wholly black. The species has been sighted annually for the past decade but never more than 3 or 4 each year, and mostly in fall. Another species that has been sighted almost annually in the same period, the Am. Avocet, appeared this year at Pickering May 9 (RD) and Port Britain May 11-12 (JBW); possibly the same bird on both occasions. Finally phalaropes made a good showing with 13 Wilsons Phalaropes seen along the Lower Lakes and north to Sudbury, between May 13 and the end of the period; and N Phalaropes at Manitoulin I., May 20 (CB, JL), Strathroy May 29 (JWL, EL), and Kingston May 28, the first in spring there (FC).

GULLS, TERNS—There were some late sightings of white gulls, the last being a Glaucous Gull on Amherst I. May 19 (K.F.N.) and an Iceland Gull at Port Hope May 27-29 (ERM). Pelee continued to be the location for rarer gulls in the spring, with a Black-headed Gull May 18 (DR) and a Laughing Gull May 9 (DR) and 22 (HHA, RA), associating with the 15,000 or more Bonaparte's Gulls which were present in late April and early May. The area had no Franklin's Gull this spring, but there were 4 elsewhere including 2 at Ottawa May 9 (RAF *et al.*). The first Little Gull reports were Apr. 8 at Thorold (GY *et al.*) and there were numbers along the Lower Lakes to the end of the period, with possibly 12 in the Whitby-Pickering area and 8 at Hamilton (*vide* RD, RC). Forster's Tern is another species that is reported with growing frequency: it seems now to be a regular migrant in the southwest from late April (*vide* JPK) and on L. Ontario they arrived early at Dundas Apr. 16 (CW) and were present to May 20 (RC). Early tern reports included 3 Com. Terns May 6 and a Black May 1 at Pickering (RD). This spring all terns at Ottawa received exhaustive examination, but only one careful report of Arctic Terns stood up; 3 on May 25 (BM).

CUCKOOS, OWLS, HUMMINGBIRDS—A Black-billed Cuckoo at Kingston May 5 was early,* but cuckoo migration still seemed to be underway at Long Pt., June 10 (*vide* RC). The last Snowy Owl sighting was a late May 20 on Amherst I. (K.F.N.) and the Thunder Bay area had 5 reports of Great Gray Owls to May 3 (*vide* KD). The remaining records are all early arrivals: a Whip-poor-will, Lively April 28 (RM); and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at Keene Apr. 17 (JS), London Apr. 26* (WM) and Kingston May 1* (K.F.N.).

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS—There were a pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers at Long Pt in late April (JHn, DH) and a ♂ still present there June 2 (WC, BJ, JO); in the east birds of this species were sighted at P.E. Pt., May 2 (RDW) and Kingston May 16 (RR). Northerly Red-headed Woodpecker reports came from Chippewa Park June 2 (IB) and Algonquin May 23 (RH, DJ) and there were 2 pairs hanging on in Ottawa despite the removal of dead elms (*vide* RAF). A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker at Pelee Apr. 7-8 (m.ob.) was surprising. Kingston had its fourth spring record of a Northern Three-toed Apr. 25 (AEH) and an Ottawa sighting on May 30 was very late (RTa, PW). The April 20 movement at Pelee included an E. Kingbird (BM, TH). Later *Empidonax* flycatchers staged a particularly good migration, especially Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, which were numerous in the concentrations at the end of May, and even seen June 10 at Long Pt. (RC). There was an Olive-sided Flycatcher at Kingston May 29 (PM); the species is rare there.

SWALLOWS THROUGH CHICKADEES—An early Cliff Swallow was seen at Lively Apr. 23 (JL) Echoing last fall's invasions there were 2 Black-billed Magpies at Thunder Bay to Mar. 25 (PT) and Gray Jays and Boreal Chickadees were widespread. The last

reports of the jays were at Ottawa May 20 (*vide* RAF) and near Peterborough May 2 (*vide* DCS), and there was one further west at Hepworth Apr. 15 (LC, JP). Boreal Chickadees continued to be sighted to the end of the period, although May 20-23 marked the last of most of the reports, notably from Pelee and Ottawa.

WRENS, MIMIDS, THRUSHES—A Bewick's Wren was sighted at Pelee Apr. 20 (BM, TH). Carolina Wren numbers seem to be recovering from the succession of severe winters; they were plentiful in the southwest (*vide* JPK) and sighted east to Port Hope (ERM) and north to Goderich (DK). Mockingbirds continued to prosper, as there were at least 11 birds known in the Ottawa area and 12 May sightings in the Sudbury area and many individuals reported south and west of these points. Thrush reports were mainly of early arrivals: Swainson's Thrushes at Thunder Bay Apr. 30 (TDy) and London May 15*, a Veery there May 21* (WRJ) and 3 at Pelee Apr. 23 (JEF). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were in very good numbers for the second year in a row: noteworthy were at least 3 Toronto area reports, 14 from Kingston including 2 early birds on Apr. 21 at P.E. Pt., a pair nesting at Presqu'île May 10 (JBW), and the first record for Manitoulin I May 6 (CB, JN).

PIPITS THROUGH VIREOS—Water Pipits are normally scarce in the spring, but there were unusual numbers in the east this year: 45 records at P.E. Pt. with a high of 30 on May 20 (MJE, RDW) and an early bird at Ottawa Apr. 11 with a high there of 100 on May 11 (BM). Bohemian Waxwings lingered late with 15 to Apr. 16 (SO) and one Apr. 19 (RHu) at Ottawa, and one Peterborough, Apr. 8 (MP). Northern Shrikes were almost equally slow to depart with sightings Apr. 7 at P.E. Pt. (K.F.N.) and Uxbridge Twp., Apr. 11 (RD). White-eyed Vireos were so commonplace at Pelee this spring that no one bothered to comment on them any more: they were present from Apr. 20 (BM, TH) and a high of 12 on May 12 (DR) was no more than typical of the numbers over the period (CEG) and they were in generally good numbers in the southwest (*vide* JPK). Kingston also had unprecedented numbers, which there meant 5 records from May 11-20 (m.ob.), mostly at P.E. Pt. However, the only report from elsewhere in the Province was at Bronte May 5 (MJ).

WARBLERS—Three Worm-eating Warblers were seen; at Pelee May 6 and May 12-14 (DR, CEG *et al.*), at P.E. Pt., May 2-3 (MJE, RDW *et al.*) and at London May 20 (WGG, JWL). Over the last year or two Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers seem to have experienced one of those "pauses" which seem characteristic of expanding species, when the numbers are reduced and some of the newly-claimed range is vacated. This year numbers seem to be bouncing back again with many Pelee sightings and Golden-winged in the east at Ottawa May 15 (BM *et al.*) and 23 (RAF, RTa), and on Manitoulin I., May 21 (JN). A Golden-winged was singing at Lake of Two Rivers May 24 (RMk, RP) and a Blue-winged in the Otter L. reserve (K.F.N.) the following day. Kingston's first record

of the species this year was 2, May 11 (HQ, RDW). The more uncommon (as opposed to rare) warblers made a good showing, with many reports of Parula, Cerulean, Prairie and Connecticut across the Province. The group also provided a string of early arrivals, mostly in the April warm snap: Tennessee Warbler, Pelee Apr. 21 (BM, TH) and Kingston May 2* (K.F.N.); Orange-crowned Warbler, Pelee Apr. 23 (BM, TH); Nashville Warbler, Hamilton Apr. 22 (WS), Kingston Apr. 23* (*vide* RDW), and Killarney Apr. 29 (WRL); Black-throated Green Warbler Apr. 21 and Cerulean Warbler Apr. 22, both at Pelee (BM, TH); Blackpoll Warbler, Highland Creek May 9 (RD), and a N. Waterthrush, Kingston Apr. 22* (K.F.N.). A Yellow-breasted Chat at P.E. Pt., May 12 (AEB, RKE) was one of five spring records for Kingston. Both Kentucky Warblers and Hooded Warblers appeared in good numbers: there were 4 Kentucky reports, at London Apr. 23 (TNH *et al.*), Pelee Apr. 22 (BM, TH) and May 15 (CEG *et al.*), and Ancaster May 19 (RC), which is about the level of sightings over the past 3 years. Hooded Warbler reports are much more difficult to assess, as there were repeated sightings at Pelee between Apr. 23 and May 15 and several birds were probably involved. The same held in the London area May 10-20 (*vide* WRJ), and there were 4 reports from elsewhere.

MEADOWLARKS THROUGH TANAGERS—W. Meadowlarks were heard singing at Ottawa May 13-27 (*vide* RAF) and at Lake of Two Rivers May 24 (RP, RMk), and there was an abundance of reports from south and west of these locations, although perhaps smaller numbers than usual. Yellow-headed Blackbird sightings were at Barrie I., Manitoulin I., May 1 (RCa, ARu *vide* JN) and Strathroy from May 18 (JAM, ML), and Orchard Orioles appeared to the east at Port Hope May 25 (ERM) and 2 at P.E. Pt., May 11* (HQ, RDW), with one the following day (AEB, RKE). A Baltimore Oriole 20 mi. south of Wawa May 22 (JBM) was at the northerly limit of its range. Eight Summer Tanager reports May 11-June 10 are the most ever in Ontario; all were in the L. Erie area extending from Pelee to Long Point and north to Middlesex Co.

FINCHES, SPARROWS—Extralimital Cardinals were at Kakabeka Falls Apr. 29 (PB), Indian Pt., Manitoulin I., May 19 (JN), and a pair at South Baymouth Apr. 16 to the end of the period (KDt). An outstanding feature of the spring was that "winter" finches continued to appear throughout, and were still present past the end of the period. For example, Evening Grosbeaks were common to the end of May on the Bruce Peninsula (*vide* JWJ), 2 Pine Grosbeaks at Kingston May 25 (RKE) were the latest ever there, and small flocks of Pine Siskins—and individual singing birds—were reported from widely scattered localities into the last week of the period. Many could well nest, and this is particularly true of Red Crossbills which have been even more prone to this nomadic wandering than most of the other finches, and there were 7 areas which reported these crossbills in varying numbers during May.

Long Point's second Sharp-tailed Sparrow record for spring was a bird on June 3 (L.P.B.O.). London had hybrid plumaged Junco X White-throated Sparrow May 20; the bird was well described and is apparently a recognized hybrid (WRJ, NBJ, *vide* DMS). The remaining sparrow reports are early or late records. Early sightings included a Grasshopper Sparrow, Pelee Apr. 22 (BM, TH); a Dark-eyed Junco Mar 14* and 6 Song Sparrows Mar. 16, all in the Mattawa area (LdeKL, RCR); and a Lincoln's Sparrow, London Apr. 9* (TNH). The late sightings were all from Ottawa: a White-crowned Sparrow May 29 (WEG), and a Fox Sparrow (*vide* RAF) and a Lapland Longspur (RHU) both on May 20. In closing it should be noted that White-crowned and Fox Sparrows were felt to be abnormally scarce in most areas this spring

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WESTERN NEW YORK AND NORTH-WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA.—April temperature and precipitation averages were slightly above normal but the month, in general, was a pleasant one; most species appropriate to that month moved in good numbers, including the usual sprinkling of early arrivals. But May was a different story! While weather statistics were about normal, they could not begin to

indicate how depressed, both in terms of numbers and species, was the migration during the first three weeks of the month. A succession of frontal systems kept cloud cover and precipitation almost continuous until about May 25. The Ithaca area even experienced its latest measurable snowfall of the century. May 17 when up to an inch fell. Passerine migration activity picked up noticeably during the last week of the month, with the period May 21-26 being especially good in the Erie, Pa. area and May 29 being a "spectacular" day in the Rochester area. Records outlined below are all from N.Y. State except where otherwise noted.

GREBES, CORMORANTS—A heavy movement of waterfowl Apr. 3-5 accounted for large numbers of Horned Grebes grounded in the southern part of the Region at Belmont, Allegany Co. (VP) and at Elmira (WH). The noticeable scarcity of Pied-billed Grebes in optimum nesting habitat was thought by many to be a result of few young being produced in 1972. Away from large bodies of water the Double-crested Cormorant is very rare, therefore four Apr 22 and one Apr. 23 on a small pond at Alma, Allegany Co. were noteworthy (LB & DB); this may be the first report for that county.

HERONS, IBISES—A previously unknown Great Blue Heron heronry of eight nests was located at Avon, Livingston Co. (*vide* TT); elsewhere at well known nesting sites, 30 nests were found at each of two heronries in the Elmira area (WH), and in Allegany County three nests were in Ward Twp. and five were in Birdsall Twp. (LB & DB). The more southern herons were reported more widely and in larger numbers than usual. Single Little Blue Herons were at Presque I., Pa. (*vide* RB), near Wolcottsville, Niagara Co. (JM *et al.*), and at Frewsburg, Chautauqua Co. (RS *et al.*) May 12-18. New Regional highs of 10 Cattle Egrets were at Braddock Bay, Monroe Co. during May (*vide* G.O.S.) and nine were at Medina, Orleans Co., May 3 (JM); others occurred in three additional areas including three in the southern tier at the Allegheny Reservoir, Cattaraugus Co., May 5 (FE *et al.*). About seven Great Egrets were reported Apr. 10-May 13. Up to three Snowy Egrets, also a new Regional high, were at Braddock Bay May 13-16 (JC *et al.*). A single Yellow-crowned Night Heron was at Presque I., Pa., Apr. 30 (*vide* EBr). Least Bitterns were more obvious, if not more common, perhaps due to high water levels. The first Glossy Ibises, a flock of eight, were noted at Yatesville, Yates Co., Apr. 28 (ML *et al.*); at Montezuma N.W.R. a maximum of seven occurred May 7-14 (DM) and seven more were at Clarence, Erie Co., May 5 (PB).

WATERFOWL—Whistling Swan and goose numbers peaked in late March as previously reported. A nearly white Canada Goose with black eyes and bill and with some faint buffy feathers on the back, wings, and neck, was closely studied at Montezuma N.W.R., Apr. 21 (DF *et al.*). Four widely scattered Brant were reported Apr. 10-May 11. A White-fronted Goose, always very rare, was carefully studied in the Iroquois N.W.R. area Apr. 7 (RS *et al.*). Among the dabbling

ducks, Pintails and Am Wigeon were generally more scarce than usual. At Montezuma N.W.R., the major concentration point in the Region, Gadwall and Green-winged Teal were estimated in about twice the normal numbers (*vide* DM). The only Eur. Wigeon occurred at Montezuma N.W.R., Apr. 30 (RG). Most diving duck migrants, and especially the Ring-necked Duck, were thought to be down in numbers. The early April waterfowl flight produced counts of 300 Oldsquaws and 20 White-winged Scoters at Edinboro L., Erie Co., Pa., Apr. 4 (DS). Oldsquaws were more commonly reported elsewhere at this time, including 31 that were found dead of unknown causes at Presque I., Pa., Apr. 9 (DS). White-winged Scoters were more commonly reported in higher-than-normal numbers with the peak of 650 on Braddock Bay May 13 (WL).

VULTURES, HAWKS—The amount of material available on hawk migrations throughout the Region was somewhat overwhelming this season, hence only the highlights can be noted below. Seasonal totals for the Rochester area flights were not available, but the notes below indicate the highlights for that south shore of L. Ontario location. Along the south shore of L. Erie in the Erie, Pa. area, the seasonal total for all observers was well over 3000 hawks, more than four times the average in recent years (*vide* RB); peak days there were Apr. 22 and May 1 (JB).

Counts of 153 Turkey Vultures Apr. 16 (LM) and 82 Apr. 21 (G.O.S.) at Braddock Bay were new single day highs for the Rochester area (*vide* TT). Migrant Goshawks were noted nearly every day during Apr. in the Rochester area where the highest numbers ever were recorded (*vide* TT); this was undoubtedly an aftermath of the unprecedented fall flight last year. Three active Goshawk nests were located in Allegany County in late May (LB, DB *et al.*). Maximum Sharp-shinned Hawk counts at Braddock Bay were 150 on Apr. 22 and 330 on May 2 (G.O.S.); at Erie, Pa., where the seasonal total was a good 492, about 129 were counted Apr. 22 and 206 on May 1 (JB). Cooper's Hawks were scarce. Resident Red-tailed Hawk populations were good; 80 birds Apr. 15 at Braddock Bay was the high daily count (G.O.S.), and 66 was the seasonal total at Erie, Pa. (JB). Red-shouldered Hawk numbers were low. Counts of over 1000 Broad-winged Hawks were made in the Rochester area on eight days between Apr. 22 and May 29, with the peaks of 5000 on May 2 (G.O.S.) and 4950 in two hours on the late date of May 29 (JCz). At Erie, Pa., where Broad-winged Hawks were also noted migrating as late as May 27 and 28, peak counts of 513 occurred Apr. 22 and 635 on May 1 (JB); the seasonal total was 2129. Rough-legged Hawk numbers reflected the winter scarcity with very few being reported save for nine migrants at Braddock Bay Apr. 21 (G.O.S.). A single Golden Eagle was studied at Alabama, Genesee Co., Apr. 16 (*vide* B.O.S.); at Braddock Bay both an adult and an immature occurred Apr. 21 (G.O.S.). About ten Bald Eagles were reported. The last known Regional Bald Eagle nest at Hemlock L. was destroyed by natural causes and the birds were unreported in that area (*vide* TT). A count of 32 Ospreys was a new

seasonal high for migrants at Erie, Pa. (JB) There were only two Peregrine Falcons and two Merlins reported. Am. Kestrel numbers held their own

CRANES, RAILS—Extremely rare but not unprecedented in the Region was a **Sandhill Crane** carefully observed as it flew southeastward over Webster, Monroe Co., Apr. 21 (JCz, RC *et al.*); this was the first record for that county. Common Gallinules and Am. Coots were more scarce than during the average year.

SHOREBIRDS—All shorebirds, i.e. Am. Golden Plover and Pectoral Sandpiper, primarily originating from flyways to the west, were very scarce this spring. Habitat, except for Montezuma N.W.R., was also scarce due to generally high water levels. But a number of reports were noteworthy. Where usually one or two occur per season at Montezuma N.W.R., this year a maximum of 19 Ruddy Turnstones were noted May 22 (WB); another was in an unusual place at Horseheads, Chemung Co., May 30 (WH). Only three Whimbrels were reported from two localities. A count of 50 Solitary Sandpipers May 5 at Montezuma N W R seemed unusually high (MJ). Single Willets were noted May 10-13 at Presque I., Pa. (DS), May 20 at Braddock Bay (JT *et al.*), and May 25 at Iroquois N.W.R. (*vide* B.O.S.). A very early Red Knot was at Montezuma N.W.R., Apr. 24 (Dm *et al.*); completely unprecedented was the 74 there May 21 (WB). A Marbled Godwit was at Hamlin, Monroe Co., May 17-19 (JMc *et al.*) and a Hudsonian Godwit occurred at Braddock Bay May 20 (JCl *et al.*). A Reeve was studied at Montezuma N.W.R., May 13 (NC *et al.*) and an ad. Ruff in breeding plumage was discovered there May 18 (WB *et al.*). An Am. Avocet remained at Montezuma N.W.R. May 20-24 (JT, WB *et al.*). A single Wilson's Phalarope was at Parma, Monroe Co., May 6 (GM); two were at Carlton, Orleans Co., May 20 (WL *et al.*), and two frequented Montezuma N W R, May 20-22 (JT *et al.*).

GULLS—Single Laughing Gulls were carefully identified on the Allegheny Reservoir Apr. 18 (LK) and at Presque I., Pa., where it was the second record, May 12 (DF *et al.*). Little Gulls away from the usual Great Lakes localities included two adults on Cayuga L. at Canoga, Seneca Co., May 13 (DM *et al.*) and an adult and an immature at Montezuma N.W.R., May 22 (*vide* DM).

PARAKEETS, CUCKOOS, OWLS—After the rash of reports and discussion concerning Monk Parakeets during the winter season, there apparently were no observations this spring. Cuckoos were in above-average numbers in the Rochester area in late May (*vide* TT) but scarce elsewhere. Two Snowy Owls were reported, the last one being near Wolcottsville Apr. 14 (RS *et al.*). There was one active Long-eared Owl nest near Ithaca (*vide* DM) and an adult was on a nest at Greece, Monroe Co., Apr. 7 (NM *et al.*) The first known Regional nesting of a Short-eared Owl in many years produced four young at Clarence in mid-May (PB, AM & WM).

WOODPECKERS, JAYS, MAGPIES—The Red-bellied Woodpecker was reported more frequently than usual in the Ithaca area (*fide* DM); three separate individuals occurred in areas either on or adjacent to the L. Erie Plain, the only section of the Region where it is still quite scarce and often unreported. Blue Jays were locally scarce eastward in the Region; however, indications were that they were far more common than usual farther westward near the flight paths along the south shore of L. Erie. A Black-billed Magpie that remained for several days after Apr. 15 at Dryden, Tompkins Co. showed no visible evidence of being an escaped cage bird (*DK et al.*).

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES—Reflecting the fall and winter invasion of Boreal Chickadees that barely reached the south shore of L. Ontario were observations of one Apr. 8 at Olcott, Niagara Co. (RW), two Apr. 21 and one Apr. 22 at Braddock Bay (TT *et al.*), and one May 2 at Webster (TT *et al.*). Red-breasted Nuthatches moved through the Region in good numbers.

VIREOS, WARBLERS—The White-eyed Vireo, a bird that often overshoots its more southern nesting range, was reported in seven localities, five in the southern part of the Region and two in the Rochester area, early was one Apr. '26 at Braddock Bay (JCI *et al.*), of the rest, four appeared May 11-13.

Warbler movement through the Region was slow but steady during most of the first three weeks of May; conditions were such that large numbers were noted May 19 in some areas, but it wasn't until the last week when peak numbers were reported. A Prothonotary Warbler was near Keuka Park May 12 (MT *et al.*), away from the regular Regional nesting locality. The rare Worm-eating Warbler occurred at Irondequoit, Monroe Co., May 12 (NM *et al.*), one was at its northernmost nesting locality at Elmira May 12 (*fide* WH), and another was found dead May 17 in urban Elmira (*fide* WH). The Golden-winged X Blue-winged Warbler hybrids were reported in equal proportions! The dominant hybrid, the "Brewster's", which has been decreasing in abundance, occurred near Keuka Park May 16 (MT *et al.*) and at the Tonawanda Indian Reservation May 21 (PB). The "Lawrence's" type was found at Elmira May 12 (WH *et al.*) and at Clymer, Chautauqua Co., May 20 (EP). Unusually early was a N Parula at Greece Apr. 21 (*fide* TT). Cape May Warblers were unusually common and widespread. The very rare **Yellow-throated Warbler** was carefully studied at Braddock Bay May 2 (GM). Bay-breasted Warblers were thought by many to be more common than in the average year. There were four widely scattered Prairie Warbler reports away from the known Elmira area nesting sites, including an early one Apr. 21 at Presque I., Pa. (JS *et al.*). The only report of the rare Kentucky Warbler was one at Frewsburg May 11-12 (RS *et al.*). Early was a Hooded Warbler near Belmont Apr. 26-27 (VP *et al.*).

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS—The uncommon W Meadowlark occurred May 4 at Athol Springs, Erie Co (TB) and May 10 in Tonawanda Twp., Erie Co.

(PB) An imm ♂ **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was studied for several hours May 16 at Webster (JCz *et al.*). Pairs of Orchard Orioles were believed to be nesting in late May near Starkey, Yates Co. where they have occurred for about three years (*fide* FG), and at Carlton for the second consecutive year (WL *et al.*). This year's **Summer Tanager**, a first year male, occurred Apr. 22 at Braddock Bay (LM *et al.*).

FRINGILLIDS—Reflecting the winter pattern, some winter finches were obvious and conspicuous throughout the period. Most abundant was the Evening Grosbeak; some 3265 reported Apr. 8 on a bird count covering the westernmost counties of the Region was a record high (B.O.S.); most moved out of the Region May 18-22. Next in abundance was the Red Crossbill, the 117 recorded on the Apr. 8 bird count also being a record high (B.O.S.); small flocks were widely scattered through late May, including 20 at Alfred May 27 (CK). Pine Siskins were moderately common and last reported May 24. Some Pine Grosbeaks were still in the Region in early Apr.; the 36 recorded on the Apr. 8 bird count being a record high (B.O.S.). Only a few Com. Redpolls and White-winged Crossbills were reported.

Other Fringillid reports included the first successful wintering of a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in the Rochester area; the bird previously reported at Irondequoit remained through Apr. 12 (*fide* TT). A ♂ Dickcissel frequented a feeder at Big Flats, Chemung Co., May 16 (MW) and another was at Friendship, Allegany Co., May 20 (HG). House Finches spread into a number of new Regional localities; singles Apr. 20 at Belmont (LB & DB) and Apr. 24 at a Keuka Park feeder (MG) were firsts for those areas; three separate individuals were reported from suburban Rochester during May, from where they have occasionally been previously reported; a pair was regularly seen at Ithaca (DM) where they have also been previously reported irregularly; at the well-established colonies in Elmira four young were fed regularly at a feeder (WH) and up to 20 were counted at the Eggertsville, Erie Co locality (*fide* B.O.S.); there was some evidence of spread into other areas of metropolitan Buffalo. Henslow's Sparrows continued to decrease in most areas, except in two Erie County, Pa. areas where they were present in normal numbers (DS & RB). The Clay-colored Sparrows that frequented Foster L. near Alfred for the past three years had not yet returned this year by the end of this period (EB). The Ithaca **Harris' Sparrow** previously reported remained through May 14 (*fide* DM).

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APPALACHIAN REGION

/George A. Hall

It was a very wet, and in some ways late, spring in the Appalachians. March had been so extraordinarily warm that the return to cooler, more normal weather in April and May seemed almost like a return to winter.



At Pittsburgh the April temperatures were about normal but the rainfall was 1.72 inches in excess. For May the rainfall was 2.78 inches above normal and the month showed a temperature deficit of 110 day-degrees. At Warren, Pa. it rained on 28 of the 31 days in May. There were several frosts in May, and one as late as May 23 on the Blue Ridge Parkway in southern Virginia. The heavy rains produced some flooding in places, and in southern Virginia near Galax six inches of rain overnight produced flash-flooding which undoubtedly washed out nestings of many species.

In March the northward movement had been on time or even slightly ahead of schedule but the return of cooler, wet weather changed this and all through April the various species arrived late and by the end of the month many species were as much as ten days late. In the north the really good movements did not begin until mid-May, but from then on the migration was quite good, and lasted until the end of the month. In some years spells of bad weather dam up the migrants and produce heavy movements when the weather clears. This year, however, was more uniform, and the long succession of days of bad weather produced a uniform movement, much in the same way that a long succession of good days does.

The cool, wet spring undoubtedly had a great influence on the early nesting species, and if we couple this with the cold, wet June of last year which was associated in places with the flooding produced by Hurricane Agnes, we can only wonder about the future populations of some critical species. The overall effect of this can only be assessed after we pass through the nesting season, but some results are evident at this writing, and will be discussed in the summer season report.

One small consequence of this succession of poor seasons is that the northward expansion of such birds as the White-eyed Vireo and Summer Tanager have come to a (hopefully temporary) halt.

One of the more interesting places for waterfowl in recent years has been Lake Arthur at Moraine State Park near Butler, Pa. This year, however, artificial manipulation of the water levels left water too high for good shorebirding, and reduced a Henslow's Sparrow population from 90 singing males last year to only nine this year. Other species were also affected. On the other hand the new impoundment at Bald Eagle State Park, Pa. continued to produce. One wonders if these impoundments will follow the history of others in this Region, of producing very spectacular birding for several years and then gradually deteriorating.

GREBES AND HERONS—Horned Grebes were in good numbers at most places, as for example 1600 seen at Bald Eagle S. P. on Apr. 5 (MCI, *vide* PWS). But at the same place Pied-billed Grebes were down by 50 per cent (PWS), although at most other places Pied-billeds were in good numbers.

There was an unusual number of reports for a spring season of Great Egrets: Blacksburg, Va., Apr. 8 (PBD, *vide* JWM), Seneca Lake, Ohio Apr. 13 (JS), Yellow Creek S.P., Pa., Apr. 18 (RFW, *vide* DBF), and Williamsport, Pa., May 10 (JV, *vide* PWS). Cattle Egrets were widespread: Dalton, Ga., 16 on Apr. 16 (DC, *vide* APH); Warren, Pa., May 10 (CP, *vide* WLH), Knoxville May 3 (second county record) (PP, *vide* JBO), Marietta, O., Apr. 28 and May 21 (JS), and three sightings of 11 birds at Lock Haven, Pa. (PWS). More unusual was a Little Blue Heron at Deep Creek Lake, Md. May 6 (FP), and a Yellow-crowned Night Heron at Morgantown Apr. 15 (GAH). Great Blue Herons were more widely reported than normally but at Lock Haven, Pa. they were less common than usual (PWS). A Glossy Ibis was seen Apr. 29 near Loyalsockville, Pa. (RA, *vide* PWS) and one was reported from Bald Eagle S. P. on May 6 (MW).

DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS—As reported earlier the bulk of the waterfowl flight went through in early March and generally was subnormal. No greater numbers came through in April. At Bald Eagle S. P. there were two good flights: Apr. 5 with 2600 individuals of 20 species and Apr. 10 with 3900 individuals of 21 species (PWS), but elsewhere numbers were down 50 per cent or more. Canada Geese nested near Warren, Pa. (WLH) and near Kingsport, Tenn. (TWF). At the latter place the birds probably came from introductions at a nearby game management area.

Hooded Mergansers raised young near Marienville, Pa (DG, *fide* WLH) and Com. Mergansers nested near Warren (TG & HEJ, *fide* WLH).

The Harlequin Duck at Blacksburg, Va. reported in the previous account remained until Apr. 7 (JWM). The Oldsquaw is usually a rare spring migrant in this inland Region, but this year it was widely reported in some numbers (e.g. 500 at Bald Eagle S. P., Pa. Apr 10 (MC1, *fide* PWS)). A similar situation obtained for the White-winged Scoter, which was reported in eight locations as far south as Waynesboro, Va. (MH, *fide* RSS). Added to these sea ducks the Greater Scaup was reported more than is usual in this Region.

RAPTORS—Turkey Vultures are doing well at Warren in the northern part of the Region (WLH) and nested at Raccoon Creek S. P., Pa. (NK), but most areas failed to comment on them. Two probable holdovers from last fall's flight were Goshawks seen at Elizabethton, Tenn. Apr. 28 (LRH, *fide* GDE), and one seen in the Canaan Valley, W.Va. in early May (*fide* GAH). Cooper's Hawk seems to be making a modest comeback from its very low populations of recent years. Along the Blue Ridge Parkway in s. Virginia only three territorial Broad-winged Hawks could be found where there had been nine in 1972. Two Golden Eagles were seen at Roan Mt., Tenn. on the very late date of May 21 (*fide* GDE). There were more than the usual number of reports of Ospreys this spring. They apparently nested successfully at a new impoundment in Wayne County, W.Va., one of the very few nestings in the state (RH); they were seen in late May at Warren (TG, *fide* WLH), and remained at Terra Alta, W.Va. until at least mid-June (WLW & GAH). A Merlin at the Powdermill Nature Reserve (below P. N. R.) near Rector, Pa. Mar. 23 (RCL) and a Peregrine at State College, Pa. Apr. 5 (ERB, *fide* MW) were noteworthy.

RAILS THROUGH TERNS—A Purple Gallinule near Elizabethton, Tenn. May 7 was a first local record (DL, *fide* GDE). The rainy weather and high water levels were not conducive to a good shorebird flight, but a number of noteworthy records were reported. Ruddy Turnstones at Mountain Lake Park, Md. on May 23 (FP) and Upper Strasburg, Pa. May 26 (BB, *fide* CLG) were first local records. Black-bellied Plovers at Staunton, Va. May 8 (MH, *fide* RSS) and Carmichaels, Pa. May 28 (RKB); Sanderling at Ft. Loudon, Pa. May 20 (CLG); and Wilson's Phalarope at Blacksburg, Va. (ML, *fide* JWM) and State College, Pa. May 28 (MW) were all unusual records for those localities.

If shorebirds were in short supply it was a good season for gulls and terns. There was a very heavy flight of Bonaparte's Gulls across the mountains in mid-April (325 at L. Arthur, Pa., Apr. 15 (WOR & SR)). A Laughing Gull was seen at Blacksburg, Va., Apr. 30 (ML, *fide* JWM). There were more than the usual number of reports of Common and Black Terns, but the most interesting terns were Caspians at Ft. Loudon, Pa., May 20 (CLG), Cumberland, Md. Apr. 27 (JP), and L. Arthur, Pa., Apr. 15-May 5 (WOR & SR, *fide* DBF) and Forster's at L. Arthur, Pa., Apr. 20 (WOR

& SR), at Austin Springs, Tenn., Apr. 28 & 29 (MD & HD, *fide* GDE), and near Knoxville, Tenn., Apr. 30 (PP, *fide* JBO).

CUCKOOS, PARROTS, AND OWLS—Both cuckoo species were late in arriving and were in generally reduced numbers. The damp spring seems to have almost eliminated most of the tent caterpillars in the Region. The Monk Parakeets at Pittsburgh started to nest in April. Three of the birds present are young raised last year (DBF). There were three active nests of Barn Owls in the Elizabethton, Tenn. area (GDE), and this species was reported more frequently than usual, but most observers are totally silent on owls.

WHIP-POOR-WILLS, SWIFTS, AND HUMMINGBIRDS—Whip-poor-wills continue to decrease at Marietta, O. (JS), Newcomerstown, O. (EHS), and Morgantown (GAH), but apparently not at State College, Pa. (MW). The arriving populations of Chimney Swifts were about normal, and so they do not seem to have suffered unduly from the cold, wet nesting season of last year, but the unfavorable weather of May may have caused further damage. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were late in arriving, and were in below normal numbers at most places.

WOODPECKERS AND FLYCATCHERS—Red-bellied Woodpeckers continue to move northward. One was seen at Warren, Pa., Apr. 9 (LO, *fide* WLH), and they nested at Raccoon Creek, S. P., Pa. (NK). The outlook for Red-headed Woodpeckers seems brighter than in the last few years, with noteworthy reports of several at Warren (WLH), Lock Haven (PWS), Morgantown (DS), Weirton, W. Va. (RMR), and Blue Ridge Parkway (RAK), but at Elizabethton only one nesting pair could be found (GDE).

Most species of flycatcher arrived somewhat late although the Acadians at Pittsburgh May 6 (DBF) East Liverpool, O., May 11 (NL) and Morgantown May 13 (GAH) were a little early. At Marietta, O. all species were felt to be in low numbers (JS), but this situation was not prevalent. Great Crested Flycatchers were low at P.N.R. (RCL), but were felt to be 60 per cent above normal at Pittsburgh (DBF). E. Wood Pewees were generally scarce (and late) but at P.N.R. bandings were above normal (RCL). There was a very heavy flight of Least Flycatchers and at Morgantown they remained until May 28 (GAH). Willow Flycatchers were reported from Elizabethton, Tenn., May 23 (GDE) and Swannanoa, N.C., May 12 (RCR), both localities beyond the usual southern extremity of the range. Olive-sided Flycatchers are seldom reported from the Region but this year reports came from Kingsport, Tenn., May 19 (TWF), Jefferson County, W.Va., May 26 (NL & GAH), Blacksburg, Va., May 24 (RGH, *fide* JWM), Butler County, Pa., and Lawrence County, Pa., May 23 (TEM, *fide* DBF), Churchville, Va., May 26, Waynesboro, Va., May 28 (RSS), with three banded at P.N.R.

SWALLOWS AND CORVIDS—After last year's disastrous June great concern had been felt for the swallows, but it now appears that except for the Purple

Martin most species are only slightly reduced. For example at Clarksville, Pa. there were 15 nests on Bell's farm compared with 20 last year (RKB). A new colony of Bank Swallows was located at Little Hocking, Ohio (PM, *vide* JS). A small colony of Rough-winged Swallows was probably wiped out in the flash flood near Galax, Va. (RAK). The cold weather produced some very large concentrations of migrating swallows, as for example at Morgantown May 12-13, (GAH), and at L. Arthur, Pa. where 8000 swallows of all species were counted May 5 (DBF).

As expected the Purple Martin was in greatly reduced numbers at all those places affected by the weather last June. Many persons reported no birds in their nesting boxes. In a number of communities only one box would contain birds, as if the few remaining birds all concentrated at one place.

Common Ravens nested in Forest County, Pa. (HEJ, *vide* WLH), and several others were seen in Warren County (WLH). A Fish Crow at Jersey Shore, Pa. May 16 (PWS) was a long way up the Susquehanna from its usual tidewater locale. There was a very convincing (but unverified) report of a Gray Jay from near Martins Ferry, Ohio Apr. 1-May 19 (KS, *vide* BV).

NUTHATCHES AND CREEPERS—Brown-headed Nuthatches nested in Buncombe County, N. C., the first record there in this century, although they have been observed there for two years (RCR). Red-breasted Nuthatches were in good numbers at most places, remained rather late in the lowlands, and were in good numbers in the high elevation breeding grounds.

Brown Creepers seen at Raccoon Creek S. P., Pa. as late as May 27 (NK) suggest that they may be nesting there but no definite evidence was available.

WRENS, MIMIDS, AND THRUSHES—House Wrens arrived at East Liverpool, O. Apr. 20, (a little early) and were abundant there (NL). They were felt to be one-third above normal at Marietta, O. (JS), but elsewhere they were somewhat late in arriving and were not in especially large numbers. As could have been predicted from the mild winter weather the populations of the Carolina Wren in the northern parts of the Region were very high. A Short-billed Marsh Wren at Kingsport, Tenn. May 12 was a local first (FJA, *vide* TWF).

A Mockingbird at Warren May 19 (RS, *vide* WLH) was very late for such a far northern station. Gray Catbirds were down in numbers somewhat at P.N.R. (RCL) and at Morgantown (GAH).

At P.N.R. only 11 Wood Thrushes were banded compared to an average of 21 (RCL), and at Morgantown the banding results were similar (GAH), but at East Liverpool, O. they were thought to be abundant (NL). Hermit Thrushes were more common at Morgantown than in any recent year (GAH). The real star of the thrush flight was Swainson's Thrush which migrated in very large numbers throughout the Region and stayed very late. There was an unusual amount of singing. At P.N.R. 103 were banded compared with an average of 21 (RCL) and at Morgantown 43 were banded compared with an average of seven (GAH).

Veeries were also well above normal at P.N.R. (RCL) and at Morgantown (GAH). There were a few more than usual reports of Gray-cheeked Thrushes and at Pittsburgh there was a good flight, noticed particularly on the night of May 9-10 (DBF). At Warren, Pa. about one-third of the young E. Bluebirds hatched in 80 boxes died during the cold May.

GNATCATCHERS AND VIREOS—Several reporters found Blue-gray Gnatcatchers to be in low numbers, for example at P.N.R. only five were banded, compared with a normal 15. Red-eyed Vireos were in low numbers at Warren, Pa. (WLH), Morgantown (GAH), and P.N.R. (52 banded against a normal 61—RCL). They were somewhat late arriving at most places, and not until May 21 at Butler, Pa. (FWP). The Yellow-throated Vireo continued to be scarce in the central part of the Region. As mentioned above the northward expansion of the White-eyed Vireo suffered a setback this year. At P.N.R. only three were banded and there were fewer than usual at Morgantown (GAH). Solitary Vireos were found nesting in Lincoln County, W.Va. (NL), slightly out of known range.

WARBLERS—The warbler migration is the *pièce de resistance* of the spring in this Region, and as usual it presents such a varied picture that it is hard to make generalizations. Some observer, somewhere, is going to take exception to each of the statements that follow. Most areas reported reasonably good flights with all the expected species seen, but populations were on the low side at some places. Generally the flight was a little late, with the bulk of the birds not coming until the last of April at Dalton, Ga. (APH), and after mid-May in the north, about 7-10 days late in each case. Although the flight was late it was prolonged, and migrants were still present at the end of the month. Although most places felt that numbers were good, one reporter raised the interesting question as to whether what was being seen day after day was not the same group of birds that did not move on owing to the unfavorable weather. However, at P.N.R. banding data indicated that nine species were trapped in above average numbers, five in below average, and two in average numbers (RCL). At Fox Chapel, Pa. the warbler "hot spot" mentioned last year produced several outstanding days: May 5, 200 birds of 18 species, May 10, 1000 birds of 30 species, May 19, 600 birds of 28 species, May 22, 300 birds of 28 species, and May 26, 250 birds of 26 species (SR, DBF). Despite the fact that the migration in the lowlands seemed quite good it became apparent in late May and early June that the breeding populations in the mountains were quite low, a point to be taken up in the next report.

As has been the case for the past few years it was the more northern species that staged the heavier flights. Tennessees, Cape Mays, Magnolias, Bay-breasteds, Blackburnians, and Wilson's all put on good flights and one or the other of these species was the most common one at most places. Blackpolls were somewhat less common, although contrary to the majority trend there were some unusually early arrivals for this species: Apr. 21 at Inwood, W. Va. (CM) and Apr. 24 at Morgantown (DS). On the other hand

the Yellow-rumped Warbler was in low numbers (only four banded at P.N.R.—RCL, and only one at Morgantown—GAH). The more southerly breeding species were not so abundant. Ovenbirds were very scarce at Morgantown, but no other reporters commented on them. Louisiana Waterthrushes were quite late—not until May 1 at Dalton, Ga. (APH)—and were in low numbers generally. On the other hand in n. West Virginia Hooded and Black-and-white Warblers showed modest comebacks after being down for some years.

A Cerulean Warbler on May 10 and a Prairie Warbler on the same day at Warren, Pa. (HEJ) were well north of their usual range. Yellow-throated Warblers are making a fairly widespread expansion of their range in the Region, and this year reports came from Barnsville, O., Apr. 19 (MCh & ME); Centre County, Pa., May 22, second local record (ERB, *vide* MW), Garrett County, Md., one on Apr. 28 and three on May 5 (FP), and Lincoln County, W Va., nesting on May 28-31 (NL), but none were seen this year at Dalton, Ga. (APH). There were many more reports of Connecticut and Orange-crowned Warblers than is usual for the spring, and there were far more than the normal number of sightings of the *Vermivora* hybrids.

TANAGERS—There was a very heavy, but somewhat late flight of Scarlet Tanagers with 34 banded at P N R against an average of less than seven. Further expansion of the Summer Tanager was not evident this year, but one was reported at Warren, Pa. (far out of range) Apr. 28 (HEJ).

NORTHERN FINCHES—The influx of northern finches detailed in the last report continued into April and in some places was heavier in April than earlier. Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, and Purple Finches were all in very great numbers throughout April, and remained well into May. By the middle of May most of these had departed but small numbers of each still were present at the end of the period. Pine Siskins, especially, remained in some numbers on June 1, often encouraged by bird-feeding activity, and it is entirely possible that they may have nested in the Region, possibly at unprecedented low elevations. There were scattered reports of small numbers of Red Crossbills but the bulk of them had departed before Apr. 1. There were only three reports of White-winged Crossbills: Allegheny County, Pa., six on Apr. 21 (PDH, *vide* DBF), Mountain Lake Park, Md., May 6 (FP), and Charleston, W.Va., May 22 (NG). The House Finch continues to do well in the Lock Haven, Pa. area (PWS), but no other reporters mentioned it. There was only one report of Pine Grosbeak, at Sheffield, Pa., May 14 (MT, *vide* WLH).

OTHER FRINGILLIDS—There was generally a very heavy flight of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, especially mentioned at Charleston (CK), and P.N.R. (67 banded against an average of 130—RCL). Indigo Buntings also were in record numbers with 47 (average 23) banded at P.N.R. (RCL) and at Morgantown 54 (average 21) were banded (GAH).

On the other hand the sparrow movement, particularly of the grassland sparrows, was very disappointing. Savannah, Vesper, and Grasshopper Sparrows were all in low numbers. Was this owing to last year's flooding and rains? The Grasshopper Sparrow has been decreasing and disappearing from parts of its range for several years, but whether this is owing to weather, changes in farming practices, conversion of habitat to real estate "developments", or insecticides, or whatever is not known. At L. Arthur, Pa the increase of water levels moved the Henslow's Sparrows that remained into the Grasshopper Sparrow range, and the latter simply disappeared (DBF). At Morgantown both Field Sparrows and Song Sparrows were banded in lower numbers than in 1972. On the other hand Lincoln's Sparrows staged a very good flight with 11 banded at Morgantown, a record number (GAH), and more than the usual number of reports of this elusive species by binocular birders. However at Pittsburgh fewer were seen (DBF) and lower-than-average numbers were banded at P.N.R. (RCL). The White-throated Sparrows which had wintered in unprecedented numbers in the north staged a heavy and long-lasting flight, and there was much singing. The flight of White-crowned Sparrows was also good. A Harris' Sparrow at Marietta, O. Apr. 26 (JS) may have been the one reported there in the winter. A Lapland Longspur at State College, Pa. May 20 (ERB, *vide* MW) was very late.

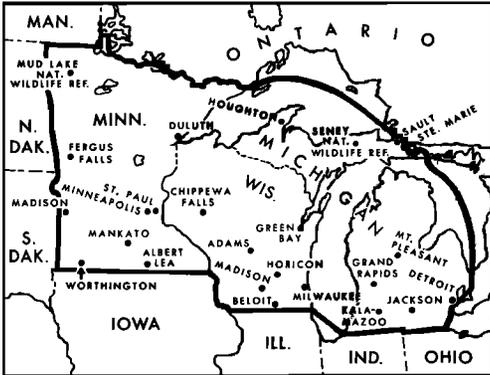
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WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

/ Al Maley

The migration this spring was prolonged. The snow and ice left early, bringing the early migrants in ahead of schedule, but speeding them on without stopping. As May arrived so did the cool and rainy weather, so that the rapid passage of passerines that so often occurs was broken up and extended until the end of May and into June.



The heavy May rains combined with high water levels in L. Erie to leave much of the eastern edge of the Region under water. Shores that once had shorebirds were forsaken for fields that once had crops.

LOONS, GREBES—The Arctic Loon is a rare but regular migrant through the Region; one was seen at Duluth May 3 (JB). Red-necked Grebes returned to nest again at Rush L., Winnebago Co., Wisc., on the eastern fringe of their range.

HERONS, STORKS—Little Blue Herons and Cattle Egrets returned to the L. Johanna heronry in Pope Co. and Pelican L. in Grant Co., Minn. where they nested last year for the first time. Fifteen Cattle Egrets were reported in Wisconsin and ten in Michigan; they bred last year on the islands at the western end of L. Erie. A Wood Stork was carefully described from Eldorado Marsh, Fond du Lac Co., Wisc. May 3 (FB), the first occurrence in the state this century.

GEESE, DUCKS—One White-fronted Goose at the Fennville Game Area, Allegan Co., Mich., Apr. 7 was unusual, as were 3000 at the Big Stone N.W.R., Minn., April 12. Dabbling ducks seemed scarce this spring, due in part at least to the early ice breakup and generally open conditions that dispersed and speeded the birds through the Region. Three Cinnamon Teal were seen in Wisconsin during the latter part of April and early May.

HAWKS, EAGLES, FALCONS—Goshawks were widely reported along the flight lines in early April as expected. Reports from Minnesota add that the grouse populations crashed last year, another factor in the winter Goshawk invasion. The weather delayed

the Broad-winged Hawk migration more than a week, with most of the big groups being reported in the last days of April or early May. Two Ferruginous Hawks were seen in Minnesota and five Golden Eagles appeared, three in Wisconsin and two in Michigan, from late April to mid-May. Observers reported a total of ten Peregrine Falcons bound for the tundra.

PHEASANTS, GALLINULES—Ring-necked Pheasants are reported declining as clean farming increases in Minnesota; they are commonest now near urban areas. Two Purple Gallinules ventured to Wisconsin and one to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in April in a tactical mistake. Two out of the three later expired.



Terns at Duluth, Minn., 1) Forster's, 2) Arctic 3) Common. Photo/ Marjorie M. Carr.

GULLS, TERNS—A record of a Great Black-backed Gull in Marquette, Mich. in April draws attention to the spread of this species throughout the Great Lakes. As usual, Laughing Gulls appeared at St. Joseph, Berrien Co., Mich. this spring: one on May 7 and two on May 19 (WB). The most exciting news from Duluth was not the 3 adult and 4 immature Little Gulls seen May 27, but the presence of at least three Arctic Terns May 27-June 4 (JG *et al.*).



1) Little Gull and 2) Arctic Tern at Duluth, Minn. Photo / Marjorie M. Carr.

SHOREBIRDS—American Golden Plovers must have gone through farther west this year, since only three Wisconsin reports and no Michigan reports mentioned them, in spite of large numbers of the more

uncommon waders. One hundred and thirty Whimbrel rested briefly at Pt. Mouillee, Monroe Co., Mich., May 26. Willets are being noted with greater frequency these days, with 31 birds in Wisconsin May 3-31 and 23 birds in Michigan May 2-6. Lesser Yellowlegs congregations were noted in Michigan, with 270 in Ottawa Co. and 130 in Berrien Co., both May 5. Marbled Godwits were well represented with 12 in Wisconsin and three in Michigan in the period April 28 to May 17. Hudsonian Godwits, of which this editor was privileged to see 180 in Concepcion, Chile in April, appeared in Minnesota, Wisconsin (88 birds May 16-26) and Michigan (one on May 19). A Ruff was photographed at Fish Pt., Tuscola Co., Mich., April 21 (WD). Fifty-one Am. Avocets were noted in Wisconsin, with unusual numbers in the eastern part of the state. A Red Phalarope at Kalamazoo, Mich., May 23 (RA) joined a list of several odd waders that have found a feedlot pond there to their liking. The reference to a Long-tailed Jaeger in last fall's report should be deleted for lack of substantiating details.

S.A.

OWLS—One of the more interesting and satisfying efforts in wildlife management in the Region is this editor's program of artificial nest construction in and around Ann Arbor, Mich. While Barn and Screech Owls have long been known to use nest boxes, it is now clear that open nesting species will also accept help. Great Horned Owls readily occupy well placed artificial nests. Suitable materials include boards, hardware cloth or even the end sections from metal drums. All that is necessary is to conceal the structure high in a tree, fill it with wood chips and wait. Evergreens are easiest to climb and offer privacy, especially important in populated areas. This spring two pairs of Long-eared Owls successfully nested in hardware cloth baskets erected just outside the city. The nests, made large enough and deep enough to conceal the incubating bird from below, were placed against the trunks of evergreens, 15 to 25 feet up.

The willingness of owls in general to accept man-made nest sites strengthens the belief that their numbers are often limited not so much by food as by the supply of hawk and crow nests. It would be interesting to see if these results hold true for the northern species, the Great Gray and Hawk Owls.

An imm. Hawk Owl was seen near Duluth May 31 (JB) and one was caught and banded at Whitefish Pt., Chippewa Co., Mich. in late April.

GOATSUCKERS, SOLITAIRES, VIREOS—A Chuck-will's Widow was recorded in Jamieson Park, Columbia Co., Wisc., May 18-27 (WS). A wintering Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker enjoyed the arboretum in Madison enough to remain at least until May 23. The only Scissor-tailed Flycatcher report this spring comes from Onamia, Mille Lacs Co., Minn., where one appeared May 25. Two Townsend's Solitaires appeared, one found on a field trip in Muskegon Co., Mich. Apr. 7 and one at Sunrise, Chisago Co., Minn. Apr. 27 (WL). Only five Loggerhead

Shrikes were reported from the entire Region. Seven localities in Berrien Co., Mich. had White-eyed Vireos this spring, as this species edges into the state.

WARBLERS—Warblers arrived early, about April 17-20, setting various local early arrival dates. They were then nearly absent until much later in May, with the first big waves occurring May 19-20 and 23-24, a stark contrast with the average year in which the migration is likely to have peaked before the middle of the month. A Yellow-throated Warbler was seen May 31 at Madison (BV). The usual sprinkling of Kentucky and Hooded Warblers occurred, mostly in Wisconsin and Michigan.

ORIOLES, TANAGERS—In one of those incongruous situations likely to occur at migration traps, an Orchard Oriole was seen perched in a tree near a Boreal Owl at Whitefish Pt., Mich., May 6. Seven hundred Brewer's Blackbirds at Horicon Marsh, Wisc., Apr. 7 point up the increasing numbers of this species in the Region. A total of six Summer Tanagers were seen in the three states in the Region. A W. Tanager was described from Onamia, Minn., May 8 (MI).

FRINGILLIDS—A ♂ **Painted Bunting** brightened up a Port Huron, Mich. feeder May 2 (WL), the second state record. Even later than usual in arriving were Dickcissels, which didn't arrive in Michigan until May 30. A pair of Pine Grosbeaks May 11 in Marquette, Mich. is intriguing, since, they are not known to breed in the Upper Peninsula. Pine Siskins and Red Crossbills lingered well into May, with several reports of nestings south of their usual range. Two Le Conte's Sparrows were detected in Michigan, one in Mason Co., Apr. 23 (EG) and one banded Apr. 27 at Whitefish Pt. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was reported from Kenosha Co., Wisc., May 28 (JH). Last, but certainly not least, a very unusual **Golden-crowned Sparrow** was carefully described from Suamico, Brown Co., Wisc. (CH, MO) where it was observed May 13.

CONTRIBUTORS (area compilers in bold-face)—Ray Adams, James Baumhofer, Walter Booth, Fran Brown, Wilbur Davidson, Kim Eckert, Ethel Getgood, Janet Green, James Hamers, Clara Husson, Nick Ilnicky, Upper Peninsula, Michigan, M Ivanovs, Robert Janssen, Minnesota, Alice Kelley, s e Michigan, (WL) Warren Lamb, William Longley, Margaret Olson, Roy Smith, s.w. Michigan, William Smith, Daryl Tessen, Wisconsin, Barbara Vogelsang —AL MALEY, 1465-1325 University Ter., Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104.

MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

Vernon M. Kleen and Lee Bush

We were drowned. The Mississippi River was above flood stage for 77 consecutive days (more than the entire report period) and the flood plains adjacent to this and the other major rivers were constantly submerged. Even though St. Louis had only two inches above normal rainfall for the period, it was flooded the worst, since both

the Missouri and Illinois rivers merge into the Mississippi there. The crest of the flood occurred April 27 when the water level was from 15-16 feet over flood stage. The water responsible for the flooding originated outside our Region. Lake Michigan was also at a record high level.



Average temperatures and rainfall throughout the Region was highly variable. At Cleveland, temperatures averaged 3.2°F above normal in April and 1.0° below in May; Chicago, Louisville and Fort Wayne, Ind. averaged slightly below normal temperatures both months. A frost occurred as late as May 5 at Chicago. During the night of April 9 and morning of April 10 a snowstorm dumped from 1-3 inches of snow on the northern two thirds of the Region and was followed by a freezing rain. Rainfall was average for Cleveland in April, but 1½ inches above normal in May; it was slightly above average in April at Louisville, but over three inches above average in May; it was somewhat above average in both April and May at Chicago, but over an inch below average for both months at Fort Wayne.

Since floodwaters were backed up so long and several bridges were washed out, it was impossible for some observers to visit their favorite birding haunts. Owing to the flooded conditions, a true waterfowl and shorebird picture could not be obtained; however, the newly created lakes formed ideal nesting habitat for several duck species and coots—far south of their normal nesting range.

At the Mark Twain N.W.R., Ill. it was noted that "Most species which inhabit bottomland timber appear to stay in their usual territories during floods. At the crest of Apr. 27, we found titmice, chickadees, prothonotary warblers and other species foraging in brush and timber at least a mile from any dry land." (V). At Red Rock Refuge, Iowa, normally with 9000 acres of water, but nearly 60,000 this year, the 1972 nests of the Great Blue Herons were barely visible above the standing water (GB). The herons did not return there this year.

Nearly all wintering species departed rather late, establishing several new late records; a few early arrival dates were recorded when a front on April 19-21 brought in several species; however, most spring migrants were rather late, up to two weeks in some cases, especially warblers, flycatchers, cuckoos, nighthawks, and some terns. Peaks of some of these birds were

not noted until the last two weeks of May, and it was early June before the migration ended. The only wave was noted on the night of May 22-23.

Towards the end of May, when some of the previously flooded fields turned to mud flats, unusual numbers of shorebirds began to appear and others lingered beyond their normal departure dates.

EXOTICS—The Monk Parakeet is continuing to spread throughout our Region. One bird spent the winter in the Cleveland area and was photographed there Apr. 29 and May 6 (M). There have been at least four verified reports of this species in Illinois including a nest (GL).

LOONS, GREBES, CORMORANTS—Observers suggested that Com. Loons were relatively scarce this spring; none were reported from Missouri, Iowa or Kentucky; only four were found in Indiana (Muncie, Apr. 14, *vide* LCr); a weak passage went through Ohio in late April and they went through Illinois Mar. 31 -Apr. 19; only one was found in L. Michigan during the season (B). A W. Grebe was present at Wilmette, Ill. Apr. 15 (RR) and may have been the same individual found at Evanston, Ill. in late April (JR, WK); another was observed at Squaw Creek N.W.R., Mo. May 9 (EL) and May 23 (SP, R). Double-crested Cormorants remained scarce; reports included 40+ at Squaw Creek Ref. May 9 (SP), eight at Horseshoe L., Alexander Co., Ill. Apr. 27 (K, H), one at Decatur, Ill. Apr. 7 (RS) and one at Dickson Mounds, Fulton Co., Ill. May 6 (H).

HERONS, EGRETS, IBISES, BITTERNs—The Great Blue Heron colony at Red Rock Ref., Iowa, did not return this spring owing to high water around their nesting trees. Another factor influencing that colony is the presence of large concentrations of pesticides as analyzed from eggs by Dr. John Richard, Iowa State University (*vide* GB). An ad. Little Blue Heron appeared at Cedar Pt. Ref., Lucas Co., Ohio, Apr. 22 (LV). Great Egrets were encountered more frequently than usual in the Cleveland area, appearing as early as Apr. 13 (M). Four Black-crowned Night Herons were found at Sangchris Lake S.P., Ill. as early as Mar. 29 (H); around Chicago, they remained fairly common—normal for that area (C). Five Glossy Ibises were present at Burke Lakefront Airport (Cleveland) May 14 (M). One White-faced Ibis was found at Bigelow Marshes, Mo. May 11 (JHi). On June 5, two Least Bittern nests were located at L. Mermet, Massac Co., Ill. (DH).

WATERFOWL—There was poor evidence of a Whistling Swan migration over n. Ohio this spring; however, one good flight was noted over Waite Hill (Cleveland) Apr. 8 (AF, *vide* M); six individuals flew over Evanston, Ill. Apr. 7 (B *et al.*). Two White-fronted Geese lingered at Squaw Creek Ref. until at least May 23 (R). Two blue morphs of the Snow Goose were present at Goshen, Ky. May 29 (BM). Blue-winged Teal remained later than usual in most parts of the Region; several nested in the flooded bottomlands of extreme s. Illinois (DK) and young were found at

Louisville, May 23 (BM). A large concentration of Lesser Scaup, estimated up to 150,000, was present at Red Rock Ref., Ia.—an unusual number for that area. Ruddy Ducks were reported beyond normal departure dates for many areas; at least two pairs nested in Jackson Co., s. Illinois (DH, K). A brood of ten young Hooded Mergansers was present at Magee Marsh, Ohio, May 13 (LV); a pair of adults was observed several times at Carpenter Park, Springfield, Ill during late spring (H). A secondary influx of Red-breasted Mergansers, primarily females, passed through the Cleveland area April 7-8; fair numbers remained there until Apr. 28 (M).

FALCONIFORMS—A roost of 100 Turkey Vultures was considered unusual for Martin, Ottawa Co., Ohio, Apr. 2 (LV). Red-shouldered Hawks continued to be fairly common in s. Illinois, but the six (accurately identified) individuals in the Chicago area during the report period were unusual; they were found in improved numbers compared to recent years around Cleveland (M). The discovery of 12 (including 5 nesting pairs) Swainson's Hawks in n. Kane Co., Ill. was one of the outstanding events in Illinois all spring (JKr). Osprey reports included: one from Missouri, three from Iowa, eight from Illinois, two from Kentucky, five from Indiana and two from Ohio. Peregrine Falcons were reported by several observers, but supporting details were sufficient only for the individuals at Magee Marsh, Ohio, Apr. 7 (LV), Bigelow Marsh, Mo May 5 (E), Columbia, Mo. May 12 (BG *et al.*), and e Morgan Co., Ill. May 13 (RQR, TC, H). The only Merlin reported was found at Shelbyville, Ill. Apr. 15 (H).

PRAIRIE CHICKENS THROUGH RAILS—The first recent record of the Greater Prairie Chicken in n.w. Missouri was obtained when a single bird was identified at Bigelow Marsh, May 5 (E). A flock of ten Sandhill Cranes was observed flying over Kankakee Game Preserve, Ind. Apr. 11 (NR, MJ). One Black Rail was heard and later hand-caught and banded at Beverly, Adams Co., Ill. May 28 (JF *et al.*). Documented reports of Purple Gallinules were received from four Illinois locations: Springfield (photographed), Apr. 24-28 (JM, m.ob.), Morton, Tazewell Co. (photographed), May 17 (BS), Eggers Woods (third area record for Chicago) May 6 (B *et al.*), and Nelson, Lee Co., May 5 (JKg, RP). An estimate of over 100,000 Amer. Coot were present at Red Rock Ref., Ia. at one time (GB); in Jackson Co., Ill. over 50 nests of this species were located in the flooded wheat fields (K, DH).

SHOREBIRDS—A single Piping Plover was present at Squaw Creek Ref. Apr. 23 (E) and May 17 (JD), three were found at Waukegan, Ill. May 12 (B). American Golden Plovers were first reported Mar. 28 at L. Shelbyville, Ill. (K); up to 1000 were present at Edinburg, Christian Co., Ill. Apr. 7 (H); a high of 230 was counted at Squaw Creek Ref. Apr. 28 (E); these plovers were very common in Illinois this spring and were last reported May 20 in Mason Co. (H). One Black-bellied Plover was still present at Dickson

Mounds, Fulton Co., Ill. June 3 (H). Two Ruddy Turnstones were reported from the Ohio River bottoms, Warrick Co., Ind. May 16 (WG); singles were found at L. Chautauqua, Ill. May 20 and Springfield, Ill May 25 (H); three others were present at Maryville Sewage Lagoons, Mo. May 23 (R). At least three Com Snipe were in courtship displays at Oakwood Bottoms, Jackson Co., Ill. in early June (DH). Three Whimbrels were found at Magee Marsh, May 23 (LV). As expected, Upland Sandpipers continued to be scarce. The May 5 high of 23 Willets at Squaw Creek Ref was noteworthy (E). Pectoral Sandpipers remained common in Illinois past mid-May; 600 were estimated in Cass Co. May 12 (H, K). A group of 150 White-rumped Sandpipers were counted at Squaw Creek Ref May 17 (JD). Four Baird's Sandpipers were still present at Squaw Creek Ref. May 25 (E). Single Dunlins were reported early from Wilmette, Ill. Apr. 1 (B) and Reelfoot Lake N.W.R., Ky. Apr. 7 (MB *et al.*); eight were found at Squaw Creek Ref. May 19 (MM); 25 were tallied at Columbia, Mo. May 25 (IA). One Marbled Godwit was observed in Lake Co., Ill. May 5 (B) and two in Ottawa Co., Ohio, from May 11-20 (LV). Several flocks of Hudsonian Godwits were reported; 200+ birds May 16 at Columbia, Mo. (JFa), 46 on May 17 (JD) and 3 on Apr. 29 (E) at Squaw Creek Ref., 5 on May 19 at Springfield, Ill. (H), a single bird was found in Morgan Co., Ill. May 13 (BO, H). A "black" Ruff was discovered with a large flock of Pectoral Sandpipers at Bloomington, Ill. May 9 (RS). Two N. Phalaropes were found at the Maryville Sewage Lagoons, Mo. May 23 and four were present there May 25 (R).

GULLS, TERNS—An Iceland Gull was identified at Waukegan, Ill. May 10 (JR). Six Laughing Gulls were observed on the Illinois side of the Mississippi R. at St. Louis Apr. 27 (KW's) and three others were reported from Land Between The Lakes, Ky. May 6 (WG, CP). Spring reports of Franklin's Gulls include one at Chicago Apr. 24 (JR), one at Magee Marsh May 15 (MSt), one at Kenlake (w. Kentucky) May 23 (BM *et al.*) and three at Decatur, Ill. May 28 (RS). The Com. Tern found at the Kankakee Game Preserve, Ind. Apr. 11 was rather early (NR, MJ); in the Cleveland area, these terns were "conspicuously" absent. At least 23 Forster's Terns were found Apr. 29 at Maryville and Squaw Creek Ref., Mo. (E); five others were counted at Barren River S.P., Ky. May 27 (LB). At least 72 Black Terns were present at Land Between The Lakes May 27 (WG, CP) and 45 others at Barren River S.P. the same day (LB); around Cleveland, these birds were absent—possibly owing to a late migration.

OWLS, SWIFTS, WOODPECKERS—A Short-eared Owl's nest was found at Goose Lake Prairie S.P., Ill. (DB, RS). Chimney Swifts were reported Apr. 1 at both Geneva, Ind. (LCr) and Petersburg, Ill. (H). Red-headed Woodpeckers remain fairly common to common through most of the Middlewestern Prairie Region and it is suggested that this species be taken off the "Blue List" for this Region.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS—A group of 70+ E. Kingbirds were counted at the n. sewage plant and

surrounding fields at Bloomington, Ind. May 13 (SG). A single W. Kingbird was found at Bigelow Marsh, Mo. May 11 (JHi) while six were present near St. Joseph, Mo. May 9 (E). Single Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were observed at Squaw Creek Ref. Apr. 23 (E) and Columbia, Mo. May 17 (IA); two were present at St. Joseph May 9 (E). Olive-sided Flycatchers appeared to be more common this spring than usual; one at Jonesboro, Union Co., Ill. May 6 was early for that area; at least 24 were found in the Chicago area from May 18-31 with a peak of 8 on May 28 (B, MSm). Male **Vermilion Flycatchers** were observed at Avery, Ohio, May 2 (AS, RB) and the Chicago Botanical Gardens, Glencoe, Ill. May 4 (PW, *fide* B). Tree Swallows were found in the Louisville area as late as June 2 (*fide* S); they nested at L. Mermet, Massac Co., (southern) Ill. (DH). Bank Swallows were reported on Apr. 14 at Rockford, Ill. (JD) and Skokie Lagoons, Ill. (B).

JAYS, MAGPIES, NUTHATCHES, CREEPERS—Blue Jays passed by the Cleveland lakefront at the rate of 500/hour May 6 (M). Two pairs of **Black-billed Magpies** attempted nesting at Sandusky, Ohio; the birds were present from Apr. 1-May 10 and thereafter disappeared from the area. Photographs were taken of the birds and one nest (*fide* D). Red-breasted Nuthatches were described as having a definite migration through Region during early May. A Brown Creeper "... was observed carrying nest material to a cavity on the timbered flood plain n. of Springfield (Illinois) on May 5 & 6. Later observations showed the nesting hole had been destroyed." (H).

WRENS, THRUSHES—Bewick's Wrens were observed in Whiteside Co., Ill. May 15 (HS) and Mason Co., Ill. May 20 (H); a nest was discovered at Ferne Clyffe S.P., Ill. May 16 (K). Carolina Wrens appeared as migrants as well as permanent residents in areas where they are not very common; three reports from n. w. Missouri from Apr. 21-May 6 (E), four locations in the Chicago area (B, MSm), and increasing in the Cleveland area (M). A Wood Thrush appeared at Louisville Apr. 2 (HF). Hermit Thrushes remained well beyond their normal departure times; one was present at Lakewood, Ohio, May 23 (D), another was banded at Indianapolis May 17 (CK). Swainson's and Gray-cheeked thrushes were both reported in Springfield, Ill. Apr. 21 (H); both species were very common this spring, especially in Illinois—occasionally, the Gray-cheeked were more common than the Swainson's except in Kentucky where they were scarce. The numbers of E. Bluebirds seem to be increasing in most of the s. parts of the Region; however, n. Illinois and Iowa still report them as rare.

KINGLETS, PIPITS, WAXWINGS, VIREOS—The Golden-crowned Kinglet found near Ft. Wayne, Ind. May 11 was rather late (JHa, EP). Five Sprague's Pipits at LaPorte, Ind. Apr. 11 constituted the third state record for this species (NR, MJ). There was a late influx of Cedar Waxwings after they had been virtually absent during the previous three months. Two singing ♂♂ Bell's Vireos were found at Oakland, Pike Co., Ind. in a strip mine area May 19 (CM).

WARBLERS—A Black-and-white Warbler had arrived in Springfield, Ill. by Apr. 3 (H). Prothonotary Warblers were rather numerous this spring, especially in s. areas; in Indiana, 22 were counted in a seven-mile stretch of the Kankakee Game Preserve May 21 (NR, MJ).

S.A.

On Apr. 24, Dave Bohlen and Vern Kleen conducted a nine-mile canoe trip on the flooded Cache River, Johnson Co., Ill. They recorded numbers of all breeding species heard and seen each hour. Among the species found during the survey were five Swainson's Warblers. Tape recorders were not used and only a small section of the suitable habitat available was within hearing distance from the river bank; therefore, it is believed that the area supports a large number of these warblers. Kleen later found Swainson's Warblers at three other s. Illinois locations where they had not been found previously (Union, Jackson and Randolph counties). Further investigations should prove these birds fairly common in s. Illinois and possibly in w. Kentucky and s. Missouri.

A **Townsend's Warbler** was documented for Crane Creek S.P., Lucas Co., Ohio, Apr. 7 (ET, *fide* LV). A Cerulean Warbler had arrived at New Haven, Ind. by Apr. 21 (JHa). Two Prairie Warblers were heard and seen at Rocky River Park, Cleveland, Apr. 22 (DA, *fide* D). A nesting pair of Kentucky Warblers was found at Oregon, Ill. (MSw); the species was reported as far below normal for c. Illinois (H). Hooded Warblers were heard and seen at Springfield, Ill. Apr. 20 (H) and were reported more frequently than usual in the Chicago area.

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, TANAGERS—Nesting "Yellow-headed Blackbirds are not at Powderhorn Marsh (Chicago area), the culmination of a six-year period of decline." However, they still occur at five other local areas (B). Northern Orioles continue to be increasing and were more common than usual around Louisville (S). A ♂ Summer Tanager was present in the Rocky River Park, Apr. 22 (M).

FRINGILLIDS—Evening Grosbeaks lingered well into May setting departure dates throughout the Region: Louisville, May 12 (HC), Valley Station, Ky. May 7 (DS), Cartersville, Williamson Co., Ill. May 9 (MH), Marshall Co., Ill. May 12 (DC, *fide* VH), Connersville, Ind. May 10 (DBu). Up to 16 Pine Grosbeaks visited the Cleveland area Apr. 16 (VC, *fide* M). A ♀ Purple Finch lingered at a Peoria, Ill. feeder until May 27 (MW, *fide* VH). Pine Siskins were also noted late into May: Shelbyville, Ky. May 20 (HB), Valley Station, Ky. May 16 (DS), Fort Wayne, Ind. May 20 (JHa *et al.*); a nest with young was found on the Illinois State U. campus (Normal) May 29 (RS). Red Crossbills remained at a Crown Point, Ind. feeder through the end of the period (GP); five were observed at Decatur, Ill. June 2 (FI); a nest with an incubating ♀ was discovered on the Illinois State U. campus Apr.



Editor Vernon Kleen and Dave Bohlen canoeing on the Cache River, Ill., Apr. 24, 1973.

21 but was later destroyed by House Sparrows (RS, DBi). One White-winged Crossbill appeared at a Barrington, Ill. feeder May 30 (JW, *fide* B). A Green-tailed Towhee was present at South Bend, Ind. Apr. 19-May 2 (RD *et al.*) but, unfortunately, was never photographed. There were several reports of Clay-colored Sparrows: one at a Morgan Co., Ill. feeder May 6 (BO *et al.*), one in Tazewell Co., Ill. (Hopedale Twp.) May 9 (Peoria Aud. Soc., *fide* VH), two in the Chicago area May 13 (C *et al.*), one in the Lake Co., Ill. location as reported last year, and another at Maryville, Mo. May 13 & 15 (JHi, E). Song Sparrows were reported in exceptional numbers in the Cleveland area during the migration period (M). The last Smith's Longspurs of the season were found Apr. 22 at Springfield, Ill. (H).

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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

/ Thomas A. Imhof

A warm March with vegetation and migrants a little early was slowed down by a cool April and May liberally sprinkled with storms, heavy rains, and cold fronts that produced loads of grounded migrants right to the end of the period. Many areas were so flooded as to produce habitat attractive to shorebirds even where they are normally not seen. Although rain, wind, and clouds often made observation conditions poor, there were plenty of birds to delight the birdwatcher.



Lib Toenes said that on Dauphin Island "Birding in March and April was the greatest in years although we were short on a few species. The best days were Mar. 30, Apr. 4, 7, 8, 27—all preceded by rain or north wind." Alice Tait came down from Massachusetts for six weeks at Dauphin Island, listed 200 species, and said, "This was the best season in the ten years I have been coming to the island." L. A. Wells of Columbus, Ga. said of this "fantastic migration" that it was late, included three fortuitous weekends of clear weather after rains, and prolonged low temperature. Tom Atkeson reports nearly all of Wheeler Refuge under water, but fresh mudflats along White Spring Dike coupled with "stiff north winds and unusually cool temperatures produced a whole handful of goodies" notably shorebirds.

At Memphis, O. F. Irwin reported the Mississippi River crested at 41.5 ft. on Apr. 6 after 63 days above flood stage and was still high at end of period; the wind was high almost daily, the weather cool, and most migrants were about a week or more late. In Louisiana, Bob Newman noted that often "water in Cameron Parish was too high for first-rate shorebirding, but this spring it was so very high that . . . places that were always dry before . . . became excellent shorebird habitat." In New Orleans, Mac Myers said that the "shorebird migration was the best . . . in several years."

BANDING—Four banders mist-netted on the Alabama coast this spring. Margaret Miller operated on Dauphin Island on 15 days Mar. 22-May 9 and

banded 548 birds of 54 species including 180 birds on Apr. 4! James Peavy netted at Ft. Morgan across the mouth of Mobile Bay on 11 days Apr. 9-May 1 and banded 367 birds of 56 species. Totals and peaks for the top 15 species by these two banders were: Hooded Warbler, 100, peak 16 on Apr. 4 (MEM), White-eyed Vireo, 73, peak 15 on Mar. 29 & Apr. 1 (MEM), Worm-eating Warbler, 50, peak 16 on Apr. 4 (MEM), Gray Catbird, 48, peak 8 on Apr. 27 (MEM), Northern Parula, 44, peak 25 on Mar. 29 (MEM), Red-eyed Vireo, 39, peak 13 on Apr. 4 (MEM), White-throated Sparrow, 35, peak 9 on Apr. 11 (JVP), Wood Thrush and Kentucky Warbler, 34, peaks 10 & 21 on Apr. 4 (MEM), Indigo Bunting, 32, peak 16 on Apr. 26 (MEM), Swainson's Warbler, 30, peak 15 on Apr. 4 (MEM), Blue Jay, 23, Prothonotary Warbler, 22, Ovenbird, 21, Northern Waterthrush, 20. Of 37 thrushes (Swainson's—Gray-cheeked—Veery), 34 were banded Apr. 26-May 1.

TRANS-GULF MIGRANTS—The following species were noted 20-25 mi. off the Louisiana coast on Apr. 8 during northerly winds (RJN, RBH) and May 23-24 during southerly winds (RJN, PJB) and, except for the three puzzling bold-faced species, were assumed to be on trans-Gulf migration when seen: Green Heron, 9, Apr. 8 & May 23, Cattle Egret, Apr. 8 & May 24, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Apr. 8, Blue-winged Teal, 3, May 24, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Apr. 8, Com. Nighthawk, 2, May 23, E. Kingbird, 2, Apr. 8, Barn Swallow, May 24, **Purple Martin**, May 23, Red-eyed Vireo, May 23, Magnolia Warbler, May 23, **Pine Warbler**, Apr. 8, Com. Yellowthroat, Apr. 8, Kentucky Warbler, May 24, Hooded Warbler, May 23, Am. Redstart, May 24, ♂ **Cardinal**, floating belly up dead, Apr. 8!

COUNTS—While banding and even birding offshore yield interesting information on the spring migration, so do counts. The following are informative: Apr. 5, JVP party, Ft. Morgan, 142 species, 18 warblers. Apr. 7-8, M.B.C., Dauphin I., 187 species, 27 warblers. Apr. 14-15, A.O.S., Ft. Morgan, 181 sp., 22 warblers. Apr. 20-22, RJN party, Cameron Par., 26 warblers. Apr. 27-28, L.O.S., Cameron, 195 sp., 24 warblers. May 5, B.A.S., Bankhead Forest, 27 warblers. May 12, B.A.S., Birmingham, 135 sp., 30 warblers.

GREBES, PELICANLIKE BIRDS—The only Eared Grebes noted this winter and spring were single birds all in April on the coast, 7th-8th on Dauphin I. (M.B.C.), 14th (RJN, MHN, MS) and 27th (RBH) both Cameron Parish. A Wilson's Petrel 10-15 mi. off Grand Isle Apr. 3 (RJN) was the earliest ever recorded in Louisiana waters. The only Brown Pelicans in coastal Louisiana were 4 on Apr. 8 (RBH, RJN) and one on May 5 (RJS), yet 112, including many young apparently still being cared for, were counted on Dauphin I. May 23 (LRT). An imm. Gannet, rare anywhere in Louisiana, was seen Apr. 8 at the mouth of Barataria Bay (RBH). An Olivaceous Cormorant, rare anywhere inland, was noted at Natchitoches at 10-15 ft. May 25 (JH, HW, CEV). An Anhinga at Wheeler Ref. Apr. 11 (HEJ) was the first Tennessee Valley of Alabama record in 11 years.

HERONS, IBISES—A Yellow-crowned Night Heron in Birmingham Mar. 7 was the earliest ever in Alabama north of the Fall Line (GC, WLC). Least Bitterns were numerous in early April on the Alabama coast, on the Apr. 4 on Dauphin I. LRT saw more on one bush than in her whole life, on Apr. 5, 17 were at Ft. Morgan (JVP, m.ob.). A Wood Stork at Claiborne, Monroe Co. May 13 (CLK, KB, CP) was, except for stragglers, the earliest for Alabama. Glossy Ibises at Ft. Morgan Apr. 14-15 (A.O.S.), Dauphin I. Apr. 19 (AGT) and Cat I. Apr. 23 (DB) pointed to breeding on Cat I. again this year; one collected in Cameron Parish Apr. 7 with well-developed ova (HDP, PJB) indicated the first breeding of this species in far w. Louisiana.

DUCKS—In a flooded wheat field near Monroe on May 9, 12 Fulvous Tree Ducks constituted the first record for n. Louisiana (DTK, JLi, DL). Locally late were a Redhead Apr. 30 at Swan Creek, Limestone Co., Ala. (JLW, EM), a Canvasback at Noxubee Ref. on Apr. 19 (JAJ) and a Com. Goldeneye Apr. 25 also in Limestone Co. (DCH). New for Alabama was a ♀ **Masked Duck**, observed closely at leisure at Wheeler Ref., May 16 (DCH). A Black Scoter about 25 mi. off Grand Isle Apr. 8 (RJN, RBH) is the only scoter report this season.

HAWKS—New for Louisiana was a late-reported **Goshawk**, shot while trying to catch a chicken by CKo at Amite, Tangipahoa Par. before Nov. 30 that had been banded near Duluth, Minn. Sept. 29, 1972 (CRS of Waukesha, Wisc.) Although hawk populations are plunging, the decline for vultures, kites, Cooper's Hawk, Buteos, coastal Ospreys and Am. Kestrel is possibly not as severe as the following: Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported twice: Natchitoches Apr. 4 (CEV) and Ft. Morgan Apr. 14-15 (A.O.S.) Eagles were not reported! One record of Marsh Hawk was received, from Dauphin I., Apr. 15 (LRT, AGT). Three Peregrine Falcons were noted, at Cameron Parish, Apr. 14 (PJB, GH, RJN, m.ob.), E. Baton Rouge Parish, Apr. 19 (PJB, HDP, DAT), and Ft. Morgan Apr. 30 (JVP, TW). The three Merlins reported were all from Alabama: Birmingham Mar. 24 (WRM), Dauphin I., Mar. 26 (AGT), and Gulf Shores Apr. 15 (A.O.S.).

RAILS—A Black Rail calling repeatedly at 11:30 p.m. on May 13 and 9:30 p.m. May 14 at Gulf Shores in brackish marsh (TAI, JVP) may be breeding locally.

SHOREBIRDS—Two eggs of the Am. Oystercatcher at Grant's Pass near Dauphin May 25 (REH) provided the first egg date for Alabama. Up to 50 Sempalmated Plovers at Wheeler Ref., May 5-28 (DCH) were the most seen anywhere in inland Alabama. Two Piping Plovers at Wheeler Ref., May 16 (DCH) were the first reported inland in spring in Alabama. Two Wilson's Plovers there May 16-18 (DCH, JLW) were the second record inland, the first in spring in Alabama. Five Black-bellied Plovers there May 25 (DCH) were the latest ever in spring in inland Alabama. Forty Am. Golden Plovers in Lake County,

Tenn., May 20 (MLB, m.ob.) were the latest ever in the upper mid-South. A Long-billed Curlew on Dauphin I., Mar. 31 (LRT) was photographed (JAJ) for the first time in Alabama—there is no specimen Baird's Sandpiper had maxima of 11 on Mar. 31 (OBM) and 9 on Apr. 8 (BMM) in New Orleans; Alabama with two prior spring records had three this year, three at Alabama Point May 14 (TAI, JVP), three at Wheeler Ref., May 16-20 (DCH) and four there May 21-23 (DCH). At Wheeler May 24-25, 23 Dunlins (DCH) provided the first spring record for the Tennessee Valley of Alabama, and two were seen on the Busseltown Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., May 17 (JLe) In inland Alabama, W. Sandpipers were detected quite often, the latest ever were 7 on May 18 at Wheeler Ref. (DCH, JLW); one at Starkville, Miss., May 17 (JNS) was probably the latest ever for that state. Seven Sanderlings at Wheeler Ref., May 16-18 (DCH, JLW) were the first in spring in the Tennessee Valley of Alabama At Jacksonville Apr. 21 a Short-billed Dowitcher (WJC) was the first spring record for the mountain region of Alabama. At Wheeler Ref., 8 Long-billed Dowitchers May 16 (DCH) provided only the second inland record for spring in Alabama. Buff-breasted Sandpipers also concentrated in New Orleans with 22 on Mar. 28 tying the earliest for Louisiana (BMM) and two as late as Apr. 27 in Cameron Par. (RBH), Alabama doubled the number of its spring records, with one at Ft. Morgan Apr. 30 (JVP, TW), one at Alabama Point May 14 (TAI, JVP) and two at Swan Creek, Limestone Co., May 3 (DCH). In three s w Louisiana parishes (Cameron, Vermilion, Acadia) 28 or 29 Hudsonian Godwits were recorded Apr. 26-May 8 (RBH, photo-HDP, CEV, RJN, AWP, REN) The only phalaropes reported were 8 Wilson's in Cameron Parish Apr. 26 (HDP). A phalarope photographed Sep. 12-15 near Birmingham has been identified as a Red (CSR, RCL), thus the Northern remains on the Alabama hypothetical list.

GULLS AND TERNS—Laughing Gulls are still using the Chattahoochee Valley; one at Headland Apr 25 (MF) is the first for the Lower Coastal Plain, five late ones were at L. Oliver June 3 (LAW). Apparently Franklin's Gull often sneaks through this Region as unidentifiable immatures, so it is a pleasure to report 4 adults in Cameron Parish Apr. 13-20 (HDP, RJN, MHN, MS, photo—BB, BMM). Except for Laughing Gull, local black-headed gulls migrate out of this Region before they assume their black heads. This year apparently the departure of some was delayed by bad weather, as above. Black-headed Bonaparte's Gulls are virtually unknown in this Region—one prior record June 14, 1953—so at least 25 in ad. plumage in Cameron Parish Apr. 14-15 (RJN, HDP, m.ob.) were noteworthy; one at Gulf Shores May 14 (TAI, JVP), the latest for Alabama except for the Tennessee Valley was in winter plumage. At L. Oliver, 20 Least Terns Apr. 26 (LAW) were only the fourth inland record for spring in Alabama. Unusual were two Caspian Terns at Reelfoot L., Tenn., May 19 (MLB, m.ob.)

CUCKOOS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS—A Yellow-billed Cuckoo on Dauphin I., Mar. 25 (LRT) was the earliest ever for Alabama. Early Chimney

Swifts were five on Mar. 12 in Birmingham (RDB), four on Mar. 17 at Florala, Ala. (CLK, m.ob.) and two at Natchitoches Mar. 19 (CEV). A Rufous Hummingbird at Ft. Morgan Apr. 5 (JVP, RR, WRM, FBT) was the third for Alabama.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS—On Dauphin I. 14 Acadian Flycatchers were banded Apr. 1-27, (MEM). An early E. Kingbird was in New Orleans Mar. 17 (OBM). Near St. Francisville a Willow Flycatcher (fitz-bew song) was heard May 5 and two more were recorded May 12 when an Alder Flycatcher (fee-bee-o song) was also heard (RBH), a fine start on learning the status of these recently separated but morphologically identical species; apparently a situation that mist-netting cannot improve. The Barn Swallow has become widespread as a breeder in the coastal plain of Alabama and nearby states so that record early dates are made almost every spring, and spring departure dates have become meaningless. This year a locally-early bird was at Tuscaloosa Mar. 16 (JCT). In "*Alabama Birds*" (1962) the only March date is the 28th on the coast; we now have March arrival dates for the four most heavily birded regions. As of 1972, the coastal population, now breeding at the head of Mobile Bay, was within 75 mi. of the southernmost inland colony at Millry. In Louisiana, birds frequenting bridges in Natchitoches throughout May (CEV) indicate more extensions of the breeding range. Purple Martins arrived early this year, the only known record-breaker was a ♂ in Starkville Feb. 6 (JAJ), earliest ever for inland Mississippi. Although Cliff Swallows could not be found at all in Louisiana (RJN) nor at their only breeding station in Mississippi (JAJ), 6 birds arrived early for the Tennessee Valley Mar. 30 in Florence (BGM, FB).

NUTHATCHES, THRUSHES, VIREOS—A Red-breasted Nuthatch May 14 at Ft. Morgan where they wintered commonly (TAI, JVP) was the latest ever for Alabama. A Swainson's Thrush and a Veery Mar. 31 at Johnson's Bayou, Cameron Par. (RBH, REN) were both by three days the earliest ever in Louisiana. Three Black-whiskered Vireos, one banded at Ft. Morgan Apr. 15 (TAI), one banded on Dauphin I Apr. 24 (REH) and one seen on Dauphin I. May 14 (REH, DDN) brought to 9 the total now known for Alabama. An earliest ever Philadelphia Vireo was in Mobile Apr. 1 (LMcK) and the species was more common than usual in s.w. Louisiana, with at least seven Apr. 22-May 8 (RBH, m.ob.).

WARBLERS—A Worm-eating Warbler on Dauphin I. Mar. 17 (LRT) was the earliest Alabama record, as was a Blue-winged Warbler there Mar. 22 (M&JMa). A ♂ **Bachman's Warbler** seen in dense vegetation in rather dark, rainy weather in Peveto Beach Woods, Cameron Par., Apr. 15 was well described and a convincing sketch submitted (HDP). A Tennessee Warbler at Ft. Morgan May 14 (TAI, JVP) was the latest ever for the coastal plain of Alabama. Earliest ever for the state was a Nashville Warbler on Dauphin Apr. 8 (LRT). At least 12 Cape May Warblers, possibly double that number, were seen in Cameron Par. Apr.

20-29 (RJN, m.ob.) and one on Dauphin I. May 21 was the latest ever for Alabama. Black-throated Blue Warblers also moved westward, a ♂ at Reelfoot L. Apr. 7 (CKn, MLB) was the first for w. Tennessee, birds were on Dauphin I. Apr. 8 (M.B.C.) and Apr. 24 (LRT) and one ♂, present at Sabine N.W.R. headquarters for about a week, was last seen Apr. 28 (RW, RJN, AWP, MHN). At Huntsville a ♂ Myrtle Warbler May 26 (BGM) and a ♀ June 9 (BGM, MLB, PS) were, except for another June record, the latest for Alabama. Early locally was a Black-throated Green Warbler on Mar. 18 (REH). An adult ♂ **Hermit Warbler** in Johnson's Bayou Woods, Cameron Par., Apr. 20 (BMM, LPO, RJN, MHN, collected—HDP) was the first definite record for Louisiana and the farthest east for the species. Also early locally were a Blackpoll Warbler at Eufaula, Ala., Apr. 16 (MF) and a Louisiana Waterthrush at Lovick, Jefferson Co., Ala., Mar. 11 (DJH). A ♂ Connecticut Warbler banded on Dauphin I. May 4 (MEM) is the ninth spring record for the state; one was in Memphis on 40° F. May 14 (OFI). Hooded Warblers were especially abundant in Alabama this spring (see Banding above) and on Apr. 5 one well-known observer (OSP) saw more than in his whole life. On the same day 150 were counted at Ft. Morgan (JVP, m.ob.). An early Mourning Warbler was in Jacksonville, Ala. May 7 (WJC).

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS—A Bobolink on Dauphin I. Apr. 14 was the second earliest for the state (G&JMe). A singing ♂ W. Meadowlark in Calcasieu Parish Apr. 14 (SLG) may indicate local breeding. The first Mississippi specimen of the Yellow-headed Blackbird was obtained at Starkville Mar. 26 (JAJ), two ♂♂ were seen in Cameron Parish Apr. 1 (RBH, mob) and one at Stonewall, near Shreveport, Apr. 18 (HCH, HHJ, JRS, RL) and a ♂ at Ft. Morgan Apr. 30 (JVP, TW) was the latest ever for Alabama. A Bullock's Oriole was on Dauphin I. Apr. 8 (FEB) and a ♂ in Cameron Parish Apr. 28 (RBH). An estimated 12 W. Tanagers were seen in Louisiana, mostly Cameron Parish and Baton Rouge vicinity, Apr. 13-29 (1 collected—HDP, RJN, m.ob.).

FINCHES—Wintering Black-headed Grosbeaks were last seen at feeders in Alexandria, La. Mar. 26 (SH), Baton Rouge Apr. 2 (RJN, MHN), Dauphin I., Apr. 12 (REH) and Fairhope, Ala., May 3 (A&MN), except for a May 4, 1928 record, the latest for Alabama; also two ♀♀ were in Johnson's Bayou Woods, Cameron Par., Apr. 28 (RBH). A late Indigo Bunting was at a feeder on Dauphin I. on May 31 (REH, SBH) one of a very few places where one can obtain a spring departure date. A Dickcissel that wintered in Baton Rouge was last noted Apr. 17 (MHN, RJN, m.ob.). The last noted Evening Grosbeaks were reported as follows: Natchitoches Apr. 26 (CEV), Baton Rouge Apr. 27 (GHL, JTL), Starkville May 10 (JAJ), Fairhope May 10 (A&MN), Mulga, Jefferson Co., Ala., May 15 (L&MW), Ruston, La., May 21 (JWG, RA) and Birmingham, ♀ still present June 6 (RW). Although Pine Siskins were not abundant and widespread this winter, some remained late, several were seen May 10 in Natchitoches (CEV) and five

recorded in Birmingham May 12 (HBT, IFS). Six Red Crossbills seen in the Bankhead Forest of Alabama May 5 (TAI) at the same place where five were seen Mar. 1 (TAI, HHK) appeared to be a family group, one bright red bird, one yellowish-green with a yellow rump, and three or four heavily-streaked. A Clay-colored Sparrow was seen near Lake Charles Apr. 12 (HDP). A White-throated Sparrow at Fairhope May 22 (A&MN) was, except for summering records, the latest for the coastal plain, another was in Memphis May 24 (OFI). A Swamp Sparrow at Bussey's L. near Phenix City May 10 (JMi) was latest ever for the coastal plain of Alabama.

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NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS

/ **Wayne E. Renaud**

Spring migration began up to three weeks early, with the warm temperatures of late winter. Water levels were the lowest in years, with only half the 1972 surface water in some North Dakota localities. April temperatures in contrast were below normal, unseasonably cold and windy in the Dakotas and the wettest in history at Regina. At Saskatoon, snowstorms occurred on April 14-15 (when Edmonton had 8 inches), 20-21 and 28-29, grounding many migrants for most of the month. Most of the area was dry and windy through May.



The migration extended well into June, when rain grounded the last flycatchers, warblers and thrushes in Saskatchewan.

HERONS, IBIS—Single Green Herons were seen May 9 at Springfield, S.D. (WH), May 2-15 at Fargo (FJC, EGA) and May 24 at Valley City, N.D. (BWS), while there were seven at Tewaukon Ref., N.D. by the end of May (EAA) and one near L. Dauphin, Man. June 1 was a furthest north record (WJW, LS). The only Cattle Egrets were singles at Cresbard May 12 (HWW) and Hurley, S.D. May 13 (CB) and at J. Clark Salyer Ref., N.D., May 19 (AKT). Black-crowned Night Herons were "unusually abundant" at Utica, S.D. with up to 12 per day through May (WH). A White-faced Ibis was studied for three hours at Utica May 8 (WH).

SWANS—Whistling Swans arrived at Deuel Co., S.D., Mar. 16 (WR), Medicine Lake Ref., Mont., Mar. 20 (DNW) and Vulcan, Lethbridge and Stettler, Alta. on Mar. 21, 22 and 28, respectively (EB, HCES, LML). Due to the lack of shallow runoff ponds, swans were scarce at Regina and absent at Kenaston, but there were 3000 near Spring Valley during the first two weeks of April (FB), 11,500 near Laura Apr. 12 (JBG) and 2335 flew over Perdue, Sask. in 2½ hours May 7 (WER).

GEESE—Record early dates for Canada and White-fronted Geese were set in many areas. On Feb. 6, 3110 Canada Geese flew up the Missouri R. in 45 minutes at Pickstown, S.D. (WH). Canadas arrived at Bowdoin and Medicine Lake Refuges, Mont. and Audubon Ref., N.D., on Feb. 27, Mar. 1 and Mar. 4, respectively and at Saskatoon, Spirit L. and Indian Head Mar. 11, Moose Jaw Mar. 12, Sheho, Sask. Mar. 13 and Lethbridge, Alta. Mar. 13. At Tofield, Alta., Canadas peaked at 50,000 Apr. 1, and Snows at 15,000 and White-fronteds at 5000 May 5. There were 12,000 Snow Geese at Tewaukon Ref., N.D., Mar. 27 and 30,000 at Hamlin Co., S.D. to May 8 but owing to

lack of spring runoff water, they overflowed their traditional stopping fields near Winnipeg. For the first time, "blues" outnumbered "snows" 400 to 300 at Last Mountain L., Sask. May 4 (WCH).

DUCKS—March 21 was an early arrival date for eight species of ducks at Medina and for Gadwall, Am. Wigeon and Redhead at Crosby, N.D. At least 94 Cinnamon Teal were reported from Alberta, with singles at L. Preston Apr. 28 (BM) and near Highmore, S.D., May 29 (JH), at Tewaukon Ref., Apr. 14 (OWJ) and Stanley, N.D., May 16 (GDK), at Fort Simpson, N.W.T., May 11 (AW), near Laura May 9 (JBG) and a pair s. of Vonda, Sask., May 2 (KRL). Single ♂ Eur. Wigeon were sighted at Valley City, N.D., Apr. 19 (DMB), Calgary Mar. 18 (RP, PS), Edmonton Apr. 29 (TT, JE) and Fort Simpson, N.W.T., May 14 (AW). Wood Duck pairs were seen Apr. 5 at Brandon (BR) and Apr. 25 at Bradwell, Sask., the fourth record for the Saskatoon area (WCH). On Mar. 25, there were 3 Greater Scaup in Roberts Co., S.D. (BKH) and one Apr. 26 at Saskatoon area (SJS), with three Apr. 20-22 and two May 6 at Tofield, Alta. (BB, GG). There were five Alberta observations of Oldsquaws: one at Niton Apr. 21 (REG), 5 at Darwell Apr. 22 (GP), 15 at L. Isle May 13 (MH), one at Mundare May 19-20 (GG, LG) and two at Hanna June 2 (RDR).

VULTURES, ACCIPITERS—Turkey Vulture records included eight at Cedar Pass, S.D., May 28 (WH), a first record for Fargo Apr. 19 (KJZ), one at Bismarck Apr. 28 (RNR) and six near Twin Buttes, N.D., Apr. 23 (FS), singles at Aldersyde and Sedgewick, Alta., Apr. 14 and May 7 (BL, VL, AB), three at Brandon Apr. 20 (BR) and one at Duck Mtn. P. P., Man., May 9 (FT), three at Saskatoon May 19 (S.N.H.S.) and singles at Duck L., May 11 (AJE), Maidstone May 12 (WCH), s. of Vonda May 18 (KRL), Nipawin May 1 (SDR), Moose Jaw May 4 (PRK), and at Indian Head, Sask., May 20 (MS). A Goshawk was at Brandon as late as Apr. 26 (BR) and one lingered at Meacham, Sask., until May 27 (TD). In spite of increased awareness of Accipiter populations, only 36 Cooper's Hawks and 42 Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported for the entire region.

BUTEOS, EAGLES—No Buteo waves were reported. Seven Broad-winged Hawks were seen at Peers, Alta., May 12 (REG) and one at Fort Simpson, N.W.T., May 23, was very far north. Red-tailed Hawks reached Indian Head Mar. 24 and Rosetown, Saskatoon, Looma and Tofield on Mar. 25. There were reports of 72 Bald Eagles and 56 Golden Eagles.

OSPREYS, FALCONS—There were reports of 36 Ospreys from 20 localities and 18 Prairie Falcons from 13 localities. Single Peregrine Falcons were reported from Medicine L., Mont., Mar. 9 (DNW), Crosby, Apr. 1 (WES), Bismarck Apr. 7 (BQ), Montpelier May 3 (LCH) and LaMoire, N.D., May 18 (PFS, MLA), s. e. of Red Deer, Alta., Apr. 17 (RDR), Raymore May 6 (WCH), Dundurn May 10 (WCH) and Laura, Sask., May 12 (JBG), Riding Mtn. Nat. Park May 5 (RJW) and near Winnipeg May 4, with two May 9 (CD). An ad. ♀ Gyrfalcon was seen at Scotfield,

Alta., Mar. 30 (RDR). Major waves of Am. Kestrels were reported from near Minot Apr. 22 with 100 (LK) and n. of Winnipeg Apr. 25-26 with 50 per day (EK). Of 54 Merlins reported from 14 localities, 32 individuals were seen at Saskatoon (WER).

CRANES—Four Whooping Cranes were at Wallace, S.D., Apr. 17-24 (RRJ, BKH) and there were six sightings of 19 individuals at Long Lake, Audubon, Arrowwood and Chase Lake Refuges, N.D., Apr. 8-May 5. Between Apr. 15 and May 31, there were 20 Saskatchewan reports of 75 Whooping Crane individuals reported to and many corroborated by the Museum of Natural History, Regina; obviously some individual birds were sighted in more than one locality during their migration. In chronological order, these were from Nokomis, North Portal, Rama, Southey, Elbow, Stoughton, Kendal, Southey, Brightsand, Herbert, Cochin, Delisle, Rowletta, Indian Head, Eston, Esterhazy, Cutknife, Humboldt, Nipawin and Cavell (M. K. Baker).

Earliest arrivals of Sandhill Cranes were at Jamestown Mar. 24 and Arrowwood Ref., N.D., Mar. 26, Spring Valley Mar. 28 and Kindersley, Sask., Apr. 2. At Kindersley, flocks of 100 passed all day Apr. 11 and at Spring Valley, 25 flocks of 20 to 200 cranes passed over in three hours, Apr. 15.

WADERS—On May 13, five Piping Plovers were again observed on an alkaline pothole in Sheridan Co (PDS). Whimbrel seemed more widespread than usual one May 20 was the first record for Bowdoin Refuge and the fourth for Montant (PDS, CC), 17 on May 19 at LaCreek Ref., S.D. (HB), one May 12 and three May 16 at Brooks (CFNS, VL, CR), one at Tofield, Alta., May 22 (DD), while three at Dundurn June 6 where the first definite record for the Saskatoon area (WCH). Red Knots, once considered very uncommon, were reported from Bowdoin Ref., Mont., two on May 19 (PDS), Beaverhill L., Alta., 78 and 100, May 20-21 (GG, LG) and Perdue, Sask., 27 on May 25 (WER). Two Dunlins at Bowdoin Ref., Mont., May 4 (RJK) and singles at Kingman May 21 (VL), Cooking L., May 20 (E.B.C.), Whitford May 21 (MH) and Tofield, Alta., May 5 and 27 (GG, LG, DD), contrasted with 25 at Sullys Hill May 20, 1000 at Tewaukon Ref., N.D., May 24 (EAA) and hundreds at Oak L., Man., May 20 (DRMH). At Tofield, Alta., there were 31 Buffbreasted Sandpipers May 20, 300 May 21, but only two the following day (GG, LG, DD). Hudsonian Godwits were unusually common, with one photographed at Bowdoin Refuge May 19, probably the fourth Montana record (PDS, CC), 52 at Tewaukon Ref., Apr. 17 (EAA), 75 at Crosby Apr. 23 (WES) and 100 at J. Clark Salyer Ref., N.D. Apr. 25 (AKT), plus an unusually large flock of 52 at Tofield, Alta. Apr. 28-30 following a 3-in. snowfall (LG). A Black-necked Stilt May 29 was a first for Medicine L. Refuge (DNW).

GULLS, OWLS—A single Little Gull at Regina, Apr. 20-26 is the first sight record for s. Saskatchewan and the second for the province (MB). At Saskatoon, Snowy Owls remained late, with 11 in the last ten

days of April and one at Meacham May 1 (SJS). Long-eared and Short-eared Owls remained very scarce except at Edmonton where 17 Short-eareds were seen in 30 minutes Apr. 18 (REG).

WHIP-POOR-WILL THROUGH CORVIDS—On May 27, a Whip-poor-will was observed closely at Fargo (JYW) and another was heard at Brandon (BR) On Apr. 22, there were 1000 Tree Swallows at the J. Clark Salyer Refuge, N.D. A Com. Raven at Regina May 12 was a straggler from the early winter invasion (WG). A large spring aggregation of 600 crows was seen at Twin Buttes, N.D., Apr. 23 (FS).

CREEPERS THROUGH MIMIDS—Brown Creepers were present at Regina, Apr. 27-May 12, with a "wave" Apr. 30 (AJB). A White-breasted Nuthatch was seen daily at Indian Head Apr. 1-28 (MS). A Curve-billed Thrasher May 26 was the first for LaCreek Refuge and the second for w. South Dakota (BJR). A Sage Thrasher was dead at Omega Tower, LaMoure, N.D. May 23 (MLA). A Mockingbird was at Bismarck May 28 (RNR).

THRUSHES—Am. Robins were early near Pierre where a large migration was under way by Feb. 18, with 280 at Yankton Mar. 1, 300 at Hurley, S.D. Mar. 7 and over 40 at Montpelier, N.D. Mar. 9. In Saskatchewan and Alberta, robin numbers increased following snowstorms, with 500 at Indian Head Apr. 14 and 200 there Apr. 28, the same day that there were 225 at Edmonton and 100 at Spirit Lake. On April 31, there were 500 robins at Tisdale and the next day, 200 at Regina and 950 at Moose Jaw.

Saskatchewan's first **Wood Thrush** was seen by eight competent observers at Saskatoon May 24 (PO, SJS) with other singles at Highmore, S.D., May 6 (JH) and at Fargo May 14 & 28 (EGA). Single Gray-cheeked Thrushes at Plentywood, Mont., May 13 and Bowdoin Ref May 20 were good records for a species rarely recorded in the state, although probably a regular migrant through the eastern edge of the state (ETH, RAH). A ♂ E. Bluebird was seen at Saskatoon Mar. 31 (JEP). Single Mountain Bluebirds at Moose Jaw Mar. 3 and at Sheho Mar. 9 were early. A Townsend's Solitaire was noted at Spirit L. Apr. 18 (WA).

VIREOS, WARBLERS—There were seven Philadelphia Vireos near L. Lenore, Sask., May 27 (WCH). Most observers reported warblers both late and scarce, but there were minor waves involving ten species including 40 Tennessees at LaMoure May 19-20, of eight species at Sullys Hill May 19-23 and at Jamestown May 29. On May 27 at Rosetown, 35 Tennessee Warblers descended upon two plains shelterbelts during a warm rain and some remained with Blackpolls until June 10 (DHR). A Tennessee Warbler and a Blackpoll Warbler at Bowdoin Refuge May 20 were unusual (PDS). Single Golden-winged Warblers were seen at LaMoure May 20 (MLA), Fargo May 23 (EGA), Jamestown May 21 & 24 (PFS, DHJ) and at Riding Mtn. Nat. Park, Man., May 21 (WJW). Other rare warblers included a Blackburnian at Saskatoon May 7 (PO) and a Hooded at Fargo May 6 (PKH).

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS, GROSBEAKS—Red-winged Blackbirds arrived at Valley City, N.D., Mar. 14 and peaked at 3400 on Mar. 27 (BWS), with 300 at Regina on Apr. 15. On Apr. 21, a wave of 5000 blackbirds at Spirit L. included at least 2000 Red-wings and 500 Common Grackles. On Apr. 22, there were 2000 Brewer's Blackbirds at Moose Jaw and 3500 Red-winged at Raymore. A Western Tanager was seen at Saskatoon May 18 (LWO) and a Scarlet Tanager at Brandon May 20 (BR). On May 27 an incredible wave of singing Rose-breasted Grosbeaks numbered 51 ♂♂ at L. Lenore (WCH). The large winter flocks of Evening Grosbeaks remained until May 23 at Spirit L., where up to 100 were present through April, May 19 at Saskatoon, May 13 at Maidstone, May 10 at Wolesey and May 9 at Moose Jaw.

FRINGILLIDS—Purple Finches were numerous at a number of localities, with 75 at Stonewall, Man., Apr. 20-22 (KG), 40 on the feeder at once at Sullys Hill, N.D., Apr. 30 (DEG), flocking to banding traps at Saskatoon Apr. 30-May 4 (MIH) and with 50 at Regina May 1 (FWL). A "small flock" of Purple Finches was seen at Plentywood, Mont., where the species is scarce, on May 13 (ETH, RAH). Saskatchewan's first sight record of the **House Finch** was three ♂♂ heard and seen at Regina Apr. 26 (FGB), while another ♂ photographed at a feeder which it frequented Mar. 10-Apr. 21 in Calgary, was the third record for Alberta (RB, *vide* WRS).

A Grasshopper Sparrow at Meacham, Sask. May 29 was unusual (SJS). Dark-eyed Juncos were grounded in amazing numbers by snowstorms, with 300 at Indian Head, "hundreds" at Moose Jaw and 3500 at Raymore, all on Apr. 14, and an estimated flock of 5000, "solid" on both sides of the highway at Weirdale, Sask., Apr. 28. There were 100 Tree Sparrows at J. Clark Salyer Ref., Mar. 13 and 500 at Grand Forks Mar. 25 & 31 (EGA), while at Raymore 1700 were grounded Apr. 14 by the snowstorm. Fox Sparrows were reported increased at Regina and Moose Jaw (MB, EWK). Lapland Longspurs arrived early on Mar. 17 at Rosetown, where they remained until June 9, while at Tofield they peaked at 5000 on Apr. 1, 10,400 on Apr. 7 with 300 still present May 21. Smith's Longspurs passed through Alberta as usual with 10 at Whitford May 21 (MH), one at Orion Apr. 23 (GMG, PG), and 3 on May 5 increasing to 200 on May 14-15 at Tofield (GG, LG, DD).

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Note: The above was written between June 17 and 24 by Wayne E. Renaud, biology student at the University of Saskatchewan, whose permanent address is Box 327, Rosetown, Sask. SOL 2VO. Wayne had no time available after June 24 (and I had none before June 25), so the additions and deletions necessary to accommodate the Manitoba and North Dakota reports, which arrived late due to slow mail service, are my responsibility. I did the final typing.—C. STUART HOUSTON, 863 University Drive, Saskatoon, Sask. S7N OJ8.

SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS

/ Frances Williams

Spring was notable for high water and low temperature. In Smith County, Texas, young of early nesters like chickadees and bluebirds died in the boxes, probably from lack of food, during a period of ten



days of continuous rain. Frost occurred in Johnson County, Kansas as late as May 17 and all areas reported that trees and shrubs leafed out about two weeks later than normal because of continuing cold weather. Arrival dates of summer residents and migrants varied from very early to very late but all reporters agreed that the peak of migration was two weeks later than usual. Winter residents were generally two to three weeks late in leaving. Periods of heavy migration were April 20-22, April 29-May 1, May 5-7, and May 13-15.

Seven Colorado oil companies were charged in Denver U.S. District Court with killing migratory birds in oil settling ponds covered with sludge. U.S. Fish and Wildlife officials estimated that as many as 30,000 ducks are killed each year by landing in sludge-covered oil ponds. Oil-stained birds which manage to extricate themselves from such ponds present an identification problem to birders. This spring a phalarope which was as red as a Red Phalarope but had the bill and unmarked wings of a Wilson's Phalarope caused much discussion among west Texas birders. The consensus was that it was an oil-stained Wilson's Phalarope.

LOONS, GREBES, PELICANS—Com. Loons remained in Smith Co., Tex. until May 17 and at Dallas until May 23. Western Grebes were sighted in Cimarron Co., Okla., May 9-13. Pied-billed Grebes were still present at Midland, Tex., at the end of the period. White Pelicans moved through Texas and Oklahoma during April with peak numbers including 2500 at Fredricksburg, Tex., Apr. 15 and 150 at Tulsa Apr. 21. This species was not observed in Colorado until May. The largest flock in that state numbered 77 birds in Crowley Co., May 11.

HERONS, IBIS—Each year brings more reports of Green Herons west of the 100th meridian. This spring there were 14 reports Apr. 29-May 12. Little Blue Herons were sighted at Amarillo Apr. 20 and at Ft. Worth Mar. 24. The largest number of Cattle Egrets reported was 125 at Kerrville, Tex., Apr. 15. The species was reported the same date at Cushing and Perkins, Okla. and May 1 in Wichita Co., Tex. Unusual spring sightings of Great Egret were at Pueblo, Colo., May 11, Otero Co., Colo., May 12 and Midland Apr. 15. A Louisiana Heron at Ft. Worth May 5 was noteworthy (L&AB). Least Bitterns were located in Brazos Co., Tex., May 24, Yuma Co., Colo., May 12 and Wichita Co., Tex., Apr. 28. White-faced Ibis were numerous throughout the Region Apr. 6-May 27.

DUCKS—By the end of the period Wood Duck broods had been noted at Cushing, Dallas and Hays, Kans. A male in Howard Co., Tex. on the late date May 25 caused observers there to wonder if he might be one of a nesting pair. This species occurred in Boulder Co., Colo., May 12. Diving ducks remained until mid-May in many areas. A Barrow's Goldeneye was present at Boulder Apr. 5 (HC) and a Black Scoter at Dallas Apr. 28 (HN). Red-breasted Mergansers in Weld Co., Colo., May 9 made a new record for Pawnee Nat'l Grasslands.

RAPTORS—The nest of a **White-tailed Kite** was found in Leon Co., Tex., Apr. 20 (CDF). The birds first appeared in the area Mar. 24 (DWO,LR). A White-tailed Kite at Dallas May 23 was a first County record (PJa, MFr). Mississippi Kites arrived in San Angelo, Tex., Apr. 1 but not until late April in the remainder of the Region.

The only flocks of Broad-winged Hawks reported were in Nacogdoches Co., Tex., where 281 birds were counted Apr. 3 and 221 on Apr. 12. This species was noted at Howard Co., Apr. 22 and Boulder May 4. Swainson's Hawks were recorded in Nacogdoches Co., Apr. 8-9. They are rarely seen so far east. By the end of the period five nests of Golden Eagles had been found in the Region. Only three Bald Eagles were seen during the spring migration. Marsh Hawk nests were found in Trego and Phillips Cos., Kans. Only 33 Ospreys were sighted in the Region.

Only five Peregrine Falcons were recorded in the Region, the earliest Apr. 20 and the latest May 27. Merlins were noted at Dallas Apr. 14, Lubbock Co., Tex., May 5, Kerrville Apr. 15 and San Angelo Apr. 1. In Armstrong Co., Tex., Apr. 1, 71 Am. Kestrels were counted along 20 miles of road. Ten were sighted in a quarter-mile in Howard Co., Apr. 6.

PRAIRIE CHICKENS THROUGH RAILS—Greater Prairie Chickens seem to be prospering in Tulsa Co. A flock of 500 Sandhill Cranes in Greer Co., May 13 was extremely late (J&LMc). A King Rail in Brazos Co., Apr. 27 was a first spring record (GFC). A Virginia Rail was sighted at Colorado Springs May 13 and one was collected in Brazos Co., Apr. 5 (GFC). A Yellow Rail was noted at Bellevue, Neb., Apr. 30. Purple Gallinules were recorded at Dallas May 13, Brazos Co., Apr. 27, Oklahoma Co., early May. A Com. Gallinule remained at L. Overholser near Oklahoma City Apr. 17-May 19. Two birds were seen on the latter date.

SHOREBIRDS—Most observers reported low numbers of shorebirds and blamed it on high water. However Ken Seyffert reported that at Buffalo Lake N.W.R. in the Texas Panhandle mudflat conditions were ideal but few shorebirds appeared. Other w. Texas observers noted that the thousands of playa lakes on the plains contained water and that shorebirds could be widely dispersed.

Semipalmated Plovers were recorded at Stillwater, Okla., Apr. 21, 24, Longmont, Colo., May 12, Ellis Co., Kans., May 5 and Brazos Co., May 3. Peak numbers were 21 at Salt Plains N.W.R., Okla., Apr. 20

and 12 at San Angelo Apr. 27. Piping Plovers were observed at Pueblo May 11-12 (VT, DSI) and Kaufman Co., Tex., May 12 (CDF). Seventeen Snowy Plovers were counted at San Angelo Apr. 27. A Killdeer's nest with three eggs was found in Ellis Co. on the early date Mar. 25. On Apr. 20, 35 Am. Golden Plovers were sighted in Canadian Co., Okla. Other records included single birds at Ft. Worth Mar. 30 and San Angelo Apr. 22. Ruddy Turnstones were sighted at Ft. Worth May 14, Oklahoma City May 18, 20, Wichita Co., May 11.

An **Am. Woodcock** chick perhaps two weeks old was found in Payne Co., Okla., Apr. 7 (JBa, m.ob.). This is possibly the second nesting record for the State. Whimbrels were noted in Kiowa Co., Okla., May 16, Comanche Co., May 23, Dallas May 7, McLennan Co., Tex., May 18, Kaufman Co., May 12. A flock of 27 Whimbrels near Longmont in early May was noteworthy. Willets moved across the plains in good numbers Apr. 27-May 5. White-rumped Sandpipers were unusually common in Texas May 9-16. High count was 50 in Brazos Co., May 16. This species was recorded at Tulsa May 28 and Ellis Co., May 21. Dunlins were sighted in Kaufman Co., May 12 and Wichita Co., May 14. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were located in Freestone Co., Tex., Apr. 21, Kaufman Co., May 12, Oklahoma City Apr. 20, May 20, Wichita Co., May 13, Brazos Co., May 16. There were nine reports of Hudsonian Godwits totaling at least 21 birds. Sanderlings were recorded in Wichita Co., May 11 and Tulsa May 14. Black-necked Stilts were more widely dispersed in the Region than normal. Northern Phalaropes were found in Canadian Co., Okla., May 28, Boulder May 6, Sheridan Co., Neb., May 12.

GULLS, TERNS—Laughing Gulls appeared at Dallas May 19 (HN, m.ob.) and Wichita Co., May 23 (MBr). There were eight reports of Forster's Terns. Common Terns were carefully studied at Lincoln Apr. 24, Buffalo Lake N.W.R., May 21, Bellevue, Neb., Apr. 29, Junction, Tex., May 27, Wichita Co., Apr. 15. Caspian Terns were sighted in Wichita Co., May 22 and Comanche Co., May 23.

DOVES, PARAKEETS, CUCKOOS—A **White-winged Dove** was seen, heard and photographed at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., May 19-21 (KS). Inca Doves are increasing at Lubbock but the small group in Jackson Co., Okla. was last seen May 4. Monk Parakeets are still present in Norman, Okla. Black-billed Cuckoos were noted May 3-21 at Nacogdoches, Tulsa, Johnson Co., Bellevue and Lincoln. One at Dallas May 22 was an unusual locality record (WP).

OWLS, GOATSUCKERS—Barn Owl nests were located in Boulder and Ellis Cos. Burrowing Owls were reported in good numbers at Pueblo and Weld Co., but were decreasing in Boulder and Ellis Cos.

An attack on a Burrowing Owl by a Loggerhead Shrike was observed in Midland. The Burrowing Owl was holding a grasshopper in its beak while standing near its burrow. The shrike flew at the owl, knocked it off balance and caused it to drop the grasshopper. The shrike's mate picked up the grasshopper and flew away with it (ABC).

Long-eared Owls were located on Pawnee Nat'l Grassland Apr. 18, Yuma Co., Apr. 15, May 15, and in Ellis Co. throughout the period. Short-eared owls were nesting in Ness Co., Kans. Whip-poor-wills returned to Tulsa for the third year. There were many reports of Poor-wills from Colorado May 12-28. This species was common in Morton Co., Kans. in May and one was sighted as far east as Stillwater Apr. 7 (JBa).

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS—Chimney Swifts arrived in Boulder Apr. 10 and on May 4 more than 70 were counted over the Colorado University campus. This species was formerly considered a rare visitor west of the 100th meridian but is now regular at several widely scattered localities. Recent records were at Howard Co., Clayton and Portales, New Mex.

Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were sighted in Lubbock May 6, 27. Com. Flickers and Red-bellied Woodpeckers are being reduced in Norman by Starlings usurping their nesting cavities. A Red-bellied Woodpecker was west of its usual range at Slaton, Tex., May 9 (W&YG). This species was unusually common in Ellis Co. all winter and was nesting there for the first time. At least three pairs were located (CAE). A nesting Golden-fronted Woodpecker was found in Lubbock Co., May 5. Another of this species was seen at Dallas east of its usual range May 3 (BV). A Red-headed Woodpecker was noted at Pawnee Nat'l Grassland May 22. This species increased in e. Nebraska but there were fewer records in Colorado. Lewis' Woodpeckers were scarce at Boulder and lingered at Clayton until Apr. 29 and Amarillo until May 10

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS—Flycatchers were in low numbers in many areas throughout the migration season. A W. Kingbird was recorded at Lincoln May 9. Eastern Kingbirds were more numerous than W. Kingbirds in Yuma Co. A Great Crested Flycatcher was sighted at Pueblo May 27 (VT). An E. Phoebe was noted in Arapahoe Co., Colo., Apr. 29. One Hammond's Flycatcher and two Dusky Flycatchers were banded near Longmont May 29 (ACo). Olive-sided Flycatchers were sighted at Bellevue May 12 and Johnson Co., May 31. Vermilion Flycatchers were observed at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., May 21 and Adams Co., Colo., Apr. 29. A Violet-green Swallow in Smith Co., Tex., Apr. 24 was a new County record (EC). Twelve of this species were sighted at Kerrville Apr. 21 (E&KM). At Boulder 254 Violet-green Swallows were counted May 12. Rough-winged Swallows were nesting in McLennan Co., Tex. Barn Swallows were observed nest-building in Comanche Co., Mar. 19. On Apr. 4 the nest contained five eggs. This is a very early nesting record for Oklahoma (J&LMc). Barn Swallows were nesting in Dallas, one of the few records in this area of Texas. Three pairs of Purple Martins were nesting in Howard Co., a second record.

CORVIDS—Blue Jays were seen in Weld Co., May 15. Steller's Jays left the plains much earlier than the

other wintering montane jays. Scrub Jays were noted at Portales Apr. 5-24. Piñon Jays were sighted at Portales Apr. 22, Boulder Co., Apr. 28 and Pueblo Co., May 28. Clark's Nutcrackers were still present at the end of the period at Pueblo, Lubbock and Boulder but they had left most plains areas by mid-May

BUSHTITS, VERDINS, NUTHATCHES—Bushtits were recorded at Lubbock May 13 and Clayton May 16. A Verdin was noted in Jackson Co., Okla., Apr. 19 (JA, BrC) and a nest with eggs was located in Palo Duro Canyon, Tex., May 6. Verdins have only recently moved into these two areas. Red-breasted Nuthatches lingered until early May at Lincoln, Lyons, Colo., Portales and Lubbock.

CREEPERS, WRENS—Brown Creepers were late in leaving Ellis Co., Apr. 11 and Denver Apr. 26. Winter Wrens were noted on the late dates May 8 at Clayton and May 15 at Midland. Carolina Wrens were singing during May in both Potter and Randall Cos., Tex. Very late Long-billed Marsh Wrens were recorded in Brazos Co., May 24, Boulder May 27, Ft. Worth May 5, Colorado Springs May 13.

MIMICS, THRUSHES—Mockingbirds were noted at Bellevue Apr. 21, May 5. Brown Thrashers were seen at Pawnee Grasslands May 8, Boulder Co., May 12, Portales May 13-17. A Gray Catbird was noted at Portales May 16. A flock of hungry Am. Robins ate over ten pounds of apples and raisins during a snow storm at Boulder Apr. 8. Wood Thrushes at Clayton May 4, 8 provided a second record (AJK). A Wood Thrush nest containing two eggs was found at College Station, Tex., a first nesting record for the area (KAA, GFC). Hermit Thrushes were absent in Ellis Co. where 160 other *Hylocichla* thrushes were banded! Gray-cheeked Thrushes were unusually common in Johnson Co., even outnumbering the usually abundant Swainson's Thrushes. Gray-cheeked Thrushes were also recorded at Boulder May 30 and Midland May 17. Veeries are rarely recorded on the plains but this spring there were 21 records during the first two weeks of May. Eastern Bluebirds were sighted in Union Co., New Mex., Apr. 3-15 and Portales May 10.

VIREOS—Black-capped Vireos were found in Comanche Co., Apr. 18 and Cleveland Co., Okla., Apr. 27, May 22. Although White-eyed Vireos breed in the eastern third of the Region they are rarely recorded in the west. They were observed in Comanche Co., Apr. 14-16, Ellis Co., Apr. 30-May 6 and Morton Co., Kans., May 12. Yellow-throated Vireos also strayed and were sighted at Comanche Co., Apr. 13, Boulder May 1, 12, Ellis Co., May 4. Philadelphia Vireos were reported from ten widely scattered localities Apr. 28-May 25.

WARBLERS—In the western third of the Region warbler migration was "fantastic." In the remainder of the Region it was spotty with reports varying from Johnson Co.'s 26 species and Ft. Worth's 22 species but few individuals to Ellis Co.'s "poor season both

in numbers and variety." Some reporters didn't even mention warblers, an occurrence unheard-of in spring! There were seven reports of Black-and-white Warblers west of the 100th meridian Apr. 26-May 30. The Prothonotary Warbler was a first record at Pueblo May 3-4 (DSi, VT) and Lubbock May 5 (M&OD). A **Swainson's Warbler** was collected in Johnson Co., May 4. The specimen is at Kansas University. A Worm-eating Warbler was banded at Hays Apr. 21, one was found dead in Johnson Co., Apr. 20 and one was sighted at Omaha May 20. A Golden-winged Warbler was discovered in Baca Co., May 5. Blue-winged Warblers arrived in Smith Co., Apr. 17, Dallas Apr. 21, Nacogdoches Apr. 26 and Omaha May 12. Tennessee Warblers were common in many areas May 6-18 with a peak of 42 at Nacogdoches May 8 and a late record at Hays May 30. An early Virginia's Warbler was sighted in Randall Co., Apr. 29. Elsewhere the species was noted May 5-15. Northern Parulas arrived in Midland Apr. 3, Comanche Co., Apr. 11, Johnson Co., Apr. 21, Portales May 5, Buffalo Lake N.W.R., May 6, Omaha May 21.

DENDROICA WARBLERS—Magnolia Warblers were sighted in Ft. Worth May 5, Johnson Co., May 6, Pueblo May 11, 19, Larimer Co., Colo., May 12, Yuma Co., May 12-13, Omaha May 22, Boulder May 29-31. **Cape May Warblers** were far west of their usual range at Salt Plains N.W.R., Apr. 27 (ZM), Cimarron Co., May 12-13 (O.O.S.), Boulder May 2, 3, 7, 19 (m ob.). The only Black-throated Blue Warbler reported was at Ft. Worth May 5. Black-throated Gray Warblers were at Portales May 5, Baca Co., May 4, Boulder May 12. Townsend's Warblers were recorded early at Hays Apr. 14 and Portales Apr. 22; elsewhere dates were May 3-11. First dates for Black-throated Green Warblers were May 3-5 in Johnson Co., Bellevue, Comanche Co., Boulder. Cerulean Warblers were recorded at Ft. Worth Apr. 25, Nacogdoches May 3, Dallas May 5-8, Johnson Co., May 30, Bartlesville (no date). **Blackburnian Warblers**, which are rarely seen on the plains, were recorded May 5-29 at Johnson Co., Lincoln, Tulsa, Colorado Springs, Boulder, Moore Co., Tex., McLennan Co., Midland. Thirteen localities reported Chestnut-sided Warblers May 1-June 4. Thirteen **Blackpoll Warblers** were banded at Boulder and there were numerous other reports there May 14-June 1. This species appeared at 14 other localities where it seldom occurs. **Palm Warblers** were sighted at Pueblo Apr. 29, Johnson Co., May 5, Dallas May 5-6, Colorado Springs May 13, Lubbock May 23.

MORE WARBLERS—Ovenbirds were unusually common at many localities Apr. 28-May 30. A Kentucky Warbler was photographed at Pueblo May 7 (VT). This species also appeared at Dallas Apr. 23 & 28. One of the rarest warblers on the plains is the Connecticut. The only report this spring was at Bellevue May 5 (RG). Mourning Warblers were reported at Bellevue May 21, Norman May 30 and Hays May 12. The prize find of the season was a group of three **Red-faced Warblers** in San Saba Co., Tex., May 5. They were observed repeatedly from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. by Lillian M. Brown, Gerald Raun and Lou Bar-

nette. There is no specimen of this unmistakable species for the State, but there are four previous sight records, all much farther west than San Saba Co. There is no specimen of **Hooded Warbler** for Nebraska, but the species was noted in Lancaster Co. May 10 (SD) and Omaha May 5 (CSw). In the west it was recorded at Boulder May 26 (ACo), Larimer Co., May 12 (MMu) and Midland Apr. 28 (M.N.). Canada Warblers were sighted at Bartlesville (no date), Ft. Worth May 22, Johnson Co., May 9 and Tulsa May 23, 25.

ICTERIDS—There was a good flight of Bobolinks May 12 when 40 males were counted in Kaufman Co. Other records on that date included sightings in Ellis Co. and Longmont. The species was recorded May 5-11 at Dallas and May 13 at Colorado Springs but appeared late at Boulder May 28. Yellow-headed Blackbirds are sighted in the eastern half of the Region more frequently each year. This spring they appeared at Lincoln Apr. 18 and were still present May 30. The largest flock counted at Dallas comprised about 60 birds May 8. Other records included Tarrant Co., Apr. 24, 27, Grimes Co., Tex., Apr. 28, Burleson Co., Tex., May 9, Brazos Co., May 23. The Bullock's subspecies of N. Oriole was nesting at Dallas and Tarrant Co. **Scott's Orioles** were recorded at Kerrville Apr. 21 (E&KM) and Portales Apr. 22 (DP). Great-tailed Grackles which arrived in Lubbock in February were still present in May. Common Grackles are now regular nesters at Clayton and their presence in Amarillo and Lubbock through May led observers there to suspect nesting. Bronzed Cowbirds were recorded at Kerrville May 10, Burleson Co., May 7 and San Angelo Apr. 22.

TANAGERS—Western Tanagers appeared at Osage Hills S.P., Okla., May 24 and Tarrant Co., May 5. There were three records of Scarlet Tanagers in Washington Co., Okla., Apr. 24, May 3 & 10. Other sightings were Delaware Co., Okla., May 3, Potter Co., Tex., May 6, Tarrant Co., May 5. It is interesting to note that nearly all these vagrants were recorded after the species had arrived in its nesting area in Johnson Co., Apr. 29. Summer Tanagers were sighted on the northern edge of their range at Longmont May 4, Portales May 10 and Ellis Co., May 1-5.

FRINGILLIDS—A Cardinal was seen in Colorado Springs May 13. Pyrrhuloxias were present in Denton, Tex. throughout the winter and at least until Apr. 12. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were very numerous in Johnson Co., where they nest, and were common throughout the Region during migration. Black-headed Grosbeaks were noted as far east as Tarrant Co., May 7 and were common along the eastern edge of their usual migration path. An Indigo Bunting at Portales May 10 was a first record there although this species is a regular migrant throughout the Region. Lazuli Buntings were noted at Lubbock May 15 (SM, AB), Clayton May 14 (WC) and Midland May 15 (M.N.) "More than a thousand" Dickcissels were observed in Dallas Co. May 6 but by May 19 only one could be found (HN, DM). Large flocks of Evening Grosbeaks which wintered on the plains were still present at Longmont and Pueblo June 1. Departure dates at

20 other localities varied from Apr. 17-May 26 with the median being May 18. Purple Finches remained at Dewey, Okla. until May 1, Borger, Tex., May 1, Lubbock Apr. 22, Omaha Apr. 16. Cassin's Finches lingered until May 13 at Pueblo, Apr. 22 at Lubbock, May 4 at Boulder and May 13 at Colorado Springs. Flocks of 100 or more Pine Siskins were seen only at Nacogdoches and Amarillo. Elsewhere they were low in numbers but remained late. By the end of the period Pine Siskins were nesting in Hays and Trego Co., Kans. Red Crossbills which wintered throughout the Region remained late and were still present at Boulder, Pueblo, Johnson Co. and Hays at the end of the period. Departure dates elsewhere were Apr. 11-May 24. White-winged Crossbills were seen at Bellevue Apr. 7 and Omaha Apr. 25.

The Green-tailed Towhee which wintered in Dallas remained until May 8. The species was noted at Pawnee Grasslands May 8, 16, Morton Co., May 13 and Portales May 10. Winter sparrows remained late on the plains. Grasshopper Sparrows were unusually common in w. Texas. Baird's Sparrows were noted at Clayton Apr. 5 and Boulder May 4. A Le Conte's Sparrow appeared in the unlikely habitat of an urban residence backyard in Ft. Worth Apr. 21. Sage Sparrows at Lubbock May 5 were a first record (DGu *et al.*). A Tree Sparrow was sighted at Dallas Apr. 4, the first record there in many years (*vide* HN). Tree Sparrows remained late at Lincoln May 5 and Boulder May 7. Over 2100 Chipping Sparrows and 500 Clay-colored Sparrows were recorded at Lubbock May 5. Harris' Sparrows remained until May 15 at many localities. A White-throated Sparrow lingered at Colorado Springs until May 13. Chestnut-collared Longspurs arrived at Pawnee Grasslands Apr. 18 and the first nest was found May 25. The largest number of McCown's Longspurs ever counted in a single day on Pawnee Grasslands was 233 Apr. 18. Fifteen nests of this species had been found by the end of the period.

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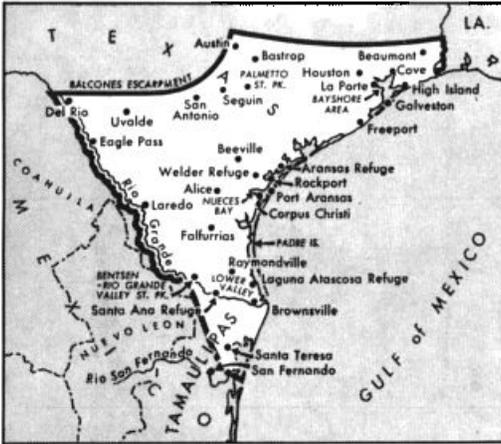
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SOUTH TEXAS REGION

/ Fred S. Webster, Jr.

From the position of the birder, this was the poorest migration in years in most areas. The principal exceptions occurred on North Padre Island and along the upper coastal strip where unfavorable flying weather on several dates caused transients coming in from the Gulf of Mexico to drop into the first cover available. Cold fronts and rains were not lacking elsewhere but in most instances the hoped for windfall failed to materialize. Developments during the first half of May did much to redeem the season and will be recounted in some detail.



Emanuel and Feltner arrived at High Island, east of Galveston, at noon on May 2 ahead of a cold front. Rainfall had been slight, Feltner wrote, and wind was southerly, but they ran up an excellent count during the afternoon. "In late afternoon and early evening the front moved through, accompanied by extremely heavy rain and a wind shift from SE to NW. At about 11 p.m. we went down to the beach and found we could hear the chips of warblers quite clearly at time and some could be seen as they flew over the pier lights. At breakfast the following morning we sat at a restaurant window and watched small migrants materialize in the sky and drop into what cover was available. . . . At Lamar Woods birds literally exploded around us as we walked through the woodlot." The day was spent along the coast between High Island and Sabine Pass with spectacular results. Isolated clumps of salt cedar held as many as 20 species and 200 individuals. A listing of more abundant as well as unusually abundant species follow; for purposes of comparison, the first number relates to May 2, second and solitary numbers to May 3: 40 Yellow-billed Cuckoos, 12 and 45 Black-billed Cuckoos, 800 E. Kingbirds, 1000 E. Wood Pewees, 1200 and 650 Gray Catbirds, 240 Swainson's Thrushes, 39 Grey-cheeked Thrushes, 80 Veeries, 65 Philadelphia Vireos, 20 and 600 Black-and-white Warblers, 500 and 3000 Magnolia Warblers, 25 and 40 Black-throated Green Warblers, 35 Blackburnian Warblers, 150 and 1300 Chestnut-sided Warblers,

1150 Bay-breasted Warblers, 80 Ovenbirds, 60 N. Waterthrushes, 35 and 1500 Am. Redstarts, 450 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, 1400 Indigo Buntings and 60 Scarlet Tanagers.

On the afternoon of May 5 an unusually high number of migrants could be heard overhead on North Padre Island (BAF). "On the night of May 5-6 (mainly between 10-11 p.m. on May 5) a large number of passerines were grounded on the north end of the Padre Island National Seashore. At Malaquite Beach, where approximately 25 lampposts light the parking lot, there were hundreds, probably thousands, of passerines of great variety swirling around the lights. Many were exhausted and were sitting on the pavement. At two other lighted areas nearby there were grounded birds in lesser numbers (there is much less light at these latter two). Calls of transients overhead could be heard all night on unlighted sections of the beach. Skies were overcast, a light mist falling. The next morning no dead birds could be found in the parking lot, possibly owing to the presence of crabs and Laughing Gulls" (BT, *vide* BAF).

At Port Aransas, some 25 miles up the beach from Padre Island National Seashore, a cold front moved through with high winds and some rain on May 12. A major push of passerines was indicated, with flycatchers, thrushes, warblers, orioles, grosbeaks and buntings in varying degrees of abundance. Pulich reported that it was difficult to identify species since many birds did not seem to want to land, flying over in large flocks, two or three groups of 10-20 individuals each 10-minute period. Many flocks consisted of Magnolia, Black-throated Green and Bay-breasted (30+) Warblers, Yellowthroats, Canada Warblers, and Am. Redstarts. At High I., "the wind was still hard out of the north on May 13, although skies had cleared following the violent norther of May 12," Wolf wrote. The day was outstanding for Swainson's Thrush (50+), Red-eyed Vireo (60+), Magnolia (42+) and Bay-breasted (39+) Warblers, and Am. Redstarts (38+).

LOONS, GANNETS, ANHINGAS—An apparently healthy Com. Loon was picked up by park rangers on Padre Island N.S., June 11 and released in a fresh water pond (*vide* BAF). The decomposed remains of a subadult Gannet was found washed up on the beach Apr. 9 (BAF). Four large flocks of Anhingas, perhaps 400 individuals in all, were spotted on N. Padre I., Mar. 24, "milling and circling as they slowly moved inland" (FO, RAR & DS). Movement of this species was noted at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S. P., Mar. 25 (GD).

HERONS, TREE DUCKS—The woodland at High I. yielded a count of 72 Green Herons Apr. 13 (DW). Twelve Black-bellied Tree Ducks were seen in w. Harris Co., Mar. 31 (DHH), and 2 were at Anahuac N.W.R. Apr. 9 (RWC), both occurrences well beyond the usual range. About 700 individuals entered Laguna Atascosa N.W.R. Apr. 6 (JDF). Fulvous Tree Ducks appeared at Rockport Mar. 21; the flock built from 7 to 125+ in 10 days and then disappeared (DNW). At Anahuac N.W.R., 225 were noted on Apr. 9 (RWC).

HAWKS, EAGLES—Two **Swallow-tailed Kites** were seen in n. Chambers Co., Apr. 24 (PJa, AM & HN). Migration of Mississippi Kites was confined largely to the second half of April. Fifty were seen at Santa Ana N.W.R. Apr. 16, but the greatest flight, an estimated 700 birds, was reported Apr. 22 (WAS). April 26 was the big day at Corpus Christi with 200+ reported from the area (*vide* KM). At Falfurrias, 150+ were moving in late afternoon Apr. 28 (KM). Again, space permits listing of only the larger flights of Broad-winged Hawks. The season total at Santa Ana N. W. R., a major border crossing point, was estimated at 20,000 between Mar. 18-Apr. 26. Apparently the largest flight was 9000 on Mar. 29 (WAS). Eastward on the coast, 10,000+ were reported at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., Apr. 7-8 (*vide* JDF); usually, large flights are more likely to be encountered farther inland. Hawk watching was very good in the Coastal Bend region. "Clouds" of hawks were reported near Corpus Christi Mar. 24 (*vide* KM). On Mar. 25, 12-15,000 Broad-wingeds were recorded in a 45-min. period near Rockport. This flight was coming in from Aransas Bay. Birds streamed straight in, high over the water, until they were just over land, then began to circle (FO *et al.*). The writer suggests that strong northerly winds may have pushed the hawks over water as they migrated up the coast. A steady stream of migrant hawks was noted north of Corpus Christi Apr. 27 and on Mar. 30-31 thousands were reported from the metropolitan area (KM). After rain on the morning of Apr. 17, a large flight was seen in the Austin area; one observer (HN) estimated 2000 Broad-wingeds between 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. No large flights of Swainson's Hawks were reported. The season total for this species at Santa Ana N.W.R. was set at 500 (WAS). A **Black Hawk** at Salineno, near Falcon Dam, Mar. 25 (DAG, SEL & JL) was well described; most reports of this rare species lack substantiating details. A **Golden Eagle** passed over the Harding residence in San Antonio May 1 (AH).

CRANES, SHOREBIRDS—Whooping Cranes left Aransas N.W.R. between Apr. 1-29; all but 9 of the 50 birds had departed by Apr. 18 (EFJ). Peak movement of Sandhill Cranes occurred Mar. 11-12 at Austin. Mrs. Winship remarked on the scarcity of plovers in the Rockport area. A **Piping Plover** at Austin Apr. 26-27 (KK; RAR & SW) was very unusual. American Golden Plovers were in numbers on the upper coast by Mar. 10 (DW), a rather early date. Bolivar Pen. yielded a high count of Ruddy Turnstones, 390+; May 13 (DW). An early Upland Plover was at Port Aransas Mar. 10 (WP). A Red Knot count on Galveston beach May 12 was set at 2000 birds (PJo). High counts of White-rumped (340+) and Stilt (150+) Sandpipers were recorded in w. Harris Co., May 13 (DHH). A very late Buff-breasted Sandpiper was seen at San Antonio May 28 (DW). Wolf found 51 Hudsonian Godwits in a flooded rice field in the Anahuac area Apr. 22; this was a large early count. Highest season count reported was 99 in w. Harris Co., May 13 (DHH). A **Ruff** was found in a flooded rice field in e. Chambers Co., Mar. 31 (CDF *et al.*). One was reported at Galveston May 11 (JAM).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS—An intermediate phase ad. **Pomarine Jaeger**, "very tame but apparently quite healthy", was observed on the N. Padre I. beach between Apr. 26-May 2 (BAF *et al.*). An oil-soaked bird, believed to be the same individual, was picked up about 10 mi. south of the above sighting May 7 (*vide* BAF). On S. Padre I., 5 mi. north of the jetties, an immature of this species was observed May 12 (BAF). A second- or third-year **Glaucous Gull** at the Bolivar Pen. flats May 12 (SB, LR & DW) was well described. A bird carefully identified as a **Great Black-backed Gull** was seen at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R. over a period of one week, around Mar. 6 (GAU *et al.*). There is one previous sight record for Texas. At Bolivar Pen., 2500 Com. Terns were seen May 3 (VLE & TBF). A bird described as a **Roseate Tern** was seen in Aransas Bay Mar. 30 (DAG, SEL & JL).



Pomarine Jaeger. Padre I. Natl Seashore, Texas, Apr. 26-May 2, 1973. Photol Bruce A. Fall.

CUCKOOS, HUMMINGBIRDS—A beach trip from the Ranger Station on Padre Island N.S. south to Mansfield Channel (about 60 mi.) May 16 revealed an influx of Yellow-billed Cuckoos. "This species was very common, with many individuals sitting on sea-oats stalks on the primary dunes. A number (about 25) were washed up on the beach." A single E. Kingbird was the only other bird found washed ashore. This and the preceding day were clear, calm and cool (BAF). A bird believed to be a **Green Violet-ear** (*Colibri thalassinus*) was seen on extreme N. Padre I., May 24 (FO). The observer is familiar with this species in the highland oak forests of s. Mexico. This species was added to the Texas list on the basis of an individual seen and photographed at Austin, Aug. 25-Sept. 18, 1969.

WOODPECKERS, COTINGAS, FLYCATCHERS—A **Downy Woodpecker** was reported at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S. P., Mar. 15 (GD). This species has not been listed for the Rio Grande Delta. A ♂ **Rose-throated Becard** was seen in the Anzalduas area of Hidalgo Co., Mar. 5 (GD). In general, flycatcher species were reported in less-than-usual numbers. A **Tropical Kingbird** at Bayside, Refugio Co., Apr. 20 (DNW) was north and east of its S. Texas range. A push of W. Kingbirds occurred at Beeville Apr. 29 (AHG). E. Wood Pewees invaded the Corpus Christi area May 13 (KM).

SWALLOWS, KINGLETS—Large flocks of Tree and Barn Swallows were noted at Port Aransas from Mar 26 into May. Two flocks of Purple Martins, about 150 birds in each, was seen there Feb. 18 (WP). A late Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen at San Antonio May 16 (AH).

VIREOS, WARBLERS—A Black-capped Vireo in San Antonio May 2 (AH) was out of pocket both time-wise and place-wise. White-eyed Vireos were common at High I., Mar. 24-Apr. 15. A late Warbling Vireo was singing at Austin May 27 (FSW). Black-and-white Warblers were numerous in the Galveston and High I areas Mar. 24 (VLE & TBF) and Apr. 1 (DHH), and at Welder Wildlife Refuge Mar. 26 (FO *et al.*). A typical **Brewster's Warbler** hybrid was seen at High I., Apr. 26 (BB & HN). A **Lawrence's Warbler** type, described as having "gray wings with two white wing bars, yellow breast and head, black bib" was seen at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S. P., Apr. 27 (RW). Peak numbers of N. Parulas occurred on the upper coast Mar. 24-Apr. 1; a late bird was seen at Beeville May 14 (AHG). An **Olive-backed Warbler** was seen at San Benito, Cameron Co., Mar. 19 (CEH). The **Cape May Warbler**, whose migration occurs east of Texas, was seen in perhaps unprecedented numbers. Considering each day's count as of different individuals, a total of 17 birds was reported from the upper coast between Mar. 31 (first March record, TBF) and May 6. A number of these were ad. ♂♂ and most birds were seen at High I. Even more surprising were reports from the Coastal Bend. Two ad. ♂♂ were seen at Port Aransas Apr. 21, 22 & 26 (LT, *fide* WP). An ad ♂ was at the Ranger Station, Padre Island N. S., May 5; "due to lack of cover the bird was foraging on the ground and on a wooden fence" (BAF). A ♀ was at the station May 7-8 (BAF *et al.*). Several of the warblers which were moved to safety from the parking lot at Malaquite Beach on the night of May 5-6 match the description of ♂♂ Cape Mays (BT, *fide* BAF). A very late singing ♂ Black-throated Green Warbler was seen at Austin June 13 (WDA). A total of 13 Cerulean Warblers was reported, all from the upper coast, a ♀ May 13 at High I. (DW) was unusually late Blackpoll Warblers occurred in fair numbers on the upper coast during the second half of April. Highest count reported was 20+ at High I., Apr. 26 (PJa, AM & HN). Newsworthy were single birds at Port Aransas May 5 (WP) and the Padre Island N. S. Ranger Station May 7 (BAF). A very late Palm Warbler was at Rockport May 18 (DNW). As many as 17 Ovenbirds were among warblers found on the grounds of the State Capitol Building at Austin May 5 (MAM, RAR), presumably attracted by downtown lights during the night. The **MacGillivray's Warbler** was seen at San Antonio May 7 & 18 (AH), and at Beeville May 15 (AHG).

BOBOLINKS, ORIOLES, TANAGERS—It seems fitting that a season which produced Cape May Warblers in S. Texas would bring also the usually rare **Bobolink**. This species invaded the upper coast early in May. Thirty birds (28 ♂♂) were seen in fields along the gulf front east of High I., May 2, and 14 along

the upper coast May 3 (VLE & TBF) At Anahuac N.W.R., 25 were counted May 5 (RWC). Fourteen (13 ♂♂) were seen between High I. and Sabine Pass May 6 (VLE, EBK, RAR & SW). Elsewhere, a single ♂ was seen at Port Aransas May 4 (WP), and 2 ♂♂ in the Bartlett area, Bell Co., May 6 (REC & BR). With a few exceptions, the oriole migration was disappointing. Orchard Orioles were common at High I., Apr. 13 and 15 (DW). Northern Oriole flights were noted at Corpus Christi Apr. 16-26, but on Apr. 30 numbers reached near invasion proportions throughout the city. This situation lasted until about May 8, during which period hungry groups attracted attention as they fed on fruits, insects and flowers (KM). A heavier movement than usual was noted at Beeville Apr. 26-May 2 (AHG). A **Western Tanager** was seen by a number of observers at High I. between Mar. 31-Apr 7; whether all sightings were of the same individual is not known.

FRINGILLIDS—A good push of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks was indicated at Corpus Christi May 1-7. A ♂ **Black-headed Grosbeak** was seen there May 6 (LW, *fide* KM). Dickcissel numbers were below par on the coast, but large numbers were reported from Beeville and San Antonio in late April. A late Rufous-sided Towhee was observed at San Antonio May 15 (AH). A very late Vesper Sparrow was seen at Encinal, La Salle Co., June 10 (ROA), and a late Lincoln's Sparrow in Bandera Co., May 25 (DW).

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NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/ Thomas H. Rogers

After a mild March in the Region April temperatures generally became about normal, except that Missoula, Red Rock Lakes Nat'l Wildlife Refuge at Lima, and Charlo, Mont. reported cool conditions. However,



Fortine, Mont., to the north, experienced a mild month. Apparently without exception, precipitation continued highly deficient. Spokane fared perhaps the best, with 46 per cent of normal moisture, but Yakima at the other extreme had only .01 inch, compared to the normal .61 inch. May did a little better but most areas still added to their water deficiency, only Spokane reporting slightly above average rainfall. It all added up to very low water levels and a snow pack in the mountains at perhaps half normal or less. Temperatures were around normal except for an unseasonable hot spell in mid-month which reached the 80s and even 90s.

The generally mild, dry spring resulted in many early arrivals and low water attracted more shorebirds than normally. However, at Yakima they evidently passed over dried-up ponds and were missed. Also, many species of birds were late there. Southern interior British Columbia did not follow the pattern either, for what started out as an early spring became changeable and disagreeable, with arrival dates about normal. Some species appeared in unusually large numbers and a fairly large number of "displaced species" was recorded, about half from the east. A few species of montane or northern breeders seemed to show more late stragglers than in other years.

LOONS AND GREBES—The Com. Loon reached a peak of 60 at Ennis, Mont. Apr. 22 and Potholes Res. south of Moses L., Wash. had 27 in mid-May (DB). The species' arrival date of Apr. 8 at Fortine was two weeks ahead of normal there and was the earliest for the Region. Two Arctic Loons were present

on Botanie L. in the Cascades at 4000 ft., 15 miles north of Lytton, on June 2-3. April 20, arrival date for the Red-necked Grebe there, was also two weeks early. Up to 20 of these birds, a much higher-than-normal number, were seen at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida. and 11 were seen on Hauser L., Ida. Apr. 29 (SGS). *Forty-five* Horned Grebes at Fortine Apr. 20 represented the largest number there since 1930. The arrival on Apr. 7 of the Eared Grebe at Three Forks, Mont. was an early record; the peak there was 1000 Apr. 22. On the same date 25 W. Grebes appeared at Sprague L. near Sprague, Wash.

PELICANS AND CORMORANTS—Four White Pelicans stopped at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash. Apr. 10 and stayed about two weeks. The species appeared elsewhere only at Ennis, arrival date Apr. 15. At the latter locality Double-crested Cormorants came up with an early date of Apr. 3, and up to 15 were seen intermittently at McNary Refuge during the period.

HERONS AND IBISES—From one to 16 Black-crowned Night Herons were observed at a few localities from c. Washington south to Heppner, Ore. *Eighty* Great Blue Herons were seen at the heronry at Benawah L. near St. Maries, Ida. A **White-faced Ibis** was identified at Manhattan, Mont. May 15 (RAH, ETH, LM & PDS) and on the same day 6 were seen at Canyon Ferry east of Helena (DC).

WATERFOWL—Mute Swans again appeared at Wilsall, Mont. Apr. 29, when 9 were present. A new locality, Three Forks, had 8-10 between Apr. 24-May 19. The birds are suspected to have come from the Dey Puy pond at Livingston. Canada Goose numbers looked good in the Columbia Basin of c. Washington. Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. had a peak of 5000. At Toppenish N.W.R. they peaked at 8500. About 2000 were seen in mid-April in the vicinity of St. Andrews, Douglas Co., Wash. At McNary Refuge the February-March population of Canadas was double what it was last year. Single White-fronted Geese appeared on two dates at Baker, Ore. Only a few Snow Geese were reported.

Toppenish Refuge had a tremendous peak of 250,000 waterfowl, 85 per cent of which were Mallards. Columbia Refuge had a peak of 65,000, of which over 35,000 were Mallards and 18,000 were Pintails. The duck migration seemed to largely bypass McNary Refuge, which had a peak of about 14,000 in February, compared to nearly 38,000 last year.

A duck believed to be a hybrid Cinnamon X Blue-winged Teal was observed at length on a pond near Charlo, Mont. (CJH). A **European Wigeon** was observed carefully under good conditions at Helena, Mont. for three days starting May 3 (SM, LB & GH). A record early date of Mar. 18 for the Redhead at Fortine was the second March date there in twenty-five years' observing. Bozeman had a record early date of Mar. 3 for the Ring-necked Duck. Two Greater Scaup were seen on the Spokane R. above Nine Mile May 6. Common Goldeneye numbers reached 5700

at Turnbull N W R , Cheney, Wash in mid-March Common and Barrow's Goldeneye, arriving at Fortine around mid-March, were about three weeks earlier than average and 16 Ruddy Ducks were there about two weeks early. A pair of Harlequin Ducks was found Apr 22 on the West Gallatin R. above Squaw Creek, southwest of Bozeman. Up to 3 were seen on later dates and the birds were still present May 31. A ♂ was seen May 14 on the Okanagan R. at Okanagan Falls, B.C. A few Red-breasted Mergansers were at Banks L., Grant Co., Wash. Apr. 3; 5 were engaged in courtship display. Eight were seen there May 5. The birds arrived in the Bozeman area Apr. 7 and peaked at 200 on Apr. 15. One was seen May 29 near Charlo, Mont.

HAWKS AND EAGLES—A few sightings were made of the scarce Ferruginous Hawk, at Baker and Heppner, Ore.; along the Clearwater R. of n. Idaho, and west of Bozeman. A Bald Eagle nest in the L. Wenatchee area north of Leavenworth, Wash. was the first known for that locality. A peak of 25 of the birds occurred at Ennis, Mont. Apr. 15. Eight Osprey nests were counted in the L. Wenatchee area and 20 of the birds were recorded at Chatcolet L. near St. Maries, Ida. A very few Prairie Falcons were reported at five localities and single Peregrine Falcons, at three. The rare Gyrfalcon was noted once.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS—About 15 Sharp-tailed Grouse were observed on the strutting ground south of Creston, Wash. Apr. 8-21 and around 30 Sage Grouse were displaying in the same area in mid-April. West of Mansfield, Wash. 56 were strutting Apr. 21 but only 2 ♂♂ were seen. Bobwhite were heard in mid-April at Yakima, where the species was introduced some years ago but supposedly had died out. Chukar numbers appeared good along the Snake and Grande Ronde Rivers of s.e. Washington and were seen in the Wenatchee and Yakima areas. Only small numbers of Gray Partridge were reported.

CRANES AND RAILS—The first Sandhill Cranes of the spring were seen Mar. 11, 2 near La Grande, Ore. April 1 was an early date for them at Belgrade, Mont. Between 500 and 700 were estimated to be in a field east of Mansfield, Wash. Apr. 21 and at least 3000 were at St. Andrews, Wash. Apr. 13-14. A Virginia Rail was seen at Charlo Apr. 7-8 (CJH) and one was closely observed near Prineville, Ore. Feb. 8 (JE). The species was first heard on May 12 in Turtle Valley near Salmon Arm, B.C. A Sora was found dead along a street in a residential area in a suburb east of Spokane May 3. One or 2 were seen later in the month at Cougar Bay on Coeur d' Alene L. in Idaho, and at Reardan and Yakima Indian Reservation, Wash.

SHOREBIRDS—The Semipalmated Plover, rarely seen in spring in the Region, was seen at Three Forks May 15, at Reardan May 10 and 25 and at Umatilla N W R., n.c. Oregon Apr. 26. A Piping Plover at Canyon Ferry, Broadwater Co., Mont. May 29 furnished the first Montana record away from the n.e. corner of the state (RLE). Two Black-bellied Plovers

were found at Banks L. Grant Co., Wash. May 5. Upland Sandpipers were reported only in the valley east of Spokane, where up to 9 were seen at the usual spot at Hauser L. junction, May 10-20. The Solitary Sandpiper, rare in spring in the Region, was seen at Fortine May 12 & June 2, and beside Skaha L. in Penticton, B.C. May 10. The Dunlin, never common in the Region, was seen at the mouth of the Yakima R. Apr. 8—6 birds; at Three Forks May 10, and at Reardan May 8-22, 2 to 3 birds. Also seen at the latter place was a **Stilt Sandpiper**, May 24 (JA). A Semipalmated Sandpiper, also rare in spring, seen at Potholes Reservoir Apr. 22 was the only one reported. The W. Sandpiper arrived at Three Forks May 4, a record early date; few spring records exist there for the species. The Am. Avocet arrived early at Ennis Apr. 8 and was impressive with 50+ birds near St. Andrews, Wash. on Apr. 13-14.

GULLS AND TERNS—A **Glaucous-winged Gull** was identified at close range on the Umatilla R. at Umatilla, Ore., date not given (CC). The Herring Gull was noted Apr. 8 at Ennis and one was seen Apr. 16 & 20 at Coeur d'Alene, Ida. Six to 8 of the birds were observed May 29 on mud flats of L. Wallula, Wash. A few Bonaparte's Gulls appeared at Four Lakes, Sprague L. and Reardan in e. Washington in May. Caspian Terns were first seen at McNary Refuge May 16. One was sighted at Boardman, Ore. May 15. Two were seen on Morgan L. near Othello, Wash. May 6 (MV) and 2 were identified at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash. June 3 (FBH). May 7 was a record early date for the Black Tern by the West Gallatin R. at Central Park, northwest of Belgrade, Mont.

DOVES AND OWLS—Two Band-tailed Pigeons were sighted near Plain, Wash. on the east slope of the Cascades May 26 (EH). A Barn Owl was seen near Clarkston, Wash. Apr. 21, and a pair was nesting in a Wood Duck nest box at Toppenish Refuge. A Pygmy Owl was sighted 10 mi. south of Coeur d'Alene along Highway 95 May 31 and the birds were believed to be nesting in Spring Creek Canyon north of Reardan. Both localities are around 2500 ft. in elevation. Few Burrowing Owls were found. Single birds were seen near Brewster and Sprague L. in Washington and at Baker, and the species returned to McNary Refuge Mar. 19. A Saw-whet Owl was found in willows, an unusual habitat, north of Coulee City, Wash. May 5.

POOR-WILLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS—The Poor-will was reported only from the Yakima area, one bird May 27, and Heppner, arrival date, May 19. Common Nighthawks apparently were late over most of the Region, having not yet appeared by the end of May. However, 2 were reported at Clarkston May 5 (MJP) and Heppner had them May 15. They appeared May 26 in the Tri-cities (Pasco-Richland-Kennewick), Wash. area and were noted at Umatilla and Baker, Ore. on the 29th. Vaux's Swifts were reported only at St. Maries and Winchester, Ida., Baker, Yakima, and near Keremeos, B.C. A ♂ **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** was noted at intervals from May 14 to at least June 3 and was photographed in color at Missoula (PLW).

WOODPECKERS—The Red-naped form of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was found to be the common and only form at Wenas Creek northeast of Yakima during April and May. It was also the form seen at Leech L., just east of the Cascade Crest near White Pass (EH). A pair of Williamson's Sapsuckers was at its nest near Red Top Mt. lookout, about 20 mi. northeast of Cle Elum, Wash. May 26 and the species was seen in the mountains in the Heppner area. Two pairs were found on Anarchist Mt. 14 mi. by Highway 3 east of Osoyoos, B.C. May 14. The White-headed Woodpecker was seen at three localities west of Yakima and in the mountains near Heppner.

FLYCATCHERS—Two Ash-throated Flycatchers were sighted at the Crab Creek-Potholes Res. area of Columbia Refuge May 27. The Gray Flycatcher, seen for the fourth consecutive year along the upper end of Wenas Creek northwest of Yakima, was found nesting. The nest was photographed and 5 other pairs were seen to the north on Manastash Ridge May 26-28 (EL).

LARKS AND SWALLOWS—The only sizeable concentration of Horned Larks was some 200 in Virtue Flat near Baker Mar. 21. Six very early, unidentified swallows were seen along the North Powder R. near Baker Feb. 3. The first Violet-green Swallows appeared at Spokane on the early date of Mar. 3, and a large movement at nearby Medical L. consisted of at least 1000 birds and about as many Tree Swallows. A Feb. 28 arrival for the latter species at Spokane was early. The first sighting at Prineville on Mar. 10 equaled the previous early record. Some observers at Spokane and Coeur d'Alene thought that swallow numbers were definitely down this spring. A **Purple Martin** was observed at 20 ft. as it rested on a fence wire in the Rattlesnake Creek area near Missoula, May 21 (Mrs. PW *vide* PW).

CORVIDS—The Com. Raven seemed to be holding its own or increasing. This was believed true at Charlo, and the birds were seen more often than usual at Fortine. A flock of 50 circled over a pond on Yakima Indian Reservation on May 20 before moving on. Clark's Nutcrackers were almost unobserved. They were noted at Bozeman, one was seen at Penticton, B C. and they were described as unusually scarce at Fortine.

CHICKADEES THROUGH WRENS—Chestnut-backed Chickadees were noted only at Goose Prairie in the foothills west of Yakima in the foothills of Tower Mt., about 2 mi. southeast of Spokane, 2 on Apr. 3 (JR), and at Chatcolet at the s. end of Coeur d'Alene L., May 31 (JA). The Pygmy Nuthatch was reported visiting feeders in the Rattlesnake Cr. valley at Missoula (PW). A few late Brown Creeper reports were received. Two were still at Kamiak Butte north of Pullman, Wash., May 12 and one was seen at Baker's Pond near Clarkston, Wash., May 27. Bewick's Wren was reported along streams in the Yakima area; 8 were seen Apr. 30. Two were noted in the Tri-cities area Apr. 6.

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRUSHES—A **Mockingbird** responded to a tape recording and came within about 15 ft. of observers at the Hanford Atomic Energy Commission reservation north of Richland, Wash. It was first noted about Apr. 15 and stayed at least until the 28th (REW). Numbers of both Western and Mountain Bluebirds appeared about normal. However, at Fortine, none of the former had been seen for several years. Unusual was a Western at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont. Apr. 13. No bluebirds had been seen in the Charlo area.

PIPITS AND WAXWINGS—Water Pipits were observed mostly in the Grand Coulee region of c Washington, where 300 were seen Apr. 13 at St Andrews and 100 were at Banks L., May 5. A flock of about 200 Bohemian Waxwings was seen just south of Redmond, Ore. Mar. 22 and record late dates were obtained for the species at Bozeman, May 12, and at Missoula, May 5. They were last seen at Prineville Apr. 8.

WARBLERS—May 6 was a record early date for the Orange-crowned Warbler at Bozeman. The Nashville Warbler was found to be rather common at Missoula May 2-29, for the first time since about 1958, and one was still there June 4 (RLH). The species was not noted elsewhere. A **Black-and-white Warbler** was identified in Rock Creek Canyon southeast of Mabton, Wash., Apr. 29 (ERC) and 2 were seen along Pataha Creek near Clarkston May 27 (MJP). Single Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers were seen at Missoula, the Tri-cities and Yakima Indian Reservation. Two unusual sightings of N. Waterthrush were made. One was seen at Cougar Bay of Coeur d'Alene L. May 29 and again on June 5 (SGS) and one was identified in mid-May at Tollgate at 5600 ft. elevation in the Blue Mts. of extreme n.e. Oregon. A very early Wilson's Warbler sighting was made at Heppner Apr 17 (DW). Single ♂ Am. Redstarts were found May 27 and June 2 along Wenas Creek northwest of Yakima. This is on the western edge of their range.

BLACKBIRDS—A road-killed ♂ Bobolink was picked up May 29 in the Bowen Valley near Baker, Ore. and a live one was seen there two days later (JB). Around 1000 Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Kootenai Refuge in May were by far the largest number ever recorded there, probably because more marsh is being developed there. Brown-headed Cowbirds seemed to remain rather common, particularly at Charlo and Pullman and on upper Wenas Creek a flock of 36 was seen May 31. Western Tanagers were unusually plentiful at Missoula, where they reached a peak June 4, when a walk of about twenty blocks revealed 16, plus others singing at a distance.

FINCHES, SPARROWS—Evening Grosbeaks were common to abundant at many localities. At Missoula they built up to peak numbers the last week of May, with 350 estimated one day in a rather limited area. Flocks of hundreds were in the Prineville area

Apr. 15-May 15 and the birds were reported as giving the cherry growers fits in the Wenatchee area. House Finches appeared May 15 at Three Forks, Mont. The species has been sighted more frequently in that locality but is still scarce there. Pine Siskin numbers appeared low in e. Oregon and Washington. At Fortine, Mont. they arrived very late, on June 2, but were then common. Red Crossbills were sparse or absent in the lowlands.

A Vesper Sparrow at Fortine Apr. 13 provided the earliest record there in 48 years of observing. A Clay-colored Sparrow singing in the Spokane Valley just east of Spokane May 16 was observed at 20 ft. and photographed (JA). A few Harris' Sparrows during winter and spring are becoming almost routine in the more westerly part of the Region. Two, possibly 3, were seen and singing at Missoula Mar. 1-May 8. A singing ♂ was at Spokane Apr. 21-22 and one was seen May 19-20 at Clarkston. At the Tri-cities, where they were noted all winter, 2 were seen yet on Apr. 28 and 1 sang at Baker from January until its last sighting on May 9. Two males that wintered at Jim Grant's feeder at Vernon, B.C. apparently departed the night of Apr. 29-30. White-crowned Sparrows were migrating between Mar. 28 (Heppner) and May 18 (Missoula). On May 3 a storm grounded many at Baker, where 100 were estimated in Ann Ward's yard. Golden-crowned Sparrows, mostly singles, were seen at Spokane, Medical Lake, Davenport, Yakima, Coulee City, Turnbull Refuge and the Tri-cities in Washington. At the latter place up to 5 were seen (EM). A Fox Sparrow at Baker Mar. 20-21 was two or three weeks earlier than normal. Lincoln's Sparrows were migrating starting Mar. 27, when one was netted near Granger, Wash. (PM). The few Lapland Longspurs that wintered in the Ahtanum Valley west of Yakima had left by the end of February.

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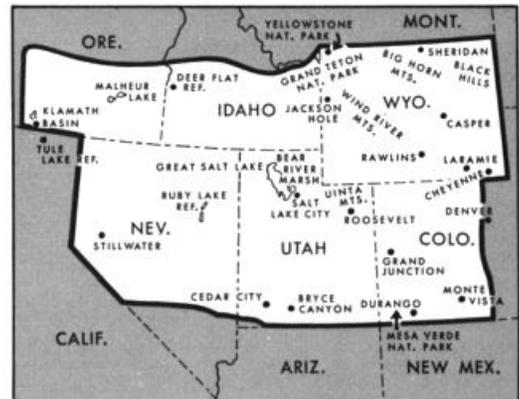
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CORRIGENDUM—The reporting of a family of Yellow Rails near Peshastin, Wash., at 26:880 should read "Virginia Rails."

GREAT BASIN-CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

/ **Hugh E. Kingery**

A wet, cold spring had little effect on dates of waterfowl migration, but delayed the landbirds. For example, in Salt Lake City, normal April landbirds came in May and combined with normal May migrants to permit record species counts. At Malheur N.W.R., Ore., the phenology of spring accelerated, beginning two weeks behind on April 1, and winding up seven days ahead on May 31.



The eastern portion of the Region suffered a horrendous winter lasting almost to June, while w. Idaho and Oregon had warm, dry, mild weather all spring. Telluride, Colo., topped the horror stories when, on Apr. 19, 55 inches of snow fell in 24 hours. Colorado Western Slope peach trees came into full bloom May 2, the latest date on record by four days and more than two weeks later than average. Everywhere, cottonwoods leafed out two weeks late.

A feature of this spring's migration was the occurrence of plains migrants in Colorado Front Range foothills. They included Sandhill Crane, Long-billed Curlew, Willet, Northern Waterthrush, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Lark Bunting.

A number of e. Idaho records this spring came for birds which nest in northern Idaho, but which are rarely found in southern Idaho—usually midwestern species whose breeding range lists to the northwest (the same phenomenon offered for some unusual records from Sheridan, Wyo.). Examples include Red-eyed Vireo, Northern Waterthrush, and American Redstart.

A regular feature of our spring migration is the arrival of many species at Malheur earlier than at more southerly and easterly points. Examples this spring included White Pelican, Swainson's Hawk, Long-billed Curlew, Tree Swallow, Sage Thrasher, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Western Tanager. Can we blame this on people or birds? Does the intensive daily coverage at Malheur turn up birds which similar field work would find earlier elsewhere? Or do the Malheur migrants use routes outside the Region—e.g. California—or cross desert areas unpopulated by bird watchers, or simply overfly the desert to drop at the Malheur oasis?

HABITAT DESTRUCTION—Nevada observers fear that if Pyramid Lake receives all the water which competing interests there seek, Stillwater Refuge will dry up. This year, Wildlife Biologist Larry Napier reports the breeding population down 15 per cent from 1972. "This was partially caused by Stillwater's steadily decreasing habitat from insufficient water receipts. If an allocation is not given to the Management Area within several years it may cease to exist as a size large enough to warrant management."

Farmington Bay W.M.A., Utah, suffers from the opposite problem; this spring rising waters of the Great Salt L. inundated several hundred acres of alkali bulrush and saltgrass marsh. The shorebirds suffer most from this encroachment.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS—Common Loons occurred in many locations in May—unusually late for that northern breeder. They stayed the whole month at Grand Junction, appeared at Durango, Colo., May 16 and Nampa, Ida., May 18-19. Red-necked Grebes occurred in e. Idaho in early May at both Camas N.W.R. and Market L. (MC). These apparently are the first records for s. Idaho. Western Grebes arrived two weeks early at Malheur and two weeks late at Stillwater and Minidoka N.W.R., Idaho, with normal populations at both places. Non-breeding populations of White Pelicans declined at Stillwater and Malheur; as last year, the 600 birds still at Malheur May 31 showed no signs of nesting. Pocatello had another Green Heron record Apr. 12, presumably the same bird that wintered. Colorado registered its thirteenth Cattle Egret record, this one on May 1 along an irrigation ditch at Monte Vista N.W.R., the first in the San Luis Valley (PHRS). Grand Junction Snowy Egrets lost their heronry to a boat ramp 2 years ago; a few still visit, but nesting sites, if any, are unknown. Black-crowned Night Herons, which used the same site, have completely disappeared. White-faced Ibis arrived two

weeks early in the w part of the Region, at Stillwater and Malheur, with nesting already begun at Malheur by May 14. Meanwhile, scattered birds dropped into locations throughout the Colorado mountains, the strangest being one which stayed for 3 days in a yard in the Ponderosa Pine belt west of Boulder.

SWANS, GEESE—Whistling Swans dropped drastically at Bear R., from 6900 last year to 500 this year, this continued the decreased usage since last fall, probably weather-related. Canada Geese nest in the West during the spring, and both Malheur and Stillwater had hatching peaks in mid-April. Stillwater's production increased slightly, but Malheur's dropped. Refuge biologist McLaury attributes the drop to increased predation on nests and young, perhaps because of unfavorable water conditions. Durango has never before recorded any spring geese, but this year it had both a pair of Canadas and a Snow Goose which stayed May 14-28.

WATERFOWL—Monte Vista N.W.R. recorded a peak duck migration of over 19,300 birds, with 7730 Mallards and 4350 Pintails. Use at Arapaho N.W.R., Colo., increased, with the peak moving from 1600 last year to 2700 May 11, 1973. In Utah, Pintails made the best showing with 10,700 at Desert L., 25,500 at Bear R., and 15,000 at Farmington Bay. Developing Desert L. boasted a massive increase in usage, from 7250 ducks and 3000 Am. Coot last year to 27,800 ducks and 6000 coot this year. Despite the high count of Pintails, Bear River's usage of 72,430 ducks dropped from 1972. Wyoming's Hutton Lake N.W.R. and Nat'l Elk Ref. showed more usage, with Lesser Scaup at Hutton L. up 45 per cent to 3900 birds. Early migrants bypassed Camas N.W.R., Idaho, because the refuge remained frozen over until early April. Later migrants appeared in normal numbers, with 10,000 Mallards (down), 4000 Pintails, and 2400 Lesser Scaup. Malheur's total usage also dropped, by 4200 birds to 12,300.

HAWKS, EAGLES—Broad-winged Hawks strayed west to Boulder Apr. 23 and to Pocatello Apr 30. The latter, Idaho's second, stayed after banding in the same open wood lot for a week. A few Rough-legged Hawks stayed later, with May records at Malheur and Rexburg, plus one May 26 at Durango. A Black Hawk which visited Zion Apr. 13-15 has not been seen since, although it nested there previously. A very late Bald Eagle surprised observers at Durango May 15. Nevada had no monopoly on Bald Eagles caught in traps (Am. Birds 27:644); one was found at McCoy, Colo., early this spring. Included in 31 Osprey reports were the first nesting pair at Sheridan and one at Summer L. feeding on a kangaroo rat. A Prairie Falcon appeared in a Cheyenne yard Apr. 15 & 17. Eight Peregrine observations came in; and the Park Service banned rock climbers from a climbing route until the Peregrines complete nesting—climbers too frequently trod on the nest platform, a rare level spot in the middle of a popular route.

GROUSE, CRANES, RAILS—At Zion, “Gambel’s Quail appear to be losing out against predators. Striped Skunks have been increasing during the past several years, and wild house cats are the most commonly-seen mammal in Zion. A bevy of quail that numbered 21 birds a year ago has dwindled to 8 this year, and recently-stocked quail in the Watchman housing area were being brought in by stray house cats.” Wild cats pose problems to birds throughout the West, and not merely to quail. Sandhill Cranes moved north in April, with 125 at Grand Junction Apr. 2 and arrivals, late, at Nat’l Elk Apr. 10, Camas Apr. 15, and Caldwell, Idaho, Apr. 22. Lesser Sandhill Cranes peaked at Malheur the first week of April, and nesting of Greater began Apr. 1. Lack of water and high nest predation is resulting in very low nesting success. For the third year in a row, a Com. Gallinule was found at Utah L., near Provo.

SHOREBIRDS—The late thaws in the east and the dryness in the west resulted in fewer shorebirds than usual. Durango had its first records of Semipalmated Plover and Long-billed Curlew. Snowy Plovers arrived in mid-April at Stillwater, as last year, with 50 present May 31. High water probably caused the lack of Killdeer at Zion, and flooding from a break in an irrigation ditch on Desert L. destroyed many Killdeer nests. Black-bellied Plover peaked at Bear R. at 150, then Camas picked up its first record with 5 present May 18-21. Although Com. Snipe failed to overwinter in many places, they seem to maintain their nesting population; a winnowing inventory at Summer L. shows a stable population. Long-billed Curlews were seen in migration in mountain towns more than usual—with reports from Evergreen, R.M.N.P., Grand Junction, Durango, and even 6 at Sheridan in a raging blizzard. Highest count came with 220 at Nampa, on nesting grounds May 31. At Reno a **Whimbrel** occurred May 1; this probably is the first Nevada record north of Las Vegas. Stillwater boasted 4 rare Red Knots May 14, and enjoyed an invasion of the coastal-migrant, Dunlin—400 remained for a few days in early May. One Dunlin strayed into Idaho Apr. 26, when it fed with 2 Least and 2 Western Sandpipers and 2 Willets at Am. Falls Res. Long-billed Dowitchers were counted in diminished numbers, the highest count 1300 at Bear R., compared with 3000 last year.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS—Rarest inland seabird was a Pomarine Jaeger found at Westcliffe, Colo., May 12-13 (m.ob.). California Gulls began nesting two weeks late at Am. Falls Res. “With the water level down because of rotten cement in the dam, the gull island no longer qualifies as an island; people and dogs have visited the nesting sites more than usual, and it looks as if mortality is very high, especially among the Ring-billeds, which nest nearest the mainland.” On Apr. 5-23 a host of 310 Ring-billed Gulls “made semi-arid Durango look like a Maine fishing port,” and an unusual one stopped at the Nat’l Elk Ref. May 9, as well as 2 Franklin’s Gulls the next day. Bonaparte’s Gulls turned up at Gunnison Apr. 22, Malheur May 6, and Reno May 9.

PIGEONS, OWLS, NIGHTHAWKS—Band-tailed Pigeons appeared in unusual places—Colorado Springs and Malheur—and in good numbers at the usual places—Pueblo, Monte Vista, Evergreen, Durango (300 on May 22). Burrowing Owls continue to decrease at Malheur, cause unknown; although several have been shot, this probably has not caused the decline. Numbers of Short-eared Owls at the refuges are unimpressive, except for 25 at Camas Apr. 5. Nighthawks arrived the usual last week in May at several locations, except that R.M.N.P. had one May 12.

HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS—Boulder observers counted twice the number of hummingbirds of previous springs, but in most localities the hummingbirds either appeared in diminished numbers or tapered off as flowers massed their blooms. Abundant natural food from the wet winter probably decreased dependence upon feeders, where most hummingbirds are seen. The first hummingbird to the Region, a Broad-tailed, reached Zion Apr. 3; the first one to Colorado, also a Broad-tailed, appeared at Durango Apr. 28. Red-headed Woodpeckers seem to increase west of Pueblo, and were studied in 2 Boulder locations May 27-June 4. Unusual spring records of Lewis’ Woodpecker came from Zion Apr. 30 and Crater L. Apr. 21, where 3 were “rising to insects.”

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS—Most flycatchers were late and few in numbers as May ended. Eastern Kingbirds arrived on normal dates, however, at Grand Junction, Dubois, Nampa, and Malheur. An out-of-range Scissor-tailed Flycatcher had almost reached Utah when found perched on a mullein stalk in McElmo Canyon near Cortez, Colo. Ash-throated Flycatchers strayed north along the foothills to Pueblo and Colorado Springs May 12 & 30, and one visited Malheur May 31. A pair of Black Phoebes returned to Pueblo Apr. 21, for Colorado’s second record for the second year in the same place, and began gathering nest material by May 11. Swallows arrived in their usual abundance. Grand Junction had a banner day May 25, with 2900, including 1240 Violet-greens and 1190 Cliffs. Bear R. had 2100 Barns at their peak.

JAYS—The fall/winter Corvid invasion tapered off by May 31. At least one Gray Jay remained in Gunnison Colo., until Apr. 18. Blue Jays strayed to Eldora, Colo. May 25-29, and 2 at Mud L., Idaho, May 19 (DH) added to the multiplicity of strays in that state since its second (sight) record last October. A few Steller’s Jays remained in the low country into May, with the last records at Zion May 11 and Cheyenne May 27. Clark’s Nutcrackers stayed at feeders along Front Range cities well into May, with the last records at Boulder May 16 and Colorado Springs May 30. At Evergreen their numbers were “fantastic”—more common than during the winter—with a high count of 58 May 23. Further west, they stayed at feeders in Durango, McCoy, and Dubois, and Malheur on Apr. 3 notched its sixth refuge record.

THRASHERS, THRUSHES, WAXWINGS—Gray Catbirds made rare appearances at Grand Junction and Jefferson, Colo., and had not arrived at

Dubois by May 31 A Brown Thrasher strayed up to R.M.N.P. May 12. Rupert, Ida. had a Varied Thrush Mar. 25-Apr. 10. Mt. Bluebird counts dropped, and the birds came in late. Dubois saw none in May after 5 April sightings: "this is bad news." Winter's Bohemian Waxwings lingered into the spring in many places; Malheur had 450 Apr. 3, but only 10 per cent remained the next day. In the pinyon pines at Rupert Apr. 13 hundreds hawked insects. Last reports came May 4 from Colorado Springs and Rupert.

WARBLERS—Rare warblers popped up in numerous places: Black-and-white May 12 at both Cañon City, Colo., and Malheur (fourth refuge record); Worm-eating at Pueblo Apr. 20 & May 11 and Boulder May 29; Tennessee at Malheur May 19; Magnolia at Dubois Apr. 29 & May 3, the eighth sighting in 10 years; Chestnut-sided at Cheyenne May 27; a photographed Bay-breasted at R.M.N.P. May 20, the park's second; the fourth Oregon Ovenbird at Malheur May 19, later banded; and the second R.M.N.P. Hooded May 14. Among more normal warblers, Zion noted Virginia's as especially abundant—84 counted crossing between 2 cottonwood trees May 5. Last year Salt Lake City authorities, after box elder trees had an infestation of worms, sprayed the trees extensively, and Yellow Warblers stopped singing and disappeared. A few are returning this year. (After a similar occurrence in Denver 3-4 years ago, the Yellow Warbler population has returned to normal.) Yellow-rumped Warblers, commonest of the family in the West, began arriving in April, the first report from Malheur Apr. 9 At Crater L. they arrived Apr. 26, when 8 feet of snow covered the ground. Single N. Waterthrushes occurred in late May in Colorado at Wetmore, Jefferson, Evergreen, Durango, and R.M.N.P., and at Stone, Idaho. The species normally migrates in limited numbers on the e. Colorado plains, following up the east side of the Continental Divide to nesting areas in n. Idaho, but rarely anywhere west or south of that route.

BLACKBIRDS—Bobolinks strayed into several Colorado locations for first or rare records: 4 at Durango May 19 (C.F.O.); one at Colorado Springs May 30 (others observed across the dividing line in the Great Plains Region); and one at Gunnison June 7-8 The usual nesting Bobolinks arrived at Malheur May 13, and became common by the end of May. A fast-moving pair of likely Scott's Orioles paused momentarily in a cottonwood tree in Pinyon country at McCoy. On the basis of the brief observation, at least one probably was this species. Great-tailed Grackles returned for the third year to Gunnison Apr. 18, the pair acted as if it was nesting. Com. Grackles continue to spread; at Evergreen they are supplanting Brewer's Blackbirds, R.M.N.P. counted 26 May 12, they appeared regularly at Dubois in May, and Pocatello and Rexburg counted singles May 16 & 19.

FINCHES, SPARROWS—A S. Carolinian found a Cardinal in Colorado Springs May 13, the first A.A.S. record there (CC). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks have become regular though rare migrants through the Re-

gion This spring we had 12 Colorado birds, plus a hybrid, one each at Cheyenne, Pocatello May 23 (last year came Idaho's first record), and Malheur—Oregon's second record (for the first, see N. Pacific Coast Region report below)—May 19-21 (C.A.S.). Indigo Buntings continue to occur in the West, commonly along the Colorado foothills, occasionally at Durango Zion's first one flew into a restaurant window. A pair of **Indigo Buntings** near Alma, Idaho May 4, a ♂ there May 6 (CHT) plus a ♂ May 28 at Pocatello constitute Idaho's first records. At Cheyenne observers studied a Lazuli/Indigo hybrid May 11-18. Evening Grosbeaks continued common throughout the region, with Durango counting 300 May 25 and only Crater L. reporting none. A ♂ Purple Finch visited an Evergreen feeder Apr. 28-30, and suffered himself to be banded Three visited Malheur May 19, and a ♂, also banded, stayed through May 31—for Malheur's second record The winter's rosy finch influx spilled over into spring, with observations of 500 at Dubois in April, 200 on Apr. 8 at McCoy, 200 on Apr. 15, 20 on May 17 at Durango, and large flocks May 26 at Gunnison. These flocks probably avoided the high country due to the abundant high country snows. Pine Siskins erupted throughout the Region. Flocks of 100 populated Zion during the first week of April, feeding on cottonwoods, with some seen as late as May 17. Other large counts included 300 at McCoy May 30 and 1000 at Durango May 25; yet Crater L. has had none after October A few Red Crossbills stayed in the Colorado mountains and even at feeders in Boulder and Grand Junction, Cheyenne had them through the whole period. Lark Buntings which winter in Arizona but migrate and nest rarely in our Region, crossed w. Colorado, c. Utah, and Rupert. The last wintering Dark-eyed Junco records came from Durango May 17 and Malheur May 19. Chipping Sparrows arrived ten days later at Salt Lake City May 28, and very early at Evergreen Apr 3 and Dubois May 8. Harris' Sparrows remained in several Colorado locations through April and Durango could still count 10 on May 16. Dubois had two on May 17, and Rupert found one on Apr. 9. White-throated Sparrows appeared at Grand Junction, Durango, Zion, and Dubois, all in early May At Colorado Springs an overnight snowstorm grounded six Swamp Sparrows and one Lapland Longspur, apparently interrupting their migratory flight and forcing them off course. The birds were seen at close range, at length, while feeding. A Chestnut-collared Longspur spent ten minutes feeding in a corral with Horned Larks and Black Rosy Finches—a first record for Dubois and probably for w. Wyoming.

ABBREVIATIONS—A.A.S.: Aiken Audubon Society; C.A.S.: Corvallis Audubon Society; C.F.O. Colorado Field Ornithologists; R.M.N.P.: Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park.

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SOUTHWEST REGION

/ Gale Monsoon

The wet, cold conditions of the preceding winter lingered into spring, making the first five months of 1973 one of the dampest and coolest on record. The high country of east central Arizona and west central



New Mexico, according to long-time residents, has not seen such weather for decades. On May 16, those parts of the White Mountains plateau of Arizona above 9000 feet were still 75 per cent snow-covered, much of them with drifts many feet deep. Many of the lakes were partially ice-covered at that late date, one (Lee Valley Reservoir) with ice from shore to shore! At the same time, quaking aspens showed no sign of green, even at 8500 feet or lower. At Flagstaff, Ariz. aspens

were just leafing out on June 1. The same sort of conditions prevailed in the higher parts of the Mogollon Mountains in New Mexico. At lower elevations, one saw the remarkable sight of icicles 20 feet long still hanging from a cliff on the north side of Kennedy Peak in the Galiuro Mountains, Graham Co., Ariz. on Apr. 11, and snow was still plainly visible on Baboquivari Peak in Pima Co., Ariz. at the end of April.

The southern deserts, often sere and brown by mid-April, stayed green throughout May. Flowers on such plants as mesquite, palo verde, and saguaro were a full two weeks late; the palo verde bloom was the heaviest in years. Annual plants had an unusually good season, with an abundance of leafage and flowers. The result of all this was a super-plenty of food, both plant and insect, resulting in turn in an unusually wide distribution of birds on the desert. Feeders were not as well-attended as usual. Lakes and reservoirs were full or nearly so, and streams cascaded down many canyons normally dry.

In keeping with the vegetative schedule, bird arrivals and departures were well behind normal dates. Most observers discerned a scarcity of birds, particularly of warblers. Apparently the prevailing snow and cold at high elevations kept some birds in the lowlands much later than usual, although the large amount of food available may have been what detained them. Among the highlights of the season were unusual appearances of Bobolinks in New Mexico and Texas (west to the Gila Valley!), a surge in the expansion of Great-tailed Grackles into new territory, unprecedented numbers of Evening Grosbeaks below the Transition Zone, Lark Buntings in the northern part of the Region, Cassin's Sparrows singing throughout the period, and numbers of Harris' Sparrows lingering into May.

CORMORANTS, HERONS—Nesting Double-crested Cormorants at Elephant Butte Marsh, Sierra Co., N. Mex. were fewer this year, with only 10 nests occupied on May 5 (CHu, CHy). Small numbers of Cattle Egrets continued to be seen in the Phoenix area (SD *et al.*) and 40 were found in a field in Riverside Co. near Palo Verde, Calif., May 14 (JWi, RWi). At Tucumcari Marsh, Quay Co., N. Mex., 25-50 pairs of Black-crowned Night Herons were nesting Apr. 28 and May 28 (CHU, CHy, BE).

WATERFOWL—A White-fronted Goose was at Bosque del Apache N.W.R., N. Mex., May 14-28, and 2 were at Tule Springs Park, near Las Vegas, Nev., May 27 (VM). Three Black-bellied Tree Ducks were found at flooded fields n.n.w. of Elfrida, Cochise Co., Ariz. on May 16 and 8 on May 30 (Lyle Sows, Bonnie Swarbrick). A White-winged Scoter was reported at La Choya, Sonora, Mex., Apr. 1 (SD). A pair of Com. Mergansers were noted on the Rio de los Pinos, Rio Arriba Co., N. Mex., May 27 (GZ). A Red-breasted Merganser was lingering on the Rio Grande near Santa Clara, Rio Arriba Co., N. Mex., May 29 (RWo).

HAWKS—Hard on the heels of the report of a **White-tailed Kite** in Arizona in February came the sighting of 2 in Chaves Co., N. Mex., one over Roswell and one about 8 mi. to the north, both Apr. 1 (AC);

there are two previous hypothetical records for the state. A Mississippi Kite was seen near Gila, Grant Co., N. Mex., May 12 (DZ), a westernmost record for the state. The Goshawk present in n.w. Phoenix at the end of March stayed until Apr. 14 (DS), one was seen at San Juan Pueblo, Rio Arriba Co., N. Mex., Apr. 21 (PS), one was over Los Alamos Apr. 28 (PS), and one was at Bitter Lake N.W.R., N. Mex., May 5 (LK). An ad. **Broad-winged Hawk** was identified at Corn Creek on the Desert Natl. Wildlife Range, Clark Co., Nev., May 7 for the first Nevada record (CL, KS), details will be published elsewhere. An immature was carefully identified near Gila May 12 (DZ) for a possible second record for New Mexico. A Rough-legged Hawk was found south of Lyden, Rio Arriba Co., N. Mex., Apr. 21 (PS). From 35 to 40 Ferruginous Hawks were migrating N high over Bosque Ref., Apr. 6 (DD *et al.*). An ad. Gray Hawk was found in s.w. New Mexico May 16 (DZ). An ad. Bald Eagle was seen 10 mi. east of Fredonia, Coconino Co., Ariz., Apr. 1 (RWI). Two nestlings were seen along the Salt R. in Gila Co., Ariz., Apr. 22 (Betty Jackson). A Merlin was observed at Corn Creek Apr. 15 (VM). Only 4 Peregrine Falcons, from two localities, were reported.

RAILS—A call-count of the endangered Yuma subspecies of the Clapper Rail, made during late May, yielded a total of 700 birds along the Colorado R. from the Mexico border to the Topock area of Havasu N.W.R., Ariz.-Calif., and another 200 below the border (Roy Tomlinson, Dick Todd, *et al.*). This was the first time such a count has been run.

SHOREBIRDS—Semipalmated Plover were reported from New Mexico as follows: one at La Cueva, Mora Co., Apr. 22 (JD *et al.*), 2 at Tucumcari Marsh Apr. 28 (CHU, CHY, BE), and one at Bitter Lake Ref., May 12 (MWI). Four were at Phoenix May 6 (JWi). A Black-bellied Plover was observed at Las Vegas Wash, on L. Mead near Las Vegas, Nev., Apr. 14 (VM), and another was at Bitter Lake Ref., May 18 (DB). A very late Com. Snipe was found at a marsh in the San Pedro Valley, Cochise Co., Ariz., May 29 (WBA). Some unusual numbers of Willets were observed: 20 at L. Pleasant, Maricopa Co., Ariz., Apr. 27 (SD), 22 on May 1 and 33 on May 10 at Bosque Ref. (GZ), 18 at a windmill tank 15 mi. south of Datil, Catron Co., N. Mex., May 20 (BM), and 16 at Tucson May 23 (HF). At Bosque Ref. on May 6, 35 White-rumped Sandpipers were counted (CHU, Robt. Jost). At least 500 Marbled Godwits were still present about 15 mi. north of La Choya, Sonora, Mex., May 29-31 (SL).

GULLS, TERNS—Twenty-three Ring-billed Gulls were following a plow with White-necked Ravens south of Bonita, Graham Co., Ariz., Apr. 10 (GM), and an unusually large number of 500 were feeding in an alfalfa field at Bosque Ref., Apr. 18 (GZ). A Bonaparte's Gull was found May 12 at Horizon L., east of El Paso (BHB). A Caspian Tern was carefully identified at L. McMillan, Eddy Co., N. Mex., Apr.

28 (MWI) for another hypothetical New Mexico record. A record number of at least 275 Black Terns was counted at Bosque Ref., May 14 (GZ).

DOVES, ANIS, OWLS—Nine Inca Doves were observed in the Mohave Valley, Mohave Co., Ariz., n.e. of Needles, Calif., May 17 (SB). One of the 2 Groove-billed Anis reported at Phoenix last season remained until at least Apr. 8 (JWi). A Whiskered Owl was heard in Sycamore Canyon, Pajarito Mts., Santa Cruz Co., Ariz., May 29 (TP). Two Burrowing Owls were seen north of La Choya, Sonora, Mex., May 29-31 (SL). A Long-eared Owl nest with 5 young was discovered northwest of Oracle, Pinal Co., Ariz., Apr. 29 (Rich Glinski).

NIGHTJARS, SWIFTS—Two Com. Nighthawks were seen and heard about 6 mi. west of Ruby, Santa Cruz Co., Ariz., May 29 (TP, SH). The species did not arrive at Las Vegas, N. Mex. until May 30 (WH). Two Chimney Swifts were flying over central Tucson May 27 (TP). A White-throated Swift perched in a willow at Picacho Res., Pinal Co., Ariz., May 10 (SL).

HUMMINGBIRDS—A neat bit of ornithological sleuthing by TP, assisted by SH, turned up the first **Lucifer Hummingbird** nest in Arizona, in Guadalupe Canyon, Cochise Co. on May 20. The nest, in a small cholla cactus, held two eggs, and photographs were taken. (It will be recalled that the editor rather questioned a sight record of a ♀ seen in the same area Apr. 1, 1972.) Three ♂ Costa's Hummingbirds were located in the Arizona portion of Guadalupe Canyon, and 2 on the New Mexico side, May 18-20 (TP); not only is the species virtually unrecorded from this area, but ♂♂ are seldom seen in Arizona anywhere in the spring after late May. A well-nigh incredible record was that of a ♂ **Anna's Hummingbird** in Albuquerque Apr. 15-20; the bird was photographed (DD *et al.*) It is subsequent to the first New Mexico record obtained last fall at Silver City, Grant Co. A ♀ Rivoli Hummingbird was seen at a feeder with Broad-tailed Hummers at Greer, Apache Co., Ariz., May 14 (GM).

KINGFISHERS, WOODPECKERS—A Green Kingfisher was identified at Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, Mex., Apr. 1 (SD *et al.*). An Acorn Woodpecker remained in Tucson until Apr. 5 (GG), 2 were seen at Cliff, Grant Co., N. Mex., May 28 (JD, PF), and one was near La Cueva, on the west side of the Sandia Mts., N. Mex., May 28-30 (Tom Smylie). A Lewis' Woodpecker stayed in e. Phoenix until May 5 (JWi), and 1-2 were seen at Corn Creek, Desert Wildlife Range, Nev., May 7-13 (CL, VM, KS). Two Hairy Woodpeckers were found at Elephant Butte Marsh Apr. 7 (CHU, BE), and one was at Cliff May 28 (JD, PF). A pair of Downy Woodpeckers was at Bitter Lake Ref., May 17 (LK *et al.*).

FLYCATCHERS—Say's Phoebe did not arrive at Cedar Crest, Sandia Mts., N. Mex. until Apr. 12, and was not seen again until May 3; it usually arrives at mid-March (BM). Two Willow Flycatchers were singing near Lewis Springs, Cochise Co., Ariz. on the

San Pedro R., May 4 (Chas. McMoran), and another was heard about 5 mi. north of Whites City, Eddy Co., N. Mex., May 26 (CHU).

CORVIDS—Many corvids from the great 1972-1973 flight lingered in the lowlands well into spring and even to the end of the period. A Blue Jay was seen at La Cueva, Sandoval Co., N. Mex., May 16 (MS). Steller's Jays remained in small numbers to the middle of May; one was at Bitter Lake Ref., May 7 (LK *et al.*), one was at Farmington, San Juan Co., May 12 (AN), one was in the e. foothills of the Tucson Mts., Ariz., May 13 (SI), one was north of Elephant Butte Marsh May 14 (GZ), 10-12 were flying N near Willcox, Cochise Co., Ariz., May 16 (SL), and one was at Hermanas, Luna Co., N. Mex., May 25-26 (BM). Scrub Jays seemingly pulled out earlier, the only late ones reported being 2 at Socorro, Socorro Co., N. Mex., May 5 (MWK) and 2 south of Roswell, N. Mex., May 7 (JC). More reports of Black-billed Magpies nesting in the new came in: the Navajo Indian Reservation in Arizona came in: three birds and two nests seen along Chinle Wash between Many Farms and Round Rock; seven old nests, some recently active, and 21+ birds seen at Teec Nos Pas; all in orchards and cottonwoods and fields May 26 (RB, Vernon Mayes).

These Piñon Jay records are of interest: 65 seen at Silver City, N. Mex., Apr. 17 (DBS), 5 still in Albuquerque Apr. 29 (Rita Nicklas), small numbers in Dragoon Mts., Cochise Co., Ariz., May 3 (GM), about 20 at Bitter Lake Ref., May 18 (LK), and small numbers in the Burro Mts., Grant Co., N. Mex., May 18 (DZ). No fledglings had appeared in the Flagstaff, Ariz. area up to late May (RB). At least 12 Clark's Nutcrackers were still at Portal, Chiricahua Mts., Ariz., May 2 (SS), a flightless young was brought to PS at Los Alamos May 20, at least 2 were at Cedar Crest, Sandia Mts., May 24 (BM), and one was found at Buckhorn, Grant Co., N. Mex., May 27 (Ralph Fisher).

PARIDS, NUTHATCHES, DIPPERS—A pair of **Mexican Chickadees** was seen carrying food into a nest-hole in a silverleaf oak in South Fork of Cave Creek Canyon, Chiricahua Mts., May 29-June 1 (DBS, R. West); this is the first nest known to have been found in the United States (aside from those in nest boxes), and is at an extremely low elevation (5400 feet). A Mountain Chickadee was at Elephant Butte Marsh Apr. 7 (CHU, BE). Late Red-breasted Nuthatches were 2 at Albuquerque to Apr. 27 (JD) and one at Bosque Ref., May 15 (DZ). A **Dipper** nest was discovered at the John Hands picnic area in Cave Creek Canyon, Chiricahua Mts., May 3; it held four eggs and was photographed (SS, Walter Spofford); the following week the nest was deserted and the eggs gone (Steve Speich). This is a first nesting record for the Chiricahuas and, aside from the Santa Catalina Mts., for s. Arizona.

THRUSHES—Many Am. Robin nests were reported at El Paso (GW). A second New Mexico record for **Varied Thrush** came from near Española, Apr. 26 and May 15 (Sue Noel). One in lower Sabino

Canyon, Santa Catalina Mts., Ariz. remained until Apr. 5 (Alice McDonnell), a ♀ was found at Mopah Springs, Turtle Mts., San Bernardino Co., Calif., Apr. 4 (JS), and a ♂ was seen perched in an ocotillo along US Hwy. 95 about 20 mi. north of Blythe, Riverside Co., Calif., Apr. 12 (JS). A Swainson's Thrush was banded at Sycamore Well, Alamo Hueco Mts., Hidalgo Co., N. Mex., May 28 (BM). A Townsend's Solitaire lingered at Sycamore Well May 26-28 (BM)

GNATCATCHERS, WAXWINGS—A ♂ Black-tailed Gnatcatcher was found near Redrock, Grant Co., N. Mex., May 11 (DZ). At Las Vegas, Nev., 25 Bohemian Waxwings remained to Apr. 15 (VM)

VIREOS, WARBLERS—A Bell's Vireo was reported at Pipe Spring Natl. Monument, Mohave Co., Ariz., May 15 (RWI). A Solitary Vireo was seen at Sycamore Well, Alamo Hueco Mts., May 26-28 (BM). A Tennessee Warbler was noted at Bitter Lake Ref., Apr. 25 (LK), and 2 were at Corn Creek, Desert Wildlife Range, May 8 (CL, KS, HS). A Lucy's Warbler was banded at Hermanas, N. Mex., Apr. 20 (BM). A ♂ Northern Parula was found at Rattlesnake Springs, Eddy Co., N. Mex., Apr. 1 (AC). A **Magnolia Warbler** was banded and photographed at Sycamore Well May 28 (BM); it was the second of its species to be banded in New Mexico by BM. A late ♂ Townsend's Warbler was seen in Guadalupe Canyon, Ariz., May 20 (TP). A ♀ Black-throated Green Warbler was carefully identified at Hermanas Apr. 20 (BM). A ♂ **Yellow-throated Warbler** was photographed at Bitter Lake Ref., Apr. 25 (Bruce Sorrie, Paul Donohue, JC, DB) for the first documented record for the state. Unusual Grace's Warbler reports were one on Apr. 8 and 2 on Apr. 15 at Tule Springs Park, near Las Vegas, Nev. (VM, CL respectively) and 4 in the Farmington, N. Mex. vicinity May 12 (AN *et al.*). A Chestnut-sided Warbler was banded and photographed at Hermanas May 26 (BM) and a ♂ was seen at Corn Creek May 27 (GK, Rolf & Sue Peterson *et al.*). An Ovenbird was found at Corn Creek May 27 (VM). Red-faced Warblers were common in late May on the headwaters of Wet Beaver Creek, Coconino Co., Ariz. (RB). Single Painted Redstarts were seen at two localities in Tucson Apr. 1 & 3 (GG).

ICTERIDS—Unheard-of Bobolink reports came in from extreme w. Texas and New Mexico. On May 12, 14 were seen at Horizon L., east of El Paso (BHB) and 40 were found near Gila, Grant Co., N. Mex. (DZ) plus 2 ♂♂ more in the Gila area (Bruce Hayward). One was seen at Las Vegas May 17 (WH). Two pairs of Orchard Orioles were found at Luis Lopez, near Socorro, N. Mex., May 5 (MWK). Two ♂ Hooded Orioles were identified at Corrales, Sandoval Co., N. Mex., May 5 (Ross Teuber). A ♂ **Northern Oriole**, Baltimore subspecies, was found at Corn Creek, Desert Wildlife Range, May 18 (CL, PA) for the first Nevada record for the subspecies. The Great-tailed Grackle continued its range expansion even more rapidly than in recent years, with records as far north as Pahranaagat L., Lincoln Co., Nev., where a ♂ was seen Apr. 28-May 2 (J. & Kay Burk), a first specimen

for Nevada taken at Tule Springs Park near Las Vegas Apr. 16 (CL *et al.*) and courtship observed there May 18 (CL, PA), 2 at Mohave Indian Reservation, Clark Co., Nev., Apr. 11 (CL), one at Topock Farm on Havasu Ref., Ariz., May 1 (SB), and several records in April and May from the general Blythe, Calif. area (JS). In New Mexico, up to 3 were observed at Dixon, Rio Arriba Co., Apr. 12 and May 21 (JWh), and eight nests were found at Tucumcari Marsh May 28 (CHu, CHy). A pair of Com. Grackles was seen at Corn Creek May 3 and a ♂ May 4 (VM, CL), and many were nesting at Isleta, Bernalillo Co., N. Mex., May 6 & 26 (JD).

TANAGERS, FINCHES—A ♂ Scarlet Tanager was observed at Bosque Ref., May 14 (GZ). About 8 Pyrrhuloxias were present through the period at "Sunsites" east of the Dragoon Mts., Ariz. (WBA). A ♂ was banded at Hermanas Apr. 20; at least 12 were in the vicinity of Sycamore Well, Alamo Hueco Mts., Apr. 22 but none May 26-28 (BM). A Blue Grosbeak was seen at Fenton L., 17 miles west of Jemez Springs, Sandoval Co., N. Mex., May 15 (MS). An Indigo Bunting was at Bitter Lake Ref., May 17 (MWI), and one was at Los Ojos, Rio Arriba Co., N. Mex., May 27 (PS). A ♂ Varied Bunting was identified at Elephant Butte Res., Sierra Co., N. Mex., May 25 (CHy, BE), and a pair was seen at Charleston, Cochise Co., Ariz., May 26 (Douglas Danforth). A ♂ Dickcissel was found near Roswell May 24 (Irl Cassell). Many Evening Grosbeaks were reported, the birds becoming more common about mid-April. The records included 200 at Socorro, N. Mex., May 2 (MWK), 2 at Las Cruces, Dona Ana Co., N. Mex., May 4 (Debra Hickman), 2 ♂♂ at Lost L. resort 30 mi. north of Blythe, Calif., May 7 (JS), 8 at Seven Springs, Maricopa Co., Ariz., May 9 (ER *et al.*), as many as 440 in the Farmington, N. Mex. area May 12 (AN *et al.*), 60 at Corn Creek, Desert Wildlife Range and Tule Springs Park, near Las Vegas, Nev., May 18 (CL, PA), still about 570 in the Española, N. Mex. area May 19 (RWO *et al.*), a pair at Sedona, Coconino Co., Ariz., May 21 (DBS), 2 at Pipe Spring Nat'l Monument, Ariz., May 24 (RWI), 50 to 100 still present at Alameda, Bernalillo Co., N. Mex., May 30 (CHu), and still present May 31 at Cedar Crest, Sandia Mts. (BM), Albuquerque (PB), and Los Alamos (PS). A pair of Purple Finches was lingering in the e. foothills of the Tucson Mts., Apr. 26 (SL), and 8 were at Corn Creek May 16 (CL, GK, Bruce & Marian Meier). The last Cassin's Finches were seen in Albuquerque Apr. 27 (JD), 4 were at Corn Creek May 7 (CL, KS), several were at Cave Creek, Maricopa Co., Ariz., May 10 (ER), 15 were at Farmington May 12 (AN *et al.*), and they were present until mid-May at Cedar Crest (BM) and Los Alamos (PS).

Two Pine Grosbeaks were eating pinyon buds at Los Alamos Apr. 15 (L. Hawkins) and one was seen at Del Monte Ranch, Taos Co., N. Mex. the same date (WH). Many more Pine Siskins were present in the lower country than usual; records included 18 at Elephant Butte Marsh May 24 (CHu, CHy, BE), huge flocks in Chama, Rio Arriba Co., N. Mex., May 27 (PS), and 4 in creosote bush-mesquite at Sycamore Canyon, Alamo Hueco Mts., May 28 (BM). An ad.

Red Crossbill was watched feeding a juvenile on the ground at Evergreen Cemetery, Tucson, where the birds had wintered, Apr. 15 (Ruth Steffens, *vide* HF), if it could have been documented, this would have been the first lowland breeding record in Arizona. Twelve Red Crossbills were still in n.w. Phoenix May 14 (DS), with one lingering to May 6 (*vide* SD). There were highly unusual reports of Lark Buntings from the n. part of the Region: "common" on dry lands 10 mi. south of Pipe Spring Nat'l Monument May 16 (RWI), about 150 at Santa Fe May 14 (PS), and several reports of 1-4 seen in San Juan Co., N. Mex., including one about 20 mi. east of Bloomfield May 21 (AN *et al.*). Late for such large numbers were 250+ in several flocks in uplands 4 mi. east of Bosque Ref., May 16 (GZ).

Two Grasshopper Sparrows were seen east of the Dragoon Mts., May 28 (WBA). Unusual localities for Rufous-crowned Sparrows were Tule Springs Park where one was seen Apr. 8 (VM) and Corn Creek where one sang May 3-4 (VM, CL). An unusual feature of the season was singing Cassin's Sparrows: singing abundantly east of the Dragoon Mts. in mid-April continuing into May, but the singing less prominent toward late May (WBA), several singing in grasslands east of Ramsey Canyon, Huachuca Mts., May 6 (Robt Bradley) and singing at Horizon L., east of El Paso, May 12 (Bill Hunt) and May 19 (GW, Carl & Linda Jones). Botteri's Sparrows showed up early in s.e. Arizona: one (4 later) singing east of Dragoon Mts., May 18 (WBA), and one singing in Ephraim Canyon west of Nogales, Santa Cruz Co., Ariz., May 20 (Bill Harrison). A Dark-eyed Junco (Gray-headed subspecies) was still in Phoenix May 15 (SD) and another was still at Los Alamos May 31 (PS). The remarkable 1972-1973 invasion of Harris' Sparrows resulted in a number of late records: 3 still at Cave Creek, Maricopa Co., Ariz., Apr. 15 (*vide* ER), up to 17 at Bosque Ref., Apr. 16 (GZ), one at Las Vegas, N. Mex., May 3 (WH), 1+ at Dixon, N. Mex., May 4 (JWh), as many as 11 at Albuquerque May 8 (PB), 3 at Corn Creek May 8 (CL, HS, KS), 2 at Pipe Spring Nat'l Monument May 8 (RWI), and 3 at Farmington May 12 (Judy Nordstrom). A Swamp Sparrow banded at Hermanas Feb 17 was recaptured Apr. 20 (BM).

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ALASKA REGION

/ Daniel D. Gibson and G. Vernon Byrd

A warm spring with early snow runoff and ice breakup, and with no major weather fronts, produced an unexciting a waterfowl and shorebird migration at other than coastal locations as observers in these areas had seen. In large areas of south central and interior Alaska the migration was a steady flow of small num-



bers of birds, with no impressive concentrations whatever. Exceptions were some typical waterfowl and shorebird concentrations at several coastal locations. These concentrations apparently dispersed as the birds moved inland, or they overflowed interior localities in numbers without stopping.

GEESE—Canada and White-fronted geese arrived on time in interior Alaska, but no large concentrations were seen. Adak Island's wintering Black Brant, a lone bird, left May 16 (JLT); thousands were still present at Izembek Nat'l Wildlife Range May 20 (EPB). Most Emperor Geese departed Adak abruptly during the second week of April (GVB, JLT), and the last one was seen there Apr. 29 (JLT). A few remained at Izembek as late as May 20 (EPB). A **Bean Goose** closely observed at Adak May 15&28 (JLT) was the fourth record of the species in the Aleutians since 1970. Two year-old **blue Snow Geese** were observed at Creamer's Dairy, Fairbanks, Apr. 25-29 (m.ob.). This morph is very rare as far west as Alaska. Very few Snow Geese were reported. The first arrivals on the Kasilof R. flats, Kenai Peninsula, were 25 birds Apr. 20. Numbers increased slowly to 400-500 birds Apr. 28, the peak of the migration there this year (MAM).

SURFACE-FEEDING DUCKS—Gadwall are rare n. of the Alaska Range, so single ♂♂ on Yarger L., e. of Tok Jct., May 19 (DDG, JHL, & TTW), and at Fairbanks Internat'l Airport May 28 (DDG), were of interest. Pintails were unusually common in the c. Aleutians during May; on the mainland they were ubiquitous, but nowhere in exceptional numbers. One high-plumaged ♂ **Falcated Teal** was observed on a small freshwater pond at Adak May 24 (JLT). Blue-winged Teal were more numerous than usual in e. c. Alaska during the last half of May, although two pairs together e. of Delta Jct., May 18, was maximum count (m.ob.). Six pairs together at Douglas, near Juneau, Apr. 16 (ESD), was maximum count for the Region. European Wigeon were particularly numerous in the Aleutians this spring: 21 were seen at Adak May 9 (JLT), up to 16 were seen at Amchitka I. (GVB, SS, & CMW), and at least six were present at Attu I., May 30 (GVB). Most of these birds were paired. Elsewhere, one ♂ was seen at the Experimental Farm, College, Apr. 30 (RSH *et al.*), a pair was observed at Eagle R., Juneau area, May 3 (ESD), and one ♂ was seen e. of Fairbanks May 24 (MSB). Two interesting hybrids were reported this spring: a Green-winged Teal X Gadwall at Fairbanks May 25 (DDG & BK) and a most peculiar individual estimated to be a Green-winged X Baikial Teal at Amchitka May 23 (GVB; * to U.A.).

DIVING DUCKS—Redheads, regular and uncommon only in the Interior, were noted in the Juneau area, where the species is scarce: one ♂ Apr. 16 and a pair May 2 (ESD). **Common Pochards** were recorded in the Aleutians in unprecedented numbers this spring: up to *eight* were seen at Jones L., Amchitka, May 9-31 (GVB, SS, & CMW); up to *eight* were observed at Adak May 13-31 (JLT); and a single ♀ was seen at Attu May 28 (GVB). Canvasbacks were recorded as far west as Clarence Rhode Nat'l Wildlife Range, Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, where a pair was seen May 18 (CPD). Eight ♂♂ on the Copper R. Delta May 1 (PI) were of interest. At least 10 Tufted Ducks were present at Amchitka May 9-31 (GVB, SS, & CMW), a maximum of four was present at Adak May 19-31 (JLT), and at least eight were seen at Attu May 26-31 (GVB). A high-plumaged ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye at Amchitka May 9&19 (GVB) was the westernmost record for Alaska of a species that is very rare west of tree limit. Spectacled Eiders arrived at Clarence Rhode refuge May 18 and were common thereafter (CPD). Three pairs of Surf Scoters at Cold Bay Apr. 11 (DIE & DDG) were unusual at that location. A ♀ Smew, present at the beginning of the period at Adak, was seen through May 16 (GVB, JLT); the bird was joined on Smew Pond by a full-plumaged ♂ May 12 (JLT).

COOTS—There were two records of Am. Coots, rare spring visitors anywhere in the Region. One was observed at Northway, in the e. Interior, May 19 (DDG *et al.*), and one was seen at Cordova May 29 (PI).

SHOREBIRDS—Two **Ringed Plovers** were collected May 15 at Amchitka (GVB; ** to U.A.); a third individual was also seen there. This is the first Aleutian record, the second one for Alaska. Black-bellied Plovers were not reported to be common anywhere this spring. Two were seen at Fairbanks, where they are rare migrants, May 23-24, and one was seen May 29 (m.ob.). There were few records at coastal points where the species is usually common. Daily counts of shorebirds at Orca Inlet, Prince William Sound, indicated that during the period Apr. 28-May 31 these tidal flats were utilized by at least 11,000,000 peep (PI). Daily numbers exceeded two million May 6-May 10. Western Sandpipers and Dunlins accounted for most of the movement; 6,500,000+ W. Sandpipers and 3,500,000+ Dunlins. A lone peep observed at Amchitka May 15 (GVB) was collected May 16 (CMW; * to N.M.N.H.); it was identified at U.A. as a **Long-toed Stint** (*Calidris subminuta*), the second record for N. America. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were first seen at Clarence Rhode refuge May 28, when five were observed (CPD). Red Knots were recorded in good numbers at Clarence Rhode refuge. Over 1000 birds were seen May 17-19, and flocks of up to 12 were seen through May 31 (CPD). Up to five Wood Sandpipers were observed at Amchitka May 15-31 (GVB, SS, & CMW). One was seen at Adak May 15 (JLT), and this species was the most numerous sandpiper May 26-31 at Attu, where at least 20 were seen (GVB). A Bar-tailed Godwit with a score of Whimbrels at Cordova May 30-31 (PI *et al.*) was the first local record. A common species on the Bering Sea coast, it is very rare along Alaska's Pacific coast. Hudsonian Godwits were not reported in the Coho area (MAM), but two were observed as far northwest as Ambler May 15 (OW), eight days before the species was reported at Fairbanks.

GULLS, TERNS—One Slaty-backed Gull was seen with Glaucous Gulls at the Barrow dump May 16, it was present into the last week of May (GEH). There was no report of Black-headed Gull anywhere in the Aleutians this spring. Arctic Terns were first noted at Juneau May 2, when six were seen; 50 were counted there May 4 (ESD). First arrivals elsewhere were Ambler May 16 (OW), Fairbanks May 17 (DDG), Adak May 18 (JLT), and Attu May 29 (GVB). The species had not yet arrived at Amchitka May 26, when the observer departed (GVB). Aleutian Terns arrived at Adak May 19 (JLT), and they were first seen at Attu May 30 (GVB).

OWLS THROUGH SWALLOWS—What happened to the Short-eared Owls? Normally a common, conspicuous, and widespread migrant throughout much of the Region, the species went almost completely unrecorded this spring! One at Juneau May 2 (ESD), one at Ambler May 14 (OW), one on the Steese Hwy., n.e. of Fairbanks, May 26 (EM & MS), and one at Barrow May 26 (GEH) were the only individuals reported during the period. After a dearth of records for two years, Boreal Owls were numerous in the Fairbanks area in spring 1973. A nest found 35 miles s. of Fairbanks Mar. 27 was still empty Mar.

31 but had a full clutch of six eggs Apr. 29 (DDG & RSH *et al.*). Logistics problems prevented further visits. A ♂ Rufous Hummingbird at Auke Bay, Juneau area, Apr. 17 (ESD) was the first seen there this spring. The species returned to Kake Apr. 16, and it was numerous there by Apr. 19 (CLE), two weeks earlier than last year. Estabrook has observed that arrival of this species is coincident with opening of the first flowers of red huckleberry (*Vaccinium parvifolium*), the range of which plant coincides with the breeding range of the hummingbird, in Alaska. At least two Rufous were seen at Cordova May 3, early, and numbers were present there by May 10 (PI). At least two **Skylarks** were seen and heard singing at Attu May 26-31 (GVB). This is the first Aleutian and third Alaska record. One Horned Lark at Cordova May 20 (PI) was the first local record of a bird that is uncommon and local over much of the state. A Cliff Swallow at Barrow May 30 (GEH) may be a first record for the area.

CROWS THROUGH WAGTAILS—At least 10 Northwestern Crows were seen at Homer Apr. 22 (MAM). They are found across Kachemak Bay, but the observer had had only two sightings from Homer itself. Single Am. Robins at Barrow May 20&27 and a Varied Thrush there May 27 (GEH) were extralimital. American Robins, Varied Thrushes, and *Catharus* thrushes arrived on time and in numbers in most areas. An adult ♀ Mountain Bluebird collected at Barrow May 29 (GEH; * to U.A.) was a most unusual locality record. A vagrant on the North Slope, the species had been recorded at Barrow twice before, but not since 1937. One White Wagtail was observed at L. Andrew, Adak, May 13 (JLT), and at least two were seen at Amchitka May 15-19 (GVB, SS, & CMW). One Yellow Wagtail was observed at Attu May 28 and 30 (GVB). Both of these wagtails are rare migrants in the Aleutians, although a form of each (and not necessarily the same subspecies involved here) breeds in w. Alaska farther to the north.

STARLINGS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS—Starlings were not recorded at Kake during this period, but a few spring pilgrims found their way into the Interior: a pair at Northway May 20 (DDG *et al.*) and one bird at the University of Alaska campus, College, May 24 (BK). One Starling found its way all the way to the Bering Sea coast, an individual recorded s. of *Hooper Bay*, on the Clarence Rhode refuge, May 29 (CPD). Wood warbler arrivals were difficult to analyze. Orange-crowneds arrived at Kake May 2 (CLE) and were first seen at Juneau May 4 (ESD). First reports at Kasilof and Ambler were May 22 (MAM) and May 27 (OW), respectively. Yellow Warblers were not recorded at Kake until May 20 (CLE), but they arrived at Ambler May 26 (OW). Yellow-rumped Warblers were first seen at Juneau Apr. 30 (ESD) and in Fairbanks simultaneously, but they were not recorded at Kasilof until May 9 (MAM), at Ambler until May 11 (OW), and at Kake until May 20 (CLE). Single individuals were observed at Barrow May 26&27 (GEH). Wilson's Warbler arrived at Kake May 8 (CLE), at Juneau May 12 (ESD), at Ambler May 21 (MW), and at Kasilof May 24 (MAM). There

were two extralimital records of singing ♂ Red-winged Blackbirds in the Interior: one on the University of Alaska campus, College (LGS), and one at Chicken, 70 miles n.n.e. of Tok Jct. (DDG *et al.*), both May 18.

FINCHES—A ♂ **Brambling** was observed near L. Andrew, Adak, May 20-21 (JLT), but it could not be found subsequently. Two Gray-crowned Rosy Finches carrying nesting material at Cordova May 20 were apparently nesting at sea level in that area for the third consecutive year (PI). This action is believed to be a carryover from years when alpine habitat was unavailable due to heavy snow accumulation (PI). Common Redpolls were seen at Adak through May 7 (GVB & JLT), three were seen at Amchitka May 25 (GVB, SS, & CMW), and at least four were seen at Attu May 27 (GVB). Pine Siskins were very common in s.e. Alaska during the spring, numbers reported from Kake (CLE), Glacier Bay Nat'l Monument (CLE), and Juneau (ESD). Red Crossbills were not common during this period in s.e. Alaska (ESD, CLE), where they are resident, but White-winged Crossbills remained numerous in interior, s.c., and s.e. Alaska through the spring. There were a number of extralimital fringillids at Barrow in late May (GEH): White-crowned Sparrows May 26; two Dark-eyed Juncos, 10 White-crowned Sparrows, and two Fox Sparrows May 27; and two Golden-crowned Sparrows May 28. A singing ♂ Chipping Sparrow at Yarger L., May 19 (DDG *et al.*), was the earliest reported this year. Inland movements of Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings were apparently scattered, as no concentrations of either were reported.

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NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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

The two months comprising the spring season of 1973 were both cooler and drier than average. Rainfall in April was approximately 75 per cent of average, while rainfall in May was about 50 per cent of average. Thus, for the fourth and fifth consecutive months, the Region has experienced below-average precipitation. Effects, if any, on bird life have not been detected. The report which follows is unfortunately lacking in records from the Vancouver, B. C., area since no reports were received from observers there.



LOONS, GREBES, PELAGICS, HERONS—A nest of the Com. Loon containing two eggs was discovered May 26 at Matheson L., 3 miles s.w. of Metchosin on Vancouver I., B.C., (WC, *vide* VG). Yellow-billed Loons were noted singly just s. of Anacortes, Wash., Apr. 6 (NL, *vide* TW), at Port Townsend, Wash., in breeding dress Apr. 22 (AB, *vide* TW), and at Saanich Inlet on s. Vancouver I. Apr. 17 (V&MG; RF). There were 235 Arctic Loons at Active Pass in the Gulf Islands May 25 (V&MG), and an estimated 200 Red-throated Loons at Ocean Shores, Wash., Apr. 14 (JM). Four Eared Grebes were still at Victoria May 9 (RS, *vide* VG). A W. Grebe was seen on Fern Ridge Reservoir w. of Eugene, Oreg., May 26 (LN, *vide* FZ). Up to 50 Black-footed Albatrosses were seen on a pelagic trip out of Westport, Wash., on May 6, some as close to the beach as ten miles; six days later, with much more moderate waves allowing the boat to proceed seaward as far as 62 miles, only 13 of these birds were observed (TW *et al.*) A single light-phase N. Fulmar was seen on the May 6 trip (TW *et al.*). Pink-footed Shearwaters were found on both days, in number up to 20 on the 6th and twice that total on the 12th (TW *et al.*). Flesh-footed Shearwaters were seen out of Westport in May for the third consecutive year, this season in unprecedented numbers; a total of 15 was counted on May 6 and 22 were found on May 12 (TW *et al.*). Some 12,000 Sooty Shearwaters were estimated to be off Westport on May 6, with one-third that number found six days later (TW *et al.*). A single Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel on May 6 and an impressive 28 on May 12 (TW *et al.*) were the only representatives of their family noted on the two off-shore trips. Green Herons were reported in the usual very light spring numbers at favored localities from Medford, Oreg., n. to Skagit Co., Wash. Another Snowy Egret record—the fourth for the Region in the past year—was made May 24 at Yaquina Bay,

Oreg., (PR, *fide* FZ) A Black-crowned Night Heron was discovered at Brownsville, Oreg., May 16 (HT, *fide* FZ). Am. Bitterns were noted at four locations in w. Oregon and s.w. Washington during the report period.

WATERFOWL—A lone Whistling Swan was at Finley N.W.R. on Apr. 26 (FZ); another swan, presumably of this species, was seen at Ocean Shores, Wash., Apr. 15 in a migrating flock of geese (JM). An ad. Trumpeter Swan was identified at Florence L. in the Esquimalt district on s. Vancouver I., May 19 (RS, *fide* VG). Black Brant were prominent in migration in tidal areas of the Region well into May, the last being noted at Newport Oreg., May 26 (WHO), and at Victoria, May 27 (VG). An Emperor Goose was present at Tokeland, Wash., on Willapa Bay, May 5-13 (DP, TW, *et al.*; G&WH). Many migrating White-fronted Geese passed over Finley N.W.R. Apr. 22-May 6 (FZ); small flocks were seen several times Apr. 20-May 27 at Ocean Shores (JM; G&WH). Two late Snow Geese were at Baskett Slough N.W.R. w. of Salem, Oreg., May 16 (FZ). A "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal was observed at Ocean Shores Apr. 29 accompanying a migrant flock of the newly-designated Am. subspecies (GH & JM). Three late Am. Wigeon were at Saanich, B.C., May 26 (VG & RS). A late N. Shoveler was also there on May 28 (SJ). Two Redheads were found in the Oregon Dunes Recreational Area n. of Coos Bay on the surprisingly late date of May 5 (HR *et al.*). A pair of Tufted Ducks was at Victoria, B.C., Apr. 5 (V&MG), and either the same or another drake was seen by many observers at the same spot Apr. 17 (RF, VG, JT *et al.*) A half-dozen pairs of Barrow's Goldeneye were found on lakes in the c. Oregon Cascades, May 2 (WHO & PJ, *fide* FZ). Three Bufflehead at Victoria May 21 (JT, *fide* VG) were quite late, as was the single Oldsquaw there May 29 (VG & SJ). Late Black Scoters were two at Ocean Shores May 25 (G&WH) and three at Victoria May 29 (V&MG; SJ). The total absence of Ruddy Ducks around Victoria where they normally are of regular occurrence in spring was pointed to by Vic Goodwill, the area reporter.

HAWKS, EAGLES, QUAIL—Another record of a White-tailed Kite for w. Oregon comes from near Finley N.W.R. Apr. 12 where an individual bird was carefully studied by an observer familiar with the species (ND, *fide* FZ). In addition to several individuals recorded from the Cascades during the report period, a Goshawk was seen in Oregon's coast range between Corvallis and Newport Apr. 4 (WHO, *fide* FZ). An imm. Golden Eagle was observed e. of Roseburg, Oreg., Apr. 29 (OS); three individual birds were together at Medford May 21 (OS); an adult was at Malahat, B.C. May 29 (V&MG). Bald Eagles were repeatedly seen on the coastal portions of Oregon's Lane and Douglas Counties north of Coos Bay, in Washington's San Juan Is., and on s. Vancouver I. this spring; other reports came from Waldo L., Oreg., on May 27, from Tillamook, Oreg., May 6, and from between Aberdeen and Westport, Wash., Apr. 28. Up to 6 pairs of Marsh Hawks were estimated to be present in the Oregon Dunes Recreational area this spring

(WHO). The numbers of Osprey reports received continue to give reason for cautious optimism concerning improvement in the heretofore precarious status of this species in the Region; reports were received from sixteen different localities in the southern half of the Region and many were reports of birds which had taken up breeding season residence. There were two Oregon, one Washington, and one British Columbia sightings of Peregrines during the report period. A Merlin was noted at Goldstream R. on Vancouver I., Apr. 22 (RS, *fide* VG); another was observed in Manning Provincial Park, May 9 (V&MG). The only mention of Bobwhite was of two birds heard calling near Stafford, Oreg., May 27 (JBC). A California Quail seen on Apr. 8 at Jordan R. was further west than any previous record for Vancouver I. (SJ).

SHOREBIRDS—A count of 40 Black Oystercatchers seemingly resident on Destruction I., Wash., May 5-11 is of interest (WHO). A total of 75 Semipalmated Plovers at Tillamook Bay, May 6 (JBC, RF, WT) was unusually high for the Oregon coast, particularly in spring. A single Am. Golden Plover was discovered on a Douglas Co., Oreg., beach n. of Reedsport on Apr. 29 during the peak of a coastal movement of shorebirds (WHO). A Black-bellied Plover was found at Finley N.W.R., Apr. 15 (FZ). Surfbirds were last reported May 9 when one was seen at Destruction I. (WHO). A count of 50 Ruddy Turnstones at Westport May 6 (G&WH) is unusually high. Five Com. Snipe at Destruction I. May 5-7 (WHO) are of interest. Spring records of Long-billed Curlew in the Region are unusual; this year, however, there were four—one bird at Siltcoos L. outfall to the Pacific n. of Reedsport, Oreg., Apr. 29 (WHO); one bird at Tokeland, Wash., May 5 (DP, *fide* TW), three birds at Ocean Shores, Wash., May 25 (G&WH); and one bird there May 27 (JM). Whimbrels were regularly recorded from mid-April to mid-May on the coastal strips of the portion of the Region. Lone Solitary Sandpipers were found at Finley N.W.R. Apr. 26 (FZ), at Ankeny N.W.R. Apr. 30 and May 6 (DL, *fide* FZ), and at Saanich, B.C., May 24 (VG, RS) & May 25 (JT, *fide* VG). Wandering Tattlers were seen regularly at favored locations between Apr. 27 and May 13, the count of 30 at Destruction I. May 11 (WHO) is noteworthy as an unprecedented one-day total. The two individual tattlers at Victoria May 20 (RS, *fide* VG) were a bit late. Red Knots were seen at Yaquina Bay, Oreg., Apr. 7 & 22, at Florence, Oreg., and at Westport Apr. 28, and at Ocean Shores Apr. 29, all in groups comprised of less than ten individuals; thus, the count of 200 at Westport on May 6 (G&WH) is surprising. The 48 Rock Sandpipers at Clover P., Victoria on Apr. 30 (VG, RS) is a remarkable count for this uncommon species. A single Pectoral Sandpiper was seen at Finley N.W.R. May 6 (FZ), the only report of this species for the season. Baird's Sandpipers are infrequently recorded in the Region during the spring, thus, records of one on the beach at Tahkenitch Creek, n. of Reedsport, Oreg., Apr. 29 (WHO), of one at Saanich, B.C., May 6 (RS, *fide* VG), and of four at Coos Bay, Oreg., May 20 (WHO) all are worthy of mention. A Semi-palmated Sandpiper was carefully

studied at Ocean Shores May 27 (JM). Pairs of Marbled Godwits were noted at both Florence, Oreg. (WHO) and at Westport (G&WH) Apr. 28. Many thousands of Sanderlings were on the beaches between Reedsport and Florence in mid-April (WHO). The only report of Red Phalarope for the season was of a ♀ in breeding plumage at Newport Apr. 28 (WHO). Wilson's Phalaropes, on the other hand, were observed at Reifel Refuge s. of Vancouver, B.C., May 5-7 and again May 22 in number up to six (V&MG), the vicinity of Victoria in mid-May (RS, WC, *vide* VG), at Ocean Shores (JM) and at each of the three Willamette Valley national wildlife refuges in the latter half of May (FZ) in numbers up to five at a time. Migrant N. Phalaropes were intermittently present in hundreds if not thousands at favored spots along the Oregon and Washington coasts from the last few days of April all through May.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS—Jaegers are markedly uncommon in this Region in the spring; the only record of a Pomarine this season comes from LaPush, Wash., May 11 (WHO, MS, RR), while up to three Parasitic Jaegers were seen from the boat on an offshore trip at Westport, May 12 (TW *et al.*); another Parasitic was noted from the beach at Ocean Shores May 25 (G&WH). Western and Glaucous-winged Gulls at Destruction I., May 5-11, seemed to be interbreeding (WHO). Large numbers of ad. California Gulls were flying n. over the Oregon Dunes Recreational Area in early April; birds of this species seen there in May were sub-adults (WHO). A Franklin's Gull was seen on the beach n. of Reedsport Apr. 11 (WHO), constituting the first spring record for w. Oregon known to us. The last days of April and all of May found a heavier-than-usual migration of Bonaparte's Gulls passing up the Oregon and Washington coasts and evidently into the Straits of Juan de Fuca, as several hundred were present at Victoria during part of that time. Only six Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen off Westport on the pelagic trip, May 6; two were all that were observed on the similar trip six days later (TW *et al.*); a half-dozen Kittiwakes were seen at Ocean Shores May 5, but on May 25 there were 50 birds present (G&WH). Up to three Sabine's Gulls were recorded on both the pelagic trips from Westport (TW *et al.*). Common Terns were seen repeatedly in the Westport-Ocean Shores area in May, maximum number being 350 on May 12 (JM *et al.*). Up to ten were seen, also in May, at Victoria, Bellingham, and Iona I., e. of Vancouver. Five Caspian Terns were seen near Coos Bay on Apr. 12 (WHO); eight had reached the breeding grounds in the vicinity of Ocean Shores by Apr. 14 (JM). A Black Tern was seen at Baskett Slough N.W.R. May 13 (JM; *vide* FZ). A few Pigeon Guillemots seemed to be breeding at Destruction I., May 5-11 (WHO, MS, RR); ten birds of this species were noted in the vicinity of Cape Meares, Oreg., May 6 (JBC, RF, WT). Two score Marbled Murrelets were counted in the n. end of Bellingham Bay on May 29 (TW), a remarkable concentration for that locality. Up to four Cassin's Auklets were found at sea on the pelagic trips from Westport, May 6 & 12 (TW); a few birds of this species were also found about Destruction I., May 5-11, where four were

found dead (WHO, MS, RR). An estimated 1000 Rhinoceros Auklets were found breeding on Destruction I.; up to 26 of these birds were also seen out of Westport on both May 6 and May 12. Several hundred Tufted Puffins were breeding on Destruction I.

HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, LARKS—Rufous Hummingbirds were reported to be common on Destruction I., May 5-11 (WHO). Lewis' Woodpeckers showed up at Finley N.W.R. Apr. 28 but were gone after May 11 (FZ). W. Kingbirds appeared at a number of places in Oregon's Willamette Valley in the last week of April and in each week of May; four were found at Medford Apr. 28 (OS), and one was at Saanich May 13 (RS, *vide* VG). Ash-throated Flycatchers returned to breeding grounds in the Medford area May 5-6 (OS). A young Black Phoebe was found in a nest at Applegate, Oreg. May 19 (OS). Hammond's Flycatchers had reached s. Vancouver I., where the species is rare, by Apr. 28-29 (JT, RS, *vide* VG; SJ); numbers of Hammond's Flycatchers were found in the Bull Run watershed on the n.w. side of Mt. Hood e. of Portland May 27-28 (HN). W. Flycatchers also were prominent on Mt. Hood along the Hidden L. trail, May 28 (JO). Two Horned Larks were found at Saanich, Apr. 17 (RS, *vide* VG); the species rarely occurs in s. British Columbia; three individuals were also seen at Manning Prov. Park May 9 (V&MG).

SWALLOWS THROUGH GNATCATCHERS—A Bank Swallow was discovered at Saanich May 23 (SJ); another was seen at L. Terrell, Whatcom Co., Wash., May 18 (JD, *vide* TW), and a third individual was noted at Corvallis, Oreg., May 26 (J&MC, *vide* FZ). Both Barn and Cliff Swallows entered the s. portion of the Region in the first days of April and had reached s. Vancouver I. by mid-month. Purple Martins appeared first in the Region at Florence, Oreg., Apr. 10 (WHO); by the end of the period, other c. Oregon coastal points, Corvallis, Portland, Olympia, the San Juans, and s. Vancouver I. had contributed sightings. The Blue Jay which had wintered at Saanich was last seen Apr. 22 (*vide* VG). Four Wrentits were observed at Medford Apr. 28 (OS). Early House Wrens were at Finley N.W.R., Apr. 14 (WE, DM, *vide* FZ) and at Victoria, Apr. 22 (*vide* VG). Twenty pairs of Winter Wrens were censused on Destruction I., May 5-11 (WHO, MS, RR). A couple of observers commented that they thought numbers of Long-billed Marsh Wrens were less than normal in w. Oregon, possibly because of attrition to the bitter freeze of December, 1972. A Rock Wren was discovered on the w. side of Mt Hood, near Brightwood, May 28 (HN). Hermit Thrushes are said to have been common on Destruction I., May 5-11 (WHO, MS, RR). A Veery was carefully observed at Reifel Refuge, s. of Vancouver, May 22 (V&MG). At least two pairs of W. Bluebirds nested in the Medford area in late April and in May; W. Bluebirds had left Finley N.W.R. by mid-April (FZ), several individuals were seen repeatedly at Victoria, Sooke, and Malahat on s. Vancouver I., during May, including a nesting pair at Sooke (SJ, RS, JT *et al.*,

fide VG) Mountain Bluebirds were noted repeatedly at Manning Prov. Park, May 8-21 (V&MG). A Townsend's Solitaire was discovered at Jordan River, B.C., Apr. 24 (SJ) and one was seen at Victoria, May 2 (RS, *fide* VG). A pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were back in the Medford area as early as Apr. 7; later, two nests of this species were found, but they are subsequently destroyed by some predator (OS).

VIREOS, WARBLERS, BLACKBIRDS—Hutton's Vireos were reported only from Finley N.W.R., where they were regularly seen and heard throughout the spring season, from nearby Corvallis where three were present May 26 (FZ), from Port Angeles May 17 (SJ), and from Saanich Apr. 30 (V&MG) and May 20 (SJ, *fide* VG). A Solitary Vireo put in an early appearance at Victoria Apr. 7 (RS *fide* VG). Red-eyed Vireos were seen at Philomath, Oreg., May 26 (MS *fide* FZ), and at Duncan, B.C., May 31 (WC, *fide* VG). Warbling Vireos were widely reported through w. Oregon, particularly in the first half of May, and were in evidence in the vicinity of Victoria after the middle of the month.

Orange-crowned Warblers were common both in the Willamette Valley and around Victoria all spring. Nashville Warblers were little noted, and there was nothing remarkable concerning migration movements of Yellow, Yellow-rumped, and Black-throated Gray Warblers except for an early arrival of the latter species at Corvallis, Apr. 13 (ME, *fide* FZ). Four Townsend's Warblers along the Hidden L. trail on Mt. Hood as late as May 28 (JO) and one in Portland two days earlier (JO) are of interest, as are the three birds at Ocean Shores May 12 (JM). Hermit Warblers were frequently noted in the Bull Run watershed on Mt. Hood, where MacGillivray's Warblers were found to be particularly abundant in cut-over areas, all on May 27-28 (HN). Large numbers of migrating Wilson's Warblers moved through Finley N.W.R. Apr. 28 (HN). The small nesting colony of Yellow-headed Blackbirds on Sauvie I., w. of Portland, continues to grow; four ♂♂ were there by Apr. 12, whereas by May 5 there were 25 present along with many ?? (HN). Elsewhere, Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen at Brownsville, Oreg., Apr. 7 (HT, *fide* FZ), at Ferndale, Wash., Apr. 29 (TW), in the vicinity of Vancouver, B.C., May 7-8 (V&MG), at Finley N.W.R., May 14 (FZ), and at Duncan, B.C., May 31 (WC, *fide* VG). A count of 30 Northern Orioles on Sauvie I., May 5 (HN *et al.*) evidenced a migratory movement.

GROSBEAKS, FINCHES, SPARROWS—Black-headed Grosbeaks reappeared almost simultaneously throughout the s. half of the Region the first week of May. Records of three individual Lazuli Buntings, including a pair at Little Saanich Mtn., May 20-21, (JT *fide* VG), and of 2 ♂♂ on Mt. Douglas near Saanich (RS, V&MG) May 31 all are of great interest, since this species is rare on Vancouver I. Evening Grosbeaks were abundantly widespread throughout the s. portion of the Region all spring; a good-sized flock was still in Portland's downtown parks May 28 (JBC). Purple Finches were virtually unreported. At Manning Prov. Park on May 20, up to 20 Cassin's Finches were seen (V&MG). At least 14 Pine Grosbeaks were seen in

that park May 9-19 (V&MG) Two Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were discovered on May 2 at Big Lake in Oregon's Santiam Pass (WHO, PJ *fide* FZ). Pine Siskins occurred sporadically in small numbers in lowland areas from Medford n. to Portland during the season; evidently the species was best represented on e. Vancouver I. from Apr. 15 to the end of the report period (*fide* VG). Large numbers of Am. Goldfinches in the Rogue R. Valley during the first six weeks of the report period (OS) apparently signified a northward movement in progress. Savannah Sparrows were found to be abundant on Destruction I., May 5-11 (WHO, MS, RR). A Vesper Sparrow at Saanich May 3 (VG, RS) is said to be only the sixth record for Vancouver I.; it or another was seen there also on May 31 (SJ), one at Manning Prov. Park May 8-9 (V&MG) is also noteworthy. A Lark Sparrow turned up at Saanich Apr. 1-6 and again May 13 (WC *fide* VG); these observations probably all involved the same bird which apparently spent the last two months of the winter season there. A Brewer's Sparrow appeared on Samish I., Wash., May 26-27 where it sang and foraged among some introduced sage in a garden (NL, *fide* TW). A Harris' Sparrow was noted at Sauvie I., May 5 (HN *et al.*), a banded one which had been at Bellingham left on May 1 (TW). Golden-crowned Sparrows lingered at Medford as late as May 28 (OS). An ad. White-throated Sparrow was observed at Ocean Shores, Apr. 14-15 (EH, JM). Fox Sparrows were thought to be on territory in vegetation back of the beach at Jordan R., where eight singing birds were listed in a two-mile stretch on May 31 (SJ). Between 15 and 20 pairs of Lincoln's Sparrows appeared to be nesting in a meadow above Brightwood on Mt. Hood, May 28 (HN). A Swamp Sparrow was found again at Lake Sammanish State Park, Wash., Apr. 8 when it was successfully photographed (EH *et al.*). Lone Lapland Longspurs were seen at Ocean Shores, May 5 (G&WH), and at Tillamook Bay, Oreg., the next day (JBC, RF, WT), one was also noted at Victoria Apr. 9 (RS, V&MG)

OBSERVERS—Alex Benedict, Wayne Campbell, John & Martha Casteel, John B. Crowell, Jr., Narca Dewoskin, James Duemmel, William Elliott, Merlin Eltzroth, Roy Fisk (RFi), Ralph Fryer, Vic and Margaret Goodwill, Wayne Hoffman (WHO), Glen & Wanda Hoge, Eugene Hunn, Peter Jennings, Stuart Johnston, Norman Lavers, Donald Lewis, Donald MacDonald, James Micuda (JMi), James Morris, Harry Nehls, Lars Norgren, James G. Olson, David L. Pearson, Hilda Reiher, Robert Roelke, Peter Rothlisberg, Ron Satterfield, Michael Scott, Otis Swisher, Jeremy B. Tatum, Howard Tayler, William Thackaberry, Terrence Wahl, C. Fred Zeilemaker.—**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

/ Van Remsen and David A. Gaines

Exceptionally warm, dry springtime weather followed one of the coldest, wettest winters on record. High temperatures in the s. Sacramento Valley were 4° F. above normal in April and 7° above normal in May. Rainfall was five per cent of average. Seed production of grasses and forbs in the lowlands and foothills was roughly one-half again as much as last year (Dean Taylor, U.C. Davis Botany Dept.). Seasonal streams flowed late into the spring. Early melting of the heavy Sierra snowpack swelled creeks and rivers in the mountains.



The large amounts of standing water produced by last winter's exceptional rains induced many waterfowl to stay later than normal. Almost all pelagic species were scarce; the weekly boat trips all spring reported below-average numbers of just about everything. An unusual number of Mississippi Flyway shorebirds were reported this spring, including a probable Semipalmated Sandpiper April 26 at Woodland, Yolo. Co. (DAG).

Overall the landbird migration was uneventful as to numbers of passing birds. Plentiful food and water in coast range and foothill areas may have permitted transients to pass through on a broad front. In addition, the paucity of storm fronts may have contributed to the infrequency of well-defined waves. Waves were reported April 22-24 in the Sacramento area (Western Wood Pewee, and Nashville, Yellow, Black-throated Gray, Townsend's, Hermit, MacGillivray's, and Wilson's Warblers—*fide* BK) and May 31 on the Samoa Peninsula, Humboldt Co. (Western Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Yellowthroat, Am. Redstart, and Dark-eyed "Slate-colored" Junco—TS, RW). In contrast to 1972, migrants appeared on time or slightly late (Table 1). This correlates with the striking extremes in weather of the last two winters: dry and warm in 1971-72 and cold and wet in 1972-73.

A heavy snowpack in the Sierra delayed arrival of several nesting species (Table 2). Sixteen Nashville Warblers at two stops in chamise chaparral at 1500 ft. in the western foothills of the Sierra, a non-breeding area, April 27, correlated with their absence from higher regions at that time. By May 17, Hodgdon Meadows (4000 ft.) and Crane Flat (6000 ft.), both in Yosemite, appeared to have normal breeding populations, excepting Western Tanager and flycatchers, which seemed scarcer than last year (MM).

Observers in areas that were drought-stricken last year reported return of birds to normal breeding localities. North of Yosemite, for instance, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Lazuli Buntings returned to chamise chaparral; last year they apparently nested in brushy forest (MM). Lazuli Buntings were more common this spring than last at Mt. Diablo (J&SL, VR), and were numerous in Carmel Valley where "absent last spring due to extensive drought" (AB). Lawrence's Goldfinches remained along the Santa Cruz Co. coast until April 3, but, apparently due to mesic conditions, did not remain to nest (BGE).

LOONS & GREBES—Single Com. Loons were found inland at Boca Dam, Nevada Co., Apr. 28 (RS, LCB, VR, GB) and Monticello Dam, Napa Co., through the end of the period (D. Shuford, *fide* DAG). As usual, Arctic Loons were conspicuous in their northward coastal migration throughout the period; individuals could be seen moving north from nearly any coastal point at any time of day on any day at a rate of 10 to 150 per hour. This species vastly outnumbered both Common and Red-throated Loons in migration. A breeding plumage Red-necked Grebe at Bitterwater Valley, Monterey Co., Apr. 28-May 6 (KH) was an inland rarity. The latest Red-necked Grebe was reported from Monterey May 10 (AB). Horned Grebes, rare inland, were at Chico Apr. 14 (TM), Boca Dam Apr. 28 (RS, LCB, VR, GB), and Eagle Lake, Lassen Co., May 19 (TM). A W. Grebe was at Nicasio Reservoir, Marin Co., May 26 (MLR), an unusual locality for this species so late in spring.

TUBENOSES—Two Laysan Albatrosses were 87 mi. off Eureka Apr. 15 (RLeV) and another was only three mi. off Eureka Apr. 17 (*fide* DE). Northern Fulmars remained very scarce, with two off Eureka Apr. 14-15 (RLeV) and two there May 6 (DE *et. al.*) the only ones reported. Pink-footed Shearwaters were less common than usual, most boat trips recording less than ten birds. Sooty Shearwaters were also somewhat below normal, at least until mid-May. Two Short-tailed Shearwaters were well-described from about 100 mi. off Eureka Apr. 15 (RLeV, S.H. Harris) for the Region's first spring record. The only Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were three 40-80 mi. off Eureka Apr. 14-15 (RLeV). Leach's Storm-Petrels were found to be common (100+) beyond 40 mi. off Eureka Apr. 14-15 (RLeV). The prize for the most bizarre sighting this season goes to Dick Erickson and Tom Schulenberg who, on May 9 in Humboldt Co., were at the Mad River about four river-miles inland when a Leach's Storm-Petrel floated by them and then took off downstream. There was no foul weather preceding this

observation, and a logical explanation has not yet been found; perhaps the river is just very well named. This species is very rare within 25 miles of the coast, much less a few miles inland.

PELICANS THROUGH HERONS—Brown Pelicans arrived early and many young-of-the-year were present. The first juveniles were noted at Santa Cruz May 7 (BGE) and the first real influx occurred May 11-15, with small flocks noted from Moss Landing to Eureka. At the Pajaro Rivermouth, 100+ were counted May 19; the first 100+ census there in 1972 was much later—July 13 (J&RW). The Klamath Basin refuges recorded a spectacular 1782 Double-crested Cormorants Apr. 30 (EJO). Heron and egret populations in the S.F. Bay area showed no significant changes from 1972 (D.F.G., BGE). A Snowy Egret nest with eggs was found May 27 on Indian I., Humboldt Bay; last year three pairs fledged six young here for the first Humboldt Co. nesting record (JHI). An ad. **Little Blue Heron** was defending a nest site from Snowy Egrets in the egret colony on Bair I., San Mateo Co., Apr. 28-29; the bird was not present. May 2 and no further evidence of mating or nesting was observed (RGI, BGE). Perhaps the probable Little Blue Heron X Snowy Egret hybrid found last winter at Palo Alto had been produced in this colony in a previous year. On Apr. 8, an ad. Yellow-crowned Night Heron returned to San Rafael for the sixth consecutive year (ABu, WMP). Two White-faced Ibis at the Klamath Basin refuges Apr. 30 were the first noted there in several years (EJO).

WATERFOWL—An extremely late and not visibly unhealthy Whistling Swan was at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza May 22 (ST), and five were still at the Klamath refuges Apr. 30 (EJO). Pairs of apparently summering Canada Geese were noted on S.F. Bay at Emeryville Apr. 28 (JHol) and W. Marin I. through the end of the period (RSD). A Black Brant, rare inside S.F. Bay, was at Foster City Apr. 20 (PM). Five "Blue" Snow Geese were migrating north over Auburn, Placer Co., Apr. 5 (MA); not only is this a little late, but this form is seldom seen away from the company of white Snow Geese in our Region. The Klamath Basin refuges recorded 620 Ross' Geese as late as Apr. 30 (EJO). A Fulvous Tree Duck was at Woodland Apr. 19 (RS) and two were there May 20 (JH). A pair of very late or summering Pintails was at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza May 27 (MLR). The last "Common" Green-winged Teal and European Wigeon, both single ♂♂, were at Arcata May 5 (RS, BW). Probable nesting Wood Ducks were found at three localities along Arroyo Mocho and Arroyo Del Valle s. of Livermore (AE, DDeS). Four Canvasback ducklings at Kesterson N.W.R. May 22 (CJM) represent one of our few Central Valley (below, C.V.) breeding records. A ♀ Com. Goldeneye was at Belmont Slough, San Mateo Co., until the end of the period (PM) and a late ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye was at Bodega Bay Apr. 21 (JH). A ♀ Oldsquaw was at the Pajaro Rivermouth Apr. 5-13 (J&RW) and a probably injured imm. ♂ was at the Dumbarton Bridge Apr. 19 (JL). Nine very late or summering Black Scoters were at Pt. Reyes May

26 (MLR) and a ♂ remained at the Pajaro Rivermouth until May 11 (J&RW). A ♀ Hooded Merganser near Arcata May 20 was extremely late (DE, TS), as was a ♂ Com. Merganser moving northwest along the coast at Ft. Cronkite, Marin Co., May 26 (MLR).

RAPTORS—Sixteen hours of hawk-watching at Pt Diablo, Marin Co. (see last fall's report), Mar. 2-Apr 8 yielded 475 raptors: 183 Red-tailed Hawks, 114 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 79 Turkey Vultures, 67 Cooper's Hawks, 15 *Accipiter* (sp.), 12 Am. Kestrels, three Ospreys, one Golden Eagle, and one Marsh Hawk (LCB). The best day was Apr. 4 when 207 birds of seven species were passing at a rate of one bird every 64 secs., which is comparable to peak rates last fall. Apparently breeding Goshawks were noted at two n. coastal localities (RLeV, TS). Red-tailed Hawks are being displaced from nesting sites at Los Banos refuge by Great Horned Owls; four sites used by the hawks last year fledged owls this year (ROW). A Red-shouldered Hawk at Ship-a-shore, Del Norte Co., May 28 (DDS) was as far north as it could get in California. An ad. **Broad-winged Hawk** at Arroyo Mocho, Alameda Co., Apr. 22 (MLR) may be the Region's first spring migrant record. A Swainson's Hawk, rare away from the C.V., was at Arroyo Mocho April 28 (ST). A report of 35 Swainson's Hawks May 13 near Davis (B&CY) was very encouraging. The latest Rough-legged Hawk was reported from Topaz L., Sierra Co., Apr. 17 (RS, GM). Golden Eagles were reported from 20 locations in the Region, most of which were potential nesting localities. Two Bald Eagle nests with young were located in the Sierra foothills (*vide* DAG, TM, GN) and another was found in Trinity Co. (WKE). An Osprey May 28 in San Benito Co. (BGE) was too late for a migrant but we have no recent nesting records from that far south. Only one Peregrine Falcon was reported. A late Merlin was at Arcata May 17. Am. Kestrels are becoming less common every year in the Los Banos area (ROW).

TURKEYS THROUGH QUAIL—Three areas in the Sacramento foothills reported Turkeys (*vide* BK), and Santa Clara Co. populations were unchanged from 1972 (D.F.G., BGE). Blue Grouse were exceptionally common in Humboldt Co. (GE, TS *et. al.*), and a ♂ booming five mi. northwest of Hopland, Mendocino Co., Mar. 29 was at the southern limit of its nesting range (OK). Two Mountain Quail were at Mix Canyon, Solano Co., Apr. 15 (E. & C. Harper, *vide* BK) at the southeastern extremity of their range north of S F Bay.

SHOREBIRDS—Inland Semipalmated Plover were reported as follows: one Woodland Apr. 4 (B&RL), as many as nine at Woodland Apr. 26-29 (B&RL, DAG) and one Dinuba, Tulare Co., Apr. 29 (RGe). Of six Snowy Plover nests at the Pajaro Rivermouth, five produced 13 young (J&RW), about the same as last year. The only Am. Golden Plover sighted were two in breeding plumage at Arcata May 4-5 (DE, TS, RW *et. al.*). Migrant Surfbirds were again found in April at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza inside S.F. Bay (DE, ST). An unusually large concentration

(75) of migrant Ruddy Turnstones was located in agricultural fields at Arcata May 4; they were mostly gone the next day (DE, TS). Large numbers of migrant Whimbrels were seen throughout the Region Apr. 16-May 10, with the highest coastal count 350-400 Arcata May 4-5 (DE, TS) and highest inland count 150+ at Los Banos refuge May 7-8 (ROW). No fewer than four Solitary Sandpipers were found this spring: north of Glenn, Glenn Co., Apr. 24 (GAG), Arcata Apr. 26 (DE, TS, RW), Eureka Apr. 30-May 3 (DE, TS), and Dinuba May 3 (RGe). Interestingly, these dates correspond closely with peak spring migration dates for this species at Great Plains localities, such as e. Colorado. The Arcata and Eureka birds were the third and fourth Humboldt Co. records (DE). A flock of yellowlegs near Benicia, Solano Co., Apr. 10, comprised 71 Greater and 45 Lessers (RS), exceptional numbers for both species. Many more than the normal number of spring Lesser Yellowlegs were reported: one Pescadero, San Mateo Co., Apr. 18 (DDeS), one Bolinas Lagoon, Marin Co., Apr. 23 (LCB), one to three at Fairhaven, Humboldt Co., Apr. 25-May 5 (DE, RLeV, TS *et. al.*), one Dinuba Apr. 29 (RGe), one Chico May 1 (BW), and one late bird at Palo Alto May 13 (TC). Over 200 Knots were counted in a field at Arcata May 4-5 (DE, TS *et. al.*). The last Rock Sandpiper reported were seven at Humboldt Bay Apr. 3 (M. Bramwell, *vide* DE). A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at Bolinas Lagoon Apr. 23 (LCB) and remained until at least Apr. 28 (GB, BGE, VR, RS, DAZ) for the third spring record for the Region. A Baird's Sandpiper, also very scarce in spring, was well-described from Fairhaven Apr. 27-29 (RLeV, BB, DE, TS). The latest Dunlin was a single at Woodland May 6 (BK); a mass exodus from the Region had occurred in the previous week. Five Long-billed Dowitchers at Woodland May 19 (B&RL) were the latest ones reported. Two Marbled Godwits were also at Woodland May 19 (B&RL); this species is uncommon in the C.V., particularly so late in spring. Two Sanderlings, also rare inland, were reported from Fresno May 7 (RGe). The only Red Phalaropes reported were 40 off San Francisco May 5 (ST). Northern Phalaropes arrived on Monterey Bay Apr. 17, peaked at 20,000 on Carmel Bay May 1, and the last were seen on May 20 (AB).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS—Only a few Pomarine Jaegers were seen, with five off San Francisco Apr. 22 the maximum (VR *et. al.*), and, as is normal in spring, no Parasitics were reported; both these species are much more common in fall than spring. A first-year Glaucous Gull remained at Arcata until Apr. 29 (DE, RLeV, TS). Herring Gull was found to be the most common gull beyond 40 mi. offshore from Humboldt Co. Apr. 14-15, where it is rather rare coastally (RLeV). A considerable northward migration of ad. Herring Gulls was noted along the Humboldt coast Apr. 29 (DE). The imm. Franklin's Gull which wintered at Arcata remained until at least Apr. 18 (BB, DE). The usual late-April - early-May Bonaparte's Gull migration was fair but not spectacular this spring, with the highest count 1150 at the Pajaro Rivermouth May 5 (J&RW). Black-legged Kittiwakes continued to be scarce this spring with only a few scattered

individuals reported. Not one Sabine's Gull was reported despite boat trips on nearly every weekend all spring.

Migrant Forster's Terns peaked at the Pajaro Rivermouth May 4 with 600 counted, over twice as many as had been tallied in several years of censusing (J&RW). California's first spring and inland specimen for **Arctic Tern** was picked up dead at Bridgeport, Mono Co., May 22 (Eleanor Beemer, *vide* GMcC); this specimen is now in the San Diego Nat. Hist. Museum. Although this species is at times abundant offshore in the fall, only a few sight records existed for the spring. The earliest Least Tern was one at Moss Landing Apr. 27 (JH), and the first arrivals in S.F. Bay were recorded at several locations May 12-14 (BGE, JHol, ST). Black Terns, rare but regular coastal migrants, were at Coyote Hills, Alameda Co., Apr. 24 (Roberta Long) and the Pajaro Rivermouth May 5 (J&RW).

A Com. Murre was inside S.F. Bay at Berkeley May 21 (JL). A pair of Marbled Murrelets was at Grizzly Creek S.P. 20 mi. from the coast, Humboldt Co., Apr. 27-28 (DE, RLeV, TS), adding to the list of possible breeding locations. The only Ancient Murrelets reported were two five mi. off Eureka Apr. 14 (RLeV), which is about the latest this species is ever reported from our Region.

PIGEONS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS

—Flocks of 50-80 Band-tailed Pigeons, remnants of the winter "invasion", lingered in the C.V. until mid-May, and a few remained through the end of the period (TM, DAG, ROW). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo remained along the Sacramento R. north of Glenn, Glenn Co., from May 16 to the end of the period (Louis Henrich, DAG). Roadrunners were observed at two localities in the interior coast ranges: Anderson Dam, Santa Clara Co., Mar. 12 (*vide The Avocet*) and seven mi. north of King City, Monterey Co., May 4 (D&JR), their present status is conjectural.

A Flammulated Owl heard May 10 near Forest Ranch, Butte Co., was the first in the area this season (BW); others were reported from Yosemite Valley (Phil Schaeffer, *vide* DAG), Chew's Ridge, Monterey Co., (MeA), and Salmon Mtn., Humboldt Co., for the first county record (TS, RW). A Spotted Owl near Forest Ranch May 10 was the first reported in Butte Co. and only the third from the n. Sierra foothills - over 75 nighttime hrs. have been spent in this area by one of our most active owlers (BW). Other Spotted Owls were heard in the coastal mtns. at China Camp, Monterey Co. (MeA), at the usual locations in Marin Co., and at Grizzly Creek S.P., (DE, TS, *et. al.*). Great Gray Owls were present at the usual locations in Yosemite. Another was below the species' known breeding range at 4300 ft. at Mather Camp, Tuolumne Co., Apr. 29; as the upper meadows were still snow-covered, this may have been a wintering bird (MM). A Short-eared Owl at Belmont Slough Apr. 11 (PM) was the only one reported.

Lesser Nighthawks were observed near Sacramento Apr. 17 (*vide* BK) and near Dinuba May 3 (RGe), they appeared along the Sacramento R. in Glenn and

Butte Cos Apr 30 (DAG) Two Com Nighthawks were seen near Felton, Santa Cruz Co., Apr. 24 (BGE); they are extremely rare in the coastal district.

SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS—Only eight migrant flocks of Vaux's Swifts were reported with 35 at Pacific Grove, Monterey Co., Apr. 30, the only group of more than ten (AB); two at Crane Flat, Yosemite, May 29 were interesting (VR, J&SL) - although this species has been reported regularly at potential breeding sites in the Sierras, no official nesting record has yet been obtained. Two groups of four and seven Black Swifts were moving north along the Big Sur Coast May 22 (BGE), one was in Oakland May 18 (ST), and another was on the floor of the C.V. n of Glenn, Glenn Co., May 28 (DAG). A Black-chinned Hummingbird at the Hastings Reservation, Monterey Co., was somewhat further west than usual (AB). Costa's Hummingbirds were observed at two localities in the southern interior coast ranges where they probably nest in small numbers: Pinnacles Nat. Mon. May 5 (MLR) and lower Del Puerto Canyon, Stanislaus Co., May 6 (VR, WK, BP). A male in Weaverville, Trinity Co., Apr. 5 (SB) was hundreds of miles north of any previous sighting. A displaying ♂ Anna's Hummingbird in chaparral at 6400 ft. on Hull Mtn., Mendocino and Lake Cos., was well above known breeding locations (OK); conversion of logged forest to brushland may allow altitudinal range extensions in this species. Beginning Apr. 5, Rufous Hummingbirds inundated an Oakland feeding station and by Apr. 13, more than 200 birds (100+ ♂♂) swarmed "like flies around the feeders"; most were gone the next day (VR). The enormous numbers which migrate along the outer coast were well documented at Pt. Diablo where on five days between Apr. 3 and 18 a total of 315 hummingbirds, probably all Rufous, passed at a rate of one per 73 secs (LCB)! A Calliope Hummingbird on Berry Summit in e. Humboldt Co. Apr. 29 was the county's first interior record - they may nest in the area (DE, TS, RW).

WOODPECKERS & FLYCATCHERS—Pileated Woodpeckers continue to appear at localities in the Santa Cruz Mtns.: Portola, Big Basin, and Castle Rock State Parks and Waddell Creek (BGE). A pair of Lewis' Woodpeckers was ousted by Starlings from two successive nest sites along Arroyo Mocho (AE). Hairy Woodpeckers were sighted at three locations in riparian vegetation on the floor of the C.V. in Glenn and Butte Cos., where they are not known to nest (Joe Cornell, DAG, TM). Seven Western Kingbirds at Pt. Diablo May 4, one on May 7, and two on May 8 (LCB) and two in San Francisco May 8 (JM) suggest the species is a regular spring transient along the outer coast. Only three Willow Flycatchers were reported: Livermore May 8 (AE) and the Sacramento R. near Chico May 12 and 24 (TM). Gray Flycatchers were observed near Davis Apr. 21 (PB), College Cove (RLeV) and MicKinnleyville, Humboldt Co., May 5 (first county records), and at Coyote Hills May 14 (ST). Two small groups of transient flycatchers were observed in scattered parts of the Region towards the end of May: five W. Wood Pewees and an Olive-sided Flycatcher

on the Samoa Pen, Humboldt Co., May 20 (DE, TS) and eight Olive-sideds at Babel Slough, Yolo Co., May 24 (*vide* BK).

LARKS THROUGH THRUSHES—Twenty Horned Larks on the Bear R. Ridge, Humboldt Co., May 26, may constitute a resident population; they are not known to nest in Humboldt or Del Norte Cos (DA). Bank Swallow colonies at the Pajaro River-mouth (BGE) and along the Sacramento R. in Glenn and Butte Cos. (DAG, TM) were flourishing by the beginning of May. Groups of three and four migrant Purple Martins passed Pt. Diablo Apr. 3 & 7 (LCB) Nesting martins were reported from seven localities in coastal areas and five in the C.V. Steller's Jays lingered at elevations below 1000 ft. east of Sacramento until mid-April (B&RL). Groups of five and 11 migrant Com. Ravens were observed at Pt. Diablo Mar 3 & Apr. 8. Red-breasted Nuthatches were last seen in mid-April in coastal and C.V. localities. Varied Thrushes remained as late as Apr. 15 in Marin Co (LCB) and even into May at Whitmore, Shasta Co (BKl). Arrival dates for Swainson's Thrushes showed no discrepancy between outer coastal and inland areas this spring. A pair of Mountain Bluebirds, possibly breeding, were at the summit of Salmon Mt., Humboldt Co., May 26-27 (TS, RW).

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS—Transient Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were observed as follows on Pt. Diablo: six Apr. 4, four Apr. 7, and two Apr. 8 (LCB). Nineteen Phainopeplas were tallied from lower Mines Rd. through Del Puerto Canyon May 6 where five to nine are usual (VR, WK, BP) Starlings were reported increasing at Whitmore, Shasta Co. (BKl), Santa Cruz (DB), and in portions of interior Mendocino Co. where they were hitherto absent A Red-eyed Vireo, well-described, was at Coyote Hills Reg. Park May 24 (ST), the seventh spring record for the Region.

—S.A.—

Despite intensive searching by foot and canoe, Bell's Vireos were not detected in seemingly ideal willow riparian in Tehama, Butte and Glenn Counties where they were formerly common (TM, DAG). A pair of Hutton's Vireos nesting in willow riparian near Chico (a niche vacated by the Bell's Vireo?) were feeding a voracious Brown-headed Cowbird June 3 (TM)! Has the phenomenal increase of cowbirds, which began in the 1920s, doomed the Bell's Vireo in our region?

WARBLERS—Four ♂♂ Yellow Warblers established territories on a Sacramento R. census plot near Chico where only one was present last year (TM), their breeding status on the floor of the C.V. is uncertain. Reports suggested that the bulk of "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warblers departed from coastal districts by the first week of April, one to two weeks before "Audubon's". A "huge diurnal movement" on Jasper Ridge, San Mateo Co., Apr. 7 consisted of 60 per cent "Myrtles" (DDeS); both types were present in equal numbers at Pinnacles Nat. Mon. Apr 6-8

Species	Date of First Arrival		Timing of First Major Influx	
	1972	1973	1972	1973
Lesser Nighthawk	Ap 9	Ap 19, Sacramento	Not Recorded	Late
Vaux's Swift	Ap 8	Ap 19, Livermore	On Time	On Time
Black-chinned Hummingbird	Mar 11	Mar 29, Courtland	Not Recorded	On Time
Calliope Hummingbird	Ap 5	Ap 8, Berkeley	Early	On Time
Western Kingbird	Mar 2	Mar 31, Sacramento	Very Early	Late
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Ap 2	Ap 15, Auburn	Not Recorded	Late
Western Flycatcher	Mar 12	Ap 4, Berkeley	Early	Very Late
Western Wood Peewee	Ap 9	Ap 21, Livermore	On Time	On Time
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Ap 14	Ap 22, Palo Alto	On Time	On Time
Swainson's Thrush	Mar 24	Ap 18, Berkeley	Early	Late
Solitary Vireo	Mar 30	Ap 7, Pinnacles	Early	Late
Warbling Vireo	Mar 13	Mar 31, Santa Cruz	Early	Late
Orange-crowned Warbler	Feb 26	Mar 1, Lafayette	Early	On Time
Nashville Warbler	Ap 7	Ap 19, Oroville	On Time	On Time
Yellow Warbler	Mar 21	Ap 17, Searsville Lake	Very Early	On Time
Black-throated Gray Warb	Mar 30	Ap 14, Livermore	Very Early	On Time
Hermit Warbler	Ap 16	Ap 14, San Francisco	On Time	On Time
MacGillivray's Warbler	Ap 8	Ap 14, Berkeley	On Time	On Time
Wilson's Warbler	Mar 17	Mar 18, Bennett Valley	Early	On Time
Hooded Oriole	Mar 18	Mar 30, Yuba City	Early	On Time
Northern Oriole	Mar 12	Mar 19, Coyote Hills	Very Early	On Time
Western Tanager	Ap 10	Ap 22, Calistoga	Early	On Time
Black-headed Grosbeak	Mar 28	Mar 30, Belmont	Early	On Time
Lazuli Bunting	Ap 22	Ap 20, Dinuba	On Time	On Time
Chipping Sparrow	Mar 20	Ap 5, Sacramento	Very Early	On Time

(JHol). In San Francisco Apr. 14, the Yellow-rumped were all "Audubon's" (AM) and similarly, there was only one "Myrtle" among numerous "Audubon's" on Jasper Ridge Apr. 24 (DDeS). A ♀ Townsend's Warbler on Chew's Ridge May 28 (PM) was somewhat late. At least five ♂ MacGillivray's Warblers were on territory in the Berkeley hills Apr. 14 (AP, VR). Yellowthroats were considered common in appropriate habitat in Marin and Santa Cruz Cos. and at Coyote Hills, yet remained inexplicably scarce in C. V. marshes. Although the Yellow-breasted Chat was "Probably the most common breeding warbler in the Chico area" (TM), none were to be found in the Sacramento and Davis areas (BK, DAG).

An ad. ♂ Black-and-white Warbler was s. of Olema, Marin Co., Apr. 15 (LCB). Three spring reports of Palm Warblers were exceptional: Mill Valley, Marin Co., Apr. 4 (VRL), Jasper Ridge Apr. 24 (DDeS), and Trinidad, Humboldt Co., May 12 (RW). A ♂ Magnolia Warbler at Pt. Pinos May 22-23 (RS, GM), a ♀ Black-and-white Warbler at the Carmel Rivermouth May 23 (RS), and a ♂ Tennessee Warbler in Pacific Grove the same day (RS) reflected the late spring occurrence pattern of Eastern vagrants. A ♂ Am. Redstart returned to the site where a pair bred last year near Arcata (DE, TS); one which was probably an imm. ♂ was singing near Fairhaven May 31-June 1 (DE, TS, RW).

ICTERIDS AND TANAGERS—A ♂ Boblink at the Presidio, San Francisco, May 16 (MLR) and another singing ♂ in McDaniel Slough near Arcata May

30-31 (DE, TS) were the third and fourth spring records for the N. California coast. A ♀ Yellow-headed Blackbird was in the Arcata Bottoms May 17 & 22 (DE, TS) and another was at Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite, May 25 (J&SL); both were outside the species' normal range. Hooded Orioles continued to increase in numbers in towns throughout the Region, from Ferndale (Humboldt Co.) and Chico south. Northern Orioles were considered "not rare" along the Humboldt Co. coast (TS); they were formerly unknown north of Sonoma Co. A singing ♂ "Baltimore" Northern Oriole molted into adult plumage in the Arcata Cemetery Apr. 25-30 (S.H. Harris, RLeV, TS *et. al.*). A ♂ Summer Tanager in the same cemetery Apr. 25-28 (DE, TS) was the northernmost record for California; both oriole and tanager may have been wintering birds.

FINCHES—Single singing ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were in Sacramento May 28 (BK, TM *et. al.*) and on Pt. Bonita, Marin Co., May 22 (MLR), the third and fourth spring mainland records for the Region. A ♂ Blue Grosbeak was at Coyote Hills May 8 (ST) for one of the few S.F. Bay area records. Two Indigo Buntings were found in Humboldt Co: a ♂ in Westhaven May 10 (RLeV) and the head and wings of a ♂ recently eaten by a cat near Arcata May 15 (R. Hill, *vide* DE). Remnants of last fall and winter's extraordinary lowland and coastal flight of Evening Grosbeaks lingered into May: eight were at Babel Slough May 28 (TM) and three were in Oakland May 30 (VH). Flocks of up to 35 Red Crossbills remained on the Monterey

Table 2
Comparison of "Early" and "Late" Years in the Sierra Nevada (Data: MM)

Species	Early: Ap 27-29, 1968 & 72		Late: Ap 28-29, 1973	
	4000 ft.*	6000 ft.*	4000 ft.*	6000 ft.*
Western Wood Pewee	2	0	2	0
Olive-sided Flycatcher	7	Present	0	0
Nashville Warbler	6	2	0	0
Hermit Warbler	9	5	3	0
Western Tanager	0	0	0	0
Fox Sparrow	-*	10	-	7

*4000 ft. -- around Hodgdon Meadow, Yosemite. 6000 ft. -- vicinity of Crane Flat, Yosemite. -- no suitable breeding habitat checked.

Pen. through most of May (AB), and small groups at the Presidio and Lincoln Park in San Francisco were suspected of breeding (MLR, LCB). A Green-tailed Towhee was observed at Arroyo Mocho Apr. 29 (DDeS). Grasshopper Sparrows were absent from several traditional localities and considerably scarcer in others, e.g. two pairs in Wildcat Reg. Park where six pairs nested last year (JM, GZ, *et. al.*). A "Slate-colored" Dark-eyed Junco was at Samoa on the very late date of May 31 (TS). At least six ♂ Black-chinned Sparrows were in Tilden Park, Berkeley, May 14 (JM), and a ♂ returned briefly to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory where they nested last year (BS). Most *Zonotrichia* left by the end of April, but a Golden-crowned Sparrow lingered in Auburn through the end of the period (MA). A ♂ Harris' Sparrow at a feeder in Weaverville since Dec. 6 molted rapidly into ad. plumage and departed April 26 (SB) and another feeder bird in Monterey was present until at least Apr. 7 (SFB). White-throated Sparrows were last seen in the S.F. Bay area Apr. 15 and Humboldt Co. Apr. 22.

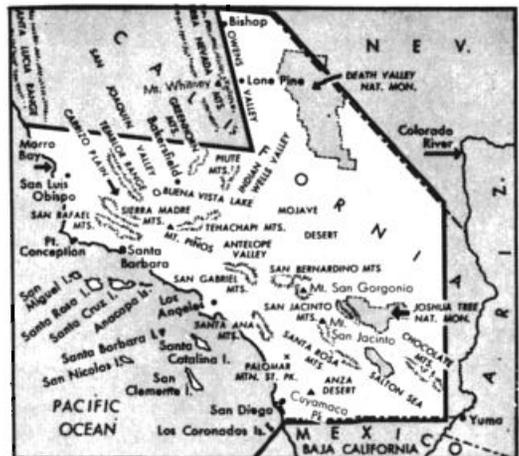
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SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION / Guy McCaskie

The winter rains finally let up in early April and, as a result of the excessive moisture, the entire countryside appeared lush and green with a spectacular display of wildflowers on the deserts. Consequently, there was feed and water available everywhere and migrants did not appear to concentrate as much this spring as they have in the past. Most observers felt migrants were scarce in the eastern portions of the region; however, large numbers of migrant flycatchers, vireos, and warblers were present along the coast during a period of heavy overcast in early May.

As usual a variety of eastern species appeared during late May and early June with an amazing 13 species of warblers over and above 15 western species. Some of the more unusual discoveries included Mississippi



Kites in Death Valley, a Golden-winged Warbler at Deep Springs, and a Kentucky Warbler and Scarlet Tanager on the Channel Is.

Searching for pelagic birds during May proved to be productive, for birds were quite numerous and a good variety of species was encountered. Among the more noteworthy sightings was a South Polar Skua off San Diego and three Horned Puffins around the Channel Is. (see cover).

The early arrival dates for some of our key migrants were: Wilson's Phalarope, Apr. 8 at the Salton Sea; Com. Tern, Apr. 14 in San Diego; Least Tern, Apr. 9 in Oceanside; Elegant Tern, Mar. 24 in San Diego; Black Tern, Apr. 29 at the Salton Sea; Lesser Night-hawk, Apr. 8 at the Salton Sea; Vaux's Swift, Apr. 19 over Santa Barbara; Black-chinned Hummingbird, Apr. 12 in San Pedro; W. Kingbird, Mar. 17 at the Salton Sea; Ash-throated Flycatcher, Apr. 6 in Santa Barbara; Willow Flycatcher, May 5 in Santa Barbara; W. Flycatcher, Mar. 18 in Topanga Canyon; W. Wood Pewee, Apr. 15 at the Salton Sea; Olive-sided Flycatcher, Apr. 9 in Arcadia; Swainson's Thrush, Apr. 20 in Santa Barbara; Bell's Vireo, Mar. 24 in San Diego; Solitary Vireo, Apr. 7 in San Pedro; Warbling Vireo, Mar. 19 in Santa Barbara; Nashville Warbler, Apr. 8 in both Los Angeles and Santa Barbara; Yellow Warbler, Mar. 31 in San Diego; Black-throated Gray Warbler, Mar. 22 in Santa Barbara; Hermit Warbler, Apr. 19 in Santa Barbara; MacGillivray's Warbler, Apr. 13 in Arcadia; Yellow-breasted Chat, Apr. 15 in Santa Barbara; Wilson's Warbler, Mar. 3 at Malibu; Hooded Oriole, Mar. 24 near Imperial Beach; Scott's Oriole, Apr. 1 in Anza-Borrego State Park; N. Oriole, Mar. 18 near Imperial Beach; W. Tanager, Apr. 16 in Santa Barbara; Black-headed Grosbeak, Mar. 24 near Imperial Beach; Blue Grosbeak, Apr. 28 in San Diego; Lazuli Bunting, Apr. 15 in Santa Barbara; Black-chinned Sparrow, Mar. 24 in San Diego.

LOONS, GREBES—A few Com. Loons regularly migrate through the interior of California, so one on Big Bear L. in the San Bernardino Mts. May 6 was not too unusual. However, an Arctic Loon on Franklin Canyon Res., L.A. Co., Apr. 27 was most unusual since very few interior records exist. A Horned Grebe at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley Apr. 14-21 was the only one found inland this spring.

SHEARWATERS, STORM PETRELS—Pink-footed and Sooty Shearwaters were found in fair numbers off the coast throughout May as expected, but 30 Manx Shearwaters off San Diego May 19 were unusual, since they normally remain in Mexican waters until the late summer. An Ashy Storm-Petrel off San Diego May 19 was quite far south for that date. Black Storm-Petrels were common off San Diego May 19, and two were noted off Santa Barbara May 13.

CORMORANTS—Six Double-crested Cormorants on Big Bear L. May 6 were at a rather high elevation and one at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley Apr. 14-16 was at an equally unlikely locality.

HERONS—Cattle Egrets are now common residents at the Salton Sea and have been regular fall and winter visitors to the coast; ten in Cerritos, L.A. Co., May 20, and 35 at Imperial Beach, San Diego Co., Apr. 14 were unusual numbers for coastal localities in spring, and two at Yucca Valley, San Bernardino Co. were the first for that area of California. A lone Least Bittern at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley June 3 was at an unusual locality.

GEESE, DUCKS—As appears to be normal, a few Black Brant passed through the Salton Sea during April and May; however, one at Whittier, L.A. Co., Mar. 11 was unexpected. Blue-winged Teal were reasonably common, being found with Cinnamon Teal, for over 40 individuals were reported within the region. A Wood Duck at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley June 9 was exceptionally late. The only Oldsquaw reported was inland on L. Cachuma, Santa Barbara Co. Apr. 15 (Kim Aanerud, *vide* RW). A Surf Scoter at Salton City on the Salton Sea Apr. 22 and another on Little Rock Dam, L.A. Co. Apr. 15 were both away from the coast. A White-winged Scoter at the north end of the Salton Sea Apr. 23 and May 5 was also inland where it is very rare.

HAWKS—Two **Mississippi Kites** appeared at Furnace Creek Ranch May 21, both were still present the following day, but thereafter only one could be found through June 3 (HK, M & NP *et al.*); this represents the fourth record for California. A **Broad-winged Hawk** at Furnace Creek Ranch Apr. 21 (GMcC, SS *et al.*) gives us the first spring record of this hawk in California. Small numbers of Swainson's Hawks were seen in the n.e. corner of the region where a few still nest, but one noted in the Antelope Valley, L.A. Co. Apr. 28 and another seen over Riverside Apr. 7 were the only migrants reported. A Peregrine Falcon in Cottonwood Canyon of the Panamint Mts. Apr. 16, one over Furnace Creek Ranch June 1, and another on Pt. Loma, San Diego Co. May 20 were the only birds reported away from known eyries. A Pigeon Hawk at Agua Caliente, San Diego Co. Apr. 1 and another at the south end of the Salton Sea Apr. 12 were late for S. California.

SHOREBIRDS—An Am. Oystercatcher was seen on Anacapa Is. May 13 (RW *et al.*) and another was found on the Los Coronados Is. May 19 (GMcC *et al.*). Two Black Oystercatchers on the L.A. Harbor breakwater in May were a little out of range. There are few records of Semipalmated Plovers from the n.e. portion of the region, hence one in Death Valley Apr. 14-15, and 16 near Big Pine Apr. 28 are of interest. Likewise a Snowy Plover in Death Valley Apr. 14-15, and 8 near Big Pine May 12 add to the few records for the area. The only Am. Golden Plovers noted this spring were one on Newport Bay Apr. 30 and another in Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. May 22. A Ruddy Turnstone at the south end of the Salton Sea Apr. 29 and two there May 5 were the only ones reported away from the coast. Four Whimbrel in Bishop Apr. 15 and another near Big Pine Apr. 29 were in an area

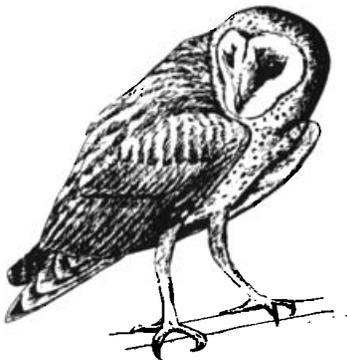
from which few records exist. A Solitary Sandpiper, always rare in spring, was near San Diego Apr. 5 and 1-2 were around Yucca Valley Apr. 22-May 6. As usual a few Knots passed through the Salton Sea during late April and early May with a maximum of 15 on May 12; this is the only inland locality in California where this species regularly occurs. A Baird's Sandpiper, exceptionally rare in spring, was photographed near Imperial Beach May 5 (EAC, SC). A flock of 7 Stilt Sandpipers at the south end of the Salton Sea May 12 constitutes the only report this spring. A Semipalmated Sandpiper was carefully studied at the north end of the Salton Sea May 5 (GMcC, SS); a very rare but probably regular spring migrant through this area. Red Phalaropes were found off San Diego May 19 but not elsewhere off the coast earlier in the month.

—S.A.—

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS—A South Polar Skua (*Catharacta maccormicki*) was well seen about 35 mi. off San Diego May 19 (GMcC *et al.*); regardless of what appears in the A.O.U. Checklist and other publications covering birds of the Pacific Coast, the South Polar Skua appears to be the only skua collected along the west coast of North America (Devillers, in press). The South Polar Skua is generally treated as a separate species from the other forms of skuas occurring in the Southern Hemisphere since it is known to nest sympatrically with at least one of those forms, *Catharacta skua lonnbergi*, without apparently interbreeding. Three color phases, dark, intermediate and light, are known for *Catharacta maccormicki*, whereas the other forms of skua have monotypical plumages. Birds in the light phase plumage are easily identifiable in the field since no other form of skua approaches the paleness of these individuals. The bird seen off San Diego was a very pale individual having an almost straw-colored head and breast with some golden feathers visible on the nape.

An exceptionally late Glaucous Gull was seen flying north past Pt. Loma, San Diego Co. May 20. A second-year Western Gull (yellow-legged) at Salton City Apr. 22 was very early for the Salton Sea. Remarkably the only Franklin's Gull found this spring was a beautiful adult in Bishop May 15 (JMF). A Bonaparte's Gull near Big Pine Apr. 28 was unusual for the area. As is expected, a few Sabine's Gulls were found off the coast in May. Com. Terns were noted on the Salton Sea Apr. 18 & 23 at the same time numbers were building up along the coast. At least ten Arctic Terns were well studied off San Diego May 19 (GMcC *et al.*); there are very few spring reports for California, and none documented by specimens. Four Black Skimmers were back at the Salton Sea, where the species nested last year, by May 12 (DVT) and one was seen along the coast on San Diego Bay May 12 (EAC, SC).

ALCIDS—Earlier suspicions that larger-than-normal numbers of Com. Murres reached Southern California waters last winter were reinforced by the sighting of unusual numbers this spring—30 off Oxnard May 13, 30 off San Pedro June 8 and 40 off Torrey Pines State Park, San Diego Co. Apr. 29. Pigeon Guil-



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lebot was found nesting commonly on Anacapa I and Santa Barbara I. in May, the southern limit of its range. Xantus' Murrelets are undoubtedly nesting on all the Channel Is. and were noted in good numbers in the waters around these islands during May. A Rhinoceros Auklet off San Diego May 19 was late. Most unexpected was the photographing of a **Horned Puffin** near Santa Cruz Is. May 13 (GMcC *et al.*) followed by the sighting of two more around Santa Barbara I. May 20 (LJ); prior to this only two records exist for apparently healthy birds seen on the open ocean off California though a few dead birds have been found along our beaches.

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS—Band-tailed Pigeons lingered in the coastal lowlands until late April. A White-winged Dove at Laguna Beach, Orange Co. May 13 and another around Goleta in April and May were on the coast where it is rare; one in Kelso, San Bernardino Co. May 26 was fairly far north. Two Inca Doves seen in Twenty-nine Palms, Riverside Co. May 19 (BE) were far outside their very limited range in California. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo, now very rare in California, was found on Santa Barbara I. June 1 (KG); a most unusual locality. Whip-poor-wills had returned to the San Jacinto Mts. by May 4 when at least one bird was heard calling. A Lesser Nighthawk on Santa Barbara I. May 20 was unusual. Again **Chimney Swifts** appeared over Encino with two noted May 31 (JD) and one still present the following day (GSS); this species is being reported each spring nowadays. An Anna's Hummingbird at Wildrose in the Panamint Mts. May 31 was outside its normal range. Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were displaying in the White Mts. Apr. 20 despite the wintry appearance of the area.

WOODPECKERS—A Com. Flicker exhibiting the characters of the "Gilded Flicker" was seen at a nesting hole near Cima, San Bernardino Co. May 19; this form appears to be resident in this area of California

in limited numbers. Lewis' Woodpeckers lingered in some coastal and mountain localities until late April after having wintered; 200 together at Furnace Creek Ranch Apr. 8 must have been migrants moving north. A White-headed Woodpecker at Furnace Creek Ranch Apr. 8 (Dr. D. Baepler, *vide* CL) was most unusual since it rarely strays from the mountains.

FLYCATCHERS—A few E. Kingbirds must have moved through eastern California in early June, for single birds were seen at Deep Spring, Inyo Co. June 8, Scotty's Castle in Death Valley June 9, Furnace Creek Ranch June 5, and at the south end of the Salton Sea June 4. A Cassin's Kingbird at Baldwin L. in the San Bernardino Mts. May 13 was at a rather high elevation. Wied's Crested Flycatchers had returned to Morongo Valley, the n.w. limit of the species' range, by May 6; one at Furnace Creek Ranch May 23 (JD, BB) was north of its recorded range. An E. Phoebe at Furnace Creek Ranch May 21 (HK) was most unusual since spring records for California are virtually unknown.

NUTCRACKERS, WRENS, THRASHERS, THRUSHES—Three Clark's Nutcrackers were in Santa Barbara during most of April and two remained in Morongo Valley until at least May 6; remnants of last fall's flight. A Winter Wren seen in Cottonwood Canyon of the Panamint Mts. Apr. 16 was in an area for which few records exist. A Bewick's Wren, believed to be of the race *leucophrys*, was studied on San Clemente I. Apr. 15 (LJ); this form has not been reported since around 1940, and was presumed extinct since goats had eaten nearly all the brush on the island. A Brown Thrasher, a casual straggler to California, was seen on Pt. Loma in San Diego Apr. 5 (ET) and another was photographed in Oceanside, San Diego Co. Apr. 24 (DH). Bendire's Thrashers were present around Cima in e. San Bernardino Co. where they are common, after late March, and one was seen near Cottonwood Springs, Riverside Co. where it is scarce, May 13. The large number of Varied Thrushes in S



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WARBLERS—Two Black-and-white Warblers near Westmoreland, Imperial Co. Apr. 29, one at Deep Springs May 22, two around Goleta June 1-3, and one at sea off San Diego May 15 were the only individuals of this regular straggler reported this spring. A ♂ **Golden-winged Warbler** at Deep Springs May 20-21 (JL, TH and others) represents the fifth record for California. A Tennessee Warbler banded on Camp Pendleton, San Diego Co. May 11 was the only one reported this spring. Remarkably only one Virginia's Warbler was reported, a bird at Yucca Valley, San Bernardino Co. May 20. Lucy's Warblers were found on breeding territory in Death Valley in late March but were not noted around nearby Tecopa until Apr. 14. N. Parulas are regularly found in California during the late spring; this year one was at Oasis, Mono Co. May 27 (JVR, JL *et al.*) and another was at Furnace Creek Ranch May 30 (RS). A ♂ **Cape May Warbler**, the third reported in California during spring, was well studied at Toll House Springs in the White Mts. May 28 (JMF). Most unusual was the appearance of three Chestnut-sided Warblers, one at Deep Springs June 1 (GMcC), another there June 8 (GSS, HBa), and one on the Palos Verdes Pen., L.A. Co. June 10 (RB). A ♂ **Bay-breasted Warbler** was studied in Morongo Valley May 20 (M. Chamberlain, *vide* JVR). A Palm Warbler, exceptionally rare in spring, was found on Santa Barbara I. May 12 (LJ). Single Ovenbirds were seen at Oasis May 26 (JD *et al.*), Wildrose in the Panamint Mts. May 27 (GMcC) and in Beverly Hills, L.A. Co. June 3 (R. Newman, *vide* GSS); a few of these birds are found each spring.

Northern Waterthrushes probably migrate through California regularly each spring and fall but numbers are very small; one in San Diego April 25-26, another banded on Camp Pendleton Apr. 29, one studied on San Nicolas I. June 1, and a fourth at Furnace Creek Ranch May 27 were the only ones reported. A ♂ **Kentucky Warbler** on Santa Barbara I. June 1 (KG) is the fourth found in California. Unprecedented were three **Hooded Warblers**, a ♂ at Dos Cabezas Springs in Anza-Borrego State Park May 11 (W. Schumman, *vide* GSS), a ♀ in Santa Ana, Orange Co. May 12 (EBH), and a ♂ at Oasis May 28 (SS, GMcC *et al.*). At least a dozen Am. Redstarts were seen in the n.e. portion of the region, where they appear to be regular migrants, during the last half of May; in addition four were found along the coast with one in Santa Ana May 12, one in Santa Barbara May 14, one at sea off San Diego May 16, and another on Santa Barbara I. May 12. Most unusual was a **Painted Redstart** in Cottonwood Canyon of the Panamint Mts. Apr. 13-16 (RS), the only record to date for this area of California.

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, TANAGERS—Single ♂ Bobolinks at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley May 26 and June 9 were expected since small numbers apparently pass through this area each spring; however, one on San Nicolas I. June 3 (LJ) was a surprise. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found on San Nicolas, Santa Barbara, and Anacapa Is. where they would not be expected, in late April and May. Two Orchard Orioles were at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley May 30 (RS) and another was at nearby Mesquite Springs the following day supporting the theory that

it is a regular visitor to California. Four Orioles exhibiting the characters of *I. g. galbula* were noted in the northeastern corner of the region with one in Big Pine Apr. 28, one at Deep Springs May 22, one at Oasis May 26-28, and another at Scotty's Castle May 26. A ♂ Great-tailed Grackle at Yucca Valley May 20-28 (HBr. LCB), a ♀ at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley May 21 (HK) and another ♀ at Panamint Springs, Inyo Co. May 27 (SS *et al.*) were all far to the north and west of their present range in California. A ♀ **Scarlet Tanager**, only the fourth spring record for California, was well studied on San Nicolas I. June 1 (LJ). Summer Tanagers had returned to Morongo Valley, where they regularly nest, by May 5, and were found at nearby Whitewater a week later. Migrants (race questionable, but possibly *rubra*) were noted at Agua Caliente Springs in Anza-Borrego State Park May 27, on San Nicolas I. June 3, and Deep Springs June 9.

FINCHES, SPARROWS—Seven ♂♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported this spring with one at Deep Springs May 19-21 (JD GSS *et al.*), one at Borrego Springs May 27 (JM), one in Santa Barbara June 7 (RW), one in Montecito June 2 (D. Summer, *vide* RW), one at Star Ranch Audubon Sanctuary May 12 (LAS), and two on Santa Barbara I. May 20 (LJ), this species is found regularly in limited numbers. Indigo Buntings were again found in small numbers with six along the eastern border of the Region May 15-June 9, one at Japatul Valley, San Diego Co. May 21, and four on the Channel Is. May 12-June 1. A **Dickcissel** at Furnace Creek Ranch June 1 (GMcC) represents only the fourth found in spring within this Region. Evening Grosbeaks were swarming across the n.e. portion of the region during the last half of May, probably the birds seen passing south through this area last October. A flock of 18 Red Crossbills in Santa Barbara Apr. 20-May 15 was unexpected. Harris' Sparrows continued to draw attention by their presence with eight reports involving 21 birds, mostly in the e. portion of the region, being received; interestingly, late individuals were one in Oceanside Apr. 27, one near San Bernardino May 6, and a wintering bird still present in Big Pine June 8. Single White-throated Sparrows were noted around San Pedro Apr. 21 and May 4 and another was in Oceanside Apr. 24.

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