

The Spring Migration April 1 – May 31, 1974

NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

The editor regrets to report that this important region, one of our most populous for subscribers and observers alike, will have no report in this or the next issue. Davis W. Finch, whose brilliant reports have added so much of lasting value to this journal, has failed to submit reports either for the Spring Migration or the Breeding Season.

Until we can determine the future status of Mr. Finch as a Regional Editor, we are appointing a provisional successor. He is **Richard A. Forster, 75 Nicholas Road, Framingham, Mass. 01701**. Reports for the autumn migrations season (August 1 - November 30) should be sent through the regular channels to him promptly at the close of the season. We do mean promptly. Part of Finch's (and other Regional Editors') problem has always been the habitual tardiness of his contributors' reports. Observers from all regions would enormously speed the publication of American Birds by mailing or telephoning their season's reports *when due*.

HUDSON-ST. LAWRENCE REGION / Richard Kane and P. A. Buckley

Weather factors affecting the season's migration included heavy snows across northern New York and Vermont Apr. 9-10 that brought birds flocking to feeders and caused some mortality among early migrants (E. Phoebe, Hermit Thrush and Field Sparrow). An unusual hot spell in late April ushered in abnormally early arrivals of May migrants to the New York City Region (below, N.Y.C.R.) and southern areas generally, while cold, rainy weather in early and late May stalled movement in northern sections and flooded the Ottawa and St. Lawrence Rivers, perhaps enough to jeopardize waterfowl nesting efforts. Heavy flights were noted April 3-4, 20, 28-29 and May 14-15, 17-18, 22-23, and 25 in many locales. Events especially noteworthy in the period were "overshooting" of southern species in good numbers (including rarities), continued expansion of western birds (some rare) eastward, more extension of lowland species to higher altitudes, and good counts of species normally difficult to observe or easily missed. High counts of warblers, especially Tennessee and Bay-breasted, were the rule this season, as were unusual inland occurrences of coastal species. The return winter finch flight (except redpolls) was moderate compared to the avalanche of 1972.

LOONS THROUGH WADING BIRDS—After a heavy flight last fall, Red-throated Loons went largely unreported. Red-necked Grebe sightings totalled 19, 11 from n. New York (the high five at Schroon L., May 8



(JB, *vide* JMCP). The only Sooty Shearwaters were one off Deal, N.J., May 22 (CFL), two there May 25 (WSh) and 21 off Fire I., N.Y., May 19 (DPo). A count of 31 N. Fulmars from the Godbout Ferry, P.Q., May 26 (ND, MG) perhaps reflected the southward expansion of this species' breeding range into Newfoundland (see Nettleship, N.N. and Montgomerie, R.D. 1974. *Am. Birds* 28:16). A single Leach's and 157 Wilson's Storm-Petrels 12 mil. off Deal May 25 (WSh) were the only two season reports. Inland records of Double-crested Cormorants included one at Plattsburgh, N.Y., May 11 (GC), another at Westport, N.Y., May 31 (JMCP) and a third at Huntsville Res., Dallas, Pa., Apr. 22, a first there (WR, EJ).

Heron reports turned up some new colonies and the usual sprinkling of wanderers. At Great Swamp N.W.R., 30 Great Blue Herons were present through the period (G.S.N.W.R.), the behavior of some birds suggesting a new colony (*vide* RK). The Great Blue heronry at Tamarack, Dutchess Co., N.Y. had 9 active nests (*vide* EP) as did a new heronry at Southfield, Mass. (RJG). Five Little Blue Herons inland at G.S.N.W.R. Apr. 8-May 15 were surprising. The northernmost Cattle Egrets were eight in the Montreal area Apr. 22-May 4 (*vide* MM), followed by two at Ashley Falls, Mass., May 17, where they are now regu-

lar in May (RJG). Other Cattle Egrets, rare for their locations were two at Exeter, Pa., May 1, only the third record for that area (WR, EC), one at Stratford, Conn., Apr. 6 (CFH) and another at Rye, N.Y., Apr. 23 (JZ *et al.*). Long Island reported only a few individuals for the entire season. A Great Egret at Cap Tourmente, P.Q., Apr. 14 (DL, *vide* MG) was unusual as was a Snowy Egret at Pittston, Pa., Apr. 3, the second record there (WR). An established Black-crowned Night Heron colony at Pittston produced 21 nests in April (WR), while a new rookery at Kearny, N.J. in the Hackensack Meadows held some 50 pairs May 18 (DS). Two nests of Yellow-crowned Night Herons were found at Rye in April (TWB) and four of this species were seen May 25 in Secaucus, N.J. where they are not known to breed (DS). Both bitterns were lightly reported throughout, and the northernmost Glossy Ibis was at Ferrisburg, Vt., May 20 (BG).

WATERFOWL—Whistling Swan reports were light in view of last fall's invasion. A lone bird was at Montreal May 16 (GT, *vide* MG) and a pair was seen at Laurel Res., Stamford, Conn., Apr. 30 (*vide* MFN); other singles were at Westport, N.Y., Mar. 31 (AG, *vide* JMCP), Raquette Pond, N.Y., May 2 (GTC), Tivoli Apr. 16 and Traver Swamp Apr. 17, both Dutchess Co., N.Y. (*vide* EP). Spectacular flocks of 1000-6000 Canada Geese gathered in the L. St. Peter, P.Q. area during the period (MG), and two flocks of 100 and 200 Brant over the Ottawa R., May 27 were highly unusual for that locality (MM). Also noteworthy were 23 Brant May 11 at Plattsburgh (GC). Snow Geese in Québec were described as "abundant between L. St. Peter and Rivière du Loup outside their usual migration route" (MG); Granby, P.Q. had 875 Apr. 12-13 (PT). Good flights of Snows were observed in Dutchess Co., Apr. 8-14 when nine flocks ranging from 75-800 birds passed the area (*vide* EP), while smaller flocks up to 200 were noted at Winhall, Vt. (WN), Vergennes, Vt. (BG) and Essex Co., N.Y. (JMCP), also in April.

One of the highlights of this season was a **Fulvous Tree-Duck** found Apr. 26 in the Hackensack Meadows at N. Arlington, N.J. (TP). The number rose to two May 1 (RR) and at least one of those was still present at the end of the period (RK, AB *et al.*). Apparently the vanguard of a strong May movement of this species into s. New Jersey (see Middle Atlantic Coast Region report), its presence at this season seems more remarkable since prior invasions have generally occurred outside of our breeding season.

Light reporting of Black Ducks was offset by a tremendous increase of Gadwall in the Montreal area (*vide* MM), in the Hackensack Meadows, where 60-70 breeding pairs was a conservative estimate (RK), and at Great Swamp N.W.R. (m.ob.). At Fairfield, Conn., eight young of this species were found May 16 (CFH). Masses of 300-3000 Pintails were recorded in the P.Q. area moving with Canada Geese (*vide* MG). Single Eurasian Green-winged Teal were carefully observed at Berthier, P.Q., May 11 (MG) and Milford Pt., Conn., Apr. 16 (RE, CFH). At Great Swamp N.W.R., the staff estimated the Wood Duck population for May 25-31 at 1400, enough to fill most of the 800 nest boxes there (96 occupied in 1973). Lake Musconetcong, N.J. brought in a new regional high of 300+ Ring-necked Ducks Mar.

31 (GM *et al.*); previous high was 250. Rafts of 100-200 Ring-neckeds are not unusual on n. New Jersey lakes, where it and the Com. Merganser are among the commoner spring migrant waterfowl. There were some scattered reports of late Com. Goldeneye through the region and one Barrow's Goldeneye was observed at Berthier May 4 (MG). High counts of 400 Bufflehead at J.B.W.R., Apr. 28 (TWB, HMcG) and 200 there on the late date of May 6 (THD) mirrored last fall's heavy flight and the species' general increase in the s. end of the region. The wintering Harlequin Duck at Robert Moses S.P., L.I. remained through Apr. 7 (m.ob.), the only others were two near Rimouski, P.Q., May 17 (RP). A ♂ Com. Eider obligingly dawdled through several "Big Days" to May 19 at J.B.W.R. (m.ob.) Of a smattering of inland scoter reports, the best count was 110 Black Scoter migrating along the Housatonic R. near Milford, Conn., May 8 (JS *et al.*). A belated report of 500 Com. Merganser at Spruce Run Res., Hunterdon Co., N.J., Feb. 24 (JD) was the seasonal (though not regional) high; smaller rafts up to 100 were recorded at various localities on L. Champlain and Adirondack lakes during April.

VULTURES THROUGH COOT—The only systematic reports or season totals received from hawk lookouts were the Derby Hill, N.Y. totals through Apr. 21, and a summary of 19 sites in w. Massachusetts and Connecticut manned on Apr. 20-21. Turkey Vultures were seen as increasing in n. portions of the region, with six sightings in the Montreal area (*vide* MM) and at least eight in the Essex Co., N.Y. area (*vide* JMCP). Among the season's southern rarities was a **Swallow-tailed Kite** over West Orange, N.J., May 4 (WW *et al.*), only the ninth or tenth record for N.J. but part of a recent pattern of May appearances in the Northeast. Derby Hill garnered a respectable 219 Goshawks for the period, as against 2371 Sharp-shinned and 213 Cooper's Hawks. Lest that last figure seem encouraging, consider these, the 19 lookouts in w. Massachusetts and Connecticut manned on Apr. 21 produced only eight Cooper's, fewer than Derby Hill's nine the same day, while the grand total of all other reports in the region was a not-so-resounding 21. Eight Red-shouldered Hawk nests in Berkshire Co., Mass. were encouraging (RJG *et al.*). The red-letter Broad-winged Hawk day was Apr. 21 at Derby Hill, when 2650 passed the lookout (m.ob.).

One of only a few regional spring records, and the second in two years, was that of a light-phase **Swainson's Hawk** at Northfield, Mass., Apr. 20, described as having a heavy terminal band on a finely barred tail, and a light body and chin with a dark head and chest (GW, NBC, *vide* DH). Golden Eagle reports totalled 18, 13 at Derby Hill as against five Bald Eagles there for the season; one Golden and three Bald Eagles were observed in Québec (*vide* MM, MG), two more Golden in the Adirondacks (*vide* JMCP) and two others in Dutchess Co. (AJ). The annual Osprey census on Gardiner's I., N.Y., in early April revealed 31 active nests (same as 1973), with a heartening absence of any cracked or dented eggs (DPu). Derby Hill managed 21 Ospreys Apr. 21, the 19 w. Massachusetts and Connecticut sites had 23 the same day, and in Essex Co., N.Y., the Osprey was the most reported raptor (*vide* JMCP).

The period's only Gyrfalcons were one at Québec City in late April (LH) and another at Montreal Apr. 6 (MG). Meager Peregrine reports (4) and Merlin totals (13, mostly inland) did not augur well for those troubled species.

Nocturnal observers with flashlight and tape recording were treated to point-blank views of three and possibly four **Black Rails** at Oak Beach, L.I., May 19-30 (THD, HMcG *et al.*). Joining the invasion of southern species north were three **Purple Gallinules**, all in the N Y C R.; one dallied under lilacs in a backyard at Quogue, L. I., May 18-23 (BC *et al.*), a second fed on dead blackbirds (sic!) at a nursery in Eatontown, N.J., Apr 10-19 (WS, *vide* PWS) and a third graced the Mommouth Co., N.J. garbage dump June 6 (m. ob.), the last two marking the fifth and sixth records for n. New Jersey in three years. A Com. Gallinule at Gale Meadows, Vt., May 18.26 was a first there (WN) and an Am Coot at Thurso, P.Q., May 27 was rare for that area (MM).

SHOREBIRDS—A Piping Plover at Rimouski May 26 (ML, *vide* MG) and single Am. Golden Plovers at Stratford May 14 and Southport, Conn., May 20 (CFH) were noteworthy. Upland Sandpipers were well reported only from Québec (*vide* MM), where the earliest **Willet** ever was seen on Nun's I., May 5, one of the few provincial records (FH *et al.*, *vide* MG).

S.A.

An extraseasonal **Baird's Sandpiper** was carefully studied at close range on May 27 at Union Beach, N. J. by a veteran observer (WS, *vide* PWS). Subsequent attempts to locate the bird the same day unfortunately failed (PWS). While other shorebirds with elliptical west-east migration orbits occur in the region in spring, the Baird's Sandpiper is decidedly more uncommon than most of these—even in fall (maximum 18). Fall counts in recent years have even lagged behind those of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper, another unlikely spring visitant. At present there are no spring specimens or photographs to confirm Baird's in our region at this season. Either still seems desirable.

The 40 White-rumped Sandpipers at Oak Beach May 22 (HMcG, JDi) reflected a good movement of that species; one at Pittston June 1 was in the company of a Dunlin, both very rare that far inland (WR). Eclipsing all other counts was a tally of 3000 Short-billed Dowitchers around Rimouski in late May (MG). Among the other spring rarities were four **Long-billed Dowitchers**: a pair in breeding plumage was carefully studied May 9 at Georgica Pond, L.I. (PAB) while another bird in breeding plumage was photographed on Pike R., P.Q., May 20 (GHM *et al.*, *vide* MM). A fourth Long-billed was identified by voice at J.B.W.R., Apr. 28 (HMcG, TWB) An abnormally high inland count of Semipalmated Sandpipers was 125 at Pittston June 1 (WR). The only Ruffs were a male May 19-22 at Oak Beach (THD, DWF *et al.*), and a female (Reeve) May 25 at J.B.W.R. (JA, HMcG *et al.*). After a record fall flight, a reasonably strong return movement of Wilson's Phalaropes

brought nine birds to the region: an early female Apr. 30 at Tobay, L.I. (FF *et al.*); two females at the Hackensack Meadows, one May 5 (B&WB) and one May 17 (WT); and a pair at Oak Beach May 19 (THD, DWF *et al.*). Québec, where the species has bred, reported an early female on May 5, joined by another female and two males May 25 at Nun's I. (FH). Another rare inland occurrence of note was the presence of two Sanderlings at Pittston June 1 for the second year in a row (WR)

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS—The lone Pomarine Jaeger of the season was sighted from the Godbout Ferry May 26 (MG). Extraseasonal Glaucous Gulls included single immatures at Plattsburgh May 11, where rare (GC), at J.B.W.R. to May 14 (m.ob.), at Lido Beach, N.Y., May 26 (HMcG, TWB) and at the N. Arlington dump through May (NN) while Iceland Gulls lingered at Montauk to May 26 (PL, PP *et al.*). South Amboy, N.J. to May 25 (RK *et al.*), Cheesecake Inlet, N.J. to Jun. 1 (PWS) and N. Arlington through May (NN). Noteworthy for L. Champlain was a Great Black-backed Gull at Westport Apr. 17 (AG). The only Black-headed Gulls were a subadult at Fire I. Inlet May 12 (AL) and an adult at New Haven Harbor May 19 (GGD, TWB *et al.*). An ad. **Franklin's Gull** at Rimouski during mid-May was the tenth Québec and second spring record, all since 1969, and the first outside the Montreal area (RP *et al.*). Little Gulls were distributed as usual, with six at S. Amboy May 25 (m.ob.), four at Fire I., May 12 (AL), nine at New Haven May 19 (GGD, TWB) and one with Bonaparte's Gulls at Beauharnois May 13 (JS, *vide* MM). Rare terns included an extremely early **Gull-billed** on May 18 at J.B.W.R. (DWF, THD *et al.*), an **Arctic Tern** again from Québec, this year at Rimouski May 26 (ND, MG) and a Royal Tern May 25 at Sagaponack, L.I. (THD, PL *et al.*). A pair of Caspian Terns were at Hempstead Lake S.P., L.I., Apr. 27 (m.ob.) and singles were spotted at Port Henry, L. Champlain May 15, a first for Essex Co., N.Y. (GC, TNM), Berthier, P.Q., May 11 (m.ob.) and Rimouski May 26 (ND, MG). Some 15-20 Black Terns returned to the breeding grounds at Dead Creek Refuge, Vt., May 27 (WN, I&JC), but were typically spotty elsewhere Two murre (sp. ?) were reported from the Godbout Ferry May 26 (MG).

PARAKEETS THROUGH WOODPECKERS—While no new Monk Parakeet locations were reported, a **Blossom-headed Parakeet** (*Psittacula cyanocephala*) appeared at Vergennes, Vt., Apr. 8, was photographed Apr. 20, and was sighted in at least two other places before departing (BG *et al.*). Another parakeet tentatively identified as this species—and possibly the same bird—was seen across L. Champlain at feeders in Westport and Crown Point, N.Y., May 14-15 (*vide* JMCP). Observers should familiarize themselves with the 11 species which have occurred in the wild in the Hudson-St. Lawrence Region (See *Audubon*, 76, No. 3: 49-51.). Five Long-eared Owls lingered suspiciously in a pin oak roost at G.S.N.W.R. through the entire period, although no evidence of breeding was obtained (DJ), and only three Saw-whet Owls were reported, two from Montreal in April (*vide* MM) and one from Mt. Greylock, Mass., in late May (*vide* RJG). No fewer than five **Chuck-will's-widows** in-

vaded the region, the earliest a male on May 1 at Ridgewood Res., Queens (THD), followed by a male on May 15 at Greenwich Pt. (DB), a calling bird May 18-23 at Richmond Valley, S.I. (SK, HF), another at Oak Beach May 24-30 (THD, PL *et al.*), and a fifth at New Haven in May (NSP, *vide* THD). A belated report was received of a female found dead at JFK Int'l Airport May 21, 1973 by Arnold Moorhouse, specimen to A.M.N.H. #810371 (*vide* THD). Is the Chuck-will's widow breeding on L.I.?

Red-bellied Woodpeckers continue to fan out, one female even reaching Claire, P.Q., May 13, one of a very few provincial sightings (MM *et al.*). Also unusual were two Red-headed Woodpeckers in Essex Co., N.Y., May 15 & 27 (JMCP); the species was reported as breeding at Dead Creek Refuge, Vt., May 27 (WN *et al.*) and returning to former territory at Isle Bizard, P.Q. (MM). Isolated birds were also recorded in Berkshire Co., Mass. (*vide* RJG), s.w. Connecticut (*vide* MFN) and Monmouth Co., N.J., where rare (*vide* PWS).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH MIMIDS—In the Montreal area, Yellow-bellied Flycatchers totalled "many more than usual May 22-Jun. 1" (MM) and a very early bird was at Winhall May 15 (WN). Also early was an Acadian Flycatcher at Forest Park, Queens May 14 (MK, MGo). Three singing ♂♂ Willow Flycatchers at Dead Creek Refuge May 27 were near the n. limit of that species' range (WN). A count of 20 regional Olive-sided Flycatchers before May 30 attested to their early arrival in many areas, especially one May 15 at Winhall (WN), which was earlier than the first N.J. report. Very encouraging were the 80-100 Cliff Swallows nesting at Ashokan Res., N.Y., May 27 (HMcG, TWB). A Com. Raven nest with five young was photographed on May 14 at Indian L., Hamilton Co., N.Y. (JB, JMCP) and single ravens were seen on May 15 at Cascade L., Essex Co., N.Y. (*vide* JMCP) and Winhall Apr. 21 (WN). The L. Champlain area again boasted a singing ♂ Tufted Titmouse at Westport, N.Y., May 23 (GC), and two Mockingbirds, one at Crown Point May 18 (GC) and another at Moriah May 25 (RG) where it may have bred in 1973 (*vide* JMCP). A pair of Mockingbirds returned to Mt. Royal Cemetery, Montreal, and five others were reported from that area (*vide* MM).

THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS—The heavy snows of Apr. 9-10 across n. New York and Vermont had adverse effects on Hermit Thrushes, reported well below normal population levels (several observers). Montreal birders recorded "the largest movement of Swainson's Thrushes they can remember May 20-25. On May 22, there were over 100 in a few hours on Westmount Summit and Mt. Royal Cemetery" (MM).

A Water Pipit at New Haven May 19 was extremely late (PJD). There were seven Québec reports of Bohemian Waxwings in April (*vide* MG), and four N. Shrikes were observed in Essex Co., N.Y., Mar. 23-Apr. 4 (*vide* JMCP). At Great Swamp N.W.R., a White-eyed Vireo was on territory Apr. 22 and ten territorial pairs were found there by May 16, a good count near the n. limit of the bird's range (RK); one trapped May 25 at Vischer Ferry, N.Y. was a first there (RPY). Earliest among a number of pre-May sightings was that of a Yellow-

throated Vireo Apr. 20 at Hempstead Lake S.P. (RKE, THD *et al.*). Philadelphia Vireos "were in greater numbers than usual in the Montreal area" (*vide* MM), elsewhere there were six reports (not bad for this elusive species), topped by three at Winhall May 18-26 (WN)

S.A.

Also in record numbers everywhere were Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, the 20 at Central Park, N.Y.C., Apr. 20 doubling all previous maxima (DWF *et al.*). The gnatcatcher typifies the push northward and upward to higher altitudes of certain s. lowland species—Acadian Flycatcher and Louisiana Waterthrush included—which have been found nesting above 1200 ft. in n. New Jersey and elsewhere in recent years. This year's northernmost gnatcatcher was one at Granby, P.Q. in early May (MG), while Montreal recorded six in May (*vide* MM), Berkshire County two in May (*vide* RJG), and Burlington, Vt. had one on Apr. 29 (BE). New for Essex Co., N.Y. were single birds at Saranac L., May 9 (JK), the first away from the Champlain Valley; Crater Club May 11 (JMCP); Port Henry May 13 (GC, TNM), and Elizabethtown May 24 (TNM, JMCP). Nest-building pairs were seen at a new breeding locale in Constitution I., Putnam Co., N.Y., Apr. 28 (GTu *et al.*) and at Ferncliff, Dutchess Co., May 11 (*vide* EP). Migrants from n.e. Pennsylvania and s.w. Connecticut were too numerous to list, as were nesting reports from n. New Jersey.

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS—An astonishing 31 species of warblers reached the N Y C R by Apr. 29! Southern warblers were generally in good numbers and a few were very far north. At least 18 Prothonotary Warblers were reported, all but one in the N.Y.C.R., including three record early arrivals Apr. 4 at Northport, L.I. (AM), a dead bird Apr. 6 at Oakdale, L.I. (GB) and Apr. 7 at Redding, Conn. (JS). A singing ♂ Worm-eating Warbler was present at Mt. Bruno, P.Q., May 16-June. 7 (m.ob.). Two "Lawrence's Warblers," one again on territory in Parsippany, N.J., May 2 and thereafter (m.ob.), and another singing at Newtown, Conn., May 13 (CFH) were upstaged by at least 15 "Brewster's Warblers," mostly in N.Y.C. parks, three at Ferrisburg, Vt. (with three Golden-winged Warblers) May 18 were outstanding (m.ob.) High counts of 60+ Tennessee Warblers at Jockey Hollow, Morristown, N.J., May 17 (EW) and 104 on the Dutchess County Census May 18 (R.T.W.B.C.) were indicative of the heavy flight noted in most areas and the species' steady increase in recent years; during the period May 14-22, many observers reported one-day counts of 25+ Tennessees.

Aside from four May records of Orange-crowned Warblers in the Montreal area, where they are regular in spring, five other noteworthy sightings included an early bird Apr. 6-10 at the Bronx Botanical Garden, N.Y.C. (m.ob.), another Apr. 21 at Navesink, N.J. (PWS, RJS), a third banded at Fire I., May 12 (DBF) and single May birds at Hartford (TF, *vide* PJD) and

Dutchess Co. (R.T.W.B.C.). May totals of 14+ Cape May Warblers from Essex Co., N.Y. (*vide* JMCP) and 18 at Middlebury, Vt. (BBP) were exceptionally high for areas where they are uncommon. A ♂ **Audubon's** (Yellow-rumped) **Warbler** observed at Rimouski May 11 (RP) was a first provincial record and one of the few for the region. Some 25+ Cerulean Warbler reports (three on Apr. 29!) from the N.Y.C.R., Dutchess Co., and w Connecticut signalled a sharp increase for that species, while a tally of nine Yellow-throated Warblers was also above average, one record early male arriving Apr 3 at Great Gull I., N.Y. (GSR). Ranking with the Tennessee for phenomenal numbers was the Bay-breasted Warbler, counts from every part of the region ranging from 25-35 for one day even where it is uncommon, the highest count by an individual observer was 50+ at Forest Pk., Queens May 18 (THD). A Pine Warbler singing at Winhall May 25 was considered rare (WN), as was a female gathering nesting material at Tunkhannock, Pa., May 27, where it is not known to breed (WR). Again at high altitudes this season were two singing ♂♂ Louisiana Waterthrushes May 2 & 9 at Winhall (WN). A probable region high of 26 Kentucky Warblers included seven on May 15 at Jockey Hollow, N J , where they nest (EW) and one very far out of range at Montreal May 18 (JW, *vide* MM). A Hooded Warbler on Apr. 11 at Great Neck, L.I. was the region's second earliest (GF).

Of the season's invading western species, no fewer than three **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** occurred; a male at the E. Brown feeder in Rutherford, N.J., Mar. 28-Apr 6 (*vide* RK), a female at N. Arlington Apr. 28 (TP) and a male at Pine Plains, N.Y., Apr. 6 (RWS). Several observers reported early Orchard Orioles, always rare before May; most notable were two territorial birds at Northport, L.I., Apr. 29 (PAB). Two others were far north in the Montreal area; one at Mt. Bruno May 17 (D&AD) and another at Chambly May 20 (GH). Scarlet Tanagers came through in great numbers than usual (many observers) as did Summer Tanagers in the N Y C R., where 15 was an above-average total.

FRINGILLIDS—The Black-headed Grosbeak at Falls, Pa. (see winter season report) overwintered until Apr 26 (WR). Practically the only southern species not overshooting in numbers was the Blue Grosbeak; two territorial males were at N. Arlington May 25, the region's only nesting site (DR). A female was observed at Forest Park., Queens Co., May 18 (JA) and a male was present May 2-23 at the Reed feeder in Middletown, N.J., where it has occurred before (*vide* PWS).

Western fringillids in the region this season included four Dickcissels, always rare in spring and away from feeders A male tarried at the Seift feeder in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Apr. 1-16 (OW); another, not at a feeder and singing at Milford, Conn., May 22-23 (CFH, RE *et al*), was very late for a migrant. A third singing male was found on a landfill in the Hackensack Meadows at N Arlington May 25 (RM *et al.*) and was seen with a female May 29 (DR); The nest with four young was located Jun. 7 in a pokeberry plant (RK, AB, DS), the first nesting for the N.Y.C.R., and presumably Hudson-St. Lawrence Region in 70 years. Perhaps the region's three **Clay-colored Sparrows** this season also should be watched; two were observed in Québec, one

at Rigaud May 2 (GHu) and another at Mirabel Airport also in May (m.ob.). A third remained singing at Washington, Dutchess Co., N.Y., May 25-Jun. 1 (RWS, DK). Given the prior nestings in w. New York not far from our region and the late dates of these birds, breeding seems a possibility here. The premier rarity of the season, western fringillid or otherwise, was an ad **Golden-crowned Sparrow** seen at a feeder in Shoreham, L.I., Apr. 13 by an observer familiar with the species in the west (HH, *vide* GSR), only the second regional record ever and almost inexplicable unless it was an overwintering bird. Unfortunately, the bird did not linger beyond the date. Could this have been a Golden-crowned experimentally transplanted from the West?

The moderate winter finch flight was not notable for large flocks of Evening Grosbeaks, only Winhall and Schenectady reporting any numbers in May. Single Hoary Redpolls from this winter's irruption lingered at Elizabethtown to Apr. 14 (GC) and Winhall Apr. 15-16 (WN). The tremendous incursion of Com. Redpolls continued into April, when the Adirondacks and Vermont recorded counts of 100+ at feeders during the Apr. 9-10 snows; some 215 were banded Apr. 1-20 at Schenectady (RPY). The last redpolls were seen Apr. 22-26 in all three of those areas. Pine Siskin flights were light to moderate in most localities; only Schenectady witnessed a heavy return when 183 were banded May 1-10 (RPY), although there were scattered late May sightings of small numbers throughout the region. Also widely scattered were Red Crossbills, including a pair seen copulating in Connetquot S.P., L.I., May 6, "... where they have been seen every month of the year" (DPu). Movements of White-winged Crossbills were also light and sporadic, one lingering at a feeder in Millbrook, N.Y. to May 17 (*vide* EP). As for other fringillids, Henslow's Sparrows were recorded twice in each of three locations near Dallas, Pa. this spring (WR), and two extremely late Tree Sparrows were still at Elizabethtown May 10 (GC). Montreal reported 7-8 Lincoln's Sparrows in May (*vide* MM), while a total of 12 banded at Vischer Ferry, N.Y., May 4-18, seven of those on May 17, tied the previous high there.

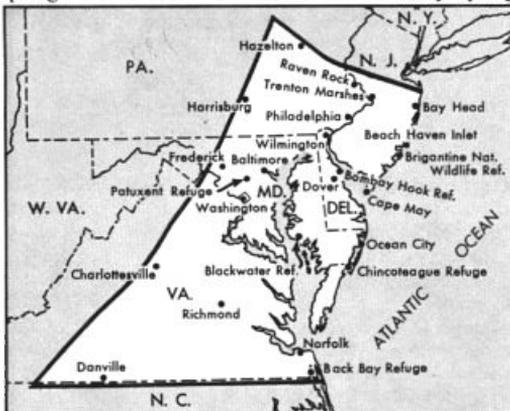
ADDENDUM—A late report was received of a singing ♂ **Louisiana Waterthrush** in Gatineau Park May 20, a first record for Québec (Gary and Anne Hanes *et al.*, *vide* Rick Poulin). This is the region's northernmost sighting ever.

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MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION / F. R. Scott and David A. Cutler

Reasonably normal rainfall and temperatures that were above normal in April and only slightly below in May—all this following a warm winter and early spring—would seem to indicate that an early spring



migration was certain. Such was not the case, however, and most observers considered the migration normal at best and perhaps a bit late. Although the migration was considered reasonably good by most reporters, there seemed to be no really spectacular peak flight days. As might be expected, most migration reports were con-

centrated around the May weekends when the local clubs were out in force, but in general land birds slipped through in moderate numbers day by day, slowed only by periods of northerly winds or heavy rains. A banding station in operation at Island Beach S. P., N. J. on 19 days between Apr. 28 and May 27 confirmed this view (*vide* HWC), the best flight days here occurring May 14 and 18 (based on number of birds banded per net-hour)

The only spring coastal storm of any consequence occurred May 27, but it is not known what effect, if any, this had on beach and marsh nesting birds. It is usually difficult to assess the effect of the weather on coastal nesting unless reporters are particularly observant, since nest destruction can occur merely with unusually high spring tides as well as during spectacular storms

LOONS THROUGH GANNETS—Two Com Loons at Penn Forest Res., Pa., June 1 were very late (REW), and the **W. Grebe** previously reported at Craney I., Portsmouth, Va. was last seen May 7 (WWF). Numbers of shearwaters and petrels seemed lower than in May 1973 in spite of numerous offshore field trips, although the reports were still more numerous than in any other recent spring. A Cory's Shearwater 27 mi. southeast of Ocean City, Md., June 1 (RK *et al.*) and six Greater Shearwaters at Hudson Canyon, 90 mi. east of Beach Haven, N. J., May 26 (RK *et al.*) were the only reports of these species. Sooty Shearwaters were reported by most offshore observers with a peak of 102 at Hudson Canyon May 26 (RK *et al.*) Outstanding was the observation of three at Hudson Canyon Apr. 10 (RHR), an incredibly early date. One was also found closer inshore from the Cape May, N.J.-Lewes, Del. ferry May 18 (JMA *et al.*). Three small black-and-white shearwaters were noted, one at Hudson Canyon Apr. 10 (RHR), one at the same place May 26 (RK *et al.*), and a probable Manx Shearwater off Ocean City June 1 (JMA, PGD, CPW *et al.*). Northern Fulmars were found twice at Hudson Canyon, one on Apr. 10 (RHR) and a record six on May 26 (RK *et al.*). Eight Wilson's Storm-Petrels at Hudson Canyon Apr. 10 were exceptionally early (RHR), and peak counts included 1000 or more here May 26 (RK *et al.*) and 255 off Cape Henry, Va., May 26 (RLA, PGD *et al.*). The Gannet count in the Hudson Canyon area was 350 on Apr. 10 (RHR) and three were noted here as late as May 26 (RK *et al.*). Of the 281 noted off Ocean City Apr. 27, only three were fully adult birds (RAR *et al.*)

HERONS, IBIS—The spring heron movements were generally uneventful. J. M. Abbott noted three active Great Blue heronries in Maryland Apr. 28, 175 pairs at Nanjemoy Creek, Charles Co., 200 pairs at Bluff Pt., St. Marys Co. (with 30 pairs of Great Egrets), and 200 pairs at Poplar I., Talbot Co. A Little Blue Heron was found far inland at Lilypons, Montgomery Co., Md., May 11 (*vide* EH & IH), and single Snowy Egrets were seen inland near Hopewell, Va., Apr. 13 and 28 (FRS). In a heronry at Metomkin Inlet, Va. both Snowy Egrets and Louisiana Herons were found hatching May 8, a remarkably early date (MAB *et al.*). Other heronries in the area were considerably less far advanced. Two Louisiana Herons at Blackwater N.W.R., Md., Apr. 13 were early for this Chesapeake Bay locality (HTA *et al.*), and a Least Bittern here Apr. 8 was the

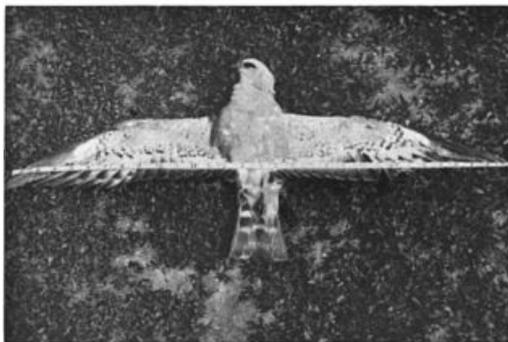
earliest spring record for the state (HTA & GWC). A count of at least 25 Least Bitterns at Grandview, Hampton, Va., Apr. 25 was probably a record number for the state (MAB *et al.*). Three Wood Storks appeared far inland near Chamblissburg, Bedford Co., Va., May 20 and remained at least until May 26. They were seen by many area observers and photographs were printed in a Roanoke, Va. newspaper (CHL, MPM, JP *et al.*). Some 1000 Glossy Ibis were noted at Brigantine N.W.R., N. J., May 23, many apparently feeding on horseshoe crab eggs with Ruddy Turnstones (JCM).

WATERFOWL—Up to eight Mute Swans were present at Chincoteague N.W.R., Va. in early May (WWF, CRV, VEW), and there were the usual reports of lingering Whistling Swans. Among the latter were one at Blackwater Ref., May 26 (HTA & MEA) and six at Back Bay N.W.R., Va., May 31 (DFH). Seven at Lilypons, Md., Apr. 14 were unusual for this Piedmont locality (RLP). A White-fronted Goose near Reading, Pa., May 30-31 was extremely late (JES & EF), and up to seven Snow Geese were present at Brigantine Ref. the last week of May (HDM, AM). An excellent incursion of Fulvous Tree Ducks occurred in coastal Delaware and New Jersey. Twenty-four were seen off and on in the Fowlers Beach, Del. area Apr. 13-May 14 (NEH, WWF, DF *et al.*), 16 were photographed at Woodland Beach, Del., Apr. 20 (RAR, CPW *et al.*), and one was seen near Rehoboth Beach, Del., May 26 (RLP, WJW *et al.*). In New Jersey 17 Fulvous Tree Ducks were found at Tuckahoe in early May, remaining until May 17 (AB, JKM). Possibly the same 17 birds appeared at nearby Brigantine Ref., May 19 and remained throughout the month (RK, JY).

A Gadwall nest with 11 eggs was located at Fisherman I., Va., May 11, a new nesting locality for the state (PEM). The Eur. Wigeon previously reported at Lititz, Pa. remained until Apr. 13 (EW), and a Eurasian Green-winged Teal was present at Brigantine Ref., Apr. 13-May 11 (CFH, NP). A few individuals of many diving duck species were reported in May, but as usual it was often impossible to know if these were injured or not. Among these was a Canvasback at Assawoman Wildlife Area, Del., May 25 (SBS) and an Oldsquaw at Cape Henlopen, Del., May 19 (DFA & JMA). A good flight of Oldsquaws was noted at Island Beach, N. J., Mar. 30 when Ryan estimated 2800 moving along the surf, and a single Oldsquaw about 35 mi. off c. New Jersey Apr. 10 seemed unusually far at sea (RHR). A ♂ Harlequin Duck at a reservoir in Baltimore, Md., Apr. 15 triggered a local rare bird alert (MLH), and at Longport, N. J. three were present Apr. 13, one lingering to May 26 (JFA, JDD, PWS). Eiders remained quite late, perhaps representing nonbreeding birds. A Com. Eider was seen along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Va., May 27 (PAD & PGD), a King Eider was found at Longport, N.J., May 21 (JFA), two were seen at Hampton, Va., May 26 (BA), and nine King Eiders were still present at Ocean City, Md., June 1 (JMA *et al.*). At Dyke marsh, Fairfax Co., Va. a ♂ Com. Merganser appeared May 11 and a female May 15, both remaining at least to June 4 (DFA & JMA).

VULTURES THROUGH RAILS—Cook located two Black Vultures at Elverson, Pa., Apr. 21, a locally

good record, and a Swallow-tailed Kite at Back Bay Ref., Va., May 16 was far out of normal range (FS). A Mississippi Kite, found alive May 31 at Glenroy, Pa., died the next day (JJT). The bird was photographed and the specimen will be deposited in the Philadelphia Academy of Science. This seems to be the first specimen for s. e. Pennsylvania in over 75 years. A Goshawk



Mississippi Kite, June 1, 1974, Glenroy, Pa. / J.J. Thouron

at Hawk Mt., Pa., Apr. 28 may have been a migrant or possibly a summer resident (AM). The first migrant Broad-winged Hawks at Longwood, Pa. were 25 on Apr. 3 (JG), and a count of 125 at Cape May Pt., N. J., May 26 was amazingly late (EAC). Franchois found a Golden Eagle at Finland, Bucks Co., Pa., May 1, while an immature at Virginia Beach, Va., June 1 was unprecedented (RJT). Rowlett counted 138 Virginia Rails at Elliott I., Md., Apr. 13 along with 30 Clapper Rails, both excellent counts for this Chesapeake Bay area. Single Purple Gallinules were seen at Spring Lake, N. J., May 20-27 (AG, PWS) and Delaware City, Del., May 17 (RWd & WJW), and the Abbotts located a very late Am. Coot at Dyke marsh, Va., May 26.

SHOREBIRDS—Many Am. Oystercatcher nests with eggs were found on coastal Virginia. Among these were two on Wallops I., Apr. 26 and 27 (CRV, HH), eight on and near Cedar I., May 7 (MAB *et al.*), and three nests and 43 ad. birds on Fisherman I., May 11 (FRS *et al.*). An adult at Craney I., Va., Apr. 10 was unusual for Hampton Roads (WWF). Vaughn and others had a peak count of 42 Piping Plover at Wallops I., Apr. 6, and a nest with eggs was found here Apr. 27 (HH). The Abbotts located three nests with eggs and four or more pairs of adults at Cape Henlopen, Del., May 18. A Wilson's Plover at Tuckerton, N. J., May 11 was a rare find for this area (CFH), and a nest with eggs of this species was located at Wallops I., May 11 (CRV). Three additional nests with eggs were noted on Cedar I., May 7 (MAB *et al.*). Few Am. Golden Plovers were reported, though a count of 22 at Bombay Hook N.W.R., Del., Apr. 16 was good for spring (NEH). One at Hatfield, Pa., Apr. 2 was one of the few Pennsylvania spring records (AM), and a Ruddy Turnstone at the same location May 23 was also unusual (AM). Shorebirds apparently peaked in the Little Creek, Del.

area May 19. Among other species here, P. G. DuMont estimated 4300 Semipalmated Plovers, 4500 Ruddy Turnstones, 145 White-rumped Sandpipers (actual count), 5000 Least Sandpipers, and 24,000 Semipalmated Sandpipers. At Reeds Beach, N. J., Miller estimated 8000 turnstones May 24 feeding on horseshoe crabs with 200 Red Knots.

A **Eur. Whimbrel** was found at Linwood, N. J., Apr. 20 in a flock of 55 Whimbrel (JDD), and 16 Whimbrel were seen near Mockhorn I., Va., Mar. 27, an extraordinarily early date (MAB *et al.*). Two or more Upland Sandpipers were noted in Loudoun Co., Va., May 27, probably indicating a breeding population (PC *et al.*). Peak counts of Red Knots included 300 at Wallops I., May 19 (CRV & GV) and 10,000 at Longport, N. J., May 21 (PWS). Fifty Purple Sandpipers at the latter location the same day were a good number for this late date (PWS), and the Abbotts found five at Ocean City, Md., June 1. Fifty White-rumped Sandpipers were present at Brigantine Ref., May 19-26 (PWS *et al.*), and two were seen far inland at Dyke marsh, Va., June 4 (DFA & JMA). Blicharz found a Baird's Sandpiper at Lawrenceville, N. J., May 12, and two were reported in the Little Creek area May 18-19 (PGD). Two Curlew Sandpipers were present at Brigantine Ref., May 11-24 (BMry, JFA *et al.*), and one appeared at Little Creek May 12 (DF, DAC *et al.*) and May 18 (PGD). Byrd and others estimated 25,000 Dunlin in the Mockhorn I., Va. area Mar. 27, possibly many of the same birds noted here on the Cape Charles Christmas count several months earlier. A Long-billed Dowitcher was reported at Back Bay Ref., Apr. 27 (PGD), two at Brigantine Ref., May 11 (CFH), and up to 19 at Little Creek May 18-19 (DFA, JMA, PGD). Stilt Sandpipers were reported from at least eight localities along the coast, and peak counts included 30 at Wallops I., May 11 (CRV *et al.*), 12 at Bordon's Pond, Del., May 11 (WJW), and 13 at Little Creek May 19 (DFA & JMA). It seems clear that this species is becoming less rare in spring than in previous years. A Marbled Godwit at Brigantine Ref., May 10-11 was the only report of this species (RJC & CFH); one Hudsonian Godwit was found at Back Bay Ref., May 18 (RLA & WWF) and three at Little Creek the same day (PGD). A **Bar-tailed Godwit** appeared at Longport May 20-21 for the third successive year (RK, JFA), and Ruffs were discovered at four locations during the spring, the first at Chincoteague Ref., Apr. 14 (LKM *et al.*).

American Avocet numbers peaked at 150 at Craney I., Va., Apr. 10-23 (WWF), then dwindled quickly to a maximum of only eight during May (RLA *et al.*). Would anyone care to speculate on where these birds went and what route they took? At Bombay Hook Ref. the spring peak was 18 on Apr. 17 (NEH), and elsewhere two appeared at Wallops I., Apr. 21 (CRV) and one at Tuckerton, N. J., May 1 (BCH). By May 3, 20 Black-necked Stilts had returned to Little Creek (JMC), and up to three were noted in the Chincoteague-Wallops I. area in late April and early May (LKM *et al.*). Two Red Phalaropes at Little Creek May 18 were notable (PGD), and the species was reported offshore twice, a remarkable 494 45-50 mi. off Ocean City Apr. 27 (RAR *et al.*) and nine near Norfolk Canyon off Cape Henry, Va., May 26 (RLA *et al.*). Northern Phalaropes were reported in small numbers by three of the offshore parties

and in at least four localities onshore, and single Wilson's Phalaropes were seen in at least four different places.

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMERS—Relatively few Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers were recorded by the offshore parties, the main migration being either missed or occurring to far eastward for the boat parties. Closer to shore, a Parasitic Jaeger was recorded in Delaware Bay at Gandy's Beach, N. J., May 27 (DEK). **Skuas** were reported twice, two near Hudson Canyon off Beach Haven, N. J., Apr. 10 (RHR) and two off Ocean City, Md., Apr. 27 (RAR *et al.*). Offshore reports of white-winged gulls included an Iceland Gull 75 miles off Beach Haven Apr. 10 (RHR) and one Glaucous and two Iceland Gulls 45 mi. east of Ocean City Apr. 27 (RAR *et al.*). An Iceland Gull was also present at Little Creek May 5 (HDM). A Lesser Black-backed Gull was reported inland at Dyke marsh, Va., Mar. 31 (DFA) and apparently the same bird at nearby Ft. Hunt, Va., Apr. 8 (DFA & JMA). Offshore flocks of gulls were of some interest. Near Hudson Canyon, some 250 Great Black-backed and 3000 Herring Gulls, plus at least two Ring-billed Gulls, were estimated Apr. 10, mostly about the Russian fishing fleet (RHR). Off Ocean City 40-50 mi., 1750 Herring Gulls were found Apr. 27 associated with a large pod of finback whales (RAR *et al.*). At Fisherman I., Va. 95 Herring Gull nests with eggs plus at least 36 empty nests were counted May 11 (FRS *et al.*). J. F. Akers found a Black-headed Gull at Brigantine I., Apr. 20-23, and a number of observers noted the species at Little Creek, the latest being one on May 19 (DFA & JMA). Bonaparte's Gulls were in unusually good numbers on the Northern Neck of Virginia; peak counts included 210 near Lewisetta Apr. 21 (FRS) and 100 or more at the mouth of the Great Wicomico R., Apr. 27 (DFA & JMA). One at Port Mahon, Del., May 27 was somewhat late (SRL). No doubt one of the most interesting developments of the season was the buildup of two separate flocks of Little Gulls, already mentioned in the previous seasonal report. At Craney I., Va. the peak number was 14 on Apr. 21 (WWF), whereas at Little Creek the flock reached 30 in mid-April (*vide* AEC), and somewhat lesser numbers were seen by many observers. The last reports were four immatures at Craney I., May 16 (WWF) and 13 at Little Creek May 19 (PGD). There were two reports of Black-legged Kittiwakes, two near Hudson Canyon Apr. 10 (RHR) and three off Ocean City Apr. 27 (RAR *et al.*), the latter the latest spring record for Maryland.

Two **Arctic Terns** were carefully observed and photographed 65 mi. east of Cape Henry, Va. at Norfolk Canyon May 26, and there may have been more (RLA, PGD, RLS *et al.*). Single Roseate Terns were seen at Ocean City May 3 (HDM), Brigantine Ref. and Long Beach I., N. J., both on May 11 (CFH), and Little Creek May 19 (DFA, JMA & PGD). About 1200 Royal Terns were estimated at Fisherman I., May 11 and about 400 pairs had eggs. Mixed in with these were at least two pairs of nesting Sandwich Terns (WWF, FRS *et al.*). A Sandwich Tern at Craney I., Va., Apr. 10 seemed early (WWF). Other early nesters at Fisherman I., May 11 included a number of Com. Terns with eggs and three Black Skimmer nests with one egg each (FRS *et al.*).

CUCKOOS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS—A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was injured on a glass door at Lynchburg, Va., Mar. 19 but apparently recovered; the date was unprecedented (MB, *vide* RSF). The Snowy Owl previously reported at Hershey, Pa. was last seen Apr. 10 (EW). Among the raptor nests found by Heck in the Hunterdon Co., N. J. area were three Great Horned Owl and four Long-eared Owl nests. Of the former, one failed and the other two fledged a total of only three young by the end of April, and three of the Long-eared nests fledged young. A Barn Owl nest had 7 young at Wallops I., Va., Apr. 6 (CRV *et al.*), and Eike and others found two young Barred Owls dead in a shattered nest in a fallen tree near Centreville, Va., May 4. A very early Chuck-will's-widow was singing at Absecon, N. J., Apr. 12 (CFH), and others out of their normal range included two near Lynchburg May 3 (*vide* RSF) and one at Leeds Pt., N. J., May 13 (RK *et al.*). Eike noted a good Com. Flicker migration over Clifton, Va., Apr. 1-24, with a peak of 85 on Apr. 3, and at Lynchburg Freer examined a flicker ground nest with 8 eggs in a 20-in. deep hole May 10. An incredible coincidence was the discovery of two N. **Three-toed Woodpeckers** in the region, a female at Longwood Gardens, Pa., Apr. 3 (JG) and another female at Delaware City, Del., Apr. 7 (CJ, SBS, AEC *et al.*). Both were heard calling as well as observed under good conditions. Details are expected to be published elsewhere. The discovery of two (a pair?) **Red-cockaded Woodpeckers** near Bowie, Md., May 11 was a major northward extension of this bird's known range (BMly & MCP). Although a few birds have been found since 1932 in Dorchester Co., Md., the nearest known other colonies are in Virginia south of the James R., some 125 mi to the south. A migrating E. Kingbird was noted 50 mi east of Cape Henry, Va., May 26 (RLA, PGD *et al.*), and at Dismal Swamp, Va. an early Great Crested Flycatcher was seen Apr. 7 (BMly). At Pine Ridge, Va. a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was banded May 14 (EDP) and singing birds were found at Clifton, Va., May 26 & 30 (JWE). In the s. part of the region most spring records of "Traill's" Flycatchers are of the Willow Flycatcher. It was thus of interest to get records of singing Alder Flycatchers near Lynchburg May 6 (RER, *vide* RSF) and near Kent I., Md., May 11 (PGD). Among the Olive-sided Flycatchers seen were single birds at Mt. Vernon, Va., May 11 (A&LP), Arlington, Va., May 27 (JMA), and Philadelphia, Pa., May 30 (SRL).

SWALLOWS THROUGH VIREOS—There were 30 pairs of Bank Swallows at a nesting colony at Ft. Belvoir, Va., Apr. 23 (DFA & JMA), 40 nesting pairs at Bridgport, N. J., May 8 (JTM), and near Hopewell, Va. 425 nest cavities were counted during May (HCO). J. M. Abbott feels that the Rough-winged Swallow is now rare and local in e. Fairfax Co., Va., and he could locate only one pair here during the spring. A few migrating Barn Swallows were noted well offshore May 26 at both Hudson Canyon (RK *et al.*) and Norfolk Canyon (RLA *et al.*), and 100 Cliff Swallows seen at Brigantine Ref., May 19 were considered a good count (JTM). The Purple Martin migration flights at Ft. Hunt, Va. seemed very poor this year, with maximum counts of only about 30 daily between Apr. 4 and May 13 (JMA).

However, at Aston, Pa. 125 were noted May 19, a good increase over recent years, especially evident among color-banded first-year males, and unmated birds were still arriving May 28 (JG). At Virginia Beach, Va. martins were considered to be in "normal numbers" (RJT). A very late Red-breasted Nuthatch was banded at Island Beach, N. J., May 25 (*vide* HWC), and a Brown Creeper came aboard a boat 85 mi. off c. New Jersey Apr. 10 (RHR). There was a heavy Gray Catbird migration on the lower Delmarva Pen., May 10-11 (CRV), and at Island Beach the peak day for this species was May 11 with 72 trapped and banded, though excellent numbers were trapped up through May 26 (*vide* HWC). Swainson's Thrushes were in unusually good numbers at Richmond, Va., with small numbers recorded almost daily from Apr. 24 on. The last bird banded here was on June 5, perhaps a record late date for the state (FRS). Heavy thrush flights occurred over Delaware Co., Pa. the nights of May 23, 25, 26, and 27 (JCM). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Media, Pa., May 31 was remarkably late (CUA), and there were good concentrations of Cedar Waxwings in s.e. Pennsylvania and at Princeton, N. J. which arrived May 11-13, many remaining to the end of the month (RJB, JG, DJH). A N. Shrike was seen at Island Beach Mar. 30 (RHR), and an early White-eyed Vireo was found at Blackwater Ref., Md., Apr. 8 (HTA). There were more than the usual number of Philadelphia Vireo reports, all from the Washington, D. C. area northward, and Fogleman and others found two Warbling Vireos in Dismal Swamp, Va., Apr. 27, unusual for s.e. Virginia.

WARBLERS—The spring warbler flight was considered quite good by most observers, if a bit late. Flights were generally relatively minor, and the bulk of the pure transients moved through May 10-20, though there were lesser movements in late April. Early arrivals at Dismal Swamp, Va. included Prairie and Hooded Warblers Apr. 6 and Am. Redstart Apr. 7 (BMly), and a Prairie Warbler at Blackwater Ref., Apr. 8 was a record arrival date for Maryland (HTA). A Prothonotary Warbler at Trenton marsh, N.J., Apr. 20 was somewhat early, and three separate birds were found in the Princeton, N. J. area May 4-7 (*vide* RJB). P. G. DuMont saw a Golden-winged Warbler near Selbyville, Del., May 5, and an Orange-crowned Warbler was found at New Hope, Pa., May 12 (DJH). Tennessee Warblers were widely reported in the n. part of the region May 11-23, and a singing bird at Richmond Apr. 29 was unusual for s.c. Virginia (FRS). A singing **Sutton's Warbler** was seen well at Alexandria, Va., May 11 (OF), details of which are expected to be published elsewhere. A Yellow-rumped Warbler at Bull Run Regional Park, Va., May 4 clearly had a yellow throat, the usual criterion for an **Audubon's Warbler** (CRE). Yellow-throated Warblers seemed in low numbers in e. Virginia, but Rowlett recorded nine near Seneca, Md., Apr. 21, a good number for the Piedmont. Farther north, one was noted at Dividing Creek, N. J., Apr. 28 (DEK) and another the same day at New Hope, Pa. (DJ). Bay-breasted Warblers were in very good numbers and were recorded even in s.e. Virginia. West recorded 20 in n. Delaware May 18, and one at Chincoteague Ref., May 14 was unusual (LKM). Northern Waterthrushes were quite common in Chevy Chase,

Md., 108 being banded (versus only three Louisianas), extreme dates being Apr. 16 and June 4 (PP). Another species in unusual numbers was the Mourning Warbler, first recorded May 5 at Assawoman Wildlife Area, Del. (PGD). Among the more interesting of these records were four different birds at Princeton May 13-20 (RJB, PWS), single birds banded at Pine Ridge, Va., May 25 & 28 (EDP), and three others banded at Williamsburg, Va., May 26 & 28 (RAB). There are few previous spring records for s.e. Virginia. A Com. Yellowthroat at Hudson Canyon, N. J., May 26 and 90 mi. from land (RK *et al.*), and a late Canada Warbler was banded at Pine Ridge June 3 (EDP).

TANAGERS, FRINGILLIDS—There were five records of Summer Tanagers in the Delaware Valley area, somewhat more than normal, and a nearly fully plumaged ad. ♂ **Black-headed Grosbeak** remained at Knauertown, Pa., Apr. 12-16 (REC, EW *et al.*). Evening Grosbeaks moved out quietly, mostly in April, and 18 at Clifton, Va., May 17 were late (JWE). Although House Finches have not as yet been reported breeding in Virginia, more are recorded into late spring each year. At Norfolk a pair was still present May 5 (EM *et al.*), and some remained at Lynchburg at least to May 24 (TH, *vide* RSF). Ten Pine Siskins were still present at Norristown, Pa., May 20 (RJM), and at Bala-Cynwyd, Pa. two young Pine Siskins appeared May 23 and were fed by adults until May 31 (CDG). This appears to be the first breeding evidence for this species in s.e. Pennsylvania. The last Com. Redpoll reported was of one that remained at Wilmington, Del. to Apr. 7 (PMW). Red Crossbills appeared erratically in several parts of the region, the latest date being May 28 for a flock of 10 at Pomona, N. J. (JFA). Three reports of White-winged Crossbills in s.e. Pennsylvania were the only reports of

this species. Two Seaside Sparrow nests with eggs were located on Fisherman I., Va., May 11 (WKS *et al.*), and a Harris' Sparrow, probably the same one reported in November and February, was seen at Audubon, Pa., Apr. 23 (EWG). A count of 18 Lapland Longspurs at Brigantine I., Mar. 16 was excellent (JDD).

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SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION / Robert P. Teulings

Following an exceptionally mild winter, the migration started early (nine "earliest ever" arrival dates at Columbus, Ga.) and proceeded under generally favorable conditions. Movements, especially of transient

warblers, were notably unspectacular in most sections because of the lack of conspicuous waves. Nevertheless there were some observations of significant interest and a few surprises.



PELAGICS—Approximately 50 Sooty Shearwaters were observed winging northward close to shore off Hatteras I., N.C. on the evening of May 21 (JH). Indications were that a major flight occurred that day (*vide* JH). Two very early Wilson's Storm-Petrels were found Mar. 8 in waters 25 mi. off Morehead City (DMcC). In mid-April a White-tailed Tropicbird was sighted 70 mi. off Charleston, the exact date not specified (RMcC, *vide* DF). A single Parasitic Jaeger was seen May 19 at Cape Hatteras (JH), the only jaeger sighting reported.

CORMORANTS THROUGH FLAMINGO—Several Double-crested Cormorants made uncommon appearances inland at L. Surf and Thagard's L. in the Southern Pines, N.C., area Apr. 15-May 5 (JC, EL, ML), and one was a locally rare visitor at L. Hartwell near Clemson May 11 (HL). A wandering Wood Stork was found well out of its usual range at Reidsville in Rockingham Co., N.C., May 31 (EB, CB, WN *et al.*). Elsewhere a Roseate Spoonbill was found near Charles-

ton May 9 (KN,HS; photo by BG), and an Am. Flamingo was an unexpected visitor there at Sullivan's I May 7 (ZTR, *fide* DF).

WATERFOWL—In the aftermath of a strong winter influx, Fulvous Tree Ducks were reportedly still present at Augusta May 12 (GK), at Pea I. May 18 (EB,CB), and at Magnolia Gardens near Charleston May 29 (TV). Most other wintering waterfowl departed the Region well before the end of April, but eight species were still present in a sizeable aggregation at Salem L. near Winston-Salem May 2 including a flock of 200 scaup (CF). A very late Blue-winged Teal was seen at Augusta May 26 (GK). On the coast, a flight of 35 White-winged Scoters was seen off Atlantic Beach, N.C., Apr. 27 (DM). A rare but unsuccessful breeding attempt by Hooded Mergansers was reported from Granville Co., N C , where a pair was found nesting in a Wood Duck box Apr. 3 (PS). Inspection of the box Apr. 20 revealed 8 eggs but the nest had been deserted.

VULTURES AND KITES—An unusually large and impressive flight of 80 Turkey Vultures and 40 Black Vultures was seen by James Miller in Marion Co., Ga., Mar 29 (*fide* LAW). Two **White-tailed Kites** surprisingly turned up in South Carolina this spring, the first reported appearances of this western species in the Region in more than a decade. One was sighted Apr. 10 at the U.S.D.A. Vegetable Breeding Laboratory near Charleston (PN), and another was present May 25-30 at Hilton Head I. (CC,CN). Observers again noted Swallow-tailed Kites in the Buxton-Frisco-Pea I. vicinity on the N.C. Outer Banks where several sightings were recorded from May 18 through the end of the period (JH,EB,PB). An effort will be made to determine whether the kites are now nesting in this locality. If so, it will represent a substantial northward range extension of more than 200 miles from the nearest known breeding sites in South Carolina's Francis Marion Forest.

RAILS, SHOREBIRDS—At Cedar Island N.W.R., 74 Black Rails were heard calling during a roadside census through the refuge early on the morning of May 24 (JF, DMcC). This tally compares closely with a total of 80 recorded on a similar census there a year ago (*Am. Birds* 27:858). Inland, a Com. Gallinule was found May 1 by Gail Whitehurst along a small stream in suburban Raleigh. It lingered for several days and was seen by other observers. Elsewhere in the Raleigh locality a Virginia Rail was a locally unusual find at Umstead S.P. Apr 27 (JW). Observers at Winston-Salem report that the city sewage treatment plant has become an excellent spot for shorebirds in the past year. Seen there during late April and early May were several species of sandpipers, including a flock of 20 Pectoral Sandpipers and a White-rumped Sandpiper (*fide* RS). Other interesting sightings were similarly recorded at sewage treatment sites in Durham where five Stilt Sandpipers were found Apr. 3 (RC) and in Atlanta where two White-rumped Sandpipers were present May 19-20 (TM). Mud flats at a construction site near Gaston, N C yielded noteworthy inland counts of 55 Pectoral Sandpipers Apr. 29, six Black-bellied Plovers May 8,

and 216 Least Sandpipers May 9 (ML). Eight Upland Sandpipers were found at the Augusta Airport Apr. 12 (GK) and as many as seven were seen during the last week of April feeding on the grounds of the Atlanta Regional Hospital (JS). Sightings of several individuals were also recorded at Raleigh, Durham and Havelock, N.C. during the period Apr. 16 - May 10 by various observers.

GULLS, TERNS—Single Laughing Gulls were seen at L. Hartwell in the Clemson area Apr. 28 (HL) & May 26 (SG), rare first spring records for that w. Piedmont reservoir. Fifteen Bonaparte's Gulls were seen there Mar. 26 (SG), along with two later transients May 12 (HL). A Caspian Tern Apr. 13 and 12 Forster's Terns May 5 were also interesting at that location (SG,HL). Locally uncommon occurrences of gulls and terns were also noted at several other inland locations, highlighted by sightings of 40 Bonaparte's Gulls Apr. 2 (DW) and a Com. Tern Apr. 18 (TQ) at Raleigh, 11 Laughing Gulls at Columbus Apr. 20 (JM), and five Caspian Terns at Gaston, N.C., May 9 (ML). Two Caspian Terns Apr. 19 at L. Surf provided a first local record for the Southern Pines area and two Com. Terns were seen there May 5 (JC).

CUCKOOS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS—A fairly conspicuous migration of Black-billed Cuckoos was noted across the Region this spring, all within the period May 6-19. A new early arrival date of Apr. 1 was established for Yellow-billed Cuckoos at Columbus, Ga. (FL). A Smooth-billed Ani which appeared at Jekyll I. during the winter season was still present Apr 29 (TM,JS). A Whip-poor-will was early in Raleigh Mar. 2 (JHa), and Chuck-will's-widows were noted in the Durham area in late April and early May west of their usual range (JRH,RC). A Gray Kingbird was present at Sea I., Ga., Apr. 28 (TM,JS). Single Alder Flycatchers were noted as uncommon transients May 15 at N. Wilkesboro, N.C., (WS) and May 22 at Raleigh (CM). At least one pair of Willow Flycatchers returned to nest at Raleigh (RJH) and three males were found on territory in the Atlanta area this spring (TM). Willow Flycatchers may also be nesting in n. Greenville County, S.C. where a singing male was found May 21 (HL).

SWALLOWS THROUGH THRUSHES—A large flock of 100+ migrating Bank Swallows was seen at L. Surf May 5 (JC). Cliff Swallows appeared to be nesting at L. Hartwell near Clemson in mid-May (HL,SG) and others were seen collecting mud for nests at a highway bridge across the Roanoke R. near Roanoke Rapids, N.C., Apr. 29 (ML). Two Fish Crows were found May 16 at Clemson, further confirming their presence there following last year's first record for that locality (HL). Two transient Long-billed Marsh Wrens were seen in the Southern Pines area Apr. 28 (*fide* JC) and a Short-billed Marsh Wren was an inland visitor at Raleigh Apr 17 (DW). A Wood Thrush was early Mar. 23 at Columbus (FL), and a Veery set a new early date there Apr. 8 (HM). A locally rare spring sighting of a Swainson's Thrush in the coastal area was recorded May 10 near Atlantic Beach, N.C. (JF).

WARBLERS—Tennessee Warblers were seen in larger-than-usual numbers in Winston-Salem this spring (RS) and seven sightings were recorded in Chapel Hill where only two or three rare spring records have been recorded in the past 10 years (*vide* JOP). There was also a sighting at Charleston Apr. 28 (PN). These Piedmont-to-coastal occurrences indicated a possible eastward displacement of Tennessees from their normal migration route which usually touches only the w. portion of the Region. Orange-crowned Warblers were noted as uncommon spring transients at Raleigh Mar. 2 (JMu, *vide* RJH), at Townville, S.C., Apr. 13 (SG), and Zebulon, N.C., May 13 (RD). Cape May Warblers were common migrants through the Piedmont and a few turned up unexpectedly along the coast where one was seen Apr. 20 at Atlantic Beach, N.C. (DM) and another at nearby Ft. Macon May 18 (RJH). A discernible coastal migration of Blackpoll Warblers was also noted along Bogue Bank May 6-17 (JF). One of the Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warblers reported from Charleston during the winter period remained there through Apr. 13 (PN). Palm Warblers were unusually abundant in the Raleigh-Chapel Hill area this spring with both races present in good numbers (JW,ET,JOP). Sightings in that locality spanned the dates Mar. 23-May 12.

ORIOLES THROUGH FRINGILLIDS—A nest of N. (Baltimore) Orioles was found in Winston-Salem May 11 (BP), a rare Piedmont record which follows a 1972 nesting in the same locality (*Am. Birds*:26:847). Scarlet Tanagers were unusual spring migrants along the coast where one was seen in mid-April at Bull's I., S.C. and another at Charleston May 18 (*vide* DF). A new early date for Summer Tanager was established Mar. 20 at Columbus (FL) and a very early Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen there Mar. 21 (WM). Dickcissels were reported from three widely scattered areas in the Region this spring. Single birds were seen Apr. 5 at Pendleton, SC. (HL), Apr. 27 at Pawley's I., SC. (FP), and Apr. 29 at Raleigh (TQ). A mated pair of House Finches was reportedly present in Winston-Salem at the end of the period. No nest has yet been located but it seems likely that the Region's first nesting record will be forthcoming (RS). Pine Siskins lingered through late April at Charleston (DF), mid-May at Clemson (HL) and were still present at Winston-Salem June 5 (RS). Red Crossbills remained as late as May 7 in the Atlanta area (*vide* DC) and May 19 at Southern Pines (JC). Two Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found by Harry LeGrand near Townville in Anderson County, S.C., May 19, a surprising inland occurrence. A spring record for Lincoln's Sparrow was recorded for the third year at Clemson where a single bird was noted May 4 (SG).

CORRECTION—Misprints in the 1973 fall summary incorrectly cite "Atlantic" as the location of Philadelphia Vireo and Oldsquaw sightings Oct. 14 and Nov. 11, respectively. Atlanta, Ga. is the correct location for both records.

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FLORIDA REGION / Herbert W. Kale II

Observers afield in Florida during the spring of 1974 were generally of one accord in describing the migration as "dullest in memory," unspectacular," and "practically nil"—all reflections of the lack of any significant weather fronts throughout the period. Still, this



report contains numerous noteworthy observations from persistent birders who daily or "weekendly" go afield with hope ever eternal. The Everglades and Big Cypress area in south Florida burned as they have never burned before. Smoke from forest and muck fires covered the lower east coast for days at a time. Drought and fire are natural and necessary phenomena of these two ecosystems, but the extreme decline in water table elevations and the depth and vastness of the burns—a result of excessive drainage—are not natural. The fires, many of which were ignited by woods or 'glades ar-

sonists, were finally extinguished by the rains that came in May, but it will take many years to restore the marshlands and peat soils that were destroyed.

This period was highlighted by the successful production—the best since 1967—of 3500 Wood Storks at the Corkscrew Swamp colony and 1200 at three Everglades Nat'l Park (below E.N.P.) colonies. Another significant and encouraging event was the nesting of two pairs of Reddish Egrets on Alafia Banks, a National Audubon Society sanctuary in the mouth of the Alafia River in Tampa Bay. This is possibly the first nesting in the Tampa Bay area since the plume-hunting days early in this century (FMD, details to be published), and the second known nesting north of Florida Bay. Several outstanding rarities, reported below, were Red-footed Booby, Bahama Duck, Caribbean Coot, Bahama Woodstar, Bahama Swallow, and Bronzed Cowbird.

SHEARWATERS AND PETRELS—A Sooty Shearwater May 20 was the only shearwater seen during several pelagic trips this spring east of Cape Canaveral (RDB & JJ). From four to 20 Audubon's Shearwaters were noted daily May 6-12 in the Florida straits off Duck Key (HND). The movement of Wilson's Storm-Petrels into their summering area off the Atlantic coast was illustrated by their increasing numbers seen east of Cape Canaveral—seven on May 20, 16 on May 29, and 51 on June 4 (RDB & JJ).

TROPICBIRDS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS—Sightings of White-tailed Tropicbirds appear to be increasing and for the second year in a row two, possibly three, birds were observed performing courtship displays over Ft. Jefferson, Dry Tortugas (below, D.T.) Apr 5 (CWB, PWS *et al.*) and May 4-5 (JBE *et al.*). A weakly flying bird was seen off Sebastian Inlet Apr. 25 (ADC) and an adult made several attempts to land on the flying bridge of a boat in the Florida straits off Marathon May 16 (HND). A most unusual incident occurred at the Tortugas May 5 when an Osprey caught a large fish just off Bush Key and was immediately pursued by a Brown Pelican. The chase led to Garden Key and continued over Ft. Jefferson for several minutes. The pelican was on the tail of the Osprey when they disappeared behind the fort. (JBE, CT *et al.*). Numerous observers saw a **Red-footed Booby** at D.T., May 4-5 (JBE, JCO *et al.*). A dark-tailed brown bird with white underparts, golden-buff head, and red legs, it was probably molting into adult plumage (JBE). Five Brown Boobies were on the Rebecca Shoals navigational structure May 5 (JBE *et al.*). The colony of Magnificent Frigatebirds on the Marquessas Keys, the only one in North America, contained 25 pairs on nests, apparently incubating eggs, May 7 (JCO).

WADING BIRDS—Because of the continued threat of destruction of wetlands habitat most of Florida's wading bird species have been designated "Species of Special Concern" by the recently formed Florida Committee on Rare and Endangered Plants and Animals. Ironically, the highest concentrations of waders are usually found in marshlands that are drying up. Paul Sykes observed the following birds Apr. 22 in the St. Johns Water Management District impoundment west

of Vero Beach, just as the last of the water was being pumped out of the marshland for agricultural use: Great Blue Heron 150, Little Blue Heron 1000, Great Egret 3500, Snowy Egret 2500, Louisiana Heron 200, Wood Stork 300, White Ibis 2000. With the occasional observation of Reddish Egrets in full breeding soft-part coloration in peninsular Florida as far north as Vero Beach on the east coast and Tampa Bay on the west coast, the nesting of this species on Alafia Banks comes as no great surprise, but it nevertheless marks a milestone in its exceedingly slow recovery from near extinction 70 years ago. An ad. Black-crowned Night Heron at a pond on Sugarloaf Key Apr. 7 was the first one seen there in more than 30 years of birding in the Lower Keys by veteran Frances Hames. The successful nesting of Wood Storks, already mentioned above, at the main breeding colonies at Corkscrew and E.N.P., and in the face of severe drought conditions, provided a respite, although a temporary one, in the alarming decline of this endangered species. Smaller colonies elsewhere in the state were also successful, or on the verge of being so, with nearly 300 young produced on Pelican I. N.W.R. (SLW) and 150 active nests in two colonies near Jacksonville (SAG & RWL *et al.*). Rarely seen in the Tampa Bay area, two Glossy Ibis were at McKay Bay May 18 (JBE, PJF *et al.*). A Roseate Spoonbill at Mullet Key Apr. 3 (DG) and two at McKay Bay Apr. 6 (JBE) were early, while one near St. Marks Light May 29 (HG & HMS) was the earliest for the Tallahassee Division. Inland occurrences are rare, so three at L. Alfred in Polk Co., May 21 and thereafter (PJF) are noteworthy. An Am. Flamingo at Port Canaveral Apr 28 (ADC) and May 5 (RDB & ADC) is the earliest for the N. Peninsula. Not submitted in time for the winter period report was the sighting of a flamingo in the mouth of the Alafia R., Tampa Bay, Jan. 23 & 26 (FMD).

DUCKS—Over 120 Fulvous Tree Ducks were seen near 40 Mile Bend on the Tamiami Trail Apr. 28 (DG & LH). Others were reported in Conservation Area 2A, Broward Co., May 16, and east of Belle Glade May 13 (PWS), and 24 on the east side of Loxahatchee N.W.R., May 22 (JJS & PWS). In light of the increasing numbers of this species in Florida in recent years it is of interest to report that the zoo-keeper at Miami's Crandon Park Zoo stated (*vide* JBE) that their captive Fulvous Tree Ducks have been flying off ever since 1952 and probably form the nucleus of the s. Florida population (unverified, however). Black-bellied and West Indian Tree Ducks have also been escaping from the zoo for several years. A Mottled Duck on St. George I., Apr. 6, in addition to being a rarity there, was the earliest for the Tallahassee Division (HMS & JMS). The **Bahama Duck** that wintered at West L., Flamingo in E.N.P., was still in the area May 22 on one of the sewage treatment ponds (CWB). A pair of **Masked Ducks** near the headquarters of Loxahatchee N.W.R., Apr. 18 remained through May 14 (JHD), but no evidence of nesting was found. A White-winged Scoter near St. James, Franklin Co., was late Apr. 25 (HMS).

RAPTORS—Breeding attempts by Everglade Kites at Loxahatchee N.W.R. and in impoundments in the headwater marshes of the St. Johns R. in St. Lucie and

Indian River Counties ended in failure as a result of predation in the Refuge, and drought in the impoundments (PWS). Presumably, nesting success was better for the Lake Okeechobee population. At least two pairs of Mississippi Kites were present in the Gainesville area during the period, one pair was observed copulating (SAN, KRN, JEH). Scarce during the past 20 years in Brevard Co., a pair of Caracaras on the Duda Ranch May 31 was encouraging. A Krider's Hawk, an escapee from a local falconer who had removed it from a nest in the western U.S., was seen frequently during the past winter and spring in the Brevard Co. area—Rockledge, L. Poinsett, and Duda Ranch (ADC & RDB). The necessity for thoroughly investigating reports of birds of prey seen far from their normal range cannot be overemphasized.

COOTS AND SHOREBIRDS—Of the several **Caribbean Coots** (I have heard reports as high as eight) that wintered in s. Florida only three remained at Oakland Park in Ft. Lauderdale May 3 (JBE). One of these represents the first specimen for North America (*U.S.N.M.). The Crandon Park zoo-keeper stated (*vide* JBE) that they have never had any Caribbean Coots in their collection. The first, and possibly last, Port Canaveral nesting record for the Am. Oystercatcher occurred in late April (ADC & RDB). This rich shorebird area will soon be "developed" for harbor facilities. At least ten pairs of oystercatchers, some in courtship, were seen on St. George I., in the upper Gulf Apr. 21 & 23 (JHH), but the species appears to be disappearing as a breeding bird from Pinellas Co. beaches. None were found there in April or May (JBE). A combing of Honeymoon I. near Dunedin May 18 failed to find any Snowy Plovers (JBE), but at least three pairs were recorded on St. George I. Apr. 21 & 23 (JHH). Two Wilson's Plovers seen at Key Haven May 29 had young chicks with them on June 5, one of few nesting records in the Lower Keys (FTH). An Upland Sandpiper on Payne's Prairie May 10 (SAN) is the latest for the N. Peninsula. A Willet on Key Haven May 29, and five birds there June 5 (FTH) suggest possible breeding in the Lower Keys. An estimated 1500 Red Knots were seen in Nassau Sound May 5 (RWL & SLS). Three Purple Sandpipers on Melbourne Causeway Jan. 13-May 6 (EKS, ADC, HGC) marked the latest date for the N. Peninsula. White-rumped Sandpipers were very late at Key Haven June 5-6 (FTH). Three were at McKay Bay May 4 (DG & LH) and May 18 (JBE). Uncommon in spring in the Tallahassee Division, two Stilt Sandpipers were near St. Marks Light Apr. 3 (NOW, HMS *et al.*). A Marbled Godwit at Ft. George Inlet north of Jacksonville was late on May 30 (RWL). A molting **Ruff** in a flooded field on the Duda Ranch near Rockledge Apr. 7 (ADC) and a **Reeve** on Merritt I. N.W.R. May 6 (RDB & ADC) are the third and fourth spring records for peninsular Florida.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS—A Pomarine Jaeger was seen chasing Royal Terns near Rebecca Shoals Light Apr. 7 (PWS) and again was there May 5 (JBE *et al.*). An estimated 200 Herring Gulls—two-thirds in breeding plumage—on Middle Key, D.T., Apr. 5 (PWS *et al.*) was unusual at this late date. The Laughing Gull colony on St. Petersburg's Bayway—possibly the

largest colony in the U.S., comprised of 3000-5000 pairs—was given another year's reprieve (probably its last) when the property was resold once again to another condominium developer. Of the unprecedented number of 500 Com. Terns at Mullet Key Mar. 30, most were gone the next day, but seven were still present Apr. 20 (JBE). An estimated 225 Roseate Terns were counted on Middle Key, D.T. Apr. 5 (GD, RHW, PWS). Up to six were present on Duck Key in the Upper Keys May 12-19 (HND) and several were seen in Key West Harbor May 27, and at Key Haven, one on May 29, and four incubating two eggs each on June 4 (FTH). The first Duval Co. record for this species at Mayport Apr. 7 (SAG, VMM, PCP) is the first spring record for the N. Peninsula. Two more were seen 20 mi. east of Cape Canaveral May 8 (JJ) Bridled Terns were also seen east of Canaveral, one on Apr. 24 (JJ) and six on May 20 (RDB & JJ). A Caspian Tern, rare in Leon Co., was seen on L. Jackson Apr. 28 (RLC & NOW), and several were reported nesting near the mouth of the Alafia R., Tampa Bay this spring (*vide* WDC). Between 50-100 Black Terns were seen along Tampa's Bayshore Blvd., May 18 (JBE & CG) Three birds, one in breeding plumage and one with a speckled breast, were at Key Haven May 27 (FTH) and two were seen 15 mi. east of Cape Canaveral May 29 (RDB & JJ). A **Black Noddy Tern** in worn plumage was perched with Brown Noddies on the old coaling dock at Ft. Jefferson Apr. 5 (PWS)—the earliest date in the U.S.—and seen there again on May 4 (CT, TM, JBE *et al.*)

PIGEONS, DOVES, OWLS, GOATSUCKERS—An estimated 75 White-crowned Pigeons were in the vicinity of the post office in downtown Key West May 27 (FTH). In the same city block, **Inca Doves** apparently are "holding their own" with three birds—frequent visitors to a bird bath—counted on May 27 (FTH) Only two nesting records of the Burrowing Owl over the past 20 years exist for Brevard Co., hence, a burrow with two adults on Apr. 1, and three young on May 31 (ADC & RDB) is noteworthy. A Whip-poor-will singing at Key West on the evening of Apr. 21 (TW) is the latest for the Lower Keys by almost a month.

SWIFTS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS—A Chimney Swift over Delray Beach May 29 (PWS), if a migrant, was late for the S. Peninsula, although swifts breed in the northern third of this division. A Rufous Hummingbird in a Tallahassee backyard was last seen Apr. 1 (MBM). A **Bahama Woodstar** at Mrs. Bradley Fisk's banding station in Homestead Apr. 7 remained until about mid-May and was seen and photographed (but never trapped) by numerous observers (EJF, OTO, WBR, SS *et al.*). The old hospital area on Stock I., Key West, contained 15 Gray Kingbirds Apr. 16 (FTH). One at Cedar Key Apr. 14 was early (JHH & SAN), and a pair 14 mi. east of Belle Glade along U S 441 May 13 (PWS) was unusual so far inland. Three Scissor-tailed Flycatchers from a flock of 18-20 birds on Stock I., Apr. 1, were still there Apr. 16 (FTH). An E Wood Pewee at Sharpes, Brevard Co., was early on Apr. 17 (ADC). Now believed to be a breeding bird on Key West, the Great Crested Flycatcher is often heard near the public library on Fleming St. A single bird was seen there May 27-31 (FTH). If a migrant it is the latest for the Lower Keys.

SWALLOWS THROUGH VIREOS—One, possibly two, **Bahama Swallows**—the eighth record for Florida—were seen by numerous observers [at an unspecified location in the Lower Keys] May 3 (JBE *et al.*) Two Bank Swallows at East Pt. and St. George I., Apr 6 (HMS & JMS) were early. Others were seen at Ft. Jefferson May 4-5 (JBE *et al.*) and at Merritt I. N. W. R. May 8 (RDB). Cave Swallows were again at Ft. Jefferson, one on Apr. 5-7 (CWB, PWS *et al.*) and two on May 4 (JBE, JCO *et al.*). A Short-billed Marsh Wren at Merritt I. N. W. R. May 24 (PWS) was the latest for the N. Peninsula. Thrushes were unusually scarce this spring. A Hermit Thrush on Merritt I., May 4 & 11 (RDB) was the latest for the N. Peninsula, and a Swanson's Thrush in Jacksonville May 13 was also late (VMM). Rare in spring, a Philadelphia Vireo was seen at Sarasota May 6 (DHM).

WARBLERS—Despite the generally poor migration (observation-wise) most of the eastern warblers were recorded at one place or another in the region. One exception to the low-key migration was experienced by Bill Bolte who wrote "I have never seen a warbler migration in Broward County to equal the one that occurred Apr. 24. A mild cold front had moved through the previous evening. First reports of the migration came about 7:45 a.m., when waves of warblers were heard flying overhead in a northwesterly direction in a very heavy smoke-filled sky (from 'glades fires). From noon until 2 p.m. on a strip of land 75 by 900 feet bordering a borrow pit in Ft. Lauderdale I identified 20 species of warblers: Black-and-white, Prothonotary, Swanson's, Worm-eating, Tennessee, Parula, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Yellow-throated, Blackpoll, Pine, Prairie, Palm, Ovenbird, Yellowthroat, Wilson's, Canada, and Redstart—an estimated 1200-1500 birds. At the same time Wally George in Cypress Park, two blocks away, observed 16 species of over 1000 warblers." This same wave was also observed farther north along the coast in Brevard Co. by Bob Barber. Large flights of warblers were noted offshore east of Cape Canaveral on May 6-7 with an estimated 1000 warblers passing or landing on the boat both days (JJ.)

Swanson's Warblers were also seen at St. Petersburg Apr. 7 (DG & LH), at Miami Apr. 9-12 and 25 (ESD), and at Rockledge Apr. 24 (RDB). Additional warbler species reported during the period were Golden-winged at Sarasota Apr. 27 (EHR & DHM) and on the Loop Road in the Everglades Apr. 28 (DG & LH), Blue-winged at Mullet Key Apr. 17 (DG) and south of Sopchoppy Apr. 25 (HMS), Magnolia at St. Marks Light Apr. 16 (NOW), at Rockledge Apr. 24 and May 1 (RDB), and at Tavernier May 1 (RTP & SS), Cerulean at Ft. Lauderdale Apr. 10 (WJB) and Merritt I., May 3 (JJ), Blackburnian at Tavernier May 18 (JCO & SS), Chestnut-sided on Merritt I., May 3 (JJ), Bay-breasted at Tavernier May 17-18 (JCO & SS), Blackpoll at Tallahassee Apr. 10 (JMS) that tied the early date for this division, Kentucky at Ft. Lauderdale Apr. 6 (WG), and two Connecticut on Merritt I., May 16 (RDB). A Hooded Warbler at Aurantia May 6 (RDB) was the latest in migration for the N. Peninsula.

WEAVERS AND BLACKBIRDS—A ♂ House Sparrow at Ft. Jefferson Apr. 5-7 (CWB & PWS) and either the same bird or another male on May 4 (JBE *et al.*) again suggest that we really know very little about this most common species inhabiting American cities. Bobolinks were generally scarce in the region, but only visually, because their nocturnal migrating calls were frequently heard from mid-April to mid-May. A flock of 60 at L. Alice, Gainesville Apr. 19 (NPC) grew to 500 by Apr. 25 (JEH). A lone bird remained on Payne's Prairie May 10 (SAN), and seven birds on Merritt I. N. W. R. May 24 were late (PWS). The only Yellow-headed Blackbird reported during the period was one at Sarasota Apr. 17 (JM). Three Rusty Blackbirds were late at Rockledge Apr. 19 (ADC). The fourth Florida record (first in spring in the N. Peninsula) of the **Bronzed Cowbird** was at the Duda Ranch where it was first seen Apr. 15 (ADC & RDB) and observed by many birders through Apr. 26.

TANAGERS AND FINCHES—Three **Western Tanagers** reported during the period were one at Alligator Pt., Apr. 5 (JMS), a rarity in the Tallahassee area, one in Cypress Park, Ft. Lauderdale Apr. 6 that remained until Apr. 20 (WG, many obs.), and an adult male in Coral Gables Apr. 16 (EG). Blue-gray Tanagers were again singing on territory in Dania and North Miami (JBE). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen at Tavernier Apr. 20-22 (RTP) and on Hypoluxo I., Lantana, May 11 (HPL, WM, PWS). Two ♂♂ Indigo Buntings singing near the 1968 nesting site near Bartow at the end of May suggested breeding again (JBE). A Purple Finch at a feeder in Gainesville was late Apr. 26 (JEH). Pine Siskins were widespread in Florida this past winter and remained late. Of three at Mullet Key Apr. 13, one was still there Apr. 27 (WDC, FMD *et al.*). One was last seen in Gainesville Apr. 30 (JEH), and ten in Jacksonville May 10 (VMM) and one in Tallahassee May 17 (MBM) were very late. Three Savannah Sparrows on East Key, D. T., Apr. 5 (PWS) present the question of where they may have wintered, and one at L. Poinsett, Rockledge May 15 (RDB) was the latest for the N. Peninsula. A rare Le Conte's Sparrow was observed at close range at St. Marks Lighthouse pond Apr. 21 (JHH). A Seaside Sparrow (not a Dusky) on Merritt I., Apr. 17 (ADC) was a late migrant, and two Chipping Sparrows at Rockledge May 8 (ADC) tied the latest date for the N. Peninsula. A backyard feeder in Rockledge attracted a **Clay-colored Sparrow** where it remained from Apr. 22-27 (RDB). A rare migrant in Jacksonville was a White-crowned Sparrow May 6 (JPC). The latest date for a Lincoln Sparrow in the N. Peninsula occurred at L. Poinsett May 1 (RDB), and a Swamp Sparrow on Merritt I., May 7 (RDB) was also very late.

OBSERVERS (area editors in boldface)—**R. D. Barber**, C. W. Biggs, W. J. Bolte, J. P. Cocke, H. P. Cocks, W. D. Courser, R. L. Crawford, A. D. Cruickshank, H. G. Cruickshank, H. N. Darrow, G. Davis, E. S. Dickie, J. H. Doebel, F. M. Dunstan, **J. B. Edscorn**, P. J. Fellers, E. J. Fisk, C. Geneangel, W. George, E. Gizzarelli, D. Goodwin, H. Greening, S. A. Grimes, **F. T. Hames**, J. Herrmann, **J. H. Hintermister**, L. Hopkins, J. E. Horner, J. Johnson, H. P. Langridge, R. W.

Loftin, D. H. Mace, V. M. Markgraf, W. Matthews, M. N. Miller, T. Moore, K. R. Nesbitt, S. A. Nesbitt, J. C. Ogden, O. T. Owre, R. T. Paul, P. C. Powell, W. B. Robertson, Jr., E. H. Rowland, S. Sprunt, E. K. Standish, H. M. Stevenson, J. M. Stevenson, S. L. Sutton, J. J. Sykes, P. W. Sykes, Jr., C. Turner, N. O. Warner, T. Weed, W. F. White, R. H. Willocks, S. L. Wineland. Abbreviations—D. T., Dry Tortugas, E.N.P., Everglades Nat'l Park. U.S.N.M., U.S. Nat'l Museum.;*, specimen.—HERBERT W. KALE II, Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory, P. O. Box 520, Vero Beach, Florida 32960.

ONTARIO — WESTERN NEW YORK REGION

/ Clive E. Goodwin and Richard C. Rosche

The season was yet another in the series of early and late springs which have been the pattern of recent years. Both March and April had pronounced warm spells stimulating early movement, and they were followed by a cool May which delayed much passage well into June. Migration was good but not exceptional,



although an impressive array of rarities were seen. Unfortunately not all of these are included here, as some reports were received too late—or not at all—and both observers and regional editors are urged to get their reports in as quickly as possible after May 30. Space normally no longer permits inclusion of late reports in the following season's summary, as in the past.

The spring was more productive of widespread weather-linked movements than recent springs have been: the first big "push" was the Mar. 2-3 period noted in the last summary, but the mild periods of April yielded interesting movements. On Apr. 2-4 warm weather stimulated a major exodus of wintering waterfowl along the lower Great Lakes, and there were some early arrivals; mostly waterbirds but including Kingston's earliest Barn Swallow and Water Pipit Apr.

3 (K.F.N.), and there were over 1150 swallows of four species (mostly Tree) along the Grand R., Apr. 5 (RC). The period Apr. 12-14 brought widespread arrivals, including an exceptionally early Com. Highhawk at Angus Apr. 11 (JM), Kingston's earliest Bank Swallow Apr. 15 and Pine Warbler Apr. 14 (RDW), with two at Bronte the same day (C & SW, AW), and a Com. Snipe at Hornepayne Apr. 12 (JBM). But it was the end of April that yielded the outstanding movements with one of the most remarkable spring influxes in years. It ranged from Point Pelee National Park (below, Pelee) to Kingston and north to Virginiatown, covered five days and featured a flood of early arrivals in sometimes unusual numbers, and an assortment of rarities including a first for the Province.

The associated weather was a flood of warm air moving north, and bringing near-record breaking temperatures to the south of the Province. The thermometer reached 86°F at Petawawa, and in many areas temperatures were 20° above normal. This spell broke on Apr. 29 as bad weather moved in from the northwest with a cool front. Flycatchers, vireos, warblers and Bobolinks featured largely in the movement, but high counts of Bonaparte's Gulls at Kingston, Little Gulls at Oshawa and Black Terns at Mud L., Welland (MHE, DC *et al.*, and *fide* RFA) as well as the rarities seen showed that it was not confined to landbirds. Space permits only a sampling of the earliest sightings: April 27 brought a Least Sandpiper at Presqu'île P.P. (CEG, JEG), a Wood Pewee at Peterborough (DCS), a White-eyed Vireo at Pelee (*fide* AHK), a Cerulean Warbler at Grimsby (RC), 150 Yellow-rumped Warblers were seen at Collingwood (JWi, JH) and there were Pine Warblers and Field Sparrows north to Manitoulin I. (CB, JL). Among the birds seen the next day was a Great Crested Flycatcher, Prince Edward Pt. — below, P.E. Pt. — (K.F.N.) and a Cape May Warbler, Hamilton (RC *et al.*). On Apr. 29 a Short-billed Marsh Wren was at Whitby (GB), a Black-billed Cuckoo at Bronte (MJ) and a Red-eyed Vireo at Pelee (AW), whilst Apr. 30 sightings included a Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Stratford (EE) and an Indigo Bunting at Presqu'île P.P. (GB), and May 1 two White-crowned Sparrows at Hornepayne (JJ). Even more imposing is the list of rarer species over the period, starting with a Little Blue Heron at Mississagi Light Apr. 27-28 (JN), one of the few records north of the lower Lakes. A Willet at Hamilton Apr. 28 (WS) is eclipsed by an unprecedented 23 at Pelee the same day (AJR). Six Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at P.E. Pt., (RDW), a Kentucky Warbler at Bronte Apr. 28 (MJ), a Hooded Warbler at Grimsby Apr. 27 (GM), and a Louisiana Waterthrush Scarborough Apr. 28 (GB) all represent early records for infrequent species, but the odd nighthawk photographed at Pelee on Apr. 29 was wholly new: its identification has been confirmed as a Lesser Nighthawk (AW *fide* WEG), a new species for Canada.

In contrast May was uneventful, although there were influxes in the middle of the month, with a spectacular diurnal reverse migration of warblers off Pelee at dawn on May 14 (m.ob.), and the heaviest migration seemed to occur in the third and fourth weeks.

LOONS, GREBES, CORMORANTS—Common Loons were in generally good numbers, with many sightings of groups up to 15 birds, and a high of 400 Apr. 20 at Kettle Pt. (AR), and there were isolated Red-throated Loon sightings including one at Amherst I., May 23 (PM, PH). The Manitoulin area is becoming the best location in the Province for Red-necked Grebes; there were 280 in Mississagi Strait Apr. 20-28 (*fide* JN), and noteworthy elsewhere were two on Source L., Algonquin P.P., May 16 (RM, RR). Eared Grebes were at Wheatley May 6 (JPK, JEG) and Hamilton during April (AW), which represents normal numbers for this species over the past few years in contrast with the influx last spring. Double-crested Cormorants also seemed in average numbers, but the diminished status of this bird demands some detail: in total there were some 10 L. Ontario sightings with a high of seven May 11 at Kingston (K.F.N.) and maybe 15-20 birds in all; four to six birds on L. Erie, two on L. Huron and three — a record number — inland at Fanshawe L., London (WGD)

HERONS, EGRETS—Green Herons appeared again on Manitoulin I., which is north of their range, with three May 21 and single birds on May 11&24 (JN). Little Blue Herons made their usual token appearances with birds at Dundas Apr. 3-4 (DAS, HM) and near Pelee May 14 (DR), in addition to the one at Mississagi Light Cattle Egrets were not quite in last spring's high numbers, but at least 22 birds seemed to be involved in almost as many reports. There was a high of 12 Pelee I., May 7-14 (CAC, GD) and numbers east to Kingston (K.F.N.) and at Brighton (CEG, JEG), the locale for Ontario's only breeding colony during the early 1960s, but not recorded there recently. Great Egrets seemed both more widespread and earlier than usual: as early as Apr. 3 at Hamilton (HM) and Fanshawe L. (DS) and east to Amherst I. and P.E. Pt., May 23 and Apr. 28 (BG, PM, PH). A Louisiana Heron at Pickering May 10-19 (CEG, JEG, m. ob.) was the sixth report for the Province, but the fifth since 1969. A Black-crowned Night Heron at Peterborough Apr. 15-18 (TB *et al.*) was unusual, and the species seemed in good numbers on migration

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS—Wallaceburg continues to be the major concentration area for Whistling Swans in recent years, and 23,000 were there around the end of March (m. ob.). There were scattered individuals and small flocks seen from an unusually wide range of localities in s. Ontario. The Canada Goose migration was protracted, with apparent migrants from Apr. 9 to past the end of the period, and good numbers were seen with the Port Hope peaks of 20,000 Apr. 27-28 and 10,000 May 4-6 (ERM) representative. Isolated Brant were at Gore Bay May 1 (ID, *fide* KM) and Long Point June 1 (RC), and Kingston had a good movement with 3250 May 18-20 (*fide* RDW) which was followed a week later by a sighting of 3000 at Shipsands I., Moosonee (AW). Three additional records of White-fronted Geese, at Kingsville Mar. 17 (PDP, NC) Port Hope Apr. 14 (JG) and Toronto I., Apr. 20 (*fide* GB), bring the spring total to 10 birds in four widespread locations, unprecedented for this rare species. Isolated Eur. Wigeon are regular on the lower Lakes in

most springs, and this year there were birds at Pelee Mar. 23 (JAG, JPK, KO), Strathroy Apr. 20-21 and 25, apparently two birds (JRC, WRJ *et al.*), and at Valens in April (AW, NE, CE). The remainder of the waterfowl story is further evidence of a very good migration, with early appearances associated with the April warm spells and prolonged movement during May. Numbers were excellent — Mallard, Pintail, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, scoters and Ruddy Duck all prompted enthusiastic comments from various reporters. Appearances were unusually widespread, and here Snow Geese, N. Shovelers and Hooded Mergansers were particularly noteworthy. On the whole, however, space does not permit detail on what simply adds up to a fine but not exceptional migration, and perhaps a fuller review of one species will round out the picture. Oldsquaw tends to be a neglected species in seasonal reports: they are common enough to escape mention, but their dispersed feeding flocks and tendency to concentrate well off-shore probably leads to their real abundance being underestimated. This spring they were the most abundant duck in Gerry Bennett's Apr. 27-May 4 trip along L. Ontario to Kingston. He saw 3370, and other concentrations were 800 Manitoulin I., May 26 and 420 at Whitewater L., Azilda May 22 (JN, CB, JL), and a P.E. Pt. high of 900 May 10 (K.F.N.) — all still unsensational in terms of the winter counts of past years off Toronto. Pairs at Caledon Apr. 13 (CR) and Manitoulin I., Apr. 20 (JN) represented early movement, one which paralleled an exodus of the earlier migrants among the wintering waterfowl, such as scaup and goldeneye. Yet the main "squaw" concentrations at Mantoulin were surprisingly late, and birds were still moving further south as late as May 30 at Peterborough (TB).

HAWKS—Goshawk sightings were widespread in small numbers—eleven in all—not equal to the influx of the past two years, but a good flight nonetheless. Adult plumaged birds are rarely seen and the immatures are not the easiest birds to identify; observers should be critical of sightings, otherwise free-wheeling pursuit of the day's list could well expand the population! Spring is not the best time to assess hawk numbers and maybe the nine Cooper's Hawks reported reflects this rather than the sad state of this species. View on the Red-shouldered Hawk situation were mixed, from guarded optimism to deep pessimism; however, assuming reporters are mentioning all their sightings of this species now, only 9 pairs plus 11 migrant birds were seen in Ontario this spring. An early Broad-winged Hawk was seen in Sheddon Twp., Apr. 3 (KM). Golden Eagles were at Lakefield May 2 (TB), London Apr. 9 (JS) and Source L., Algonquin P.P., May 21 (SA, DBr). There were widespread Bald Eagle sightings, but more significant were reports of four active nests—three in the southwest (*fide* AHK) and one at Long Point (AW)—which is the largest number since 1970, and the first break in the species' consistent decline. Ospreys appeared in good numbers, and apparently too many for reporters to provide full statistics on, and there were five Peregrine Falcons seen and five Merlins, which is about average for spring. A grey-phase Gyrfalcon was apparently seen at Cookstown Apr. 14 (AD) but other details are lacking.

GROUSE THROUGH RAILS—Six Sharp-tailed Grouse were again seen at P.E. Pt., Apr. 21 (RBS). Sandhill Cranes are irregular visitors at best to s. Ontario, so the ten at Tiny Marsh May 30 (OE & MD) were an astonishing number; to the north and west they are more usual and sightings this year include a bird at Crozier May 6 (IP), a pair at Harris Hill May 19 (AW) and 15 at Hearst May 8 (HS). There were no King Rail reports from the southwest, but one at Oshawa Apr. 28 (GAS). A Sora at Dorchester Apr. 2 (C & MH) and a Virginia Rail at Kingston Mar. 29 (JAW) were early, and a Virginia at Cache L., Algonquin P.P., May 28 (DBr, MR) is also noteworthy. A Yellow Rail was calling near Harris Hill May 19 (AW) but a bird at Wilmot Cr., Clarke Twp. May 26 (KB) was much more surprising. A Purple Gallinule visiting a garden feeder in Cobourg Apr. 22, was captured and subsequently released at Willow Beach, and was later seen "happily eating frogs." Its ultimate fate is apparently unknown (HK, GBc, m. ob.).

SHOREBIRDS—In spite of the continuing record high lake levels the shorebird migration was good, with birds frequenting wet fields in many areas. Particularly good movements were reported of Golden and Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstones, Dunlin, White-rumped Sandpipers and dowitchers. These species also provided early records—Black-bellieds in the southwest on Apr. 21 (DR) and Kingston area Golden May 11 and Short-billed Dowitcher May 10 (PM, HQ, RDW). A Short-billed at Lake-of-Two-Rivers May 30 was the first for Algonquin P.P. (RM, RP); and a dowitcher at Amherst I. May 14 and identified as a Long-billed was in a flock of Short-billeds and contrasted markedly with them (FC *et al.*). Five Piping Plover at Pelee May 6 (WB) was a good count for this scarce little plover; a possible breeding locality in n.w. Ontario is at Sable Islands near Harris Hill, where two pairs and a single bird were seen in suitable habitat May 17 (AW). Whimbrels were moving along Manitoulin I. May 26-27 when flocks of 38 and 34 were seen (JN), and other noteworthy records include a Solitary Sandpiper at Rutherglen May 15 (LdeKL), and a good count of 75 Greater Yellowlegs at New Liskeard May 5 (PWR). A Red Knot on Amherst I., May 18 (K.F.N.) was early as was a Pectoral Sandpiper at Long Point Mar. 31 (AD, CEG, JEG) and another at Minesing Apr. 13-15 (CJM). The rarer shorebirds seen included single Stilt Sandpipers at Melbourne May 21 (JS) and Manitoulin L., May 25 (JN, CB *et al.*); Marbled Godwits at Long Point May 13 (AW), Port Hope May 20 (SF, AF) the first there, as was one at Amherst I., May 24-26 (AEH, GW, m. ob.); Hudsonian Godwits at Manitoulin May 23-25 and May 30 (JN *et al.*), Pelee May 25 (JAG *et al.*), and Amherst I., May 19 (PTN, MHE, AEB); Ruffs at Port Hope May 13-14 (WO), Wolfe I., May 18 (FC, RRo, MM) and Delaware Apr. 21 (GEM, CWM); and an Am. Avocet at Pelee May 2 (NC, AW). Avocets are irregular but the other species are in about usual numbers for spring. Wilson's Phalaropes continued their good showing of recent years, with five Kingston records from May 11 (K.F.N.), five from the Manitoulin area (*vide* JN), two London and one Toronto (WRJ, DP), whilst two at Lakefield May 23 were the first there (TB). Possible

breeding-ground sightings were a bird at Warton May 29 (JWJ) and up to 12 at Harris Hill May 19 (AW). Three N. Phalaropes at Strathroy May 25 (WRJ *et al.*) was the first time more than one bird has been seen in Middlesex Co.

GULLS, TERNS—The last Glaucous Gulls were May 20, Amherst I. (K.E.N.) and Oshawa (GAS). Among smaller gulls seen was a Black-headed at Pickering Apr. 13 (BC, CEG, JEG), a Laughing at Pelee May 18 (JPK, JAG) and a Franklin's there May 11-15 (JPK, m. ob.). Both Bonaparte's Gulls and Black Terns seemed particularly numerous in migration, and many high counts were reported. The Little Gull population continues to expand steadily and there were highs of 6 to 8 birds at several localities: Pelee, Long Point, Pickering and Oshawa (m. ob.) with birds east to Amherst I May 19 (FC, MM) and inland at Tiny Marsh May 31 (DF) and possibly at Fanshawe L., Apr. 21 (MT). A delayed winter report was a well-described Ivory Gull Dec. 24 and Jan. 1 at Oshawa (DC, GAS, m. ob.) The L. Erie region had its usual scattered Forster's Tern sightings, and at the other extreme was a Caspian Tern at Moosonee May 27 (AW).

DOVES THROUGH WHIP-POOR-WILLS—A pair of Mourning Doves at Parry Sound in May made the first local record for the species (MG, *vide* CAC), and a wanderer was at Moosonee May 27 (AW). There were scattered reports of the rarer owls. From the south a Barn Owl was at Pelee May 5 (JAG), and northerly sightings included a Hawk Owl at Great Cloche I again, Apr. 21 (DFg) and another at North Bay May 7 (JMG), Great Gray Owls at Wicksteed L., Apr. 26 and L. Nagagamis (JJ), both in the Hornepayne area, and at Huronian May 16 (AW). A Whip-poor-will in Vaughan Twp., Apr. 7 (GB) was early.

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS—A Red-bellied Woodpecker was in Vaughan Twp., May 10 (*vide* GB) and there were single birds sighted at Pelee Red-headed Woodpecker reports include two from the winter: at Perth to Apr. 2 (RFR) and Oshawa Dec 30 (*vide* DB); and northerly records from Heron Bay June 4 (WW) and Harris Hill May 19-20 (AW). Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers were seen well south of their breeding range at Manitoulin I., May 2 (KM) and Red Bay May 30 (JWJ). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was reportedly photographed near Dyer's Bay June 1 (P & KvS) but further details are lacking. An Acadian Flycatcher was singing at Hamilton May 25 (RF). Early records included a Great Crested Flycatcher at Cobourg Apr. 20 (GB), a Willow Flycatcher at Peterborough the same day (DCS) and an Olive-sided Flycatcher in London May 12 (BT). Olive-sideds were reported in good numbers, and so were the other very late migrating flycatchers, Yellow-bellieds. Possibly this reflects no more than a good late migration generally.

RAVENS THROUGH THRUSHES—A pair of Com. Ravens at Stoney L., Peterborough Co., May 19 (KP) were late. There were four reports of Bewick's Wrens at Pelee Apr. 12-May 11, probably of three birds (JPK, JAG). Carolina Wrens did not reappear at Pelee

in their numbers of last year: probably there were only about four birds involved in the spring reports (AHK, CEG) The species appeared north and east to Port Hope, Cannington and Simcoe Co. (ERM, RCL, CJM).

Outstanding among some 22 Mockingbird sightings were birds in the north at Ferland May 25 (DGS), Virgimatown May 5 and 15 (PWR *et al.*) and Harris Hill May 20, which also had three Wood Thrushes the same day (AW) Early records include a Swainson's Thrush, Vaughan Twp., Apr. 21 (AD, GB) and an E. Bluebird Manitoulin I., Apr. 7 (CB, JN), whilst a Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Long Point June 1 (RC) was late. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers seemed to stage a minor invasion, but this is a difficult bird to assess as lower Lakes reporters tend to neglect it as a "regular." However, the Kingston area had no less than 16 records (*fide* RDW) and there were birds north to Tobermorey May 28 (JWJ) and Manitoulin I., May 26 (JN), which invite speculation if these could possibly be the same bird moving back!

VIREOS, WARBLERS—Peelee had three or four White-eyed Vireos over the period (m.ob.) and there were "several" on Pelee I., May 7-14 (CAC *et al.*), and the other sightings formed a "loop" through the south and west from Byron May 17 (DCu, TNH) and Stratford May 12 (EE) through Fergus May 20 (MD) to Bronte May 19 (PE) and May 22 (MJ) and Fort Erie May 5 (*fide* RFA). There were also two Bell's Vireo reports, from Long Point and Pelee I., but in view of the decline of this species and Ontario observers' history of misidentifying immature White-eyed Vireos the details must await O.O.R.C. review. A Warbling Vireo was seen on Manitoulin I., May 28 (JN).

The warbler migration was excellent; Cape May Warblers were again in record numbers, all the later warblers made strong showings, and the season produced a good mix of rarer species. Some of the Golden-winged Warbler reports suggest territorial birds, with one singing from May 23 in Algonquin P.P. (RM, MR), and at Denbigh May 19 (RSB), whilst a Blue-winged was on territory at Wingham from May 12 (JBM) Southern warblers generally maintained their pattern of widespread appearances across the south of the Province, with Pelee yielding the best numbers as usual, this year there was a Prothonotary Warbler at Komoka May 29 (DMS); Worm-eating Warblers at Bronte Apr. 24 (MJ, JO, GWN), London May 14 (JRC) and Delaware May 18 (GF and JB); nine Hooded Warblers east to Kingston and P.E. Pt., which also had one of the Yellow-breasted Chats reports on May 15, with others on Amherst I., May 19 (RDW, GW), at Bowmanville in early May (DB) and Whitby May 26 (EP *et al.*) Pelee had all these birds—probably three or more Hoodeds and over five chats, plus two or three Kentucky Warblers. One southerner it missed out on this year was Louisiana Waterthrush (in fact even N. Waterthrushes were few there), but there was one at Otter L., Kingston May 22 (PH, PM) in addition to the bird mentioned earlier. Prairie Warblers, as scarce breeders in the Province, fall into rather a different category, and the scattering of sightings of this species—some 10 were reported—extend north to Belanger Bay, Manitoulin I., where three were singing in suitable habitat May 22 (JN). One southerner which

rarely appears in the Province—there are a handful of good sight records and no material evidence until this year—is the **Yellow-throated Warbler**, but on May 3 one was photographed in Hamilton (RF). Even rarer, with the only prior record a bird collected on May 16, 1958 at Pelee, is **Virginia's Warbler**, but a well described bird was on Pelee I., May 9-11 (DBG, m.ob.). Early warbler records not noted above included a Pine Warbler, Pelee Mar. 23 (JPK, JAG); a N. Waterthrush, Mill Cr., Peterborough Apr. 11 (DCS); and a Wilson's Warbler, Arnprior Apr. 18 (MR).

BLACKBIRDS—Bobolinks made widespread early appearances in the Apr. 27-May 1 push of warm air, and the P.E. Pt. high of 210, May 12 (RDW) was a good count. In the north birds were general in the Rainy River district (AW) and one was seen at Ferland May 22-26 (DCS). These two observers recorded a number of other interesting sightings on their northern trips, reflecting the poor coverage so much of Ontario usually receives. At Ferland a presumed pair of Brewer's Blackbirds were occupying the only patch of suitable habitat in the town (DCS), whilst in the Moosonee area there was a W. Meadowlark May 29 and 20 Brown-headed Cowbirds May 30 (AW). The Province can rarely record any westerly records, but an E. Meadowlark singing at Bergland May 17 (AW) was well west of its normal range. Another n. Ontario report was two Scarlet Tanagers May 28 at Swallow R. (WW). The southwest had a couple of Yellow-headed Blackbird sightings Mar. 24 & May 25 (JPK, DR, m.ob.), and six Brewer's Blackbirds, Mar. 31-May 4, including a pair in suitable breeding habitat near L. St. Clair (*fide* AHK, RC). There were Summer Tanagers at Pelee May 3-5 (AW, JPK) and Komoka May 12-13 (ES). Eleven Orchard Orioles were seen away from the L. Erie areas where they are more usual; most noteworthy were five at P.E. Pt., May 15-23 (K.F.N.) and one, South Baymouth May 20 (*fide* JN).

FINCHES, SPARROWS—Another Rose-breasted Grosbeak appeared at Hornepayne May 30 (JBM, AM). The only Dickcissel sighting was a bird visiting a feeder in Weston to at least Apr. 13 (LM, m.ob.), and there was also a Blue Grosbeak report, of a full-plumaged male at Lakefield May 28 (TB). Winter finches hung around: the last Hoary Redpoll report was Apr. 3 at Mallorytown Landing (JW), but Com. Redpolls, Pine Siskins and White-winged Crossbills were present into the third week of May, and there were 12 Red Crossbills as late as May 30 at Barrie (CJM) and a pair at Belanger Bay May 27 (JN). An official Park photographer at Pelee was photographing a group of birds including a high-plumaged ♂ **Lark Bunting** for a day without realizing there was something special about it (May 17, m.ob.); further comment on the Pelee interpretive programme is unnecessary! A Rufous-sided Towhee was at Harris Hill May 20 (AW). Both Le Conte's and Sharp-tailed Sparrows appeared at Pelee, the first May 11 (JPK, JAG, KO) and the second May 16&25 (DR), the first records there for this species. Three Henslow's Sparrows were early at Barre May 5 (CH, CJM) and there were four at Byron from May 29 (DCu *et al.*); but apart from these two colonies there were few reports and the species seems to be declining, although it

undoubtedly moves around from year to year. A Lark Sparrow reappeared in the Blezard Valley May 29 (JN) and there was one Hornepayne Apr. 20-22 (JBM, AM). Dark-eyed Juncos and Tree Sparrows followed the pattern of late departures, and there were unusual concentrations at Pimisi Bay at the end of April, with 306 juncos and 80 Tree Sparrows (LdeKL). Clay-colored Sparrows appeared in good numbers: particularly noteworthy were birds at Peterborough May 15 (TB) and Denbigh May 17 (RSB), and a sighting at Byron May 13 presaged a nesting there (DCu *et al.*). Another Pelee rarity was a Harris' Sparrow May 17 (PW, m. ob.), and there was a reported sighting of a Golden-crowned Sparrow at North Bay Apr. 16 (HP) by an experienced observer, but further details are still lacking. The species has not been recorded in Ontario. A Fox Sparrow at Killarney May 8 (WRL) was late, as was a Snow Bunting the same day at Amherst I. (FC) and another May 4 at Lake-of-Two-Rivers (DBr).

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WESTERN NEW YORK AND NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA—Wetness was the word most often used to describe the spring season. April had above normal snowfall in some areas, while one storm in mid-month accounted for over half of May's precipitation. April was warmer than the long-term average,

whereas May was colder, especially during the first half.

The frequent April storms produced a better-than-average number of good "flight days" in many parts of the Region. Most of May, however, was characterized by a rather uniform movement with few "waves." The only major drop down of passerines occurred May 15 and 16 when a frontal system moved through the Region. This system produced up to 3.85 inches of rain at Rochester where the resultant flooding was thought to have adversely affected early ground nesting species. At month's end there were still large numbers of individuals moving through and nesting populations of some of the later arrivals had not yet reached their maximums.

LOONS, GREBES, CORMORANTS—A major flight of loons was visible from the shore of L Ontario east of Rochester Apr. 27 when 729 Com. Loons and 46 Red-throated Loons were estimated (AKE); these were the highest counts in this regular concentration area in at least ten years and the former count was close to or exceeded the all-time Regional high. Both species were scarce elsewhere. Three Red-necked Grebes Apr. 14 at Braddock Bay, Monroe Co. (AKE *et al.*) was the only report of this uncommon species. Horned Grebes staged a remarkable early April migration when about 3000, a new Regional high, were estimated to be in the Iroquois N.W.R. area Apr. 4 (OM & JM); smaller numbers were more widespread and noticeable for the remainder of that month throughout the Region. About 12 Double-crested Cormorants occurred at several Great Lakes localities, about a normal number for that season of the year.

HERONS—Migrating Great Blue Herons were noted over Romulus, Seneca Co. when 15 were counted Apr. 2 (MJ) and over Irving, Chautauqua Co. when 18 flew over Apr. 21 and nine on Apr. 27 (RA *et al.*). The southern herons were well represented, a trend that becomes more evident with the passing of each spring season. An ad. Little Blue Heron, always very rare, was at Iroquois N.W.R., May 18 (JM *et al.*). Cattle Egrets occurred on the Lake Plains Apr. 28-May 31 but were less widespread than a year ago: however, up to 16, a new Regional high, were at Parma, Monroe Co. during May (AKI). Three Cattle Egrets May 17 in the Jamestown-Frewsburg area were unusual (FE *et al.*). About 10 Great Egrets were reported. Single Snowy Egrets were at Buffalo May 11 (AS *et al.*) and at Iroquois N.W.R. May 12 (JM *et al.*). Up to three Louisiana Herons, the rarest and most irregular of the southern herons to reach the Region, were at Presque I., Pa., May 4-25 (DS, RB *et al.*). Black-crowned Night Heron, and Least and Am. Bittern populations showed little sign of change, but all three species remained well below their numbers of only a few years ago.

WATERFOWL—Whistling Swan and Canada Goose concentrations peaked in late March as previously reported. The regular overland movement of Brant was evident May 19 when two were at the north end of Seneca L. (PT *et al.*) and 13 were on Irondequoit Bay, Monroe Co. (WL). The number of Snow Geese

utilizing Montezuma N.W.R. as a resting place continued to increase; some 3500 individuals in a ratio of three blue morphs to one white morph were there in early April (WB). Population estimates of ducks at Montezuma N.W.R. showed that dabbling ducks were more numerous than during 1973, but diving ducks were far below 1973 estimates. The same was generally true throughout the Region, which produced extremely little data compared with most spring migration seasons. The second closely observed and well documented ♂ **Cinnamon Teal** in less than a year was one at Montezuma N.W.R., Apr. 1-3 (MH, WB, & RGU), further details will be published in *The Kingbird*.

HAWKS—The notes below only outline the main highlights of much hawk watching that was done along the south shores of L. Erie and L. Ontario during April. The recent northward spread of Turkey Vultures was reflected in the new Regional high counts of 700 on Apr. 3 over the Erie, Pa. area (LK) and 209 on Apr. 4 over Braddock Bay (JF *et al.*). An excellent flight of Goshawks took place at Rochester all during April but the maximum count for one day was 26 on Apr. 4 (G O S); three were reported during the season at Erie, Pa. but elsewhere on the flight paths it was unreported. The maximum one-day counts of 366 Sharp-shinned Hawks Apr. 13 (TT *et al.*) and 404 on Apr. 28 (G.O.S.) at Braddock Bay were far below some of the high counts reported during the 1950s and early 1960s. Always less common than the Sharp-shinned, maximum one day counts of Cooper's Hawks included 35 at Rochester Apr. 4 (G.O.S.) and 28 at Erie, Pa., Apr. 14 (RGe). April maximum counts for Red-tailed Hawks tended to reflect signs of increase, whereas Red-shouldered Hawk counts were very low. Some 13,000 Broad-winged Hawks passed over the Rochester area on four major flight days Apr. 20-28 (G.O.S.); Apr. 21 & 28 produced the biggest movements in all hawk migration localities. Rough-legged Hawks continued to be scarce with 13 over Braddock Bay Apr. 4 being the maximum count (JF *et al.*). At Webster, Monroe Co., three Golden Eagles passed over Apr. 4 while singles occurred there Apr. 13 & 20 (JC). About eight Bald Eagles were reported. All one-day Marsh Hawk counts reflected the general decrease in populations in recent years. Ospreys were scarce. Peregrine Falcon reports consisted of three in April and three in May at Rochester and one in April at Presque I., Pa. Two Merlins at Rochester were the only ones reported. American Kestrels were holding their own; a maximum one-day count of 65 on Apr. 13 at Braddock Bay (TT *et al.*) was higher than normal.

TURKEYS, RAILS—Turkeys continued to increase in many parts of the Region; one that occurred at Montezuma N.W.R. was one of the first indications that the species had reached the L. Ontario Plains in its northward spread. The very rare and sporadic King Rail was studied May 19 at Presque I., Pa., where it was last reported in 1961 (JB *et al.*). Virginia Rails and Sora were very scarce, as were Com. Gallinules and Am. Coots.

SHOREBIRDS—High water levels at most Great Lakes shorebird localities accounted for a rather poor migration. However, the frequent rains in mid-May

flooded fields, thus providing some temporary habitat for some migrants. A single Piping Plover occurred May 30 at Presque I., Pa. (DS) where it formerly nested. Single Willets were at Presque I., Pa., Apr. 30 (RK) and at Braddock Bay May 31 (MC). Pectoral Sandpipers were more common than in any spring since 1968; maximum counts included 180 over Irving Apr. 14 (RA *et al.*) and 115 at Clarence, Erie Co., Apr. 21 (AM & WM). Western Sandpipers are very rare spring migrants in the Region, therefore two reliable records were of interest, one was at Presque I., Pa., May 11 (DF) and another was near Steamburg, Cattaraugus Co., May 21 (FE *et al.*). Two Hudsonian Godwits, the first spring record for Montezuma N.W.R., were studied May 19 (WB). The rare but increasingly regular Ruff occurred May 11 at Montezuma N.W.R. (WB), May 25-27 at Waterloo, Seneca Co. (WB), and May 24 at the Tonawanda Game Management Area (JM *et al.*). Single Wilson's Phalaropes occurred May 18 & 19 at Parma (AKe *et al.*) and May 26 at the Oak Orchard Game Management Area (RS).

GULLS, TERNS—The Bonaparte's Gull migration was noteworthy during late April and early May when unusually high numbers were widespread throughout the Region; maximum counts occurred on L. Ontario at the mouth of the Niagara R. when 2000 were estimated Apr. 21 (JT *et al.*) and 5110 were at Rochester Apr. 27 (G.O.S.). A single Little Gull was noted periodically in the Rochester region Apr. 2-May 17 (G.O.S.). A count of 11 Caspian Terns in Buffalo Harbor Apr. 19 (RA) was a noteworthy number of that uncommon tern.

CUCKOOS, OWLS, NIGHTHAWKS—Black-billed Cuckoos were locally more common than usual but few Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported. About three Snowy Owls were observed, the last of which remained until May 4 (AM & WM). More migrant Saw-whet Owls were found in the Rochester region during April than in the average year. The only migratory movement of Com. Nighthawks was one of 30 birds over Greece, Monroe Co., May 29 (*vide* G.O.S.), most reporters commented on the continuing scarcity of this once-common bird.

WOODPECKERS—The status of the Red-bellied Woodpecker in the eastern part of the Region was well expressed by Morgan Jones when he stated that it "was quite common (outnumbered the Hairy) and really is no longer worthy of comment unless numbers fluctuate wildly"; this bird, however, is always worthy of comment farther west in the Region.

CROWS, NUTHATCHES, WRENS, MOCKINGBIRDS—The first Regional record of a **Fish Crow** was one that first appeared Mar. 16 in Cayuga Heights, Tompkins Co. (AH & LH); its vocalizations were later taped and compared with other Fish Crow calls and found to be identical (*vide* WB); further details will be published in *The Kingbird*. Red-breasted Nuthatches continued to be very scarce. The number of Carolina Wrens reflected the increase noted in the past two reports; none, however, had reached the Central Finger Lakes area (MJ) although they were regular both farther south in the hill country and farther north on the

L. Ontario Plains. Mockingbirds, however, showed marked signs of increase in the Finger Lakes district; three were reported in the Keuka Park area (FG) and birds were known to be in at least five locations in the Geneva-Romulus area May 2-19 (MJ).

THRUSHES, GNATCATCHERS—Unusually late were high counts of 100 Swainson's Thrushes and six Gray-cheeked Thrushes May 29 along the L. Ontario shore west of Rochester (*vide* G.O.S.). Another high count, 20 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers May 31 at Pt. Gratiot near Dunkirk (EP), was indicative of the steadily increasing numbers of this once-rare bird.

VIREOS, WARBLERS—The rare but regular White-eyed Vireo was observed at Rochester on three occasions and twice at Erie, Pa. Philadelphia Vireos were reported more commonly than, perhaps, ever before but it was not clear whether or not this represented an actual increase in the number of birds or an increased awareness among field observers; at the Seneca Army Depot near Romulus as many as five were carefully observed May 19 (MJ). The bird of the spring in s. Seneca County was the Warbling Vireo where two to three times as many territorial birds were present than in the past two years (MJ); elsewhere in the Region reports indicated normal populations.

Most warbler reports stressed the occurrence of the more uncommon species characteristic of areas to the south, i.e., Prothonotary, Worm-eating, Pine, Prairie, and Kentucky Warblers—all of which occur regularly each spring. One additional southern species that is not regular, the Yellow-throated Warbler, was studied May 30 at Bergen, Genessee Co. (RC *et al.*). Northern Parulas were locally more common than usual. Some 60 Magnolia Warblers noted May 15 near Rochester (WL *et al.*) was one of the few maximum warbler counts reported in recent years. More Connecticut Warblers were reported than usual but details were lacking on all observations of this rare spring migrant.

FRINGILLIDS—All of the usual winter finches, save the Pine Grosbeak, were reported in small numbers and most of them left the Region at about their usual times. Two Hoary Redpolls were still in the Rochester area Apr. 4-13 (FP).

Other noteworthy fringillid reports included single Dickcissels at feeders Apr. 22-24 at Ovid, Seneca Co. (RL) and Apr. 30-May 3 at Busti, Chautauqua Co. (EP *et al.*). The long-established House Finch colony at Eggertsville, Erie Co. remained stable with about 30 birds (*vide* B.O.S.); small numbers were established elsewhere in North Buffalo, at four localities in the Rochester area, and at Belmont, Allegany Co.; however, this did not represent spread into previously unoccupied areas. A Clay-colored Sparrow, an occasional very rare visitant at Presque I., Pa., occurred there May 11 (DF). A late Lapland Longspur was at Braddock Bay May 24 (MC *et al.*).

ADDENDUM—The Yellow-rumped Warbler (*D.c. auduboni*) noted in the last report at Pittsford, Monroe Co., Jan. 3-24; colored photographs clearly confirming its identification were taken by Mrs. Charles Sahler and placed in the National Photoduplicate File.

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APPALACHIAN REGION / George A. Hall

It was a cool and wet spring that produced a rather unexciting northbound migration. At the Pittsburgh weather station April was reported as slightly warmer than normal and slightly wetter than normal, while May was markedly cooler and much wetter than normal with a 1.72 in. excess in rainfall. At Knoxville May was the



third wettest on record. Early April was on the cold side, and the migration of land birds that had been about on time in March fell behind schedule, although most of the waterfowl departed earlier than usual. Late April was warmer, and drier, and the late April migrants arrived about on time. Despite the excess in rain mild temperatures prevailed in May and small bird migration proceeded steadily without very many marked waves. A series of weak cold fronts came through in early May without causing a noticeable effect on the migration, and the only major wave seemed to be May 12-15 accompanied by a massive flow of warm air from the south. After May 20 most of the migration was over and only stragglers remained. As a result, then, any observer's general opinion of the migration was very

strongly dependent on the particular days he was afield, and comments ranged from "excellent" through "average" to "poor." One possible indicator of the status of the migration came from Powdermill Nature Reserve (hereafter P.N.R.) near Ligonier, Pa. where only 2188 birds were banded during the period, the second lowest total in nine years and 28 percent below average (RCL).

In 1874 William Brewster and two companions spent the last week in April and the first week in May in the then isolated community of Petroleum, Ritchie Co., W. Va. and the report of this outing became the second paper on the ornithology of West Virginia. To observe the centennial of this event several members of the Brooks Bird Club spent the same time at the same place in an intensive study of the birds for comparison. The two parties saw 87 species in common, the 1874 party listed 13 species not found this year, and the 1974 party found 28 species not seen a century earlier. With few exceptions the differences between the two lists came on either species encountered infrequently or chance migrants. Although the abundances of some species had changed markedly most of the resident species of the area are the same today as 100 years ago, despite some profound changes in the habitat.

One of the most profound habitat changes taking place in the Region today is the total destruction of landscape by strip mining. In Breathitt Co., Kentucky some reclamation is being attempted. The net effect of this is to replace a wooded steep mountain top with a broad more or less flat area presently covered with short grass, mud flats, and some ponds. A careful census of the birds on these new areas gave 25 species including several shorebirds during migration and such open country birds as Water Pipits, Horned Larks, and Savannah Sparrows that are otherwise rare in the area (PA)

LOONS, CORMORANTS AND HERONS—The only report of a Red-throated Loon was from L. Arthur, Butler Co., Pa., Apr. 6 (GM & KM, *fide* DF). The Double-crested Cormorant was more common than usual with reports from Kyger Creek, Gallia Co., Ohio, Apr. 7 (JS), Belpre, O., Apr. 14 (PC & WC, *fide* JS), L. Arthur, Pa., May 4 (PH, *fide* DF), Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., May 12 (CH, *fide* PS), and Austin Springs, Tenn., May 13 (GE & LH).

The Cattle Egret moved into the Region in force with reports from Anties Fort, Pa., May 17 (JV, *fide* PS), Hancock Co., W. Va., May 12-14 (NL), Kanawha County, W. Va., Apr. 4 (NG), Stark Co., O., May 15 (DG, *fide* PW), Blacksburg, Va., Apr. 21 (ML, *fide* JM), Marion, N.C., May 6, three (WH), Elizabethton, Tenn., Apr. 4 (GE), Austin Springs, Tenn., Apr. 6-20 (GE), Knoxville, Tenn., eight on Apr. 28 and 12 on May 12 (JBO), and Dalton, Ga., four on May 4 (AH). There were more than the usual number of reports of Great Egrets this spring. Snowy Egrets and Little Blue Herons are seldom reported in spring from this Region and so a report of the former from Anties Fort, Pa. on May 12 (JV) and of the latter in Allegheny County, Pa. from Apr. 27 to May 2 (AO, *fide* DF), McClintic Wildlife Station (hereafter M.W.S.), Mason Co., W. Va. on Apr. 27 (DS), and Austin Springs, Tenn., Apr. 20-22 (GE) are noteworthy. Yellow-crowned Night Herons at Elizabethton, Tenn., Apr. 7 to May 11 (GW, *fide* GE)

and M.W.S., W. Va., Apr. 27 (DS) were unusual. Seven Glossy Ibis were seen at Ft. Loudon, Pa. on May 21, the first local record (RRi, *fide* CG).

WATERFOWL—The bulk of the waterfowl had already departed from the southern part of the Region before the beginning of the period, and by mid-April most were gone from the north. As reported in the winter account the flight was generally good but not exceptional. As usual the diving duck species made a better showing than did the dabblers. There were a few interesting late dates: Whistling Swan, three at Warren Apr. 19 (CP, *fide* WHi); Snow Goose (white phase) at Pymatuning L., Pa., Apr. 21 (RFL); Snow Goose (blue phase), Pymatuning L., May 21 (DF); and Greater Scaup through the season at State College, Pa. (WC). Thirty-seven White-winged Scoters were seen at Bald Eagle S.P., Pa. on the late date of May 6 (JV, *fide* PS) and one was at Lock Haven, Pa., Apr. 8 (PS). The best waterfowl records of the season were five **White-fronted Geese** at Lock Haven on Apr. 4-11 (WP, *fide* PS), and three Black Scoters at Colyer L., Pa., Apr. 19 (MW). Wild Canada Geese (probably descendants of a captive flock) nested in Butler Co. Pa. (FPr).

RAPTORS—Except for the Accipiters the raptor picture continues to be relatively bright. Cooper's Hawk was reported in very few instances, and except along the Blue Ridge Parkway in s. Virginia the Sharp-shinned Hawk was very scarce. At the latter place good numbers were seen in migration (RK). The only report of a Goshawk came from Eagleton Fields, Pa. (CH, *fide* PS). On the other hand the Buteos seem to be doing well throughout the Region. Red-tailed Hawks were exceptionally common in Ritchie County, W. Va. and at Nickelsville, Va. nine nests of Red-tails produced young successfully (ES, *fide* TF). Four nests of Red-shouldered Hawks were reported at Kanawha State Forest, W. Va., two at M.W.S., W. Va., and one at Coonskin Park, Kanawha Co. (NG). Broad-winged Hawks were in good numbers throughout, and over 200 were counted during the season migrating along the Blue Ridge Parkway, Va., more than last year but still lower than 1972 (RK). The Osprey picture was particularly bright with 11 reporters mentioning them, with a high point of 13 birds from seven localities near Pittsburgh (DF). Bald Eagle reports came from Conneaut, Pa. (they usually nest near here—RFL), near St. Marys, W. Va., May 5 (NL) and Warren, Pa. in April (DGr, *fide* WHi). A Golden Eagle was seen May 5 on the Blue Ridge near Rockfish Gap, Va. (TC, *fide* RS). Peregrines were seen at North Park, Allegheny Co., Apr. 7 (JG, *fide* DF) and at Ligonier, Pa. Apr. 10 (HS, *fide* RCL). The outstanding report of the season was of two **Swallow-tailed Kites** in the French Broad Valley near Ashville, N.C. on May 12 (WH). Another unusual record was a Ferruginous Hawk at Boone L., Tenn., Apr. 18 (LH, *fide* GE).

SHOREBIRDS, GULLS, AND TERNS—The shorebird migration was rather poor at most places because of the high water levels, but at some places, particularly State College, Pa. and Waynesboro, Va., the rains flooded some fields and produced some outstanding records. At these places the commoner

species such as the yellowlegs and the "peep" were in good numbers. There were more reports than usual of Dunlin and Black-bellied Plover. American Golden Plover were reported from Breathitt Co. Ky., Mar. 23 (on a "leveled mountaintop" mentioned earlier—PA), near Staunton, Va., Apr. 6&7 (RS), and State College, Pa., May 12 (MLO, *fide* MW). Ruddy Turnstones at State College on May 12 (RC, *fide* MW) and near Waynesboro, Va., May 5 (RS) were both local first records. A Stilt Sandpiper at State College May 12 was also a local first (MW). A Baird's Sandpiper was seen in the strip mine reclamation project in Breathitt, Co., Ky., May 2 (PA). Northern Phalaropes turned up at Ft. Loudon, Pa., May 17-26 (CG, DGG) and at State College on May 19 (EB, *fide* MW) and a Wilson's Phalarope (second record) was at State College May 16 (DGs, *fide* MW).

The flight of Herring and Ring-billed Gulls was a little heavier than usual. At Morgantown the usual movement of Bonaparte's Gulls across the mountains was not grounded by bad weather and so none were seen (GAH), but they did turn up at Raccoon Creek S.P., Pa., Apr. 8 (NK), Chambersburg, Pa., Apr. 18 (DGG), and in e. Tennessee at Boone L., Apr. 6 and Watauga L., Apr. 13 (GE). A Laughing Gull was seen at Ft. Loudon L., Tenn., Apr. 28 (JH, *fide* JBO). Black Terns were reported more frequently than usual with an early date of Apr. 28 at L. Arthur, Pa. (DF) and five at Morgantown airport, far from any water May 12 (GAH).

DOVES, CUCKOOS, AND OWLS—Mourning Dove populations in n. West Virginia and w. Pennsylvania are increasing. An oddity, although probably a local escape, was a Ringed Turtle Dove at Indiana, Pa. May 7 (CW).

At most places both cuckoo species were both late in arriving (still migrating after June 1) and in small numbers. There were no outbreaks of tent caterpillars in the region, but at Charleston a brood of the Seventeen-year Cicada was out in late May and these may have attracted the cuckoos as they were fairly numerous there. (CK).

Barn Owls nested at Mt. Lake Park, Md. (FPO), Dalton, Ga. (AH), Elizabethton, Tenn., (2 nests—GE), and Kingsport, Tenn., (4 nests—TF) and they were seen at Clarksville, Pa. (RB) and Newcomerstown, O. (ESh), encouraging news for this little-known species. The other owl species continue to be reported in small numbers but no real judgment about their populations can be made. A Long-eared Owl nesting near Warren, Pa. is remarkable since this species is seldom reported (WHI), and a Short-eared Owl near Butler, Pa. May 10 (FPr) was rather late for a migrant. Late also was a Saw-whet Owl at Chambersburg, Pa., May 13 (DGG) and this record may represent a nearby breeding population.

GOATSUCKERS, SWIFTS, AND HUMMINGBIRDS—A Chuck-will's-widow at Dalton, Ga. Apr. 15 (DC, *fide* AH) was noteworthy. Rather early Whip-poor-wills were reported from Dalton, Ga., Apr. 4, 7&17 (AH), Charleston, Apr. 14 (AS, *fide* CK), and P.N.R., Apr. 17 (RCL). Common Nighthawks were

late in arriving and did not seem to be up to normal numbers. Chimney Swifts were also rather late and somewhat below normal populations, although a very early one was reported from Knoxville, Apr. 4 (JBO). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird in Allegheny Co., Pa., Apr. 20 was early (DF) but they were late at most places and at P.N.R. 34 were banded, a normal number (RCL).

WOODPECKERS AND FLYCATCHERS—An impressive migration of Com. Flickers was seen on the Blue Ridge Parkway, Va. Apr. 6 where 62 were counted in an area of 100 x 60 yds. (RK). Red-bellied Woodpeckers seem to be in a slump, as they were much scarcer than usual around Morgantown and no comment about them came from the northern parts of the range. A few more Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported than usual. Hairy Woodpeckers were in lower-than-normal numbers on the Blue Ridge Parkway in s. Virginia (RK) and at Morgantown (GAH).

A very early E. Kingbird was reported from Lewisburg, W.Va. on Apr. 5 (CHA) but elsewhere they were late (May 10, 10-12 days late at Morgantown—GAH) and in low numbers. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers are usually not common in the spring, but the nine banded at P.N.R. is well below average (RCL). Most unusual was a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher on Mt. Mitchell, N.C., Apr. 27, the first local record (WH), and a very early date. Least Flycatchers staged a very good flight at Morgantown (GAH), P.N.R., where 53 were banded (average=40—RCL), and at Stark Co., O. where the numbers seen were up nearly 100 per cent (PW). Willow Flycatchers at Waynesboro, Va., May 30 & 31 (RS) and at Austin Springs, Tenn., (four from May 13 on—GE) show that this species continues to expand, but no reports came in from the high country of Alder Flycatchers. Acadian Flycatchers arrived a little late and E. Wood Pewees were very late, both species being in low numbers.

SWALLOWS AND CORVIDS—It was a bad year for most of the swallow species. Barn Swallows arrived quite late but were in normal numbers. Bank and Rough-winged Swallows were very scarce in n. West Virginia (GAH), and Cliff Swallows were almost unreported. The Cliffs had abandoned a nesting site near Ligonier, Pa. (RCL). Except at Waynesboro, Va. where some boxes that had previously been empty were being occupied, the Purple Martin picture was bleak. At Morgantown a diligent search could locate no birds (GAH) and they were also absent at Blacksburg, Va. (JM). At Clarksville, Pa., (RB), Marietta, O., (JS), and Charleston (NG) arrival dates in early April were late, and numbers were low. The wet June weather of 1973 coming on top of the 1972 hurricane seems to have created a disaster of major proportions for this species.

Extremely interesting news was the locating of 18 nests of the Com. Raven in the Lock Haven, Pa. area (WM, *fide* PS). The raven nest near Warren, Pa. was unsuccessful (WHI).

TITMICE, NUTHATCHES, AND WRENS—A few Black-capped Chickadees remained south of the normal range well into April, and at Morgantown, at least, the population of Carolina Chickadees seemed low. White-breasted Nuthatches have almost disappeared

from the Morgantown area (GAH). Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported from very few places during migration and in late May the populations in the Cheat Mountain breeding range seemed lower than normal (GAH). As reported in the winter account the populations of Carolina Wrens in the north is at a very high level, but in s. Virginia they were down by about 25 per cent (RK). At P.N.R. House Wrens were late in arriving and in low numbers (only one banded compared with an average of 12—RCL) but this is apparently an isolated instance as elsewhere they were normal, unmentioned, or even slightly higher than normal. The only reports of Bewick's Wrens came from Waynesburg, Pa. (nest on May 17—RB) and from near Athens, O (BS). A Long-billed Marsh Wren was banded at P N R May 5 (RCL).

MIMIDS AND THRUSHES—At P.N.R. only 58 Gray Catbirds were banded (down 21%—RCL) but normal numbers were banded at Morgantown (GAH). Brown Thrashers were more common than usual at Morgantown, but Mockingbirds were not common there although they have been increasing in recent years (GAH). In the north (as for example, Lock Haven—PS) they continue to increase.

Breeding populations of Am. Robins seemed above normal most places and in n. West Virginia the first nesting was remarkably successful. If later attempts do as well we will be "knee-deep" in robins come September. Wood Thrushes were only about half of normal numbers at P.N.R. (RCL) and they were quite late in arrival at most places. The Swainson's Thrush migration was outstanding. An early one was at Dalton, Ga. Apr. 15 (AH) but the general arrival was in late April, and they remained until at least May 20 with stragglers still later. There was much singing. At both P.N.R. with 37 banded (RCL) and Morgantown with 11 banded (GAH) numbers were above average but quite a bit lower than last year's record highs, but at Clarksville, Pa. only one was banded (RB). The Gray-cheeked Thrush migration seemed about normal with small numbers being reported at most places. Eastern Bluebird numbers are not very high in n. West Virginia, and elsewhere, and at Warren, Pa. about 40-50% of the Operation Bluebird boxes were occupied with perhaps 150-200 pairs (WHI).

KINGLETS, PIPITS, AND WAXWINGS—Ruby-crowned Kinglets staged a very good migration in late April and early May. At P.N.R. 182 (average=107) were banded Apr. 5-May 16 (RCL). On the other hand the Golden-crowned Kinglet flight was poor, but on May 31 the breeding population in the West Virginia spruce belt was extremely high (GAH).

During the early part of the period Cedar Waxwings were essentially absent from most of the Region, and while they finally arrived at most places they remained scarce at Morgantown. At Charleston large flocks appeared in mid-May and they appeared to be feasting on the cicadas (CK).

The Water Pipit flight was heavier than usual for this Region, and was rather later than usual, with many dates in April and two very late dates, May 5, Lewisburg, W.Va. (CHa) and May 4, Breathitt Co. Ky., on the strip mine reclamation area (PA).

STARLINGS AND VIREOS—The breeding season for Starlings was eminently successful and by early June the number of young Starlings awing in n. West Virginia was fantastic.

White-eyed Vireos continue to expand northward. Eleven were banded during the period at P.N.R. (average=6—RCL) and there were several sightings at Lock Haven and nearby points (PS). Yellow-throated Vireos were declining in numbers in w. Pennsylvania (DF) but in n. West Virginia they have started to recover from a previous decline (GAH). There were more reports of the Philadelphia Vireo than usual for a spring season: Allegheny Co., Pa., May 18, five at North Park (JG) and one other sighting the same day (DF); P.N.R. (only one banded, average=11—RCL), Stark County, O. (sightings up 50%—PW), Petroleum, W. Va., May 3 (quite early—NL), and E. Liverpool, O., May 10 (NL). Red-eyed Vireos were a little late in arriving and populations were about normal, but some areas (e.g. Pittsburgh and Morgantown) commented on a reduction of Warbling Vireos.

WARBLERS—The species due in mid-April were all late, and the first influx occurred around Apr. 30. The only sizeable wave came May 10-13, but most reporters commented on the general lack of waves. After May 20 only stragglers were present, and only the Blackpoll remained until the end of the month. As usual the numbers of various species varied widely from place to place. At P.N.R. only four species were banded in above-normal numbers and nine in below-normal (RCL), but at Morgantown five were considered above normal and four below (GAH), while at Chambersburg, Pa. eight were above and seven below (DGG). The Tennessee Warbler was in very good numbers at nearly all places, although P.N.R. (RCL), Stark Co., O. (PW) and Dalton, Ga. (AH) considered them to be low. Cape Mays and Nashvilles staged very good flights at Morgantown (GAH) although the latter were low at P.N.R. (RCL). Bay-breasted also had a good flight, particularly at Charleston (CK), Dalton (AH) and Chambersburg (DGG). Canadas had a good flight at most places and at P.N.R. 90 were banded (average=38). Palms had a good year at New Market, Va. (MJW). On the other hand N. Yellowthroats were rather low everywhere. Yellow-rumped Warblers were exceptionally scarce at Morgantown, where I saw only three all season, and at P.N.R. (RCL), but were in good numbers at Lock Haven (PS), State College (WC), and Youngstown, O (WB).

Some of the rarer species reported were: Worm-eating at Indiana, Pa., May 18 (CW); Orange-crowned (always unusual in spring), Knoxville, Apr. 20 (JC, *fide* JBO); Allegheny Co., Pa., Apr. 28 (LJ) and May 19 (PH, *fide* DF), Indiana, Pa., May 7 (CW), and P.N.R., May 18 (RCL); and Connecticut, Mt. Mitchell, N.C., Apr. 27 (remarkably early—WH) and Petroleum, W. Va., May 9 (GK). Prothonotary Warblers are often not reported but sightings came from 11 areas blanketing the whole Region. The most exciting news in warblers was made by the Yellow-throated which was reported from Morgantown (unusual) Apr. 9 (WW, DS), Ligonier, Pa. May 5 (JVB), and another at nearby P.N.R. (JVB & RCL) which remained until the end of the period. There are only a few sight records previ-

ously for w. Pennsylvania, and the mountainous area at Ligonier is not exactly the place to expect the first ones. They were plentiful in Ritchie Co., W. Va. a location not previously known (but also not worked since 1874). One can only wonder if these extralimital occurrences are in some way related to the scarcity reported at Kingsport, Tenn. (TF) and Dalton, Ga. (AH) in the normal range.

ICTERIDS AND TANAGERS—Bobolinks were more numerous than usual in n. West Virginia (Morgantown and Wheeling—ED) and while they came late they stayed longer. Rusty Blackbirds at Chambersburg May 2 (DGG) were quite late and Brewer's Blackbirds at Elizabethton, Tenn. Apr. 19 were unusual (GE & FB). Very remarkable was the report of two Yellow-headed Blackbirds in Garrett Co., Md. May 4 (FPo).

Summer Tanagers continue to increase around Morgantown and Scarlet Tanagers were in good numbers. At Morgantown a ♀ Scarlet was banded Apr. 25 (early) but no males were seen until May 5. A **Western Tanager** was seen at Stahlstown, Westmoreland Co., Pa., May 28 (FS & RL, *fide* RCL).

FRINGILLIDS—Many reporters commented that the Rose-breasted Grosbeak migration was outstanding. A **Black-headed Grosbeak** was seen and photographed in Allegheny Co., Pa., Apr. 17 (GB, *fide* KP). Indigo Buntings were slightly down at both Morgantown and P.N.R. Blue Grosbeaks were early at Knoxville, where they are uncommon, Apr. 14 (JBO), but were unprecedented at Ligonier May 25-26 (JVB, *fide* RCL).

The remnants of the winter finch flight remained into the period. Evening Grosbeaks were present throughout, although in small numbers, through April and gradually withdrew in May, the latest date reported being May 19 in the Great Smokies of Tennessee (JBO). Purple Finches staged a very heavy flight in late April and many remained in mid-May. House Finches have now established themselves at Lock Haven (PS), State College (WC), and Indiana (young birds seen—CW), and for the first time they remained in Blacksburg, Va. into April and May (JM). Two new locations for them were Leeper, Clarion Co., Pa. Apr. 27 (LC, *fide* DF, RFL), and E. Liverpool, O., May 10 (NL). A few redpolls lingered in n.e. Pennsylvania until mid-April, Meadville, Apr. 3 (RCL) and Allegheny Co. until Apr. 14 (RH, *fide* DF). Pine Siskins were present throughout the area well into May although numbers were variable, some places reporting good concentrations (Charleston—CK and Petroleum, W. Va.—NL). Red Crossbills were reported from Warren, Pa. (WHI), Charleston (NG), Jackson, Ky., (PA), Blacksburg (JM), and Johnson City and Austin Springs, Tenn. (GE), but the only report of White-winged Crossbills came from Fox Chapel, Pa. May 18 (late—DF).

A Dickcissel was banded at Warren, Pa., Apr. 27 (TG, *fide* WHI) and two were found near Waynesboro, Va., May 14 (RS). Grasshopper Sparrows continue to decline with notable absences in w. Tennessee, n. West Virginia, and w. Pennsylvania, and at Blacksburg (JM) they were seen for the first time since 1967. The other grassland and brush sparrows seem to be doing well and there were more reports of Henslow's Sparrows than

usual. The flight of White-throated Sparrows was good after the high wintering populations, but reporters could not agree on the status of the White-crowned. At Lewisburg, W. Va. five White-crowns of the subspecies *gambelii* were banded (CHA). Lincoln's Sparrows were reported more frequently than usual by binocular birders and the one at Blacksburg was the first there since 1955 (ML, *fide* JM). A Clay-colored Sparrow was seen near Staunton, Va., Apr. 30 (YL, *fide* RS), and a singing male was found in Butler Co., Pa., May 26 (FL, *fide* DF). A summer-plumaged Lapland Longspur was seen at M.W.S., Mason Co., W. Va by the W.V.U. ornithology class Apr. 27 (DS)

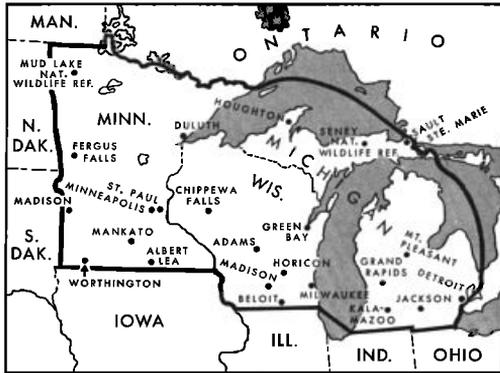
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WESTERN GREAT LAKES

/ Al Maley

Why it is that an early record of a species is such an event among birders is not clear. Perhaps it is the striking contrast of a warbler or a tanager against the leafless trees; perhaps it is merely competition. At any rate this year provided a number of early sightings during the period April 12-16 that coincided with the first warm weather of the spring. Some of the more interesting of these include Cattle Egret on April 13 in LaCrosse Co., Wisc., Baird's Sandpiper and White-rumped Sandpiper on April 14 in St. Croix Co., Wisc. (CF), a W. Kingbird in Brown Co., Wisc. on April 12, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher on April 17 in Juneau Co., Wisc., Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Black-and-white Warbler on April 12 in Berrien Co. Mich., and Scarlet Tanager on April 11 in Oakland Co., Mich.

The weather in early May was generally cool and wet, a factor which hampered the planting and growth of corn as well as the arrival of migrants. The hawk and owl migration at Whitefish Point, Chippewa Co., Mich. was termed the worst in six years, mainly owing to the constant northerly winds. Not until after the middle of May did the weather provide a real taste of spring.



LOONS, GREBES, PELICAN—Two different plumaged Arctic Loons noted at Loon Bluff (!) Ozaukee Co., Wisc., Apr. 21-25, plus nine Red-throated Loons reported from Wisconsin were the Region's more interesting reports of Gaviidae. Single Eared Grebes made it as far east as St. Croix and Winnebago Cos., Wisc. during the period Apr. 13-28 and W. Grebes were reported in Minneapolis May 24 (6) and at Crex Meadows N.W.R., Burnett Co., Wisc., May 30. Stray White Pelicans included 22 at Rice L., Barron Co., Wisc., May 11 (CF) and one at Stevensville, Berrien Co., Mich., May 2 (WB).

HERONS, EGRETS, DUCKS—A rather pronounced influx of Little Blue Herons was noted throughout the Region with six reports of one or more individuals from Apr. 13 to the end of the period; late summer is a more usual time to find this species. Ten reports involving 42 Cattle Egrets renew our faith that some day this bird will be a regular breeder in the Region's southern tier. So far it isn't. A Snowy Egret at Erie, Monroe Co., Mich. May 18 was the only report. Yellow-crowned Night Herons appeared in Racine and LaCrosse Cos., Wisc., in late April and single individuals were noted in Ottawa and Berrien Cos., Mich., May 11 & 14. Over 6000 Whistling Swans were reported in Wisconsin, where a White-fronted Goose in Columbia Co. Apr. 6 and a Cinnamon Teal in Milwaukee Co. Apr. 13 were present to vary the waterfowl picture.

VULTURE, HAWKS—A vagrant Black Vulture was well studied at Wilderness S. P. in n. Mich. Apr. 28 (BR *et al.*). The Red-shouldered Hawk survives in the Region, with five nests reported from Michigan; it is said to be spreading northward in Minnesota. Four Swainson's Hawks in April in Wisconsin are interesting in light of the species' recent breeding to the south in Illinois. Large numbers of Rough-legged Hawks reported include 400 and 800 Apr. 26 & 27 at Whitefish Pt., Chippewa Co., Mich. (BR). Wisconsin and

Michigan each reported two Golden Eagles in April. Fifteen Peregrine Falcons were observed, the majority of them (11) in Wisconsin. Rare bird indeed for the Region was a Prairie Falcon at Blue Mounds S. P., Rock Co., Minn., Apr. 12 (KE).

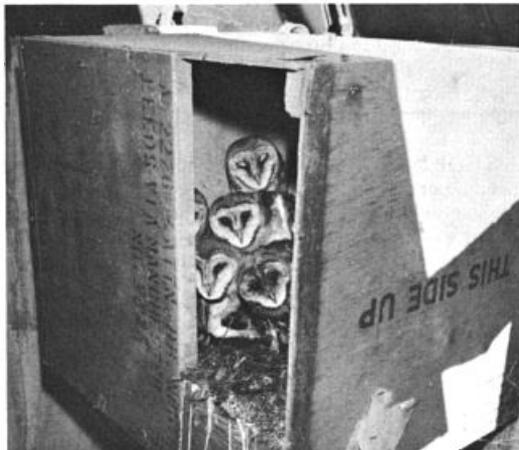
PRAIRIE CHICKEN, RAILS—Michigan's museum population of Greater Prairie Chickens in Osceola County has stabilized at about 50-60 birds present each spring. A King Rail on a baseball diamond with Marbled Godwits and Ruddy Turnstones in Duluth, May 3 was bizarre; this bird is very uncommon even in the s. part of the Region. Minnesota is "infested" with Yellow Rails; their clicking calls were emanating from over 20 different marshes there in May.

SHOREBIRDS—The shorebird migration was deemed excellent in Wisconsin. Unprecedented numbers and variety of shorebirds appeared at the sewage ponds in Muskegon, Mich.; this may reflect the previous lack of habitat, since the numbers reported are similar to what is seen each spring along L. Erie. The Am. Woodcock appears to be spreading into w. Minnesota (Pipestone, Lac Qui Parle, Clay, Hubbard Cos.); courting activities are being observed "where they were never recorded before." The Whimbrel migration through the Region is an exciting spectacle unknown to many observers. From mid-to-late May large numbers of these birds leave the mid-Atlantic coast and head overland through the Great Lakes on their way to the Arctic. Observers on Lakes Ontario, Erie and Huron have observed numbers of up to 500 in a day by going to the shores to watch for the long, swift V's that rarely pause to rest. One place where they do stop, however, is at the Pt. Mouille State Game Area at the mouth of the Detroit R. This year there were 125 there on May 19 in the exact spot where 123 were observed on the same date last year. Two hundred were observed along L. Huron near Alpena, Mich., May 25. Willets were reported in Wisconsin Apr. 26-May 24, with up to 18 individuals in a group; St. Joseph, Berrien Co., and Muskegon Co. reported eight May 9 and one May 6. Over 1200 Pectoral Sandpipers were reported from three Wisconsin counties Apr. 27-May 4, Baird's Sandpipers are less evident in the spring than the fall; 60+ in Dodge Co., Wisc. May 12 was a good number for any season. Two reports of 10 Marbled Godwits in five Wisconsin counties can be added the report that "Marbled Godwits have returned to many former nesting areas in w. c. Minnesota and along the Minn. R. valley." One Ruff, in La Crosse Co., May 12, was the only one reported. The Muskegon sewage ponds produced five Wilson's Phalaropes May 18 and five N. Phalaropes May 30; a Wilson's Phalarope was also enjoying the sewage lagoon at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., May 25.

GULLS, TERNS—A Great Black-backed Gull ventured to Pierce Co., Wisc., Apr. 2 and an Iceland Gull was present in St. Joseph Apr. 6, where 1-2 ad. Laughing Gulls made their almost annual appearance May 13-16. A Black-headed Gull was reported from L. Winnebago, Winnebago Co., Wisc. (JK *et al.*) May 14. Mary Donald reported an imm. Black-legged Kittiwake in Milwaukee Co., Wisc., Apr. 21. Two reports of the

rare Least Tern were received; one at Marshall, Lyon Co., Minn. May 15-16 (HK) and one at Grand River Marsh, Marquette Co., Wisc. May 19 (JS).

BARN OWLS, FLICKERS, FLYCATCHERS—Four nest boxes for Barn Owls placed in silos in Monroe Co., Michigan were all occupied this spring; this may indicate that a lack of suitable nesting sites is what keeps this bird from being common in the Region.



Barn Owls, Monroe Co., Mich. / Larry Masters

Banding totals for Long-eared and Saw-whet Owls at Whitefish Pt. were the lowest in 10 years, although 10 Boreal Owls were banded. One thousand Com. Flickers migrating along the L. Michigan shore in Berrien Co., Mich., Apr. 2 is an example of the impressive landbird flights to be seen there. A W. Kingbird at Alpena May 25 provided the only Michigan record. Big news for the Region was the discovery of a pair of Say's Phoebes at Blue Mounds S. P., Minn. Apr. 13(RJ). The birds were still there May 19 but no nest was discovered.

THRUSHES, VIREOS—Seven thousand robins and 125 E. Bluebirds were counted along L. Michigan in Berrien Co., Apr. 1. Five different individuals of the casual Mountain Bluebird were encountered in four Minnesota counties Mar. 6-Apr. 12 in what was termed an "invasion." The four Wisconsin reports of Bell's Vireo can only be calculated to make observers in Michigan envious; why this species doesn't come farther east is a mystery. The White-eyed Vireo on the other hand seems to favor Michigan; there were nine reports (six in Berrien Co.) as opposed to three for Wisconsin.

WARBLERS—In addition to the early records mentioned above there were the following reports of marginal species: Worm-eating Warbler—three in Michigan Apr. 21-May 29, four in Wisconsin Apr. 28-May 22 and one in Minneapolis May 24. Kentucky Warbler—two in Michigan May 12-15, four in Wisconsin May 1-25 and one in Hennepin Co., Minn. May 20.

ORIOLES—Reports of spectacular migrations of N. Orioles were supported by unusually large banding to-

als. On May 15 there were 200 reported at Stony Creek Park, Oakland Co., Mich. On May 19-20 300 were banded at Tawas Pt. on the L. Huron shore. Between May 19 and May 31 148 were banded in a yard in Duluth where 10-15 is normal. Included in these Duluth birds was an imm. **Scott's Oriole** that was trapped, banded and measured May 23 (JG). This individual had considerable feather wear about the tail; it was still in the area at the end of the period.

FRINGILLIDAE—Two Black-headed Grosbeaks visited feeders in Wisconsin: one Mar. 23-Apr. 12 in Rock Co., and the other in Ozaukee Co., Apr. 25-26. There were Com. Redpolls around the Region until late April and large numbers of Pine Siskins were reported from everywhere until mid-May. Feeders may be responsible for the unenthusiastic departure of White-winged Crossbills this spring; eight individuals were noted during May in s. Michigan and Wisconsin. The best bird for Michigan's Upper Peninsula this spring was a **Lark Bunting** at the mouth of the Tahquamenon R., Chippewa Co. May 17 (BG, WG, CK). Le Conte's Sparrows were described as "common" along L. Nicollet in Chippewa Co., Mich., this spring. A Lark Sparrow in Duluth May 25, a Harris' Sparrow at Whitefish Pt. May 17 and a Smith's Longspur in Blue Mounds S. P. Apr. 28 conclude the noteworthy events in this area.

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MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION / Vernon M. Kleen

The most significant note of this migration was the overmigration of passerines, especially the Prairie, Worm-eating and Hooded warblers. The first Region-wide front which pushed these birds beyond their normal range occurred on Apr. 21; larger migration waves



were detected Apr. 28-9, May 8, 11 (noticed because it was on a Saturday), 13-14, and 19. Television towers, menaces to many migratory birds, were responsible for very few bird casualties this spring.

Weatherwise we witnessed a few light frosts Regionwide in early April, but the month was rather pleasant with temperatures averaging from 1° to 3° above normal in the east and 2° to 3° below normal in the west. Rainfall for April varied from about 1½ in. below normal (Louisville) to ¼ - ½ in. above normal (Cleveland and St. Louis). May was characterized by its cloudiness, tornadoes and heavy downpours which caused much damage and temporary flooding locally. Temperatures averaged from about normal (Louisville) to 2° below normal near Cleveland. Despite the damaging floods, rainfall was only slightly above normal; however, in s.w. Missouri, 10 in. of rain fell in two days in the middle of the month leaving that area under water through the end of the period.

In order to better document observations, observers are now required to complete documentation forms for extraordinary sight records at the time of observation; such documentations have been denoted by an asterisk (*) in front of the observer's initials. Collected specimens have been denoted by two asterisks (**).

LOONS, GREBES, PELICANS, CORMORANTS—Common Loons were quite abundant this spring and lingered past mid-May in all states except Kentucky; there were even some June records. Three Red-throated Loons, one in near-adult plumage, were documented in McLean Co., Ill. Apr. 16 (*DBi). Normal numbers of Eared Grebes were encountered; maximum counts of five and six were reported from Squaw Creek Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Mo. (hereafter, S.C.R.) and Council Bluffs, Ia., respectively. The rare W. Grebe was first observed in Springfield, Ill. Apr. 22 (*H); then, in Whiteside Co., Ill. May 2-4 (*RPa, m. ob.); three were present at Council Bluffs, May 9 (MWi *et al.*). The first White Pelicans (500) were observed at S.C.R. Apr. 6 (L) and Montrose, Mo. (600) Apr. 7 (NJ); then, they built up to estimated concentrations of 3000

at both S.C.R. Apr. 21 (L) and Schell-Osage, St. Clair Co., Mo. Apr. 23 (KH *et al.*); singles were noted at Louisville, Apr. 22 (*vide* S) and Ottawa N.W.R., Ohio (hereafter, O.N.R.) May 11 (JSt, *vide* LV). Double-crested Cormorants were not reported from Indiana or Kentucky; the only Ohio encounter of this species was near Cleveland, May 5 (RH); the only one seen in n.e. Illinois was found at Plainfield, May 18 (MG); other Illinois migrants included two at Springfield, Apr. 12 (H) and 31 in Alexander Co. Apr. 6 (HAW); a few continue to nest in the Mississippi R. in Carroll Co., Ill.; singles were also reported from Charleston, Mo. Apr. 2 (HAW) and Red Rock L., Ia. (GB — no date given); flocks of up to 200 birds appeared in the w. portions of Missouri and Iowa.

HERONS—The Apr. 5 arrival of a Green Heron at Springfield, Ill., was rather early (H). Little Blue Herons continued their spring overmigration arriving at Wadsworth, Lake Co., Ill. Apr. 14 (JRo); Ft. Wayne, Ind. (HAW) and L. Sangchris, Ill. (H) Apr. 16; Bowling Green, Ky. (S *et al.*) and two widely separated Iowa locations (*vide* WB) Apr. 20; and several other areas in May; none were reported from Ohio. The ever-expanding Cattle Egret appeared at Richwoods, Mo. Apr. 3 (RS, JI) and in n.w. Ohio by Apr. 12 (TT); it was first reported from Kentucky (Louisville) Apr. 17 (JP, m.ob.) and Indiana (Warren Co.), Apr. 20 (EH). Individuals of the always rare Snowy Egret appeared at Charleston, Mo. Apr. 2 (HAW); L. Contrary, Mo. Apr. 21 (L); S.C.R. May 4 (E); Council Bluffs, May 22 (JGr); and Clinton Co., Ind. May 22-23 (RMu, *vide* EH). A Louisiana Heron was photographed at Ware, Union Co., Ill. Apr. 28 (*RMA) and may have been the same bird found in St. Clair Co., Ill. May 23 (DJ, m.ob.). Populations of Black-crowned Night Herons appear to be doing well at their regular nesting sites; migrants have also been routinely encountered. The Least Bittern seen in the Chicago area Apr. 7 (WK) was by far the earliest reported.

WATERFOWL—Records of Whistling Swans included singles at two Kane Co., Ill. locations through May 4 and May 11, respectively (LSt) and three in Lagrange Co., Ind. Apr. 18 (LCs, MWe). As reported in the winter season, White-fronted Geese were noted in larger concentrations and farther e. than expected; one flock of 70 was present at L. Sangchris, Ill. Apr. 6 (H, K); 15 at O.N.R. Apr. 13 (LV); and seven at Willow Slough, Ind. Apr. 7 (EH); one wintered near Cincinnati (W) and another lingered in Mason Co., Ill. until May 5 (H). An intermittent lake in a farming area of Mason Co., Ill. held many dabbling and a few diving ducks well beyond their normal departure times; some were still present in early June (H, m.ob.). Four Fulvous Tree Ducks were reported from Butler Co., Ohio, Apr. 11 (MP, DO). The ♂ Cinnamon Teal at S.C.R. in March (see Winter Season Report) may not have been the same one seen there Apr. 6-15 (E); another individual was identified at Pleasantville, Ia. Apr. 3 (GB). The Regionwide status of Wood Duck seems to be improving; all reporters who mentioned this species indicating increasing populations; Ohio observers were the only ones without comment. A ♂ Oldsquaw was present

near Cincinnati May 1-7 (KM, *fide* W). Very rare spring observations of Surf Scoters included a lone bird in L. Michigan at Wilmette, Ill. May 11 (B) and three (one male inland in Tazewell Co., Ill. Apr. 13 (RB). Three lingering ♂♂ Ruddy Ducks were still present in St. Joseph Co., Ind. May 31 (DBu); another in Lorain Co., Ohio, May 19 (D). Four Hooded Merganser nests were located in Wood Duck boxes at Magee Marsh, Ohio (LV); young were observed in Massac Co., Ill. June 1 (K); suspected nesting occurred in Sangamon and Mason counties, Illinois (H). Straggling Red-breasted Mergansers were found Regionwide during the last two weeks of May (m.ob.).

HAWKS—A pair of Turkey Vultures was found in a potential breeding area near Chicago—the first possibility of nesting in that area in the 20th Century (*fide* RR); w. Missouri observers suggested an increase for this species there. A convincing description of a Mississippi Kite was received from the Chicago area May 12 and later (WK, *fide* B); three nests of this species are under observation at the Union Co. Refuge, Ill. (JGA). Definite nests of Cooper's Hawks were found near Ft. Wayne, Ind. and Tiffin, Ohio; up to four nests may be present in an e.c. Missouri county. Many observers saw a Red-shouldered Hawk in the Skokie Lagoons (Chicago), May 19 (CS); two were identified at Louisville, May 11 (*fide* S); a nest was located in n.e. Indiana. None of the nesting Swainson's Hawks found last spring in n. Illinois were reported again this spring; single birds were noted in Reynolds Co., Mo. Apr. 6 (CL), S.C.R. Apr. 15 (E) and Apr. 21 (L); and Springfield, Mo. Apr. 20 and 28 (NF). Two ad. Bald Eagles were at S.C.R. as late as Apr. 15 (E) and another near Cincinnati Apr. 17 (JKI, *fide* W). Fewer than 20 Ospreys were reported Regionwide, all between Apr. 5 (Iowa) and May 18 (Ohio). The only documented Peregrine Falcon was found in Mason Co., Ill. Apr. 27 (*H); eight others were reported, but not documented.

GALLIFORMS, GRUIFORMS—Only 208 cock Greater Prairie Chickens remain in the s.c. Illinois population; this represents a 22 per cent decline from the 1973 total (RWe). Sandhill Cranes were considered strays in Ottawa Co., Ohio, Apr. 3 and 7 (LV); Cleveland, May 11 (*M); and Rosendale, Mo. Apr. 15 (JHi); a late-departing individual was noted at Jasper-Pulaski, Ind. May 25 (C). The Apr. 6 arrival of a King Rail at L. Sangchris, Ill. was noteworthy (H,K). Yellow Rails were flushed at L. Sangchris, Apr. 2 (*H); Tucker Prairie, Mo. Apr. 6 (BG); Ogle Co., Ill. May 4 (*MSw); and Rock Island Co., Ill. June 1 (*EF). The only Purple Gallinule report came from the LaRue Swamp in Union Co., Ill. May 9 (*RMa).

SHOREBIRDS—The spring shorebird season was not outstanding, but generally good—leaving most observers satisfied for this period. The concentration of an estimated 300 Semipalmated Plovers at S.C.R. Apr. 27 was noteworthy (E). At the same location Piping Plovers were observed Apr. 15 & May 12 (E); three were found on a Chicago lakefront beach Apr. 18 (TG). One late-departing Am. Golden Plover was present in Mason Co., Ill. May 30 (H). An Am. Woodcock's nest (with four eggs) was discovered at L. Sangchris, May 11

—rather late (m.ob.). **Winnowing Com. Snipe** were observed regularly at L. Sangchris as late as May 21 (H); no nests were located; another snipe was seen at Louisville, May 11 (BM). The second state record for Kentucky (and the only Regional report) of a **Whimbrel** was obtained in Powell Co. when a single bird was observed May 22 (*BM). There were 17 reports of Willets (only one documented) ranging from singles to flocks of 25 from Apr. 6 in Pulaski Co., Ill. (HAW) to May 5 at S.C.R. (E). More than usual numbers of White-rumped Sandpipers and Baird's Sandpipers were reported; good habitat may have been responsible. The report of four Buff-breasted Sandpipers at S.C.R. May 11 (E) was the only spring record for this species. Eight Marbled Godwits were present at Maryville, Mo. Apr. 21 (E); the only other individual reported was seen in Holt Co., Mo. May 5 (E, JHi). Seven reports were received for Hudsonian Godwits eight and three at S.C.R. Apr. 15 and 28, respectively (E); one at Clearwater L., Mo. Apr. 28 (CL); one at Schell-Osage, Mo. Apr. 29 (NF); seven and eight on May 18 in s. Cook Co., Ill. (*AD, *et al.*) and Mason Co., Ill. (*H), respectively; and one at Magee Marsh, Ohio, May 25 (LV). Groups of three and 15 Am. Avocets were found in McHenry Co., Ill. Apr. 22 & 23 (*fide* *DFi), 42 in Sandusky Bay, Ohio Apr. 28 (*CW *et al.*), 18 at S.C.R. May 12 (L,E). An endangered Illinois nesting species, the Wilson's Phalarope, may have attempted nesting in Mason Co.; a pair was seen regularly together through the period and a third individual was nearby (H).

GULLS, TERNS—One ad. Laughing Gull was seen well at L. Chautauqua, Ill. May 11 (*H, m.ob.). Three Franklin's Gulls (a rare spring migrant) were reported from the Chicago area in May. The Apr. 10 arrival of Forster's Terns in Kane Co., n. Illinois was unusual (RMo); three appeared in Springfield, Ill. Apr. 12 (H), four in Lagrange Co., Ind. Apr. 20 (HAW, JPt); a group of 18 were found in Mason Co., Ill. May 18 (H). Typical numbers of Caspian Terns were reported between Apr. 20 (Cleveland) and May 18 (Mason Co., Ill.). The only Least Tern was observed at S.C.R. May 26 (E).

CUCKOOS, OWLS, GOATSUCKERS—Yellow-billed Cuckoos were generally late in arriving and by the end of the period there had only been three reported from the entire Chicago area. Black-billed Cuckoos were common and around Chicago they were locally abundant in areas with outbreaks of inchworms (*fide* B). A pleasant discovery was the pair of Barn Owls at Mt. Vernon, Ill. during the annual Illinois Audubon Society meeting Apr. 27-8; the birds were apparently nesting in a large tree cavity (JSw, K *et al.*). From May 12-16, there was much excitement near the S.C.R. as a pair of **Burrowing Owls** was photographed at the entrance to a burrow (L, m.ob.); nesting was hopeful as one bird was regularly absent and the other bird sat on a nearby fencepost; several conservation precautions were immediately established. On May 27 a Saw-whet Owl was seen at Willow Slough, Ind. (EH); the bird was responsible for the unknown calls reported by others as much as six weeks earlier. Chuck-will's-widows were heard somewhat n. of their normal ranges and consid-

ered noteworthy in Iowa at Glenwood, May 2 (MWi) and Oskaloosa, May 25 (RJ); in Missouri at S.C.R. May 12 and Maryville, May 19 (E), and in Butler (*vide* DO) and Adams (MSK) counties, Ohio, May 1-8, and May 14, respectively. Common Nighthawks arrived late and were not conspicuous in the Cleveland area until May 14 (M)

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS—The only *W.* Kingbirds encountered in w. Missouri were found at Independence, Apr. 15 (KH) and S.C.R. May 12 (E); another was observed at Illinois Beach S.P., May 29 (C, JRo) The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher may be expanding its range northeastward; adults were found in Boone and Montgomery counties, Missouri, Apr. 18 (JRa, LF) and May 21 (RWi), respectively; an immature as also noted at the latter date and location. Cliff Swallows seemed to arrive rather late and in small numbers; only one large concentration was reported: 400 in Mason Co., Ill. May 18 (H). Purple Martins were not only late in arriving but also scarce according to Indiana and Ohio reporters; this may have been true Regionwide, but wasn't specifically indicated.

CREEPERS, WRENS, THRUSHES—A Brown Creeper was found outside of breeding habitat in Mason Co., Ill. May 23—probably a late migrant (H). One observer in w. Missouri suggested a great increase in House Wrens; did others notice this? More Bewick's Wrens were reported than usual: a few at Louisville, May 11 (*vide* S) and Bowling Green, Ky. Apr. 20 (m. ob.), singles at New Haven, Ind. Apr. 28 (HAW); Pleasantville, Ia. during the period (GB); Taberville Prairie, Mo. May 11 (KH); and Mason Co. Forest, Ill. May 23 (H); around Sullivan, Mo. their numbers "seemed normal" (JI). After two bad winters, Carolina Wrens remain scarce in w. Missouri (*vide* E, KH). Exceptionally late-departing Hermit Thrushes were reported from Evansville, Ind. (2) May 9 (NS) and Springfield, Ill. May 15 (H). The only striking report for *E.* Bluebirds came from Iowa where they were referred to as scarcities.

KINGLETS, WAXWINGS, SHRIKES, VIREOS—Golden-crowned Kinglets lingered well into May at four locations: May 27 at Lakewood, Ohio (D); May 16 (banded) at Cleveland (LAF); May 9 at Springfield, Ill. (H), and May 4 (2) at Ft. Wayne (HAW, BP). A second influx of Cedar Waxwings appeared Regionwide in mid-May; few, if any, were reported during April and early May; although flocks were small, more birds were encountered during the second influx than during the late-winter/early-spring first influx. The Loggerhead Shrike reported Apr. 3 from the Chicago lakefront was quite unusual (B). White-eyed Vireos were among the overmigrants reported; however, in extreme n. areas where they have regularly occurred, they were absent; the first arrival was found at Charleston, Mo. Apr. 5 (HAW); two were banded in n. Illinois (Rockford) Apr. 20&27 (LJ); another was present at Rosendale, Mo. May 5 (E); at least five were observed in Springfield, Ill. Apr. 22 (H) & Apr. 26 (K); it was the second year for their "great" increase in McLean Co., Ill. and they now nest there regularly (DBi). A Bell's Vireo was banded at

Rockford, Ill. May 17 (LJ); this species seems to be in normal or slightly above normal numbers in c. and w. Missouri (BG and KH) but possibly absent (or at least very rare) in former areas around Des Moines, Ia. (*vide* WB).

WARBLERS—Several species were early overmigrants pushing into the extreme n. parts of the Region where they have rarely been encountered. The **Worm-eating Warbler** was the most notable overmigrant first arriving in Springfield, Ill. (H) and Ottawa Co., Ohio (LV), Apr. 21; other records included singles at Normal, Ill. Apr. 22 and May 8 (DBi); Ft. Wayne, Apr. 27 (HAW, JW); Magee Marsh, Ohio, Apr. 29 (D *et al.*); Council Bluffs, May 7 (MWi *et al.*); and Ottawa Co., Ohio, May 11 (TT); eight others were observed in extreme n. Illinois in May. Four Brewster's Warblers were reported (including two banded). An increase of migrant Black-throated Blue Warblers was suggested at Rockford, Ill. (LJ); one was observed at Sullivan, Mo. Apr. 27 (JI). Early arriving Black-throated Green Warblers were encountered at Charleston, Mo. Apr. 2 (HAW) and Ft. Wayne, Apr. 16 (HAW). A Yellow-throated Warbler was caught and banded near Cleveland, Apr. 14 (AF). Several observers found more Bay-breasted Warblers than usual this spring. Another overmigrant was the **Prairie Warbler**; four were reported from the Chicago area (*vide* B); early arrivals included singles at Springfield, Ill. (H) and Ottawa Co., Ohio (LV), Apr. 21; one was banded at Cleveland Apr. 29 (AF); two others were seen at Ft. Wayne, May 2 (HAW). The Apr. 12 appearance of a Kentucky Warbler in Springfield, Ill. was very early (H). Normal numbers of Connecticut Warblers were located; the short migration period ranged from May 15 to May 26, no birds were reported from Ohio, Kentucky or Iowa, the one Missouri record, from Dobbins Woods in the northwest, was May 18 (E). A Hooded Warbler had arrived at Normal, Ill. by Apr. 15 (DBi); others arrived at Springfield, Ill. (H) and Ottawa Co., Ohio (LV), by Apr. 21; singles were banded at Shenandoah (RPh) and Davenport (P), Iowa, May 8&17 respectively; two were found at Ft. Wayne from May 18 on; there were at least 14 sightings—rather high—of this species in the Springfield, Ill. area Apr. 21-May 16 (H).

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS—Bobolinks have continued to nest in n.w. Missouri (L). A small flock of Yellow-headed Blackbirds (including subadults) have remained at Magee Marsh, Ohio, until the end of the period (LV); many are nesting at S.C.R. (L). One Summer Tanager turned up at Ft. Wayne May 2 (HAW).

GROSBEAKS, FINCHES, OTHER FRINGILIDS—The fourth Illinois record of the Black-headed Grosbeak was reported from Wilmette, May 21 (m.ob.). The last Evening Grosbeak lingered in the Region until May 24 at Valley Station, Ky. (DS). Pine Siskins remained in small numbers Regionwide until after mid-May; the latest were from Cincinnati, May 25 (GP, *vide* W). Many people reported late Red Crossbills, which was not too unusual; however, late White-winged Crossbills were unusual—May 22 at Des

Moines (latest ever for Iowa, *vide* WB); May 15 at Winnetka, Ill. (RR); and Apr. 10 at Charleston, Ill. (LH). A Lark Bunting was reported from Chicago, Apr. 11 (MH, *vide* B) and a Gray-headed Junco from Lorain Co., Ohio, Apr. 17 (AT, *ET, *vide* D). A Slate-colored race of the Dark-eyed Junco lingered at a Sangamon Co., Ill. farm until at least June 5 (*K, RH). Clay-colored Sparrows were well-documented in c. Illinois from Apr. 22 (DBi) to May 10 (K,H); a "field full" (possibly 50) was found in n.w. Missouri, May 12 (L); none were found (by the end of the period) in the regular areas around Chicago. A subadult Harris' Sparrow stopped over in n. Allen C., Ind. and was observed there Apr. 27 (BP). The peak number of Smith's Longspurs (300) was present in two c. Illinois counties Apr. 13 (H); nine individuals remained in Sangamon Co. Ill. until May 4 (H). The Apr. 3 record of a Snow Bunting at Cleveland was quite unusual (RH, *vide* M).

CORRIGENDA—The following corrections should be made in the February 1974 issue of *American Birds*; the third line of the JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNs paragraph should read: *Sept. 7 (JRO); others Oct. 30-Nov. 4 (B, JRO, et al.)*. (rather than at Chautauqua (H)). The line referring to Black-billed Cuckoos should be changed to Yellow-billed Cuckoos for the Springfield, Ill. record, but remain Black-billed Cuckoo for the Evansville, Ind. record.

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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION / Thomas A. Imhof

Spring weather for this year and last was very much alike, yet comments by experienced observers about the two migrations were quite different. Both seasons started with a warm March and migration was about a week early. Then in early April the weather became windy and rainy with much flooding, and migration was a bit late through late May. In 1973 it was cooler with more flooding and fewer record late birds. In 1974 the early April change probably occurred on April 3, when a series of tornadoes stretching to Ontario killed several hundred people in this Region.

The 1973 migration was rated "greatest in years" on the coast (Toenes), "fantastic" near Phenix City, Ala. (Wells), and "with a whole handful of goodies" in the Tennessee Valley of Alabama (Atkeson). This year on the coast, Mary Gaillard termed the migration "disappointing" and Curtis Kingsbery said, "The birding was poor." Alice Tait recorded 200 species in six spring weeks on or near Dauphin I. in 1973, but this year she had 45 fewer species for the same period. Banding results at Fort Morgan same period both years (JVP, TAI, others) are almost identical in effort, numbers of

individuals and species. On Dauphin I. the only good banding catch was 148 birds on Mar. 26-27 (REH, MEM). Inland at the Fall Line, L.A. Wells called the migration "thin and long drawn out—both early and late". Edith Halberg described the migration in central



Arkansas as "far from spectacular". Mike Bierly said of the Nashville area, "Bird song to everyone seemed to be less all spring." In northern Alabama birding associated with rain and warm fronts was good, otherwise moderate; March was early and late May was late (Imhof).

Possibly the two years were not too different, and small variations in timing, in occurrence of local rainfall and positioning of fronts made a big difference in birding results. Well inland where the cold fronts are still strong and the birds near the limit of stamina, the migration show is reasonably consistent (MLB, OFI, EMH). But on or within 200 miles of the coast the birding may be very good or very bad depending on the ability of the nearest front to hinder migration. Fortunately for the birds, most spring cold fronts as they encounter the warm, moist maritime air near the coast are slowed down or stalled or twisted into a north-south line.

For example a front was stalled perpendicular to the coast on Apr. 13-18 and rain squalls extended 200 miles into the Gulf. Typical of the situation was Tuesday Apr. 16 at Gulf Shores, Ala. with a solid overcast and no rain on shore but squalls easily visible over the water; the birding was poor in the woods but good on the beach (TAI, RDG, MLMat, SG). Flying in from the open Gulf were many Green Herons, Cattle Egrets, other herons and many Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Flying parallel to the beach were numbers of ducks, mostly Lesser Scaup and Blue-winged Teal, and a good variety of gulls, terns, and shorebirds including some black-headed Bonaparte's Gulls. At Fort Morgan that day banding was fair to good, mostly Gray Catbird, White-eyed and Red-eyed Vireos (JVP, HME).

Perhaps the movements of birds did not coincide with the movements of birders. Did the dates of various meetings and counts fit the birds' calendars, the cold fronts, warm fronts, the full moon? Or are there still as many birds crossing the Gulf now as there were 10, 20, or 30 years ago? How has destruction or lowering the quality of the habitat affected the ability of some 90-odd species of land birds to reproduce in the U. S. and Canada or overwinter in Central and South America?

HABITAT MANIPULATION—Wheeler Refuge in the Tennessee Valley of Alabama is a classic example of how waterfowl management and mosquito control have been made compatible. Water levels are held high all spring, then drawn down in late summer, when grains are sown on the dewatered sloughs for winter consumption by waterfowl. TVA is now considering a halt to dewatering as an economy measure, a move that will seriously curtail local waterfowl holding capacity. Let us hope that the halt to dewatering can be made compatible with waterfowl management or that the benefits of dewatering can be shown to be economically important.

COUNTS, not always comparable because of variations in birding effort: Apr. 13, Dauphin I., 102 species (M B C.); Apr. 16, Gulf Shores—Fort Morgan, 107 species, 13 warblers (TAI, RDG); Apr. 19-21, Dauphin I., 131 species, 40 less than usual, (A.O.S.); Apr. 27, Birmingham, 140 species, 32 warblers (B.A.S.); Apr. 27, Nashville vicinity, 156 species, 27 warblers (T O S); Apr. 27-28, Nashville, 163 species (T.O.S.);

May 4, Dauphin I., 103 species, 13 warblers (M.B.C.), May 4, Pensacola, 142 species, only 20 transient (ten shorebirds, four warblers, six others—F.M.W.A.S.P.), May 4, Central Arkansas, 137 species, 26 warblers (GRG, DRH, BLT); May 11, Bankhead Forest of Ala., 94 species, 27 warblers, woodlands only (B.A.S.).

LOON, GREBE, PETREL, PELICAN—Red-throated Loons, always noteworthy in the Region, were seen at Pine Bluff Apr. 5-7 (DRH, others), the fourth Arkansas record, and on Pickwick Res., Tenn on May 5-6 (DC, DP, DW, LRH's, many—photo), both in winter plumage. An Eared Grebe in summer plumage at Panama City Apr. 9 (SS, D&FS) is the first local record; four at Pine Bluff Apr. 5 (DRH) and five were there Apr. 25 (GRG, BLT) are local high counts; five at Rutherford Beach, Cameron Par. May 4 (RBH, RJN, RJS). A **Wilson's Storm-Petrel** at close range 9 mi. off Dauphin I. May 2 (REH) is the second for Alabama. At Port St. Joe, Fla. 85 Brown Pelicans, counted first Apr 27 (SS *et al.*) showed no sign of breeding by May 13, numbers present all spring near Dauphin I. and Ft Morgan showed a maximum of 60 on May 18 on Sand I (A&RB, D&GN).

HERONS, IBISES—The usual number of Cattle Egrets was reported. The Yellow-crowned Night Heron reached its Nashville heronry earliest locally on Mar 30 (MLMan). Glossy Ibises were again seen in Cameron Par., one Apr. 20 at Johnson's Bayou (RBH, RJN) and one May 4 at Peveto Beach in full breeding plumage (RBH, RJN, RJS). Over 500 White Ibises were migrating past Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., Mar. 18 (SS); one on May 11 at Double Springs, Ala. (TAI, JMI), the first in spring for the Mountain Region, was flying over hilly, forested country seconds ahead of a rain front.

DUCKS—Adult Mottled Ducks with two broods of young totaling 15 on May 4 at Pace, Santa Rosa Co (CWM, TM, LEG) where they have been reported to nest for 3-4 years constitute the first positive breeding record for n.w. Florida. Several ducks lingered late, especially in the Tennessee Valley of Alabama. A ♀ Pintail May 20 at Wheeler Ref. (DCH, JLV) was the latest for Alabama. A pair of Gadwalls May 29 at Muscle Shoals (HHK, HBT, ALM) tied the latest Alabama record except for summer records. Green-winged Teal, two on Apr. 19 at Wheeler Ref. (DCH) made the latest record for Alabama except for the coast. The second **Cinnamon Teal** for Tennessee, a male, remained through Apr. 7 at Cross Creeks Ref. (photo—PC). A ♀ Ring-necked Duck at Muscle Shoals May 29 (HHK, HBT, ALM) tied the latest date for Alabama except for summering birds, while a male in Birmingham June 9 (JMI, TAI) indicated that the species will spend its twelfth summer there. A ♂ Greater Scaup which lingered through Apr. 18 near Fort Morgan (JVP *et al.*) and two on Pensacola Sound through May 4 (RD, LD, FW, KN) were the latest for each state. Latest ever Buffleheads were pairs May 2 at Wheeler Ref. (DCH, JHG) and at L. Millwood near Texarkana (CMi). It is possible that some of these pairs may breed locally, but more likely one of the pair is a hunting-season casualty and the pair bond is strong enough to induce its mate to linger too. The Oldsquaw flight of late December ap-

parently did not reach the coast but produced some near latests in Alabama with three at Lee County Public L. Apr. 1 (TF, RMcK) and one at Wheeler Ref. Apr. 17 (HEJ). Black Scoters, three at Gulf Shores on Mar. 29 (PFC) and one there Dec. 31 (GDJ), continued the annual occurrence of scoters on the Alabama coast. A ♂ **Masked Duck** at Reelfoot Ref. Apr. 11-15 (B&SF, photo—PC, m.ob.) (all field marks noted,) was the first for Tennessee. A Red-breasted Merganser at Wheeler Ref. May 28 (DCH) was, except for summer, records the latest for Alabama.

HAWKS—Swallow-tailed and Mississippi Kites were reported in usual numbers. Lone Cooper's Hawks were listed for Nashville (T.O.S.) Bankhead Forest (B.A.S.) and Birmingham (B.A.S.) Counts, but no Sharp-shinned. Red-tailed and Broad-winged Hawks still outnumber the formerly more numerous Red-shoulders. The 25th known Rough-legged Hawk for Alabama, (21 in last 15 years and third this winter,) was a latest-ever Apr. 2 at Boligee, Greene Co. (RDB). The only Bald Eagle mentioned was one at Eufaula Ref. Apr. 21 (MF, SP). A pitifully few Ospreys were noted, about one or two for each well-worked area plus a few trying to breed on the coast. About the same number of Marsh Hawks were noted. Even fewer Peregrine Falcons included one near Clinton, La. Apr. 13 (MEH); one at Fort Morgan Apr. 16 (TAI, RDG) and possibly the same bird on Dauphin I. Apr. 20 (A.O.S.) A Merlin in downtown Birmingham June 2 (RRR, JVP) provided the second summer record for Alabama.

FRANCOLIN, RAILS—A Black Francolin near Sulfur, Calcasieu Par. Apr. 21 suggested continued success for this introduced species in Louisiana (RMcL, B&RBe). A late Virginia Rail at Wheeler Ref. through May 16 (WCD, DCH) revives the possibility that the species may again breed in Alabama. Black Rails in two places in Gulf State Park Mar. 29 (PFC) and Apr. 14 (TAI, RDG) enhance its possible breeding status in Alabama, now recorded during seven months. A Purple Gallinule Apr. 23 at Magnolia (SSL, MAH, RWH) registered the earliest Arkansas date. The Am. Coot most likely breeds annually in many parts of Alabama: for instance an adult with three young May 7 near Brooklyn, Escambia Co. (PW, photo—EM); a pair with 6 young in Huntsville Park May 20 (photo—DCH *et al.*); a pair present in June where young were raised the last two years in Birmingham (JMI, RRR *et al.*).

SHOREBIRDS—Note the scarcity of coastal records. A Piping Plover at Eufaula Ref. Apr. 28 (WG, WM) is the second recorded inland Alabama in spring. The Black-bellied Plover was recorded three times at Wheeler Ref., Mar. 28, Apr. 12 & May 2 (DCH, JHG) and for the first time inland away from Wheeler Apr. 27 at Eufaula Ref. (WG, WM). Solitary and Pectoral Sandpipers at Marion June 3 entered the first June records for Alabama (JVP, RRR); the Pectoral has now been recorded all 12 months in Alabama; 60 Solitaries at Phenix City Apr. 24 (JMI) were hardly solitary. Some Baird's Sandpipers migrated a little farther east again this spring: 64 on Apr. 20 at Lonoke (GRG, BLT, DRH) constitute the only April record for Arkansas; in the Nashville area, one was at Buena Vista May 5 (MLB,

BBa, JB) and 3-2 at Gallatin May 15-17 (D&PC) After 8 hours of sporadic but heavy rain on June 1, four W Sandpipers, the latest recorded in Alabama, were at a grassy seepage area in Birmingham (TAI). On Apr. 20, 23 Buff-breasted Sandpipers concentrated near Mowata, Acadia Par. (PDF). A Marbled Godwit at Wheeler Ref. May 17 (DCH) logged the fifth inland record, all in spring, and the latest for Alabama. Near Pecan I., Vermilion Par. Apr. 15 were 30-50 Hudsonian Godwits (HDP, RJN).

GULLS, TERN—Glaucous Gulls were present at Dauphin I. Apr. 5-7 (CMA, m.ob.) for the third spring in Alabama, and in Cameron Parish Apr. 14 (HDP) A winter ad. **Little Gull**, the second for Louisiana, was seen well at Calcasieu Pass Ferry, Cameron Par Apr 2 (HDP). A Black Tern at the same place Apr. 12 (MJM) could have been an early arrival or a lingering winter bird, as it has wintered there.

DOVES, CUCKOOS, HUMMINGBIRDS—On Apr. 9 a **Band-tailed Pigeon** spent about 30 minutes at a Nashville feeder where it was studied thoroughly (B&SF), this was a first record for Tennessee A White-winged Dove at Gulf Breeze May 12 (RD) is the third and latest spring record for n.w. Florida A Ground Dove in Cleburne Co. north of Pangburn May 2 (TWB) is only the second recorded in spring in Arkansas. An Inca Dove was at Rockefeller Ref., Cameron Par. Apr. 21 (RBH, RJN, BO) & 28 (HDP, DAT) In Panama City, four Groove-billed Anis were seen Mar 20 (SS) for the eighth time since 1971; in Cameron Par at four places about 30 were seen Apr. 13-15 and last seen (at least two) May 5 (HDP, RBH, m.ob.) At Jonesville, Ark. barely 50 mi. from the Mississippi R Roadrunners were seen: two on May 2 (ELH) and one on June 15 (LL) and near Otwell, 10 mi. south, one on Apr 6 (LL). Early Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were in Birmingham Mar. 30 (RRH, CL) and in Nashville Apr 2 (KAG). The Rufous Hummingbird that remained at Magnolia Springs Jan. 27-Feb. 28 (identifiable photo—PFC) and a female at Fort Morgan Apr 16-17 (TAI, JVP, HME) are the fourth and fifth sightings for Alabama. A ♀ *Selasphorus* hummingbird was at Chenier au Tigre, Vermilion Par. Apr. 18 (RBH)

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS—The Gray Kingbird was first noted on Dauphin I. Apr. 13 (M.B.C.) the earliest record is Apr. 12. Western Kingbirds were noted Mar. 30 on Dauphin I. (LRT), Apr. 16 at Fort Morgan (TAI *et al.*), Apr. 25 on Dauphin I. (DDN), May 16 at New Iberia (MHM) and also May 16 near El Dorado (KLS, DB's). A late Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was on Dauphin I. May 15 (JMa). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were seen at Wilton, Little River Co Apr 24 (CMi) for the earliest Arkansas record, and at Monroe, La. May 8 (found injured, measured to verify identification—JVP). An Alder Flycatcher (*wee-bee-o*) was seen and heard near Conway, Ark, May 26 (DJ) and a Willow Flycatcher (*fitz-bew*) was seen and heard at its breeding haunts near Nashville for the fourth consecutive year May 19 (MLB, CP). On Mar. 9, three Barn Swallows were at a bridge at Sabine Ref. (HDG), the earliest Louisiana record; although winter stragglers are possible, this date compares favorably with recent

earliest dates from Alabama. New Barn Swallow breeding sites are discovered annually in Alabama in almost every county north of Montgomery, especially along Breeding Survey Routes and on Interstate bridges. One or more new Cliff Swallow colonies have been found in Alabama each of the last 4-5 years, and the old colonies are getting bigger (BBC, JVP, RRR, many) but they are still confined to the Tennessee Valley.

CREEPER, THRUSHES, PIPIT, VIREOS—Two **Brown Creepers** at Grassy L., Hempstead Co., Ark. June 2 (CMi, CG, JL, JU) were the first locally in June. A Swainson's Thrush Apr. 5 in Birmingham (DJH, HBT) recorded the earliest date for Alabama north of the Fall Line. A Veery in Bay Co., Fla. Mar 31 (SS) is the earliest for n.w. Florida. A **Sprague's Pipit**, walking across the road near Muscle Shoals May 29, observed closely and described well (HHK, HBT, ALM) was not only the latest for Alabama by more than a month but possibly the only May record outside the breeding range. A Black-whiskered Vireo at Gulf Breeze May 8 (RD), the only one reported this year, was the eighth in n.w. Florida since 1970. A Philadelphia Vireo in Hempstead Co., Ark. May 26 (CMi) was the latest for the state

WARBLERS—A Prothonotary Warbler at Choctaw Ref. Mar 23 (CLK, PFC *et al.*) was the earliest for inland Alabama. A Swainson's Warbler at Marianna Apr 3 (MGr) tied the earliest recorded for n.w. Florida; and four near Birmingham Apr. 8 (TAI, JVP) are the earliest for Alabama north of the Fall Line. A Golden-winged Warbler at Gulf Breeze May 10 (RD) was the latest for n.w. Florida; and "Brewster's" hybrid at nearby Ft. Pickens Apr. 13 (R&LD) was only the second in n.w. Florida, the first in spring. Tennessee Warblers were early in Alabama: two on Dauphin I., Mar. 27 (LRT) were the earliest for the state; Apr. 4 in Birmingham (TAI) the earliest for the Mountain Region; Apr. 6 at Newburg, Franklin Co. (GDJ), the earliest for the Tennessee Valley. Orange-crowned Warblers though were late in Alabama: one netted Apr. 21 in Phenix City (TAI, RAP, G.O.S.) was the latest for the coastal plain; May 11 in Bankhead Forest (TAI, JMI), tied latest state. A n. Parula in Nashville Apr. 1 (KAG) was the earliest locally. A Magnolia Warbler on Dauphin I. May 26 (REH, SBH) was the latest for the coastal plain of Alabama, and a Yellow Warbler there on May 31 (LRT) was the latest south of the breeding range in Alabama. Cape May Warblers on Dauphin I. Mar. 27 recorded the earliest record for the state (REH) and were seen on Mar. 30 at Johnson's Bayou (JCL) and were also seen that far west in Vermilion Parish Apr. 8 and Cameron Par. May 4 (RBH *et al.*). Late Blackburnian Warblers were on Dauphin I. May 26 (REH, SBH), latest for coastal plain of Alabama; and in Monroe June 7, a male (RTK), a first June record for Louisiana. A Chestnut-sided Warbler at Gulf Breeze May 13 (R&LD) was the latest recorded for n.w. Florida. A Blackpoll Warbler on Dauphin I. May 26 (REH, SBH) was the latest recorded for the coastal plain of Alabama. The Palm Warbler was especially numerous: all-time highs of 40 at Phenix City Apr. 20 (G.O.S.) and 214 in Birmingham Apr. 27 (B.A.S.); recorded four times in Arkansas where rare: Apr. 5 in N. Little Rock (DRH); two in

Wilton Apr. 12 within 20 mi. of both Oklahoma and Texas (CMi); May 4, L. Maumelle, Pulaski Co. (GRG, DRH, BLT) and at Big L. near Blytheville (EMH, A.A.S.); also a latest for n.w. Florida, one at Ft. Pickens near Pensacola May 11 (CLK, F.M.W.A.S.P.).

BLACKBIRDS—These birds continue to increase; apparently the most gains this winter were by Rusties and by city flocks, such as around Birmingham—possibly due to excessive garbage. Bobolinks were especially numerous and widespread throughout the Region; one at Marianna Apr. 6 (MGr) was the earliest for n.w. Florida, and another at Buhl, Tuscaloosa Co. Apr. 13 (BSH, B.A.S.) is preceded in Alabama only by an Apr. 11, 1969 record; 500 were recorded at Marianna Apr. 27 (MGr). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported from Arkansas in Cleburne Co. May 3 (TWB) and Pine Bluff May 11 (AJA, JWA). A late Rusty Blackbird was in Nashville May 13 (B&SF). The Bronzed Cowbird was seen at Pecan I. Apr. 15 and at Rockefeller Ref. Apr. 28 (photo) and May 4 (HDP, RBH *et al.*).

FINCHES—In Alabama, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Magnolia Springs Apr. 1 (PFC) was the earliest recorded for the state and a pair at Riverton, Colbert Co. May 25 (TAI, HME) the latest for the state; one in Louisiana in Atchafalaya Basin May 30 (JCL) was also the latest for that state. In this off year, the last Evening Grosbeaks were seven in Birmingham Apr. 27 (HBT, PLT) and five in Nashville Apr. 28 (MW). A late Purple Finch was in Nashville May 12 (PM). Flocks of Pine Siskins and Am. Goldfinches were common in much of the Region even on the coast; examples of siskin-goldfinch counts were: Birmingham Apr. 27, 138 and 460 (B.A.S.) Nashville Apr. 27-28, 49 and 398 (T.O.S.); Little Rock Apr. 25, 275 and 300 (GRG). The second & third spring records for the Red Crossbill for the Nashville area were both on Apr. 14, seven at Basin Spring (KAG) & 12 at Percy Warner Park (MLB); the species was last seen in Birmingham Apr. 27 (DJH) and in Alabama in Bankhead Forest May 11 (TAI, JMI, GMI). Movement of Rufous-sided Towhees in Arkansas was indicated by the presence of a female May 4 in Saline Co. near Little Rock, 60 mi. from a known breeding location (GRG, BLT, DRH) and of a male of the Spotted Towhee complex (one of 11 or more w. North American races) on Apr. 6 near Hazen, Prairie Co. (GRG). A Dark-eyed Junco in Birmingham Apr. 27 (TAI) was, except for summer records, the latest recorded for the state. A Clay-colored Sparrow at New Iberia, La. Apr. 15 (MJM) is the only one reported in the Region this year. A Harris' Sparrow was at Gallatin, Tenn. Mar. 19 (Mrs. LS, *fide* D&PC). A singing White-throated Sparrow was seen near Marion June 3 (RRR, JVP), the 12th summer record for Alabama. Fox Sparrow made late records: one Apr. 13 at Wewahitchka (DS) and one Apr. 16 at Marianna (MGr) were the latest n.w. Florida dates by more than a month; three at Wheeler Ref. Apr. 12 and one Apr. 25 were all the latest ever for Alabama. A Song Sparrow on May 21 at Weiss L., Cherokee Co. had a nest with three sparrow eggs and one cowbird egg (photo—CWS); although young have been seen for years in nearby counties, this is the first egg record for Alabama. A ♂ **Lapland Longspur** in

Mobile Mar. 30-31(JLD, M.B.C.), well seen in an open sparsely-grassed area and described in detail, provided the second coastal record, the latest for the state, and one of the southernmost records for the species.

CORRECTIONS—The “bird reported to be a Cory’s Shearwater. . . off Dauphin I. Sep. 10”, 1973 was a Cory’s Shearwater, the first for Alabama and probably for the Gulf of Mexico. Six observers including the writer noted all field marks including yellow bill, gradual shading on cheeks from gray above to white below, and comparison with smaller Greater Shearwaters seen within the hour. The Great Cormorant in Alabama Nov. 21, 1972 was not 50 but less than 20 mi. from where one was photographed in Florida by the Duncans, and very likely the same bird. In *Am. Birds*, 27:628 the sentence, “Twelve were seen at Alabama Pt., Ala. Jan 7 (MLB & GDJ)” applies to the Snowy Plover, *not* to the Mountain Plover in the immediately preceding sentence. The Black-necked Stilt is an uncommon spring and fall transient in coastal Alabama, not casual in fall as stated (*Am. Birds*, 28:65). The Great Black-backed Gull at Panama City Mar. 29, 1973 is not the first record for n.w. Florida. A bird banded as a nestling (JMC) Audubon Camp, Muscongus Bay, Me. July 5, 1947 was recovered at Panama City Feb. 17, 1948 (courtesy DAJ). The story of an ad. Ring-billed Gull “feeding a young July 12”, 1973 at Alabama Point (*Am. Birds*, 27:881) is discounted in a letter to this writer by one of the observers, LMCK. The recovery at Tharptown, Ala. of a Barn Swallow banded at Leeds is 100 miles n.w. of its *banding* site not recovery site. The records of Yellow Warbler, a common summer resident in n. Alabama, June 9 & 17, 1973 at Huntsville refer to the Yellow-rumped Warbler, perhaps the subspecies name “Myrtle” should have been used.

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NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS / C. Stuart Houston & Stanley J. Shadick

Most of Montana and South Dakota experienced weather very different from the remainder of the region. Billings reported that late winter and early spring were dry, while Malta, Montana had a mild, dry spring



apart from good rains in mid-May. South Dakota was cool in both April and May but, in sharp contrast with areas further north, had insufficient rain; all ponds, dams and lakes were therefore low.

On the Canadian prairies, following all-time record snowfalls (100.3 inches at Vulcan, Alta.), the snow stayed very late. Near Saskatoon, some roads remained blocked by car-high drifts well past the middle of April, with snow persisting in bushes until mid-May. Most early species, particularly waterfowl, were consequently late in arriving, while others that arrived on usual dates often did so with disastrous results. All water bodies were filled to capacity, leaving no mud flats for shorebirds, and dispersing the excellent num-

bers of waterfowl. Moose Jaw suffered the severest flood in history with large residential and business areas under three and more feet of water for more than a week, beginning April 16.

April was sunny and dry at Calgary until a heavy storm of rain, snow and sleet occurred April 26-28. Moose Jaw had its first warm day April 26, reaching 81°F, followed by an inch of snow April 28 and 1½ inches of rain with hail the following day. All but the last days of May were unseasonably cold and wet. May was the wettest since 1933 at Moose Jaw and the third coldest since 1885 at Calgary. Most localities in North Dakota experienced the same cool, wet spring with improved water levels.

The bird migration was most unpredictable. Most species came late while a few were inexplicable exceptions to the rule and set record early dates. The bird-watchers, in turn, were restricted by impassable roads and were less consistent in their coverage. The "spring of '74" will be talked of for years to come.

HERONS, EGRETS, IBISES—Four Great Blue Herons seemed out of place near Leeds, N.D., Apr. 7, perched on a snowbank beside a field shelterbelt, with the temperature only 8°F. (ACF). Cattle Egrets were reported from Jamestown Apr. 18 (BAH), from J. Clark Salyer Refuge, Upham, N.D., May 14 (AKT) and from Marquette, Man., May 10-26 (DRMH), but there has yet to be a sighting from Saskatchewan. A **Snowy Egret** w of Steinbach, May 25-26, was apparently a second Manitoba record (GG, HWRC). Great Egrets were reported from Tolstoi, Marquette, Vivian and Kemnay, Man., and from Jamestown, Valley City, Oakes, Upper Souris and Salyer refuges, N.D. There were also two North Dakota reports of the White-faced Ibis, with two near Oakes May 4 (MBW, H.F. Duebbert) and one at Salyer Refuge June 2 (AKT).

WHISTLING SWANS—Whistling Swans arrived at four different locations near Calgary Mar. 30, with 150 at Vulcan the following day and 14 formations flying NW over Vulcan Apr. 9. There were 1500 on a field near Strathmore, Alta., Apr. 12, beside still completely frozen Eagle Lake. There were 20 swans e. of Moose Jaw Apr. 7 and three bewildered individuals appeared at Spring Valley Apr. 12, eventually flying on in their search for unfrozen water. Another three appeared at Indian Head Apr. 16. At Saskatoon the usual flocks resting near the city did not appear, at Sheho there were only a few small flocks Apr. 18, at Kenaston they were seen only once, very late on May 12 and at Raymore there were none recorded for the first time in living memory. In contrast, there was a "spectacular" migration of swans resting on flooded stubble fields in s. Manitoba for several weeks.

GEESE—Seven Canada Geese appeared at Salyer Refuge, N.D., Feb. 20, the earliest date ever recorded, while they arrived March 1 at Audubon and Upper Souris refuges, Coleharbor, and at Oakes, N.D. Their numbers peaked March 20 at Oakes and April 5 at Audubon Refuge and 1000 flew over frozen Spring Valley, Sask., April 6. The first flocks of Snow Geese appeared at Valley City, N.D., Apr. 8 with flocks mov-

ing north all that day and part of the next, while on Apr. 14 the major movement of about 30,000 headed northwest into a 15 m.p.h. wind, between 6.15 and 6.35 p.m. The next day at Petersburg, 70 mi. further north, the Snow Goose migration (including blue phase) was two miles wide and as far as the eye could see, totalling at least 30,000 birds. Another 90 mi. northwest at Rolla, the Snows peaked at 25,000 April 17.

MALLARDS—The Mallard migration also reflected the weather patterns. In South Dakota, they appeared Mar. 3 at Altamont, Mar. 5 at Rapid City, Hot Springs and Yankton and Mar. 8 at Brookings. In North Dakota they arrived Mar. 11 at Jamestown, Mar. 13 at Bismarck, Salyer and Arrowwood Refuges and Mar. 16 at Hope. Slightly further north in the same state, the late spring delayed them until Apr. 9 (a sudden invasion by nine species of ducks and geese), Apr. 12 at Grand Forks and Apr. 15 at Rolla and Gilby. At Fort Peck, Montana, a week of peak numbers began Mar. 25, the same day the first two appeared at Medicine L. In Saskatchewan, Mallards appeared before many sloughs had melted, but still a week or two late, at Indian Head Apr. 9, Spring Valley Apr. 10, Saskatoon Apr. 11, Regina Apr. 12, Kenaston and Birch Hills Apr. 15, Sheho Apr. 16 and Spirit Lake and Grenfell Apr. 18.

OTHER DUCKS—Pintails were "dammed up" behind the snow further north, with 165,000 at Medicine Lake Refuge, Mont., Apr. 3. There were sightings of ♂ Cinnamon Teal at Valley City May 17 (DEG) and at Long Lake Refuge, Moffit, N.D., May 12 (MBW), with no less than 39 reports from the Calgary area. At Billings, 39 Wood Ducks wintered successfully (KH). A Greater Scaup was observed near Regina June 1 (FHB). Seven ♂♂ and 3 ♀♀ Oldsquaws were at the new sewage lagoon at Fargo Apr. 7 (LA). A Surf Scoter at Moose Jaw May 25 was a first for the area (PRK). Ruddy Ducks seemed increased at many localities with 5.67 on the all-day bird count at Saskatoon May 25 (S.N.H.S.).

HAWKS—An unprecedented spring Goshawk migration in Manitoba included 19 individuals moving north down the Red River in two hours on Mar. 31, 26 in two hours Apr. 16 and 26, 10 and 16, respectively, on Apr. 7th, 10th and 14th (R. Ko, R. Kn, DRMH, AHS). Red-tailed Hawk movements were impressive at many localities with many at Valley City Apr. 8-11, 50 at Grand Forks Apr. 12, 29 in 5 mi. at Gilby, N.D., Apr. 10 and 224 moving northward along the Red River s. of Winnipeg between 11.15 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Apr. 14 (R. Ko). At Moose Jaw there was a big Buteo migration, predominantly Red-taileds, Apr. 8-18, with peak numbers of 85 on Apr. 9 and 160 on Apr. 11. At Indian Head, the first Red-taileds appeared Apr. 5 and beginning Apr. 9, the daily numbers totalled 178, 175, 54, 65, 75, 80, 15, 500, 550, 700 and 150, respectively, through Apr. 19. At Spirit Lake, Sask., the arrival date was Apr. 15 with up to 20 daily Apr. 18-21. There were a record 12 sightings of Broad-winged Hawks in migration at Regina May 7-23 (MB, SJ) and one near Lewiston May 11 was a third sight record for Montana (PDS). A noteworthy collection of eagles at Medicine L., Mont., Apr. 9, included 22 Golden and 23 ad. and 3 imm. Bald Eagles

Single Ospreys were noted at Spring Valley, Sask., Apr. 11 (FB) at St. Pierre May 1 and Brandon, Man. May 12 (HWRC, BGR) and at Billings May 16 (KH). A late white-phase Gyrfalcon was at Kindersley Apr. 26 (JMH).

CRANES—Two Whooping Cranes were photographed n. of Powderville, Mont., Apr. 13-14 (Albert Brown, R.L. Eng) and two were near Kenmare Apr. 21-28 (WES, AMG). There were 15 credible reports of 59 individual Whooping Cranes reported to the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, beginning with two sighted at Lang by Bill and Holly Maidens Apr. 5 and ending with ten individuals confirmed at the s. end of Midnight Lake, May 11-13 (Pat Spreitzer).

WADERS—An Am. Woodcock was heard and seen, Apr. 7 & 17 at Brookings, S.D. (NH). A Semipalmated Plover at Calgary Mar. 31 was very early (Marg Oliver). A Com. Snipe appeared May 1 at Birch Hills after a three-inch snowfall during the night (MLM). A **Whimbrel** near Vermillion, S.D., May 24 (KJH, BKH, S.D.O.U.) may be a third state record: "It would dig its food from the mud, then run to wash it off before eating it." A **Red Knot** was another species observed at the spring meeting of the S.D.O.U. near Vermillion and was believed to be the second state record. Six White-rumped Sandpipers at Broadview, Mont., May 25 (PDS, EH) were another good record. Five Hudsonian Godwits were seen in Grant Co., S.D., Apr. 25 (Kent F. Hall) and one near Vermillion May 15 (KJH).

PIGEONS, OWLS, HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS—A **Band-tailed Pigeon** appeared in a shelterbelt near Vulcan, Alta., May 6 (EFB). There were unusually heavy late movements of Snowy Owls, with 24 at Regina April 20 and seven in one field Apr. 24 (MB, GFL, RDR) and 43 at Oak Hammock Marsh n. of Winnipeg on the same date (DMRH). On Apr. 28, 155 Short-eared Owls were counted in 30 mi. w. of Raymond, Sask., coinciding with a sudden increase in the vole population (WCH). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird appeared on time at Birch Hills, Sask., although no flowers had yet bloomed due to cold weather (MLM). A red-breasted race of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was photographed at Lethbridge Apr. 22 (HCES).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS—A **Cassin's Kingbird** present for three hours May 18 was the first record for Rapid City and probably the third for South Dakota (EMS, BBF, NRW). Barn and Cliff Swallows arrived at Bowdoin Refuge, Malta, Mont., May 15, but after a cold 2.13 in. rain May 20, insects disappeared and many swallows died. Four Purple Martins arrived at Buffalo Pound L., n. of Moose Jaw Apr. 26 and were augmented by 14 more May 13, but with no insects owing to the unseasonably cold weather, they were saved by a supply of hard-boiled eggs and oatmeal (Kelly Thompson).

MIMIDS, THRUSHES—A Mockingbird at Kindersley, Sask., May 7-17, was a first for the area (JMH). A **Bendire's Thrasher** seen at Grand Beach, Man. at close range by 9 observers May 14 was the first sight record for Manitoba and the second for Canada (DRMH) cf.

AB 22:776 for 1st). A Wood Thrush May 21 was the third record for Rapid City (EAS). The cool wet weather caused an unusually heavy and prolonged thrush migration at many localities. These included 300 Swainson's in a Moose Jaw cemetery May 14 (ML), while the aspen bush at Spirit L. had a solid carpeting of Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes May 16-22 (WA).

BLUEBIRDS, KINGLETS, PIPITS—Mountain Bluebirds appear to be extending their range slowly eastward, with 500 at Kenmare Apr. 7, increases at Audubon Refuge and sightings as far east as Leeds, N.D. and Highmore, Altamont and Hurley, S D. Paradoxically, there were fewer Mountain Bluebirds reported from their normal range in the Black Hills. Mountain Bluebirds appeared on schedule at Reston, Man., Mar. 13, when there was still two feet of snow, but many were reported dead after the temperature dropped to -20°F. , on Mar. 16-17. Three were also found dead at Arrowwood Refuge, N.D., after a blizzard Mar. 22. There were 50 Golden-crowned Kinglets in Bismarck Apr. 12-14 (WAB). Water Pipits arrived at Calgary Apr. 13, were reported seven times Apr. 20-27 and were last seen May 13.

VIREOS, WARBLERS—A **Yellow-throated Vireo** observed May 5-31 at Rapid City was the second record for w. South Dakota (LMB). Although warbler numbers were down at some Saskatchewan localities including Spirit L. and Sheho, the variety was unusually good, with 15 species at Saskatoon, 16 at Jamestown and Salyer Refuge, 17 at Grand Forks and Regina, 18 at Bismarck and Hope, N.D., 19 at Rapid City and 24 species at Fargo. In Manitoba, cold weather and a lack of insects caused a dieoff of thousands of warblers at Oak Lake, Reston, Lyleton, Starbuck, Steinbach, and Winnipeg from May 15-24. *On May 22, there was a dead warbler on an average of every eight inches along the shore of L. Manitoba near St. Ambrose* (DRMH). Nashville Warblers were unusually evident at Fargo, with one or two reported May 8-31, while other individuals were at Jamestown May 17, Gilby May 20 and Grand Forks May 31. A Magnolia Warbler at Billings, Mont., May 23 and three May 25, probably constituted the fourth record for the state (KH, HC), while a high count of six was at Bismarck May 19 (RNR). A Black-throated Blue Warbler at Spring Valley May 5-17 was a local first (FB), while another at Moose Jaw May 26 was their second record (LMK), and one was photographed at Winnipeg May 29 (KJ, RRT, HWRC, DRMH). An Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler at Maidstone, Sask., Apr. 26 was unusual (WCH), while a Palm Warbler at Rapid City May 18 was the third record for the Black Hills (BBF). Single Yellow-breasted Chats were seen at Moose Jaw May 22 (DWR) and Fargo May 13 (HGH). A Hooded Warbler near Winnipeg May 20 was even more outstanding (John Loch, SGS).

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS—Flocks of up to 50 W Meadowlarks were feeding on a windswept gravel highway at Leeds Apr. 5, when the surrounding fields were still covered with snow (SS). In late May, an "invasion" of Orchard Orioles into Manitoba included reports from Oak L., Lyleton, Zhoda and Steinbach

Due to cold weather and lack of food, up to 20 N. Orioles were reduced to feeding with cattle near Indian Head during the third week in May. A ♂ Scarlet Tanager was reported from Regina May 26 (TMB) one from Upper Souris Ref. May 21 and a pair from Rolla, N.D., May 25 (PCH). A **Summer Tanager** observed at ten foot range at Bismarck May 13 is the second sight record for North Dakota (BQ, JS, OS, WAB).

FRINGILLIDS—A single Black-headed Grosbeak wandered to Fargo May 4 (PWA). A pair of **Blue Grosbeaks** apparently carried by a storm front, was carefully observed near Saskatoon May 26 just before a four-inch deluge of rain, adding a new species to the Saskatchewan hypothetical list (TP). Four Lazuli Buntings were seen as far east as Bismarck May 26 (RNR). A tremendous influx of migrant sparrows descended on Saskatoon in mixed flocks May 13, with observations of 150+ Harris', 300+ Lincoln's, 850+ White-crowns and an unbelievable 2100+ White-throated Sparrows. Of the latter, two-thirds were found along a quarter-mile section of riverbank where none had been the day before. Harris' Sparrows were also more abundant at Fargo and at Highmore, S.D., while peaks of 50 birds were reported from Montpelier, N.D., May 2 and Moose Jaw May 14. White-crowned Sparrows were also seen in increased numbers at Regina and Fargo but White-throated Sparrows were fewer at Moose Jaw and through most of South Dakota. Fox Sparrows were more common at Saskatoon and Birch Hills, Sask. Two Golden-crowned Sparrows were observed May 10 at Fort Liard, N.W.T. (SML) and a Smith's Longspur was sighted at Birch Hills May 14 (MLM). Lapland Longspurs were late and did not appear at Vulcan, Alta. until Apr. 12, nor until Apr. 17 at Kenaston and Apr. 24 at Sheho, Sask.

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Note: I wish to thank all observers for the wealth of information submitted, only a tiny fraction of which could be mentioned, and for the almost uniform promptness of submission, setting a record for this region. This made it possible to give all records to Stan Shadick, who wrote the account for the passerines in time for me to write the remainder. There can be few better examples of devoted, dedicated people from two countries contributing their talents, time and energy, often at considerable expense, to a cooperative project. This report summarizes thousands of hours of field work — and hundreds of hours of tedious desk work.—**C. STUART HOUSTON** (with equal-time and the most tedious work contributed by Mary I Houston), **863 University Drive, Saskatoon, Sask., S7N 0J8.**

SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS / Frances Williams

The environmental and faunal differences between the east and west divisions of the Region were especially evident this spring. In the eastern half there was so much rainfall that overflowing lakes had no exposed shorelines. In the western half extreme drought com-



pletely dried all playa lakes including those at Muleshoe and Buffalo Lake N. W. R.s. in w. Texas. In the east contributors carefully listed all the occurrences of Hermit Thrushes and ignored the abundant Swainson's Thrushes; in the west the opposite was true. Mr. Fisher noted that the 14 species of warblers which nest in the

"pineywoods" of eastern Texas arrive there in March. But these same species appeared in the western half of the Region in late April or early May. About 18 species of warblers remained to breed along the extreme eastern edge of the Region. In the central portion these were recorded as "uncommon" migrants and in the far west as "rare vagrants." In the west observers counted 200 Cassin's Sparrows in one day—east of the 98th meridian a single skylarking Cassin's Sparrow was considered noteworthy.

Migration in the Region occurred in one long, action-filled period Apr. 24-May 19 with a small echo May 24-26. In the east migration was considered "interesting but not spectacular" while several western localities called it "phenomenal."

LOONS THROUGH PELICANS—Common Loons remained at Tyler, Tex. until Jun 11 (GSm) and Lubbock, Tex. until May 11 (DSt., LC). A Red-necked Grebe was sighted at Lubbock May 4 (DB, SM). Horned Grebes occurred as far south as Tarrant Co., Tex., Apr. 3 (L&AB) and Lubbock May 4 (D&FG). Eared Grebes in Payne Co., Okla., Apr. 19, Nacogdoches May 1 and Lancaster Co., Neb., Apr. 7, 14 & May 1 were east of their usual range. The only W. Grebe reported was at Oklahoma City May 18-26. Pied-billed Grebes were nesting at Oklahoma City and eight nearly grown young were counted May 22. White Pelicans migrated across the Region Mar. 31-June 5. Flocks comprising up to 100 birds were observed at 19 localities. A flock of 1000 visited L. Benbrook, Tarrant Co., Apr. 12 (L&AB). A **Brown Pelican** at L. Somerville, Burleson Co., Tex., May 16-18 (m.ob.) provided a very unusual record for the plains.

CORMORANTS, ANHINGAS—At Sequoyah N.W.R., Okla., 70 nests of Double-crested Cormorants were occupied by the end of the period. This is the only known nesting site of the species in the State. Two cormorant (sp ?) nests were located in a Great Blue Heron heronry on the Clay-Archer county line in n. Texas (J&EK). Migrating Double-crested Cormorants in larger numbers than usual were sighted at nine localities. Three Anhinga nests were located at Sequoyah N.W.R. Anhingas at L. Palestine, Smith Co., Tex., May 27 caused observers to speculate they might be nesting, as the species does breed in nearby Anderson Co.

HERONS & IBIS—The Great Blue Heron heronry on the Clay-Archer Co. line contained 164 nests. In Kerr, Co., 14 Great Blue Heron nests contained young May 22. At Sequoyah N.W.R. a new colony comprised about 50 Great Blue Heron nests. In McClain Co., Okla., 228 herons and egrets (6 species) were counted Apr. 12, but only one was a Great Blue. Cattle Egrets are beginning to appear in the trans-Pecos area of w. Texas, as single birds were sighted during April at Ft. Davis and the Vieja Ranch south of Valentine. Only seven contributors reported sightings of Black-crowned Night Herons, and no observer counted more than eight individuals. A Yellow-crowned Night Heron visited Sarpy Co., Neb., May 6-11. A Louisiana Heron nest in Polk Co., Tex., May 4 is possibly the first breeding record of the species in the "pineywoods."

There were only five reports of White-faced Ibis in the Region. The largest flock comprised 35 birds at L. Marvin, Hemphill Co., Tex., May 7.

WATERFOWL—A Snow Goose which appeared to be crippled remained in the Davis Mts. a few days in early May. Cinnamon Teal remained until late April at Oklahoma City, Ft. Worth and Dallas. In Glasscock Co., Tex. a pair of Green-winged Teal stayed at a "ground tank" throughout the period. Both could fly and would circle the tank when disturbed, but always returned. There are no nesting records of this species in any nearby area (LBP). A Com. Goldeneye was sighted in Lancaster Co., Neb., Apr. 14. An Oldsquaw was recorded in Comanche Co., Okla., Apr. 15 (RKp). It was "the best spring ever" for Red-breasted Mergansers in e. Texas. The species was also reported in Wichita & Tarrant Cos., Tex. and Payne Co., Okla.

HAWKS—A group of 18 Mississippi Kites seen over Nacogdoches Apr. 22 was the largest number ever in that part of the state. One Mississippi Kite was sighted at El Paso May 4. The species was nesting at many localities by the end of the period. The Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks which wintered in the Region nearly all departed by late March. The only possible nesting reported was in Kerr Co., where a Cooper's Hawk swooped, protesting loudly, over the heads of a group of birders whenever they approached a particular area.

The population of Red-shouldered Hawks has increased in c. Texas but remains low elsewhere. The only Broad-winged Hawk flight reported was at Nacogdoches, where 120 birds a day were noted the first week in April. No flocks of Swainson's Hawks of any size were noted anywhere in the Region and even single birds were considered noteworthy. Rough-legged Hawks remained in the Region until mid-April. Muleshoe N.W.R. in w. Texas is possibly the most southerly nesting site of Ferruginous Hawks in the country. A Black Hawk was sighted in Big Bend Nat'l Park, Tex., Apr. 2 (JDC).

Two Golden Eagle nests were located on the Vieja Ranch and one in the Davis Mts. Two chicks which hatched in one of the Vieja nests disappeared when they were about two weeks old. The other nest produced one chick which met its doom by falling off the ledge where it was born. Two nestlings in the Davis Mt. nest were almost ready to fledge at the end of the period (ML). A pair of Bald Eagles nested at L. Livingston but results are unknown at this time.

Only 22 Ospreys were sighted in the Region. One flying over L. Somerville May 10 provided a very late record (AB). Caracaras continue to spread north and east in Texas. Records this spring came from Limestone, Brown and Navarro Cos. Only three Peregrine Falcons were sighted in the Region, truly an alarming report. A few Merlins lingered until mid-May. American Kestrels nested successfully in the Davis Mts and in Lubbock Co., but several contributors noted that fewer kestrels than usual were seen in migration.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS—Range fires in the Davis Mts. burned approximately 80,000 acres this spring, destroying much habitat of the Montezuma

Quail Clay Miller reported seeing numerous Montezumas while fighting the fires. If these quail begin wandering seeking unburned areas, they may possibly be seen more easily by visiting birders. The owners of the famous King Ranch in s. Texas have bought a "spread" in trans-Pecos Texas and have stocked it with Turkeys from the s. Texas ranch. One Turkey has already been sighted at the nearby Vieja Ranch.

RAILS—A King Rail was killed on a road near Cache, Okla., May 12. Virginia Rails were found in Sarpy Co., Apr. 29, Tulsa May 4 and Oklahoma City May 9 (BCA). Soras were reported in most of the Region from mid-April until late May but were strangely absent from Hagerman N.W. R., Tex. Common Gallinules were sighted in Lancaster Co., Apr. 27 (DGi), Oklahoma City May 15-25, Smith Co., Tex. May 15 and Hemphill Co., Tex., Apr. 11. A Purple Gallinule at College Station, Tex., May 17 was trapped and banded the following week (MH).

SHOREBIRDS—Piping Plovers were observed in Lancaster Co., Apr. 14 & 27. At Salt Plains N.W.R., Okla., Snowy Plovers were common May 11 and two nests were found (O.O.S.). There were also fair numbers in Tom Green Co., Tex., and Muleshoe N.W.R. Two Snowy Plovers in Washington Co., Tex., May 31 provided a new County record (AB, CN). The species was also noted in McLennan Co., Tex., May 8 and Comanche Co., Okla., Apr. 5 & 9. A flock of 83 Am. Golden Plovers was counted at Oklahoma City Apr. 3 (JS) This species was sighted at eight other localities, all in the e. half of the Region.

A Ruddy Turnstone in Washington Co., Tex., May 10 provided a first spring record (AB) and two were sighted in Lancaster Co., May 18. Flocks of 300-500 Long-billed Curlews were seen at several w. Texas localities. Whimbrels were noted at Dallas May 18 and Lubbock May 4. Willets are now common in most of the Region during spring migration. Several were seen at Sequoyah N.W.R., Apr. 13-May 22, providing a new record for the refuge. Fifteen Red Knots visited Sequoyah Refuge May 22 and six were noted in Lancaster Co., May 18. Dunlins were present at Sequoyah Refuge Apr. 14-May 22, Midland, Tex., Apr. 28 (TSJ), Tom Green Co., Apr. 28 (m.ob.) and Washington Co., Tex., May 10 (AB). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were noted at Sequoyah Refuge May 16-20 and Washington Co., Tex., May 1. Five Marbled Godwits at Sequoyah Refuge Apr. 10 provided a new Refuge record. This species was also sighted in Rogers Co., Okla., May 5 (H&DG) and Comanche Co., Okla., Apr. 15 (RKp). Two Hudsonian Godwits were present in Washington Co., Tex., May 10 & 17 (AB, CN) and seven were sighted at Sequoyah Refuge Apr. 25. Unusually large numbers of this species were counted at two localities: 40 in Osage Co., Okla., May 3 (S&AMM) and 43 in Comanche Co., Apr. 23 (RKp). A Sanderling collected near Nacogdoches May 26 was the first specimen from e. Texas. Sanderlings were also recorded in Tom Green Co., Apr. 28 (GGR, KSt), Platte Co., Neb., May 18 (EBen), Lancaster Co., May 18 (EBr) and Wichita Co., Tex., May 1 (KZ). Am. Avocets were recorded at seven localities in the e. half of the Region Apr. 27-May 14 but were slightly less common than usual in the west.

GULLS THROUGH SKIMMERS—A Laughing Gull was sighted at Oklahoma City May 26. Forster's Terns were common throughout the Region with a peak of 265 on Apr. 21 at Hagerman Refuge. Least Terns were recorded at Dallas May 18, Smith Co., Tex., May 22 & June 6 (GSm), Tom Green Co., Apr. 28 (m.ob.) and Tulsa, May 7, 13 & 31. Caspian Terns visited Washington Co., Tex., Apr. 13, May 9-11. Black Terns appeared in Payne Co. on the very early date March 26. This species was less common in the Region than usual. **Black Skimmers** were seen in Washington Co., Tex., May 10 & 29 (AB, CN), representing the first record at that locality since October, 1956.

DOVES THROUGH GOATSUCKERS—A Ground Dove fed with some Mourning Doves at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Tex., May 15 (PF). Black-billed Cuckoos were sighted at only four localities, but were somewhat more common in Lancaster Co. & Johnson Co., Kans. than last year. Only three contributors reported on Barn Owls. The appearance of this species on the Blue List makes it urgent for observers to forward all sightings of this "common" species to area reporters. A small colony of Burrowing Owls was located at Dodge City, and two individuals moved into a prairie dog town in a city park at Lawton, Okla. In the Midland area Burrowing Owls have become so abundant and so adapted to living among people that they hunt every evening in the vicinity of several lighted baseball diamonds. A local pet shop offered juvenile Burrowing Owls for sale, but steps have been taken to stop this (ME). Long-eared Owls were observed at Buffalo Lake Refuge Apr. 7 (KSe). A ♀ Chuck-will's-widow was carefully identified at Buffalo Lake Refuge Apr. 2 (KSe). A Whip-poor-will was heard in Miami Co., Kans. on the early date Apr. 11. A flock of 17 migrating Com. Nighthawks was seen in the middle of the afternoon at Nacogdoches May 22.

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS—A large ♀ hummingbird believed to be a Blue-throated Hummingbird remained at a feeder in El Paso May 3-10. It was photographed but no professional identification is available at this time. Two Pileated Woodpeckers were observed at Hagerman N.W.R., Apr. 4. The Red-bellied Woodpecker which wintered at Midland remained until Apr. 7 (TSJ). A Red-headed Woodpecker at Vieja Ranch May 26 was far south of its normal range. A Lewis' Woodpecker which wintered in Stephens Co., Okla., remained until Mar. 31. A Ladder-backed Woodpecker was seen several miles east of Hagerman Refuge May 21. Most recent observations of this species in the Hagerman area have been in the fall and winter.

FLYCATCHERS—Small flocks of 20-30 E. Kingbirds were seen continually flying northward May 10 over Nacogdoches. Kansas observers noted that Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were somewhat reduced in numbers this spring but in w. Texas the population was much improved over the past three years. A Great Crested Flycatcher in Tom Green Co., Apr. 8 was west of its usual range (CCW). Mrs. Stankewitz in Iowa Park, Tex. is another birder who has been successful in attracting Ash-throated Flycatchers to nesting boxes.

Eastern Phoebes nested in Howard Co., Tex. for the first time and fledged four young June 1. A Say's Phoebe was observed in Osage Co., May 5 (EH). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were seen and heard in Tarrant Co., May 17, Nacogdoches May 27 and Johnson Co., Kans., May 30. Observers not yet confident of their ability to distinguish the calls of Willow and Alder Flycatchers may derive some help from Mr. Haller's observation that at Hagerman Refuge Willow Flycatchers pass through the first half of May and Alder Flycatchers the last half. An E. Wood Pewee was seen and heard at Tulsa on the very early date March 8 (YT). Vermilion Flycatchers were reported in McClain Co., Okla., Apr. 6 (EBer), Lubbock Co., Apr. 19 (KR) and Wichita Co., Apr. 6 & May 11.

SWALLOWS THROUGH NUTHATCHES—At Sequoyah Refuge Bank Swallows appeared to be having their second consecutive successful nesting season. There were no previously reported successful nestings in Oklahoma. Observers in Lubbock who look regretfully at Purple Martins passing through their city may be encouraged by the fact that a colony of martins established in Big Spring only three years ago this year hatched nine young. Barn Swallows have increased in numbers at Ft. Worth each year since 1968. Black-billed Magpies are well established in riparian habitat at Dodge City and in Brown Co., Neb. Observers who sighted a Brown Jay in Dallas June 1 speculated that it may have been an escaped cage bird (HN, TSMcD). A spring count at Ft. Worth produced a ten year high total of 354 Carolina Chickadees. Verdins had nested successfully at two localities in Wichita Co., Tex. and one site in Lubbock Co. by the end of the period. Red-breasted Nuthatches lingered as late as Apr. 18 at Vieja Ranch, Apr. 23 in Lancaster Co., May 4 in Lubbock, May 14 in Omaha.

WRENS AND MIMICS—A Winter Wren was seen at Vieja Ranch on the late date May 5. Observers in the Region disagree as to the status of Bewick's Wrens. In Kansas there is general agreement that the wrens are much reduced in numbers. In Oklahoma the sentiment is to remove the species from the Blue List. Contributors in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area state that Bewick's Wrens are improving slightly, but still much lower than ten years ago. Other Texas reporters see no cause for alarm. Carolina Wrens continue to be reported from the w. edge of the Region, usually in urban habitats. A Rock Wren was banded at the Mery residence in Bartlesville, Okla., May 23. A Mockingbird appeared in Lancaster Co., Apr. 25. Gray Catbirds were more common than usual in the Nacogdoches area and were observed as far west as Glasscock Co., Tex. (M.N.). Muleshoe N.W.R. is one of the few localities in the w. third of the Region where Brown Thrashers nest. In trans-Pecos Texas Crissal Thrashers are very scarce and elusive; the owners of Vieja Ranch were happy to have one spend April and May near the ranch house.

THRUSHES THROUGH SHRIKES—Wood Thrushes arrived in the e. part of the Region the last week in April but one or more off-course individuals at Midland were observed Mar. 25, Apr. 8 & 12 (TSJ). A Gray-cheeked Thrush at Ft. Worth May 2 was the first

report there in many years (MP). Gray-cheekeds were also noted in Lancaster Co., May 9 & 15 and Johnson Co., Kans., Apr. 27 & May 8. Veeries arrived at Tyler May 1, Waco May 4, Johnson Co. May 14 and Sarpy Co., May 15. In Wichita Co., E. Bluebirds nested successfully in five houses. The only Townsend's Solitaire of the period was at Midland Apr. 5-15 (TSJ). Golden-crowned Kinglets remained at Ft. Worth until May 5 Ruby-crowned Kinglets were still present in Lubbock in late May. Sprague's Pipits were discovered at Oklahoma City Apr. 4 (BCa). Cedar Waxwings were mostly absent in late winter and only a few flocks were noted in April. Six Phainopeplas were counted near El Paso May 4. Loggerhead Shrikes were present in Lancaster, Miami & Linn Cos. in good numbers. At Ft. Worth a count of 71 Shrikes May 4 was the highest one day count in ten years.

VIREOS—Kerr Co., Tex. is the place to see Black-capped Vireos. On Apr. 7 along FM 479 between Ingram and Harper the Muellers saw 15 of this normally elusive species. On Apr. 27 Bob & Judy Mason's yard in Ingram was visited by at least a dozen Black-capped Vireos. This species was also common at Meridian State Park in Bosque Co., Tex. and was sighted at Ft. Worth May 4, Parker Co. Tex, May 19 (PA, MB), Tom Green Co., Apr. 28-May 4.

Bell's Vireos have not been listed as breeding birds in the "pineywoods" but this spring a small area near Nacogdoches was discovered to contain three or four pairs. Kansas observers noted that Bell's Vireos were very scarce this year. The spring count at Ft. Worth produced only one Bell's Vireo, the fewest in ten years. Yellow-throated Vireos were abundant in Kerr & Bosque Cos. but were reported at only two other localities: Lubbock, Apr. 25 (A&DB *et al.*) and Tulsa May 21 (E&KH). Philadelphia Vireos were sighted at nine localities, mostly in mid-May. Mid-April reports of this species are possibly mis-identifications.

WARBLERS—At El Paso the attraction of flowering mesquites for migrating warblers was emphasized when 19 species were recorded during the blooming period of these trees/shrubs. Not only the traditional western species were seen but also numerous eastern ones including some rarely recorded west of the 100th meridian. A Prothonotary Warbler at El Paso May 8 was out-of-range and out-of-habitat as were several at Lubbock Apr. 17, 24 & May 15. In Linn Co., Kans a bluebird box occupied by Prothonotary Warblers contained seven eggs May 19. A Worm-eating Warbler was noted in Johnson Co., Kans. May 16-17. Golden-winged Warblers appeared in good numbers east of the 98th meridian Apr. 29-May 17. Blue-winged Warblers were recorded in Osage Co., May 5 and Wichita Co. May 6. Tennessee Warblers were unusually abundant in the east but did not stray west. An amazing number of Nashville Warblers were seen throughout; they came early and stayed late. Virginia's Warblers at Lubbock May 4, 14 & 15 provided a new County record. Lucy's Warblers were seen at Vieja Ranch May 17 and El Paso May 4. Northern Parulas were noted in Sarpy Co., May 5, Douglas Co., Neb., May 12, Johnson Co., Kans., Apr. 15 & 26, Wichita Co., Tex., Apr. 13. An **Olive Warbler** was studied closely for about 30 minutes at El Paso May 4 (S&LS).

DENDROICA WARBLERS—Magnolia Warblers crossed the Region in good numbers May 11-27. One at Lubbock Apr. 21 was very early and another at Midland May 26 provided a new County record (DL, GP). A Black-throated Blue Warbler was seen at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Tex., May 12 (KSe). A Black-throated Gray Warbler at Lubbock May 4 provided a new County record (A&DB). The only Townsend's Warbler sighted was at El Paso May 4. Black-throated Green Warblers were noted in most areas May 4-26 but one appeared at Buffalo Lake Refuge Apr. 21 (KSe). Golden-cheeked Warblers arrived in the Kerrville area Mar. 9 and were still singing and conspicuous at the end of the period. A **Hermit Warbler** was sighted at El Paso May 4. A Cerulean Warbler was reported in Johnson Co., Kans., May 18 & 24. Blackburnian Warblers were sighted only in the e. half of the Region but were common there May 8-27. Yellow-throated Warblers were noted in Washington Co., Okla., Apr. 7, Tulsa Apr. 14 & 20, and Ft. Worth (no date given). Grace's Warbler was sighted at El Paso May 4. Chestnut-sided Warblers were present throughout the Region May 7-26 and provided a new County record at Lubbock May 14 & 18. Bay-breasted Warblers migrated along the e. edge of the Region Apr. 27-May 19, with a few straying as far west as Randall Co., May 26 (NE) and Sherman Apr. 27-May 4. Black-poll Warblers were common in the east Apr. 22-May 26 and were located as far west as Archer Co., Tex., May 4 (KZ) and Midland Apr. 25 & May 3. A Pine Warbler was observed in Osage Co. May 27. Prairie Warblers were sighted in Cleveland Co., Apr. 26 and Lancaster Co., May 19. A Palm Warbler at Buffalo L. Refuge May 19 constituted a third record there (KSe). One was also noted in Lancaster Co., May 18.

MORE WARBLERS—An Ovenbird at Midland Apr. 25-27 provided the first record since 1966. Other sightings were in Washington Co., Okla., May 5 and Johnson Co., Kans., May 14. Northern Waterthrushes traversed the Region Apr. 10-May 16. A Connecticut Warbler was noted in Sarpy Co., May 17. A late Mourning Warbler was seen at Hagerman Refuge June 2. A Hooded Warbler at Denison, Tex., Apr. 27 provided a new County record (KWH). This species was also recorded at Amarillo, Apr. 30, Lubbock, May 10, Johnson Co., Apr. 30 and Washington Co., Okla., May 5. Canada Warblers moved across the e. half of the Region in good numbers May 12-25.

ICTERIDS AND TANAGERS—Bobolinks were seen in Creek Co., Okla. in mid-May and near Nacogdoches May 2. Great-tailed Grackles were sighted in Nowata Co., Okla., May 4 (JCu). At Lubbock this species was common and was assumed to be nesting. Bronzed Cowbirds were noted at Kerrville Apr. 13. A W. Tanager was seen at Fort Worth May 4. Scarlet Tanagers were recorded at Fort Davis May 14, Buffalo Lake N.W.R., May 12, Tyler May 11, Tulsa May 12 and Sarpy Co., May 5.

FRINGILLIDS—On May 1, 50 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were counted at Nacogdoches and the species was common throughout the region during the period. New County records of this species were provided at Howard Co., May 11 and Tom Green Co., Apr.

28. Black-headed Grosbeaks at Waco Apr. 14, 22 & 29 constituted a new County record, and another was sighted at Salt Plains N.W.R., Okla., May 11. A ♀ Indigo Bunting which wintered in Lubbock left Apr. 26 when the spring migrants passed through. A **Lazuli Bunting** in Archer Co., May 4 constituted a new County record (KZ). An unmistakable ♂ **Varied Bunting** at a Lubbock feeder Apr. 21 also provided a new locality record (DSt *et al.*) A single Evening Grosbeak was observed at Dodge City May 11-16.

Pine Siskins were abundant throughout the Region in April with many observers reporting flocks comprising 200 or more birds. Red Crossbills remained in Lancaster Co. until May 15. Green-tailed Towhees were abundant in w. Texas and were recorded as far east as Wichita Co., Apr. 27-May 27 and Dallas, Apr. 6. Lark Buntings were sighted in Platte Co., Neb., May 19 (EBen) and Alfalfa Co., Okla., May 11. Singing ♂ Henslow's Sparrows were observed in Washington Co., Okla., Apr. 26, May 1 & 6. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow collected near Nacogdoches May 3 was the first e. Texas specimen. Cassin's Sparrows were sighted at Hagerman Refuge May 4-23, Alfalfa Co., May 11, Tarrant Co., Apr. 30. A Gray-headed Junco in Wichita Co., Apr. 8 provided a new County record. A **Black-chinned Sparrow** visited an Amarillo back yard Apr. 26 (RR *et al.*) A **Golden-crowned Sparrow** present Apr. 3-22 in a back yard in College Station, Tex. was photographed by Al Barr. Dozens of birders viewed this individual from less than 12 feet. This was only the second record of the species from east of the 100th meridian in Texas, the first being two specimens collected in 1883.



Golden-crowned Sparrow, College Station, Texas, Apr. 3-22, 1974 / Al Barr

CONTRIBUTORS—Nebraska: Esther Bennett, Lancaster & Brown Cos.; Melba Wigg, Sarpy & Douglas Cos.; Kansas: Ivan L. Boyd, Baldwin; Joan Challans, Dodge City; Earl McHugh, Miami & Lin Cos.; Mary Louise Myers, Johnson Co. Oklahoma: Ella Delap, Washington, Osage & Rogers Cos.; Polly Keating, Tulsa; Robert M. LaVal, s.e. counties; Zella Moorman, Payne Co.; Janet McGee & Jack D. Tyler, s.w. counties; John G. Newell, Oklahoma City; Phil Norton, Sequoyah N.W.R.; Grace E. Ray, Cleveland & McClain Cos. Texas: Peggy Acord, Panhandle; Keith A. Arnold, Brazos, Washington & Burleson Cos.; Lillian M. Brown, McLennan Co.; Pansy Espy & Jody Miller, Jeff Davis & Presidio Cos.; Charles Dean Fisher, e.

were seen at the Austin sewage ponds Apr. 20 (JA & JGD), a rare occurrence at this latitude. A good offshore migration of Fulvous Tree Ducks was reported from Padre Island Nat'l Seashore in late April (REM *et al.*). Peak count from the upper coast was 100+ near Anahuac N.W.R., May 9 (VLE & JW).

HAWKS—An imm. **Swallow-tailed Kite** was present at Austin sewage ponds Apr. 28-May 5 (RAR *et al.*). Several good flights of Mississippi Kites were recorded at Santa Ana Ref., one of the largest totaling around 250 birds Apr. 20 (WAS). A ♀ **Everglade Kite** was identified 6 mi. s. of Port Lavaca, Calhoun Co., in late afternoon of Apr. 26 as it hovered over open fields. It was well described by observers with previous acquaintance with the species (HRH & JAL). Broad-winged Hawk migration was "about average" at Santa Ana Ref., Mar. 19 through April, with an estimated total of about 15,000 birds (WAS). Hawks streamed northward over Corpus Christi during the morning and at least part of the afternoon of Mar. 28. Movement was on a wide front and apparently represented a major flight (CMc, *vide* KM). On the following day, one observer counted 1600+ Broad-wingeds moving northward over Houston (JH).

S.A.

James Tucker recorded a remarkable flight which he encountered while driving from Pre-mont to Alice on U.S. 281, between 9 and 10 a.m., Apr. 3. "As far as I could see in any direction from the highway for 30 miles, Broad-winged Hawks were leaving the mesquite and rising to join small groups of six to ten birds. Each of the smaller groups grew and joined with others—all swirling in a counter-clockwise direction. All groups and individuals gravitated toward even larger kettles, creating finally a gigantic vortex of thousands of Broad-wings. It was impossible to estimate their number realistically, but I would guess there were close to 75,000 hawks in the air, not counting those which had not yet left the trees, and there was an increasing stream of birds upward from the trees to the limit of vision. One of the largest kettles—a sight resembling a slowly twisting tornado of birds with the diameter narrowing at the bottom and trailing off to the west—must have numbered well over 15,000 hawks and was growing in proportions as additional birds rose to join. Beyond Alice there was a stretch of 25 miles more where kettles ranging from 50 to 300 Broad-wingeds each were visible at all times." (JAT). Curiously, there is no clue as to further progress of this great flight.

At Houston, 10,000+ Broad-wings were observed from one locality between 3:30 and 4:30 p.m., Apr. 11 (MA). A late migrating Osprey was seen at Anahuac Ref., May 21 (RWC).

CRANES, RAILS—Forty-seven adult and two young Whooping Cranes arrived at Aransas Ref. last fall. One young remained unaccounted for after Nov.

13. A major portion of the wintering flock, 35 birds, migrated northward between the censuses of Apr. 3 and 9. From Apr. 23 into June, a single adult remained on the refuge. This bird "appears to be in good health and is a strong flyer" (EFJ). A Yellow Rail was seen at Anahuac Ref., May 2, a late date (RWC).

SHOREBIRDS—Four early Am. Golden Plovers were seen at Falcon Dam Mar. 1 (AW). A high count of 150+ was made in the Houston area Mar. 9 (FC & DHH), and good counts were reported through the remainder of March. A **Surfbird** was discovered on the beach two mi. n. of the boundary of Padre Island N.S., Apr. 13 (REM); photographs were obtained (BAF & REM). One previous observation of this species in Texas, also substantiated by photographs, was made at the Port Aransas jetty Apr. 1-12, 1951. An estimated



Surfbird, Padre Island N.S., Second substantiated record for Texas. Apr. 13, 1974 / Richard E. McCament

1000 Ruddy Turnstones were seen on N. Padre I., Apr. 27 (KM). Red Knots were abundant (2000+) in the same area Apr. 22-24 (KM, DNW). Rice fields near Anahuac furnished these high counts on May 9: 400+ Pectoral Sandpipers, 800+ White-rumped Sandpipers, and 2000+ Dunlins (VLE & JW). Early White-rumped Sandpipers were seen at Galveston Mar. 31 (RDa & PJ). **Baird's Sandpipers**, rare on the upper coast, were seen at Galveston Apr. 25 (VLE & TBF). Stilt Sandpipers reached a peak of 500 at Anahuac Ref. at mid-May (RWC). An estimated 100+ Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found in w. Harris County May 5 (FC). Hudsonian Godwits were reported in possibly unprecedented numbers Apr. 27-May 9; they were attracted to flooded rice fields such as in the Anahuac area where a single party high count of 318 was made May 2 (TBF & DHH). Flooded rice fields in s. Calhoun County held multitudes of shorebirds May 2-5 following heavy rains; an enthusiastic comment regarding godwits was "thousands in full breeding plumage" (KM). A single Hudsonian Godwit on May 2 gave Santa Ana Ref. a new bird for the record book (WAS). A **Northern Phalarope** and 200+ Wilson's were at San Antonio's Mitchell L., May 11 (AH & GBH).

JAEGERS, TERNS—Three jaegers, probably one Pomarine and two Parasitic, were harassing gulls in the wake of a shrimp boat 200-300 yards offshore, midway

between Galveston and Sabine Pass Mar. 17 (VLE). A **Roseate Tern** was seen on Bolivar flats Apr. 27 (REC, HN *et al.*). A **Black Tern** was seen at Galveston Mar. 27 (VLE & TBF), apparently the earliest on record for the upper coast. Peak numbers, 9000 est., were an Anahuac Ref. in mid-May (RWC).

GOATSUCKERS, HUMMINGBIRDS—Whippoor-wills were seen in San Antonio Mar. 20-21 (AH & GBH; JAM). Several **Lesser Nighthawks** were reported at San Luis Pass May 7-18. Various observers described the species satisfactorily but no calls were heard. Two **Buff-bellied Hummingbirds** were observed at Rockport May 2 (EA, CJ & AS).

COTINGAS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS—A **Rose-throated Becard** was seen regularly in headquarters area at Santa Ana Ref. for two weeks in early March (WAS). Two very early E. Kingbirds were seen near Sabine Pass Mar. 16 (VLE). By mid-April this species was in good numbers along the upper coastline and remained thus well into May. A sizeable northward movement was observed on N. Padre I., May 23 (BAF, REM). A **Gray Kingbird** was found on w. Galveston I., Apr. 24 (PDB & HGS). Stevenson's photographs are believed to be the first such evidence for this species in Texas. *Empidonax* flycatchers and E. Wood Pewees were reported in far fewer numbers than usual. Earliest **Purple Martins** reported were at Alice Jan. 24 (*vide* TSW), Austin Jan. 28 (RAR), and San Antonio Jan. 31 (RDu).



Gray Kingbird, Galveston, I., Texas, Apr. 24, 1974. First substantiated record for Texas | H.G. Stevenson

CATBIRDS, THRUSHES, KINGLETS—Counts of Gray Catbirds and thrush species generally were down from recent years. Highest reported count of the catbird was 35 at High I. May 2 (TBF & DHH). A **Clay-colored Robin** remained at Santa Ana-Ref. throughout the season (WAS). A **Varied Thrush** was

present in mid-town Corpus Christi Apr. 4-6, visiting a bird bath in late afternoon (*vide* KM). April 16 was a very good day for the Wood Thrush on the upper coast; 50 at High I. and 25 in the Sabine Pass area (FC, VLE & JW). A **Hermit Thrush** at High I. May 2 was thought to be latest ever (TBF). Highest counts for **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, 35, and **Veery**, 25, were made at San Luis Pass on the afternoon of May 7 (TBF *et al.*). A record late **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at San Luis Pass May 11-12 (TBF *et al.*).

VIREOS, WARBLERS—Most abundant migrant in the High I. area Mar. 27 was the **Yellow-throated Vireo**, 80+ (DD, VLE & TBF). A **Yellow-green Vireo** was reported on Bolivar Pen., Apr. 26 (BK, HN *et al.*). Some warbler species peak counts, by order of date, follow. On Mar. 16, 53 **Black-and-white** (in salt cedars along the beach), 96 **N. Parula**, and 12 **Palm Warblers** (in one grove of trees at Sabine Pass) were seen between Sabine Pass and Bolivar (DD, VLE & TBF). On Mar. 27, 19 **Prothonotary**, 60 **Worm-eating**, and 50 **Hooded Warblers** were at High I. (VLE & TBF). High counts were scarce in April, but early May was more productive; again, only a few species were reported abundant on any one day. May 5 was good for 55 **Tennessee** and 23 **Black-throated Green Warblers** in the vicinity of Goose Island S.P. (CWE), and for 25 **Yellow Warblers** at Galveston (TBF & EM). May 6 was notable for **Magnolia** (see under **Magnolia Warbler**), 50 **Chestnut-sided** (MA & AF), 50 **Bay-breasted Warblers** (VLE), and 80 **Am. Redstarts** (MA & AF) at High I. May 10 featured 20 **Blackburnian Warblers** at High I. (MJ & PJ), a season high, and a notable six at Beeville (AHG). May 11 was **Canada Warbler** day with 34+ at High I. (VLE). A **Worm-eating Warbler** was recorded at Santa Ana Ref., Apr. 21 (WAS). An **Olive-backed Warbler** was seen about 50 mi. n. of Raymondville, Willacy Co., Apr. 24 (ELC *et al.*). The **Magnolia** apparently was the most abundant warbler observed on the upper coast this season. Peak period was May 6-12, with single party counts of 100 on May 6, 11 & 12. A late male was present at the ranger station on Padre Island N.S., June 1-2 (REM). A total of 12 **Cape May Warblers** were recorded at High I. and Galveston Apr. 13-May 7. Single birds were reported at Corpus Christi in mid-April (HK, *vide* KM), the **Flour Bluff** section of Corpus Christi May 10 (REM), and Port Aransas May 1 (LT, *vide* KM). One was photographed at *San Antonio* Apr. 21 (AH & GBH). Peak movement of the once scarce **Blackpoll Warbler** was noted on the upper coast Apr. 25-May 2. High counts were 15 each at High I. Apr. 30 (VLE, AF & NMS) and May 2 (TBF & DHH). A few individuals were seen at Corpus Christi (KM) and Rockport (CJ) during this period. Ovenbirds were apparently in much smaller numbers than usual. A **Connecticut Warbler** was reported at San Antonio Apr. 25 (AH). A **Mourning Warbler** was in salt cedars at San Luis Pass May 15 (TBF, EM & DHH). **MacGillivray's Warbler** was seen at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., Apr. 27 (ELC *et al.*), and two were at San Antonio May 9 (AH).

BOBOLINKS, ORIOLES, TANAGERS—Two ♂♂ **Bobolinks** were seen at Austin May 10 (RAR). Orchard Orioles were common on the upper coast Apr. 16 but

otherwise did not attract attention. Following a thunderstorm, passerine migrants swarmed over N. Padre I. and Mustang I. on the morning of May 1. Details are lacking, but an estimated 5000 N. Orioles were reported (LT, *vide* KM). A **Western Tanager** was killed by a car at San Juan, Hidalgo Co., Apr. 7 (CMA). One was seen at San Luis Pass May 7 (FC, HE, VLE & TBF). Nineteen Scarlet Tanagers at High I. and Bolivar Apr. 27 (MF & TBF) was a season high.

FRINGILLIDS—Grosbeaks and buntings were below normal. A **Lazuli Bunting** was seen in San Antonio Apr. 25 (AH). Hundreds of Dickcissels were attracted to a wheat field near Falfurrias Apr. 21 (OCB). A pair of late Pine Siskins was at Austin May 6 (FSW). A pair of **Olive Sparrows** was seen and heard singing near Rockport Mar. 23 and 27; one was seen at this site about 10 years ago (DNW). An unusually heavy movement of Lark Buntings occurred in the Beeville area Mar. 18-Apr. 11, with 1000 and 500, respectively, on the extreme dates (JJJ). Three late Lincoln Sparrows were at San Luis Pass May 11 (VLE *et al.*).

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NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION

/ Wayne Neily

This was a "normal" spring phenologically, with mean temperatures for April and May at Whitehorse (33° and 43° F. resp.) being both within 1.5° of the 33-year average. It seemed late only by comparison with last year's early one. April was extremely dry, but May compensated by being the wettest on record at Whitehorse (1.08 inches). This varied over the Region, however: Haines Junction had a more normal 0.34" of precipitation in May, with almost none in April. There were no major windstorms reported, so this Region's first spring migration report should represent a fairly typical season.

Coverage of the settled parts of the region was much better this time. To minimize repetition of initials, unless otherwise indicated, observers are: in the Dawson-Dempster Highway-Klondike Hwy. areas, Karel Sars; in the Beaver Creek area, Maria and Heidi Ledergerber; in the Whitehorse area, Dave Mossop; in the Teslin area, Dan and Patricia Denison; and in the Kluane area (including Haines Junction), the regional editor.

LOONS, GREBES—Two Com. Loons at Schwatka L. near Whitehorse May 11 were the earliest reported (D&SH, WN); Arctic and Red-throated Loons both appeared within 4 days, the latter May 13 near Dawson, and the former on May 15 in sloughs along the Klondike and Dawson Highways. The grebes were a little earlier, the Horned arriving in the Whitehorse area May 7 (MHo), and the Red-necked near Dawson on May 9. By May 15, both were well-distributed around the Territory.

WATERFOWL—Most waterfowl arrived in mid-April, with the peak being from Apr. 24-May 8 for swans, geese, and "puddle ducks," and about a week later for most diving ducks. Many seemed to follow the two great SE-NW valleys across the region, the Shakwak and Tintina Trenches, with the Whitehorse Trough Yukon R. as another major route.

First swans (sp.) were two seen Apr. 14 heading S (!) over the Yukon R. at Whitehorse (HH). Lake Laberge being still frozen, they may have been returning to the usual (but unreported) staging area in the Tagish-Atlin region. These, as well as some over the Faro area (Tintina Trench) Apr. 20 (LW), were probably Whistling Swans, but the first posidents of that species were in the Shakwak Trench (Haines Junction-Kluane area) Apr. 24 (DM, WS). The largest flock reported was 41 over Whitehorse May 3 (D&SH). Trumpeter Swans (two) appeared at the s. end of Kluane L. Apr. 16 (CH), and in the Whitehorse area Apr. 18.

Canada Geese first appeared in the Shakwak Trench, with the earliest sightings in the reverse order to what might be expected: Beaver Creek, Apr. 22 (20-40), Kluane L., Apr. 24 (300+) (CH); and Haines Junction area Apr. 25 (32+). Arrival in the Whitehorse area was Apr. 27 (RB) and geese (sp.) were seen high over Faro on the same day (LW). They reached the Dawson area by May 2, and most were gone from the s. Yukon by mid-May. The only White-fronted Goose reported was in a slough along the Klondike Hwy. May 15, while passed through the Whitehorse area (DN) and were heard overhead in a snowstorm at Haines Junction about 10 p.m. May 3.

Mallards were first seen at Kluane L. Apr. 17 (DM, WN), at Whitehorse Apr. 18, at Dawson Apr. 24, and at Beaver Creek Apr. 26. An early Pintail was at Whitehorse Apr. 6, another at Kathleen R. Apr. 14, but most arrived from Apr. 25 on, with a peak of 164, at Whitehorse Apr. 28 (WN). Green-winged Teal and Am Wigeon were first seen Apr. 26 in the Kluane region (DM, WS), Apr. 27 in the Whitehorse area (RB), Apr. 28 near Beaver Creek, and Apr. 30 near Dawson. Blue-winged Teal weren't seen until June 2 (5 ♂♂ at Kluane L., JSm). Northern Shovelers appeared in the Kluane region Apr. 26 (DM, WS), but weren't seen elsewhere

before May 5 (Whitehorse) and 6 (Dawson area). Most reports of this species were from s.w. Yukon, with four staying until May 22 at Dezadeash L. (GY). K. Sars notes that most ducks had disappeared from the Klondike Hwy. sloughs by May 25, and that they were occurring in numbers along the Dempster Hwy. by then.

A ♂ Redhead was seen at Gravel L. on the Dawson Hwy. May 15 (KS), well outside its normal range, as were up to 30 Ring-necked Ducks seen in that area May 13-29 (KS). Most Canvasbacks were on the Yukon R. route, with a peak on the first day, Apr. 28, at Whitehorse (D&SH, WN). Greater Scaup were seen at Whitehorse Apr. 27 (20) (D&SH) and were common from that date in the south; they arrived in the Dawson area May 13. Lesser Scaup were identified only in the south: Whitehorse Apr. 18, and mile 1037, Alaska Hwy. May 8. An early Com. Goldeneye was at Whitehorse but the main arrival was Apr. 26, in both the Kluane (DM,WS) and Dawson areas. Two pair of Barrow's Goldeneye appeared in the Aishihik R. (n.e. of Haines Jct.) Apr. 27 (WN,VR), and from that date they were commoner than the "Common," at least in the s.w. part of the Region. Bufflehead appeared in the Kluane region Apr. 26, Whitehorse, Apr. 27 (RB), with a peak of 19 in the former area May 15 (AN). Oldsquaw migrate sparingly through this Region; a pair in a pond at mile 1047, Alaska Hwy. (AN) and 56 males, 1 female were at Gravel L. May 15; some were still in lakes along the Klondike Hwy. May 29. Harlequin Ducks were seen at Teslin May 8, Whitehorse May 11 (WN), and the Dawson area May 15 & 23. The only White-winged Scoter seen was a male along the Klondike Hwy. Most Surf Scoters were along the Yukon River system, seen from May 10 (at Whitehorse); a pair at Sulphur L. (mi. 1038, Alaska Hwy.) May 15 (AN) may have come from rafts of 4300+ massed at Haines, Alaska May 5 (WN,LR). An early Com. Merganser was at Whitehorse Apr. 6, but most appeared after May 1, when three were seen in the Klondike R. (near Dawson). Red-breasted Mergansers were first seen May 5 at Whitehorse, and, like their congeners, were all in the Yukon R. system.

HAWKS, FALCONS—Goshawks remained fairly common in the south, and reappeared in the Dawson area May 9, while Sharp-shinned Hawks were in the s. Kluane region Apr. 26 (DM,WS), and n.w. of Kluane L. by May 8 (AN). Of seven Red-tailed Hawk reports, four were of the race *harlani*; the first one, Apr. 21, s. of Haines Jct., and two others were of the regular race *calurus*. A Swainson's Hawk was seen May 6 near Dawson, and the first Rough-legged Hawk was Apr. 12, in the Whitehorse area. Golden and Bald Eagles, which both returned in March (see last report), were common throughout the reporting area and period. The peak for both appeared to be the first week in May. The 22 Golden Eagle reports were exceeded (for birds of prey) only by the 29 for the Marsh Hawk, following its arrival at Haines Jct. Apr. 9 (WN,MHu) and at Dawson Apr. 11 (BF). There were three reports of Gyrfalcon, in the s. Yukon Apr. 12-May 31, (SH&CD;JSm), and Peregrine Falcons were seen May 4 (1), Haines Jct., and May 17 (2), Dempster Hwy. (KS,BF). The only Merlin noted

was May 7 at Teslin, but Am. Kestrels were widespread after Apr. 18, when one was seen at Whitehorse (DM,D&SH).

GROUSE—Blue Grouse, at their n. limit, were hooting continually on May 5 at Rainy Hollow, B.C. (mile 50-53, Haines Rd.) (WN,LR). The number was impossible to determine, but as many as six could sometimes be heard from one point. Spruce Grouse were conspicuous by their absence, and Ruffed Grouse nearly so, with only one report (Beaver Creek, Apr. 6). Willow Ptarmigan were setting up territories in the Chilkat Pass in April (DM), and they and Rock Ptarmigan were reported throughout the period from the Kluane region (JSm) and Dempster Hwy. Two Sharp-tailed Grouse, seen on the Dawson Hwy. Apr. 30, were the first seen by the reporter in 10 months' observation of the area

CRANES, SHOREBIRDS—Sandhill Cranes seem to have passed through almost without stopping this year. They were seen high over Faro Apr. 27 (LW), in the Whitehorse area Apr. 28 (BF), and over Haines Jct May 8. Semipalmated Plover arrived first in the Whitehorse area May 7 (MHo), Killdeer there Apr. 28, and Am. Golden Plover (5) at Kluane L. (Destruction Bay) May 12 (LF). The only Ruddy Turnstone reported was June 5 at mile 66, Dempster Hwy. Common Snipe appeared Apr. 24, in the Kluane region, (DM,WS), and in the Dawson area May 1, after which they were common. Whimbrels were seen in late May in the area s.w. of Kluane L. (Slims R. valley and Burwash Uplands—JSm), as were Upland Sandpipers (Bear Creek Summit & Burwash Uplands—JSm). Spotted Sandpipers were noted May 23 along the Klondike Hwy., and were ubiquitous along shorelines thereafter. May 10 was arrival day for Solitary Sandpipers in the Whitehorse and Dawson areas, but the first Wandering Tattler was not seen until June 5, on the Dempster Hwy. Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs showed up Apr. 27, in the Whitehorse area (RB), and the latter have been common since. The only other Greater Yellowlegs report is May 29, for the Klondike Hwy. Pectoral Sandpipers were seen in the Whitehorse area May 5 and at Kluane L. May 30 (WN,AN). The Kluane region produced the first Least Sandpipers and Long-billed Dowitchers on May 9 and May 14 respectively (DM), while the earliest Semipalmated Sandpipers were along the Klondike Hwy., May 15. Northern Phalaropes were seen in the Kluane L. area May 8 (WN,AN) and at Gravel L. May 15.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS—A Long-tailed Jaeger was seen May 17 from the Dempster Hwy. A sure sign of spring was the returning of Herring and Mew Gulls to the dumps and Yukon R. at Whitehorse and Dawson Apr. 28 (WN,DM,D&SH) and Apr. 29. They didn't reach the Kluane area until May 5 (SH,CD), suggesting that they enter the Region mainly via the Yukon R. system. Both have been common and ubiquitous since. Bonaparte's Gull arrived in Whitehorse May 5, along the Dempster Hwy. May 9, and at Beaver Creek May 12, indicating a similar pattern. Arctic Terns appeared at Teslin May 9, Gravel L. May 15, and were not reported in the Kluane area until May 23 (JSm), despite the occurrence of 15+ s. of the Chilkat Pass, in Alaska, May 5 (WN,LR).

OWLS—Great Horned Owls remained common in s w Yukon, although not reported elsewhere. Two Snowy Owls were reported; May 1 along the Dempster Hwy., and about the same time near Carcross (HW). Hawk Owls were moving through the south in the second and third weeks of April (earliest Apr. 9, mi. 956, Alaska Hwy.—WN) with a “peak” of 2–3+ N of Haines Jct. Apr. 17 (DM,WN). Dempster Hwy. sightings occurred Apr. 23 (KS,BF). Short-eared Owls returned Apr. 25 in the Whitehorse area, Apr. 29 in the Kluane region (DM), and May 4 near Dawson. A scarce Boreal Owl appeared n.w. of Whitehorse in early April (DN)

NIGHTHAWKS THROUGH WOODPECKERS—Common Nighthawks lagged as usual, first showing up June 9 along the Klondike Hwy., while a Rufous Hummingbird pushing its range limits was seen at Kluane (S end of Kluane L.) through the last week of May (F&JSi). A Belted Kingfisher was spotted at Whitehorse Apr. 25 (MT), but was otherwise missing. Common Flickers arrived in the Teslin area May 1, Haines Jct. May 4, Whitehorse May 7 (MHo), and Dawson May 10. A lone Hairy Woodpecker appeared at Haines Jct. Apr. 4, and one Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker also revealed itself at Beaver Creek Apr. 7

FLYCATCHERS, LARKS, SWALLOWS—Say’s Phoebe returned May 7 to Whitehorse (MHo) and spread from there, and an Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen May 28 & 30 on Sheep Mt., Kluane N.P. (JSm). Other flycatchers didn’t show until June. Ten Horned Larks at Haines Jct. Apr. 16 were the vanguard of flocks that could be seen along the highways until May 8. Violet-green Swallows appeared at Haines Jct. Apr. 26, followed by Tree Swallows at Whitehorse Apr. 28 (WN). Both showed peaks the first week of May, and the Tree Swallows got to Dawson ahead of the Violet-greens (May 4–May 13). First Bank Swallows were May 29 along the Klondike Hwy., Barn Swallows May 17 at Dezadeash L. (Kluane region) (GY), and Cliff Swallows May 8 at the Donjek R. (mi. 1133, Alaska Hwy.) (WN). The last-named were back in good numbers by May 27 at Haines Jct. (30+).

CORVIDS, CHICKADEES—Gray Jays were common throughout, and feeding young; Black-billed Magpies common from the Alaska Hwy., south, and Com. Ravens throughout. Black-capped and Boreal Chickadees were both reported only from the s. Yukon.

NUTHATCH, DIPPER, THRUSHES—The only Red-breasted Nuthatch was at Whitehorse Apr. 27, (RB). Dippers were seen Apr. 23 along the Dempster Hwy. (two at mi. 135, and two at mi. 4) (KS, BF), and apparently had wintered there. One was at Otter Falls (Aishihik R.) Apr. 27 (WN,VR). American Robins appeared in the Whitehorse area Apr. 15 (MHo), but were not common until after Apr. 28, from which date they were widespread and abundant, with a possible wave May 8–13. The Varied Thrush came back Apr. 30 in the Kluane region (DM,WS), May 4 in Whitehorse, and May 5 in Beaver Creek. The Hermit Thrush’s arrival, May 21 at Gravel L., preceded the first Swainson’s

Thrush report (Lower Kathleen L., Kluane N.P.) by 10 days. The Gray-cheeked Thrush straggled in June 2, in the Dawson area. A Mountain Bluebird, on the other hand, surprised everyone by arriving Apr. 5 at Haines Jct. (CH,JSi,JC), and it became common by Apr. 18. Dawson produced the only Wheatear June 3. One Townsend’s Solitaire was singing along the Dawson Hwy. Apr. 30, but no more were reported until late May.

KINGLETS THROUGH STARLING—Ruby-crowned Kinglets appeared, in Teslin Apr. 28, Whitehorse Apr. 29 (BF), and Haines Jct. May 1, but there were no reports from farther north. Water Pipits hit Whitehorse Apr. 27, n.w. of Haines Jct. Apr. 30 (IW,CK), showed slight peaks May 1&8, and were gone from the lowlands by May 15. Bohemian Waxwings first appeared, on the Dempster Hwy. (!) Apr. 14 (BF), and at Kluane Apr. 17 (F&JSi), and in the Beaver Creek area Apr. 27, and were common after that date. A N. Shrike was seen in the Kluane region Apr. 14 (DM), and the Chilkat Pass area about the same time (DM); they appeared at Dawson Apr. 25, and were apparently gone from the lowlands in the south by May 6. Starlings, perhaps still increasing their range, returned to Whitehorse by Apr. 28 (16 at dump—WN), and appeared at Haines Junction May 7 (DHu), and Dawson May 13. They were nesting at Dawson by May 28.

WARBLERS—Orange-crowned Warblers were back about the end of May at Kluane (JSm). Yellow Warblers, near Beaver Creek May 12 and along the Klondike Hwy. May 23, followed Yellow-rumped Warblers (Myrtle race) by about two weeks. The latter showed a classic migration pattern: Apr. 27, Teslin, Apr. 30, Haines Jct.; May 6, Beaver Creek; and May 8, Dawson Hwy. Blackpoll Warblers arrived about the end of May, at Kluane (JSm), and a N. Waterthrush May 21, along the Klondike Hwy. Wilson’s Warblers returned to Teslin May 9, but not elsewhere until the second half of May.

BLACKBIRDS—Red-winged Blackbirds appeared at Teslin May 5, and were as far north as Stewart Crossing by the end of the month. Rusty Blackbirds arrived May 3, at Whitehorse; reached Haines Jct. May 7, the Dawson Hwy. May 9, and have been common since. Brown-headed Cowbirds, probably extending their range, appeared at Dezadeash L. in mid-May (GY), and at Haines Jct. May 30.

FINCHES—An early flock of Purple Finches was at Whitehorse Apr. 13–16 (HH), but they were otherwise scarce. Pine Grosbeaks were seldom seen, but present in the Kluane N.P. (AN) and Dawson areas. Gray-crowned Rosy Finches arrived on the Haines Rd. Apr. 4 (DM), increasing to 50 by Apr. 8–12 (GY) at Dezadeash L. and disappearing from the lowlands by May 2. All records were from the Kluane region. Common Redpolls were flocking at Destruction Bay Apr. 5, but movements are difficult to detect in this species, as in the White-winged Crossbill, reported only May 28 & 30 from Sheep Mountain (JSm).

SPARROWS—Savannah Sparrows returned to Teslin May 2, and were common throughout by May 11. A week earlier was the Dark-eyed Junco, arriving at Teslin Apr. 26, near Dawson Apr. 27 (BF), and common by May 5. Tree Sparrows arrived at Teslin the same day, and at Whitehorse Apr. 27, but didn't get to Dawson until May 9. First Chipping Sparrow was at Whitehorse May 11, and White-crowned Sparrows returned Apr. 27, at Teslin, becoming common everywhere by May 15. The Golden-crowned Sparrow was at Teslin Apr. 28, Whitehorse May 11 (WN,DM), and gone to the alpine areas by May 15. Whitehorse got the first Fox Sparrow, on May 1 (BF); it reached Teslin by May 4, and Haines Jct. and Dawson Hwy. May 9. Lincoln's Sparrow appeared at Whitehorse May 4, and in the Dawson area May 29. Two stray Swamp Sparrows were reported from Dezadeash L. May 16, and a Song Sparrow, uncommon in the region, from Teslin May 3.

BUNTINGS—Apart from a few mixed with flocks of Snow Buntings, the first wave of Lapland Longspurs moved up the Shakwak Trench, by Haines Junction Apr. 2-4, about a week later than last year. This was followed by a hiatus until Apr. 21 when two were observed at Beaver Creek, except in the Dawson area where they remained along the roads from mid-March to Apr. 28. April 27 brought the second, larger, wave through, with a peak of 810+ counted in casual observations around Whitehorse Apr. 28. Last seen were at Dawson May 13. Smith's Longspurs, although not seen in the migratory flocks, were present on the Burwash Uplands May 25-26 (JSm). Snow Buntings moved through more-or-less continuously from mid-March to mid-May, with a peak Apr. 5-6, along the Alaska Hwy. w. of Whitehorse (WN).

OBSERVERS—Ron Butler, Jack Christiansen, Dan & Patricia Denison, Mrs. C. Dowding, Bob Frish, Lloyd Freese, Charles Hume, Dave Hackney, Sylvia Hackney, Helen Horback, Manfred Hoefs, Max Hubbard, Charles Krebs, Heidi Ledergerber, Maria Ledergerber, Dave Mossop, Arnold Nijssen, Dan Nowlan, Wayne Neily, Linda Reeves, Virginia Rovitsh, Frank & Josie Sias, James N.M. Smith, Karel Sars, William Sinclair, M. Taylor, Lorna Walmsley, Henry Wilkinson, Irene Wingate, Grace Yardley. —WAYNE P. NEILY, Haines Junction, Yukon, YOB ILO.

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/ Thomas H. Rogers

The spring period began with good reserves of moisture both in the soil and as very heavy snow pack in the mountains. April precipitation was above normal and temperatures were cool, with a few exceptions. Spokane and Missoula were rather dry with normal temperatures while Helena and Bozeman had mild conditions. A warming trend began late in the month but from about May 10-20 spring had a severe setback over nearly all the Region. Baker, Ore. averaged 12°F. below normal and some southern British Columbia



localities had the coldest May on record. Most of the month's moisture fell during this chilly period, as rain in the lower valleys and more snow in the mountains. By the end of the month temperatures had risen to about normal. However, the weather left its mark on the migration in at least some localities. Bozeman reported many early arrivals in April but the May stormy period grounded or displaced many birds. A similar situation was observed at Suttle L. in the mountains west of Sisters, Ore. About half the displacement reports were for the storm period, with the next highest number coming before May, one in May before the storm period and two, after it. Reporters at some other localities considered that the storm had delayed or prolonged the migration.

The outlook for summer looked excellent at the end of May, with vegetative growth abundant, water levels high and much snow yet in the mountains, and, barring floods, highly favorable feeding and nesting conditions seemed in store.

LOONS AND GREBES—Common Loon were migrating through beginning Mar. 30 at Pocatello. Single birds appeared at unusual localities: Salmon, Ida.; Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont., and Reardan, Wash., all in April. The Red-necked Grebe was noted only at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida. and at Newman L. and Reardan, Wash. A Horned Grebe near Baker was Ann Ward's first since 1956 in e. Oregon. A peak of 120 W. Grebes was noted on L. Lowell in the Nampa, Ida., area May 18. The peak at Malheur N.W.R. was 2440, up about 50 per cent over 1973. One at Ennis, Mont., Apr. 20 tied the early record there.

PELICANS THROUGH HERONS—White Pelicans were noted mostly in s. Idaho and c. Oregon. At Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., the peak of 1500 contrasted with 600 last year. The birds built up to 100 in May on Helena Valley Reservoir, where they do not breed. Double-crested Cormorants were reported at Helena and Three Forks, Mont., Malheur N.W.R. and

at Minidoka N.W.R. in s. Idaho where 150 nests were noted. A **Green Heron** at Pocatello May 5 was the third in two years there (RO). A **Snowy Egret** was observed at L. Helena May 5 (SM) and two **Black-crowned Night Herons** were there Apr. 20 (LB & GH). Eleven **White-faced Ibis** were seen along the Raft R. south of Minidoka, Ida. Apr. 29 and one adult was observed for a week in mid-May near Reardan, Wash. (TF, WH, JA *et al*) The species was reported breeding at Market L. in the Minidoka area, the first breeding record for the state (CHT). A high breeding population was reported at Malheur N.W.R.

WATERFOWL—Seven **Mute Swans** were seen again this year east of Bozeman (PDS). They are suspected of coming from Livingston. A like number was seen on the Snake R. near Baker, Ore. Mar. 10 (AS). Twenty-eight **Trumpeter Swans** wintered at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash. Three, two of which had been shot, were found dead in the area. The **White-fronted Goose** was reported only from the LaGrande, Ore. area. A single **Ross' Goose** was at Turnbull N.W.R. in April. Thirty-two **Snow Geese** stopped briefly near Baker. Mallard numbers were up at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash. but **Am. Wigeon** were down. The former species peaked at 1400 at Turnbull. A ♂ **Eur. Wigeon** was seen in the Spangle, Wash. vicinity Apr. 3 (WH). **American Wigeon** and **Ruddy Duck** numbers dropped from last year at McNary N.W.R. Probably 1000 of the latter were on Soap L., Grant Co., Wash. Apr. 13 and about the same number was the peak at Turnbull N.W.R. in late April. A single **White-winged Scoter** was reported at Coolin on Priest L. in n. Idaho May 30 and four were at Turnbull N.W.R. May 24. A pair of **Hooded Mergansers** was on the Jefferson R., Broadwater Co., Mont. Apr. 20. The species is unusual there. A **Red-breasted Merganser** at Salmon, Ida. was Roberts' first ever observation there. *Fifteen* were seen on Banks L., Grant Co., Wash. Apr. 13.

VULTURES AND HAWKS—**Turkey Vultures** were reported from ten localities, mostly in the western and southern part of the Region. **Goshawks** were seen at nest sites in May in the Bozeman area and a pair at Sunriver, Ore. was suspected of nesting. Very few **Sharp-shinned** and **Cooper's Hawks** were reported. A few of the latter were noted in the Spokane area and they were at nest sites in the Bozeman area in May. Two of the scarce **Ferruginous Hawk** appeared near Mansfield, Wash. Mar. 24 (early). The species was also seen in the Kennewick and Yakima, Wash. areas, near Baker and at Malheur N.W.R. **Incubating birds** were found in mid-April in the Pocatello area. Of seventeen nests found in that area along Little Lost R. none were active May 28, which has been the situation for the last three years, reason unknown. Some nesting activity by **Golden Eagles** was observed in c. Oregon but Jim Anderson, an eagle bander for years in the area, found many nests unsuccessful this year for unknown reasons. A **Bald Eagle** nest site was located at Suttle L. northwest of Sisters, Ore. The principal concentration of **Ospreys** was in n. Idaho, around Priest L. and the Chatcolet L.-St. Jo R. area. The **Prairie Falcon** was reported only in s.c. Montana, n.e. Oregon and c.

Washington. The only **Merlin** sightings were in the mountains of n.w. Montana and in s.c. Oregon.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS—**Sharp-tailed Grouse** were reported only in the Nampa, Ida. area and south of Creston, Wash. The **Sage Grouse** colony at the latter locality remained steady, with 30 males strutting Apr. 13. The species was noted at Salmon and Rupert, Ida. The **Turkey** was observed on Bozeman Pass east of Bozeman and at Salmon, where the birds were rare but increasing. Recently introduced **Ring-necked** and **Japanese Green Pheasants** were decreasing at Kootenai N.W.R. where habitat is marginal.

CRANES—By early May the breeding population of **Sandhill Cranes**, subspecies *tabida*, reached 600 at Grays L., Caribou and Bonneville Co., Ida. and over 50 nests were checked May 10. This is the largest known nesting concentration of the subspecies in North America. At Malheur N.W.R. the first chicks were off the nest May 4. Farther west migrants were moving through, with a lower than usual 600 near St. Andrews, Douglas Co., Wash. Apr. 13 and smaller numbers elsewhere.

SHOREBIRDS—A **Snowy Plover** was observed at Rupert, Ida. Apr. 11 and another at Malheur N.W.R. May 19. A **Ruddy Turnstone** at Malheur N.W.R. May 19 was the first ever there. Seventy-five **Long-billed Curlews** were counted Apr. 18 near Baker, Ore. A **Whimbrel** was positively identified at Summer L., Lake Co., Ore. Apr. 9&14 (JJ). The tiny colony of **Upland Sandpipers** at Newman L. junction east of Spokane was still holding on, with two birds seen in mid-May, the only ones reported for the Region. A **Red Knot** at Malheur N.W.R. May 19 was the third ever there. A very few **Dunlin** were observed in Washington. Singles were seen at Davenport, Reardan and St. Andrews and three were at Mabton. Three **Short-billed Dowitchers** were identified at Market L., Roberts, Ida. May 27 (MRC). Seven **Marbled Godwits** were sighted near Genesee, Ida. Apr. 28 (JWW). Two **Black-necked Stilt** appeared at Malheur N.W.R. Apr. 24.

GULLS AND TERNS—An ad. **Glaucous-winged Gull** appeared along the Columbia R. about ten mi. east of The Dalles, Ore. Apr. 5 (MRC). **California** and **Ring-billed Gull** hatching was occurring the second week of May, two weeks late, in the Pocatello area. **Franklin's Gull** appeared to continue its upswing in numbers at Malheur N.W.R., with over 1000 nests predicted. A very few **Bonaparte's Gulls** were seen in s. Idaho, e. Oregon and Washington and at Central Park east of Bozeman, Mont. The latter sighting was on a record early date, Apr. 20. About 35 pairs of **Caspian Terns** were nesting on an island in the Columbia R. north of Richland, Wash.

PIGEONS AND OWLS—Single **Band-tailed Pigeons** appeared at four localities. One was seen May 13 at Wizard Falls Fish Hatchery on the Metolius R. northwest of Sisters, Ore. Workers there said it had been there several days (JM). One was at Malheur N.W.R. May 18; this is only the eighth record there. One was

seen near Tower Mt. just southeast of Spokane May 21 and apparently furnishes the fourth record for the Spokane area (WH). At Pullman, Wash. one appeared in a city yard Apr. 8 (ROW).

A Flammulated Owl was studied at very short range at 6000 ft. in Cassia Co., Ida. May 21 (WS). Barn Owls, reported only at Rupert, Ida. appeared less common there. A Snowy Owl was still near Harrington, Wash. Apr. 13. One stayed even later at McNary N.W.R., where it had remained since Apr. 19 and was found oil-soaked from unknown causes May 29 and was taken to Pioneer Park, Walla Walla for cleaning and care. Two remained near Vernon, B.C. until May 5. In the Pullman-Moscow area at least nine were present, one remaining until May 19. Burrowing Owls were seen in several localities in e. Oregon and Washington and s. Idaho. At Rupert more nesting than usual was noted. The Great Gray Owl was again reported from the foothills south of Bozeman and single Saw-whet Owls were noted at Sunriver and Malheur N.W.R.

POOR-WILLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS—Single Poor-wills were seen in the Nampa area Apr. 28 & May 24, at Malheur N.W.R. May 28 and in Moses Coulee west of Coulee City, Wash. May 10. Twenty Vaux's Swifts over the cliffs along the s. fork of the Snake R. in s.e. Idaho Apr. 21, although not known previously to breed there, make this a strong possibility (CHT). Some 400-500 of the birds entered a chimney at Whitman College, Walla Walla May 19 (SMu & CS). A White-throated Swift at Asotin May 12 was Weber's first sighting in Asotin and Whitman Co., Wash. Black-chinned Hummingbirds showed up at several points in the extreme western part of the Region. They were seen repeatedly at Walla Walla and single birds were sighted at Yakima, "Tri-cities" (Pasco-Richland-Kennewick, Wash.) and Baker. A ♂ Rufous Hummingbird was seen near Livingston, Mont. in late May. They are rare there in spring (UC).

WOODPECKERS—Scant numbers of Lewis' Woodpeckers were reported from many localities, with Salmon, Ida. the only place noting them as common. For the second year one was seen near headquarters at Crater Lake N. P. during the spring. Williamson's Sapsucker was reported only from the Prineville, Ore. area and the White-headed Woodpecker only from that area, nearby Sunriver and in the Wenatchee area. The Black-backed Woodpecker was found in the Sunriver area and in last year's burn on the west edge of Spokane.

FLYCATCHERS—May 10 was a record early date for the E. Kingbird in Gallatin Co., Mont. The Ash-throated Flycatcher was noted only at Bend and Malheur N.W.R., Ore. A migrating concentration of Hammond's and Dusky Flycatchers was found at Davenport, Wash. May 25. In the open farm country of c. Washington patches of deciduous trees in towns and moist spots seem to act as oases for migrants. Several singing males and nesting pairs of Gray Flycatchers were again seen northwest of Yakima along Wenas Creek and in Hardy Canyon and the birds were found in

Klickitat Co. north of Goldendale, Wash. in the same area as last year. An Olive-sided Flycatcher appeared May 24 in the Tri-cities, an unusual locality (EM)

LARKS AND SWALLOWS—A Horned Lark nest with three eggs was found Apr. 13 near Ringold, Wash. Most species of swallows at Malheur N.W.R. were up to a week early and at Three Forks, Mont. the Rough-winged set a record early date of Apr. 20. Three Barn Swallows were at Prineville, Ore. on the surprising date of Mar. 23, the same arrival as Violet-greens. The former species posted an early arrival date, Apr. 22 at Charlo, Mont. and in Gallatin Co., Mont., Apr. 18. Most species were nesting before the end of the spring period.

JAYS THROUGH CREEPERS—A Blue Jay remained for two hours in a deciduous grove about five mi. northwest of Pocatello Apr. 7 before flying off west (CHT). A Steller's Jay nest with young was discovered at Sunriver, Ore. May 31 and young Black-billed Magpies in the nest were found there the last week of May. Young of the latter were just out of the nest at Yakima May 25. A Com. Raven nest atop a tower at Yakima Firing Range contained six young Apr. 20. A pair of Mountain Chickadees nesting in a birdhouse near Spokane had young several days old May 31. The Common Bushtit was noted at Bend, Ore. Apr. 11. Two White-breasted Nuthatches were still at Kamiak Butte, Whitman Co., Wash. Apr. 13 and single sightings were made Apr. 21 near Swan Valley on the South Fork of the Snake R. and May 29 on Scout Mt. near Pocatello. They are rare in these areas. A Red-breasted Nuthatch was feeding a well-fledged young near Coeur d'Alene Apr. 28. A Brown Creeper was sighted on two dates in May at Malheur N.W.R., where it is listed as rare.

DIPPERS THROUGH THRUSHES—Dippers went almost unobserved. In the Yakima area the high, muddy Tieton and Naches Rivers were given as the reason for their absence. The Winter Wren was found on Kamiak Butte, Apr. 24, near Sunriver May 2 and sang regularly along a stream on Tower Mt near Spokane during April and May.

A Mockingbird showed up at Rupert, Ida. May 19 (WS). A Gray Catbird finally appeared at Vernon, B C May 31, about two weeks late and the species had not been observed yet at Baker. One at Salmon, Ida May 30 furnished a rare sighting. The earliest Sage Thrasher observation was at Malheur N.W.R. Mar. 29, about normal. Two Varied Thrushes stayed from about Mar 31 to Apr. 7 near Spring Hill north of Bozeman. This is only the second record of the species for that area (P, *vide* CVD). Hermit Thrushes were migrating Apr. 2, when one was seen at Pocatello, until the end of the period. Up to six were found at the cemetery in Davenport May 18. Mountain Bluebird sightings much outnumbered those for the Western and their numbers looked fairly good. A group of at least 11 Townsend's Solitaires was found feeding in juniper on the M S U campus in Bozeman.

PIPITS THROUGH WARBLERS—Water Pipits were detected moving into the Region in very small numbers in s. Idaho and e. Oregon and Washington

The earliest sighting was of four near Springfield, Ida. Mar. 9. The Starling success story included an account of the birds moving into a colony of old Rough-winged Swallow holes at Pocatello. Fifteen nests there averaged 6-7 young per nest.

There was no dearth of warblers, including the Blue-listed Yellow, which seemed to be having no problems. A **Black-and-white Warbler** was heard singing at Helena May 16 (PM). Virginia's Warbler was recorded at Rupert and a **Magnolia Warbler** observed at close range at Helena May 24 was a rare find (PM). A **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was sifted out of an outstanding warbler movement in the Davenport, Wash. cemetery May 18 and was examined again next day (WH & JA). Two days earlier cold snowy weather grounded a massive group of warblers at Suttle L. northwest of Sisters, Ore., with 20 Townsend's and 50 **Hermit Warblers** the more interesting ones (JM). A ♂ **Blackpoll Warbler** was carefully identified at close range in Bozeman May 19. This is the first record for anywhere near there (DQ & MQ). Another male was positively identified at Malheur N.W.R. May 27-29 and constitutes the second record for the refuge and the state (JF). The N. Waterthrush was first seen at Bozeman May 27 and was not reported elsewhere.

HOUSE SPARROWS AND BLACKBIRDS—A large winter die-off of House Sparrows left the population low at Pocatello. Coccidiosis was suspected. Bobolinks arrived at Malheur N.W.R. May 13, at Central Park east of Bozeman May 24, at Charlo, Mont., where they seem to be increasing, May 23, and at Rigby, Ida. May 31. They were not noted elsewhere. A concentration of migrating Yellow-headed Blackbirds numbering at least 500 was seen at ponds in the Four Lakes area, Spokane Co. Apr. 27. March 31 was a record early date for the species when a male appeared at Three Forks, Mont. An **Orchard Oriole** visited a feeder in Walla Walla Apr. 30 and perhaps the same bird was seen along a nearby stream May 24-27 (CM, JM & SMu). A **Common Grackle** appeared Apr. 15 along the Columbia R. at Umatilla, Ore. (MRC).

FINCHES—Evening Grosbeak numbers built up during April and peaked in May in good numbers. Most localities experienced their decline or disappearance by the end of May but the birds were still in Bozeman then and were common yet at Missoula, Pocatello and in the Nampa area. A flock of about 30 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches frequenting the cliffs high above Park L., Grant Co., Wash. Apr. 13 were extremely late for this elevation (JA). A mixed flock of this species and **Black Rosy Finches** was seen in the Gallatin Valley south of Bozeman May 21 (ETH & RAH). About 50 of the former were seen at the 8000 ft. level at Bannock Pass southeast of Salmon, Ida. May 23. The birds were abundant from 6500 ft. up at Crater Lake N. P. as receding snow left bare ground. Very few Red Crossbill reports were received, these mostly at Pullman, Wash. where they were plentiful and in the Spokane area, where some nested nearby, bringing in their families. Three birds at Lavington, B.C. May 7 completed the picture. Amazingly, White-winged Crossbills featured nearly as many reports. Two were still at Kamiak Butte north of Pullman Apr. 13 and a small group lingered in the cemetery at Bozeman at least to May 9, a late date.

SPARROWS—Single ♂ Lark Buntings were found north of Bozeman May 17 and south up the Gallatin Canyon about May 18 and the species was reported at Rupert, Ida. May 22 (WS). The scarce Grasshopper Sparrow was reported only near Pocatello and at Turnbull N.W.R. Clay-colored Sparrows were on the breeding grounds east of Manhattan, Mont. on the record early date of May 10. White-crowned Sparrow numbers were large, particularly in the w. part of the Region. At Malheur N.W.R. 300 were recorded Apr. 26 and "huge numbers" were reported for Prineville. At Sunriver 761 were banded, much above last year's number but only 16 Golden-crowned Sparrows, usually running 10 per cent of the White-crowned, were banded (GM). The species was noted at several other localities in e Oregon and Washington. A White-throated Sparrow, Ann Ward's first ever at Baker, Ore., was present May 23 and a very early Fox Sparrow was there Feb. 28. Two breeding territories of Lincoln's Sparrow were noted at Suttle L. northwest of Sisters, Ore. The only Lapland Longspurs reported were two near Creston, Wash. Apr. 12. Four Snow Buntings were seen Mar. 24 near Mansfield, Wash.

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MOUNTAIN WEST

/ Hugh E. Kingery

Where did all the Pine Siskins come from? Startling numbers drew attention over much of the region, constituting the most striking feature of the spring. In a fairly dull migration, Colorado and Utah each picked up



two new species for their lists. A Sora and a Dipper visited urban yards in Fort Collins, Colo., and Cheyenne. Sometimes repetition rather than uniqueness intrigues: a Yellow-throated Warbler (Colorado's sixth or seventh) showed up this spring in the *same tree* as one (he?) did in 1972; a Gray-cheeked Thrush perished in the same picture window where one died last year; and a unique hummingbird returned to its feeder territory of 1973.

Warm, dry, windy weather marked the spring, along with observers complaining about a dearth of birds, although the number of species mounted quite high. Denver had .06 inches of moisture in May—2 per cent of the normal 2.64 inches; and Grand Junction had .01 inches in May. Ligon recommended that Colorado's Wet Mts. acquire a more realistic name. Perhaps the lack of storms, except for the one May 19 which dumped snow on n. Utah and w. Wyoming, encouraged the migrants to fly on rather than stop. Thrushes, king-

lets, and warblers arrived at their mountain breeding grounds without attracting attention as migrants on the plains. Observers noted few shorebirds, not many swallows, few warblers, yet that huge influx of Pine Siskins.

PELICANS, CORMORANTS—Spring usage by White Pelicans at Stillwater N.W.R., Nev., dropped from 250 birds to 150. Other high counts included 75 at Las Vegas and 60 near Loveland, Colo., in mid-April. The Barr L., Colo., colony had attracted 200 Double-crested Cormorants by Apr. 14, while single birds made rare appearances at Grand Junction Apr. 28-May 10 and Zion May 18.

HERONS, IBIS—Great Blue Herons returned to a heronry at Grand Junction abandoned when Interstate 70 thundered in; it now contains at least 8 active nests. Green Herons erupted in e. Colorado, with 9 records, plus one at Sheridan, Wyo., all from Apr. 27 on. Colorado had its thirteenth Cattle Egret, May 4 at Denver. Snowy Egrets and Black-crowned Night Herons established a new heronry at Grand Junction, a mile from a former site. At Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo., the night herons abandoned a big heronry, perhaps owing to low water. Colorado had unusual numbers of White-faced Ibis, including 40 at Pueblo Apr. 6 and 40 at Grand Junction May 10; and mountain records at Evergreen and R.M.N.P. Reno had 14 on Apr. 27, apparently a new county record, but numbers dropped at the nesting site near Fallon, Nev., and Castledale, Utah did not see the usual numbers.



Little Blue Heron, Fruita, Colo, Apr. 27, 1974 / David Galinat

GEESE, DUCKS—Canada Geese nest throughout the Region, and within 100 miles of Gunnison, Colo., in all directions, making amazing the status of a goose on May 9 as only the second record in 25 years. McCoy, Colo., had a late and unusual Snow Goose May 24.

Reclamation and flood control have changed the surface of the Mountain West, creating water habitats where none existed. Almost all Mountain West water and shorebird records mentioned in this column (except for the Great Salt Lake refuges, Utah L., and Pyramid L., Nev.) come from artificial impoundments. We have reports this spring of new Pueblo Res., Colo., which began filling in February; by mid-March it had reached its minimum pool, 33,000 acre-feet. If it ever fills to capacity, it will hold 340,000 acre-feet and stretch 9 miles long. Since Mar. 15, 1974, Truan has found 150

species of birds there, while assisting in an apparently successful battle to protect a good wildlife area from army basic training maneuvers. A new reservoir at Vernon, Utah, attracted loons and grebes, and the three-year old state wildlife area at Desert L., near Price, Utah, had 19,000 ducks use it this winter.

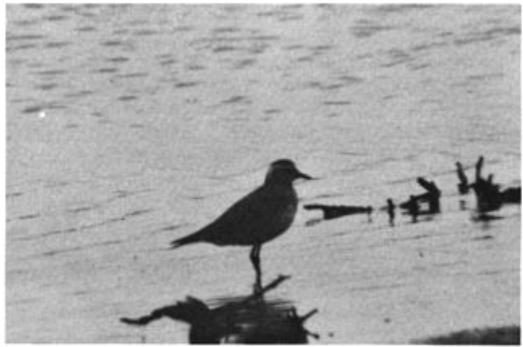
HAWKS, EAGLES—Mississippi Kites have nested along the Arkansas R. at La Junta, Colo., for several years. This spring observers found the first nest on the Cimarron R., Baca Co., Colo., on May 11 (a site expected for nesting). Goshawk observations remained stable, but Sharp-shinned increased from 11 to 18 and Cooper's doubled from 9 to 22, including a nest at Zion. Most Rough-legged Hawks left in March, although Durango counted an extremely late one May 18. Zion's regular Black Hawk, as last year, came in Apr. 5, found no mate, and left Apr. 12. Golden Eagles hatched young by the middle of May. One nest site from last year lies unused, probably the victim of bulldozing park development in the canyon below Two Buttes Res., Colo. Late Bald Eagles occurred at Dubois, Wyo., Durango and McCoy, Colo. in mid-May. Osprey observations remained stable, with possible nesting birds at Sheridan and Durango.

GROUSE, QUAIL, TURKEYS—On Apr. 20 D.F.O., A.A.S., and others conducted a survey of Douglas, Elbert, and Kiowa Cos., Colo., for Sharp-tailed Grouse; 76 observers found, in 1000 square miles, 41 birds (*Infra*, Douglas Co. survey). Strutting Sage Grouse included 65 near Buffalo, Wyo., and 100 in Jackson Co., Colo. The Baca Co. observers saw no Scaled Quail this spring, although birds were counted in Colorado Springs, Pueblo, and Bonny Res., Colo. Turkeys seem to thrive at Sheridan, Boulder, Colo., and Baca Co.

CRANES, RAILS—The Sandhill Cranes had departed Monte Vista by May 1, and Grand Junction hosted a flock of 150 Apr. 17. A Sora visited a yard in Fort Collins, Colo., feeding under honeysuckle and lilac bushes, miles from normal habitat. Reno observers found 3 Com. Gallinules May 5 on the Carson R.

PLOVERS—Colorado had healthy counts of Semipalmated Plover on the plains, plus mountain records of 12 at Antero Res., Park Co., Colo., May 5, and Durango's second record Apr. 15. Snowy Plovers had arrived at their nesting grounds at Stillwater N.W.R. by mid-April, with similar numbers to last year. Singles stopped at Las Vegas Apr. 9 and Grand Junction May 3, and birds arrived at Farmington Bay W.M.A., Utah, by May 11. At Stillwater, Killdeer were more common than last year, with young out of eggs by May 15. Single Am. Golden Plovers stopped near Cope, Colo., May 12, and Fruita, Colo., Apr. 11, the latter photographed, for rare, inland, spring records. Black-bellied Plovers seemed more common than usual this spring; Stillwater had 150 on Apr. 15 and Farmington Bay had 15 on Apr. 29. Durango picked up its first record, a bird which stayed Apr. 15-25. Late strays occurred at Cheyenne May 25 and Ordway, Colo., May 27.

SANDPIPERS—A Las Vegas pasture "appeared to be wall-to-wall snipe," with at least 50 counted each



Am. Golden Plover, Mock Mesa, Colo. Apr. 11, 1974. / David Galinat

day Apr. 6-10. Long-billed Curlews seemed scarce, but a pair had a chick by May 19 in Baca Co., suggesting that they were simply less conspicuous while nesting early. Unusual shorebirds were scarce — two Whimbrels at Denver May 11, five Upland Sandpipers for a first Baca Co. record May 10, rare Solitary Sandpipers at Dubois and Eureka, Nev., the first W. Sandpiper at Evergreen, Colo., May 5, and a Hudsonian Godwit feeding with dowitchers at Pueblo May 25-26. The greater snowpack, melting early, filled the reservoirs and left little shorebird habitat. High counts included 3000 Long-billed Dowitchers at Stillwater in mid-May, 100 Marbled Godwits at Grand Junction and 27 at Vernon, Utah, 14 Sanderlings at Sheridan, and 2000 Am. Avocets and several thousand Wilson's Phalaropes at Stillwater. Las Vegas had a **Red Phalarope** May 18, feeding with a small group of Wilson's Phalaropes in Las Vegas Wash in full breeding plumage, for the state's third record. Northern Phalaropes came in surprisingly strong, with 2000 May 11 at Farmington Bay, 32 at Fort Collins Apr. 24, and 20 at Cheyenne and 20 at Denver May 12, and Zion's first record of two on May 12.

GULLS, TERNS—The dark mantle of a Laughing Gull stood out among some Franklin's at Ordway, Colo., May 27 (JR), one of the few well-documented Colorado appearances for this seaside species. Bonaparte's Gulls must have scattered all over the Region this spring; 8 locales reported them. Zion picked up its first record of the Forster's Tern May 12, with 7 at Kolob Res., and a Com. Tern separated itself from the Forster's by both call and appearance at Provo, Utah Apr. 30. Colorado finally had its first record of the **Caspian Tern**, long overdue; for a half hour Griffiths and Reddall observed a fully plumaged adult sitting with California Gulls at Ordway, Colo. May 27.

DOVES, CUCKOOS, OWLS, SWIFTS—Spring counts turned up 450 Mourning Doves on Baca County's Cimarron R. May 11, and 432 at Colorado Springs May 12. The Douglas Co. survey counted only 197 on Apr. 20. Eureka, Nev., had wires-full, counting 100 per mile for many miles. The season's first Yellow-billed Cuckoo report came from Baca Co. May 11. Gunnison, Colorado's first Barn Owl turned up May 9, and Bonny Res. and Baca Co. had 2 observations.

Four locations reported Short-eared Owls—3 more than last year—and we lack definitive reports from the strongholds of Monte Vista and Bear R. Truan counted 44 Poorwills along a 15-mile stretch of road near Pueblo in May. Com. Nighthawks arrived early, with records May 10 from Baca Co. and May 12 at Colorado Springs, and May 21 at Dubois (the first May record there). Chimney Swifts became more common in e. Colorado each year, with reports in 1974 from Manzanola, Pueblo, Colorado Springs, Denver, and Boulder. A *Chaetura* swift which sounded like a Chimney Swift was seen at Fruita Apr. 25—Colorado's W. Slope has no records.

HUMMINGBIRDS—"So popular has feeding of hummingbirds in Springdale (Utah) became that the town recorded its first theft of a feeder; one was stolen from a gas station." A ♂ Black-chinned hovered for 5 minutes in a swarm of gnats at Las Vegas, picking them off as they came close. First Black-chinned young fledged at Zion May 19, the day before another there began building a nest. Unusual records of Costa's Hummingbird came with four birds at Zion Apr. 23 and one at Las Vegas Apr. 14. Las Vegas also had an Anna's Hummingbird May 22. First Broad-tailed north of Zion came to Denver Apr. 27 and to Evergreen Apr. 30. They arrived on May 15 at Tabernash, Colo., amid snow squalls. Last summer's mystery hummingbird returned to its Evergreen territory May 31—looking exactly as it did last year (see picture *Am. Birds* 27:900).

WOODPECKERS—Colorado Springs had a high count of Com. Flickers on its spring count — 106 on May 12, although they seemed scarce at Zion. Good counts of Red-headed Woodpeckers came from Pueblo, Baca Co., and Bonny Res., Colo., and Sheridan. Zion had its first lowland nesting record for Downy Woodpecker, and Evergreen had 13 observations, a high count. Ladder-backed Woodpeckers thrive, with 33 counted in Baca Co. May 12, compared to a previous high count of four in one day. Pueblo found them more common, with hopes for nesting, and Las Vegas had two pair, a notable number there.

FLYCATCHERS, LARKS, SWALLOWS—Most flycatchers arrived late, if they had arrived at all by the end of the period. Spring counts picked up 160 W. Kingbirds in Baca Co. May 11 and 73 in Colorado Springs May 12. At Fort Collins, an Apr. 20 flycatcher had all the field marks of a Scissor-tailed except the scissor tail feathers. Scissor-tailed were nest-building along the Cimarron R. May 11. Denver had an unusual three records of the E. Phoebe, and Pueblo's Black Phoebes had returned for the third year by Apr. 27. The Region's first specific report since the new A.O.U. Supplement of the Willow Flycatcher came from Denver's Red Rocks Park May 29 (WWB). An E. Wood Pewee May 20 at Longmont was identified in the hand by bander Collister. Although W. Wood Pewees arrived in the Region beginning Apr. 15 at Zion, Apr. 28 at Boulder and Denver, and Apr. 29 at Reno, numbers were still minimal even at the end of May. The Douglas Co. survey listed 470 Horned Larks, and Cheyenne's

King ranch estimated 10 per acre. The swallow migration occurred in muted numbers. Longmont reported a heavy migration May 11, with several species crowding the telephone wires for 2 blocks.

NUTHATCHES, DIPPERS, WRENS—Only a few localities enjoyed scattered Red-breasted Nuthatches. Dippers dipped in numbers around Evergreen, perhaps because of nesting failures occasioned by last year's floods. Perhaps they were merely lost—a Cheyenne observer found one Apr. 2 in his yard, 30 miles from a proper stream. House Wrens seemed numerous, or else arrived early, at Colorado Springs, judging by the 85 on the spring count compared to an average of 30. By May 12 a Cañon Wren in Baca Co. brooded eggs inside an abandoned homestead building, using an abandoned E. Phoebe nest.

THRUSHES—Colorado Springs counted 436 Am Robins on its spring count. Observers complained of a scarcity of thrushes, with Hermit Thrushes missed particularly; however they had reached their breeding grounds in Zion and Summit Co., Colo., by late May, apparently in normal numbers. At Las Vegas, where the Hermit normally outnumbers the others, a flock of 50 included no Hermits, 47 Swainson's, one **Gray-cheeked** (second Nevada record), and two **Veeries** (fourth Nevada record). At Fort Collins May 13, an adult **Gray-cheeked Thrush** perished in the same picture window against which the state's first specimen crashed on May 15, 1973 (*Am. Birds* 28:85). The Douglas Co. survey turned up 226 Mountain Bluebirds Apr 20, while R.M.N.P.'s spring count numbered 57, compared with 41 last year.

KINGLETS, WAXWINGS, SHRIKES, STARLINGS—Like the thrushes, Ruby-crowned Kinglets did not attract attention in migration, but had commenced staking territories on the mountain breeding grounds by late May. Bohemian Waxwings made inexplicable appearances in April at Dubois, Cheyenne, Colorado Springs, and Pueblo, and at Zion May 25. Cedar Waxwings scattered in small flocks with 100 in Denver Apr. 14, 40 at Ogden, Utah May 11-26, and 20 at Reno Apr. 1. Loggerhead Shrike reports increased, with many reports from e. Colorado including three young crowded on a tamarisk branch on the Cimarron R. May 11 and six young banded at Pueblo May 21. The Douglas Co. survey tallied 38. Zion notes the unavoidable Starling nesting now in prime riparian habitat. Query: is their prevalence related to Zion's dearth of woodpeckers?

VIREOS—Las Vegas had an infrequent visitor, the Hutton's Vireo, May 19. On May 10 Colorado had an unmistakable first record of the **White-eyed Vireo** (for the odyssey of another report, see *Am. Birds* 26:790 and 27:96), with every field mark on a slowly-moving bird sometimes so close the binoculars would not focus (DS, PJ, HEK, *et al.*). Park Service personnel made an effort to find the Gray Vireo at Zion, discovering seven in three locations May 15-18. The survey suggests that this vireo, unobserved for over a year at Zion, occurs widely in unvisited, inhospitable nesting habitat. The

breeding zone overlaps with that of the Solitary Vireo, both at Zion and Grand Junction, and probably throughout the Great Basin.

WARBLERS—Observers uniformly complained about the scarcity of warblers, and indeed the high count at Denver occurred early—156 birds of 7 species Apr 28—but that exceeded the previous years' high at that spot by 20 per cent. On May 11, Spring Count day on the plains, one observer found a smashing total of five warblers of four species. The few warblers which deigned to drop in didn't stay. As a whole, the Region did record impressive variety—31 species—with several observations of almost every semi-rare species. Multiple observations included 3 Colorado Prothonotaries; eight Colorado Tennessees and one in Salt Lake City, seven Colorado N. Parulas, including Durango's first, three Colorado Blackburnians and one in Sheridan, 15 Chestnut-sided in Colorado; one **Bay-breasted** collected near Vernal, Utah, probably Utah's first (*vide* PA), and four Colorado records; Nevada's second record of the **Hooded** May 5-6 at Las Vegas, plus three Colorado birds. Notable rarities included Golden-winged in Baca Co. May 12 and Evergreen May 27; a nesting Lucy's in Grand Gulch Primitive Area, Utah (RWS); a Yellow-throated Apr. 30-May 1 in the *same tree* as one in 1972; another Pueblo Kentucky Warbler seen briefly May 9; and a May 12 Canada Warbler at Colorado Springs, well documented.

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS—N. Orioles had begun nesting by the end of May in several localities, with the best count 175 on the Cimarron R. May 11. On May 19, the seven Baltimore-forms outnumbered a mere three Bullock's-type at Bonny Res., Colo. Com. Grackles exercised their dominant traits, ousting finches from a nest tree and eating young robins in Denver, increasing in Dubois, R.M.N.P., Durango, and numbering 24 for a high Western Slope count in Moffat and Routt Cos., Colo. May 4. Oddly none were observed at Evergreen, where last year they outnumbered the Brewer's Blackbirds. Foothills observers in Evergreen and R.M.N.P. suspect the Brown-headed Cowbird of increasing its numbers. So did the observers at Dubois, especially May 15 when 250 "descended on the feeder, to our horror and fear. It turned out most were tourists, but the residue seen daily is plenty—up to 20." Few W. Tanagers stuck around on the plains for observation; they apparently moved quickly into the mountains. A **Summer Tanager** at St. George, Utah, constituted a new state record; observer Robert Whitmore will publish details elsewhere (*vide* JG).

FINCHES—A rare Colorado Cardinal appeared in Boulder May 25-26. Colorado had so many records of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks that they can only be considered regular migrants along the Piedmont plains and foothills. Three further west in Glenwood Springs May 20-21 are mentionable. The fifth Colorado record of the Painted Bunting was a female May 10 in Baca Co. Evening Grosbeaks abounded throughout Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah, with notable counts of 165 at Zion Apr 20 and 262 on the Colorado Springs count May 12. Las Vegas found six Purple Finches May 19 feeding on

fruiting mulberry bushes. Late flocks of Com. Redpolls occurred at Boulder the first half of April and Sheridan Apr. 7.

PINE SISKINS—Pine Siskins thronged the Mountain West cities. Estimating flocks of small birds scattered among city trees is haphazard at best. If Denver had only 10 per block (a reasonable estimate according to HEK) in its older, treed, portions, it had at least 100,000. Locations reporting hundreds included Evergreen, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Glenwood Springs (May 13-23), Longmont (May 21-24 only), Durango (May 1-18), Salt Lake City, Castledale, and Sheridan Yet Boulder, having had large flocks in February, reported them gone, Dubois had only a few in May, Cheyenne had only its usual modest numbers, and Baca Co. had one-third fewer than last year. One does wonder how to estimate numbers during an invasion of this nature.

CROSSBILLS, TOWHEES, SPARROWS—Red Crossbills persist in small numbers. Colorado Springs counted 160 Rufous-sided Towhees on the spring count. Lark Buntings thronged the e. plains, with counts like 1620 in Baca Co. May 10-12, 1500 at Sheridan May 19, and 673 at Colorado Springs May 12. Fruita, Colo., had 2 Rufous-crowned Sparrows May 5, adding to the few records in Mesa Co. Observers at Sheridan carefully described a Sage Sparrow Apr. 28, and at Dubois one came May 16. Last Dark-eyed Junco records came from Cheyenne May 2, R.M.N.P. May 11, and Denver May 12. Zion observers discovered a Black-chinned Sparrow in a canyon not usually explored, and note the species' restriction to a particular habitat. Twelve spring Harris' Sparrows almost exceeded the winter's count. Two at Dubois until May 23 had wintered. Reno observers noted a good migration of White-crowned Sparrows Apr. 20-May 20, i.e., more birds in migration than during the winter. Fox Sparrows had reached their nesting grounds on the Blue and Yampa Rivers, Colo., by May 4.

[My thanks to all contributors, who with a cooperative spirit, mailed their reports, informative as usual, by June 1. This enabled me to make a very special trip East during June.]

ABBREVIATIONS—A.A.S.: Aiken Audubon Society; D.F.O.: Denver Field Ornithologists, R.M.N.P.: Rocky Mountain National Park.

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SOUTHWEST REGION

/ Steve Alden and Scott Mills

Extremely dry conditions prevailed during April and May in marked contrast to the cool, wet spring of last year. Without exception observers commented on the lack of rainfall. High winds and above normal temperatures, a record 110°F in Phoenix May 26, were reported from many areas. Because of these conditions areas with permanent water and urban areas received a concentration of migrants while highland localities reported fewer than usual numbers. Large numbers of *Empidonax* flycatchers (Hammond's/ Dusky), Black-headed Grosbeaks, Western Tanagers, Townsend's and Wilson's Warblers were noted moving through the southern desert.

The drought conditions in s. Arizona resulted in a virtually non-existent spring wildflower crop. This failure may explain, at least in part, the delayed breeding of



desert species such as Curve-billed Thrasher, Cactus Wren and Gambel's Quail. Verdins had poor nesting success and Rufous-winged Sparrows are in greatly reduced numbers or absent. However cavity nesters and doves enjoyed normal or better than average breeding success.

Highlighting the report period were sightings of vagrant wood warblers, continued reports of Indigo Buntings and a White Wagtail.

CORMORANTS, HERONS—In contrast to last year's ten pairs of Double-crested Cormorants, 100 pairs were nesting at Elephant Butte Marsh, Sierra Co., N. Mex., Apr. 27 (CH). Six more were sighted at Picacho Res., Pinal Co., Ariz., Apr. 4 (GM). Two possible Olivaceous Cormorants were sighted at Elephant Butte Marsh Apr. 27 (CH). Additional nesting species at Elephant Butte Apr. 27 included 200 pairs of Black-crowned Night Herons and numerous Snowy Egrets. A Little Blue Heron was seen at Bosque del Apache N.W.R., N. Mex., Apr. 29 & May 3 (GZ). American Bitterns were seen at Picacho Res., Apr. 4 (GM), Phoenix May 3 (SD,HL,JW), and another, possibly nesting, at Kirtland, San Juan Co., N. Mex., Apr. 19-June 1 (CS).

WATERFOWL—At Bitter Lake N.W.R., Chaves Co., N. Mex., a single White-fronted Goose lingered until May 11 while five Snow Geese remained until May 16 (DB). Sightings of Black-bellied Tree Ducks include one at Ruthrauff Pond, Tucson, Apr. 24 (GM) and another at Canoa Ranch, Pima Co., Ariz., May 29 (MHa).

RAPTORS—Turkey Vultures were seen in sharply reduced numbers throughout the region; a decline that is inexplicable at present. Two **White-tailed Kites** were reported w. of Deming, Luna Co., N. Mex., Apr. 28 (AC). Mississippi Kites were sighted over Bosque Ref., May 21-31 (GZ). Several late Rough-legged Hawk reports were received, one 30 mi. n. of Douglas, Cochise Co., Ariz., Apr. 4 (W&SS), another (same individual)? in the same area Apr. 26 (MR *et al.*), and a third at Bitter Lake Ref., May 11 (DB *et al.*). Nesting Bald Eagles were sighted again this year on the Salt River, Gila Co., Ariz., Apr. 2 (BJ) and an immature was seen near Benson, Cochise Co., Ariz., May 19 (C&MB). Fourteen Golden Eagle sightings were received from various localities. A Caracara was observed at Carefree, Maricopa Co., Ariz., May 25 (FT) and constitutes the fifth county record. Eight Ospreys were seen during the period but only one Peregrine Falcon was reported.

QUAILS, CRANES—Gambel's Quail populations in s. Arizona appeared to be normal but covets were composed of adult birds with few young. Failure of the winter rains has apparently resulted in delayed or failed breeding. Scaled Quail were visiting feeders above their normal elevation in Portal, Cochise Co., Ariz. (W&SS *et al.*). A flight of 8 Sandhill Cranes was seen over the Avra Valley, Pima Co., Ariz., Apr. 24 (SMi, SA).

SHOREBIRDS—Nine sightings totaling 19 Semipalmated Plovers were scattered throughout the region. A single Whimbrel was carefully described at Bitter Lake Ref., May 11 (DB *et al.*). Willets, fairly common migrants in the region, were reported in unusually large flocks. Sightings include: flocks of 38 and 75, Bosque Ref., Apr. 29 (GZ), 22 at Mormon L., Coconino Co., Ariz., May 9 (GM), 23 at Nogales, Ariz., May 29 (MH) and six sightings totaling 123 birds at Pipe Spring Nat'l Monument, Mohave Co., Ariz., Apr. 12-May 2 (RW). One Baird's Sandpiper was seen at Ina Ponds, Tucson, May 1 (HF), two Apr. 20 and two Apr. 28 at Pipe Spring

Nat'l Monument (RW) and ten at Bitter Lake Ref., May 11 (DB *et al.*). The first spring record for Maricopa Co. of Short-billed Dowitchers was two birds at Phoenix, Apr 22-26 (R&JW *et al.*) and another May 20 (JW) nearby. Sightings of Stilt Sandpipers included one at Tucumcari L., N. Mex., May 11 and six at the same locality May 12 (CH,ES). A single Marbled Godwit was seen at Phoenix Apr. 22 (R & JW) and 15 at Morgan L., San Juan Co., N. Mex., Apr. 23 (CS). Nogales, Ariz., produced a Sanderling Apr. 15 (FW) and a N. Phalarope was seen s. of Phoenix May 9 (ST).

GULLS, TERNS—Twenty-one Ring-billed Gulls were sighted at Picacho Res., Apr. 4 (GM) and seven Franklin's Gulls were counted on Mormon L., May 9 (GM, W&SS). An unusual **Least Tern** was sighted at the Ina Ponds, Tucson, May 2 (HF).

DOVES, ANIS, OWLS—An early White-winged Dove nest with one egg was found on the w. slope of the Tucson Mts., Pima Co., Ariz., Apr. 20 (SR). Both White-winged and Mourning Doves nesting on study sites in the Avra Valley had higher breeding success this spring than in previous years (SR). A Groove-billed Ani was observed on the Gila R. Indian Reservation boundary s. of Chandler, Maricopa Co., Ariz., May 12 (AR). A Long-eared Owl was reported from Phoenix on the late date of Apr. 22 (Kathy Ingram, *fide* JW) and young Long-eared Owls fledged from a nest w. of Oracle, Pinal Co., Ariz., Apr. 20 (Rich Glinksi).

NIGHTJARS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS—Four Buff-collared Nightjars were counted calling along the Rio Cucchujaqui, near Alamos, Sonora, Apr. 5 (SSp, DL). Reported arrival dates for the Com. Nighthawk were Pipe Spring Nat'l Monument, May 24 (RW) and Kirtland, New Mex., May 28 (CS). Earliest reported sightings for Lesser Nighthawks were Tucson, Apr. 26 (GM,AA); Pancho Villa S.P., Luna Co., N. Mex., Apr. 27 (BM) and Bosque Ref., Apr. 28 (GZ). An unusual record of an ad. ♂ Calliope Hummingbird was reported from Silver City, Grant Co., N. Mex., Apr. 9 (AZ). A ♀ White-eared Hummingbird was reported from South Fork of Cave Creek Canyon, Cochise Co., Ariz., May 17 (GM, W&SS) and a male was sighted near Portal, Cochise Co., May 18 (IH, W&SS).

FLYCATCHERS TO PARIDS—Western and Cassin's Kingbirds were reported in reduced numbers at Pipe Spring Nat'l Monument during the period but appeared in normal numbers elsewhere. The most incredible find of the period was an ad. ♂ **White Wagtail**, several mi. s.e. of the juncture of the Arizona, New Mexico and Sonoran borders in Sonora, Mex., Apr. 30 (GM, CM and Vince Roth). This sighting is the first mainland record of the species for Mexico. A mixed flock of 1000+ Barn, Cliff, Rough-winged and Tree Swallows was reported foraging over irrigated agricultural land near Vicam, Sonora, Mex., Apr. 5 (SSp, DL). Of particular interest was the breeding of Barn and Cliff Swallows in s. Arizona. Both species began breeding in late April and early May, respectively, as in previous years, despite the extended drought. Seven Clark's Nutcrackers were out of place in Madera Canyon, Santa Cruz Co., Ariz., May 3 (SSp, Wynn Brown). A

Mountain Chickadee was seen and heard north of Miller Peak, Huachuca Mts., Cochise Co., Ariz., May 9, 12 (CM). The status of chickadees in the Huachuca Mts. is unclear and all reports should be forwarded.

WRENS TO THRUSHES—Two Winter Wrens were sighted in Ramsey Canyon, Cochise Co., Apr. 15 (CM). Reports from throughout the region show increased numbers of Mockingbirds this spring. A Brown Thrasher lingered until Apr. 25 in Albuquerque (PB). Single Rufous-backed Robins were reported at Arivaipa Canyon, Pinal Co., Ariz., Apr. 11 (FW) and Cave Creek, Maricopa Co., until Apr. 14 (EJ).

VIREOS, WARBLERS—A **Philadelphia Vireo** was carefully identified in the vicinity of Portal, May 25 (W & SS). Black-and-white Warblers were seen as follows one at Madera Canyon May 16 (T.A.S.), one at Huachuca Canyon, Cochise Co., May 8 (DDa) and two reported in the Phoenix area May 22 (SD) and May 24 (RB). The fourth state record of **Worm-eating Warbler** was a single bird on the San Pedro R., near the Ariz Hwy. 90 crossing, Apr. 18 (DDa). A **Blue-winged Warbler** was reported at Ute L., Quay Co., N. Mex., May 12 (CH). A Tennessee Warbler at Cedar Crest, Bernalillo Co., N. Mex., May 2-3 (BM). On Apr. 6, Nashville Warblers were noted as the most abundant bird along the Rio Cucchujaqui, near Alamos, Sonora, Mex. (SSp,DL). Despite this abundance, observers in Arizona 500 mi. to the north reported only five sightings in Phoenix, Apr. 20-24, and May 15,22; and one at Kinsley Pond, Pima Co., Ariz., Apr. 26 (SM). Lucy's Warblers were observed in very large numbers along Sonoita Creek, Patagonia, Santa Cruz Co., Ariz., Apr. 13, 29 (SS, SM *et al.*). A N. Parula was seen at Portal May 30 (SH). An ad. ♂ **Cape May Warbler**, the second New Mexico state record, was identified n. of Cliff, Grant Co., May 4 (RF). A Black-throated Green Warbler at Phoenix May 15 (SD *et al.*) was the first spring record for Maricopa Co. Two **Ovenbirds** (possibly 4) were reported at Cave Creek Canyon, and near Portal May 26&29 (W&SS, RN *et al.*). Northern Waterthrushes were reported from Phoenix, Apr. 24 (ST, SMa), and Charleston dam site, San Pedro R., Ariz., May 11 (CM) but were absent from Cedar Crest, N. Mex., for the first time in several years (BM). Single **Kentucky Warblers** were reported as follows: one in the Winchester Mts., Cochise Co., May 5 (TP), in Huachuca Canyon May 8 (DDa), at Patagonia May 11 (DDa), at Portal May 4 (W & SS) and at Las Vegas, San Miguel Co., N. Mex., May 6 (WH). The four Arizona records total one more than all previous records for this species. The first state record for **Mourning Warbler** is that of a well documented male at Pipe Spring Nat'l Mon., May 31 (RW). Single Hooded Warblers were seen at Portal, May 6-7 (W & SS), Cherry Creek Canyon, Grant Co., N. Mex., May 29 (AZ, D & MZ) and at Cedar Crest, May 5 (BM). American Redstarts were reported as follows: one female at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum May 20 (GM), one female at Pipe Spring Nat'l Mon., May 22 (RW), and one (sex?) Patagonia May 8 (MT, JR, HD).

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS—Two records of the Baltimore race of the N. Oriole were received: one at Ft

Bowie Nat'l Hist. Site, Cochise Co., Ariz., Apr. 30 (MHo) and one at Cedar Crest May 14 (BM). An Orchard Oriole was sighted at Rattlesnake Springs, N. Mex., May 18 (MW). Western Tanagers were widely reported as abundant transients in lowland areas in Arizona during the period and were described as abundant moving through the desert near El Desemboque, Sonora, May 22 (SSp).

FRINGILLIDS—Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were sighted at Bitter Lake Ref., May 11 (DB *et al.*), near Portal since May 13 (IH), and at Sandia Park, Sandoval Co., N. Mex., May 7 (MHi). Male Indigo Buntings were widespread in the region. Single birds were seen at Portal, Apr. 22-May 11 (IH), Ramsey Canyon Apr. 26 (SR *et al.*), Cedar Crest May 8-23 (BM) and Seven Springs, Maricopa Co., May 2-11 (RN *et al.*). Adult ♂♂ Am. Goldfinches were reported at the Southwestern Research Station, Chiricahua Mts., Cochise Co., Apr. 26-29 (DL, GM *et al.*), Tombstone, Apr. 6-7 (DDa), and Bitter Lake Ref., May 11 (DB *et al.*). Observers in s.e. Arizona report Rufous-winged Sparrows absent or in greatly reduced numbers in their traditional breeding areas. A White-throated Sparrow remained at Portal until Apr. 20 (W&SS). Harris' Sparrows were observed at Phoenix Apr. 22 (ST) and at Silver Spring Ranch, N. Mex. (MWi). Two Swamp Sparrows were recorded in Phoenix May 16 (SMa, ST).

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ALASKA REGION

/ Daniel D. Gibson and G. Vernon Byrd

A winter of relatively little snow combined with a warm spring with no major weather fronts produced a migration with no concentrations of waterfowl or shorebirds in south central or interior Alaska. The birds were dispersed, and the result was an orderly-if unexciting migration on the mainland. Observers resident this spring on Buldir and Agattu islands in connection with a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service study of breeding Aleutian Canada Geese (*B. c. leucopareia*) [Buldir] and res-



toration project [Agattu] gathered much information on spring movements in the far western Aleutian Islands, an area from which there has been little information in the past at any season. Much correlative information on Asiatic migrants at the north end of the Bering Sea was gained in the first half of June and will be discussed in the coming Breeding Season report.

LOONS, GREBES—In the course of shipboard studies the length of the Aleutian Chain during April, a number of Yellow-billed Loons were seen, putting to rest the idea that the species is of casual occurrence in this part of the Region. Five winter-plumaged birds were noted between Tigalda and Akutan is., e. Aleutians, Apr. 5 (GVB & DDG); two were seen in outer Unalaska Bay, Unalaska I., Apr. 5; one was seen in Korovin Bay, Atka I., Apr. 12; one was seen at isolated Koniuji I., c. Aleutians, Apr. 13; and a breeding-plumaged individual was observed in outer Massacre Bay, Attu I., May 1 (GVB & DDG *et al.*). Western Grebes were last seen at Ketchikan May 2 (PM).

WATERFOWL—A **Bean Goose** was observed at Buldir I., w. Aleutians, May 16, 20, and 22 (GVB, CPD, & MHD), but could not be obtained. A subadult ♀ Bean Goose was collected at Amchitka I., May 26 (CMW; * to U.A.). A single ♂ "Common" Green-winged Teal observed Apr. 23-30 at Womans Bay, Kodiak I. (RM), was the first record for the Pacific coast of Alaska e. of the tip of the Alaska Peninsula. An ad. ♂ **Garganey** (*Anas querquedula*) collected at Buldir May 14 (CPD; * to U.A.) is the first specimen for North America. Another male and three females were present in the same area throughout the latter half of May (GVB, CPD, & MHD). A lone ♂ **Cinnamon Teal** was observed at Kake, Apr. 28 (CLE). This is the fourth year in the last five that this species has been found in s.c. or s.e. Alaska. European Wigeon were observed commonly in the w. Aleutians during the period. Maximum count was 14 birds at Attu I. in early May. Two males were

observed on Kodiak, Apr. 21 through the end of the period (RM, WED), and one male was observed with Am Wigeon at Kake, Apr. 14 (CLE). The species is a rare migrant e. of the Aleutians. Two ♂♂ **Com. Pochards** were observed at Adak I., May 13 until about May 23 (GWE). There were no records from other areas this spring. Up to two pairs of Ring-necked Ducks observed in the Kasilof area, May 16 through the end of the reporting period (MAM, GP, & RP), provided the first records of this bird in that area. Five birds were observed in the Mendenhall Glacier area, Juneau, May 14-31 (WPD), and a pair seen May 26 at mile 10 Copper River Hwy., e. of Cordova (PI), is the latest spring record there. Ring-neckeds are uncommon and occur primarily in interior Alaska. One ♂ Lesser Scaup was closely observed at the Kodiak waterfront, Mar. 30 (GVB, WED, DDG, & RM), and single males, probably involving two individuals, were seen there on May 9&11 (RM). Tufted Ducks were widely recorded in the c and w. Aleutians during the period. One adult male was seen at Adak at irregular intervals in April (GVB, CPD, MHD, & DDG), and one adult male was seen at Amchitka Apr. 29 (GVB 9 DDG). One male was observed at Murder Pt., Attu, from Apr. 19 through the end of that month, and the species arrived in numbers May 2, with 10 birds present May 3-5 (GVB, WB, DDG, & JLT). One female was noted at Buldir May 11, and a male was seen there May 31 (GVB *et al.*). A single male at Agattu I. on May 13 provided the only observation there (JLT). Up to three pairs of Barrow's Goldeneyes were observed at Unalaska I. in early April (RT). Eight to ten King Eiders in Orca Inlet, Prince William Sound, Apr. 24-May 5 (PI), included at least two adult males. The species is locally very rare. There was some late movement of White-winged and Surf scoters along the outer coast of the Copper River Delta, thousands per day moving west at the end of that period (PI). A ♀ Surf Scoter identified at Buldir May 22-30 (GVB, *et al.*) was a vagrant. Astonishing at the location, two ♀-plumaged Hooded Mergansers first observed at Murder Pt., Attu I., Mar. 28, were present through Apr. 21, on which date one was collected (JLT & CSC; * to U.A.); the remaining bird was present there through May 5. The three ♀-plumaged Smews at Adak (see Winter Season), identified in April as a female and two imm. males, were present until late April. None was reported from other areas

SHOREBIRDS—Regularly breeding species in these families were generally on time, although some were locally early. Asiatics were the highlights of the season in this group. The records were spectacular and may have been a result of experienced observers in the right places for the duration of the migration period rather than a result of an exceptional spring. A conclusion is difficult, if not impossible, to draw at this time. Be that as it may, between mid-May and the close of the reporting period, the following species were recorded in the w. Aleutians, at Agattu (JLT, CMW, & CSC) and/or at Buldir (GVB, CPD, & MHD) in connection with the Aleutian Canada Goose studies being conducted there: **Mongolian Plovers** at both islands (** to U.A.), the first Aleutian records of the species; **Rufous-necked Sandpipers** at both islands (* to U.A.);

Long-toed Stint at Buldir (* to U.A.); **Temminck's Stint** (*Calidris temminckii*), the first spring specimen for N. America, at Buldir (* to U.A.); **Greenshank** at Buldir, **Polynesian Tattlers** at Buldir (* to U.A.); **Com. Sandpipers** (*Tringa hypoleucos*) at both islands (* to U.A.); and **Terek Sandpipers** (*Xenus cinereus*) at both islands (* to U.A.). The first North American specimen of Terek Sandpiper was taken on the Alaska mainland coast in 1973; details are in press elsewhere. **Common Snipe** at Attu, Agattu, and Buldir proved to be, on collection (* to U.A.), *C. g. gallinago* from Asia. There are no previous Alaska records of this form.

A **White-rumped Sandpiper** carefully observed at Fairbanks, May 21 (DDG, BK, & TTW), was a second Interior record. A ♂ **Ruff** at Adak in late May (EAC, SC, & DLJ) was to prove to be the first of several seen in Alaska this spring, the rest after June 1. Wood Sandpipers were recorded in some numbers in the c. and w. Aleutians during the last half of May: up to 10 birds at Buldir (GVB *et al.*), one bird at Agattu (JLT), and two courting pairs at Adak (DDG & B.B.). A flock of 20 **Marbled Godwits** was observed at Kalsin Bay, Kodiak, May 5 (RM & NT). Thorough details are on file. There is no previous Kodiak record, and there are very few in the Region as a whole. A single **Far Eastern Curlew** (*Numenius madagascariensis*) was observed at Clam Lagoon, Adak, in late May (EAC, SC, & DLJ). There are three previous Adak records. Four Bristle-thighed Curlews were reported at Fritz Cove, Juneau area, May 16 (ESD); there are very few s.e. Alaska records of this species.

GULLS, TERNS—An ad. Slaty-backed Gull was observed at Buldir, May 27 (GVB & CPD). There are few other recent Aleutian records of this bird, although it is of regular occurrence on the Alaska side of the n. Bering Sea. Single Black-headed Gulls were observed at Agattu May 8 (CMW; * to U.A.) and May 15 (CSC, JLT, & CMW); at Buldir May 19&29 (GVB *et al.*); and at Adak on May 31 (DDG & B.B.). Aleutian Terns were first observed at Kodiak May 16 (RM), when 30 birds arrived; they were first reported at Cold Bay May 24 (RDJ); and the species was present on the observers' arrival at Adak May 30 (DDG & B.B.).

CUCKOOS, LARKS—A ♂ **Com. Cuckoo** (*Cuculus canorus*) was collected at Buldir, May 30 (GVB & MHD; * to U.A.). It is the fourth Aleutian and North American specimen, all taken since 1971. Three or four **Skylarks** were present at Attu I., Apr. 30 (JLT & CMW), and occasional birds were noted there through May 4. A flock of 8 birds was observed at Aga Cove, Agattu I., May 9, and two were collected (JLT & CMW, ** to U.A.). One or two birds were subsequently observed at widely scattered localities on Agattu through May 23. Up to four birds were seen almost daily, May 14-23, at Buldir I. (GVB, CPD, & MHD).

WAGTAILS, PIPITS—Up to two White Wagtails were observed May 14-18 at Buldir (GVB *et al.*), and single Yellow Wagtails, rare in the Aleutians, were recorded at Buldir May 17 (GVB; * to U.A.) and on May 24 and at Agattu May 20 (JLT). At least three **Red-throated Pipits** were observed at Buldir on May 30, and one male was collected (CPD; * to U.A.). There

is no previous record of this species in the Aleutian Islands.

ICTERIDS, FRINGILLIDS—A ♂ Red-winged Blackbird arrived at Potter Marsh, Anchorage, May 26 (DD & AS), the same date a single male was found there in 1973. The singing bird was present at least through the end of the reporting period (DDG & GEH, *et al.*). A singing ♂ Brewer's Blackbird was reported at Kake, May 21 (CLE & LE). There are at least two other sight records of this species in s.e. Alaska; the only specimen record for the Region is from arctic Alaska. A ♂ Brown-headed Cowbird was collected on the Chickamin River, May 11 (SOM; * to U.A.), and a pair was observed at Kake, May 22-25 (CLE & LE). Three Bramblings were observed at Aga Cove, Agattu I., May 9 (CSC, JLT, & CMW), and a winter-plumaged male was collected (* to U.A.). Although this distinctive species was specifically sought in other w. Alaska locations this spring, there were no further reports. A flock of 20-25 Purple Finches was observed at Auke Bay, Juneau area, Apr. 11 (ESD). This species may be more regular in s.e. Alaska than the very few records would indicate. A singing ♂ Savannah Sparrow was found in late May at Adak (DLJ *et al.*), in the same location as last year's bird. A few Chipping Sparrows were seen in interior Alaska as far west as Fairbanks this May (RSH & GFS, RJG). There was a substantial movement of

Golden-crowned Sparrows through the Interior this spring (m. ob.). The species is usually a rare transient. A pair of Smith's Longspurs was observed at Mt. Fairplay, n.e. of Tok, May 25 (RJG), in which area the species has been found in very small numbers in past years. Although most Alaska-breeding Smith's are to be found in the Brooks Range, there are several recently-discovered 'pockets' of these birds at other, more southerly, localities.

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NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION / John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls

April and May brought approximately average temperatures and rainfall to the Region after almost six months of considerably-above-average precipitation. The snow pack in the Cascades and in the mountain ranges to the east which contribute run-off to the Columbia River system were at near record levels as the report period ended.



LOONS, GREBES, PELAGICS, HERONS—Two Com. Loons were seen at Cottage Grove, Ore., Apr. 28 (AC, SG). Two individuals of this species were seen at Matheson L., Vancouver I., B.C., May 18, one sitting on a nest (VG); Common Loons nested at the same location last year. Hundreds of Arctic Loons were in the waters surrounding s. Vancouver I. through April, with a few individuals still present at the end of May (VG). Red-throated Loons were seen in small numbers in coastal areas of the s. portion of the Region through the third week of May. Two Red-necked Grebes at Yaquina Bay, Ore., May 26 (PR, *fide* FZ) were unusually late, as was the individual at Tillamook, Ore., May 12 (JG) and the Horned Grebe at Ocean Shores, Wash., May 26 (JM). Eared Grebes were to be found about s. Vancouver I., up to May 12 (VG). A W. Grebe at Fern Ridge Res. near Eugene, Ore., May 19 (LM) was a bit out of the ordinary, but matched last year's similar record.

A boat trip out of Westport, Wash., May 19 turned up 14 Black-footed Albatrosses, one N. Fulmar, 27 Pink-footed Shearwaters, four Flesh-footed Shearwaters, and up to 10,000 Sooty Shearwaters (TW *et al.*). A freshly-dead Short-tailed Shearwater was found on the beach at Westport, May 12; the specimen was forwarded to Point Reyes Bird Observatory (SJ, BT). Single Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were discovered at the mouth of the Columbia R. May 10 (HN), and — this one dead — at Ocean Shores May 20 (JM); over 200 individuals were seen on the boat trip from Westport, May 19 (TW *et al.*).

Green Herons were reported in six different w. Washington localities and at five different spots in w.

Oregon during the report period, which is a better-than-usual representation. A Great Egret was at Eugene, Apr. 6 (AC). Seven ad. Black-crowned Night Herons were found at Salem May 14 (JG), an immature was noted at Finley N.W.R. s. of Corvallis, Ore., May 26 (FZ), and another individual was discovered at Kalaloch, Wash., May 19 (CW, *fide* TW). An Am. Bittern was found repeatedly at Seattle Apr. 25-May 8 (SJ, EH, PM); the first at Finley N.W.R. was seen Apr. 16 (RR, *fide* FZ), where possibly two pairs were present during May (FZ); three individuals were found at Scappoose, Ore., May 18 (JG) and single birds were at Sauvie I., Apr. 20 (HN) and at Cottage Grove May 11 (AC, SG).

WATERFOWL — A lone Whistling Swan was at Finley N.W.R. Apr. 25 (FZ), one day earlier than last year's similar record. Canada Geese were migrating through the s. half of the Region from the second week of April to mid-May; large numbers passed up the Washington coast (JM); the wintering population of the Dusky subspecies left the Willamette Valley refuges between Apr. 19 and Apr. 23 (FZ). Two Brant were found at the s. jetty area of the Columbia R. mouth May 4 (HN *et al.*); an adult was found and photographed there May 22 (HN). Seven Brant were photographed in



Brant, Columbia River, south jetty, May 22, 1974. / Harry Nehls

a flock of Black Brant at Dungeness, Wash., Apr. 7 (MC). A flock of 2500 Black Brant was seen at Ocean Shores Apr. 13 (EH, GH, JM); 4000 were at Toffno, B.C., May 2 (JCo). A single Black Brant at Finley N.W.R. Apr. 25-May 23 (FZ) was quite unusual. White-fronted Geese were migrating from early April until the third week in May, with flocks up to 500 at Finley N.W.R. during that period (FZ) being the largest observed assemblages. Single Snow Geese appeared at Finley N.W.R., Apr. 13-23 (FZ), at Victoria, B.C., Apr. 14 (MC), at Ocean City, Wash., Apr. 19 (JM) and at Duncan, B.C. May 3 (JCo); three were noted at Seattle Apr. 23 (EH). A Ross' Goose was reported at Ankeny N.W.R., in Oregon's Willamette Valley, May 14-15 (DP, *fide* FZ), for the first w. Oregon and second Regional records of which we have knowledge.

Four pairs of possibly breeding Gadwall were at Seattle during the spring (EH). Up to a dozen Gadwall frequented the Saanich Pen., Vancouver I., Apr 6-29

(RS; V&MG); one was at Ocean Shores May 11 (EH, JM). Eight Pintail were seen at Cowichan Bay, Vancouver I., May 19 (RS, *fide* VG). Individual males of the Eurasian Green-winged Teal were noted at Basket Slough N.W.R., Apr. 27 (FZ) and at Tsehum Harbor, B.C. from the beginning of the report period to Apr. 25 (VG, RS). Late Am. Green-winged Teal were three individuals at Fern Ridge Res. May 19 (AC). Up to four Blue-winged Teal were seen at Finley N.W.R., at Ocean Shores, at Tillamook and at Seattle Apr. 25-May 21; 22 males were to be found at Saanich Apr. 27-May 28 (V&MG, RS). Up to three Eur. Wigeon were at Saanich until Apr. 29 (VG), while a single male lingered at Ocean Shores until May 11 (EH, JM), apparently a record late date for the Region. Seven pairs of N. Shovelers were counted at Duncan, B.C., May 30 where three days earlier a female with seven young had been observed (JCo). The 200 individual shovelers at Fern Ridge Res. Apr. 6 (AC) was a large concentration for w. Oregon, and the five individuals at Westport May 12 (SJ) were late. Two Redhead at Fern Ridge Res. Apr. 15 (JG) and one at Ocean Shores May 11 (EH, JM) are both noteworthy records, as is the Ring-necked Duck at Ridgefield N.W.R., Ridgefield, Wash., May 11 (JW, *fide* PM). A Tufted Duck was found at Ladner, B.C., Apr. 27 (TW). A surprisingly late record of a pair of Com. Goldeneye at Fish L. on Oregon's Santiam Highway would be regarded with incredulity except for the fact that two ♂♂ Barrow's Goldeneyes (which species has probably bred there in the past) were also present for the four observers (AC, SG, MPa, PT). An imm. ♂ Com. Goldeneye was at Seattle on the late date of May 20 and another male was at Cowichan Bay, Vancouver I., May 19 (RS, *fide* VG). Seven Barrow's Goldeneyes were noted at Seattle on the late date of May 3 (SJ). The last Bufflehead records for the season are of four individuals at Oak Bay, Victoria, May 25 (VG, RS) and an unspecified remnant still present May 27 of what had been up to 90 birds present at Seattle from Apr. 3 (SJ). Oldsquaw were present in numbers up to 100 in a day of birding along the s. side of the Straits of Juan de Fuca, Apr. 7-9 (MC); an individual was at Yaquina Bay, Apr. 17 (FZ), and at Seattle Apr. 8 (SJ); Oldsquaw were common during April around s. Vancouver I. (VG). Surf Scoters were migrating in large numbers past the Columbia R. the last week of April and the first week of May, with an estimated 1500 per hour flying past for part of the day on May 4 (HN). A group of 14 Black Scoters were seen there that day (HN); three Black Scoters were still at Tillamook Bay May 18 (JBC, RFi). A ♂ Com. Merganser was seen on the Winchuck R. in s.w. Oregon, Apr. 27 (AC). On the same date, an unusual concentration of 137 Red-breasted Mergansers was counted at Victoria (VG, RS), while on May 24 a late pair was seen at the same place (RM-G *fide* VG).

HAWKS, GAMEBIRDS, RAILS—Goshawks were recorded during the report period at Cottage Grove, May 11 (CWA, SG, *fide* AC), at Ridgefield, Wash., Apr. 12 (G&WH), at Seattle, May 2 (EH), at Redmond and Issaquah, Wash., May 5 (EH, BT), and at Hart L., Wash., May 25 (EH). Only ten sightings of Sharp-shinned Hawks and fewer than that of Cooper's Hawks

were reported, with one probable nesting record of the latter coming from s. Vancouver I.

Reports of Swainson's Hawks seen during the report period came from Saanich, Apr. 12 (VG, RS), from near Warrenton, Ore., on the coast, May 4 (RL), and from Ridgefield N.W.R., May 11 (JW, *fide* PM). There was considerable overflow from the wintering population of Rough-legged Hawks, with a consequent record number of spring-season sightings occurring from Eugene n. to Bellingham; birds at Ocean Shores and L. Tenell near Bellingham May 12 and at Cathlamet, Wash., May 11 were the last. Three ad. Golden Eagles were seen e. of Ashland, Ore., May 24, and two were seen not far away the next day (OS); an individual at Finley N.W.R. Apr. 8 "eventually soared off with passing vultures" (FZ). Two ad. Golden Eagles were seen regularly in the Malahat Dist. n. of Victoria during the spring (RS, VG); one was noted at Sidney I. off s. Vancouver I. May 5 (RG, *fide* VG). Bald Eagles were observed at three locations in w. Oregon and at five locations in w. Washington at various times during the report period. Ospreys were noted at eleven different locations, a few of which were nest sites, not quite so good a showing as last year, but nevertheless encouraging. No reports of Peregrine sightings were received. Merlins were observed singly at Fern Ridge Res., Finley N.W.R., Corvallis, Ocean Shores, Victoria and Saanich between Apr. 11 and May 9. At least nine Sandhill Cranes were seen at Sauvie I., w. of Portland, Apr. 6 where some were heard but not seen on Apr. 20. (HN, CS); 68 birds of this species were at Cape Flattery, Wash., Apr. 24 (DP, *fide* PM) and a single individual turned up near Saanich Apr. 28-29 (RS, *fide* VG). Virginia Rails were noted singly at a few favored spots, but Soras were more widely recorded, with two at Cottage Grove, May 11 (MPa, *fide* AC), one at Banks, Ore., May 12 and five at Scappoose, Ore., May 18 (JG) being of particular interest. The last Am. Coot departed Finley N.W.R. May 22 (FZ).

SHOREBIRDS—On Apr. 23 there were 500 Semipalmated Plovers at Ocean City (JM); a bird of this species was still at Finley N.W.R. May 26 (FZ). Snowy Plovers in number up to three, were noted at Tillamook, at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., and at Ocean Shores Apr. 24-May 22. On Apr. 7 two Am. Golden Plover were discovered at Dungeness (MC) and on Apr. 28 a bird was observed at Coos Bay (AC, SG). A late Black-bellied Plover was at Finley N.W.R. May 18 and a late Surf-bird was at Westport May 12. At Gray's Harbor there were 11 Ruddy Turnstones May 12 (SJ, BT) and at Victoria there were up to that many May 1-16 (VG *et al.*). Three Black Turnstones still at Kalaloch, Wash., May 19 (TW) were late. A Long-billed Curlew was at Samish I., Wash., Apr. 12 (NL, *fide* TW). Whimbrel occurred in possibly record concentrations, the 300 at Tofino May 2 (JCo), 100 at the Samish Flats near Bellingham May 9 (NL, *fide* TW), 70 at Bellingham May 5 (TW), 35 at Blaine, Wash., May 12 (JD, *fide* TW), 31 at Nehalem, Ore., May 18 (JBC, Rfi) and 16 at Tillamook May 12 (JG) all being of interest. Whimbrel were seen repeatedly at Ocean Shores after Apr. 10 to the end of the report period, with 25 birds being the maximum (JM). Individual Solitary Sandpipers appeared May 2-11 at Seattle; Burlington, Wash.;

Corvallis; Finley N.W.R. and Saanich; a bird was seen again at Saanich May 22. These sightings together represent the largest number and widest geographic dispersion of Solitary Sandpipers ever experienced in the Region during a single report period. Wandering Tattlers were at coastal points in the Region Apr. 27-May 26, the maximum for a single day being 15 at Ocean Shores May 11 (EH, JM). A Willet was found at Tokeland, Wash., May 12 (SJ, BT). The 100 Greater Yellowlegs at Finley N.W.R., in late April (FZ) was an unusually large concentration for this Region, with few reports coming this season from other places; the last sighting for this species was on May 8 at Saanich (V&MG). Lesser Yellowlegs were seen only singly or in pairs at six scattered locations Apr. 13-May 11. Red Knots appeared in the Region this spring in a number of impressive concentrations; there were 250 at Ocean Shores Apr. 23 where 800 were found May 11 (EH, JM), 125 were at Gray's Harbor May 12 (SJ, BT). A total of 82 Rock Sandpipers was counted at Victoria May 6 (RS, *fide* VG); one was at Ocean Shores May 11 (JM). The only Pectoral Sandpiper reported this spring was one at Brownsville, Ore., May 3 (HT, *fide* FZ). Baird's Sandpipers were noted several times; two were at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Apr. 27 and six were there May 3 (BL, HN); single individuals were seen at Ocean Shores May 8 (JM) and May 12 (GH, JM). Least Sandpipers reached a peak number of 400 at Finley N.W.R. in April (FZ); 1500 were seen at Metchosin, B.C. May 2-4 (VG *et al.*). There were approximately 1000 Dunlin at Finley N.W.R. through part of April, with the last bird being seen May 5 (FZ); at the s. jetty of the Columbia, there were 800 Dunlin Apr. 27 (HN). Hundreds of Short-billed Dowitchers were at Ocean Shores in late April and early May, where the first five individuals of the season had appeared on Apr. 13 (JM); the species was also recorded at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., at Westport, at Seattle, and at Victoria in numbers up to 54 between Apr. 2 and May 22. Long-billed Dowitchers first showed up at Ocean Shores May 8 where 100 were present three days later (EH, JM); an estimated 13-15,000 "mostly if not all" Long-billeds were at Tofino, B.C., May 2 (JCo). Long-billed Dowitchers were also noted at Finley N.W.R., at Tillamook, at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., at Gray's Harbor, at Seattle, at Metchosin, B.C., and at Saanich in numbers up to 145 between Apr. 20 and May 31. A Semipalmated Sandpiper, studied in contrast with Westerns, was at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. on May 10 in breeding plumage (HN); another, similarly plumaged, was observed at Seattle, May 24-26 (EH, SJ, PM *et al.*). The astonishing total of 200 Buff-breasted Sandpipers was found at Tofino, B.C. May 2 by John Comer, who had found an individual there last spring; there are only twelve other sightings of this species for the Region in the last nine years, with none of them involving more than three individual birds! On Apr. 30 there were two Marbled Godwits at Victoria (RS, *fide* VG). Hundreds of Sanderling were to be seen at Westport on May 12 (SJ). An Am. Avocet in breeding dress turned up at N. Saanich, B.C., May 14 (RF, *fide* VG). Great numbers of Red Phalaropes were on the ocean close to shore at Crescent City, Calif., and at Brookings, Ore., May 22 (JH); 270 were seen at sea off Westport May 19 (TW), at Newport, Ore., 25 were seen between the Yaquina Bay

jetty May 11 (RJ, *fide* FZ); elsewhere up to a dozen individuals were found at the n. jetty of the Columbia R. May 11 (JW, *fide* PM), at Ocean Shores May 11-12, and at Westport, May 12. At various times during May Wilson's Phalaropes were to be seen at several places from Seattle n. to Bellingham, at Saanich, at Dungeness, at Westport, and at Finley N.W.R. Northern Phalaropes were in the hundreds on the sea off Westport May 19 (TW); at Westport May 12 (SJ); and migrating past the Columbia R. mouth May 2-4 (BL, HN) A few individuals were seen at Brookings May 22 (JH), at Finley N.W.R., May 5-24 (FZ), at Fern Ridge Res. Apr. 21 (JG), and at Victoria, May 1-14 (RS, VG); up to 40 were on the Tillamook Co. coast May 18 (JBC, RFI).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS AND ALCIDS—Four Pomarine and 15 Parasitic Jaegers were seen on the boat trip from Westport May 19 (TW *et al.*); five on the latter species were seen at the entrance to Gray's Harbor the day before (TW) where up to four birds at a time were seen intermittently between Apr. 27 and late May (GH, EH, JM). A dead Parasitic Jaeger was found March 30 on the Yaquina Bay n. jetty (LN, *fide* FZ).

An imm. Glaucous Gull was at the n. jetty of the Columbia R. May 11 (JW, *fide* PM); individuals were also seen at Saanich Apr. 12 and at Victoria, Apr. 16 & 22 (VG, RS). Three California Gulls were at Baskett Slough N.W.R. near Dallas, Ore., Apr. 22 (JMi, *fide* FZ), one was at Tillamook May 18 (JBC, RFI), and a few were at Victoria Apr. 9-May 20 (V&MG, RS). On Apr. 27 Bonaparte's Gulls were migrating north past the Columbia R. mouth at the rate of 100 birds per hour; on May 19, about 200 individuals were counted in Gray's Harbor and at sea (TW *et al.*), while the day before some 35 individuals were seen along part of the Tillamook Co. coast (JBC, RFI). At Seattle about 35 birds were seen Apr. 27 and in excess of 50 birds were noted May 5 (SJ). The last Bonaparte's Gulls were seen at Victoria in late May, where the migration had brought much fewer numbers than last year (VG). There were up to 18 Black-legged Kittiwakes at Ocean Shores all through the report period (EH, JM); 29 were seen in Gray's Harbor May 19 (TW *et al.*). Single kittiwakes were seen from the Port Angeles ferry, Apr. 14 (MC), at Brookings, Ore., Apr. 28 (AC, SG), at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., May 4 & 10 (HN), and at Victoria May 24 & 28, where two individuals were also seen May 25 (VG). Three Sabine's Gulls were observed at Tofino, May 2 (JCo), 45 were at sea from Westport, May 19 (TW *et al.*), and one was over the ocean at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., May 22 (HN).

A heavy migration of Com. Terns involving 500-700 birds an hour moved past the Columbia R. entrance, May 2-4 (BL, HN); 100 were at Westport May 12 (SJ, BT) At Ocean Shores, Com. Terns were regular from late April to Late May; 60 birds on May 26 being the top count (JM), while 300 were counted, all near shore, on the boat trip from Westport, May 19 (TW). Some 300-400 birds were at Samish I., May 11-14 "ten times" normal numbers (NL, *fide* TW). Six Arctic Terns were carefully studied on the beach at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. May 10 (HN); one was seen at Bellingham May 11 (TW), 18 were observed at Tillamook May 12 (JG), nine were at Victoria May 16 (RS, *fide* VG), and ten were seen out of Westport May 19 (TW *et al.*). The

first Caspian Terns were at Leadbetter Pt. (F&JK, *fide* PM) and at Ocean Shores (EH) Apr. 13; one was at Sooke Harbor, Vancouver I., May 16 (V&MG), two were at Samish I., May 17 (NL, *fide* TW), two others were at Cape Meares, Tillamook Co., Ore., May 18 (JBC, RFI) and a few were noted around Gray's Harbor May 18-19 (TW *et al.*). Fifteen Pigeon Guillemots were seen in Tillamook and Netarts Bays and on the ocean between those points, May 18 (JBC, RFI); one was at Seattle May 5 and six were seen at Westport May 12 (SJ). Three Marbled Murrelets and nine Ancient Murrelets were spotted from the Port Angeles-Victoria ferry Apr. 11 (MC); a dead individual of the latter species was found at Ocean City May 10 (EH, JM). Two Cassin's Auklets—one at Port Angeles, the other off Victoria—were seen Apr. 11 (MC). Fifty Rhinoceros Auklets were seen at Ocean Shores, May 20 (JM); six of these birds were at Yaquina Head and four were at Sea Lion Caves near Florence, Ore., May 26 (PR, *fide* FZ). At Pt. Grenville, Wash., Apr. 26, there were 80 Tufted Puffins standing in pairs at nesting burrows on the s.e. rock (GH, JM); six were at Cape Meares May 18 (JBC, RFI).

DOVES, OWLS, NIGHTHAWKS, SWIFTS—Fred Zeillemaker reports that Mourning Dove numbers this spring at Finley N.W.R. were the highest in at least five years. Six Pygmy Owls were recorded at Carbon Creek in Mt. Rainier N.P. Apr. 7 (EH). A Spotted Owl was again heard at Wolf Creek, Josephine Co., Ore., the last week of May (EP). A Snowy Owl was still at the Eugene airport on the incredibly late date of May 5, single birds were found lingering still on Apr. 27 at Ladner, B.C. (TW), on Apr. 24 at Ocean City (JM), on Apr. 21 at both Leadbetter Pt. (FK, *fide* PM) and at the Skagit Flats near Mt. Vernon, Wash., (JW, *fide* PM). One or two birds were at the Lummi Flats near Bellingham Apr. 20 and two or three birds were still on the Samish Flats Apr. 19 (TW) where 20 birds had been present Apr. 1 (NL, *fide* TW); a Snowy Owl was at Newport, Ore., still on Apr. 12 (LN, *fide* FZ). These records brought to an end the biggest documented invasion of Snowy Owls to the Pacific Northwest Region which began with the advent of the first few birds seven months earlier. Lone Short-eared Owls at Newport, Wash., Apr. 20 (JB, *fide* PM) and at Seattle Apr. 22 (ES, *fide* PM) were a bit late. A Saw-whet Owl at Finley N.W.R. May 31 (WE, FR, *fide* FZ) is of interest, as is the record of two heard at Ocean City Apr. 26 (EH).

A very early Com. Nighthawk was seen at Eugene Apr. 17 (TL, *fide* LM); the first one for Victoria appeared May 20 (RF, *fide* VG). Four Black Swifts were recorded at Seattle May 16 (KB, *fide* PM). Vaux's Swifts were present in particularly good numbers in w. Oregon after May 1.

HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS, FLY-CATCHERS, SWALLOWS — A ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird was at a feeder in Shady Cove in Oregon's Rogue R. valley, repeatedly through much of the spring season (JH). A bright ♂ Costa's Hummingbird was seen at Eugene, Apr. 12-16 (DS, LM *et al.*) for what appears to be the second record for w. Oregon—both in the last two years. A suspected three pairs of Anna's Hummingbirds were in the Saanich area most of

the spring (VG *et al.*). A ♂ Allen's Hummingbird was at the Shady Cove feeder May 25 (TM); three males of this species were found along the Winchuck R., near Brookings, Ore., Apr. 27 (AC, SG). Calliope Hummingbirds were seen repeatedly through much of the spring at the Shady Cove feeder (JH, TM). Lewis' Woodpeckers were seen only at Finley N.W.R. until May 11 (FZ), at Cottage Grove, Ore., where one was found May 11 (AC), and at Saanich, where one appeared May 2 (RF, *fide* VG). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker of the *nuchalis* race was seen at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., of all places, Apr. 24; the bird was observed to fly over the dunes and out over the estuary, headed northward. On May 12 a long-dead individual of the *ruber* race was picked up on the beach at Westport. A *nuchalis* race bird was observed at Saanich May 16 (RMG, *fide* VG).

Western Kingbirds appeared at Saanich, B.C. May 21 (RM-G, *fide* VG), at Burlington, Wash., May 7-8 (NL, KW), at L. Sammamish, Wash., May 10 (JB, *fide* PM) and at seven localities in Oregon: one at Medford Apr. 27 (OS); one at Wolf Creek May 3 (EP); *nine* in the Cottage Grove area May 11 (AC); at Finley N.W.R. where the peak was 12 on May 3, with the last being seen on May 17 (FZ); at Baskett Slough N.W.R. on Apr. 27 (SD, *fide* FZ), one at Yaquina Head May 25 (WE, *fide* FZ), and three at Nehalem May 18 (JBC, RFI). Black Phoebes were found May 25 nesting under three bridges along the Applegate R. and Forest Creek in the Medford area (TM, OS *et al.*). A Say's Phoebe was at Cottage Grove May 10 (MPa, *fide* AC) and the same or another individual was seen at Eugene May 18 (*fide* LM). A Hammond's Flycatcher was identified at Fort Stevens S. P., Clatsop Co., Ore., May 3-4 (BL, HN *et al.*); two singing individuals were at Schaefer S. P., Mason Co., Wash., May 12 (EH), and two were observed at Victoria May 11 (VG, RS). A Dusky Flycatcher was calling at Seattle May 14 (EH). Western Flycatchers arrived the last week of April and were generally thought to be commoner than they had been last year. Olive-sided Flycatchers at Seattle Apr. 13 (DC, *fide* PM), and at Corvallis, Apr. 24-28 (EE, *fide* FZ) were early arrivals.

A Bank Swallow was seen at Ocean Shores, May 11 (EH, JM) and three were seen at the n. jetty of the Columbia R. May 12 (JW, *fide* PM). Rough-winged Swallows were recorded in number up to a half-dozen the first week of April at Fern Ridge Res., at Corvallis at Sauvie I. and then on May 18 at Tillamook. Three Barn Swallows and one Cliff Swallow at Seattle Apr. 6 (FK, *fide* PM) were early arrivals; 300 of the latter birds at Fern Ridge Res. Apr. 7 (JBC, WE, WT) was a surprising early concentration. Purple Martins arrived in the Willamette Valley and Puget Sound trough in mid-April, but were in good numbers only at Fern Ridge Res. where they utilized nest boxes for night roosts (TL, *fide* LM); in May a few martins were seen on the Oregon coast and on s. Vancouver I.

JAYS THROUGH SHRIKES—A Gray Jay in the hills n.e. of Cottage Grove, May 11 (AS, *fide* AC) was out-of-the-ordinary. Two Mountain Chickadees were spotted seven miles e. of Forks, Wash., Apr. 9; three were on Hurricane Ridge Road in Olympic N. P., Apr. 14 (MC). Red-breasted Nuthatches were all but unreported this season. Three Pygmy Nuthatches were

found at Mora Ranger Station near LaPush, Wash., Apr. 10 (MC) for another Olympic Peninsula and Washington coastal record of this inland species. A singing Mockingbird was at Salem, Ore., May 15-16 (DD, *fide* TM). A Gray Catbird was recorded Apr. 14 at Port Angeles (MC) for the only w. Washington occurrence known to us. A Sage Thrasher was found at Fern Ridge Res. Apr. 14 (RFI, *fide* LM) and another was discovered at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. May 4 (HN *et al.*); it is extremely rare in w. Oregon. Several pairs of W. Bluebirds utilized nesting boxes about Eugene this spring, where no nesting has been known to occur for some years (LM); nine individuals were seen at Cottage Grove May 11 (AC), a male was seen at L. Samish, Wash., Apr. 15 (*fide* TW) and a female was at Victoria, May 18 (VG, RS). A pair of Mountain Bluebirds was seen on Samish I., Apr. 1-4 (NL, *fide* TW), and a pair was at an apparent nest site in logged-over land e. of Bellingham Apr. 21 (*fide* TW). Townsend's Solitaires, in number up to three at one time, were seen at Wolf Creek twice, at Eugene, and Yaquina Head in Oregon, at Hobart, at Camano I., and e. of Issaquah in Washington, and at Saanich on Vancouver I. Apr. 16-May 21. A nest of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was again found on Roxy Ann Butte near Medford June 3 (OS). Up to 60 Water Pipits were to be found at Seattle, Apr. 16-May 27 (SJ) and up to 75 could be found during the same period in the environs of Victoria (VG *et al.*). Cedar Waxwings were very scarce, apparently, appearing at only a few spots in the Region during April and May. A few N. Shrikes were still in the s. Willamette Valley the first ten days of April. A Loggerhead Shrike was found at Eugene the last few days of April (LM *et al.*).

VIREOS, WARBLERS, BLACKBIRDS AND TANAGERS — Hutton's and Solitary Vireos were relatively well reported this spring from Grants Pass, Ore., n. to Victoria. Red-eyed Vireos were recorded only from Eugene Apr. 21 (DG, *fide* LM) and May 2 (JG). An early Warbling Vireo put in an appearance at Corvallis, Apr. 9 (RJ, *fide* FZ), but the species was not well reported this spring, except possibly from Seattle. A Tennessee Warbler was found at Ruby Beach, n. of Kalaloch, Wash., May 20 by four observers, some of whom at least, were familiar with the species (VB, JHe, CJ, RR, *fide* TW); the find marks the second occurrence of this species in w. Washington known to us, the other being last fall. Orange-crowned Warblers appeared widely and abundantly in the s. portion of the Region by the end of the first week in April. Nashville Warblers could be found in favored spots in s w Oregon after mid-April, and were recorded at Corvallis, Finley N.W.R., and Monmouth, Ore., later in the season; individuals were also noted at Seattle and Samish I., Wash., in late April or in May. An early Yellow Warbler was at Sekiu, Wash., Apr. 9 (MC); an apparently still migrant group was observed at Lost L. on the Santiam Highway in the Oregon Cascades May 24 (AC *et al.*). A Black-throated Gray Warbler at Eugene Apr. 7 (JG) and another at Corvallis Apr. 9 (EE, *fide* FZ) both were early arrivals for a generally early migration movement which seems to have been widespread within the next two weeks. Townsend's Warblers were on the move by the second week of April in w. Oregon, with an early peak at Eugene the following week (LM),

the movement through Finley N.W.R. was characterized as the best show for this species experienced in the observer's five years there (FZ); at Wolf Creek, May 16-18 a grounded 'wave' of warblers was half comprised of Townsend's Warblers (EP). Hermit Warblers, too, seemed to move earlier than usual this year, also reaching an early peak at Eugene in the third week of April (LM), and being common at Wolf Creek after Apr. 20 (EP). A **Palm Warbler** was found at Leadbetter Pt., Wash., Apr. 13 and again Apr. 20 (FK, *fide* PM) for one of w. Washington's very few records of this species and possibly the first spring record. A MacGillivray's Warbler at Hobart, Wash., Apr. 20 (SJ) was early, as were the single Wilson's Warblers at Eugene, Apr. 5 (DDu, *fide* FZ) and at Alsea, Ore., Apr. 8 (JCa, *fide* FZ).

Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Fern Ridge Res., Brownsville, Ore., Finley N.W.R., the s. jetty of the Columbia, Nisqually, Wash., Seattle, Samish I., Victoria and Saanich at various times during April and May, usually up to four individuals at a time. Northern Orioles are not common in the Region; only a few were noted from Wolf Creek n. to Seattle after mid-April; one was at Saanich May 24 (RF, *fide* VG). Brown-headed Cowbirds, after becoming quite common in the Region during the sixties, seem not to be increasing their numbers further. A W. Tanager at Eugene, Apr. 14 (DG, *fide* LM) was two and a half weeks ahead of the principal migration. A ♂ Lazuli Bunting was again found at Saanich this year, May 27 & 29 (V&MG); many more of this species were at Wolf Creek during May this year than last (EP). Evening Grosbeaks were conspicuously abundant through interior w. Oregon and w. Washington all during the spring season. Purple Finches seemed to be more noticeable than usual in n w Oregon this spring. A **Gray-crowned Rosy Finch** was discovered on a lawn in company with a flock of Pine Siskins at Eugene Apr. 22 and was closely observed (AC *et al.*). Up to 20 were seen on Hurricane Ridge in the Olympics Apr. 8 and at Snoqualmie Pass e. of Seattle Apr. 15 (MC). Three Com. Redpolls were observed at Yellow L. e. of Issaquah, Wash., Apr. 26 (JB, *fide* PM). Pine Siskins were present in large numbers away from the coast in w. Oregon and w. Washington lowlands all during April and until late May; numbers at Eugene were described as "incredible," at Salem as "tremendous" and in Portland as "abundant." Four siskin nests were found at Seattle during May, from which at least six young had fledged by the end of the month (SJ). Red Crossbills were commonly observed through the s. portion of the Region n. of Eugene, including coastal areas, during the report period, with the flock of 1500 at LaPush Apr. 10 (MC) being the largest reported concentration. Two ♂♂ Lark Buntings in full breeding dress were discovered in a field near Otis, Lincoln Co., Ore., May 26 (R&RH, *fide* HN). Grasshopper Sparrows had returned to their previously used nesting area w. of Eugene by the last week of April; five individuals were seen there in late May (*fide* LM). Vesper Sparrows were seen at Olympia (G&WH), in the Seattle area (EH, SJ *et al.*), and near Victoria (VG) during late April and early May, at all of which places the species is markedly uncommon. Individuals of the Slate-colored variety of the Dark-eyed Junco were noted at Corvallis and at three places in

Washington, the latest sighting occurring Apr. 20 at Olympia (G&WH). Individual Tree Sparrows were seen Apr. 3 at Seattle (SJ) and Apr. 13 at Duncan where one wintered (JCo). A Chipping Sparrow was found May 11 at Ocean Shores, where the species is rare (EH, JM); indications are that on Vancouver I. the species has made a good recovery from the low numbers which prevailed a year ago (VG). Single Harris' Sparrows were recorded at the Lummi Flats near Bellingham, Apr. 4 (JD, *fide* TW), at the Skagit Flats (JW, *fide* PM) and near Olympia (G&WH) the last week of April. Lingering Golden-crowned Sparrows were still to be found at Eugene (LM), just n. of Grants Pass (OS), and at Monroe, Ore., (FZ) all on May 19; the species was last noted at Victoria May 25 (ARD, VG, RS). White-throated Sparrows were seen at Esquimalt on Vancouver I. where one wintered until Apr. 24 (*fide* VG), at Corvallis Apr. 20 (LN, *fide* FZ), at Samish I., May 5 (NL, TW), and at Duncan, May 6-8 (JCo). Presumably migrant Lincoln's Sparrows were observed in a number of localities the latter half of April, with one at Duncan May 9 (VG) the latest. A Lapland Longspur was found at Seattle at various times through the third week in April by a number of observers; other lone birds were seen at Ocean Shores, Apr. 20-May 8 (GH, EH, JM) and at Victoria, Apr. 27-May 1 (VG, RS).

OBSERVERS—John Beaufort, Vida Blauvelt, Ken Brunner, John Casteel (JCa), David Chelimer, Mark Collie, John Comer (JCo), Alan Contreras, John B. Crowell, Jr., A. R. Davidson, Steve Davis, Dick Denton, David Dudley (DDu), James Duemmel, William Elliott, E. Eltzroth, Roy Fisk (RFi), Randy Floyd (RFI), Ralph Fryer, Richard Gibbs, Jeff Gilligan, Dan Gleason, Vic & Margaret Goodwill, Sayre Greenfield, Robert & Ruth Harris, Janet Herrmann (JHe), Joseph Hicks, Glen & Wanda Hoge, Eugene Hunn, Robert Jarvis, Stuart Johnston, Cliff Jones, Fay & Jan Krause, Norman Lavers, Bob Loehning, Robert Lucas, Tom Lund, R. Mackenzie-Grieve, Phil Mattocks, Tom McCamant, Larry McQueen, James Micuda (JMi), James Morris, Harry Nehls, Lars Norgren, Michael Patterson (MPa), David Pearson, Eleanor Pugh, Fred Ramsey, Robert Randall, John Ratti, Richard Rogers, Peter Rothlisberg, Ron Satterfield, David Simon, Aaron Skirvin, Charles Smith, Ernie Spragg, Otis Swisher, Howard Taylor, William Thackaberry, Phillip Thomas, Bill Tweit, Terry Wahl, Clarice Watson (CWa), Keith Wiggins, John Wingfield, Charles Wood, C. Fred Zeilemaker. — **JOHN B. CROWELL, JR., 1185 Hallihan Circle, Lake Oswego, OR 97034 and HARRY B. NEHLS, 2736 S. E. 20th Avenue, Portland, OR 97202.**

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION / Russell Greenberg and Rich Stallcup

Spring throughout North California was exceptionally cool with nearly constant, blustery northwest winds along the coast and in the north Coast Range. A late snow storm April 24 dropped 14 inches at Calaveras State Park (below C.S.P.), hail at Auburn, and completely blanketed the Sierras along Interstate 80 from Colfax to Truckee. A very late Sierran cold spell May



18 and 19 dropped temperatures into the low twenties and caused Black Oaks to lose their new leaves. This probably had an adverse affect on warblers, vireos and Black-headed Grosbeaks which were then well into nesting activities. Only four rainy days were reported during the period at Auburn and the only hot days were in the last week of May when temperatures along the south coast and in the Central Valley (below C.V.) reached the high nineties and rose to 72° at C.S.P.

The strong northwesterlies on the coast were probably responsible for the large numbers of Red Phalaropes with the usual Northern Phalaropes, the more than usual observations of petrels for spring in Monterey Bay (AB) and relatively few landbird migrants reaching the Farallon Islands (below F. Is.) (P.R.B.O.).

LOONS, GREBES—Loons departed on time and passing of all was reported as typical. Common Loons were found at eight inland localities which is normal. Two Arctic Loons that stayed at the F.Is. into June (P.R.B.O.) and a Red-throated Loon on Crespi Pond, Monterey Co., May 2 (AB) to May 5 (RS) were the only oddities. A few Red-necked Grebes lingered later than is normal and one at Monterey May 5 (OAS) and May 6 (AB), one at King Salmon, Humboldt Co., May 5 (DE, TS), one at Mendocino Staircase May 12 (DW, TL) and one at Drakes Beach May 20 (WMP) are some of our very few May records. The usual few Horned Grebes were found inland (AE, RS) and one at San Rafael May 27 was late (WMP). Eared Grebes peaked at Chico on Apr. 26 with 120 (PM) which was near the peak date at other C.V. localities. At Pt. Bonita 1700 W. Grebes was a high number for May 5 (MLR).

TUBENOSES—Twenty-five Black-footed Albatrosses were 20 mi. w. of Eureka Apr. 20 (DE, TS). A concentration was found 1-15 mi. n.w. of Pt. Pinos with 30 on May 5 (OAS) and 50 on May 18 (C.F.O.). Those on the latter date were joined by a single Laysan Albatross, likely the same individual that wintered in the area. The possibility this was the same bird that was

released from Alameda Naval Station Apr. 22, 1973 has been reasonably argued (VR). The highest number of Pink-footed Shearwaters was 15 on May 5 at Monterey Bay (O.A.S.) and 5000 Sooty Shearwaters seen from Pt. Pinos was an early influx (AB). One or 2 Ashy Petrels per pelagic trip was more than usual and was probably owing to persistent NW winds (AB, RS). Fork-tailed Petrels, also associated with offshore winds, were in Monterey Harbor with 35 on May 14, 20 on May 15 and three on May 16. (RR, VR, SB). Most amazing was a Leach's Petrel seen from the Coast Guard pier May 14 (RR); this species is rarely reported within 50 mi. of shore.

PELICANS THROUGH HERONS—Total White Pelicans reported was over 1000 from four C.V. localities in April and May which is normal (BED, PM, RS). Brown Pelicans returned to Pacific Grove May 21 (AB), the Pajaro R. mouth May 30 (J&RW) and the F. Is. May 31 (P.R.B.O.) which are typical dates. An adult and an immature at the Pajaro R. Apr. 16 (J&RW) either wintered or were very early. Brandt's Cormorants returned to their nesting rocks in Humboldt Co., in early April (DE, TS). Green Herons returned in April with five at Woodland. Yolo Co., late in the month (RS), one at Gray Lodge Wildlife Area, Butte Co., Apr. 10 (BED) and one at the Garcia R. mouth Apr. 11 (OJK). An ad. Little Blue Heron was at Palo Alto May 3 & 21 (BY, BD). Last spring an adult defended a nest site on nearby Blair I. and no doubt other nesting attempts have been made in S. San Francisco (S.F.) Bay and on W. Marin I. in the north bay. Up to 17 Cattle Egrets wintered in the Watsonville area (RS) with nine still present Apr. 26 (JM). Two were at Novato Apr. 20 through the end of the period (LCB), two were at Alviso Apr. 20 (BY, TC, BS) and two were still present at Arcata at the end of the period (DE, TS). A single bird flew into the Audubon Canyon Ranch rookery at Bolinas Lagoon in mid-April but did not nest (P.R.B.O.); there is still no breeding record for this region.

WATERFOWL—The last Whistling Swans were three at the Garcia R. mouth May 2 (OJK) which is late. Most of the Black Brant this winter along the California coast mass in S. Humboldt Bay in early April; 5000 estimated on Apr. 7 was felt to be only a fraction of the total present (DE, TS). At Gray Lodge Wildlife Area 200 Show Geese Apr. 2-9 and 110 White-fronted Geese Apr. 24 were late (BED). On Apr. 17, 50 Snows were seen flying to the southwest high overhead at C.S.P. (MK). Fulvous Tree Ducks arrived at Woodland Apr. 19, nearly a month early (RS, DAG) and were seen by many through the period; up to 3 were present. At Arcata 120 Green-winged Teal including one Eurasian race and an intermediate Apr. 21 declined to 30 on May 5 and none were present May 8 (DE, TS). About 20 Blue-winged Teal were reported from the coast and C.V. which is normal and a pair with 8 young was seen May 21 at Palo Alto for the first local breeding record (BY). A ♂ Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal was described from Chico where it was present Mar. 15-Apr. 17 (PM). Wood Ducks were reported in good numbers from all sections. There were many reports of nesting and the best numbers were 20 pairs along the American R. between Sacramento and Nimbus Dam (Rios, *vide*

BK) and at least 5 pairs near Elkhorn, Yolo Co. (RS *et al.*) Most diving ducks departed on schedule. Greater Scaup, rare inland, were reported from Chico with a pair Apr. 22 (PM) and from Borax L., Lake Co., Apr. 11 with one (DW, TL). An Oldsquaw at Monterey lingered until Apr. 27 (DR, JM, WMP) and one was at Princeton Harbor through the end of the period (JM, PM, NS). A few scoters of all three species remained at coastal localities through May which is usual. Four hundred Ruddy Ducks at Woodland Apr. 25 (RS, DW) was reduced to 30 by May 4 (RS). Red-breasted Mergansers were inland at Sacramento with one female (Wilburn, *fide* BK) and Avocado L., Fresno Co., with a male and two females Apr. 13 (R&KH, JS). They are uncommon but regular inland in the spring.

CONDORS THROUGH EAGLES—Three reports involving four **California Condors** were received. An adult was seen by ranchers 2 mi. s. of Mt. Madonna, Monterey Co., Apr. 14 (*fide* BGE) and another adult was seen along Lower Arroyo Seco Creek, Santa Cruz Co. May 22 (Crutcher,* *fide* BGE). Two were seen from a jet airplane over Hollister Apr. 16! They were less than 1000 feet below the ascending jet and were apparently undisturbed. Calculations indicate they may have been flying as much as *15,000 feet* above sea level (LF) Condors regularly visit the southern part of the region. Goshawks were reported from the Warner Mts, Modoc Co., May 21 (JGu) and from C.S.P. May 6 (MK). Normal numbers of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were reported. Although only 23 Red-shouldered Hawks were reported in contrast to last spring's 40 we do not feel this represents a true decrease. As expected after an invasion the magnitude of the one last winter, Rough-legged Hawks were seen well into the spring with ten reports for May. A record late report was obtained with a sighting at Hydesville, Humboldt Co., May 26 (DE, TS). An imm. Bald Eagle at Sacramento June 2 (Wilburn, *fide* BK) was unusual. Nine Ospreys with three active nests Apr. 11 at Duncan Mills, Sonoma Co., (WMP *et al.*) and six at the Albion and Navarro R., Mendocino Co., Apr. 28 (OJK) comprised the bulk of the 27 reports, which is par. The only unusual falcons were a ♀ Merlin Apr. 5 and a Prairie May 7, both near Fresno (R&KH, JS).

CHICKENS—A hen Turkey at Blue L., Sonoma Co., May 24 (JGu) and a pair 4 mi. s. of Ukiah, Mendocino Co., May 3 were the only ones reported. They are known to have been introduced at Hopland close to the latter locality 2 years ago (OJK). A drumming ♂ Ruffed Grouse at Tish Tang campground north of Willow Creek, Humboldt Co. (Forsell, *fide* DE) was the only one reported. Blue Grouse were booming in good numbers in e. Humboldt Co. (DE, TS) which is normal.

SHOREBIRDS—A peak of 60 Semipalmated Plovers at Jacoby Creek, Arcata May 2 (DE, TS) and 37 at Woodland Apr. 22 (RS, DW) were more than are usually reported in spring. Four were at Fresno May 1 (R&KH, JS). Two Mountain Plovers in spring plumage were 5 mi. n. of Fresno Apr. 28 (BS), a very late date. An Am. Golden Plover was on the F.Is. Apr. 29 (P R B.O.) and two were at Arcata as late as May 16 (DE, TS). Black-bellied Plovers and Whimbrels are

much more common in the C.V. in the spring than at any other time. The following plover concentrations are by no means outrageous: 500 at Elkhorn Apr. 24 (RS *et al.*), 500 at Franklin, Sacramento Co., Apr. 22 (*fide* BK) and 500 at Stevinson, Merced Co. (DDeS, JF) Apr. 28 Likewise 600 Whimbrels in the Woodland area Apr. 24-May 2 (RS, DW), 200 at the Pleasanton Sewage Ponds Apr. 27 (SFB) and 200 near Stevinson, Merced Co., Apr. 28 (DDeS, JF) are normal. The first Whimbrel arrived at Arcata Apr. 14, ten days later 240 were present and fifty were still there at the end of the period as usual (DE, TS). Solitary Sandpipers usually very rare in the region, particularly in the spring, were widely reported from Apr. 28-May 5. The following reports are all of interest: one on the American R., at Sacramento Apr. 28 (*fide* BK), one at Rockville Park, Solano Co., Apr. 29 (FKB), two at the n. end of Honey L., in late Apr. (GP), two at Gray Lodge May 1 (BED), one on Bolinas Mesa, Marin Co., May 2 (RS, GP), one at Crespi Pond May 5 (RS, GM) and up to four at Woodland Apr. 21-May 5. A Rock Sandpiper at the Pajaro R mouth on May 11 was still in winter plumage (J&RW) A Pectoral Sandpiper, rare in the spring, was reported from Arcata Apr. 4 (Schmoldt, *fide* DE). Two Short-billed Dowitchers were with 200 Long-billeds at Woodland Apr. 29 (RS, DW). This is probably a normal ratio inland spring and fall. A Marbled Godwit, uncommon inland, was at Woodland Apr. 25 (RS, DW). The first onshore flight of Red Phalaropes since 1971 occurred in May reaching a peak of several thousand with 25,000 Northern Phalaropes in Carmel Bay May 10 (AB) Estimates of phalaropes flying by Pt. Pinos based on birds per minute censuses were phenomenal: 1,250,000 on May 14, 760,000 on May 15, and 630,000 on May 16 Onshore estimates indicate Reds outnumbered Northerns 15:1 on these dates (RR). In early May they were present at nearly all coastal localities south of Mendocino; only 12 were seen this season at Humboldt Co (DE, TS). Strong northwest winds were undoubtedly responsible for blowing them towards shore and many casualties were reported (AB). Unrelated to this flight was a single winter-plumaged bird at Woodland Apr. 26, the first spring inland report for the region (LCB *et al.*). The maximum of Wilson's Phalaropes at Woodland was 35 Apr. 28 (RS *et al.*) and 5 at Humboldt Bay May 30 (DE, TS *et al.*).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS—Five Pomarine Jaegers were seen in Monterey Bay Apr. 8 (AB) but none were seen in May (C.F.O., O.A.S.). Possibly the first spring regional record of **Long-tailed Jaeger** was an adult 5 mi. off Trinidad, Humboldt Co., June 7 (D Wilhelm, GF*). There were also several Parasitic Jaegers off Humboldt Co. this period. A second-year Glaucous Gull was at F.Is. Mar. 31 (P.R.B.O.) and a first-year bird was at Table Bluff, Humboldt Co., Apr. 7 (DE, TS *et al.*). A late Herring Gull was at Sacramento May 15 (*fide* BK). Single Franklin's Gulls, always rare, were reported at 3 localities: Arcata Apr. 24 (DE, TS *et al.*), Gray Lodge Wildlife Area May 16&20 (BED*) and the Pajaro R. mouth May 29 (J&RW*). An ad. **Laughing Gull** at the Pajaro R. mouth May 28 is the fourth regional record (J&RW*). An imm. Bonaparte's Gull at Gray Lodge May 20 (BED) was unusual. Black-legged Kittiwakes were in their normal small numbers except

at Princeton harbor where 11 on May 19 (BS) increased to 40 on May 28 with 25 roosting on the roof of the fish market (PM). Only 9 Sabine's Gulls were reported: an immature from Trinidad Apr. 19 (DE, TS), an adult 2 mi. n.w. of Pt. Pinos May 5 (CAS, RS), one off the Pt., May 14 (RR), and five near the F. Is. May 13 (TC). Eighty Common Terns at Humboldt Bay May 5 and 20 at Crescent City May 7 (DE, TS) should prove to be normal numbers with careful scrutiny of spring terns. Six Arctic Terns were seen off Monterey May 5 (O.A.S., RS) and nine were seen there May 18 (C.F.O., AB); they are uncommon offshore in the spring. Least Terns were seen in six Monterey and San Francisco Bay localities (many obs.) but their survival probability looks grim. The only breeding colony located, with a mere 20 pairs, is on a soon-to-be-developed fill on Bay Farm I., Alameda Co. Thirty Black Terns were seen at Williams, Colusa Co., May 3. A peak population of 22 was found Apr. 25 (before the rice paddies were flooded) at Woodland, and ten were along the Sante Fe Grade near Los Banos May 5 (DDeS, * JF). Generally rare on the coast, four were reported from San Francisco Bay (PM, BY, BD), two from the Pajaro R. mouth May 10 (J&RW) and one from Eureka May 5 (DE, TS *et al.*) for the second spring Humboldt Co. record.

ALCIDS—At Trinidad 6000 Com. Murres were estimated on offshore rocks (DE, TS) and 3000 were in a rich feeding area off Pacific Grove Apr. 19 (AB). At the same spot 132 Pigeon Guillemots, were present Apr. 12 where only 10-20 are normal (AB). Thirty Marbled Murrelets in Humboldt Bay off King Salmon is more than usual (DE, TS). Two Xantus' (Craver's type) Murrelets were seen within 1 mi. w. of the F. Is. on the late date of Apr. 21 (S. Sears, RG*). There is one previous spring record for the Gulf of the Farallons and the possibility of breeding should not be overlooked. Two Tufted Puffins were observed on and about Goat Rock, Sonoma Co. May 25 (EWT) and another was seen from Pt. Pinos May 14 (RR) during the big blow.

DOVES THROUGH NIGHTJARS—A small population of Spotted Doves has been present in Fresno since 1973. Up to six were observed this spring (R&KH, JS). Roadrunners were reported from a normal 3 localities in the foothills around the C.V., including birds observed regularly through May in Del Puerto Canyon, Stanislaus Co. (SFB, MLR, JF). If Screech Owls are decreasing in the outer coast ranges, they seem to be in good numbers in the interior. Twelve were heard, one to 2 per stop, along Mines Rd., (AE) and four were heard in Caswell State Park May 4 (DDeS, JF). Great Gray Owls were found at both Crane Flats and Perego Meadows in Yosemite N.P. this spring, and were seen at a nest in the latter locality May 11-12 for the fourth consecutive year. Long-eared Owl distribution continues to defy concise definition particularly in the spring. Three reports this period were from widely divergent localities: Pinnacles Nat'l Mon. Apr. 4 (JM), Swanton Rd., Santa Cruz Co., May 10 (*vide* RAM) and the Sacramento area May 10 (*vide* BK). Small numbers of Short-eared Owls regularly spend spring and summer in Central California. This spring had the normal number of reports; one was seen near Davis, Yolo Co., Apr. 21 (DW) and pairs were at the Palo Alto Baylands

(TC, BY) and the Salinas R. mouth during May. Suspicions of nesting at the latter locality were confirmed when a nest was found May 27 (Yadon, Branson, *vide* AB). Rarely reported from the C.V. floor, a Poor-will was heard at Elkhorn, Yolo Co., April 19 (DAG). They were regularly found at Tilden Park, Contra Costa Co., in April and May (many obs.).

SWIFTS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS—Black Swifts were reported from a number of regular mountain localities. Three were found near Briceland, Humboldt Co., May 18 (TS, DE *et al.*) and two were at the South Fork of the Kings R. May 26 (R&KH, JS). The only coastal report was for a lone migrant over Arcata May 18 (*vide* TS, DE). Eighteen reports of Vaux's Swifts were mainly for singles and flocks less than 20. Nine interior reports had a median date of Apr. 25 and eight reports from the S.F. Bay area and outer coast had a median date of May 3; this includes an exceptionally early individual Apr. 4 in Arcata (DE, TS). Some of the coastal reports were probably from breeding grounds including 15 at Portola S. P., San Mateo Co., May 16 (DDeS, JF) and a pair was once again found at Crane Flats May 23 (VR). Black-chinned Hummingbirds were common in the upper Carmel Valley Apr. 28 (DR, JM, RG, JL). A ♂ Costa's Hummingbird was found at the regular locality in Del Puerto Canyon by many during May (AE, VR, SJB *et al.*). At the same spot a female, probably of this species, was observed feeding young May 25 (MLR). Males were also found at Pinnacles May 12 (MLR) and Folsom L., Placer Co. Apr. 4 (B&RL*). Rufous Hummingbirds are late migrants through the region during the spring relative to other hummingbirds. This spring migrants passed through the Sacramento area Mar. 4-Apr. 18. Good numbers were present in coastal areas Apr. 27 and May 4 (DDeS, JF). Two males were seen on Mines Rd., May 5 (JM) and one in Arcata Apr. 28 (DE, TS). Unidentified *Selasphorus* hummingbirds, one of each sex, were at Horse Mt., Humboldt Co., May 31 (DE, TS). Rufous Hummingbirds have been found breeding locally in the mountains of that county, but the total north Coast Range breeding status has yet to be worked out. An ad male and other *Selasphorus*, presumably of this species, regularly frequented feeders near S. Yolla Bolly Mt., consistently from May-August 1973 (Keeler-Wolf, RG). Calliope Hummingbirds were reported from 6 localities west of the Sierras with up to six males in Tilden Park in late April (JR, VH *et al.*)

WOODPECKERS—Pure "Yellow-shafted" Flickers were found at 4 localities in April. Pileated Woodpeckers were reported from 8 sites in Sonoma and Mendocino Cos. Thirteen Lewis' Woodpeckers between Bridgeville and Kneeland were holdovers from last winter's invasion of Humboldt Co. Some were found on the C.V. floor at 2 localities this spring, near Fresno May 2 (R&KH, JS) and Helevista Park, Yolo Co., where more than 20 were found Apr. 19 (DAG, RS). An ad. ♀ Red-naped Sapsucker was near San Antone Jct., Apr. 16 (SJB). The first report in several years of Nuttall's Woodpeckers on the S.F. peninsula were from Jasper Ridge May 18 (DDeS, JF) and Steven's Creek Park (TC) May 11.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

—Western Kingbirds were seen west of their normal breeding range several places this spring: one at the Palo Alto baylands Apr. 28 (RG, DR, JL, JM), two at Coyote Hills Apr. 18 (B&CY), one at the Arcata Bottoms May 4-6 and 30 (TS, DE) one at McKinleyville May 15 (*fide* DE, TS), and one near Boonesville, Mendocino Co., Apr. 28 (OJK). A high elevation record was one for 5500 feet, 18 mi. n.e. of Placerville (B&RL). Seven Hammond's Flycatchers were banded on the F Is. (P.R.B.O.) and six migrant Hammond's-Dusky types were seen on the mainland this spring. Only two Willow Flycatchers were reported from the C.V. and one from the F. Is.; an exceptionally early one was found in the Santa Cruz Mts. Apr. 14 (BGE). Three Gray Flycatchers were reported from the C.V. this spring which is normal for this rare but regular migrant west of the Sierra crest. Early W. Wood Pewees were found Mar. 15 six mi. s. of Pt. Arena (OJK) and Mar. 23 in Sacramento (*fide* BK). A colony of less than 50 Bank Swallows was found on Trafton Rd., south of Watsonville, Monterey Co., May 4 (RAM). Other colonies were reported from the Sacramento R. near Chico with 25 pairs (PM), the American R. near Sacramento (*fide* BK) with 50 pairs and Ano Nuevo Pt., San Mateo Co., with 10 individuals (DDeS, JF). The colony bank at the Pajaro R. mouth was partially collapsed during last winter's storms, but some returned to breed (J&RW). A ♂ Purple Martin on the F.Is. May 28 was the second record for the islands (P.R.B.O., RS) and three were seen in Fresno Apr. 27, where they are very rare (R&KH, JS).

TITS THROUGH WRENS—A Black-capped Chickadee reported from Eureka Apr. 26-29 was south of its normal range (*fide* DE, TS). A Chestnut-backed Chickadee at 5,000 feet at China Camp, Monterey Co., was at the elevational extreme of the species range (JM). Coulter Pines on nearby Chew's Ridge is an unusual locality for ~~Piedmont Nuthatches~~ seen there April and May (JM, SB, VR, JL.). The coastal race is generally restricted to the fog belt. A Brown Creeper was still along the American R. near Sacramento May 6 (*fide* BK) and a pair returned to a riparian thicket at Searsville L., San Mateo Co., where they were observed May 18 (DDeS, JF). A creeper was observed carrying food in Digger Pine - Blue Oak woodlands along Mines Rd ; this locality is considerably east of its normal Bay Area range (JM, SB). Two to three Winter Wrens, scarce in the Sierras, were singing in the Mariposa Grove, Yosemite N.P. May 11 (SJB). The first Humboldt Co. nest of Rock Wren was found May 18 east of Garberville where breeding evidence was first obtained last year (DE, TS).

MIMIDS THROUGH VIREOS—A northern extension of the ~~California Thrasher~~ range was obtained when a pair was found at ~~Petrolia, Humboldt Co.~~, (*fide* DE, TS). Out-of-range, lowland observations were made for Townsend's Solitaire this spring. Individuals were found in March at Bayside, Humboldt Co., (*fide* DE, TS), Apr. 2-9 at Humboldt State University (TS, DE), Apr. 16 at Patrick's Pt., Humboldt Co., (*fide* DE, TS) and Oat Hill Mine Rd., Napa Co., Mar. 9 (EWT). A ♂ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was at the unusual locality of

Pt. Pinole, Contra Costa Co., (J&SL) and one straggled out to the F.Is. Apr. 17-19 (P.R.B.O.). There were, as usual, a few lingering Water Pipits through April, but the observation of 250 breeding-plumaged pipits at Chadbourne Rd., Solono Co., Apr. 20 was exceptional (LCB). Phainopeplas were reported in normal numbers from Mines Rd., where last year they were exceptionally abundant (VR, B&CY, TC). Loggerhead Shrikes were not found at regular localities in Palo Alto (DDeS, JF) and were reported reduced in numbers in the Pt Reyes area (NS). In an attempt to survey the Starling population and its effect on native hole-nesters Van Remsen conducted surveys along Mines and Del Puerto Canyon Rds., from 1971-1974. The census were taken at twenty points each year selected randomly from good habitat during the first week of May; at least 15 points were the same all 3 years. The results, summarized on Table I, indicate that an increase in the Starling population did not cause a universal decline in native species. Among the larger hole nesters increases were realized by Nuttall's Woodpecker and Western Bluebird and decreases by Acorn, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers. A Red-eyed Vireo was captured June 9 on the F.Is. during the early June vagrant wave (P.R.B.O., RS).

Table 1—Census of hole-nesting species along Mines Rd., Alameda Co., Cal. (VR). Discussed in text under Starling.

	1971	1973	1974
Common Flicker	7	4	6
Acorn Woodpecker	26	9	13
Lewis' Woodpecker	1	2	2
Hairy Woodpecker	2	0	0
Downy Woodpecker	1	3	0
Nuttall's Woodpecker	4	4	13
Ash-throated Flycatcher	16	16	16
Violet-green Swallow	26	21	28
Purple Martin	0	3	1
Plain Titmouse	28	8	18
White-breasted Nuthatch	2	4	8
House Wren	18	6	10
Bewick's Wren	28	25	39
Western Bluebird	22	15	41
Starling	15	13	73

WOOD WARBLERS—~~Nashville Warbler~~ is the mountain-type warbler with the most restricted distribution in the coast ranges; it breeds no further south than Mendocino and Lake Cos. Reports indicate that it largely avoids the Bay Area and outer Central Californian coast during migration. Out of 33 reports, 17 were from the C.V., ten from the interior coast ranges, five from the coast north of Mendocino Co., and only one was from the Bay Area. Records indicate that it is a uniformly early migrant, for a mountain warbler, with median migration dates for all areas between Apr. 19 and 25. Nearly as restricted, the Hermit Warbler also seems to stick to the interior.

Out of 14 specific reports, five were from the C.V. with an unspecified number from the Sacramento area, six were from the inner coast ranges, two from possible breeding areas in the north coast range, and only one

from the outer coast. Hermits proved to be quite a bit later with median dates for all areas falling in the first week of May. Black-throated Gray Warblers were mainly reported from the coast range of Central California, 12 out of 15 reports, which is reasonable since this is an abundant breeder to this area. MacGillivray's Warblers were mostly reported from interior locations with 10 from the C.V., four from the inner coast ranges, three from the Berkeley hills where they breed locally, and one from the far north coast. While this includes some territorial birds median dates for all areas fall in mid-May.

Yellow Warblers were early this spring with several early April reports and one exceptionally early sighting in Niles Canyon Mar. 4 (BK). They were already abundant at Searsville L. by Apr. 13 (DDeS, JF). A HermitXTownsend's Warbler was photographed on the F.Is. Apr. 17 (P.R.B.O.*). Despite a very windy spring on the F.Is. a major wave of vagrant warblers May 28-June 9 produced an impressive list (P.R.B.O., RS): four Tennessees, one Magnolia, two Cape Mays, two Chestnut-sideds, two **Bay-breasteds**, one Blackpoll, one Ovenbird, two Am. Redstarts and the fourth regional record of **Kentucky Warbler**. Undoubtedly the same wave brought a singing ♂ **Hooded Warbler**, the eleventh regional record, to Inverness Ridge May 30 (LK). Elsewhere on the mainland, a Black-and-white Warbler was near Pt. Reyes Station April 14 (Clifton*, Pitcher*). Singing ♂ Tennessee Warblers were found at the Presidio, S.F., May 24 (LCB*, MLR*) and Honey Lake Wildlife Areas headquarters June 2 (TM). A ♂ N. Parula, well described from Orangevale, Sacramento Co., (HW*) is the second C.V. record.

ICTERIDS THROUGH TANAGERS—A ♀ Boblink was on the F.Is. June 8-9 (P.R.B.O., RS). A ♀ Yellow-headed Blackbird, rare on the coast, was at the Arcata Bottoms Apr. 23 (*vide* TS, DE). Cowbirds increased dramatically along Mines Rd., (VR) and elsewhere were reported very common. Western Tanagers nesting in Coast Live Oak were out of typical habitat at Steven's Creek Park May 11 (TC). Observers from Livermore (AE) and Fresno (R&KH, JS) commented on the total absence of female tanagers among migrant tanagers in their area.

FINCHES—A ♀ Rose-breasted Grosbeak found near Loon L., El Dorado Co., May 18 (B&RL*) coincided with an influx of this eastern vagrant into the desert of Southern California. A ♂ Indigo Bunting was at Mt. Diablo May 3 (BS) and one was on the F.Is. June 1-2 (P.R.B.O., RS). Sixteen Lazuli Buntings along Mines Rd., was a reduction from last year's count of 27 and 47 for 1971 (VR). Evening Grosbeaks were found sporadically out of the mountains: one was on the F.Is. May 27 (P.R.B.O.), 19 were in coastal Humboldt Co., in April with a few lingering through May, small flocks lingered in Chico through the second week of May (PM) and hundreds were seen along the American R., near Sacramento Apr. 26 (BK). Ten Cassin's Finches were at Chew's Ridge May 17 (SB) where they appear to be regular. Lawrence's Goldfinches were reported widely this spring with a notable two pairs at the Pajaro R. mouth all spring (J&RW). Red Crossbills were reported in small numbers from a variety of coastal localities:

Lincoln Park and the Presidio in S.F. (LCB, MLR) including a singing male and possible juveniles, one to two in Pacific Grove (AB), 16 in Arcata (TS, DE), two in Santa Cruz Mts. (BGE) and a pair on Inverness Ridge (LK). Two Green-tailed Towhees, rare away from the mts., were reported, one from south of Monterey May 27 (*vide* DDeS) and the other from 5 mi. w. of Ukiah at 2100 feet May 25 (OJK*). A northern record for the Brown Towhee was obtained at Blue L., Humboldt Co., May 2 (Harris, *vide* DE, TS). A Vesper Sparrow, vagrant to the coast, was banded on the F.Is. Apr. 13 (P.R.B.O.). Several reports were received for Black-throated Sparrows west of the Sierran crest: one was on the F.Is. Apr. 17 and another was east of Hume L., Fresno Co., 6170 feet elevation May 26 (R&KH, JS) But most interesting was the sighting of four males on Cohasset Rd., 8 mi. n. of Chico in hard chaparral May 12 and June 6 (TM, AC). Four singing ♂♂ Black-chinned Sparrows, very rare that far north, were at the same spot and surprisingly no Sage Sparrows could be found in apparently perfect habitat. A ♂ Brewer's Sparrow was found singing in Chico Apr. 21 (PM) and two males were found singing in the Fresno area May 22&28 (R&KH, JS). Another of this species was banded on the F.Is. May 28 (P.R.B.O.) and another rare *Spizella*, Clay-colored Sparrow, was there May 4-5 (P.R.B.O., DAG). Ten White-throated Sparrows reported this period is normal. A Fox Sparrow from one of the region's mountain races was observed in Del Puerto Canyon Apr. 27 (DDeS). Individuals of these races are rarely observed locally during migration and winter.

CORRIGENDA—In *AB* Vol. 27, p. 919 Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Pacific Grove was June 6-7 not July 6-7. Additional credit should go to Margot Nelson who found it.

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Teal in Long Beach, L.A. Co. Apr. 4 (Barbara Massey, SWe), for Massey reported seeing a ♂ Garganey with Cinnamon Teal at the exact location on Mar. 15, 1972, and it would appear the same individual is involved in both sightings; at present the bird is best treated as an escapee. A pair of Wood Ducks at Deep Springs, Inyo Co. May 24 was unusual. An Oldsquaw was present on San Diego Bay throughout April and May; a late straggler. The ♂ Harlequin Duck was still present at Playa del Rey, L.A. Co. on June 1 and appears to be summering. Two young ♂♂ Surf Scoters at Salton City on the Salton Sea Apr. 27 to the end of the period were the only ones found away from the coast. Red-breasted Mergansers are apparently regular migrants through the e. portion of the Region, for this spring about ten individuals were noted at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley (hereafter F.C.R.) Apr. 7-June 1, one was at Desert Center, Riverside Co. Apr. 27, and a few were on the Salton Sea as usual.

HAWKS—A White-tailed Kite at Morongo Valley May 11 was east of its normal range. An imm. Goshawk at F.C.R. Apr. 8 (RS) was most unusual. Swainson's Hawks continue to decline with one over San Diego Apr. 17, two near Glamis, Imperial Co. May 23 and another at F.C.R. Apr. 29 being the only migrants reported; single birds near Big Pine Apr. 21 & May 11, and at Oasis May 26 & June 1 were probably nesting locally. Rough-legged Hawks lingered into April in the Owens Valley with one near Bishop Apr. 15 and an exceptionally late bird at Big Pine May 5. An imm. Bald Eagle was still present on Big Bear L. in the San Bernardino Mts. Apr. 7. A Peregrine Falcon over F.C.R. Apr. 14 was the only one reported away from known nesting localities.

SHOREBIRDS—Two Am. Oystercatchers were seen at the w. end of Santa Cruz I. Apr. 20-21 (LJ); two at this locality and another on Anacapa I. have apparently been around for a number of years and account for most recent records of this species in California. Four Semipalmated Plovers at Tecopa, Inyo Co. Apr. 30 were in an area of California from which few records exist. The **Piping Plover** that spent the winter in Malibu, L.A. Co. was still present Apr. 16 (JM). At least 18 Snowy Plovers were reported seen in Inyo Co. in May with one at Deep Springs May 27, ten at F.C.R. May 20-June 3, and seven around Tecopa Apr. 30-May 25, indicating it is regular there in small numbers. The only Am. Golden Plovers reported were one on San Nicholas I. May 4 and another at the north end of the Salton Sea (hereafter N.E.S.S.) May 25. Away from the coast a single Ruddy Turnstone was at Salton City Apr. 27, five were at the south end of the Salton Sea (hereafter S.E.S.S.) May 6, and four were at N.E.S.S. May 11; this species is recorded regularly in both spring and fall on the Salton Sea, but is virtually unrecorded elsewhere inland in California or the surrounding states. Single Solitary Sandpipers, rare in spring, were found in Huntington Beach, Orange Co. Apr. 12, near Corona, Riverside Co. Apr. 25, and at Tecopa Apr. 30. A Wandering Tattler at S.E.S.S. Apr. 27 (AP) was most interesting since the species is rarely found inland. Red Knots, now considered regular spring migrants inland at the Salton Sea, were constantly present at the Salton

Sea Apr. 20-May 25 with a high count of 75 on Apr. 26. Unexpected was a breeding plumage **Curlew Sandpiper** at Salton City on the Salton Sea Apr. 27-28 (GMcC, JD, EAC); the third record for California, but the first for the spring. Three Stilt Sandpipers at S.E.S.S. May 11 and six there May 19 were the only ones reported this spring. A Semipalmated Sandpiper, very rare in California, was well studied at S.E.S.S. May 11 (RS *et al.*) and two were found there the following day (BB). A fair number of Sanderlings passed through the Salton Sea area in April and May with over 50 counted there on May 11 alone; one was at Desert Center May 19. A number of Red Phalaropes were seen along the entire coast May 4-25 with a high count of 80 near Cambria, San Luis Obispo Co. May 24; one at El Monte, L.A. Co. May 20 was of interest since the locality is inland.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS—Five Pomarine Jaegers counted in the Santa Barbara Channel Apr. 28, ten seen off Oxnard May 12, and at least 50 encountered off San Diego May 4, while only one Parasitic Jaeger was identified (near Anacapa I. May 12) again indicates which jaeger is the commoner offshore. A skua of unknown identity was seen near Catalina I. May 31 (LJ). The only Franklin's Gulls found this spring was an adult at N.E.S.S. May 11 (JD *et al.*), two at F.C.R. May 23-24 (RS), and another there May 27 (HK). Exceptional was an ad. Heermann's Gull on Big Bear L. in the San Bernardino Mts. Apr. 7 (HK), for the species is very rare away from the coast. A Sabine's Gull off Santa Barbara Apr. 28, ten off San Diego May 4, and four off Oxnard May 12 were the only ones reported. Common Terns are numerous along the coast throughout May, but very rare inland at that time, this year three were seen at N.E.S.S. May 11 (RS, JD *et al.*). Most interesting was a Least Tern at N.E.S.S. May 25 (LJ) since few inland records exist. Black Skimmers again returned to the Salton Sea, being first noted there Apr. 26; however, four at N.E.S.S. Apr. 26 was the most found.

ALCIDS—Late Com. Murres include one off Oxnard May 12, about 20 between Ventura and Anacapa I. May 26, and one in San Pedro May 31. Pigeon Guillemots were considered commoner than usual with 30 seen around Anacapa and Santa Cruz Is. Apr. 28, and 60-70 near Santa Barbara I. May 31. Only two Xantus' Murrelets were found off San Diego May 4, and about ten including a pair with a downy chick were seen around Anacapa I. May 12. Only one Cassin's Auklet could be found off Santa Barbara Apr. 28, and 15 off San Diego May 4, however more than 50 were seen off Oxnard May 12. Totally unexpected was a **Horned Puffin** near Anacapa I. May 12 (GWK, EAC *et al.*) in the same general area where an identical looking bird was photographed last year (*Am. Birds* 27:821).

DOVES, OWLS, GOATSUCKERS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS—Band-tailed Pigeon appeared in a number of localities outside its normal range and habitat including one at Big Pine May 4, single birds at Deep Springs May 5 & June 3, and one at S.E.S.S. May 9 in the e. portion of the Region, as well as three along the coast in San Diego Co. Apr. 5-June 5, one on Santa Barbara I. May 31, another on San Nicholas I. June 8-9,

and seven on Santa Rosa I. June 11. White-winged Doves at Kelso, Tecopa and F.C.R. in May were at the northern limit of the species' range, but one at Deep Springs May 19 (HK) was farther north than normal; one in San Pedro Apr. 14 was the only one seen on the coast. A Ground Dove at F.C.R. Apr. 14 (HK) was north of its normal range. An Inca Dove in Blythe Apr. 23 was the first for that locality.

How can anyone explain the presence of a Saw-whet Owl at F.C.R. June 11 (M & NP) when temperatures were 110°? A pair of Whip-poor-wills had returned to the San Jacinto Mts. by May 18; this species is clearly a regular summer visitor to these mountains. Again Chimney Swifts were found on the coast with 1-2 in Oceanside, San Diego Co. May 31 (HK), and three seen flying over s. Los Angeles June 5 (Herb Clark, *vide* GSS). A ♀ Anna's Hummingbird at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley May 20 (HK) was interesting since very few records exist for this area of California. A ♂ Broad-tailed Hummingbird in San Pedro Apr. 15-23 (SWe) was probably only the third ever found on the coast of California.

WOODPECKERS—An Acorn Woodpecker in Morongo Valley Apr. 30 was a little east of its normal range, but one at Deep Springs May 21-24 (SS, VR), and another at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley May 8 (RS) were far out of range; one at Anacapa I. Apr. 28 (LJ, HK) had clearly crossed a large expanse of open ocean.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS—Four E. Kingbirds in the e. portion of the Region was normal with one at Morongo Valley May 18 (*vide* GSS), one at Deep Springs May 25 (JD *et al.*), one at Stove Pipe Wells June 1 (VR *et al.*), and another at nearby F.C.R. June 3 (RLeV). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, always rare in California, was at F.C.R. May 24 (RLeV), and another was on Anacapa I. the same day (N. Whelan, *vide* LJ). Wied's Crested Flycatchers were first noted in Morongo Valley Apr. 30; this is the only locality west of the Colorado River Valley where this species is known to nest. A Vermilion Flycatcher at F.C.R. May 25 was at the northern limit of its range in California. A Purple Martin at Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co. Mar. 2 was exceptionally early, and one at Desert Center Apr. 27 was at an interesting locality.

JAYS, MAGPIES, THRASHERS, SOLITAIRES—A Scrub Jay in Tecopa Apr. 29 and another at Scotty's Castle May 8 were both at unusual localities. A Black-billed Magpie at F.C.R. May 24 was south of its normal range. Similarly a Clark's Nutcracker in the Laguna Mts. of San Diego Co. May 25 was outside its normal range.

A **Gray Catbird** at Deep Springs June 1 (GMCC *et al.*) is but the fifth recorded in the Region, however, it is the third for that area of California in early June. A Brown Thrasher at Oasis, Mono Co. May 29 (LJ) was the only one found this spring. A lone Bendire's Thrasher at Stove Pipe Wells June 1 (VR) was a little to the north of its range, and may be the first recorded in Death Valley. A Curve-billed Thrasher, a casual straggler to California, was at the Brock Experimental Station in s.e. Imperial Co. Apr. 14 (BB, JD *et al.*). A Townsend's Solitaire at Morongo Valley Apr. 27 was the only one reported seen on the desert this spring.

WAXWINGS, VIREOS—A Bohemian Waxwing near Weldon, Kern Co. May 19 (KA) was unexpected since none were reported during the winter. A Gray Vireo in Whitewater Canyon, Riverside Co. Apr. 20 and another at Morongo Valley May 5 were the only migrants of this species reported. A Solitary Vireo of the plumbeous race near San Diego Apr. 15-22 (JD) was a little west for that form, and represents one of the few records for coastal California. Most interesting was a **Red-eyed Vireo** at Morongo Valley June 2 (IMaG) and another at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley June 3 (RLeV), for the species is exceptionally rare in s. California.

WARBLERS—This has been the richest spring on record for both the number and variety of the rarer species of warblers occurring in s. California. All eleven of our normally-occurring West Coast species were present in average or above-average numbers as migrants passing through the Region with some remaining to nest. The two southwestern species, Virginia's and Lucy's, whose ranges extend into e. California, were found as expected. Regular rare migrants such as N. Waterthrushes and Am. Redstarts were more numerous than usual, and the number of regular as well as irregular vagrant species recorded swelled the list to 31 species. Records of Black-and-white Warblers included ten in Inyo and s. Mono Cos. May 8 to June 3, one in San Pedro May 7 (SWe), and five on Santa Barbara and San Nicholas Is. May 31-June 8. A ♂ **Prothonotary Warbler** was at F.C.R. May 25-28 (RLeV *et al.*), and another ♂ was on San Nicholas I. June 9 (LJ, JD, GMCC) for the fourth and fifth California spring records. A ♀ **Golden-winged Warbler** at Oasis May 26-27 (RS *et al.*) and a male at nearby Deep Springs May 29 (LJ, JD) were amazing, since there are but seven previous records for the State. A Tennessee Warbler was at Oasis May 8 (RS) and at least four others were seen there and at nearby Deep Springs May 21-June 1 (SS, VR, JD *et al.*) with a fifth at F.C.R. May 29 (GSS *et al.*), and another near Westmorland, Imperial Co. May 11 (JD *et al.*); on the coast single birds were found in San Pedro May 27 (J & DM) and June 7 (SWe), and two were present on San Nicholas I. June 7-8 (LJ *et al.*). Single Virginia's Warblers at Yuca Valley, San Bernardino Co. May 11 (EAC, SC) and F.C.R. May 25 (VR) were probably heading for breeding grounds along the e. border of California, but one in Huntington Beach May 11 (MH) and two on Anacapa I. May 10 were lost. Lucy's Warblers had returned to the Colorado R. by Mar. 17, and reached localities such as Tecopa, F.C.R. and Morongo Valley, which mark the limits of its range in California, by May. Amazing was the recording of nine N. Parulas in the e. portion of the Region with a male and female at Oasis May 25 (J & SL *et al.*), two males there May 27-28 (RS, JD *et al.*) and another male on June 3 (VR *et al.*), a female at Deep Springs June 3 (VR *et al.*), a female at F.C.R. May 26 (RLeV *et al.*), a female at Morongo Valley Apr. 18-19 (RE & MW) and another female near Desert Center June 17 (VR *et al.*). Six ♂ ♂ Magnolia Warblers were unprecedented with one each at Oasis and F.C.R. June 1 (VR, RLeV *et al.*), another at Deep Springs June 3 (VR) and three on San Nicholas I. June 8 (LJ *et al.*). An obvious ♂ Townsend's X Hermit Warbler hybrid was

studied on Pt. Loma May 5 (JD, GMcC). Most exciting was the finding of a ♀ **Cerulean Warbler**, only the third recorded in California, at Oasis May 27 (RS *et al.*). A ♂ **Yellow-throated Warbler** in San Diego Apr. 23-25 (JD *et al.*) is but the second recorded in spring for California; the bird was clearly *albilora*. Five Chestnut-sided Warblers were more than expected but a male was at Oasis May 25-26 (HK *et al.*), a female at Scotty's Castle May 26 (AS), a male at F.C.R. the same day (BB) and another male there June 1 (M & NP), and a male near San Diego May 29 (RP). A ♂ **Bay-breasted Warbler** at Deep Springs June 3 (VR *et al.*) was followed by another on San Nicholas I. June 8 (LJ *et al.*) and another on Santa Rosa I. June 12 (LJ); amazing considering the fact that only two previous spring records exist for the Region. A ♂ **Blackpoll Warbler**, exceptionally rare in spring, was at F.C.R. May 25 (RS *et al.*) and another was on Santa Rosa I. June 12 (LJ). A Palm Warbler, also very rare in spring, was at Chatsworth, L.A. Co. May 10-12 (HK). Seven Ovenbirds is certainly more than expected, but single birds were at Oasis and Deep Springs May 21 (HK, GSS, SS), one was at F.C.R. May 28-29 (JD, LJ), another was there June 2 (GMcC *et al.*), one was on Pt. Loma June 3 (JD), and single birds appeared on San Nicholas I. June 8 & 10 (LJ *et al.*). A N. Waterthrush at Cardiff, San Diego Co. Apr. 5-7 (SS *et al.*) had probably wintered locally, but one near San Diego Apr. 28 (JD) was probably a spring migrant, and ten in San Bernardino, Inyo and s. Mono Cos. May 8-June 10 were clearly migrants. A ♂ **Connecticut Warbler** on Santa Barbara I. May 31 (LJ *et al.*) is only the third recorded in the Region. A ♀ Hooded Warbler, a rare straggler to California, was studied in Huntington Beach May 12 (MH). At least 28 Am. Redstarts were reported with all but four being found in the e. portion of the Region. Two Painted Redstarts, quite rare in California, were in the Laguna Mts. of San Diego Co. May 23 to the end of the period (EC, PU, SS *et al.*), and a singing male was at the South Fork Campground in the San Bernardino Mts. June 3-6 (SWe *et al.*); both localities are suitable for nesting and observers should be aware of the possibility of breeding within the State.

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, TANAGERS—Again a few Bobolinks were seen in the e. portion of the Region with three at F.C.R. May 26 (VR *et al.*), another there May 29 (LJ, JD) and two at Oasis June 1 (GMcC *et al.*); in addition two were found on the coast with one on Pt. Loma June 6 (JD) and the other on San Nicholas I. June 8 (LJ, JD). A ♂ Tricolored Blackbird carefully studied at F.C.R. May 26 (VR *et al.*) was far out of range. A ♂ Orchard Oriole frequented a feeder in Santa Barbara Apr. 12-19 (SBas) and another was seen near Tecopa May 31 (JS). A Scott's Oriole in San Diego Apr. 20, and another in San Pedro May 10-13 were on the coast where they rarely occur. Sightings of "Baltimore" Orioles included a female in San Diego Apr. 22 (JD), a male in Westguard Pass, Inyo Co. May 12 (TH) and another male at Stove Pipe Wells in Death Valley June 2 (J & SL *et al.*); this race of the N. Oriole regularly strays west to California.

A belated report of a ♂ Hepatic Tanager near Norwalk, L.A. Co. Feb. 18 (JS) is noteworthy, since the species is casual away from its limited breeding range in

California; this is probably the same individual as seen Oct. 1-14, 1973 (*Am. Birds* 28:110). Reports of Summer Tanagers in the n.e. portion of the Region included a male at Oasis May 25, a ♀ at Deep Springs June 1, a male there June 3, and a male near Tecopa May 17, on the coast a male was near Santa Barbara on May 15, and four males were seen on San Nicholas I. June 7-10. All these out-of-range birds are suspected of being individuals of the eastern race *rubra*.

FINCHES, SPARROWS—A singing ♂ **Pyrrhuloxia** was seen at S.E.S.S. Apr. 28 (JF), and a female was found at the Brock Experimental Station May 23 (RS), this species appears to be extending its range to include s.e. California. An exceptional number of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks was found this spring with seven along the e. border in s. Mono, Inyo and Riverside Cos. May 25-June 1, four on the coast in Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Diego Cos. May 21-June 4, and three on the Channel Is. May 31-June 9. Indigo Buntings were also quite numerous in s. Mono and Inyo Cos. with at least 16 individuals reported May 5-June 10 and two more at Desert Center in Riverside Co. May 25. A bird believed to be a ♂ hybrid Indigo X Lazuli Bunting was well studied at Deep Springs May 25-27 (VR *et al.*). A few Evening Grosbeaks at Oasis and Deep Springs May 8-25 were the only ones found this spring. Four Lawrence's Goldfinches in the Old Woman Mts. San Bernardino Co. Apr. 12 were a little east of their normal range. A lone Red Crossbill on Pt. Loma Apr. 20 was unexpected. A Rufous-crowned Sparrow at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley May 8 (RS) was far from its known range. A Gray-headed Junco at the Brock Experimental Station Apr. 14 was quite late. A Tree Sparrow at Deep Springs Apr. 7 (RS) is the first recorded in April for California. A Clay-colored Sparrow, very rare in spring, was at Stove Pipe Wells in Death Valley June 1 (SS, J & SL). A singing ♂ Black-chinned Sparrow at Westguard Pass, Inyo Co. May 24 (VR) was a little north of its known range, and a female on Santa Barbara I. May 31 (LJ) represents one of the few records for the Channel Is. Both a Golden-crowned Sparrow and a Fox Sparrow (a rusty bird from the east) on San Nicholas I. June 8 were exceptionally late.

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