

## The Spring Migration April 1 – May 31, 1975

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

Observers here called this spring migration "dull" or "poor," or at best, "routine." Some even went so far as to dub it "the poorest season in memory." There were very few heavy flights and no warbler waves of note. April and the first half of May were cold with



nearly record low temperatures in western Massachusetts, Vermont and upstate New York. Heavy snows April 3-6 in the above areas and Québec bunched birds up at feeders, causing a sharp upswing in banding totals, and delayed the return of winterers north. The second half of May was unseasonably hot in the very areas where it had been cold earlier. Thus a winter passed into summer, spring went virtually undetected. But for a northeaster May 25 which produced some interesting coastal records, the period was un spectacular from the observer's point of view.

Nevertheless, some recent Regional trends clearly persist: the invasion of southern water-related species north, the push northward and to higher elevations of southern lowland passerines, the trickle of western species east, and the descent of certain boreal species to new habitat at lower elevations. Many observers noted the low numbers of such birds as Eastern Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, most swallows, most warblers (except Tennessee and Bay-breasted) and Fox Sparrow. Coverage in western Massachusetts (the Connecticut River Valley) and Vermont was better than ever, as it was in the Adirondacks, owing to the increased activity of observers in all three sub-regions. Increasing coverage con-

tinues to produce rarities, and, despite the general slowness of the season, the Region had its share of those, details of which are on file with Kane unless otherwise noted.

**LOONS THROUGH WADING BIRDS** — As usual, Com. Loons were widely but thinly distributed except on L.I., where 600 passed Mecox in five hours, following the northeaster May 26 (JA). A pair of Commons at Middletown Res., Orange Co., N.Y., May 10-31 (JT) recalled a suspected breeding in that area in the early 1960's. Four Red-throated Loons at Huntsville Res., Dallas, Pa. in late May and early June were unusual in an area "where, until a few years ago, they were practically unrecorded" (WR). Perhaps owing to the late break-up of ice in n. areas, only two Red-necked Grebes (as against last spring's 19) were reported, one at Côte Ste. Catherine, P.Q., Apr. 6 (MM) and one at Holyoke, Mass., Apr. 9 where rare (MY, *vide* SK), but none was reported from the Adirondack-Champlain region which accounted for most of last year's total. Inland Horned Grebes were few in Québec, virtually unreported in the Adirondacks and Vermont and scattered singly in w. Massachusetts and Connecticut, although the coastal Greenwich-Stamford area had several flocks of 50 in April (M.F.N.). During and following the northeaster May 25-26, observers on e. L.I. beaches count 1000+ Sooty Shearwaters from Montauk to Shinnecock (JA, DB, GSR *et al.*) and picked out single Manx Shearwaters (now regular on off-shore trips) at Montauk and Mecox May 25 (JA, JC). Two Double-crested Cormorants "sharing a branch" on the Four Brothers Is., L. Champlain May 17 were suspected of nesting there (JMCP, PT) and two others were at Plattsburgh, N.Y., May 16 (PW).

Hérons generally continue to increase. More than 100 Great Blue Hérons in Massachusetts portions of the Connecticut R. Valley (25 over Mt. Tom Apr. 18) was an above-normal seasonal total there (*vide* SK). Nine Cattle Egrets at Burlington Apr. 23-26 (WGE *et al.*) were probably headed for the Four Brothers Is. colony (N.Y.'s only away from L.I.) where four pairs were found nesting May 17 (JMCP, PT). Hérons far north included single Great Egrets at the Richelieu R., P.Q., Apr. 18 (WS, *vide* MM), Baieville, P.Q., May 6 (AR, *vide* MG), Plattsburgh Apr. 27 (CM, PW), Leverett, Mass., Apr. 20-30 (m.ob., *vide* SK) and Pittsfield, Mass., Apr. 20 (LD), the last apparently "a first record for Berkshire County" (RJB). Also out of range were five Snowy Egrets at Woodward Res., Plymouth, Vt., May 18 (DL, SL), another at Northampton May 13-14 (m.ob., *vide* SK) and one at Exeter, Pa., Apr. 26 (EC) More than 100 Black-crowned Night Hérons were seen flying over Nun's I. May 11 at twilight (DJ) and scattered singles away from the usual night heron areas were too numerous to list. The Pittston, Pa. Black-

crowned colony had 52 birds and 32 nests (11 over last year) at the end of April (WR) while the Four Brothers Is population numbered 40 birds May 17 (JMCP,PT). An ad. Yellow-crowned Night Heron returned to the small rookery at Rye, N.Y., Apr. 2, four were there May 18 (M.F.N.) and an errant bird appeared at Wilkes-Barre Apr. 2, the observer's second Pennsylvania record in 25 years (WR). Other herons rare for their locales were a Least Bittern at Pelham, Mass., May 7 (JS *et al.*) and single Glossy Ibises at Ile du Moine May 31 (BL *et al.*).

**WATERFOWL** — The only Whistling Swan reported was one at Lake of Two Mountains, P.Q. in early April (MM). Canada Geese were in good numbers in Québec and better in Vermont, where a flight of 1000 was recorded at Grand Isle Apr. 2 (WGE *et al.*). Notable for the St. Lawrence R. were two Brant flocks of 146 at Ogdensburg, N.Y., May 24 & 31 near Montreal May 25 (JG), and for the Hudson R., ten flocks totalling 4500 over the Poughkeepsic area May 22-23 (R T.W.B.C.). High April totals of Snow Geese, steadily increasing in recent years, were 1100+ in the Greenwich-Stamford area (M.F.N.), 1000+ in the Montreal area (*fide* MM), 4000+ in the Mass. portion of the Conn. R. Valley (3000+ over Amherst Apr. 11, *fide* SK) and 2000+ in Vermont (1000+ over Winhall Apr. 12, *fide* WJN), while an estimated 5000 were at Cap Tourmente, P.Q., May 19 (m.ob.). Among the Snows at Beauport, P.Q., Apr. 27 was Quebec's second **Ross' Goose** ever (PL *et mult. al.*, *fide* MG); two were photographed there May 3 (JBS) and another ten miles east at Cap Tourmente May 12 was joined by a second bird May 22 (AR), possibly the same Beauport pair.

Again invading the Region were **Fulvous Tree Ducks**, six this year, all at Baiting Hollow Marsh, L I, May 14 (JCI *et al.*, *fide* THD). Of duck species on the increase, Gadwall continues to show the most pronounced trend, being reported from all Montreal waterways to late May (*fide* MM) and from a number of areas in Vermont, where ten at Ferrisburg May 1 was the best count (BPG) and two at Sherburne May 31 were possibly nesting WGE *et al.*. At period's end, breeding Gadwall numbered several hundred in the lower Hackensack Meadows (below, H.M.) in the N. Arlington-Kearny, N.J. area, also the scene this spring of an excellent Pintail flight which peaked at 700+ Mar 17 (RK). Above normal numbers of the latter species were also recorded in the Conn. R. Valley, the maximum 35 at Northampton Apr. 9 (SK). Two ♂ Eur. Wigeon were found in Québec, one at Nun's I., May 8 (FH) and one at Contrecoeur May 10 (JBS *et al.*). Unusual for Vermont were a lone N. Shoveler at Cornwall Apr. 12 and four more at the Leicester-Salisbury flats Apr. 15 (AP), as were seven at Northampton Apr. 19 (TG). Another species on the upswing is the Ring-necked Duck, which was reported "in flocks of 100-200 on various Montreal area waterways" (MM), in "large numbers" through the Conn. R. Valley (SK), as "more common than other migrant ducks" in Berkshire Co., Mass. (RJG) and as possibly nesting (four) in Franklin Co., N.Y. (JMCP). The Region's only Barrow's Goldeneyes were three at Côte Ste. Catherine

until Apr. 13 (MM) while the only lingering eiders were three Commons still at Montauk May 25 (JA,JC). The Region's best count of Ruddy Ducks, 250 at Bridgehampton, L.I., Apr. 27 (GSR), and the return of the small breeding population (fewer than 20 pairs) to the H.M. at N. Arlington were encouraging in view of the recent oil spill damage to this species in s New Jersey. A pair of Red-breasted Mergansers at Four Brothers Is., May 17 were "strongly suspected of nesting" (JMCP).

**RAPTORS** — More hawk watching occurred this spring than in past seasons, but the absence of any report from Derby Hill makes comparisons with last year difficult. Turkey Vultures continued their push into n. sections with 11 sightings in Québec, four in the Essex Co., N.Y. area, 11 on the Vermont side of L Champlain (AP), and were seen as increasing in the Conn. R. Valley and n.e. Pennsylvania, where a count of 14 at Tunkhannock Apr. 10 was considered quite high (WR). Western Massachusetts reported above-normal totals of 30+ Goshawks and 32 Cooper's Hawks, and a female of the latter species was thought to be on territory at Middletown Res., N.Y., May 24 (JT *et al.*), the first spring record there in several years and the first possible nesting in many years. Increased coverage by Montreal area observers produced some 400 Red-tailed Hawks Apr. 15-19, a quite respectable tally for Québec (*fide* MM). During the snowstorm of Apr. 4, a chunky, dark buteo thought to be a Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk was observed near Colchester, Vt (WGE, BE *et al.*). Red-shouldered Hawks, up in most areas but down in Pennsylvania, staged an above-normal flight through w. Massachusetts, maximum 41 at Mt. Tom Mar. 25 (*fide* SK), while Broad-winged Hawks were below normal there and elsewhere, trickling through without major build-ups despite the record fall flight of last year. For the third consecutive spring, a buteo thought to be a Swainson's Hawk was reported in the Region; this year's was a bird identified as a first year immature at Mt. Tom Apr. 22 (m.ob., *fide* SK). Two conflicting descriptions of this bird were received, both of which lacked important details, Does the species occur annually and why is Massachusetts curiously blessed while the rest of the region remains barren?

Of the Region's seven Bald Eagles (all adults), three were seen in Pennsylvania, one in Vermont, one in w Massachusetts, and two in the Montreal area, which also claimed the Region's lone Golden Eagle, an immature at Mt. Bruno Apr. 17-19 (MT *et al.*, *fide* MM). The eagle picture remains dismal, but also incomplete, as some good eagle locations did not report. At least four pairs of Marsh Hawks (generally up throughout) nested on the H.M., a welcome reversal of the species' severe decline as a breeder in New Jersey since the late 1950's. The first positive proof of breeding in many years was a nest with three eggs found at Lyndhurst, N.J., May 30 (DS). The best Osprey counts were 19 at Greenwich (M.F.N.) and 51 at Mt. Tom (*fide* SK), both Apr. 19. Regional Peregrine and Merlin reports totaled seven of each, mostly from w. Massachusetts, where lookouts are manned regularly in spring.

**GROUSE THROUGH RALLIDS** — Several Spruce Grouse were again found at Madawaska, N.Y. (*fide* JMCP) and a Green Pheasant dallied at a Westport, N.Y. feeder in the company of a possible Green X Ring-necked hybrid through April (AG). Ring-necked Pheasants have virtually disappeared from s. Saratoga Co., N.Y. "after stocking stopped several years ago" (RPY). Outstanding among the season's rarities were two **Sandhill Cranes**, one a first year bird at Masson May 3, a first for s. Québec (RAF,SS), the other a bugling adult observed and photographed at Montauk May 1-5 (EE *et al.*, *fide* THD), one of a very few records for the N.Y.C.R. and the twelfth for N.Y. State (eight in the last ten years). Among the more interesting rallid reports were an unusually high number of sightings of the always secretive King Rail (at least eight, vs the usual two or three), the earliest Ile du Moine record ever of Yellow Rails (two) May 17 (JBS), an amusing account of a "Big Day" attempt to see Black Rails at the traditional Oak Beach, L.I., colony May 19 (THD *et al.*), and two records of **Purple Gallinules**, a modest echo of last year's invasion. One of these, an adult captured at Wading R., L.I., Apr. 4 (AD *et al.*), was the earliest ever for the Region; the bird was released Apr. 6 at the Quogue Wildlife Refuge and died the next day (specimen to Q.W.R.). The second Purple was seen at Brookhaven, L.I., May 14-17 (GSR, JR *et al.*)

**SHOREBIRDS** — The destruction of the Pittsfield Sewer Beds for more refined treatment facilities eliminated w. Massachusetts' best inland shorebird area, but elsewhere inland records paralleled those of recent years. Unprecedented away from Long Island was a ♀ **Wilson's Plover** carefully identified in comparison with Semipalmateds at New Haven May 26 by an observer familiar with the species (PJD *et al.*), the first Regional occurrence since 1968; a second bird described as a ♂ Wilson's was observed under good conditions at Greenwich Pt., Conn., June 2 (DB). Undoubtedly both birds were blown there by the storm May 25. Single Am. Golden Plovers were recorded at Mecox May 7-8 (BS) and J.B.W.R. May 19 (PAB), while a single Black-bellied Plover at Exeter May 23 was a spring first for n.e. Pennsylvania (WR *et al.*) and three at Northampton May 16 were rare for that area (TG *et al.*, *fide* SK). Other interesting shorebirds inland were 75+ Ruddy Turnstones at Nun's I., May 31 (MM), two at Plattsburgh May 20 (PW), one more at Northampton May 16 (TG), 12 Whimbrel at Plattsburgh May 16 (GC *et al.*), 26 Upland Sandpipers from the Champlain and Conn. R. Valleys, and an astonishing (perhaps storm-related) Willet at Northampton May 28-30 (MY *et al.*, *fide* SK). At N. Arlington, Greater Yellowlegs peaked at 100+ Apr. 21 and Pectoral Sandpipers at 60+ Apr. 13, a good spring tally (RK, TP).

Additional noteworthy records away from the coast were 14 Dunlin at Plattsburgh May 16 (GC, PW), one at the Leicester-Salisbury flats May 20 (AP), three more at Hadley, Mass., May 13-20 (DF *et al.*), eight dowitcher (sp.) at Speculator, Hamilton Co., N.Y., Apr. 18 in a foot of Adirondack snow (JMCP, PT) and 10 Short-billeds in Northampton May 26 (TG). A Long-billed Dowitcher in breeding plumage, when flushed at

J.B.W.R. May 19, uttered the characteristic calls of both dowitcher species (PAB); does the Short-billed also do this? Other extra-seasonal shorebird rarities included a Stilt Sandpiper at J.B.W.R. May 18-19 (JA, PAB *et al.*) and two Marbled Godwits at Rimouski, P.Q., May 15 (R. Pelletier). The only Ruff was a changing black bird at Guilford, Conn., May 17 (PJD *et al.*). For the third year in a row, Sanderlings (two) were recorded inland in Pennsylvania, this year at Tunkhannock May 26 (WR *et al.*). The rare **Black-necked Stilt** was observed at Jones Beach S.P. May 20 (W. Wilkins). Two Wilson's Phalaropes were the earliest ever at Nun's I., May 3 (JBS *et al.*). Others were later seen at Contrecoeur, Ile du Moine where they nest, and the mouth of the Yamaska R. (*fide* MM), but the only birds away from Québec were a female at Oak Beach May 24 (THD *et al.*) and a pair at N. Arlington May 25-26 (TP *et al.*), while the Region's only N. Phalarope was recorded at Lachine, P.Q., June 1 (MM *et al.*).

**JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS** — Extremely early but not unprecedented inland in N.J. was a light-phase Pomarine Jaeger at Spruce Run Res., Apr. 15-17 (GW *et al.*), seen hawking migrant Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls. Is there an annual jaeger migration up the Delaware Valley? An extra-seasonal imm. Iceland Gull inland at L. Placid May 28-31 (MLW, JMCP) and a Great Black-backed Gull again on L. Champlain at Westport May 20 (GC) were noteworthy as were the 3368 Ring-billed Gulls at the Four Brothers Is. colony May 17 (JMCP). Black-headed Gulls were present in about the usual numbers at the regular locales from S. Amboy, N.J. to Beauharnois, P.Q. A Laughing Gull at Québec City Apr. 19 was the earliest ever there (PL, *fide* RMP) while the third recent spring provincial record of a sub-adult **Franklin's Gull** at Deschenes May 30-31 (TH, AW) suggests that the species is now regular in Québec (all twelve records since 1969). From a large flock of some 250 ad. Bonaparte's Gulls on Spruce Run Res., N.J., Apr. 17, small groups of 15-20 birds were observed taking off to the northwest in the evening (RK). This and other inland observations in New Jersey in recent years seem to indicate a regular inland migration, either nocturnal or at high altitudes. Aside from the usual number of Little Gulls in the old reliable spots, there was also a sub-adult at Rye May 17 (WH *et al.*), a first for that area.

**Gull-billed Terns**, very rare in spring, invaded the N.Y. C.R. as follows: two pairs were at J.B.W.R. May 16-31 (PAB *et mult.* *al.*), a pair was seen copulating there May 26 but no evidence of breeding obtained (*fide* THD) and other pairs were found May 18 at Cedar Beach and Jones Beach S.P. (PAB, MGo). Also rare in spring for L.I. was a Forster's Tern at Mecox May 24 (JA), but rarest of all this season was an **Arctic Tern** carefully observed at rest and in flight from distances down to 15 ft. during the northeaster May 25 at Sandy Hook, N.J. (RJS, DLI). Single Roseate Terns at Sandy Hook May 25 (RJS) and Rye May 4 (TWB *et al.*) and lone Caspian Terns at Gill, Mass., May 31 where rare (C. Miles, *fide* SK) and J.B.W.R. May 17 (JY) were the only ones reported. Black Terns seemed to occur in above-average numbers this year and an increased resident population of 25+ returned to Dead Creek, Vt by the very early date of May 10 (WJN).

**PARAKEETS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — A pair of Rose-ringed Parakeets seen copulating at the previously suspected nest site in Englewood Cliffs, N.J., Apr. 20 was also observed going in and out of a hole in a tree where 20 other Rose-ringed (some females) were perched (Macklin Smith). No young have been reported yet at this location or elsewhere and thus far the great majority of these parakeets have been males. Barn Owls were widely reported, many of them in previously unknown or undetected nest sites; one pair had young in a bridge girder over the Hackensack R. in May (DS). Another Barn Owl was shot near Montreal where rare (*vide* MM), and a Screech Owl at Dead Creek May 4 was good for Vermont where the species has been scarce (FO,TW). During the period, 22 Great Horned Owls and six active nests were located between Sands Point and Cold Spring Harbor in n. Nassau Co., N.Y. (Otto Heck). This and n. New Jersey reports, one of which mentions 13 wind-blown owlets successfully placed in adopted nests, suggest an increase in s. portions of the region; is it true elsewhere? Following good fall flights, three Snowy Owls were sighted at Nun's I., Apr. 12-13 (M. Ainley, *vide* MM) and Short-eared Owls lingered through April and into May in fair numbers; of ten overwintering at Gaylesville, Ulster Co., N.Y., two were still present May 17 (JT); of 26 wintering at N. Arlington, seven were still present May 5 (RK); and a flock of seven was found at Shea I., off Norwalk, Conn., Apr. 18 (JSo). A single bird near Crown Point, N.Y., Apr. 7-12 was very rare for Essex Co. (TB,NM).

— S. A. —

After several invasion years, the **Chuck-will's-widow** is at last a proven Regional resident, a nest with two eggs having been discovered at Oak Beach May 24 (THD,AJL,MGo *et al.*), the first New York nesting (details submitted to *The Kingbird*). This nesting pair arrived on territory May 3, while other chucks arrived at Richmond Valley, S.I., May 10 (H. Fischer *et al.*), at Forest Pk., Queens May 8 when photographed (D. Riepe,THD) and Central Park, N.Y.C., May 14 (Lana Mills *et al.*). Three of these four sightings were in or very near locales where the birds were found last year. The Richmond bird was still present in June.

A good count of Com. Nighthawks was 350 in 25 min. at Croton, N.Y., May 21 (WH). A Red-bellied Woodpecker at Wilbraham, Mass., May 25 was unusual (Dick Franz, *vide* SK), as were single Red-headed Woodpeckers in the mountains at Winhall May 24, a first there (WJN), at Great Barrington, Mass., May 8 (RJG) and at Ferrisburg, Vt., May 1 (BPG). Elsewhere there were three May reports of Red-headed from the Conn. R. Valley (*vide* SK), several nesting pairs in Orange Co., N.Y. (*vide* JT) and a nesting pair again at Montrose, Pa. (EC). To be expected after the heavy flight last fall were several records of lingering three-toed Woodpeckers. In the Montreal and Hull areas, both species remained into May and June (*vide* MM,RMP), while single Northerns were found at Burlington, Vt., Apr. 7 (WGE *et al.*) and Pittsfield May 13 (RJG).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH MIMIDS** — Among early migrants caught in the snows Apr. 3-6, E. Phoebes were thought to be far less common than usual in Berkshire Co., Mass. (RJG). An abnormally high season tally of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers for n. New Jersey was seven at Jockey Hollow May 14-23 (EW). An Acadian Flycatcher was again on territory at Red Rock, Pa., May 23, where it bred last year (WR). Willow Flycatchers appeared unusually abundant (or at least heavily reported), but Least Flycatchers were noticeably low. A high inland count of Horned Larks was 100+ at Dead Creek Apr. 5 (FO). Tree and other swallows seemed down throughout, although the Bank Swallow colony at Peter's Valley, N.J. continues to house 150+ pairs. Two Black-billed Magpies, origin unknown, were reported, one an overwintering bird still at Easthampton, L.I., May 28 (C. Ciancioso), the other seen at the Great Swamp, N.J., Apr. 10 but not thereafter (S. Zipke, staff). Com. Ravens were nesting again in at least three Adirondack locations (*vide* JMCP) and probably also at Winhall (WJN).

Continuing the species' expansion southeastward to new habitats were a pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches breeding in the Johnson yard in Dallas, Pa. (the first nesting for n.e. Pennsylvania), two others at Red Rock, Pa., May 23 (WR), a single bird at Upton, L.I., May 28 (GSR) and pairs at Dover Plains and Bard College, both Dutchess Co., N.Y., May 23, the latter in a nest cavity (R.T.W.B.C., *vide* EP). For a species generally solitary in migration, a count of 14 Winter Wrens at Jockey Hollow Apr. 22 was high (EW), echoing the heavy flight last fall. Of invading w. species, perhaps the most interesting in view of last year's N.Y. nesting was a **Bewick's Wren** banded at S. Woodstock, Vt., May 27 (SL *et al.*, *vide* BPG). Typifying the push of s species north were single Carolina Wrens at Aylmer, P.Q., May 19 (John Dubois, *vide* RMP), and Vergennes, Vt., May 5 (BPG *et al.*), three Carolinas at Longmeadow, Mass. during the period (*vide* SK), six seasonal Mockingbirds in the Montreal area (*vide* MM), another May 17 at Ferrisburg (BPG *et al.*), two building a nest at Plattsburgh May 17 (PW *et al.*) and three singles in the Franklin-Essex Co., N.Y. area, where the species is evidently establishing itself as a resident (*vide* JMCP).

**THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS** — Aside from the two previously reported overwintering Varied Thrushes (see winter season), a third appeared at the Stuart feeder in Northfield, Vt., Apr. 4-13, undoubtedly driven there by the heavy snow Apr. 3-4. The small resident population of Hermit Thrushes continues on e Long Island where six singing males were recorded in the scrub oak from Speonk to Riverhead May 22 (GSR). Aside from the 60 Swainson's Thrushes at Jockey Hollow May 22 (EW), no other significant counts of that species were reported. Eastern Bluebirds were low in the Conn. R. Valley where only six pairs were found nesting (*vide* SK) but were widely reported in w. Orange and Dutchess Cos., N.Y. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers again poured through the Region in astonishing numbers, continuing their range extension north and to higher altitudes. Over 20 were seen at Tunkhannock, Pa., May 10 (EC), at least 24 were recorded for the



season in w. Massachusetts (*fide* SK), two were found in the Montreal area (*fide* MM), three were reported in the Champlain Valley (*fide* JMCP) and a nest was discovered at W. Hartford May 17 (PJD). At high elevations were single gnatcatchers at Raquette L., Hamilton Co., N.Y., May 24 (BBP) and Gale Meadows, Vt., May 15 (WJN). Three banded this season at Vischer Ferry, N.Y. were unusual for that area (RPY).

#### S. A.

Another boreal species descending to lower elevations south and east of its normal range is the Golden-crowned Kinglet. For this species and the Red-breasted Nuthatch the maturation of Norway spruces and other conifers planted 40 years ago in watersheds and around reservoirs has provided the requisite cool, moist habitat normally found in montane areas. First noted in s. N.Y. by R. F. Andrie in 1969-70 (*Wils. Bull.* 83:313-316) and in n. N.J. in 1971 (*Am. Birds* 25:837), this range extension of the kinglet is continuing, as evidenced by further reports this spring. Very late and probably territorial were three singing Golden-crowns in pines at Pound Ridge, N.Y., May 18 (M.F.N.), another singing male in cedar at Middletown Res., N.Y., May 24 (JT), one near Hartford May 14 (PJD) and two at Kensico Res., Armonk, N.Y., May 10 (WH), all in suitable habitat. Another pair was found building a nest May 17-23 at Dover Plains, N.Y. in Norway spruce at Camp Sharparoon (R.T.W.B.C., *fide* EP), the first nesting for Dutchess County.

Ten Bohemian Waxwings were grounded by snow at Burlington Apr. 6 (WGE *et al.*), three others were at Amherst Apr. 29 (JS) and six more were reported in the Montreal area in April (MM). The only N. Shrikes were singles at Greensboro, Vt., Apr. 12 (FO,JW) and Pomfret, Vt., Apr. 10 (SL, *fide* BPG). Vermont also had most of the Loggerhead Shrikes: a pair at Orwell Apr. 19 (AP), and singles at Ferrisburg May 10 where they nest (C. Harris, *fide* BPG) and Montpelier Apr. 19 (FO,JW); the only other was a bird at S. Hadley, Mass., Apr. 16-22 (D. Ashworth, *fide* SK). Unusually high numbers of Yellow-throated and Philadelphia Vireos were recorded, the eight reports of the latter species in the N.Y.C.R. far exceeding the average annual total there, while a pair of Philadelphias building a nest near Marcy Dam, Essex Co., N.Y., May 28 (MLW *et al.*) marked only the second state breeding occurrence.

**WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS** — The generally unspectacular movement of small passerines brought no heavy warbler waves and fewer overshooting southern warblers than in recent years. The Prothonotary Warbler total of seven was well below last year's 18. Mediocre season or not, an outstanding find was that of a **Swainson's Warbler** at Forest Park, N.Y.C., May 10, the fifth state record (THD *et parv. al.*), details submitted to *the Kingbird*. A count of **28** Worm-eating Warblers at Jockey Hollow May 12 (EW) was quite high, as was the Vermont season total of **nine** singing Golden-winged (and five hybrid) Warblers,

which count represents a marked increase at the northern limits of the species' range. Another Golden-winged was very far north at Lac Taureau, P.Q., May 31 (FH), further north than provincial sightings of the past two years. Tennessee Warblers were again very abundant in Québec, w. Massachusetts, N.Y.C. and n. New Jersey, where counts of 50+ at Bernardsville May 14 (RK) and 50+ at Jockey Hollow May 15 (EW) were indicative of the species' recent increase. Also increasing are spring reports of Orange-crowned Warblers away from Québec; singles were observed this year in Central Park, N.Y.C., Apr. 27 (M. Gallagher, D Edwards, *fide* THD), Echo Lake Pk., N.J., May 14 (I Weigley), Holyoke Apr. 28 (R. Stone, *fide* SK), W Springfield, Mass., May 12 (M. Yates, *fide* SK) and Wilkes-Barre May 19 (WR), while Québec's two were found at Westmount and Rimouski in May (*fide* MG).

The seven Cape May Warblers at Craftsbury May 13 represented a good count for this uncommon migrant in Vermont and suggested that the species might be more common than was supposed at the southern limit of its breeding range (FO). A record 280 Yellow-rumped Warblers were banded at Vischer Ferry this season, 209 of them on May 10 (RPY). Beyond their usual range were single Cerulean Warblers at Huntington, Mass., May 22 (J. Lynes, *fide* SK) and at Mt. St. Hilaire, P.Q., May 31 (F. Brabant, *fide* MG), and a Yellow-throated Warbler at Taftsville, Vt., May 31 (WGE,GFE), the region's only this season after nine last year. Along with Tennessee and Yellow-rumped, the only other warbler reported in significant numbers from Québec to the N.Y.C.R. was the Bay-breasted, very much the pattern of recent years. Another species pushing north is the **Louisiana Waterthrush**, as evidenced by the second Québec record (the first was last year) of one singing at Aylmer May 25 (R. Bergeron, *fide* RMP) and reports of other singing males at Raquette L., N.Y., May 25 (BBP) and again at Winhall May 4 (WJN), both high elevations. Kentucky Warbler reports totaled 18 (26 last year), including a sighting at W. Springfield May 22-23 (TG *et al.*, *fide* SK). Yellow-breasted Chats continue to be scarce; two from the N.Y.C.R. and three from w. Massachusetts were the only ones recorded. Another southerner far north was a Hooded Warbler at Aylmer in late May (Murray Brigham, *fide* RMP).

Western Icterids continuing their invasion eastward included a singing ♂ **W. Meadowlark** at St. Anicet, P.Q., May 10-11 (photo by JBS, *fide* MM), a singing ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird in suitable habitat in the Hull area May 31 (RMP) and another Yellow-headed at a feeder in Pennington, N.J., Apr. 24 (G. Hanisek). Orchard Orioles were sharply up and quite far north, as indicated by the 14 reports from W. Massachusetts (*fide* SK), the three at L. Champlain from Ticonderoga to the Crown Point forts May 10-26 (GC *et al.*, *fide* JMCP) and the arrival of two Orchards in Vermont where there were only two previous records, one in 1908 and the other (unpublished) in 1970 at Woodstock May 10 (R. B. Farrar); this year's birds were males at Cornwall May 11-12 (BBP *et al.*) and Irasburg May 14 (JW). Also from Vermont came a report of 800 Brown-headed Cowbirds on a highway in Grand Isle County, during the snow Apr. 5 (WGE *et al.*). The Regional total of

three Summer Tanagers (all in the N.Y.C.R.) was subpar, well below last year's 15.

**FRINGILLIDS** — The ♂ Black-headed Grosbeak overwintering at Ware, Mass. was banded Apr. 12 and last seen Apr. 21 (G. Albertine, *fide* SK) while a female not known to be an overwintering bird was banded and photographed at Denville, N.J., May 19 (M Hannisian). The only Blue Grosbeaks were a sub-adult male in Central Park, May 14-17 (M & N Larsen, *fide* THD) and another in Plymouth, Pa., May 15, where rare (W. Myers, *fide* WR). Of the five Dickcissels reported, four were April feeder birds and the fifth was a male at Holyoke May 5-7 (MY *et al.*, *fide* SK). Spring Purple Finch flights were good in n. N.J., where the species is moving in as a breeder in spruce plantings, at Essex, N.Y., where 175 were banded at two feeders during the snows Apr. 3-7 (JMCP) and at Schenectady where 428 were banded in April and 89 in May, the best total ever there (RPY), but the picture on the Adirondack breeding grounds was somewhat contradictory. In Essex Co., numbers were normal, while in n. Saratoga Co., where formerly abundant, Purples were virtually absent (RPY). A House Finch banded at Essex Apr. 4 marked the third county record (JMCP) and a pair at Middlebury, Vt., Apr. 17-22 represented a first for that part of the state (BBP *et al.*). A flock of 3000 Com. Redpolls at Mt. Bruno Apr. 14 (MM) was a surprise following a non-finch year. A Pine Siskin nest found at Chubb R., N.Y., Mar. 29 (PW) and the previously reported White-winged Crossbill nest there both failed under the heavy snow and ice of early April.

The Region's lone Henslow's Sparrow was observed in May in a field near Dallas, Pa., where found last year (WR *et al.*), and a single Sharp-tailed Sparrow was seen at Wilbraham, Mass., May 4 (Franz, *fide* SK). In addition to the overwintering Harris' Sparrow at Mt. Pleasant, N.J., there was another in the Region this spring, an adult at the Rockwood feeder in Conway, Mass., Mar. 28-29 and possibly into April (*fide* Ruth Dwelley). Following the invasion of last fall, White-crowned Sparrows were predictably higher than usual, while Fox Sparrows were virtually unnoticed or absent over most of the Region. Eight Lincoln's Sparrows were found at Madawaska, N.Y., May 24 (High Peaks Audubon, *fide* JMCP), two more were banded at Essex May 4 (JMCP) and another sang daily at Craftsbury May 12-28 (FO), possibly a territorial bird.

**ERRATA** — The following typing or printing errors in recent columns should be corrected as follows: *AB* 28 780—At Great Swamp, the Wood Duck boxes were 96% occupied (not 96) in 1973. *AB* 29:30 — An encouraging count of Black Ducks was 500 (not 6500) at Branford. *AB* 29:30—The Broad-winged Hawk tally at Montclair was 9000 (not 900) above the previous high.

**ADDENDUM** — The mystery of the yellow-dyed Least Terns on L.I. (*AB* 29:135) has been cleared up. The yellow birds are from a colony in Stratford, Conn., and any pink Least Terns that observers should see are from another colony at Milford, Conn. The purpose of the dye and color bands is to determine the extent of the birds' foraging range, and also any shift in nesting

locations. Anyone seeing these birds in the field is asked to note the color combination of bands on the leg and report the sighting and the location to: Dennis Varza, Connecticut Audubon Society, 2325 Burr St., Fairfield, Conn. 06430.

**OBSERVERS** — (sub-regional compilers in bold-face: Jim Ash, Tom Barber, Ken Berlin, Doris Bova, Thomas W. Burke, Geoffrey Carleton, Jim Clinton (JCI), Joe Costa, Earl Cowden, **Thomas H. Davis** (New York State portions of N.Y.C.R.; editor, N Y Rare Bird Alert: 94-46 85th Rd., Woodhaven, N Y 11421); Paul J. Desjardins, Aline Dove, Laura Drummond, Barbara Eastman, Elbert Edwards, Sam Eliot, George F. Ellison, Walter G. Ellison, David Fischer, Roger A. Foxall, August Gabel, Tom Gagnon, James Gibson, Mike Gochfeld (MGo), Robert J. Goodrich, **Michel Gosselin** (Québec City: 6151 Henri Bourassa E No. 107, Montreal, Canada); **Beatrice P. Guyett** (Vermont: 14 Comfort Hill, Vergennes, Vt. 05491), Felix Hilton, Tom Hince, William Howe, Doug Jackson, **Seth Kellogg** (western Mass.: 377 Loomis St., Southwick, Mass.); P. Lane, David Laughlin, Sally Laughlin, Anthony J. Lauro, Dorothy Lloyd (DLI), Bruce Lyon, Norman Mason, **Mabel McIntosh** (Montreal area: 136 Millhaven Ave., Pointe Claire, P.Q. H9R 3V8); **Mianus Field Notes** (Greenwich-Stamford area: 163 Field Point Rd., Greenwich, Conn 06830); Charles Mitchell, William J. Norse, Frank Oatman, Bruce B. Peterson, **John M.C. Peterson** (Adirondack-Champlain area: P.O. Box 300, Essex, N.Y. 12936); Elinor Pink, Alan Pistorius, **Richard M. Poulin** (Hull area: 254 Cooper St. (basement), Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0G4); Ted Procter, Gilbert S. Raynor, A Reed, **William Reid** (Penna.: 65 Academy St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18702); **Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club** (Dutchess Co., N.Y.: Cedar View Rd., Pleasant Valley, N.Y. 12569), John Ruscica, June Seitz, Stanley Shadick, Don Smith, Robert J. Smith, Wright Smith, John Souther (JSO), Barbara Spencer, Jack B Steeves, Patricia Taber, Mark Tomalty, **John Tramontano** (Orange Co., N.Y.: Biology Dept., Orange County Community College, Middletown, N Y 10940); M. L. Ward, Philip Warren, Elsie Weig, Gertrude Whitlock, Tom Will, Jon Wood, A. Wormington, Mary Yenlin, John Yrizarry, Robert P. Yunick; H M - Hackensack Meadows, J.B.W.R. - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, M.F.N. - Mianus Field Notes, R T W.B.C. - Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, N.Y.C.R. - New York City Region. **RICHARD KANE**, New Jersey Audubon Society, Scherman Wildlife Sanctuary, P.O. Box 693, Bernardsville, N.J. 07924 and P. A. **BUCKLEY**, North Atlantic Regional Office, National Park Service, 150 Causeway St., Boston, Mass. 02114.

**NEW NORTHEASTERN REGIONAL  
BOUNDARIES ANNOUNCED**

**See American Birds  
June, 1975 Vol. 29, No.3  
pg. 659**

## MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

### /F. R. Scott and David A. Cutler

The spring weather was far cooler than normal — at least to mid-May — and precipitation was reasonably normal to slightly above normal, all this following a very cool and wet March. Not surprisingly, the migration was considered quite late, though as usual it seemed to “catch up” somewhat with much warmer



weather in mid- and late May. Aside from the cool temperatures, the outstanding characteristic of the weather this spring was the repeated occurrence of windstorms. April 3 was the date of the most widespread excessive winds, and gusts hit 80 m.p.h. in suburban Philadelphia. Although as might be expected, some Bald Eagle and Osprey nests fell victims to these storms, it is perhaps surprising that so many survived. There were few reports of flights or waves or migrants during the migration, but one interesting report was of a heavy reverse migration of shorebirds that occurred at Little Creek, Del., May 16, when thousands of birds, mostly Ruddy Turnstones, Dunlins, and Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers, were observed flying southward between 2 and 4 p.m. (HWby & RAC).

**LOONS THROUGH ANHINGAS** — There was an unusual number of Com. Loons reported during the last week of May, and a possible Arctic Loon was found at Chincoteague N.W.R., Va., Apr. 4 (HGA,EHC & JWC). Although the bird was well described, there is some question whether any Arctic Loon in winter plumage out of its usual range is safely distinguishable in the field from the Common. A Red-necked Grebe was seen inland near Ft. Hunt, Fairfax Co., Va., May 10 (DFA) and perhaps the same bird at nearby Dyke marsh May 11 (EW). Fifty Horned Grebes at Brigantine N.W. R., N.J., Apr. 13 (JFA) were considered a good number, and late records included two at L. Galena, Bucks Co., Pa., May 18 (CG) and singles at Chincoteague Ref., May 24 (LKM) and Dyke marsh May 26 (JMA *et al.*). Two N. Fulmars at Hudson Canyon, 90 mi. east of Beach Haven, N.J., Apr. 26 (PT) were the only report of this species. The most interesting shearwater reports came from a joint D.V.O.C.-U.O.C. trip to Hudson Canyon May 31. They recorded 20 Cory's, one Grea-

ter, 25 Sooty, and one Manx Shearwater (PWS *et al.*), the latter possibly a first New Jersey record. This trip also reported two Leach's Storm-Petrels. During the afternoon of May 25, with strong NE winds blowing Lehman counted 20 Sooty Shearwaters at Cape Henlopen, Del. and Barnhill a similar number near Rehoboth Beach, Del. Early Wilson's Storm-Petrels included nine at Hudson Canyon Apr. 26 (PT) and ten or more off Ocean City, Md., Apr. 27 (RLP *et al.*), whereas the May 31 trip noted above recorded 1050 at Hudson Canyon (PWS *et al.*). Unusual inland records of Double-crested Cormorants included a peak of nine at Kerr Res., Va., Apr. 27 (JML *et al.*), two in Price Edward Co., Va., May 8 (VC), and one at Pottstown, Pa., May 23 (RWB). J. M. Abbott noted 1000 at Heron Reef, St. Marys Co., Md., Mar. 23, and 22 migrating at Trenton marsh, N.J., May 31 (RJB) were late. Two Anhingas were observed flying south over Ft. Hunt Va., May 4 (JMA).

**HERONS, IBIS, STORKS** — Cattle Egrets appeared widely inland during the spring. Among the more interesting reports were four at Kerr Res. dam, Va., Apr 19 (JML *et al.*), ten at Smoky Ordinary, Brunswick Co., Va., Apr. 19 (CES), nine near Lynchburg, Va. Apr. 30 (DPte), and one at Orwigsburg, Pa., May 4 (TTC). A flock of 28 Great Egrets at Kerr dam Apr. 27 (JML *et al.*) was an unusual spring Piedmont report and a Louisiana Heron at Dyke marsh, Va., May 10 (DFA) was also unusual inland. Good Least Bittern counts included 13 at Back Bay N.W.R., Va., May 17 (DLH) and six at Port Mahon, Del., May 19 (CLG), and an imm. Wood Stork was present at Hog I., Surry Co., Va., May 24-26 (ZS,DLH,GMW *et al.*). Near South Pt., Md. the first heron eggs were noted Apr. 9 with four Cattle Egret nests and 28 Great Egret nests with eggs (BA & TFW), both of these possibly record early dates for the state. Many more birds had eggs in this heronry Apr. 27, including many Glossy Ibis, but only two Black-crowned Night Heron nests with eggs could be located by this date (BA & TFW). A careful survey was made of the Pea Patch I., Del., heronry May 29 and some 4400 adult herons and ibis were counted. The dominant birds were Cattle Egret, 2850 (possibly a record regional count); Glossy Ibis, 840, and Black-crowned Night Heron, 240. Except for the night herons, these estimates were also considered indicative of the numbers of breeding pairs in the colony (BA & TFW). Four pairs of Yellow-crowned Night Herons were also noted in this colony for the first time May 20 (JTL). Other nesting Yellow-crowneds included eight pairs at Stone Harbor, N.J., May 3 (CFH) and six pairs at Brigantine I., N.J., May 3 (JFA).

**WATERFOWL** — A Mute Swan was present at Dyke marsh, Va., May 6-10 (JMA), and three Whistling Swans were still at Washington Boro, Pa., May 23 (RMS). There were many reports of Brant in May, and 2000 at Brigantine Ref., May 19 (JFA) were quite unusual for such a late date. A Fulvous Tree Duck near Ocean City, Md., Apr. 27 (PGD *et al.*) was apparently the same bird reported there during the winter. The Eur. Green-winged Teal that wintered at Pomona, N.J. was last seen here Apr. 22 (JFA & JDD), and a

Eur Wigeon was found at L. Strouble, Chester Co., Pa., Apr. 23 (REC). Some interesting local peak counts included 600 Blue-winged Teal in s. Dorchester Co., Md., Apr. 6 (HTA), 30 Wood Ducks in E. Coventry Twp., Chester Co., Pa., Apr. 1 (RWB), 250 Ring-necked Ducks at Allentown, N.J., Apr. 14 (RJB), and 120 Red-breasted Mergansers at Kerr Res. dam, Va., Apr. 19 (JML). Late waterfowl counts were commonplace. Among these was a ♂ Greater Scaup at Craney I., Va., May 3-4 (DLH), a Bufflehead at Gloucester, Va., May 26 (MLW), a Com. Eider at Cape May Pt., N.J., May 18 (JSr), and two Surf Scoters at Harrisburg, Pa., May 10-13 (AKz). Breeding records included a ♀ Mallard with one young at Gaston L., Va., Apr. 27 (JML & KMF), a Black Duck nest with eggs inland at Richmond, Va., Apr. 28 (FRS), and three ad. Gadwalls with a brood of young at Rogue I., Va., May 23 (BA & TFW).

**VULTURES THROUGH COOTS** — Twelve Black Vultures were found near Odessa, Del., Apr. 1 (JTL), and several were reported in s.e. Pennsylvania, including a nest with two young banded at Pine Grove Furnace, Cumberland Co., May 18 (RP). At Kerr Res. dam, Lynch counted 65 on Apr. 19. A surprising number of reports of migrating Sharp-shinned Hawks were received, a species for some reason not often reported in numbers in spring. These included 50 at Little Creek, Del., May 20 (KCR & CPy), 23 at Drumore, Pa., Apr. 24 (RMS), 13 at L. Galena, Pa., Apr. 26 (FM & RF), and 12 at Seashore S.P., Va., Apr. 23 (JBB *et al.*). Twenty-six Red-tailed Hawks in s. Dorchester Co., Md., Apr. 6 (HTA) was a good count, and the maximum counts of migrating Broad-winged were 173 at Drumore Apr. 24 (RMS) and 201 at L. Galena Apr. 26 (FM & RF). A wintering Golden Eagle was still present at New Gretna, N.J., May 17 (BCH), and the peak counts of Bald Eagles at Blackwater N.W.R., Md. were ten immatures Apr. 21 and nine adults May 3 (HTA). Preliminary results of the Bald Eagle nest survey in the Chesapeake Bay region revealed 75 active nests (42 Md., 32 Va., 1 Del.). Of these, 29 produced a total of 43 young, with five nests still to be checked (JMA *et al.*). One occupied nest at Mathews, Va. was destroyed by high winds on Apr. 25, and the adults immediately began construction of another one, which, however, was never completed (FRS *et al.*). Many Osprey nests were apparently destroyed by high winds in lower Chesapeake Bay, but since most of this occurred in early April, most affected pairs that were incubating apparently rebuilt and relaid eggs successfully (MAB). Two Merlins at Ft. Hunt, Va., Apr. 2 (JMA) were unusual inland, and one at Brigantine Ref., May 17 (JTM) was late.

Armistead had an excellent rail count in s. Dorchester Co., Md., May 3, with 21 Kings, 5 Clappers, 81 Virginias, 13 Sora, and 12 Black Rails. An ad. Clapper Rail with six chicks at Ocean City, Md., May 4 (CLG) seemed early.

Near Delaware City, Del., Wayne located two Purple Gallinules May 23 and Lehman found four May 31. This was the same area in which adults were found with young last summer. An Am. Coot was still present at Dyke marsh, Va., May 25 (JMA).

At Manahawkin Ref., N.J. some 40-50 Black Rails were heard calling the night of May 29-30. Eight of these flushed when approached, four of which were well seen in flashlight beams (MSM & MShk). This spot thus seems to match Elliott I., Md. as an area of high concentration of this species, or is the bird's abundance elsewhere in suitable habitat merely overlooked where access is difficult?

**SHOREBIRDS** — Bill Akers and Wieboldt located 16 Am. Oystercatcher nests on coastal Virginia and Maryland during their heronry survey, the earliest having three eggs near South Pt., Md., Apr. 9, a rather early date. Three oystercatchers at Port Mahon, Del., May 2 and 11 were unusual here (JCM, DAC). Piping Plovers were present at Craney I., Va. during May (DLH *et al.*), and a nest was located here May 28 (RLA). A probable **Wilson's Plover** in Goose Creek Valley, Bedford Co., Va., May 18 (MRB) was only the second far inland report for the state, the other being a specimen obtained in 1887. One at Craney I., June 1 (DLH *et al.*) was unusual away from the immediate coast, and another was found at Tuckerton, N.J., May 20 (MB). Four young Killdeers hatched on a roof at Gloucester Pt., Va., and the one surviving bird was removed to the ground May 8, where it was promptly claimed by an adult (MLW). Up to 31 Am. Golden Plovers were present near Bombay Hook N.W.R., Del., Apr. 20 - May 4 (PGD, JCM, KCR *et al.*), and singles were reported at Brigantine Ref., Apr. 15 (PWS), far inland (with a Black-bellied) at Elm Hill W.M.A., Mecklinburg Co., Va., Apr. 19 (JML, RH & KK), and Pomona, N.J., May 16 (JFA). Dyke estimated at least 500 Ruddy Turnstones on Assateague I., Md., May 18.

There was an excellent flight of Whimbrels along the New Jersey coast, and Danzenbaker counted 280 at Linwood May 16. A **Eur. Whimbrel** at Brigantine Ref., May 19 (RJB) was the third annual appearance for this species on the Jersey coast. An Upland Sandpiper was found with a flock of Am. Golden Plovers near Bombay Hook Ref., Apr. 20 (PP), and Hiatt discovered another at Northfield, N.J., Apr. 23 — in a parking lot, of all places! Dyke estimated at least 1500 Willets along the beach at Assateague I., Md., Apr. 20, and two were found inland at Lewisetta, Va., Apr. 27 (FRS). The last two Purple Sandpipers were recorded at Longport, N.J., May 24 (JDD), and the Keeneys noted two far inland along the Potomac R. at Muses Beach, Va., May 10. Armistead counted 108 Pectoral Sandpipers at Blackwater Ref., Md., Apr. 18, an excellent spring count. White-rumped Sandpipers were in good numbers along the coast, maximum counts being 35 at Bombay Hook Ref., May 17 (KCR & AKk), 30 or more at Craney I., May 26 (PGD *et al.*), and at least 20 at Little Creek, Del., May 31 (JMA). Richards and Kraynik found two Baird's Sandpipers at Port Mahon May 10, and Curlew Sandpipers were reported in two localities, single birds at Brigantine Ref., May 3 (MAD & PR) and May 25 & 26 (JY, JDD) — at least two different birds — and one at Bombay Hook Ref., May

17 (KCR & AKk). A Dunlin in Amherst Co., Va., May 10 was unusual so far inland (RC,MRB & KMF), and Stilt Sandpipers were reported in at least six localities, with a maximum of eight at Blackwater Ref., Apr. 25 (HTA).

For the fourth consecutive year a **Bar-tailed Godwit** appeared at Longport, N.J. and was observed by dozens of observers May 14-19 (JDD,PAD,HWby *et al.*). At least three different Ruffs were found at Little Creek and up to two at Bombay Hook Ref. in late April and early May (JTL,RLP,KCR *et al.*), and different single birds were found at Brigantine Ref., Apr. 5 (PWS) and 13 (JFA & JKM). Of particular interest was a female seen and photographed far inland near Lovington, Nelson Co., Va., May 17-19 (RC,EE,KMF *et al.*). Six Am Avocets were found at Bombay Hook Ref., Apr. 20 (JKM *et al.*), and they were present throughout the period at Craney I., Va., with a peak of 75 on Apr. 17 (RJT). A **Black-necked Stilt** was discovered at Craney I. in mid-May (JSd), and Ake found a nest here May 28, the first nest and only the second indication of breeding for the state. Unfortunately, this location, a Corps of Engineers disposal area for dredged spoil, will not remain a suitable habitat for many more years. A single Black-necked Stilt was seen at Brigantine Ref., May 14-24 (JFA,JDD *et al.*), and there were at least 15 pairs at Little Creek May 31 (JMA). Tozzi recorded over 200 phalaropes at Hudson Canyon Apr. 26, of which at least five were identified as Reds. Of the many other phalaropes reported, the observation of most interest was of six N. Phalaropes at Craney I., May 15-28 (DLH,RLA). One at Lummerville, N.J., May 24 (JC) was unusual for the Delaware R.

**JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMERS** — Relatively few jaegers were reported, the most interesting ones being a Pomarine Jaeger along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Va., Apr. 26 (PAD *et al.*) and another at Cape Henlopen, Del., May 26 (KCR). A **Skua** was noted by some 80 observers at Hudson Canyon May 31 (PWS *et al.*). Iceland Gulls were reported in five localities in Virginia, including two inland ones. These were single birds at Alexandria Mar. 18 - Apr. 1 (OF,JMA *et al.*) and Swift Creek Res., near Richmond May 5 (FRS). A **Great Black-backed Gull** nest with two eggs was discovered at Robins marsh, near South Pt., Md., May 24 (BA & TFW), apparently a first state breeding record, and a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was seen well at Brigantine Ref., May 17 (HWby,RAC,CPd *et al.*). At Kerr Res. dam, Va., Lynch counted 50 Herring, 450 Ring-billed, and 180 Bonaparte's Gulls Apr. 19. Except for the Ring-billeds, these may well be record counts for the Virginia Piedmont. Richards and Kraynik found an ad. **Black-headed Gull** in breeding plumage at Port Mahon, Del., May 10, and the Little Gull population here peaked at 25 — mostly hooded adults — on Apr. 20, the second year of such a concentration (KCR,CPy *et al.*). The first Laughing Gull appeared at St. Michaels, Md., Apr. 3 (JR), and there were two inland reports of interest, an adult at Kerr Res., Apr. 19 (JML,RH & KK) and 14 flying over Princeton, N.J., May 12 (RJB). A Roseate Tern appeared at Cape Henlopen May 26 (WJW), and at Craney I. Hughes estimated 70 pairs of Least Terns

June 1. The peak count of Caspian Terns near Hopewell, Va., on the James R., was 33 on May 3 (FRS & WKS), and they were noted twice at Kerr Res., three on Apr. 19 and one on Apr. 27 (JML). A Black Skimmer at Longport Apr. 5 was quite early (EB & JDD).

**CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Although cuckoos seemed scarce in n. Virginia (JMA), they were reported in better-than-average numbers in the Delaware Valley area (DAC *et al.*). The last two Short-eared Owls were noted at Swash Bay, Va., Apr. 17 (BA & TFW), whereas a late bird was still at Blackwater Ref., Apr. 27 (HTA). At the Philadelphia, Pa. airport two pairs of adults were feeding young May 20 (JCM). A comparative goatsucker count in s. Dorchester Co., Md., May 3 yielded eight Chuck-will's-widows versus 23 Whip-poor-wills (HTA), and an early Chuck was found at Blackwater Ref., Apr. 21 (HTA). Each year there seem to be a few Chucks reported out of their normal range. Some this spring included one near Lynchburg, Va., Apr. 28 (MPM & JH), one at Bass River State Forest, N.J., May 3 (CFH), and one in New Castle Co., Del., May 10 (DPlen). Garner found a Chuck nest with two eggs at Ocean City, Md., May 18.

Reese located a very early Ruby-throated Hummingbird at St. Michaels, Md., Apr. 6, and another somewhat early one was noted at Longwood Gardens, Pa., Apr. 18 (JG). At Pinchot L., Pa. an excellent migration of Com. Flickers was observed Apr. 5 with a count of 60-75 (CJ). A number of observers saw the ad Red-cockaded Woodpeckers feeding young in the nest near Wakefield, Va., May 25 - June 1, but only Hughes remarked that there were three or four different adults participating in the feeding.

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH KINGLETS** — Wiltraut noted a concentration of 15 E. Phoebes in one tree near Bethlehem, Pa., Apr. 6, and a **Say's Phoebe** was present for about two weeks in early April at Eckville, near Hawk Mt., Pa. (AN & BL). A Willow Flycatcher at Brigantine Ref., May 3 (CFH) was very early, and Tischner found a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** at Cherry Hill, N.J., May 9. An Olive-sided Flycatcher in the Pocomoke Swamp, Md., May 17 (PGD & RA) was unusual for the Eastern Shore. There were very few Cliff Swallows reported this spring, a species that apparently has been declining in the region for many years. One at Blackwater Ref., May 3 (HTA) was particularly noteworthy. Purple Martins seemed in very poor numbers. The flight along the Potomac R. near Ft. Hunt, Va., Apr. 6 - May 17 was very poor, with a peak of only 10 or more Apr. 26 (JMA), and at Aston, Pa. nesting birds arrived late and in smaller numbers, second-year birds (banded) not arriving until June 1 (JG).

Some 6700 Blue Jays were recorded at Sandy Point S.P., Md., May 3, a spectacular spring flight (HWga *et al.*). A late Red-breasted Nuthatch was banded at Pine Ridge, Fairfax Co., Va., May 8 (EDP), and the last ones at Longwood Gardens, Pa. were noted May 17 (JG). A Brown-headed Nuthatch was seen several times near Lynchburg, Va. in late March and April (DPte). Brown Creepers seemed exceptionally late. Last dates

included one banded at Richmond Apr. 21 (FRS), one at Ft Hunt May 1 (JMA), and an unprecedented bird at Parramore I., Va., May 26 (BA & TFW). There were still ten Swainson's Thrushes at Ft. Belvoir, Va., May 26 (JMA), and both this species and a Gray-checked Thrush were present at Richmond May 31 (FRS). Lehman had an excellent count of 40 Golden-crowned Kinglets at White Clay Creek, Del., Apr. 18, and the Ruby-crowned Kinglet had an excellent and late flight throughout the region; J.M. Abbott termed it "tremendous" in the Fairfax Co., Va. area, with a peak of 25 or more Apr. 18, and Cutler recorded 35 at Wilmington, Del., May 3, with some remaining to the third week of May.

**WAXWINGS THROUGH WARBLERS** — Cedar Waxwings were particularly numerous in the n. part of the region, where Blicharz totaled 3000 at Princeton, N.J., May 17. The Loggerhead Shrike, considered a "vanishing species" in the n. part of the region, was recorded Apr. 26 - May 1 at Longwood Gardens (JG), a very late record for an apparent migrant. In e. Fairfax Co., Va. the Solitary Vireo had the best flight on record Apr. 16 - May 10 (JMA), with a peak of a least 20 on May 3 (DFA & OF). This last date was also the peak day in the Delaware Valley area, where a remarkable flight occurred, with several unusual counts, including 20 at Cape May, N.J. (PWS) and 12 at Rosemont, Pa. (EH). One at Chincoteague Ref., May 8 (LKM) was unusual for this area. A Prothonotary Warbler near Pocomoke City, Md., Apr. 5 (SHD) was very early, and a Swainson's Warbler was seen (DFA) and heard well (PC & OF) at Dyke marsh, Va., May 4-5. This is some 95 miles northwest of its closest known breeding area in the Pocomoke Swamp, Md. The Swainson's Warblers normally present in this swamp near the Delaware-Maryland line seem to be moving out. This may be owing to habitat change, or is it due to the increased, disruptive use of tape recorders by field observers? Two Lawrence's Warblers were seen at Princeton May 7 (RJB), and there were three reports of Orange-crowned Warblers, one at Linwood, N.J., Apr. 1-13 (JDD), one at Center Bridge, Pa., Apr. 10-11 (DJH, DJJ & CG), and one near Lynchburg May 7 (MRB & LRB), the last a first area record. An "Audubon's" Warbler was carefully observed at Gifford Pinchot S.P., Pa., Apr. 19 (GW & KW), and the banded Black-throated Gray Warbler previously reported at Newport News, Va. was last seen Apr. 13 (DLM). Hughes and others found a singing Cerulean Warbler in Dismal Swamp, Va., Apr. 26, a very unusual occurrence, and a Chestnut-sided Warbler at Richmond May 28 (FRS) was late. Blye recorded an unusual six Pine Warblers at Sanatoga, Pa., Apr. 26, and an ad. ♂ Mourning Warbler was found near Media, Pa., May 14 (CUA).

**BLACKBIRDS AND FRINGILLIDS** — Schutsky and Heisey located a ♀ Yellow-headed Blackbird at Washington Boro, Pa., May 6, and two Brewer's Blackbirds were found in e. Anne Arundel Co., Md., Apr. 12 (PGD). A number of late Rusty Blackbirds were reported, including 100 at Beltsville, Md., May 10 (BW *et al.*). On this same date 17 more were recorded by six other parties on the A.N.S. May regional

count (*vide* JMA). An early Rose-breasted Grosbeak was noted by Schutsky at Wakefield, Pa., Apr. 25, and Bazuin observed two ♂ Black-headed Grosbeaks at Charlottesville, Va., May 10. Early Indigo Buntings included one at Seneca, Md., Apr. 19 (PGD) and another at Charlottesville Apr. 22 (CES). Evening Grosbeaks, although almost nonexistent in the n. part of the region, were local in small numbers in Virginia and Maryland, the last regular report being May 9 at Clifton, Fairfax Co., Va. (JWE). One in the Dismal Swamp May 30 (BM) was probably a summer vagrant. Purple Finches were in good numbers late in April, and P. G. DuMont *et al.* recorded 99 near Sandy Point S.P., Md., May 3. There is as yet no valid breeding record for the House Finch in Virginia, but the evidence is accumulating indicating that it either has bred or soon will. Two late males appeared at an Arlington, Va. feeder May 17 (AHF), three pairs remained at Alexandria at least to May 25 (DFA & OF), and a pair and two possible young were present in Richmond in late May (DKR). The Wertzes found a Lark Sparrows at Hummelstown, Pa., Apr. 26, and the last "Ipswich" Sparrow reported were two at Brigantine I., N.J., Apr. 4 (JFA). A Seaside Sparrow inland at Dyke marsh Apr. 29 (LT) was only the second Fairfax Co. record, and Broun reported a great reduction in the Vesper Sparrow population in the lowlands around Hawk Mt., Pa., possibly due to a land-use change from pastures to croplands. A Dark-eyed Junco near Lessburg, Va., May 17 (JBB) was quite late, and the Harris' Sparrow previously reported at Mickleton, N.J. remained until May 10 (CB). White-crowned Sparrows remained in unusual numbers in c. and s.e. Virginia, the last reports being May 14 at Chincoteague Ref. (LKM) and May 16 at Leesburg (JBB). There were four Lincoln's Sparrow reports of single birds, Dyke marsh, Va., Apr. 19 and May 10 (JMA *et al.*), Hanover Twp., Lehigh Co., Pa., May 9 (REW), and one banded at Capahosic, Va., May 14 (EDP). A late ♀ longspur at Brigantine Ref., May 17 was thought to be a possible Chestnut-collared Longspur (DAC *et al.*).

**CONTRIBUTORS** — D. F. Abbott, J. M. Abbott, R. L. Ake, Bill Akers, J. F. Akers, H. G. Alexander, H. T. Armistead, C. U. Atkinson, Audubon Naturalist Society, Robert Augustine, Ed Banks, M. V. Barnhill, J. B. Bazuin, Jr., R. J. Blicharz, R. W. Blye, Jr., Mr and Mrs. L. R. Boatwright, M. R. Boatwright, Maurice Broun, Carl Bresler, M. A. Byrd, E. H. Cadbury, J. W. Cadbury, J. Cadwalader, Ray Chandler, T. T. Clauser, Paris Coleman, R. A. Conway, R. E. Cook, Mrs. Vera Coppel, J. D. Danzenbaker, Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, M. A. Donovan, P. A. DuMont, P. G. DuMont, S. H. Dyke, Ernest Edwards, J. W. Eike, Owen Fang, A. H. Fast, K. M. Fielder, Ron French, Charlotte Gantz, C. L. Garner, Jesse Grantham, Robert Hader, Mrs. Jo Hanenkrat, D. J. Hartman, Ed Hastings, Paul Heisey, B. C. Hiatt, C. F. Hills, D. L. Hughes, D. J. Johnson, Cliff Jones, Mr and Mrs. D. F. Keeney, Kenneth Knapp, Andrew Krainik, Anne Kutz, Barbara Lake, Jay Lehman, J. T. Linehan, J. M. Lynch, L. K. Malone, J. T. McNeil, Brooke Meanley, Fred Mears, J. K. Meritt, J. C. Miller, Mrs. D. L. Mitchell, Mrs. M. P. Moore, Alex Nagy, Mrs. E. D. Peacock, Richard Peiffer, Carl Perry,



County, N.C., May 15 (PW). A flock of 18 Upland Sandpipers was seen Apr. 11 at Thomasville, Ga., a first local record (RC,NW). Single migrants of this species were also noted at Clemson Apr. 18 & 28 (HL), and two were seen at nearby Townville, S.C., May 8 (SG,FM). A Long-billed Curlew which wintered at Morehead City was reported still present there Apr. 26 (*vide* JF). At Eufala N.W.R. on the Georgia side of the Chattahoochee R., good counts of 60 Lesser Yellowlegs and 80 Pectoral Sandpipers were recorded Apr. 11 (JM, *vide* LAW). Thirty Pectorals were also found inland at Winston-Salem Apr. 3 (CF). White-rumped Sandpipers, usually very scarce to rare spring migrants in the Region, were rather widely recorded this season. One was seen at Eufala N.W.R. as early as Apr. 7 (WM), and another Apr. 26 near Morehead City (*vide* JF). There was a May 15 record for Clemson (SG,HL,FM) and a flock of five was seen at Augusta May 10 (GK). Six were also seen at Winston-Salem May 22 (RS *et al.*). Twelve Dunlin were unusual inland visitors at Winston-Salem May 9 (FB,CF,JO,RS), and one was at Raleigh May 10 (CS,CM). An inland sighting of 25 Least Sandpipers was noteworthy in Caswell County, N.C., May 18 (PW), as was the occurrence of nine W. Sandpipers near Rocky Mount in Edgecombe Co., N.C., May 9 (LF). On the coast, a good spring count of 11 Stilt Sandpipers was recorded at Morehead City Apr. 26 (*vide* JF). Three Wilson's Phalaropes were a surprising find at Eufala N.W.R. Apr. 13 (WM; first W. Georgia record) and individuals were later seen June 1 near Charleston (JHD) and Augusta (RH,GK).

**GULLS THROUGH GUILLEMOT**—An imm. Black-headed Gull was seen at Huntington Beach S.P. near Murrell's Inlet, S.C., Apr. 19 (PMcK). Ten Laughing Gulls were unexpected inland visitors (local "firsts") at Thomasville, Ga., Apr. 11 (RC,NW), and five Herring Gulls were found well inland on the Southern Pines, N.C., spring bird count Apr. 29 (*vide* JC). The Region's first spring record for **Franklin's Gull** was recorded May 8 at Townville, S.C. by Harry LeGrand. The sighting was of a single bird in breeding plumage, closely observed as it flew behind a tractor plowing a large field; full details will be published elsewhere. Over 150 migrating Bonaparte's Gulls were recorded Apr. 13 at the Roanoke Rapids and Gaston Reservoirs in Halifax and Warren Cos., N.C. (ML,KF) and at least 100 were seen at L. Hartwell in the Clemson area Apr. 17 (HL). Uncommon inland occurrences of Com. and Caspian Terns were also recorded at these lakes during April and early May, and 12 Forster's Terns were seen at L. Hartwell May 9 (HL). On the coast, a **Black Guillemot** was seen in the surf off Huntington Beach S.P. Apr. 17 (FP,ED *et al.*). This apparently is only the second reported occurrence of this uncommon alcid in the coastal waters of our Region.

**DOVES THROUGH WRENS**—A White-winged Dove was seen at Thomasville Apr. 11 and lingered in that area for at least two weeks (RC,NW). Seven Ringed Turtle Doves were recorded on the Winston-Salem spring bird count May 3 (*vide* RS). These birds are part of a small but apparently well-established feral popula-

tion originating from stock released there in 1965. Eastern Kingbirds arrived at Waycross, Ga., Mar 26 (EC) but few were seen at points northward until the third week in April. A W. Kingbird was an unusual spring visitor seen near Murrell's Inlet, S.C., Apr 28 (FP), and single Gray Kingbirds were found at Morehead City Apr. 26 (*vide* JF) and McClellanville, S.C., May 20 (BM). Two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were noted in the Region during the spring period, one near Dublin, Ga., Apr. 8 (*vide* TP) and another at Huntington Beach S.P. on the South Carolina coast Apr. 16 (FP). A locally rare spring occurrence of an Olive-sided Flycatcher was recorded at Dalton, Ga., May 3 (MC, *vide* HDiG). A late-lingered Red-breasted Nuthatch was seen near Winston-Salem May 18 (PC) and another was still present at Eden, N.C., May 30 (EB). Short-billed Marsh Wrens were noted as regular but uncommon inland transients at Chapel Hill (MW,BW) and Clemson (HL) in late April and early May, and a Bewick's Wren was seen at Dalton Apr 28 (*vide* HDiG).

**WAXWINGS, VIREOS, WARBLERS**—Migrating Cedar Waxwings invaded Pea Island N.W.R. in large numbers during March and April, prompting special comment from refuge manager N.F. Williamson who had "never seen so many waxwings before". A Philadelphia Vireo, a transient rarely reported in the Region in spring, was seen near Townville, S.C., May 3 (AT). Elsewhere a Warbling Vireo was an unexpected find at Chapel Hill on that same date (JOP,ET). Blue-winged Warblers made a good showing at Raleigh (KK), Chapel Hill (JOP), and Winston-Salem (RS) this spring, and several were seen at Clemson where the species is usually scarce (HL). At Chapel Hill a Brewster's Warbler hybrid was seen May 8 (HF). Noteworthy also was a Connecticut Warbler at Clemson May 6 (SG).

S.A.

On the Roanoke Rapids, N.C., spring bird count May 4, twenty-five Cerulean Warblers were found in an area along the Roanoke R. where the species was discovered breeding several years ago (*Am. Birds* 26:847). Subsequent field work during the weekend of May 24-25 documented the presence of territorial males at four additional locations as far downstream as Windsor, N.C. (ML,JW). It is apparent from these reports that the Cerulean Warbler population along the Roanoke R. is not restricted to a single localized area; suitable breeding sites are indicated to exist along more than 70 miles of river floodplain. Further field studies are likely to reveal a much larger breeding population than is currently known.

**BOBOLINK THROUGH SPARROWS**—Several thousand Bobolinks were seen in the Bennettsville, S.C., area May 10 (PMcK,LC), coinciding with peaks of abundance noted by other observers at Augusta (GK) and Charleston (PN). Painted Buntings were present at Charleston in good numbers by Apr. 10 (TB). Indigo



Buntings were later in arriving and were not seen in noticeable abundance in many areas until the third or fourth week of April. On May 27 near Pendleton, S.C., Harry LeGrand found a pair of Dickcissels apparently preparing to nest; the female was seen carrying nest material. Observers should be alert to the possibility of this species nesting in other parts of the Region, particularly in Georgia. A Le Conte's Sparrow was seen at Pea I. Apr. 2 (JA), and four Clay-colored Sparrows were a noteworthy find at Eufala N.W.R. (Ga. side) May 3 (SP,WM). Wintering White-crowned Sparrows remained well into May at several locations; the latest reported sightings were at Winston-Salem and Chapel Hill May 17.

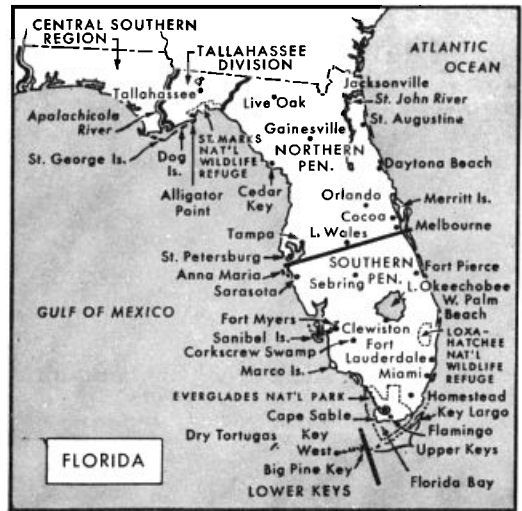
**CORRIGENDUM**—An incorrect statement was made by the Regional Editor in the 1974 fall season report (*Am. Birds* 29:41) that Brant were seen inland at South Carolina's L. Hartwell. A few Brant were noted on the coast, but the reference to the inland occurrence should be deleted.

**OBSERVERS AND CONTRIBUTORS**—J. Akers, Robert Anderson, Fran Baldwin, Ted Beckett, Ted Best (TBe), Charles Blake, Richard Bolt, Floy Burford (FBu), Carol Burroughs, Ed Burroughs, Jay Carter, Nelson Chadwick, Larry Copenhaver, Glenn Coven, Maude Cox, Robert Crawford, Pat Culberson, Eugene Cypert, Evelyn Dabbs, John Henry Dick, Harriet Di-Gioia, Keith Fielder, Lou Fink, Dennis Forsythe, Hal Frazier, Charles Frost, John Fussell, Sidney Gauthreaux, Gisela Grimm, Robert J. Hader, Julian Harrison, Walter Holland, Ray Holtzman, Donna Householder, David Knapp, Ken Knapp, Gerald Knighton, Louise Lacoss, Harry LeGrand, Larry Luckett, Merrill Lynch, Paul McKenzie, Chris Marsh, William Matheny, Bill Meter, James Miller, Frank Moore, Jim Mulholland, Perry Nugent, Jim Orgain, Thomas Patterson, Eloise Potter, Frederick Probst, Pat Probst, Kerry Reese, Clyde Smith, Wendell Smith, Ramona Snavely, Adair Tedards, Elizabeth Teulings, Robert Tripician, James Parnell, Sam Pate, James O. Pullman, Bill Wagner, Margaret Wagner, Noel Wamer, L.A. Wells, David Whitehurst, Gail Whitehurst, Plumer Wiseman, N.F. Williamson, John Wright, Elaine Young. Abbreviations: \*specimen— **ROBERT P. TEULINGS, Route 2, Box 154, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.**

## FLORIDA REGION /Herbert W. Kale II

Depending on where the observer was this spring the migration in Florida was either "not an outstanding spring" (JE), "rather dull overall" (RB), "better than we have had the last three years" (VM), or "excellent" (BO). The former comments were typical of the southern two-thirds of the peninsula, reached by only two weather fronts of any significance — both in early April. The latter comments emanated from the northeast coast. Nevertheless, enough observers were afield (if only they would *all* submit reports!) so that almost every migrant species that passes through Florida was reported at sometime by someone in the region. Al-

though several wild fires burned in the Everglades and Big Cypress the annual dry season was not so severe or widespread as last year. Periodic rains throughout the winter months and an early start of the rainy season in



May were important factors. Despite this, south Florida is still in a "dry cycle", and, if it were not for Lake Okeechobee providing feeding areas near the end of the dry season we would probably lose the major portion of the Wood Stork and White Ibis populations in Florida. Because the shallow water marshes along the western edge of the lake were heavily utilized towards the end of nesting period by the large colony of storks at Nat'l Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary — over 60 miles away — the storks fledged another 3000 or more new storks, for the second year in a row.

The plans of the Corps of Engineers and the Central and South Florida Water Management District to increase water elevations in Lake Okeechobee 2-3 feet higher than present elevations are maintained is fraught with *potential* disaster for these species. We hope that before this final step is taken federal and state agencies will determine *ahead of time* the effects that this increase in water levels will have on these vital feeding marshes near the end of each dry season. Once again man, in his efforts to reserve more resources for himself, stands poised, perhaps, to push two more species (stork and ibis) over the brink.

Turning to more cheerful news, reports that Roseate Spoonbills nested this spring on Alafia Banks, a Nat'l Audubon sanctuary in Tampa Bay, are indeed heartening (No details received, but presumably these will be published — H.W.K.).

Probably the best finds for the period (details below) were a **W. Grebe** near Tampa, **Masked Duck** on Big Pine Key, **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Lakeland, **Glaucous Gull** in Jacksonville, and the holdover **Iceland Gull** that wintered at Port Canaveral. Although several groups (Tropical Audubon-Sierra Club, Massachusetts Audubon Society, and the annual tern banding expedition) visited the Dry Tortugas this spring no reports (with the exception of two species) were received from this area. Nor, once again, is the southwest Florida area included in this report.

**GREBES, SHEARWATERS AND PETRELS** — A **W. Grebe** on East L., Tampa, May 4 (Mary Kersting, m ob) was photographed by Brooks Atherton, then disappeared overnight. It turns out that these photographs represent the only extant proof of record for the species in Florida (*vide* JE). This may have been the same grebe reported in November and January on the Tamiami Canal near Shark Valley by an Everglades N P naturalist, and seen there Mar. 17 by Rita McLain (*vide* JE). A **Cory's Shearwater** off Deerfield Beach Apr 22 (seen from shore by Terry Moore, new president of the "600 Club") provided Florida's earliest spring record. Rare in Florida, a **Manx Shearwater** was 18 mi. off Cape Canaveral Apr. 7 (RB & JJ), and a fisherman off Windley Key picked up a sick Sooty Shearwater May 21 (AS). A Leach's Storm-Petrel flew within 50 ft. of a boat in the Atlantic 8-9 mi. ENE of Mayport May 25 (JC).

**TROPICBIRDS AND FRIGATEBIRDS** — Early in April a pair of White-tailed Tropicbirds were observed in courtship flight over Ft. Jefferson (*vide* Paul Dumont) and one was still there May 3 (JL & MAS). An estimated 450-500 adults and 115 active nests of Magnificent Frigatebirds were on the Marquesas Keys Apr. 26 (ARH, JP KW), while 40+ adults were on the Content Keys May 20 (EP). One bird at Cedar Keys Apr. 1 (CD & JH) was the earliest for the Northern Peninsula.

**WADING BIRDS** — Roseate Spoonbills dispersed widely north and south after their breeding season in Florida Bay, with reports of four birds flying north of St Augustine May 18 (JC) and 23 (HWK), an immature on Seahorse Key on the Gulf coast May 11 (DJ), two birds on Stock I., Key West May 8 (FH) and 14 on Content Keys May 20 (EP). Nesting of spoonbills in Tampa Bay in May, long after the end of breeding in Florida Bay, is a significant development. Two Scarlet Ibis and three Scarlet X White Ibis hybrids were seen by the Hoffmans at the Greynolds Park rookery in Miami Apr. 4 (JK). A Scarlet Ibis was also seen east of New Port Richey, Apr. 8 (ES) and on Wolf Creek near Apollo Beach, lower Tampa Bay, May 8-9 (DC). Received too late for the winter season report was one of 17 Am. Flamingos at Naples Beach, Feb. 24 (TB). The flamingo in the Indian River Lagoon below New Smyrna Beach Mar. 31 remained there until Apr. 10 (RH, CMS, GSM) and may have been the same bird seen on Merritt I., Apr. 17 (DH). Another flamingo appeared at John's Pass, St. Petersburg, May 30 (Chuck Burman).

**DUCKS** — A Fulvous Tree Duck spent a month on a pond on Stock I., and was last seen May 8 (FH). A pair flew across U.S. 27 south of South Bay, and another pair was seen over a flooded field 10-12 mi. east of Belle Glade May 25 (GA, PA, PS). Several ducks were late departing — a Gadwall at St. Marks N.W.R. May 25 (JM & CSG), a White-winged Scoter at Rockledge Apr 20 (RB), and two Black Scoters off Alligator Pt., Apr 26 (FOS). A ♀ **Masked Duck** in the Blue Hole on Big Pine Key May 6 (JL & MAS) remained through May 13 (JP). This appears to be the second record for the Lower Keys (FH).

**RAPTORS** — A Swallow-tailed Kite at Natural Bridge on the St. Marks River May 29 is the first record in many years for Leon Co. (HS). Individual birds at Kathleen Apr. 29, May 5, and May 19 suggest possible nesting in the Lakeland area (*vide* JE). One was seen soaring over Highway A1A at Washington Oaks State Gardens, Flagler Co., May 22 (HWK). Two Mississippi Kites at Mullet Key Apr. 10 (Richard Hopkins) were certainly unexpected. Everglade Kites appeared to nest successfully in L. Okeechobee, and in some areas outside the lake. Unfortunately, the management program for this endangered species in Loxahatchee N.W.R. has apparently been axed by the Federal government for budgetary reasons. According to Noel and Helen Snyder Accipiters are in serious trouble in Florida and elsewhere, but it is extremely difficult to obtain population data for Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks. Hence, we urge *Am. Birds* contributors to include all Accipiter observations in their reports. Sharp-shinneds were seen at Royal Palm Hammock, E.N.P., Apr. 19 (SP & PS) and at St. Marks N.W.R. Apr. 6 and 25 (the latter bird was chasing a flicker — CSG) Peregrine Falcons were reported at St. Marks N.W.R. Apr. (HS, CSG *et al.*), along a St. Johns Co., beach Apr. 13 (JW), and at Alligator Pt., Apr. 26 (HS) A bird at Caxambas Pass near Naples Mar. 1 (TB) was not included in the winter period report. Only three Merlins were reported this spring — one each at Guano W.M.A. north of St. Augustine Apr. 8 (VM & PCP), Mullet Key Apr. 15 (JE & PF), and Alligator Pt., Apr 26 (PF).

**GALLINULES AND SHOREBIRDS** — For the second year Purple Gallinules nested on Big Pine Key and a pair with a chick was seen there May 30 (PP). Extensive coverage of the Intracoastal Waterway between New Smyrna Beach and Fernandina Beach in May and June indicated a estimated total of 30-45 pairs of Am Oystercatchers breeding along the n.e. coast of Florida (HWK). American Golden Plovers, usually not found in Florida during spring migration, were reported from both ends of the state, with one on the Key West golf course May 8 - 10 (FH), 15 at the Virginia Key sewage plant Apr. 18 (Mark Trafton), at L. Jackson, Leon Co., Apr. 30 and on St. George I., causeway May 9 (RC & NW), and May 15 (WB) — the latest for the Tallahassee Division. A Long-billed Curlew was photographed Apr. 2-4 on the Fred Howard Park causeway west of Tarpon Springs (R. Kagarise). Over 1300 Red Knots were estimated on Bird I., Nassau Sound May 17 (RL & SS), while Long-billed Dowitchers were very numerous in the n.e. coastal marshes throughout May and June (HWK). Two Wilson's Phalaropes, including a bright female, at McKay Bay, Tampa, May 23 (JD) were the latest for the Northern Peninsula. A Black-necked Stilt, rare in the Tallahassee area, was at St Marks Light Apr. 11 (HS) and May 30 (JM).

**GULLS AND TERNS** — A rare **Glaucous Gull** in second-year plumage appeared in Jacksonville May 24 (PCP) and was the latest for the state. The **Iceland Gull** that wintered at Port Canaveral the past winter was last seen Apr. 14 (RB & JJ). The **Lesser Black-backed Gull** is perhaps on its way to becoming a common

“irregular” visitor to Florida. The first inland record, an adult, was at Lakeland Apr. 5-10 (Ben Bindschadler, CG, m.ob.) perhaps the same birds that frequented Johns Pass until Mar. 15 (DG), or the bird that wintered at the Stock I., dump (FH). A Herring Gull on Orange L. May 30-31 (JH) was one of the latest for the Northern Peninsula. Once again, the enormous Laughing Gull colony on St. Petersburg’s Bayway gained another year’s reprieve, thanks, to the slow economy. The cacaphonic din rising from this colony is unbelievable and the inevitable demise of the site when “business picks up” weighs heavily on the spirit. Roseate Terns were seen off Cape Canaveral, two on May 12 & 14, and four on May 18 (RB, JJ, MCB). Only eight pairs nested on Key Haven near Key West this year, although others could have nested on offshore islands (FH). An impressive 400 Sandwich Terns were at Mullet Key Apr. 16 (JE & PF). Caspian Terns again nested at the Bayway (JD) and are increasing at Merritt I., N.W.R., where ten nests were found (HC), up from two nests in 1974, and one in 1973. Three Black Noddy Terns were seen on the old coaling docks at Ft. Jefferson May 3 (JL & MAS). A Black Tern at Key Haven May 5, and five there May 25 are the earliest and latest for the Lower Keys.

CUCKOOS, OWLS, AND SWIFTS — All three Florida cuckoos were at Mullet Key this spring. A Mangrove Cuckoo was there Apr. 6 (David & Sharon Lambeth), two on Apr. 12, 16, & 19 (m.ob.). Copulation was noted on the latter date (JE) and the male was called down to within 5 ft. of Edscorn. The last sighting was Apr. 27 (LH) and no further evidence of possible breeding has been found. Yellow-billed Cuckoos breed in the Tampa Bay area and were seen regularly on Mullet Key, along with a Black-billed Cuckoo Apr. 16 (PF & JE). A Black-billed also landed on Johnny Johnson’s boat off Cape Canaveral May 6. Birders along the Georgia and Carolina coasts are always on the lookout for accidental Burrowing Owls, and the first in the Florida breeding record — six owls, at least three immature, at Imeson airfield, an industrial complex on U.S. 17 north of Jacksonville, May 25-31 (VM, BO *et al.*) should be encouraging news. Two Burrowing Owls were still frequenting Marathon golf course in the Upper Keys May 24 (JE *et al.*). Two Chimney Swifts on Long Key as late as May 24 (JE *et al.*) were unusual. The first record for the species off Cape Canaveral in over 20 years of coverage occurred May 19 (two birds) and 20 (JJ).

WOODPECKERS AND FLYCATCHERS — Every year John Edscorn bemoans the continued decline in woodpecker numbers in his Florida region, which he attributes chiefly to the great increase in Starlings. I wonder if others have the same impression? Woodpeckers rarely receive coverage in the Florida region report, so it is difficult to assess their populations in these pages. A Red-headed Woodpecker at Mullet Key Apr. 20 was unexpected (PF). A Gray Kingbird on St. George I., Apr. 5 (GM, HS, NW) was very early, but one on Mar. 14 near St. Marks (see winter season report) was the earliest for the Tallahassee division. Gray Kingbirds are extremely rare inland and one May 14 (SN) was a new record for Paynes Prairie. I made

note of all Gray Kingbirds during a recent survey via both boat in the intracoastal waterway and car along Highway A1A between Merritt I., and Jacksonville. Some of the highest densities in Florida can be found in the mangrove marshes and coastal roads between Edgewater-New Smyrna Beach-Daytona Beach. The northernmost sighting was a bird carrying food along the Intracoastal waterway north of Crescent Beach 5 mi. s. of St. Augustine May 23 (HWK). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Cedar Key Apr. 1 was considered early (CD & JH) although most of the wintering population in the Keys had departed prior to the last week in March (HWK). A very careful study, including hearing the *per-wee* call, was made of two Yellow-bellied Flycatchers at Castellow Hammock County Park near Miami, May 21 (JK).

SWALLOWS — An early Bank Swallow was at Alligator Pt., Apr. 12 (JS), two were at Tallahassee May 15 (GM), and one was at Mullet Key May 17 (LH & CG). An unsolved mystery is where our Purple Martins go when they complete breeding in May and June. By May 19 a flock of 300 birds was gathered in Lakeland, and by the 20th it had disappeared (JE). This is a phenomenon repeated over and over throughout south Florida in May and June. I find it difficult to believe that they are migrating to their wintering areas so early in the year when many of their northern kin are just beginning to breed. So, where do they go? Barn Swallows are again nesting on Paynes Prairie with three active nests found May 30 (JH). This is a tantalizing thing to do to readers of this report, but until a scientific note can be submitted for publication — all I can say is that, incredibly, we have now *another* species of swallow breeding in Florida — this time in the south central area (not in the Keys). A future issue of *Am. Birds* will include more details, so keep your subscription paid up.

NUTHATCHES THROUGH VIREOS — A Red-breasted Nuthatch at Cedar Key Apr. 15 (JH) was a rarity on this Gulf island. The first local record of a Winter Wren at Lakeland occurred Apr. 6 when two birds were heard singing there most of the day (JE, HH, CS). The Mockingbird, Florida’s state bird, is seldom mentioned in these reports (it is not rare, nor colorful, nor does it migrate) but when a pair attacks and kills a 20-inch Yellow Rat Snake on John Edscorn’s lawn, such behavior demands some notice. Along with the Wood Thrush, the Am. Robin appears to be pushing its breeding range farther south. A male singing on the U of Florida campus in Gainesville May 31 (latest for Northern Peninsula) was either a late migrant or summering (DJ). One robin with a drooping wing was seen at Mullet Key May 13 (Bruce Deuel). A Wood Thrush first heard singing at Lakeland Apr. 6, continued singing in deep wooded swamp nearby for weeks afterward (JE), and one sang in Gainesville throughout May (JH). In general, because of the mild weather, few thrushes were seen this spring. Three Swainson’s hit the WCTV tower Apr. 15 (RC), and eight Gray-cheeked Thrushes (one displaying and singing) were in Miami May 16 (JK). Three Veeries were early at Alligator Pt., Apr. 11 (JS), and the migration of one was ended by a cat in Key West May 13 (LK). Starlings are now breeding

regularly in the Keys where several were noted along the overseas highway (U.S.I) May 24 (JE) and a pair was seen feeding young in a former Red-bellied Woodpecker hole on Key West Apr. 11 (FH).

A Yellow-throated Vireo, possibly not the same individual each time, was heard singing at the Starkey wellfield in Pasco County Apr. 15 - May 6 (ES & WC). Black-whiskered Vireos arrived in Key West Mar. 15, and three birds were heard serenading the Woman's Club on Duval Street Apr. 12 (FH). Two males were singing at Seahorse Key near the northern limits of their known breeding range May 11 (DJ). In May I found the species to be extremely abundant in mangrove habitat between Edgewater and Daytona Beach with the highest densities at New Smyrna Beach. None were found north of Daytona. From just one spot in Spruce Creek, northwest of Ponce de Leon Inlet I counted 8-10 males singing within a radius of several hundred meters of my position, and this was typical of the extensive mangrove habitat in this area. A Philadelphia Vireo was closely observed at Key Biscayne May 7 (JK).

**WARBLERS** — Despite the weak weather fronts during the period one or more "good" warbler days occurred throughout the region. Sykes *et al.*, found 13 species at Hypoluxo I., Apr. 13. At Mullet Key Eds-corn *et al.*, observed 17 species Apr. 12, and 18 species Apr. 16, after passage of NW fronts. Barber reported the largest numbers in the Cocoa area were seen in early May. This complements Bryan Obst's observations of May 4 while camped on Anastasia I., near St. Augustine: "The previous night the sky seemed filled with the chips of migrating birds. On waking that morning we were astounded to see literally thousands of warblers flying north in the heavily clouded sky, and the trees full of birds. While the majority were Blackpolls, the variety was as amazing as were the numbers. In order of decreasing abundance we saw Blackpolls, Black-throated Blues, Yellowthroats, Black-and-whites, Ovenbirds (about 50!), Prairies, Am. Redstarts, N. Parulas, Cape Mays, N. Waterthrushes, Louisiana Waterthrushes, Yellow-throateds, Palms, Pines, Black-throated Greens, Magnolias, Worm-eating (2), a Connecticut, a Blackburnian, and a Cerulean — an estimated 4000 individuals of 20 species."

It is not possible to list every report submitted, but the following are of interest: A Prothonotary singing in swamp forest near Lakeland Apr. 6 (JE) and May 17 (PF) suggests the possibility of nesting. Swainson's were widespread, beginning on Apr. 1 when one hit the WCTV tower north of Tallahassee (RC). Others were at Hypoluxo I., Palm Beach Co., Apr. 13 (GH, HL, PS), Mullet Key Apr. 18 (LA), 19 (m.ob.) 25, and 26 (LH), Newport Apr. 26-27 (F.O.S.), and the Ochlockonee R. at U.S. 27 May 10 (GM). Worm-eating Warblers were numerous along both coasts in March and early April, but one in Miami May 8 (JK) was late. The only reports of the rare Cerulean came from Mullet Key Apr. 16 (JE & PF) and 25 (B & LA), and Anastasia I., May 4 (BO). The Blackburnian likewise was reported only from Mullet Key Apr. 12 (PF), 26 (WC), May 13 (LH) and Anastasia I., May 4 (BO). The only Chestnut-sided was a lone bird in Sarasota May 14 (EM & VN). Bay-breasteds, always rare, were in Jacksonville Apr. 20

(JT) and 21 (VM). A Blackpoll at Cocoa Apr. 5 (RB, JJ, DH) was one of the earliest in the Northern Peninsula and one in n. Levy Co., May 24 (JH) was very late. A Palm Warbler landed on Johnny Johnson's boat off Cape Canaveral on the late date of May 19.

Blue-winged Warblers, usually rare in Florida, were noted by 7 records (not counting one that wintered in Miami Jan. 9 through March (JK). The second spring record for WCTV tower since coverage began in 1956 occurred Apr. 1 (RC) and the earliest record for the Northern Peninsula was a bird seen on Mullet Key Mar. 29 (FS & WC). Four were there Apr. 16 (PF & JE) and one on Apr. 19 (B & LA). Other records were one on St. George I., Apr. 5 (NW), two on Apr. 13 (JH), two on Cedar Key Apr. 14 (JEH), and one at Alligator Pt., May 6 (HS & CW). Rare Nashville Warblers were seen at Mullet Key Mar. 29 (FS & WC), earliest for the Northern Peninsula, at Jacksonville Apr. 11 (JC) and May 6 (SG), and Miami May 2 (JK).

Tennessee Warblers were early at Mullet Key Mar. 21 (LA) and on St. George I., Apr. 5 (NW), while others were seen through Apr. 20 on Mullet Key (JE *et al.*). An Orange-crowned Warbler at Miami May 16 (JK) was the latest for the Southern Peninsula. A Yellow Warbler was noted in mangrove habitat on Key Biscayne May 16 (JK). It is resident there. A Cape May there May 24 (JE *et al.*) was very late, and an Ovenbird singing the "teach, teach, teach" song of the southern Appalachian population near the Withlacoochee R. (Polk Co.) May 31 is the latest for the Northern Peninsula. Two Kentucky Warblers were on St. George I., Apr. 13 (JH), one hit the WCTV Tower Apr. 15, and one was seen on Merritt I., Apr. 21 (RB & JJ). Connecticut Warblers, noted regularly each spring in recent years, were at Merritt I., May 7 (JJ), 15 and 17 (RB), Mullet Key May 14-15 (LH WB), Key Biscayne May 20 (TH & JK), and 24 (JE *et al.*). A rare Wilson's Warbler was seen by several observers at Mullet Key Apr. 12-16 (JE *et al.*).

**BLACKBIRDS AND TANAGERS** — Bobolinks were scarce in south Florida, but very abundant in the north. A "small flock" was on Plantation Key May 5 (AS) and 25 were counted on Key West May 10 (HP). Near Vero Beach few were seen during the day, but each night in late April and early May their characteristic nocturnal "pink" was frequently heard, and, as a footnote on the risks of migration, the fresh, but emaciated body of a beautiful male washed ashore at Indialantic (Dee Thompson) in early May. Over 2000 were in one flock in pastures in St. Johns Co., May 5 (VM & JW), and 1000 in a flock in Jacksonville the next day (SG). Three at Lakeland May 20 (JE) and one near Bradenton, May 25 (LH) were late. A single Yellow-headed Blackbird was in Lakeland Apr. 16 (HH). A pair of N. Orioles at a feeder in Tallahassee May 27 (MM) would mark the latest migration date in Florida except that the observer felt that neither bird could fly very strongly. A W. Tanager in full spring plumage appeared in Miami Apr. 4 (JK), and Scarlet Tanagers were ignored by reporters with reports only from Key Largo Apr. 25 (RR), and Miami May 9 (JK).

**FRINGILLIDS** — Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported from Alligator Pt., Apr. 11 (JS *et al.*) and May

16 (HS), Sugarloaf Key Apr. 27 (MB), and Stock I., May 17 (FH). The two May dates are close to the latest records for the Tallahassee and Lower Keys divisions. Three Blue Grosbeaks and three Indigo Buntings were singing on territory near Bartow May 10, but shortly thereafter the brush was leveled (sound familiar?) and the grosbeaks disappeared. The buntings were still singing May 17, and others were heard singing nearby (JE & PF). A Painted Bunting in full song at Carrabelle May 31 and June 9 may be from the nesting population at Apalachicola, 15 mi. west (HS). Grasshopper Sparrows were on Mullet Key Mar. 15 (LH, B & LA), and Apr. 23-25 (LH), and a rare Lark Sparrow was late on Alligator Pt., Apr. 12 (JH). The Clay-colored Sparrow that wintered near Bob Barber's feeder at Rockledge remained until Apr. 19 (RB). A Lincoln Sparrow at Mullet Key May 3 (B & LA *et al.*) is the latest for the Northern Peninsular.

**EXOTICS** — A pair of Inca Doves are daily visitors to Frances Hames' feeder in Key West. The presence of an apparent imm. Spotted Dove in Coral Gables May 24 suggests still another Columbidae may be breeding in south Florida. Up to 18 Rose-ringed Parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*) visited a feeder in n. Miami during the period. Young birds have been seen, but no nests yet reported (PS). Nests of Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*) are known on Key Biscayne, Ft. Lauderdale, and in Boca Raton (PS). Two Hispaniolan Parakeets (*Aratinga chloroptera*) were found roosting with Canary-winged Parakeets (*Brotogerus versicolor*) at Dinner Key in Miami Apr. 26 (MG & PS). A pair of Red-crowned Parrots (*Amazona viridigenalis*) were nesting in a dead Royal Palm in Coconut Grove Apr. 19 (SP & PS). An Orange-chinned Parakeet (*Brotogeris*

*jugularis*) was photographed on Duck Key during the period (HD). Up to 10 Indian Hill Mynas, including nesting birds, were seen regularly in the Coral Gables-Coconut Grove area of Miami, and on Miami Beach (JK, PS). Blue-gray Tanagers were seen regularly in their breeding areas in n. Miami and Hollywood (PS).

**OBSERVERS** (area editors in boldface) — H. Norton Agey, Brooks Atherton, Lynn Atherton, Glen Axford, Paul Axford, Wilson Baker, **Robert Barber**, Ted Below, Wes Biggs, Margaret C. Bowman, Margaret Brown, Julia Cooke, William Courser, Robert Crawford, Dennis Creamer, Helen Cruickshank, Harry Darrow, Cornelia Davis, James Dinsmore, **John Edscorn**, Paul Fellers, Chuck Geanangel, Culver S. Gidden, Dave Goodwin, Michael Greene, Sam Grimes, **Frances Hames**, Danny Heathcote, Ted Henrickson, Harlan Herbert, Reginald Hicks, A. Ronald Hight, **John Hintermister**, James E. Horner, Larry Hopkins, Gloria Hunter, Johnny Johnson, David Johnston, James King, Lois Kitching, James Lane, Howard Langridge, Robert Loftin, **Virge Markgraf**, Gail Menk, Edith Miller Maxine Miller, Jasmine Morgan, Georgia S. Murray, Virginia Navarre, Stephen Nesbitt, Bryan Obst, Pat Parks, Sam Pate, Helen Peters, James Pilgreen, Edward Posey, Peggy C. Powell, Rowena Ruffner, Frank Sandford, Eugene Schupp, Chester Shaffer, Carlton M Smith, Florida Ornithol. Soc., Massachusetts Audubon Soc. Tour, Alexander Sprunt, **Henry Stevenson**, James Stevenson, Stephen Sutton, **Paul Sykes**, John Thompson, Noel Wamer, Charles Watt, Joyce Williams, Kevin Wood. — **HERBERT W. KALE II, Ornithological Research Division, Florida Audubon Society, 35-1st Court SW, Vero Beach, Florida 32960.**

## ONTARIO REGION

/Clive E. Goodwin

It was a spring of extremes, ushered in by the worst late winter blizzard in living memory, and ending in heat, humidity and summer thunderstorms. To many observers it was a spring that never happened, as the cold weather and delayed migration of April and early May suddenly gave way to summer temperatures and summer birds, and the migration seemingly past. And it was a spring of sunny, clear days with little to interrupt the orderly stream of north-bound migrants.

Every migration period must bring with it enormous mortality, but it is only rarely that some dramatic natural event forces to our attention the hazards these epic journeys must present. The storm that moved through southern Ontario on April 1-3 was such an event — normally busy highways were blocked for days and much of the populous south was at a standstill. If anything migration had been rather early during March, and even a few hours before the storm Whistling Swans were moving north over Brampton (AD) and Am. Woodcock were seen actually flying into the blizzard. Unfortunately blocked roads made fieldwork difficult, but feeder populations soared over the next few days

and feeder owners around Toronto reported food consumption tripled. Craig Campbell's first E. Meadow larks were flocks beside the snowdrifts west of Water



loo, and dead meadowlarks were being picked up on a farm near Dundalk after failing to find food there (FM). At Wingham thousands of blackbirds were concentrated into a small tract of evergreens (NHM), and at Dundas on Apr. 3 a westbound reverse migration included 10,000 Red-winged and one Brewer's Blackbird (AW) Concern now is for migrants caught in the storm — for example, to the time of writing no W. Meadowlarks have been recorded in their usual locations northwest of Toronto (*vide* AD), and one can only wonder if this rather local population fell victim to the blizzard.

By contrast May was the warmest on record, with no killing frosts south of Sudbury, and near-record sunshine in some areas. Away from migration concentration points it was sometimes difficult to know if migration was occurring at all!

Early April was dominated by the storm, and heavy passerine movement was not reported until Apr. 18-19. Then Apr. 23-26 brought heavy movement at Long Point (L.P.B.O.) and hawks at Grimsby (DC *et al.*). Early May was quiet, with steady movement, and the first reports of numbers were in the period May 11-12, when Long Point, Prince Edward Pt. (P.E. Pt.) and Point Pelee (Pelee) all experienced influxes. Interestingly, the night of May 13-14, when the centre of high pressure associated with the weekend groundings had moved to the east, yielded a very heavy flight of thrushes at Hamilton as measured by calls passing overhead (AW, MJ). The morning of May 18 brought an enormous influx to P.E. Pt. (RDW, MHE) but it was the Monday and Tuesday, May 19-20, that produced the most interest. In this period the body of very warm air which was to dominate the rest of the period moved in. The contrast at Tobermory was marked: on the Monday dawn migrants blocked by the Main Channel separating the Bruce Peninsula and Manitoulin I. were actively feeding and singing, circulating through the trees at the point. On Tuesday most of the birds were moving urgently north and launching themselves high into the air and fighting the strong SW wind well short of the northern tip, seemingly embarking on the 70-mile crossing without hesitation; only later migrants such as Blackpoll Warblers were loitering in the trees (CEG, JEG) By contrast at Mississagi Light on May 20 migrants were streaming south, perhaps after overshooting in the surge of warmth (JN). The same day saw influxes at Ottawa (RAF), and that night Alan Wormington recorded the second major thrush movement overhead.

Observers with a statistical bent will be interested in the new one-day record of 172 species on May 17 from Hamilton to Long Point (RC, AW, TH). No great rarities or very unexpected birds were seen. This is the competitive sport side of birding, of course, but it reflects the great diversity of habitats in the area covered, in contrast to Pelee for example, where Bob Curry feels such a total would be impossible. One wonders about the Prince Edward County-Presquile area, where 131 species were logged at P.E. Pt. alone between midnight and 1:00 p.m. May 18, without any ducks or shorebirds (MHE, RDW)!

LOONS, GREBES — Manitoulin I., and particularly Mississagi Light (M.L.), provided most of the interest in this group. Altogether some 1000 Com. Loons were

seen Apr. 27 - May 24, with peaks of 308 on Apr 27 between 7:30 and 11:30 a.m. and 352 May 10. These birds were flying NW to W, but a couple of miles east at Meldrum Bay there were 362 on the water May 4 (JN *et al.*). The only loon concentration elsewhere was at P.E. Pt. with 153 on May 3 (RDW). Apparently Red-necked Grebes no longer concentrate in any numbers on the lower Great Lakes, but M.L. again produced 80 on Apr. 26-27 and 110 on May 3, while there were 100 Horned Grebes in nearby Meldrum Bay the same day (JN). Pelee also had good numbers of this species, with up to 200 in April (m.ob.). There were up to three Eared Grebes seen in the Hamilton area (*vide* RC)

CORMORANTS, HERONS — There were 44 Double-crested Cormorants seen over the period; only two were away from the lower Lakes and ten was the largest single group reported. Great Blue Herons seemed rather scarce, although on Apr. 10 three separate groups of seven were seen between Goderich and Toronto, and their main movement continued to Apr 13 (GB, *et al.*). Northerly Green Herons were at M L May 3 & 11 (JN). An ad. Little Blue Heron was at Pelee May 3-25 (m.ob.) and an immature was on Low I., Manitoulin May 18 (CB). There were up to 11 Cattle Egrets at Pelee in May (m.ob.) but the only other report was from Kingston, with single birds May 5 & 11 (K.F.N.). There were five Great Egrets away from the L. Erie shoreline; most northerly was a bird on the Bighead R. flats Apr. 20 (MG) and one at Kingston Apr. 13 was the earliest there. Snowy Egrets are very rare in the Province, so five spring reports suggest a wandering bird, or perhaps two. The first was at Kingston Apr. 26 (MP, K.F.N.) and the last at Ottawa May 18-24 (BD *et al.*). In between there were sightings at Tilbury, Dundas and Toronto, which suggest a second bird. An early Least Bittern was at London Apr 29 (ML).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — Hamilton had its best count of Whistling Swans in some years with 2914 on Mar. 24 (MJ) and 300 at Verschoyle, Oxford Co., Mar 29 (NM) was another good count. As usual some birds were still lingering in May, with two on Kelly L., Sudbury (BF, DF) and six at Kincardine (GH) the most noteworthy. Geese were in generally good numbers, and the Canada Goose flight at Ottawa was the heaviest ever on May 8, with 3200 counted in 40 minutes alone (RAF). Elsewhere there were 20,000 at Willow Beach (ERM), over 27,000 at Kingston, "hundreds" over Algonquin P.P. (RP) with smaller flocks elsewhere. The peak of May 8-11 across the south was unusually late. A huge flock of 4000 Brant was off Bath May 24 (HQ, RDW), but the smaller numbers elsewhere were equally interesting: a small flock at North Bay on the early date of Apr. 16 (JMG); an unprecedented 300 at Peterborough Apr. 23 (DM) and the same number on L. Opeongo May 23 (SA, WC), and single birds at Stratroy (TNH, TDP) and Long Point (L.P.B.O.). Snow Geese, single birds or in small flocks, were quite widespread, with as many as 73 at Kingston Apr. 13 - May 9.

The Gadwall success story continues with as many as 40 at Pelee (JAG) and two pairs north to Wawa May 14

(CEG, JEG). The duck migration in general was rather quiet, although high counts of some species were recorded on Manitoulin and at Sudbury, with 77 Blue-winged Teal Apr. 20, 34 Am. Wigeon and 8 Canvasbacks May 3, and six Redheads May 7 (*vide* JN). Quetico P.P. had some first records, as local ice conditions delayed movement there, and N. Shoveler, Redhead, Greater Scaup were all seen. Two reports of drake Eur. Wigeon were both without supporting details one from Rondeau Apr. 4 (PDP) and one in early May at Puslinch L., Waterloo (DB *et al.*).

There is relatively little information on the precise routes of the huge flocks of Oldsquaw and White-winged Scoter that appear on the lower Great Lakes, so a series of observations this year are both intriguing and enlightening. Kingston, Toronto, Niagara and Long Point all record unusually large Oldsquaw concentrations in the spring, with the birds usually departing around the first week of May. This year the P.E. Pt. peak was 2500 on May 3 (RDW) and Long Pt. 2000 on Apr 25 (L.P.B.O.). From May 17 to 24 John Nicholson spent the warm clear evenings watching from the shore at the w. end of Manitoulin I., and recorded 6450 'squaws in the period, with peaks of 4000 May 18 and 1000 May 20. Over the same period, and on the mainland well to the east at Killarney, Declan Troy saw flocks of up to 250 birds flying over. The Manitoulin birds seemed to be heading NW, but on May 17 John Lemon recorded over 3000 'squaws moving west at Port Stanley on L. Erie 500 mi. s. of Manitoulin! Where did all these birds come from? Were they the familiar early May concentrations, and if so where were they in the intervening week or so? A line extended back from Manitoulin could originate from either Kingston or Toronto, but on May 18 no ducks were visible from Cabot Head to the east of the Bruce Pen., and a flock of some 50 'squaws were sighted moving NW off Cape Hurd, the Bruce's westernmost extremity (CEG, JEG). This seemed to suggest Toronto or Niagara as the origin of the Manitoulin birds, Kingston as a source for the Killarney sightings and Niagara or Long Point as the possible origin of the Port Stanley flocks — if in fact any of them originated in the Province at all! The scoters were moving at the same time: over 2000 at Hawk Cliff (JL), 2160 at M.L. (JN) and at the e. end of Manitoulin 987 moved north, May 18-24 (CB). Lower Lakes concentrations of this species are less predictable, but roughly the same areas are involved and on May 24 separate sightings of northbound scoter were made in King Twp. and Toronto (DFi, CEG) — a traditional flightline which seems to follow the Humber R at outset.

**HAWKS, EAGLES** — A number of good hawk movements were observed. Grimsby, long known as a spring concentration point for migrating hawks, had fairly systematic coverage between Mar. 16 and May 3 and the totals below reflect this. Peak movements were on Mar. 27 with Red-tailed Hawks predominating, Apr. 23 when a heavy Sharp-shinned Hawk movement occurred, and Apr. 24 & 29 with Broad-winged Hawks the most abundant species. May 3 saw another good movement, principally of Sharp-shinned. In all, some 3428 hawks of 13 species were recorded (DC *et al.*). This contrasts interestingly with P.E. Pt. flights on

Apr. 13, 26 & 27, and May 7 (K.F.N.) and movements at Cornwall Dam, where significant hawk passage was found on May 3 & 5 (RH, JVR), a previously unrecognized location for such movements. Rick Howie suggests the movements may really have been on a fairly broad front, and indeed the map reveals no particular reason why Cornwall should be favored. The totals are intriguing: Kingston had more Marsh Hawks in one day (22) than Grimsby recorded throughout, and Cornwall had more Broad-winged (75) on May 3 than Kingston throughout. The six Ospreys on May 3 at Cornwall compare with 7 in all at Grimsby. Maybe most of s Ontario's Red-shouldered Hawks pass through Grimsby: 220 were seen, compared to 14 reports in all other localities combined. Rough-legged Hawks peaked on Wolfe I., Apr. 16 with 60 (K.F.N.) and the last among several late reports was May 22 on Manitoulin I (JN). Golden Eagles sighted at Pelee Apr. 26 (JAG, J&JB) and London Apr. 27 (TNH, TDP) could have been the same bird moving northeast. There were 9 Bald Eagles reported, no less than 13 widely separated sightings of Peregrine Falcons, and 11 Merlins in all

**CRANES THROUGH GALLINULES** — Noteworthy only because of the species involved were independent but vague reports from the Wasaga-Huntsville area of a Whooping Crane in April, including one supposedly killed. Sandhill Cranes reappeared at Espanola, but subsequently vanished (JN *et al.*). Elsewhere birds were in the Hamilton area, Apr. 23 (BJ, HM) and May 7 (JSP), Manitoulin May 4 (DF) and Mattice May 2 (JHE). A Virginia Rail was heard in Algonquin P P, May 10 (WC) and Kingston's second Yellow Rail was found on May 18 (MHE, RDW). A Com. Gallinule at Mud L., Dereham Twp., Apr. 22 was early (DBU)

**SHOREBIRDS** — Lake levels were still high enough to restrict habitat seriously. Record early arrivals on May 4 - 5 at Kingston included Semipalmated Plover and Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers (FC, RPC, RDW). Flocks of up to 700 Black-bellied Plover were at Pelee in May, and there were smaller groups of Am Golden Plover, including many high-plumaged birds (m.ob.). Piping Plover were at Manitoulin I., May 11 (CB) and up to two birds at both Shirley's Bay, Ottawa (BB, BD *et al.* and in the Rondeau area (PDP), all in May, while the Long Point birds were present from Apr. 14 (L.P.BO.). A juvenile Am. Woodcock was seen at Sarnia on the early date of May 25 (AR). In the north the species was seen at Atikokan in two locations, with birds present at French L. for the third year (SP *et al.*), and there were four at Cree L., Hornepayne May 10 (JJ, EP, JBM). There were up to 275 Whimbrel at Rondeau May 2 (CAC, WHS, PDP) and 180 flying north off M.L. (JN); and the 1 Red Knot flocks of 50 and 72 at Ottawa May 27 (*vide* RAF) were also good numbers for that area. Five Willets were seen, including two May 30 at Shirley's Bay (TH, AW) and Manitoulin's first at Gore Bay May 4 (CB *et al.*). Both White-rumped and Baird's Sandpipers were in exceptional numbers for spring: the 23 White-rumped seen included as many as six at Presquille P.P., and were as early as May 12 at Pelee (m.ob.). No details are available on the eight Baird's seen, one at Kingston May 31

(RDW) and a surprising report of seven at Eriean, May 12 (KJB, JC). Observers should note this species is sufficiently rare in spring and peep identification sufficiently difficult to justify supporting information. Western Sandpipers are in the same class, but the five seen at Eriean May 4 were documented (RC *et al.*). An early Dunlin was at bronte Apr. 3 (MJ). A flock of 21 Short-billed Dowitchers at Mud L., Dereham Twp. were the most ever in Oxford Co. (DBu, *fide* BP). There was a good assortment of rarer shorebirds, with no less than three Stilt Sandpipers at Pelee (JAG) and another at Tilbury all on May 18 (AR), and a bird at Eriean May 19-22 (CAC,WHS,PDP), which also had a Marbled Godwit May 12-17 (KJB). Kingston's second-ever Marbled Godwit stayed May 11-13 (KFN). Possibly the same bird was seen at Presquille May 17 (RP,GC,D&HL), to be followed by an Am. Avocet from May 29 (m.ob.). The season's Ruffs were birds at Sombra May 3 (DR,JPK,JAG) and Strathroy May 19 (WRJ). Wilson's Phalaropes were as early as May 3, and north to Hornepayne (JBM), with 23 birds reported in all Six Northern Phalaropes at Ottawa between May 18 & 27 were the highest count for this species.

**JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS** — A Pomarine Jaeger at Rondeau, May 24 was one of very few spring jaeger records (RC *et al.*). White gulls lingered late: 15 Glaucous and 3 Iceland were at Long Pt. Apr. 26 (RC *et al.*) and single Glaucous were seen to May 11 at Port Hope and M.L. (ERM,JN). Laughing Gulls were reported at Pelee May 17-25 (JAG, m.ob.) and Long Pt. Apr. 24 when a Black-legged Kittiwake was also seen (AW,MJ). Pelee also had one or two Franklin's Gulls, and elsewhere single birds were at Hamilton (RC *et al.*) and Ottawa (TH,AW). Estimates of the enormous flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls at Long Pt. Apr. 13 ranged from 10,000 to 50,000 (m.ob.). The mass was steadily growing with the arrival of birds flying west along Long Pt. Bay. Counts of 28 at Ottawa May 11 (RMP) and 27 at Little Current May 14 (DF) were noteworthy for the areas, the latter flock the most ever for Manitoulin! Little Gulls seemed scarce, although recorded in small numbers in all the usual localities, and there were two at Tiny Marsh May 17 (FW). Forster's Terns appeared in small numbers along L. Erie and L. St. Clair, and at Hamilton. Five Com. Terns were seen in Algonquin P.P., where they are rare, on May 9 (WCa).

**DOVES THROUGH NIGHTHAWKS** — Northerly Mourning Doves were at White River May 11 (CEG,JEG) and Hornepayne May 21 (JJ,EP). Snowy Owls lingered, and two were still on Wolfe I. at the end of the period (*fide* RDW). A belated Hawk Owl report is of a bird at Napanee Jan. 5 (JSH,REH). Other owl reports typically defy interpretation, with four Long-eareds at Peterborough Mar. 29 (GC), a Short-eared at M.L., Apr. 27, and a Saw-whet there May 18 (JN). Long-eareds were nesting on the Credit Valley Conservation Authority Farm Apr. 3 (R&HH). A Chuck-will's-widow heard calling at Pelee for about 30 minutes at 5:30 a.m. May 10 (GB *et al.*) and reported again a couple of weeks later is only the third report for Ontario, all at Pelee. Quetico had three reports of Whip-poor-wills May 17-24 and an early bird was at

Toronto Apr. 22 (JAK) and an even earlier Com Nighthawk at Barrie Apr. 25 (CJM).

**WOODPECKERS** — Red-headed Woodpeckers were in good numbers as far north as Manitoulin I., with ten there May 18 (JN *et al.*). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Sudbury Apr. 16 was early (WRL). Both three-toeds were late in leaving: the latest Black-backed was at Ottawa May 18, with a Northern there to May 13 (RAF), and the much-viewed Pelee Northern was present to May 17 (m.ob.).

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — A W. Kingbird was seen at Evansville May 22 (JN). The Great Crested Flycatcher at Atikokan, June 11, was Shirley Peruniak's first there. Early records included an Alder Flycatcher in Dereham Twp., May 4 (DBu), and Olive-sided Flycatcher at Red Bay May 17 (LC *et al.*), two Tree Swallows at Dundas Mar. 23 (WS) and one at Peterborough Mar. 26 (DCS), and a Cliff Swallow at Kingston Apr. 20 (RDW). A Barn Swallow at Cree L., Hornepayne, Apr. 19-20 (RM, JBM) was three weeks early.

**RAVENS THROUGH WRENS** — A Com. Raven was moving with the hawks at Grimsby Mar. 28 (WS, AE, EKM), and two at Gannon's Narrows were present to May 11 (DCS). Boreal Chickadees occurred at Lively Apr. 6 (JL) and in Tecumseth Twp., Apr. 27 (MW). Brown Creepers staged an exceptional migration in many areas, and particularly at Kingston and Toronto (RDW, CEG). Both Pelee and Eriean recorded Bewick's Wrens this spring, on May 4 and May 2 respectively (J & JB, KJB). Carolina Wrens continued in strong numbers after the relatively mild winter, and at Pelee the woods rang with the songs of ten or more birds. Other reports included one at Millbrook throughout (HW) and another in Vespra Twp. in May (CJM *et al.*). Simcoe Co. also had one of the highest reported numbers of Short-billed Marsh Wrens with 16 at Holland Marsh May 24 (B.F.N.C.). A Long-billed Marsh Wren was at South Baymouth May 18 (CEG, JEG)

**MIMIDS, THRUSHES**—There was a flood of Mockingbird reports, even more than usual. Most noteworthy were birds at Hornepayne May 26-27 (JH *et al.*), Mattice June 12 (JHE), Interlaken May 26 (*fide* BP) and Lake of Two Rivers May 4-29 (RT *et al.*). Hornepayne also had a Brown Thrasher May 19-20, and two Veeries May 16 (JH, JBM, *et al.*). Ontario's first substantiated record of a **Fieldfare** came on May 24 at Long Pt (MPo AS, L.P.B.O.) when a bird was photographed and banded, while the A.B.A. was combing Pelee — such is birding! There was a previous sighting reported by a single observer from Ottawa in 1966. A Wood Thrush at Michipicoten May 15 was north of its range (CEG, JEG). A Swainson's Thrush at Grimsby Apr. 20 (AW) and two E. Bluebirds in Oxford Co. Mar 4 (DBu) were early. Another bluebird was at Wasi Falls Apr 30 (HP). Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers seem to be increasing slowly, although four P.E.Pt. records was rather low (RDW). Birds were north to Meaford May 1 (MG), M.L., May 19 (JN) and Killarney May 14 (DT) and there was a nest at Port Britain May 24 (ERM). It was a



bonanza kinglet year. Almost everyone commented on the exceptional numbers, particularly of Ruby-crowneds, which were the most regularly-heard birds in the Goodwin's round trip to Pelee, Thunder Bay, Manitoulin and back to Toronto in May.

**PIPITS THROUGH VIREOS** — A flock of 100 Water Pipits at Lake of Two Rivers May 19 was unusual (WC), and Algonquin also had a late N. Shrike Apr 2 (HC). The Loggerhead Shrike picture continues gloomy: there were only some 18 migration reports of this once-common bird, and the only known nests were one at Port Hope (ERM), three in the Ottawa area (RAF) and one at Kingston (RDW). Additional birds were known to be in the Ottawa region and there was one on an old territory near Ferndale (CEG, JEG). Undoubtedly there will be many stations that have eluded observers, but this still adds up to miles of suitable habitat unoccupied and a population only a fragment of its former size. There were probably eight White-eyed Vireos at Pelee during May (m.ob.) and other sightings were at London May 19 (GM) and P.E. Pt on three dates (K.F.N.). The other vireo reports were also of birds at the limits of their ranges: Yellow-throated Vireos at Buckhorn in mid-May, and 13 mi. s. of Dorset June 13 (FH), three at Ottawa May 14 and May 25 (HNM, WEG), and Manitoulin's first at M.L., May 20, which also had a Warbling Vireo the following day (JN).

**WARBLERS** — Worm-eating Warblers staged another minor invasion, as there were at least two at Pelee May 3-11 (m.ob.), one at Rondeau May 23-24 (m.ob.) and Ottawa's first on May 18 (RMP, RAF, SS). There were four Golden-winged Warblers singing in Algonquin P.P. May 16-19 (*vide* RP), one on Manitoulin I., May 25 (CB), and Quetico's first on June 1 (DH). A Brewster's hybrid was at Newbury May 17 (WM) and two Blue-wingeds were at P.E. Pt., May 18 (K F N.). An Orange-crowned Warbler was seen at Quetico from May 14 (SP). Ontario's third — but the second in two years — **Virginia's Warbler** was at Pelee May 5 (JAG, m.ob.). The Goodwins characteristically arrived five minutes after the bird had vanished but found an Audubon's Warbler instead; the race has been recorded on about eight occasions previously in Ontario. There were subsequent reports of both birds. The Myrtle race of the Yellow-rumped Warbler was in enormous numbers: at P.E. Pt. on May 11 alone 2000 were counted on the short census route, and this extrapolated to as many as 50,000 birds on the Point. The first Yellow-rumped was on the early date of Mar. 27 at Grimsby (RC). Of the abundant warblers, both Tennessees and Cape Mays were unusually numerous, and in the case of Cape May this simply continues the trends of recent years, and perhaps reflects the current serious spruce budworm outbreaks. A Cerulean Warbler turned up at Ottawa May 18 (SO, MGn). A Palm Warbler at Erieau May 24 (RC *et al.*) and an Ovenbird at Port Elgin Apr. 20 (MWa) were respectively late and early. There were no reliable reports of Louisiana Waterthrushes at Pelee this year (*vide* AHK), but a bird was singing at Otter L., Kingston May 11 (FC, RPs) and there were birds at Komaka (WM). Connecticut's pro-

vided their usual half dozen reports, and great excitement at Pelee, and the following three species also were well represented there. These included the two Kentucky Warblers in the Toronto region (HK, JK) and two reports from P.E. Pt., the first there (MHE, RDW). The Point also had two Yellow-breasted Chats (K.F.N.) and there were birds in Oxford Co., May 16 (DBu); at Tiny Marsh May 31 (GB) and Inverhuron May 24 (G & SC). Finally, Kingston recorded a Hooded Warbler May 16 (RDW) and there were birds at Burlington Apr. 25 and Bronte June 1 (MJ).

**HOUSE SPARROW THROUGH TANAGERS** — A House Sparrow at Atikokan Apr. 6 was the first there since 1961, and a Bobolink in Quetico May 23 the first ever (SP). An E. Meadowlark was seen and heard at Mattice May 5 (JHE). There was the usual scattering of wandering blackbirds and orioles: Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Sauble Beach Apr. 23 (MG) and Pelee May 18-25 (m.ob.); Orchard Orioles at Glen Williams May 25-27 (AA) and north of Wiarton, May 17 (LC). Among the more interesting Brewer's Blackbird sightings were birds at Delaware Apr. 14 (WRJ), London Apr. 21 (TNH) and Parry Sound May 1 (CAC, JLC). Only 1973 had more Summer Tanagers: there were probably six in all, all in the L. Erie region: birds at London Apr. 23 - May 5 (GBe *et al.*), Thorndale May 17 (WGD *et al.*), St. Thomas May 2 (WR, MF) and Elgin County's first, as well as birds at Pelee and Long Point.

**FINCHES, SPARROWS** — Long Point had a Blue Grosbeak within half an hour of the Fieldfare record on May 24 (L.P.B.O.)! The Dickcissel at Providence Bay May 3 was Manitoulin's first (JL, CB) and there was one at Port Bruce Apr. 30 (KJB). Most winter finches hung on into late April and some well into May, but only Com. Redpolls staged their main influx in this period with the peak between Apr. 3 and 17, with the movement chiefly in the east. A Lark Bunting was at M.L., May 21 (JN, JS). Grasshopper Sparrows seemed particularly widespread and in good numbers, but Henslow's Sparrows continued scarce: the best numbers were two on territory at North Gower from May 17, the first Ottawa birds in six years (MB), up to six in the Barrie colony and seven at Tiny Marsh (CJM, CH). Both Sudbury and P.E. Pt. had their first Le Conte's Sparrows, May 25-31 at Worthington (JL *et al.*) and May 12 (RDW) respectively, and there was a bird at Pelee May 9 (WWS, m.ob.). A late Tree Sparrow was at Pelee May 13 (GB). Clay-colored Sparrow records include one at Lake of Two Rivers May 16 (WC), a bird at Peterborough May 23 (FH) and another at Atikokan from May 20 (SP). Hornepayne seems on the edge of the Harris' Sparrow migration route: a bird was there May 16-17 (JJ, JBM, CAM). An early White-crowned Sparrow was at Owen Sound Apr. 23 (BM). April saw some good numbers of Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs: there were 1000 buntings at both Chatham and Stratford and the 20 longspurs at Minesing Apr. 20 (CJM) were a good count for any time of year.

**SUB-REGIONAL EDITORS** (boldface), **CONTRIBUTORS** (italic) and **OBSERVERS** — S An-

drews, **R.F. Andrie**, A. Ardal, B. Barrett, J. & M.J. Bartell, G. Beattie (GBe), C. Bell, **G. Bennett**, Breton Field Naturalists Club, D. Brewer, M. Brigham, D. Bucknell (DBu), K.J. Burk, W. Calvert (WCa), **C.A. Campbell**, J.L. Campbell, G. Carpentier, J. Cartwright, G. & S. Castle, L. Chambers, H. Conybeare, F. Cooke, D. Copeland, W. Crins, **R. Curry**, *A. Dawe*, W.G. Day, B. Dilabio, M.H. Edwards, *J.H. Enns*, A. Epp, B. Ferguson, D. Ferguson, D. Fidler (DFi), M. Field, **R.A. Foxall**, M. Gawn (MGn), J.M. Glenday, W.E. Godfrey, C.E. Goodwin, J.E. Goodwin, M. Grant, J.A. Greenhouse, D. Haddow, G. Hamilton, R. & H. Hansen, C. Harris, T.N. Hayman, F. Helleiner, J.S. Hendershot, R.E. Hendershot, T. Hince, **R. Howie**, **D. Hussell (DHu)**, J. Hutcheson, **W.R. Jarmain**, J. Jastrebski, M. Jennings, *J.W. Johnson*, B. Jones, *J. Keenleyside*, **A.H. Kelley**, **J.A. Kelley**, H. Kerr, Kingston Field Naturalists, J.P. Kleinman, D. & H. Lafontaine, M. Larmour, *J. Lemon*, Long Point Bird Observatory, W.R. Lowe, N. McDiarmid, **E.R. MacDonald**, **C.J. MacFayden**, H.N. MacKenzie, W. Maddeford, B. Maher, D. Maugham (DMA), R. McDevitt, F. McIntyre, E.K. McLaughlin, D. McRae, C.A. Miles, *J.B. Miles*, *G. Miller (GMi)*, H. Moore, G. Muller, m.ob. multiple observers, N.H. & R.C. Mundy, **J. Nicholson**, S. O'Donnell, *I. Park*, **B. Parker**, M. Partington, E. Patterson, T.D. Patterson, *S. Peruniak*, **H. Petty**, R. Pierce (RPc), **R. Pittaway**, M. Porter (MPo), R.M. Poulin, P.D. Pratt, J.S. Pringle, H. Quilliam, W. Rayner, A. Rider, J.V. Riet, D. Rupert, **D.C. Sadler**, *J.A. Saterly*, W.H. Schaefer, S. Shadick, W. Smith, W.W. Smith, A. Steele, J. Stoesser, R. Tozer, D. Troy, M. Wattenburg (MWa), M. Webb, **R.D. Weir**, F. Westman, H. Williams, A. Wormington. — **CLIVE E. GOODWIN**, 11 Westbank Cresc., Weston, Ontario, Canada, M9P 1S4.

## WESTERN NEW YORK AND NORTH-WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA /Douglas P. Kibbe

An early April blizzard which forced early migrants to feeders in droves was followed by several weeks of record cold. Many arrival dates were one to two weeks later than normal. Unseasonably warm weather and strong southerly winds the second week of May brought on a tremendous rush of migrants including several southern species which apparently overshot their normal nesting areas. Following a brief lull a second, smaller wave arrived marking the end of one of the most condensed, small passerine migrations in recent years.

Highlights of the season included excellent waterfowl numbers in April, record hawk flights in early May, and waves of migrants in mid-May which produced more than the usual number of rarities and 35 species of warblers. Although diversity was high, many individual species counts appeared low, perhaps because with the rapid turnover it was easy to miss the main body of migration. Low points of the season were the toll of early migrants which succumbed to the April blizzard

## Blue List Information Wanted

As usual, the December issue of *American Birds* will include an update of the Blue List of species which, in the opinion of a consensus of our observers, are declining in population. This is an "early warning list", not to be confused with the lists of endangered species, or the more recently established list of threatened species published by the Office of Endangered Species of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and although many of our Blue List species are now found on the threatened list.

In order to arrive at meaningful listings, all observers are asked to review the list published in *American Birds*, December, 1974, and if they have suggestions for additions, deletions, or other changes, to communicate them to the appropriate Regional Editors, who will, after review and analysis, pass them on for final consideration. All Blue List information should reach Regional Editors by October 20.

and the dearth of shorebirds which, in general, found their normal stopping areas inundated by high water

**LOONS, GREBES, CORMORANTS** — The usual concentration of Com. Loons on L. Ontario east of Rochester held over 600 birds Apr. 24 (AK, R&SO) Single Red-throated Loons were noted in May on L. Ontario (WL) and Erie Bay (RB) where last noted in 1972. Pied-billed Grebe numbers remain low at Montezuma N.W.R. following the disastrous floods there three years ago (WB). At least twelve Double-crested Cormorants were sighted including two at Iroquois N.W.R. and four at Presque Isle.

**HERONS, WATERFOWL** — An influx of Cattle and Great Egrets beginning mid-April included five Cattle at Braddock's Bay Apr. 19 (G.O.S.) and a maximum of 12 Great Egrets at Presque Isle Apr. 26 (DSt). Four Snowy Egrets were spotted in the region during May. Although virtually eliminated from Montezuma N.W.R. where it once bred in numbers, the Black-crowned Night Heron put in a strong showing in other areas. Seventy of the 150 plus individuals reported were tallied at Niagara Falls (B.O.S.). An ad **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** seen on Presque Isle also produced a count of 18 Least Bitterns to top six other regional records. A Glossy Ibis first seen May 1 at Montezuma N.W.R. was the only one reported. A peak of 80,000 Canada Geese at Montezuma N.W.R. compares well with recent years' maxima (WB). Four yellow-collared Canadas seen April 2 near Lyndonville were banded Jan. 3 at Mattamuskeet N.W.R. in North Carolina. The record number (8000) of Snow Geese which stopped at Montezuma N.W.R. showed a tre-

mendous increase in the occurrence of the 'blue' color morph (i.e., 10 to 1 vs. 3 to 1 in past years) (WB). All normally occurring species of dabbling and diving ducks were reported in good to excellent numbers throughout April. Very few divers lingered through the end of the period following the passage of strong warm fronts in early May.

**HAWKS** — The ever increasing number of spring hawk observation points makes it difficult to make meaningful comparisons with counts from past years. Sporadic coverage, which is often geared to predicted 'flight' days, makes interpretation of high counts nearly useless in documentation of anything less than drastic population changes. Observers are urged to obtain uniform coverage of their areas, a formidable task considering the low probability of reward on poor flight days and manpower limitations. Major flights noted occurred on Apr. 19 (Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawks); Apr. 23 (Sharp-shinned and Broad-winged Hawks and Am. Kestrels); and Apr. 30 and May 2 (Broad-winged Hawks and Osprey). The **9100** Broad-winged observed on the latter date at Braddock's Bay (TT) exceeds the previous state high by some 1100 birds. The first acceptable (*vide* RO) sight record of a **Swainson's Hawk** at Braddock's Bay May 2 (WLI, MS) is one of an increasing number of reports from e. North America in recent years. Three Rough-legged Hawks lingering near Barker until at least May 22 (DK) were the last of several late reports. Seven Golden Eagles were sighted, while a dozen reports of Bald Eagles were received including a pair attempting to nest again at Hemlock Lake. Nine Peregrine Falcons were reported, probably a reflection of increased coverage along the lake shores. Presque Isle topped all other areas combined with its count of nine Merlins (*vide* RB)

**GROUSE, RAILS, SHOREBIRDS** — A flock of 18 Chukars counted on Ridge Road May 2 were presumed to be recent, local releases as no viable population has been successfully maintained in more than ten years. The promised rail census of the Cayuga L. basin apparently never materialized and reports continue to be sparse. At Montezuma N.W.R. only two Com. Gallinules were found (WB), down from an estimated 100 pairs in 1970. With most of their usual stopping areas inundated, shorebirds made a uniformly poor showing. Noteworthy records included: two Piping Plovers, surely on their last legs in this region, at Presque Isle May 8 (DSt); an early Am. Golden Plover at Braddock's Bay Apr. 18 (WL *et al.*); two Willets, one unusually early on Apr. 12 at Montezuma N.W.R. (HL, *vide* EK); and a very early Wilson's Phalarope Apr. 27 at Montezuma which apparently elected to remain, as it was still present in mid-May (m.ob.).

**GULLS, TERNS** — The unseasonably cool spring may have been a factor inducing several Glaucous and Iceland Gulls to remain in the Buffalo area throughout most of April. One **Laughing Gull** was spotted at Times Beach (RA *et al.*) and **Franklin's Gulls** were noted at Braddock's Bay (K & IJ) and Presque Isle (*vide* RB) Bonaparte's Gulls were considered more numer-

ous at Presque Isle where 5000 were estimated May 17 (JB). One to two Little Gulls were present during April at both Braddock's Bay (*vide* RO) and Presque Isle (*vide* RB). The only definitive report of Forster's Terns comes from Presque Isle where a single bird was observed Apr. 19-27 (DSt, *vide* RB). A Caspian Tern which arrived in the Buffalo area Apr. 18, as did Com Terns, was slightly early (B.O.S.).

**CUCKOOS, OWLS, GOATSUCKERS** — Most cuckoos appeared in late May with the exception of an early Black-billed found May 8 at Spring Brook by Danner. One of the three Barn Owl reports was from a newly revealed nesting site near Fayette (*vide* MJ & EK). A lone Snowy Owl lingered until Apr. 9 in Tonawanda (*vide* B.O.S.). Only four areas reported Barred Owls. The largest concentration of Long-eared Owls noted, 11+ near Lyndonville where a pair bred last year, was fully dispersed by the second week of May (DK). Two overwintering Saw-whet Owls near Lyndonville remained until at least the first week of April (DK). The only multiple report of Whip-poor-wills came from woodlots along the L. Ontario shore where five were seen during the first two weeks in May (DK *et al.*).

**WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — Nearly all of the twenty Red-headed Woodpecker reports in May were from the lake plains. The Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker previously reported from Buffalo apparently stayed through Apr. 27 (Wilcove, *vide* B.O.S.). Although considered a near disaster species in some areas, E. Phoebes were still common in Seneca Co. where 31 nesting pairs were located (MJ). Most areas reported that flycatchers arrived on or slightly behind schedule. Three Acadian Flycatchers were identified on the L. Ontario plains. At least eleven Olive-sided Flycatchers were observed, the earliest May 11 (VP). The April blizzard apparently eliminated numbers of early arriving Tree Swallows but a major movement of this species was not observed until Apr 12 on Seneca Lake (MJ).

**CORVIDS, NUTHATCHES, MIMIDS** — Large diurnal movements of Blue Jays continued through late May into June along the L. Ontario shore (DK) A second **Fish Crow** is believed to have appeared in Ithaca this spring, raising the possibility of breeding this year. Red-breasted Nuthatches continued to be very scarce. A Brown Thrasher in Amherst Apr. 5 (Happ, *vide* B.O.S.) was unusually early if a migrant.

**THRUSHES, GNATCATCHERS, SHRIKES** — Although most thrushes appeared in normal numbers, Hermit Thrushes were so scarce in many areas that they were completely missed by some of the most active field observers. Encouraging reports of local increases in breeding E. Bluebirds noted near Seneca L. (MJ) were conterbalanced, unfortunately, by decreases in n Alleghany County (VP). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were more common in w. portions of the region but scarce in e. areas. Only one of the five Loggerhead Shrike reports was of nesting birds. An active nest with 5 eggs located in mid-May on the Ontario lake plains had one

dead adult beneath it. However, when the nestlings were banded three weeks later two adults were seen defending the nest (DK).

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — A White-eyed Vireo at Durand May 11-17 represents an excellent record (Doris *et al.*, *vide* RO). Yellow-throated Vireo reports appear to indicate a continued population decline. Philadelphia Vireos appeared to be much more common than normal; an increase also noted in the two preceding migration periods. The late spring produced a truncated warbler migration without remarkable early arrivals. Most species, including Prothonotary, Worm-eating, Pine, Prairie and Hooded, were well represented, if often poorly documented. Banders at Burgenson Sanctuary in Frewsburg captured an astonishing Swainson's Warbler May 13 (verification pending development of photos — *vide* RA). Equally interesting are ten sightings of Orange-crowned Warblers, normally very rare in the spring. These may reflect the large number of regional sightings last fall. A Connecticut Warbler was banded at Presque Isle May 24 (M & RL, *vide* RB).

**ICTERIDS, TANAGERS** - A W. Meadowlark was observed at Kendall May 18 (WL, *vide* RO). Five Orchard Orioles noted included three in Carlton (WL, *vide* RO) for the third consecutive year. A very early N. Oriole was noted Apr. 17 at Ithaca (*vide* EK). Two hundred Rusty Blackbirds at Braddock's Bay Apr. 19 (B & MM) is a good spring tally. The Scarlet Tanager at Frewsburg Apr. 19 (Elderkin and Pillsbury, *vide* B.O.S.) was remarkably early, the nest sighting coming nearly three weeks later.

**FRINGILLIDS** — Acceptance of a Blue Grosbeak sighting in Fredonia May 12-14 is pending the arrival of details and photographs reportedly taken (Stanley, *vide* RA). A feeder-frequenting Dickcissel at Presque Isle Apr. 25 (B & JG, *vide* RB) was the first local record in at least five years. Savannah Sparrows were considered very scarce near Montezuma N.W.R. (WB) but were doing well on the L. Ontario plains as were Grasshopper Sparrows. In some areas, the latter were about half as abundant as Savannahs (DK). A well documented Le Conte's Sparrow carefully observed Apr. 6 on a roadside near Belvidere (B & RS) is the second regional report in six months. This species may well be more regular in occurrence in the w. portion of the region than is currently believed. Henslow's Sparrows were fairly common in fallow fields along L. Ontario, the earliest one sighted Apr. 30 (DK). Vesper Sparrows, on the other hand, appear to have continued to decrease throughout the region. Nine records of Lincoln's Sparrows add up to a fine showing for the spring, a season when this species is easiest to identify. Several large flocks of Snow Buntings were spotted in early April. Two birds at Presque Isle Apr. 13 equaled the previous local late date (JB *vide* RB) and the last report from Ithaca was the final week in April (*vide* DM).

**CONTRIBUTORS** (in boldface) and **OBSERVERS** — **R. Andrie**, **J. Baxter**, **W. Benning**, **R. Bollinger**, **M. Braun**, **E. Brooks**, **Buffalo Ornithological Soci-**

**ety**, **D. Burton**, **L. Burton**, **D. Freeland**, **Genesee Ornithological Society**, **J. Gibson**, **B. Ginader**, **J. Ginader**, **I. Johnson**, **K. Johnson**, **M. Jones**, **A. Kemnitzer**, **E. Kibbe**, **H. Lapham**, **M. Leberman**, **R. Leberman**, **W. Listman**, **W. Lloyd**, **D. McIlroy**, **B. McKinney**, **M. McKinney**, **R. O'Hara**, **S. O'Hara**, **V. Pitzrick**, **B. Smalley**, **R. Smalley**, **D. Snyder**, **M. Sprague**, **D. Steadman**, **T. Tetlow**, **J. Walker**. — **DOUGLAS P. KIBBE**, 115 Mt. Lebanon Blvd., Apt 11, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15228.

## APPALACHIAN REGION /George A. Hall

Spring came somewhat late this year, and indeed in the north and at higher elevations the transition from late winter to summer conditions was very abrupt with an extremely short spring. April was generally colder



than normal, with a temperature deficiency at Pittsburgh of 179 day-degrees, and called the second coldest on record at State College, Pa. The month was drier than normal at Pittsburgh with only 2.02 inches of rainfall but at Charleston, W. Va. the rainfall was 4.09 inches. Early May was also cooler than usual, but very warm temperatures arrived on about May 20-21 and summer conditions prevailed after that. At Pittsburgh May rainfall was again deficient (2.09 inches) but at Charleston 6.44 inches fell. The cold weather was generally uninterrupted by warm spells and since there were no periods of really cold weather there was no freeze of tree blossoms. All species bloomed profusely, promising very good food supplies for birds this fall.

At the end of March the migration was running late, and it did not catch up during April. At some places birds were between one and two weeks late. In several species the first stragglers arrived early, i.e. Northern Orioles, but the bulk of the individuals arrived late. The species expected in the last week in April were slightly late, but most May arrivals were about on time. At Morgantown the night of April 29-30 was the first warm one with a southerly flow of air. As a result there was a major influx of new species on April 30 although

most were in small numbers. The other major arrival periods were about May 20-21 the weather turned very warm and the migration shut down almost completely, although a few stragglers were still coming through at the end of the month, when the cuckoos and certain flycatchers arrived in numbers.

Most observers viewed the migration as good, and some said it was the best in recent years, but no one reported great waves of migrants. The period was characterized by a steady flow of birds in great variety and moderately good numbers. One quantitative figure indicates the lower numbers: at the Powdermill Nature Reserve (P.N.R. hereafter), Rector, Pa., only 2221 birds were banded during the period compared with an average of 3145 (RCL).

**CORMORANTS, HERONS** — Double-crested Cormorant, an unusual bird in this Region, was reported from Marietta, O., Apr. 20 (JS), Moraine S. P. Pa., May 3 (FP), Rose Valley, Pa., May 9 (PS), Warren, Pa., May 10 (DG, *fide* WH), and Watauga L., Tenn., May 11 (PR, *fide* GE).

After an unusual number of winter records the spring movement of Great Blue Herons was good. In the Allegheny National Forest in McKean and Warren counties, Pa. two Great Blue heronies containing 46 nests, of which at least 25 were in use, were reported (RH, *fide* WH) and in that same general area a third heronry was located (LB, *fide* WH). Reports of Great Egrets came from all over the Region in what must have been the largest spring flight in recent years. No nesting of this species has ever been reported in the northern part of the Region, but it may occur. A Snowy Egret at Newville, Pa., Apr. 23 (CG) was unusual as was a Louisiana Heron May 30 in Shenandoah Co., Va. (KR, *fide* RSi). Two or three Little Blue Herons were seen at Jonesboro, Tenn., Apr. 26-27 (HD, *fide* JSI), and Yellow-crowned Night Herons were at Elizabethton, Tenn., Apr. 26 (GW), Austin Springs, Tenn., May 28 (GE) and Salem, Va., May 17 (NM). There were four reports of Cattle Egrets, Cheshire, O., Apr. 13 and Hockingport, O., May 4 (JS), Upper Strasburg, Pa., Apr. 18 (MB, *fide* CG) and Scotland, Pa., May 10 (BB, *fide* CG). A Glossy Ibis at Mountain Lake Park, Md., Apr. 17 (FPo) provided not only the first local record but the first for anywhere in the Allegheny Mountains.

**WATERFOWL** — The peak of the waterfowl migration occurred before the beginning of the period and the northbound flight was unusually poor even for this Region where ducks and geese are not major migrants. A few Whistling Swans remained rather late; 70 at Akron, Apr. 21 (PW), two at Warren, Pa., Apr. 27 (MH, *fide* WH), seven at Quemahoning Dam, Pa., Apr. 29 (SS, *fide* PH), and five at Upper Strasburg, Pa., May 5 (CG). A Mute Swan was seen in two places in Garrett Co., Md., Apr. 28-29 (FPo). At least 15 pairs of Canada Geese were nesting in the Allegheny Nat'l Forest (RH). This species also nested at Butler, Pa. (FP) and in Canaan Valley, W. Va. (NG). The advent of this species as a nesting bird in this Region comes from the extensive reintroduction attempts made by the various game agencies. A "Blue" Snow Goose was at L. Arthur, Moraine S.P., Pa., Apr. 22 (MG, *fide* PH).

Blue-winged Teal were present in unusual numbers at many places in mid- and late May which leads one to suspect nesting, but only in Warren County, Va. was nesting proved, with young seen June 3 (CH, *fide* RSi). April is rather late for Oldsquaw sightings but reports came from Crawford County, Pa., Apr. 2, 15 (RFL), Ligonier and Donegal, Pa., Apr. 10 (RCL), Mountain Lake Park, Md., Apr. 10 (FPo), Luray and Warren counties, Va., Apr. 3 & 21 (RSi). White-winged Scoters were seen at Donegal, Apr. 10 (RCL) and Mountain Lake Park, Apr. 16 (FPo) and a Surf Scoter was at Tamarack L., Crawford Co., Apr. 2 (RFL).

**RAPTORS** — Flights of Broad-winged Hawks numbering thousands are a commonplace in the fall but little is known about the spring flight which usually seems not to occur in heavy concentrations. It is of interest then to report the following observations this spring. On April 24 150+ were seen at Charleston, W. Va. (AS, *fide* MG). On May 1 at Strasburg, Va. a flight of 265 in an hour was seen flying along Massanutten Mt., and smaller flights were seen there later in the day and elsewhere in that area (RSi). In general Broad-winged were quite common and more nesting reports came in than usual. The other Buteos brought mixed responses: Red-shouldered Hawks were in above-normal populations at P. N.R. (RCL) but none reported in the Pittsburgh area (PH). At Charleston one Red-tailed Hawk nest of two and eight of nine Red-shouldered Hawk nests were successful, the other being taken over by Great Horned Owls (NG). A Roughlegged Hawk at Hootersville, Pa., May 3 (GRS) was late.

The winter report had mentioned increased numbers of Black Vultures in some areas and further evidence came from w. Virginia where flocks of up to 25 Black Vultures were seen (RSi). The winter reports of Accipiters had been modestly encouraging, but most places reported only a few during spring. For some years there have been rumors of nesting **Goshawks** in the West Virginia mountains, and this year a nest was found in the Canaan Valley (RH & JR). This is not only a new state record but represents the southernmost known nesting for the species. Four nests of the Bald Eagle in Crawford County, Pa. are thought to have raised only one young bird (RFL). On the brighter side was the increased number of Osprey sightings for the season from all parts of the Region. American Kestrels were in above-normal numbers at most places. In the Warren, Pa., area where extensive bluebird nesting box projects have been an old tradition it has been found that nest boxes for kestrels have also been successful, at one location seven kestrels were seen at one time (RH, *fide* WH). Four Merlins were seen in May in w. Virginia accompanying the Broad-winged flights (RSi) and there were six sightings in w. Pa. during the season (PH).

**GALLINACEOUS BIRDS, CRANES AND RAILS** — Turkey populations in Warren County, Pa. were reported to be at a 20-year high (RH) but Ruffed Grouse populations were very low in the Allegheny Nat'l Forest (RH), at P.N.R. (RCL) and in the Canaan Valley, W. Va. (JR).

A Sandhill Crane at Shenango Reservoir in n. Pennsylvania May 28 was most unusual (DG, *fide* WH).

Virginia Rails and Soras were more widely reported than usual.

**SHOREBIRDS, GULLS AND TERNS** — At most places water levels were high and the shorebird flight was unusually poor. The usual Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers, the yellowlegs and a few peep came through but the only unusual species were two Black-bellied Plovers and a Short-billed Dowitcher at Mountain Lake Park, May 1 (FPo) and three White-rumped Sandpipers at New Middleton, O., Apr. 11-14 (WB). Upland Sandpipers were reported from Morgantown Apr 20 (GAH) and Oakland, Md., Apr. 19 (FPo) as well as from the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia where they are more regular (RSi). Two N. Phalaropes May 16 and seven May 18 were seen at State College, Pa. (MW) and one was at Austin Springs, Tenn, May 16-17 (MD & SG, *fide* GE).

The flight of Bonaparte's Gulls across the mountains was good this year with reports of over 100 at McElhattan, Pa., Apr. 3 (PS), 200 at L. Arthur, Pa., Apr. 6 (DF, *fide* PH), one at Lewisburg, W. Va., Apr. 8 (COH), and 33 at Mountain Lake Park Apr. 25 (FPo). Caspian Terns are unusual in the Region and so reports from Saegertown, Pa., Apr. 21 (RFL), Mountain Lake Park Apr. 24 (FPo), and L. Arthur Apr. 26 (WB) are noteworthy.

**CUCKOOS, OWLS** — To paraphrase the old song, "Where have all the cuckoos gone?" In w. Virginia they were reported as common after mid-May (RSi) but practically everywhere else they were both late in arriving and in very low numbers. The migration was still in progress in some places in early June but even at this writing, 20 days into June, I have heard only one cuckoo in the Morgantown area.

There were two active Barn Owl nests, one of which produced four young in the Elizabethton, Tenn. area (GE) One was resident in Clarke County, Va. (RSi) and they were known to be at two locations near Lock Haven, Pa. (PS). A dead Saw-whet Owl was found at Newcomerstown, O., Apr. 9 (ES).

**WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS** — Red-bellied Woodpeckers nested at Raccoon Creek S.P., Pa., (NK), a slight extension of range. Red-headed Woodpeckers were sighted at Carmichaels, Pa. May 26 (RB) and Pittsfield, Pa., May 18 (DO), but the species has almost disappeared from the town of Mountain Lake Park, one of its last strongholds in the Allegheny plateau area. (FPo) The Hairy Woodpecker continues to be generally low, and thus justifies its recent addition to the "Blue List" The migration of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers was the best in recent years.

Eastern Kingbirds were in low numbers at P.N.R. (RCL) and at Morgantown (GAH). On the other hand Great Crested Flycatchers were in good numbers at most places and at Morgantown the flight of E. Phoebes in April was unusually good (GAH). A few E. Wood Pewees arrived at the normal time (May 11 at Morgantown) but the bulk of the migrants came quite late, and even by June 1 the populations seemed low. At P.N.R. 55 Least Flycatchers were banded, compared with an average of 50 (RCL), and they were in good numbers at

Morgantown (GAH). An extremely early Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was banded at Sager Hill, Pa., Apr 8 (RFL). A more normal report was of one banded at Accident, Md., May 27 (FPo). Eleven were banded at P.N.R. (RCL). The first Acadian Flycatchers arrived at Morgantown at the normal time, May 11 (GAH), but there was much evidence that the main arrival was not until very late May or early June. In w. Virginia the first report was on June 1 (RSi) and in Raleigh County, W. Va., arrival seemed to be on June 3 (GAH) An Alder Flycatcher was found for the second year at Lewisburg, W. Va. (COH) which is at a somewhat lower elevation than we expect this species. The only reports of Olive-sided Flycatchers came from Dalton, Ga., May 3 (MC, *fide* AH) and Irvine, Pa., May 28 (HJ, *fide* WH). None could be located in the w. North Carolina mountains in late May (MBr).

**SWALLOWS, CORVIDS AND TITMICE** — Barn Swallows were a little late in arriving, Apr. 10 at Clarksville, Pa. (RB) to Apr. 20 at Morgantown (GAH). Rough-winged Swallows continue for another year to be in low numbers, and Cliff Swallows continue their gradual decline. Each year brings the report of further nesting colonies abandoned. However, the Purple Martin seems to be starting the climb back up from its catastrophically low numbers following the 1972 hurricane. After a year's absence a few were seen at Morgantown (GAH). They are doing well at Lock Haven (PS), and a slight increase at P.N.R. (RCL) At Waynesboro, Va., 13 pairs occupied a 14 compartment house, but there were no first year males present even after a good nesting season in 1974 (RSn).

In w. Pennsylvania Com. Ravens were reported from Raccoon Creek S.P., Apr. 13 (EF, *fide* PH), Fayette County, May 3 (VJ, *fide* PH), and Rexford, Apr 13 (JW, *fide* RBl). For the sixth year they nested in Forest County, Pa. (TG, *fide* WH). Elsewhere they were reported from Mountain Lake Park (FPo) and from the Virginia-Kentucky border in the Cumberland Mts (ASt). Fish Crows have shown signs of increasing At Lock Haven, where they first appeared in 1971, a flock of about 30 was seen Apr. 27 (CHa & MCl) and a similarly sized flock was seen near Shepherdstown, W Va. May 17 (GAH).

At Morgantown the Carolina Chickadee has been the normal breeding species and the Black-capped a winter visitant and breeder in the nearby mountains. This year Black-capped have remained at low elevations all spring and at my home have been more numerous than Carolinas. Two birds have been netted which were apparently intermediates between the two species (GAH)

**NUTHATCHES, CREEPERS AND WRENS** — As reported earlier White-breasted Nuthatches have been very scarce at Morgantown, but from nearby Garrett County, Md., comes the report of 53 listed on a County Big Day Count (42 last year - FPo). There were only five reports in w. Pennsylvania of Red-breasted Nuthatches (PH), five on the Big Day Count in Garrett County (FPo), and other reports only from Akron, O., May 8 (PW) and Shenandoah Co., Va., May 10 (RSi) They were very scarce in the West Virginia spruce belt in late May (GAH). The Brown Creeper migration was

good, and two nestings were reported from Herrington Manor S.P., Md., (FPo), and near Shepherdstown, W. Va. which is at an elevation below 300 ft. (GAH).

House Wren arrivals were early with extremes of Apr. 2 at Raccoon Creek S.P., (NK) and Apr. 26 at Clarksville, Pa. (RB). The migration was very heavy at most places *e.g.* 18 banded at P.N.R., compared with an average of 7.5 (RCL). Winter Wrens were common in migration and on the breeding grounds. Carolina Wrens continue in good numbers to the north, for example near Youngstown, O. (VM) where they were not known a few years ago. An unusually heavy movement of Long-billed Marsh Wrens was noted at Elizabethton, Tenn., when 10-12 were seen in the last week of April (GE). They were also reported from Lock Haven May 10 (CHA & MCL), Mountain Lake Park, May 3-4 (FPo) and Seneca L., O., May 23 (JS). A Short-billed Marsh Wren at Austin Springs, Tenn., Apr. 26 was unusual (GE).

**MIMIDS, THRUSHES AND KINGLETS** — Mockingbirds continue to move northward, with nesting reported at Salem, O. (VM).

Wood and Swainson's thrushes both staged excellent migrations. Swainson's Thrushes arrived early at some places: Apr. 20 at Morgantown (GAH) and Akron (PW). They remained in the lowlands until the end of May, and there was an unusual amount of singing. A Hermit Thrush at Morgantown May 7 was slightly late (GAH). Gray-cheeked Thrushes were quite scarce, and Veeries were almost missing from most places. For some years the Veery has been moving higher on the West Virginia mountains at the expense of the Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes, but in late May they were not found this year in the spruce belt (GAH). The first nesting of the E. Bluebird was generally not successful in the cold April weather, and for the first time in 18 years no fledglings left the boxes of "Operation Bluebird" in n. Pennsylvania in May (WH).

Both kinglet species were unusually abundant, but the Ruby-crowneds came largely after the Golden-crowneds had departed. A windstorm at Chambersburg, Pa., with hurricane force winds, produced some kinglet mortality by simply blowing the small birds against building walls (DGV).

**WAXWINGS, PIPITS AND VIREOS** — There was a tremendous flight of Cedar Waxwings at Marietta, O. (JS), but elsewhere they were in small numbers or were missing. The only reports of Water Pipits came from Conneaut, Pa., Apr. 6 (RFL) and Frederick Co., Va., ten on Apr. 10 and four on May 8 (RSi).

White-eyed Vireos continue to increase in numbers at Morgantown, in the Pittsburgh area (PH) and at P.N.R. (RCL). They were also reported at Lock Haven May 7 (PS) and two banded at the Meadville, Pa. area (RFL). Yellow-throated Vireos continue to be scarce at most places. Philadelphia Vireos are often not reported in the spring, but three were seen in the Pittsburgh area (PH), nine banded (average is 4.5) at P.N.R. May 15-20 (RCL), one at Pymatuning, Pa., May 18 (RFL) and two banded in Frederick Co., Va. in early May (RSi).

**WARBLER MIGRATION** — As usual it is very difficult to summarize the warbler migration into a few simple generalities. Most observers agreed that they

found a wide variety of species, but (with a few exceptions) that numbers were low. There were, however, some good flights at some places and for some species. At P.N.R. ten species were netted in below-average, six in average, and only one in greater-than-average numbers. Nashvilles, Tennessees, Yellows, and Cape Mays generally had good flights everywhere. Bay-breasteds and Blackburnians were spotty with large numbers at some places and very few at others. Chestnut-sideds were low at most places in migration but seemed normal on the breeding grounds. Golden-wingeds have declined markedly in n. West Virginia (GAH). At Morgantown the Prairie Warbler, which is a common breeder there, was unusually numerous in late April but by mid-May had nearly disappeared. The Yellow-breasted Chat was unusually scarce at Morgantown. My home banding station, located in prime chat habitat, produced only five birds compared with an average of 20, and few were to be heard in the area. They were also in low numbers at P.N.R. (RCL), but about normal at Clarksville, Pa. (RB).

The Yellow-rumped Warbler flight was fair with 150 seen May 3 at the Fox Chapel, Pa., "warbler hot spot" described in previous years (WR) and 247 listed on the Garrett County Big Day Count May 3 (FPo). A singing ♂ Yellow-rumped Warbler was found on Gaudineer Knob, W. Va. May 31 (GAH). This may have been a delayed migrant but it acted as though it were "on territory", although the species has never been known to breed in the state.

Orange-crowned Warblers, usually not reported in the spring were found at Penn Hills, Pa., May 2 (DF), Garrett County, May 3 (FPo), two banded May 9 at Morgantown (GAH), seven at Fox Chapel, Pa., May 9-11 (WR & SR), State College, Pa., May 12 (MW), and Johnson City, Tenn., Apr. 22 (SG & MD). Other unusual records were of a Kentucky Warbler at State College May 6 (MW), Connecticut Warblers at Asheville, N.C., May 3 (RRu), Newcomerstown, O., May 7 (ES), and Raccoon Creek S.P., May 10 (GKM, *vide* PH), and the most remarkable record of the spring, a **Townsend's Warbler** at Nantahala Village, N.C., Apr. 24 (WRo, *vide* RRu).

**WARBLER RANGE EXPANSIONS** — Three "southern" species of warblers are apparently expanding their ranges northwards in more or less spectacular fashion. A singing ♂ Swainson's Warbler, acting as if on territory, was present in Fayette County, Pa. from May 17 on (PW), the first w. Pennsylvania record. Swainson's Warblers were also found at Erwin, Tenn., May 3 (GE & HF), and in McDowell County, N.C., May 18 (GM & RBr, *vide* RRu). The Prothonotary Warbler staged a real explosion, with reports coming from Raccoon Creek S.P., (NK), Pittsfield, Pa. (TG, *vide* WH), New Kensington, Pa. (PH), Mountain Lake Park (FPo), Akron, several, (PW), Marietta, O., (JS), Belpre, O. (JS), Seneca L., O. (JS), Asheville, N.C. (RRu), Johnson City, Tenn. (GE), Chambersburg, Pa. (CG), Strasburg, Va. (RSi), and Morgantown (GB), all places where it is not usual, and the first or second records for some. Last spring the Yellow-throated Warbler started a movement to the north and this year it continued. There were at least three males in the Mor-





Fox Sparrows were common, about two weeks behind schedule. After mid-month the rains began all across the state, heavy rain fell on the 17th, 1½ inches fell in the Twin Cities on the 22nd and another 2¼ inches on the 27th; this latter amount was the heaviest rainfall since 1971. During this rainy period, migration was in full swing with especially heavy numbers of birds on the 19th. Waterfowl, the early shorebirds, gulls, Hermit Thrushes, Winter Wrens, and kinglets, were especially common.

The month ended on a miserable note with high winds, and storms bringing heavy rains especially in southern Minnesota. This produced the wettest month on record in the Twin Cities with 5½ inches total rainfall and only four days of sunshine.

The first half of May across the whole region was cool and the heavy rains continued in Minnesota. Another inch of rain fell across the state on the 7th. In spite of these conditions, the migration picked up and at the same time caught up. There was a good migration of passerines on May 3 with 100 species recorded just south of the Twin Cities.

Heavy migration was noted on May 9, 10, (113 species near the Twin Cities) and 17. On the latter date a few warbler waves were noted in the western part of the state, but the composition of these groups was most unusual, primarily Yellow-rumped, which is the typical early April migrant, and Blackpolls which are the typical late May migrants.

By mid-month, (early May in Michigan) conditions drastically changed across the region. Hot humid conditions prevailed and it seemed as though winter had suddenly changed to summer. On May 19 Minnesota experienced more heavy rains and 100 mph winds. On May 20, a record 91° was recorded in Minneapolis. Heavy rains continued in Minnesota until the end of the period. A record 1½ inches fell in 25 minutes in Minneapolis on May 23.

Observers in Wisconsin reported most migration activity over by May 24, however, waterfowl, shorebirds, flycatchers, a few thrushes and warblers were still moving across western Minnesota.

What effect these rather dramatic weather conditions had on birdlife is difficult to correlate, but, as will be seen from the following summary, the region had its share of rarities and significant birding events. Of general significance was the excellent migration of Whistling Swans across Minnesota and Wisconsin and in contrast the almost total lack of geese; the Snow Goose migration almost totally bypassed the region. Hawks were reported in good numbers, shorebirds were generally spotty and in poor numbers. Gulls continued to make news with Little Gulls breeding in Wisconsin. Owls remain extremely scarce across the whole area: the thrush migration was very poor with the exception of Hermit Thrushes in Minnesota. Vireos and warblers were spotty with few "waves" reported. The sparrow migration was poor, White-throated, White-crowned, and Harris' Sparrows were especially scarce. Finally, many of the more southern species—King Rail, Tufted Titmouse, Bell's Vireo, Louisiana Waterthrush—to name a few which have been more or less regular in the region, seem to be receding.

**LOONS THROUGH HERONS** — Over 800 Common Loons were recorded on L. Michigan near Escanaba, May 5. From 75-200 per day were counted at Whitefish Pt., Mich. Apr. 26 - May 9. There were two records each of Red-throated Loons in Michigan and Wisconsin and a courting pair was seen on L. Superior May 16 off the mouth of the Devils Track R., Cook Co., Minn. Western Grebes were reported in good numbers in w and c. Minnesota and one was seen on L. Superior at the mouth of the Brule R. in Wisconsin. The Green Heron is extending its range west and north in Minnesota: a number of individuals were reported in the w tier of counties. The Little Blue Heron appeared to be, in previous years, on its way to becoming a regular species in Minnesota, but only two reports were received this spring, one in Wabasha Co., May 18, and two in Olmsted Co., Apr. 24. None were reported at previous breeding localities. A single individual was seen in Waukesha Co., Wisc., May 14. The Cattle Egret was reported from all three states, three in early May from Wisconsin, six in April and May in Michigan, and at least 13 individuals in Minnesota from late April to late May. Four of the latter birds were at their previous nesting colony at L. Johanna, Pope Co. A **Snowy Egret** was seen May 18 at Pt. Mouillee, Monroe Co., Mich., (AM, TW) another was in Sheboygan Co., Wisc., May 20 (HK) and one was seen in Houston Co., Minn., May 21 (WS). There were two records of **White-faced Ibis** in Minnesota: two individuals in Wabasha Co., May 13 (DM) and a single individual at L. Benton, Lincoln Co., May 26. (AD)

**WATERFOWL** — Nearly all observers in the region reported excellent numbers of Whistling Swans, in s w Michigan; on Apr. 10, flocks of 600, 800, and 1000 were seen and large numbers were also reported migrating through Wisconsin and Minnesota during mid-April. In contrast, the goose migration was extremely poor. Most observers did not even include the Snow Goose on their reports. Only six observers in Minnesota reported the species, the largest flock being 50, Apr. 16 near St. Cloud, Stearns Co. Duck migration across the region was about normal with no significant increases or decreases in numbers noted. A Cinnamon Teal was seen in Blue Earth Co., Minn., May 10 (RG, RBJ) The European Wigeon was seen at Whitefish Pt. Mich., Apr. 28, on L. St. Clair, Macomb Co., Mich., May 5 and Racine Co., Wisc., May 10. A Barrow's Goldeneye was observed in Bayfield Co., Wisc., May 5, and most unusual was a well-documented sighting of a single bird in w. Minnesota, Lac Qui Parle Co., Apr. 12 (RG). On May 16 & 17 all three species of scoters were seen on L. Superior, Cook Co., Minn., with 150 White-winged Scoters present on the 17th.

**HAWKS** — One of the most significant records for this spring was the sighting and careful identification of a **Mississippi Kite** in Olmsted Co., Minn., along the Root R., May 24. (RBJ, WRP). Good numbers of hawks were moving across the region in early April. Observers in Michigan are still reporting the Cooper's Hawk and Red-shouldered Hawk as being very scarce in southern areas of the state where they had once been

common. The high count on Broad-winged Hawks at Whitefish Pt. was 10,000 on May 2. Rough-legged Hawks remained much later in the region than normal; individuals were still present in northern counties of Wisconsin and Minnesota, into late May. The Golden Eagle was reported from two localities in Wisconsin with one late individual in Burnett Co., May 2. It was also reported from five counties in Minnesota during April. The Peregrine Falcon situation in the region is certainly not improving. None were reported from Michigan, eight individuals were seen in scattered localities in Wisconsin, and in Minnesota only four individuals were reported.

**GROUSE THROUGH RAILS** — Spruce Grouse were recorded frequently along Vermilion Road, Chippewa Co., Mich., in late April. Forty Greater Prairie Chickens were seen on their booming grounds in Clay Co., Minn., Apr. 20. Sharp-tailed Grouse were reported from Aitkin Co., Minn., and Seney N.W.R., Mich. Bobwhite continue to be very scarce in Minnesota, but are much more frequently reported in Wisconsin. Gray Partridge were reported as more common by most Minnesota observers. On Apr. 20, 500 Sandhill Cranes were reported at their usual stopping area near Rothsay, Wilkin Co., Minn. The King Rail, drastically reduced in numbers in recent years, went unreported from the entire region. Yellow Rails were back in their usual marsh in Aitkin Co., Minn., by late April.

**SHOREBIRDS** — Reports of members of this group were spotty, with few large concentrations noted. The Am Woodcock continues its westward expansion in Minnesota, with many reports from the w. tier of counties, and many more reports from the entire state. Whimbrel is a rare bird in this region, but at Pt. Mouillee, Mich., 48 were there May 15, eight on May 16, 21 on May 18, nine on May 26 and 27 on May 28 (AM, TW). They were reported as different birds, since none were seen at this location between the above dates. There were three reports of Whimbrels in Minnesota; most unusual were two in Wabasha Co., May 16. (DM). The other records were from Duluth where the species is more regular: two on May 16, and one on May 29. A **Curlew Sandpiper** was seen and carefully described by three competent observers (JPK, JAG, AM) at Pt. Mouillee, May 8. On May 16, 1000 Dunlins were in Brown Co., Wisc., and 500 were at Pt. Mouillee May 8 & 16. Western Sandpipers were at the Marshall Sewage Lagoons, Lyon Co., Minn., in early May with an unprecedented 75 on May 10. Both species of godwits were reported in unusual numbers across the region. There were 50 Marbled Godwits in Clay Co., Minn., Apr. 20. Marbled Godwits were recorded as far east as Pt. Mouillee. Hudsonian Godwits were reported from eight counties in Wisconsin, and numerous areas in Minnesota. Minnesota's fourth record of a **Ruff** (Reeve) was obtained at the Marshall Sewage Lagoons May 11 (HK). Another Reeve was seen in Mason Co., Mich., May 4 (WNG). Both records are supported by good details. An unusually large concentration of 20 Am Avocets was seen near Ortonville, Big Stone Co., Minn., Apr. 24.

**GULLS AND TERNS** — This group continues to make news in our region. Glaucous Gulls lingered in Duluth and also Superior, Wisc., until mid-May. Another was seen in Racine Co., Wisc., May 12. Two Iceland Gulls were in Kenosha Co., Wisc., Apr. 10. A Single Thayer's Gull was identified in Duluth, May 8 & 22. Minnesota's first **California Gull** was seen and carefully identified by two observers (RBJ, RG) at Split Rock Creek S. P., Pipestone Co., May 30. A Great Black-backed Gull was seen at Stevensville, Mich., Apr. 23. (WB). One ad. **Laughing Gull** was at Pt. Mouillee, May 24 (RS) and another adult May 28 & 29, at St. Joseph, Mich. (GS). **Little Gulls** were again present at Green Bay. The birds began nesting by early June and a full report on this first U.S. breeding record will be reported in the summer season (TE). At least one ad. and three imm. Little Gulls were in Duluth May 29 (RBJ, MC, RG). Up to six birds of this species were present at Pt. Mouillee May 8 - 29. (JPK). The nesting colony of Com. Terns at Duluth numbered 600 birds on May 24, but this colony is doomed, since development of the area is in progress. Forster's Terns are doing well in Minneapolis with a breeding colony established of over 200 birds at Wood L. in the heart of the city by the end of May. A **Least Tern** was seen and photographed at the Marshall Sewage Lagoons May 17 (OJ), this represents only the fifth record for the state.

**DOVES THROUGH KINGFISHER** — Both species of cuckoo were reported as scarce, especially in Michigan. For the first time in years the status of Barn Owls is encouraging. One was observed in Grant Co., Wisc., May 31, and four pairs used nesting boxes in Monroe Co., Mich. None have been reported in Minnesota in years. Snowy Owls were still present in northern parts of the region into late April, the latest reports being Apr. 27, in Ashland Co., Wisc., and one at Whitefish Pt., until the end of the period. The most interesting records of owls came from the n. peninsula of Michigan, at the Whitefish Pt. banding station. One **Boreal Owl** was banded Apr. 25 (WG) and six more were banded Apr. 27 and May 9 (WL). Saw-whet Owls were also there in numbers; 15 were banded Apr. 18-26 and another 17 Apr. 27-May 3. Even with these records, the numbers of owls reported is on the decline across the Region. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was seen in Milwaukee Co., Apr. 22, a new early arrival date for Wisconsin.

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — The first Minnesota Lewis' Woodpecker, first seen on Dec. 28, 1974, remained in Sherburne Co., until mid-May, a stay of almost six months! Both E. and W. Kingbirds were late in arriving in Minnesota, and their numbers appeared to be much reduced over previous years. Acadian Flycatchers continue to move north and become more common in both Minnesota and Wisconsin. They were reported from Milwaukee, Waukesha, Rock and Grants Cos., in Wisconsin. Eight were counted in the latter county May 31. A pair was back near a 1974 breeding site at Vasa, Goodhue Co., Minn., by the end of the period.

**JAYS THROUGH WRENS** — A Black-billed Magpie, a rare breeding species in Minnesota, was seen in

Clay Co., May 20. The Tufted Titmouse is becoming very scarce in Minnesota, with only two reports this spring. Winter Wrens migrated through Minnesota, in unusual numbers, birds were seen all across the state in the latter part of April. At least 20 were seen along one small creek in Rock Co., Apr. 19. A Carolina Wren was in Waukesha Co., Wisc., Apr. 23-27. A pair is nesting in n. Milwaukee Co., and four young were in the nest by the end of the period. Only one bird of this species was reported from Michigan, at Rockwood, Wayne Co. As has been usual for the last few years no Carolina Wrens were reported from Minnesota.

**MIMIDAE THROUGH SHRIKES**—Mockingbirds were more common in the region this spring with reports from five localities in Minnesota, three counties in Michigan, and in Wisconsin five different birds were reported on Washington and Rock Is., Door Co., May 15. In addition to this unusual record they were reported from three other counties in Wisconsin. A wintering Varied Thrush remained in Eden Prairie, Hennepin Co., Minn. until Apr. 6, another was seen near Duluth Apr. 16. Minnesota experienced the best Hermit Thrush migration on record; birds were everywhere in southern areas throughout early to mid-April. Other thrush species appeared down in numbers, especially in Michigan. After the unprecedented Mountain Bluebird invasion into Minnesota during 1974, the species was again recorded in three localities: Apr. 7 one bird in Lac Qui Parle Co., a pair Apr. 3 - 11 at Bemidji, Beltrami Co., and a dead bird was found near Sanborn, Redwood Co., Apr. 9. The Loggerhead Shrike is in trouble in this region: numbers continue to decline, with only one report from Michigan, two from Wisconsin, and ten individuals in Minnesota.

**VIREOS AND WARBLERS** — Migration of this group was very spotty with no large waves reported by any observers. Most species were reported in fair numbers and many unusual species were encountered. There were four well-documented reports of **White-eyed Vireos** in Wisconsin: from Kenosha May 3 (JH), Calumet May 10 (DT), Milwaukee May 28 (MD) and Buffalo May 21 (TR) counties. There were two records from Michigan, one on the exceptionally early date of Apr. 20 at Ann Arbor (AM) and the other in Oakland Co. The Bell's Vireo is apparently on the decrease in both Wisconsin, with only three observations in Sheboygan, Trempealeau, and Grant Cos., and Minnesota, with only one report, that of two birds in Goodhue Co., May 23. A Prothonotary Warbler, rare in Michigan, was reported near Detroit May 17. Worm-eating Warblers were reported from Ann Arbor, Mich., May 13, Dane and Sheboygan Cos., Wisc., Apr. 30 & May 23 respectively, and Hennepin Co., Minn., May 18. Brewster's Warblers were recorded in Oakland Co., Mich., and Calumet and Waukesha Cos., Wisc. A Lawrence's Warbler was in Walworth Co., Wisc., Apr. 24 - May 18. Wisconsin reported an excellent migration of Black-throated Blue Warblers, an unusual occurrence in this region. An Audubon's (Yellow-rumped) Warbler was seen and photographed in Brown Co., Wisc., Apr. 18. The second **Black-throated Gray Warbler** for Michigan was seen and carefully identified

in Wayne Co., Apr. 29 (JM). A **Yellow-throated Warbler**, the tenth state record, was seen in Dane Co., Wisc., May 10 (BH). The Louisiana Waterthrush was reported from three localities in Michigan, was unreported in Wisconsin, and only three reports were received from Minnesota. This species, from records of the past several years, appears to be on the decline in the latter two states. Kentucky Warblers were reported from Macomb and Washtenaw counties in Michigan, Kenosha, Brown, Waukesha, Milwaukee, Ashland, and Grant counties, Wisconsin. The amazing total of eight was seen in the latter county May 31. One bird was in Minneapolis May 7. The Yellow-breasted Chat seems to have completely disappeared from Minnesota, but a record early arrival date of Apr. 29 was reported from Milwaukee Co., Wisc. The species was recorded in six other Wisconsin and three Michigan counties. Hooded Warblers put in their appearance in all three states, Wayne, and Ann Arbor Cos., Mich; Milwaukee, Brown, Racine, Kenosha, Outagamie, Sheboygan, and Waukesha counties, Wisc., and LeSueur and Hennepin Cos., in Minnesota.

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS** — An E. Meadowlark was present in Rock Co., Minn., throughout the period. This is the most westerly record for the state. Orchard Orioles were in good numbers across s Minnesota and Wisconsin. Single Summer Tanagers were seen in Milwaukee Co., Wisc., Hennepin Co., Minn., and Belle Isle, Mich. The migration of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in Minnesota was amazing, birds were literally everywhere in the state after the first week in May. The ♂ **Black-headed Grosbeak** that commenced coming to a feeder in early March in Iowa Co., Wisc., was present through mid-April (DT). It was not a Dickcissel year either in Minnesota or Wisconsin; birds were scarce and spotty in their distribution. Both species of crossbill were absent during the winter across the region, thus a few Red Crossbills in Ashland Co., Wisc. during the period and two White-winged Crossbills in Price Co., Wisc., May 18 are of interest. Lark Buntings showed up the last two days of May in Rock and Pipestone Cos., Minn. Grasshopper Sparrows were reported from 15 counties in Wisconsin, and were well distributed across Minnesota. Henslow's Sparrows were in 13 counties in Wisconsin, but were unreported in Minnesota. It is interesting to note the sharp decrease in occurrence of the Henslow's Sparrow as one goes north and west from w. Wisconsin into Minnesota. This indicates that this region is at the northwest range limit of this species. Sharp-tailed Sparrows, very rare in Wisconsin, were reported from Waukesha and Kewaunee Cos. Tree Sparrows lingered in Wisconsin until mid-May. The migration of White-throated, White-crowned and Harris' Sparrows in the region was very disappointing. A yearly heavy migration of White-throateds at the end of April is almost taken for granted, especially in Minnesota, and this year when they were so scarce their occurrence was a matter of note to most observers. Fox Sparrows were reported as scarce in Michigan. The rare Smith's Longspur was noted in Cottonwood Co., Minn., May 10, when one male and four females were seen. Another male was seen at Duluth May 17.

**CONTRIBUTORS** — Elizabeth Anderson, Gary Ash, Phil Ashman, Mr. & Mrs. Vern Aune, D. Baker, Greg Barker, Joe & Judy Bartell, Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Basten, John Baumgartner, B. Beckley, John Bielefeldt, C.T. Black, Don Bolduc, Walter Booth, Marilyn Bowker, Dave Bratley, Byron Brattie, Pete Brennan, Betty & Doug Campbell, E. Carhart, Steve Carlson, Even Carnes, Art Carpenter, Tom Carpenter, Marj Carr, Betty Challis, H.B. Chamberlain, C.A. Cipponeri, Ed Cleary, John Covert, H. & E. Cox, Mable Coyne, Mrs. Arnold DeKam, Rich Dietman, Mary Donald, Kim Eckert, P. Eising, Tom Ellis, Eric Epstein, Tom Erdman, Louise Erickson, O.B. Eustis, Craig Faanes, J.E. Faggan, L. C. Falk, William Falk, Sue Farmer, L.A. Feil, David Fiedler, Hubert J. Fisher, John Flora, J.A. Fowler, Jr., Joan Fowler, Jim Frank, Jim Frederick, Pepper Fuller, Jim Gapczynski, Dick Gerstner, Raymond Glassel, Janet C. Green, J.A. Greenhouse, Doris Gregerson, Karol Gresser, Betty Grigg, **William Grigg** (Upper Peninsula, Michigan), Dennis Gustafson, Jim Hamers, John Hanagan, Vera Haney, Maybelle Hardy, D. Harker, Hennepin Co. Park Reserve, Vince Herring, Nels Hervi, Nestor Hiemenz, Bill Hilsenhoff, Barbara Hirt, Bruce Hitman, Netter Holm, Robert E. Holtz, Charles L. Horn, Jr., S. Horn, Helen Horton, R. Hotaling, Rae Hudspeth, M. Ivanovs, J. James, **Robert B. Janssen** (Minnesota) Sam Jenkins, Oscar Johnson, R. Johnson, Mrs. E.W.

Joul, L. Kasle, John Kaspar, **Alice H. Kelley** (s.e. Michigan), J.P. Kleinman, E. & J. Knapp, Ronald Kneeskern, Harold Koopman, Dave Kruger, Virginia Kubic, Henry Kyllingstad, Warren Lamb, Violet & Ruth Lender, Fred Leshner, R. & A. Liskow, Norman Loewe, William Longley, Mr. & Mrs. Luepke, Wynn & Don Mahle, Al Maley, Mrs. Martineau, Mike McElroy, Max Medley, R.L. Meyers, Mrs. Joseph Mohlum, Bert Morse, Jeff Muhr, Virginia Muow, Earl Neeb, R. Nestor, Gerald Niemi, T.H. Notebaert, Gary Otness, Bruce Parfitt, Bob Peterson, William Pieper, Joyce Piotter, June Platz, Ed Prine, Bill Pugh, A. Rider, Sam Robbins, Tom Roskors, W. & C. Ross, Lester Rupp, Orwim Rustad, L.S. Ryan, Linda Safir, Mrs. A. Edward Schmid, Marie Schneiderman, Madeline Schuller, Clark Schultz, Greg Seegert, Beatrice A. Smith, Gordon Smith, Nora Mae Smith, Ron Smith, **Roy Smith** (s.w. Michigan), W. Smith, Dick Sowler, Evelyn Stanley, Douglas A. Stein, Tom Stock, Joe Strauch, Tom Stricker, Forest & Kirsten Strnad, Dennis Strom, Charlotte Taylor, **Daryl Tessen** (Wisconsin), Darwin Tiede J. Trick, Allen E. Valentine, Sarah Vasse, Dick Verch, Mrs. Russell Ward, T. Wells, B. Wentzell, Melvin Wierzbicki, James J. Williams, R. Wittersheim, Mark Wright, Jim Zemba, Paul A. Zucker. — **ROBERT B. JANSSEN, 14321 Prince Place, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343.**

## MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION /Vernon M. Kleen

The spring was good for migration, but "slow" for observers. Weather made it easy for the birds to maintain consistent, uninterrupted movements with only a few minor holdbacks forming migration waves; minor waves were reported locally but there were no unanimously reported major waves locally or throughout the Region. Although there were many interesting and valuable reports this spring, the season will not be well-remembered. In fact, there were no outstanding quotes from any of our reporters this season — this was unusual.



April began with a heavy snowstorm dumping several inches in the north (which soon melted) and was followed by two weeks of near-continuous northerly winds causing the monthly average temperature to be 2° - 5°

F. below normal. Rainfall was one to two inches low for the month. May temperatures averaged as much as 3° above normal and rainfall varied from below normal in the east to over two inches above normal in the center portions of the Region. Overall, the season was rather mild.

In order to better verify observations, observers are now required to complete documentation forms for extraordinary sight records at the time of observation, such documentations have been denoted by a dagger (†) before the observer's initials. Specimens have been denoted by an asterisk (\*).

**LOONS AND GREBES** — Late-departing Com Loons continued to be noteworthy throughout the Region; records included June 8, Vermilion Co., Ill (MCm); June 5, Seneca Co., Ohio (TBt); (2) June 2, Brookville Res., Ind. (JC); June 1, L. Carnico, Ky (DC); May 29, Findlay, Ohio (BST); May 24, Springfield, Mo. (NF); May 23, Bloomington, Ind. (SG); and May 10, Meade Co., Ky. (JHg). One Red-necked Grebe, the second Springfield, Ill. record, was present Apr. 4 - 8 (H, m.ob.). Horned Grebes appeared in large concentrations at several locations, 20+ on several April dates in Seneca Co., Ohio (TBt); 17 on Mar. 28 in Bullitt Co., Ky. (JE1); 17 on Apr. 12 at Maryville, Mo. (R,E); and 11 on Apr. 9 at Fostoria, Ohio (BST), late departees included four in breeding plumage May 24 at Oxford, Ohio (IS) and one on May 23 in Seneca Co., Ohio (BST). The maximum number of Eared Grebes at one location, Maryville, Mo., was six, Apr. 24 (R); the earliest seasonal report was Apr. 17 (2) at Council Bluffs, Ia. (MW); most others reported were

late migrants: May 11 (I), Jacksonville, Ill. (H, m.ob.) and "remaining through the period" in n.w. Missouri (R) Two W. Grebes were found individually at Mansfield, Ohio, Apr. 10 (RT) and Pleasantville, Ia. Apr. 29 (GB)

**PELICANS THROUGH IBISES** — The first flocks of White Pelicans arrived in w. Missouri in early April and peaked Apr. 20 when 2500 were observed; some remained through the end of the report period (L); a maximum of 45 was present at Council Bluffs, Ia. Apr. 21 (MW); the only one reported away from this normal area was one at New Albany, Ind. May 4 - 11 (FC, m ob ). Double-crested Cormorants were reported as follows: Ohio — 12 at Cincinnati, May 12 (GPr, AS); Indiana — none; Kentucky — one at Bowling Green, May 23 (HS); Illinois — six reports from four locations Apr 18 - May 11 (not including the nesting colony at Thomson where 15 nests, some on artificial platforms); max 29 at L. Chautauqua Apr. 22 (RSd); Missouri — six reports from four locations (all western) Apr. 19 - May 11; max. 25 at St. Joseph (L); Iowa — three locations Apr. 8 - May 10 (both records at Red Rock Refuge); max. 176 at Red Rock Refuge Apr. 21 (GB). Heavy timbering next to the small local colony of Great Blue Herons has not yet ruined that Seneca Co., Ohio, colony (TBt) but continuous flooding at Red Rock Refuge has kept that colony from returning. Little Blue Herons continued the expected mid-April movement into the mid-portions of the Region. Cattle Egrets were widely reported in the west but few in the east; there were three at Bowling Green Apr. 12 — the earliest seasonal report (WG, m.ob). This was a good season for finding Snowy Egrets; they were reported from all states primarily as singles: Iowa — Monona (2), Apr. 19 (TBr, *fide* MW) and Pacific Junction, Apr. 27 (EC, *fide* MW); Missouri — St. Louis, Apr. 20 and (3) Apr 24 (JEa) and Sikesville (4), May 30 (E, L); Illinois — Mason Co. May 11 (H,RP1 *et al.*); Kentucky — Louisville (2), May 15 (JEL, HR); Indiana — Indianapolis, Apr. 30 (MF); Ohio — Oak Harbor, May 17 (TH) Black-crowned Night Herons appeared sporadically as usual; they were first reported Apr. 5, Springfield, Ill. (H); the remnant colony at L. Calumet (Chicago) failed to return this year (B) and this species was scarce in the entire Chicago area; on May 1, 12 were observed flying in single file low over L. Erie near Cleveland (JHf, *fide* M); although all records for this species have not been printed, observers are urged to continue submitting all observations. There were very few reports of Yellow-crowned Night Herons but the six-plus records in the Chicago area were considered noteworthy there. Glossy Ibises appeared at several locations; one Glossy Ibis was observed at Squaw Creek N.W.R., Mo. (hereafter S.C.R.) Apr. 30 (R, \*E), another was present there May 26 (R); one was observed at Danville, Ill. May 27 (†RSe). Oddly enough, White-faced Ibises were also present at S.C.R. with a maximum of 16 noted Apr. 26, 11 of which remained through May 3 (R, \*E); one was found at Schell-Osage, Mo. Apr. 19 (KH) and two in s. Sac Co., Ia May 9 (GJ *et al.*). Five dark ibises (species undetermined) flew over Grayslake, Ill. May 25 (RR *et al.*).

**SWANS, GEESE AND DUCKS** — A flock of 28 Whistling Swans was present on the Des Plaines R , Ill Apr. 4 - 5 (JN); 12 flew over Seneca Co., Ohio, Apr 9 (TBt); four were observed at Oxford, Ohio in early April (SF); and singles were noted at Spring Valley, Ohio, Apr. 20 (m.ob. *fide* W) and in St. Joseph Co , Ind. (DBu). In the Cleveland area, Canada Geese have been increasing in numbers as a nesting species and expanding into new local areas (M); they may have attempted nesting at Monroe Res., Brown Co., Ind (SG). The most eastern record of a White-fronted Goose this spring was of one bird in Steuben Co., Ind Apr. 9 (*fide* Haw). Nine **Fulvous Tree Ducks** were discovered at Carey, Ohio, Apr. 24 (AC); seven remained the next day (TT) and all were gone by Apr 27 (however, one dead bird was found, \*MT). Large concentrations of migratory ducks were enjoyed by observers near major stopover locations; apparently it was one of the best duck migrations in years. May 28 for the Gadwall at Prospect, Ky. was three weeks beyond the state's previous late date (BM). One **European Wigeon** was present at Waite Hill (Cleveland) Apr. 4 - 14 (MSh,†AF, †M, m.ob.). Canvasbacks were reported regularly in Seneca Co., Ohio with a one-day high over 100 birds (TBt); the species occurred in small numbers through Apr. 23 at Council Bluffs, Ia. (MW). Late departing divers included a Canvasback in Mason Co , Ill. May 31 (H); a Lesser Scaup at Springfield, Mo May 24 (NF); two Ring-necked Ducks in Alexander Co., Ill. still present at the end of the period (K), a Com. Goldeneye at Iowa City, Ia. May 17 (NH), a Harlequin Duck at Evanston, Ill. May 9 (GR); Ruddy Ducks in Vermilion Co., Ill. through June 8 (MCM) and Springfield, Ill. (pair) May 25 (H). Inland records of Surf Scoters were reported from Allen Co., Ind Apr. 19 -22 (Haw, m.ob.) and Iowa City, Ia. May - 19 (†MN, m.ob.). The late May records of Hooded Mergansers may possibly indicate breeding attempts: a pair in s.w. Morgan Co., Ind. (SG); a male at S.C.R. May 15 (R, E); several in Union Co., Ill. May 25 (RPI) A Com. Merganser was reported as late as May 15 at S.C.R. (R, E). At least 1400 Red-breasted Mergansers were counted at Chicago, Apr. 21 — this may coincide with smelt runs (B); late-departing birds were reported from Seneca Co., Ohio, June 5 (TBt); Bloomington, Ind. May 18 (SG); L. Sangchris, Ill. (2) May 11 (H *et al.*); and Louisville, Ky. (3) May 10 (BM).

**VULTURES THROUGH FALCONS** — Two nesting pairs of Turkey Vultures were noteworthy for the Chicago area (RR). An excellent description provided evidence for the **Swallow-tailed Kite** reported from Fremont, Ohio, May 26 (†TH). Two nests of Cooper's Hawks were found in n.e. Indiana (MWI); the May 25 date in Chicago suggests possible nesting there (B), all others reported were singles in April: Springfield, Ill Apr. 29 (H); S.C. R. Apr. 26 (R, E); Decatur, Ill. (four dates — RSd, RPI); and Iowa City, Ia. Apr. 12 (MN) Red-shouldered Hawks were reported in greater numbers in the n. portion of the Region: five in the Chicago area Apr. 12 (JSr) through the end of the period (a pair at Dundee — RM); singles were also noted at Lafayette, Ind. May 18 (DAR); Iowa City Apr. 5 (NH), Mason Co., Ill. Apr. 5 (H *et al.*); Mason Co., Ill May

10 (RPI), and as an unsuccessful nesting attempt in Allen Co., Ind. (MW1); three were present in the Louisville, Ky. area May 10 (m.ob.). An impressive spring total of over 700 Broad-winged Hawks was counted in the Cleveland area Apr. 30 - May 1 (AF, GPI), none were observed in the s.w. corner of Iowa (RSI) At least 13 Swainson's Hawks were sitting on fence posts in one area and four others noted elsewhere on Apr. 20 in Fremont Co., Ia. — this was obviously a migrating group (RSI); "normal" numbers of this species were registered in w. Missouri; the first bird noted in the Illinois nesting "colony" in Kane Co. was found Apr. 19 (RSd); others were identified in s. Cook Co., Ill. Apr. 20 (†JSr) and in Mason Co., Ill. Apr. 26 (†H *et al.*). The last of the Rough-legged Hawks were reported near Lexington, Ky. (2) May 2 (*fide* DC) and in Mason Co., Ill. (dark phase) Apr. 26 (H). An imm. Golden Eagle was still present at Union County Refuge, Ill. Apr. 19 (BP). Ospreys were reported Apr. 12 - May 26, this included a total of one for Kentucky, eight for Indiana, ten for Ohio, ten for Illinois, seven for Missouri and six for Iowa. Two Peregrine Falcons were observed together at Schell-Osage, Mo. Apr. 19 (KH, RF), singles appeared at Springfield, Ill. Apr. 19 (H) and S.C.R. May 18 (R, E *et al.*); another was photographed in downtown Chicago May 10 and was still present May 31 (*fide* B). Merlins were documented for Steuben Co., Ind. Apr. 5 (†RPx), Lindsey, Ohio, Apr. 6 (†BSt) and Seneca Co., Ohio, Apr. 25 (†BT).

**PRAIRIE CHICKEN, RAILS AND GALLINULES** — The 102 cock Greater Prairie Chickens in Illinois sanctuaries represents a 28.7 per cent decrease from the 143 cocks of 1974; this is the second consecutive year of decline after a steady increase from a low of 37 cocks in 1968 (RWs). Yellow Rails continued to occur in appropriate habitat at L. Sangchris, Ill. as late as May 11 (H); one was found at Indiana Dunes, Ind. May 14 (*fide* NC). A Purple Gallinule was reported at Otumua, Ia. May 10 (CS, CA, *fide* GB).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Most observers reported a good shorebird migration but around Chicago it was poor because there was "no habitat." Noteworthy flocks of Semipalmated Plovers were 80+ at Iowa City, Ia. May 24 (NH, MN) and 26 at Bowling Green, Ky. May 16 (HS) The first Piping Plover was reported Apr. 19 at St. Joseph, Mo. (L); others were singles at Cleveland Apr. 26 (RHn); Maryville, Mo. May 1 (R, m.ob.); and S.C.R. May 18 (R, E). The only Snowy Plovers identified were singles at S.C.R. Apr. 26-27 (†R) and May 18 (L). Good numbers of Am. Golden Plovers were reported: 100+ on May 1 in Seneca Co., Ohio (TBT) and 115 on Apr. 30 at Findlay, Ohio (BSt) were noteworthy. As expected, the majority of Black-bellied Plovers were reported in mid-May; there were 52 at S.C.R. May 18 (R, E); three lingered at Bowling Green as late as May 23 (HS). For Kentucky, the Com. Snipe at Louisville, May 11 (BM) was noteworthy; four were there one day earlier (m.ob.). Three Whimbrels were located, one each at Maryville, Mo., Apr. 12 (R, E); St. Joseph, Mo., Apr. 19 (L); and Cleveland (first spring record), May 21 (RHn). The six Greater Yellowlegs at Bowling Green, May 23 were extremely late

(HS), another was still present in Mason Co., Ill, May 24 (H). The only spring record of a Buff-breasted Sandpiper came from Fremont Co., Ia. (I) May 18 (RSI). Six Marbled Godwits were reported, one at each location: Apr. 19-20, Butler Co., Ohio (JC, JG, *fide* W); Apr. 19, Iowa City (NH); Apr. 29, Shreve, Ohio (†VK); May 17, Iowa City (NH) and in Washington Co., Ia. (MN); and Baldwin, Ill. May 21-22 (DM) The majority of Hudsonian Godwits reported were in flocks with maximum of 84 at S.C.R. May 17 (E, R) and 61 at Maryville, May 11 (E); at least 35 were found in Fremont Co., Ia. May 18 (RSI); three at Iowa City, May 8 (MN); one at Kansas City, Mo., Apr. 20 (RF); and up to four in Mason Co., Ill. May 8 (RSd) - May 31 (H, RSd). The spring records of Am. Avocets included 38 at Maryville, Apr. 23 (R) and two at S.C.R. May 15 (R, E); 12 at Findlay May 12 (BSt); 12 in McDonough Co., Ill. May 2 (EF); and one at Iowa City May 9 (MN). Over 100 Wilson's Phalaropes were observed at one time in Fremont Co., May 18 (RSI).

**GULLS AND TERNS** — A Glaucous Gull at Chicago was rather late in departing, observed May 8 (GR). An ad. **California Gull** was thoroughly compared with adults of the other gull species nearby and superbly documented for the first Missouri record (St. Charles Co.), Apr. 5 (†A). Adult Laughing Gulls were observed at St. Louis, May 31 (JEa, A *et al.*) and Chicago, May 10 (B) and June 4 (H, RSd, RPI) As noted in the Winter Season Report, Franklin's Gulls migrated in greater numbers further east than usual, singles were noted in breeding plumage in Columbus, Ohio, Apr. 17 (TT) and Findlay May 6-8 (BSt), the latest departure was May 10 at Chicago (C) The Black-legged Kittiwake at Cleveland extended its stay from the previous report period through Apr. 13 (M) Several observers suggested that Caspian and Black terns were scarce this spring. Early records of Forster's Terns included one at Columbus Apr. 18 (TT) and three at Louisville Apr. 22 (S). The only Least Terns reported were observed at Alton, Ill. (2) May 21 and (3) May 31 (JEa). One Caspian Tern was located at Cincinnati as early as Apr. 18 (JA).

**CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Both species of cuckoos were late in arriving, often not reported until after May 20; at some locations the Black-billed went unreported the entire season. A **Burrowing Owl** was discovered at Springfield, Ill. Apr. 18 (†H) — oddly enough, it perched in the tops of trees in a large park. Chuck-will's-widows returned to s.w. Iowa and n.w. Missouri and were first heard May 10, both locations (m.ob.); another was heard at Eddyville, Ia. May 13 (RJ); ten were tallied at Louisville on May 10 (m.ob. *fide* S). There was a report of a Red-cockaded Woodpecker in Hocking Co., Ohio from late April through early May; although the report stated that many observers had seen the bird, no details were submitted by anyone.

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOW AND JAYS** — Migratory E. Kingbirds were quite visible in Morgan Co., Ind. May 17 — over 50 were counted in a short distance (SG). Western Kingbirds appeared rather scarce

in w Missouri and only singles were noted (L). A pair of nesting Tree Swallows was reported from Jefferson Co., Ky. (S) and possible nesting was suggested for Schell-Osage, Mo. (R). Bank Swallows were detected in Ottawa Co., Ohio, (TBt) and Mason Co., Ill. (H) Apr 19 and Cliff Swallows at the latter location on the same day (H). Some areas suggested a possible increase of Purple Martins: Louisville up 65 per cent (*vide* S); however, other areas reported decreases: LaPorte Co., Ind down "80 per cent" (*vide* DBu) and Butler Co., Ohio, "low numbers" (*vide* W, DO). Blue Jays apparently congregated in some areas such as Chicago (B) and Indianapolis (HW) as reports from these cities judged the jays to be "abundant" May 7 - 11.

**CHICKADEES THROUGH WRENS** — The report from Fort Wayne, Ind. stated that Carolina Chickadees were heard regularly along with the Black-capped; this note helps delineate the species' ranges. Very small influxes of Red-breasted Nuthatches were detected this spring; latest records were May 4 at St. Louis (A); May 6 at Springfield, Ill. (H); May 17 at Cleveland (D) and June 1 at Terre Haute (RE). May records of Brown Creepers suggest continued evidence of breeding: Ottawa Co., Ohio (1) May 13 (TBt *et al.*); Des Plaines R., Ill. (pair) May 11 (RR); Springfield, Ill. (pair) May 4 (H), Decatur, Ill. (singing male) May 30 and June 1 (RSd). One cemetery in Columbus, yielded 60 Winter Wrens Apr. 18 (TT) — is this reincarnation? Good to excellent numbers were reported elsewhere; noteworthy departure dates were May 3 at St. Louis (A) and May 10 at Normal, Ill. (DBi). Bewick's Wrens were "occasionally" reported at Madisonville, Ky. this spring (JHa) and a nest was located in Louisville (MMA); other migrants were observed at Spring L., Ind. Apr. 5 (HW); Shreve, Ohio, Apr. 10 (VK) and Springfield, Ill. Apr. 9 & 10 (different birds — H); the species regularly nests in Mason Co., Ill. (H).

**THRUSHES THROUGH SHRIKES** — May 18 was rather late for a Hermit Thrush at Cleveland (D). At Normal, Ill. "One outstanding feature this spring was the abundance of Veeries. They outnumbered other species of thrushes on many occasions. I've never seen so many." (DBi); similar statements came from most of Missouri. A Golden-crowned Kinglet was still present in a Cook Co. (Illinois) Forest Preserve; May 27 (†MSm); another was reported from Seneca Co., Ohio, May 9 - 12 (TBt). Only a weak flight of Cedar Waxwings was detected early in the season but a second influx was more noticeable from May 7 onward in Kentucky (m.ob.), Illinois (BP, H, RR) and Missouri (A, RW). Five pairs of nesting Loggerhead Shrikes were located in the vicinity of Pleasantville, Ia. (GB); possible nesting was implied for Ottawa and Seneca counties, Ohio (TBt).

**VIREOS AND WARBLERS** — Breeding range limits for White-eyed Vireos may be evident from emphasis placed on observations and reports received: Seneca Co., Ohio (TBt); Lafayette, Ind. (DAR); Springfield, Ill. (H) and Honey Creek Wildlife Area, Mo. (R, E), the earliest arrivals were reported "record numbers" of Solitary Vireos this spring. Tennessee and

Nashville warblers were unanimously reported as abundant throughout the Region; Wilson's Warblers also received many favorable comments. Bay-breasted Warblers and Am. Redstarts were most regularly reported in "lower numbers than usual." The May 14 observation of a Swainson's Warbler at Elk Creek, Ky was considered noteworthy for the state (JHa). Over-migrant Worm-eating Warblers were again apparent Connersville (banded, HW) and Lafayette, Ind. (DAR) May 4; and 22 observations in Illinois from Springfield northward between Apr. 15 (Macon Co., RPI) and May 10 (Springfield, H). Two Brewster's Warblers deserve noting: Springfield, Ill. May 5 (H) and Magee Marsh, Ohio, May 17 (TBt). An early Black-throated Blue Warbler was reported from Decatur, Ill. Apr. 28 (RSd), none were reported from Kentucky, Missouri or Iowa. A **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, the first Illinois record, was observed for several minutes in a Springfield park, May 3 (†H, RSd). A ♂ Black-throated Green Warbler was still present at Big Oak Tree S. P., Mo May 31 (E). Single Yellow-throated Warblers were present at Indiana Dunes, Ind. May 25 (B) and Chicago (no date provided, CO, *vide* B). A migratory record of a **Kirtland's Warbler** is always noteworthy and requires careful documentation; one was leisurely observed at close range and photographed at Tiffen, Ohio, Apr 30 (†TBt *et al.*). Over-migrant Prairie Warblers were found at Springfield, Ill. Apr. 27 (H); Decatur Apr 28 (RSd); Lafayette, Ind. Apr. 30 & May 4 (DAR *et al.*), Cleveland, May 4-7 (D); St. Joseph, Mo. May 18 (L), and Chicago, "present" (*vide* B). Three Kentucky Warblers were found in n.w. Missouri, May 10 (E, R), three in the Chicago region in May (*vide* B); one at Cleveland, May 15 (D *et al.*) and May 18 (RHn); one at Indian Dunes, Ind. May 13, 14, & 29 (NC) and two in Fremont Co., Ia. May 25 (RSI). Connecticut Warblers were "quite conspicuous" and more common than usual — especially around Chicago where four were seen in one day, May 27 (B) and ten May 20 - 28 (MSm); four were found at Springfield, Ill. May 19 - 31 (H). Twelve Yellow-breasted Chats were noteworthy at Honey Creek Wildlife Area May 15 (R, E). The first Hooded Warbler was detected Apr. 13 at Decatur (RSd); later records were Apr. 15 (through May 8) at Springfield, Ill. (H); Apr. 18 at Columbus (RC), Apr 24 at Decatur (DH) and in Lafayette, Ind. (DAR), Apr 24 in Macon Co., Ill. (RPI); Apr. 26 at Magee Marsh, Ohio (TBt); Apr. 27 in n. Will Co., Ill. (JSr); Apr 29 at Normal, Ill. (DBi); the breeding population near Fort Wayne had returned by May 1 (Haw). A Canada Warbler was observed carrying nesting material at Indiana Dunes in late May (NC).

**BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES AND GROSBEAKS** — The Yellow-headed Blackbird is still hanging on at isolated n.e. Illinois locations as a breeding species — however, it is continuously threatened; a "new" colony may be establishing near Iowa City (NH); of course, it remains an abundant nester at S.C.R. (E); migrants were observed in Mason Co., Ill. (1) Apr. 22 (RSd) and L. Sangchris, Ill. (3) Apr. 24-25 (H, RSd). Orchard Orioles were reported in larger numbers farther north than usual; the first since 1964 was seen at Hamlet, Ind (DBu). What is believed to be the first area nest of the

Rose-breasted Grosbeak was located at Cincinnati May 20 (IR). A group of three Blue Grosbeaks were found at the Honey Creek Wildlife Area May 15 (R, E). Very small numbers of Evening Grosbeaks were reported, and those from just a few locations in early to mid-April (one location each in Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois).

**FINCHES, SPARROWS AND BUNTINGS** — A ♀ **House Finch** thoroughly documented was an important discovery for Ohio, Apr. 14-15 (†VK). May 14 was rather late for a Le Conte's Sparrow to still be present at Chicago (B). A Bachman's Sparrow was reported from Springfield, Mo. May 11 & 24 (NF). Exceptional dates for departing Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Juncos were May 15 in Andrew Co., Mo. (R); May 12 at Indianapolis (CK); and (6) Apr. 26 in the Bernheim Forest, Ky. (m.ob. *fide* S). Clay-colored Sparrows appeared as regular migrants through the n. half of Illinois between Apr. 28 (Springfield, H) and May 18 (Fulton Co., RSd); two were reported from Iowa City May 5 (MN). One White-throated Sparrow lingered at Eminence, Mo. through June 1 (E, L). A large flock (600 estimated) of Snow Buntings was observed Apr. 6 (just after the snowstorm) at Union, Ill. (RR) — a rather unusual size flock for so late in the season.

**CONTRIBUTORS** — (Sectional editors' names in boldface type; contributors are requested to send their reports to these editors). Major contributors are identified with a single initial as follows: (A) **Richard Anderson** (Missouri); (B) **Lawrence Balch** (N. Illinois); (C) Charles Clark; (D) Owen Davies; (E) David Easterla; (H) H. David Bohlen; (K) **Vernon Kleen** (S. Illinois); (L) Floyd Lawhon; (M) William Klamm; (P) Peter Petersen; (R) Mark Robbins; (S) **Anne Stamm** (Kentucky); (W) Arthur Wiseman; other observers include: Jim Anderson; (DAr) Delan Arvin; Louise Augustine, (CA) Charles and Darlene Ayers; (TBt) Thomas Bartlett; (DBi) Dale Birkenholz; Gladys Black; Ray Boehmer; Eddie Bowen; Lynn Braband; (TBr) Tanya Bray; Woodward Brown; (DBu) Dorthy and John Buck; (MCM) Marilyn Campbell; (MCh) M.R. Chamberlain; Audrey Claugus; Evelyn Conrad; John Coons; Dennis Coskren; Rick Counts; Mrs. Fred Crowell; Noel Cutright; S.T. Dillion; (JEa) Joe Eades; (JEl) Jack & Diane Elmore; Ruth Erickson; Nathan Fay; Robert Fisher; Sam Fitton; Annette Flanigan; Max Forsyth; Edwin Franks; Darlene Friedman; Steven Glass; (BGd) Bill Goadge; (BGt) Bradley Gottfried; Jack Gottschang; Willard Gray; Nicholas Halmi; (JHa) James Hancock; (RHn) Ray Hannikman; (Haw) James Haw; Dick Heller; (JHk) Jim Henriksen; Ted Hilty; Kelly Hobbs; (RHd) Ronald Hodgson; (JHf) Jean, Dick and Jim Hoffman; (JHg) John Hoogerhide; Virginia Humphreys; L. Barrie Hunt; Glenn James; Robert Jessen; Clyde and Emma Johnson; **Charles Keller** (Indiana); Fred Kent; Vernon and Dennis Kline; Jean Knoblauch; Bob Krol; Keith Layton; Randall Lundgren; (MMA) Marley Martin; Don and Edward Moll; Burt Monroe; Robert Montgomery; (MMo) Michael Morrison; James Neal; Michael Newton; Clark Olson; **David Osborne** (s. Ohio); (GPl) Greta Pallister; (RPl) Richard Palmer; (RPx) Robert Paxson; (GPr) George Perbix; Bruce

Peterjohn; Worth Randle; Irvin Rapein; (JR) James Rees; Harry Rea; (JRC) Jon Rickert; Gerald Rosenband, Robert Russell; (RSd) Richard Sandburg; (RSc) Robert Schifo; Charlotte Scott; Herbert Shadowen; (BSH) Betty and Harry Shaw; (MSh) Margaret Sherwin; (RSI) Robert Silcock; Litha Smith; (MSm) Muriel Smith, Fred Stamm; (MSt) Mike Stasko; (BST) Bruce Stehling, Donald Summerfield; (JSr) James Surman; Ida Suttman; Ann Swanson; (JSw) Julius Swayne; Edward Thomas; Tom Thomson; Milton Trautman; Nathaniel and Mary Travis; Roger Troutman; **Laurel Van Camp** (n. Ohio); (MWI) Mark Weldon; Henry West; (RWs) Ron Westemeier; (MW) Melba Wigg; Jim Williams (RW) Rea Windsor. — **VERNON M. KLEEN**, Div. of Wildlife Resources, Illinois Department of Conservation, Springfield, Illinois 62706.

## CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION /Thomas A. Imhof

Many Regions to the north of us have a dramatic increase in birds each spring often in direct relation to the severity of the previous winter. But in this Region of mild winters we have each spring a wonderful display of beauty and stamina as myriads of high-



plumaged small land birds complete their crossing of almost 600 miles of open water. These migrants are often heavily concentrated by bad weather and always supplemented by a host of water birds, a spectacle to be long remembered. Many of us travel up to 400 miles to the coast each spring to witness this event time and time again.

In much of this Region late fall merges imperceptibly into early spring, and by late February the meanderings of many birds take on a northerly direction. March is a month of heavy migration, but this report concerns itself mainly with April and May. This spring, the migration followed rather closely a pattern of several years. March arrivals were early, then at Easter — Mar 30 with the full moon on the 27th — the weather became rainy and stormy until about Apr. 21. The birds



and the vegetation were delayed by more than a week and Gulf Coast observers were unanimous in proclaiming this a period of good birding. About Apr. 16 the weather abated somewhat and many species were seen for the first time inland, especially in Tennessee. From Apr. 21 onward the migration was closer to normal but still somewhat late, especially near the many rainy periods.

COUNTS (not always comparable because of variation in birding effort) — Feb. 26, Baldwin & Mobile Cos., Ala. 129 species, 4 warblers (one party, TAI & 4); Apr. 8, Baldwin & Mobile Cos., 160 species, 20 warblers, all-day rain (one party, JVP, HME, GDJ, WRM); Apr. 12, Mobile Co., 185 species, 27 warblers (M.O.S. — M.B.C. meeting); Apr. 23, Baldwin & Mobile Cos., 138 species, 12 warblers — only 37 individuals — (one party, TAI, HHW, HHK, ALM, HBT); May 3, Dauphin I., 89 species, 9 shorebird migrants, 5 warbler migrants, 9 other migrants, ties previous high (F.M.W.A.S.P.); May 3, Birmingham Spring Count, 139 species, 32 warblers, 4 hours of steady rain (B.A.S.); May 3, Birmingham Spring Count, 102 species (HHK party), any inland count of over 100 species by one party is an accomplishment; May 5, Ft. Morgan, 103 species while netting and banding 114 individuals (JVP, TAI); May 10, Look-out Mt., DeKalb Co., Ala., 123 species, 28 warblers (B.A.S.) In the account below, most of the records are of late birds, but the reader is cautioned not to consider the season as late as it may appear. The early birds almost invariably arrive in March and are reported on in the winter season, and so this account is really of the latter two-thirds of the spring season in this Region.

LOONS, GREBES — On L. Millwood, Ark., just n. of Texarkana, a count of six Com. Loons Apr. 12 (GRG, SEC) were good for inland in spring; in Alabama, two in spring plumage May 31 on Whittakers L. (BGM) were the latest for the Tennessee Valley and almost for the state. The Red-throated Loon, not quite of annual occurrence in Alabama, was noted at Gulf Shores Apr. 6-8 (JVP, others), the ninth coastal record, 16th statewide since 1951. Late Horned Grebes were at L. Lurleen near Tuscaloosa Apr. 5 (JCT), May 3 in Birmingham (DJH), May 4 on Dauphin I. (LRT), and one in breeding plumage at Wheeler Ref., May 19 (DCH). Eared Grebes came through in April especially in Arkansas with 12 at Pine Bluff Apr. 4 (GRG, DRH), four at Lonoke Apr. 6 (GRG), and seven at L. Millwood Apr. 12 (GRG, SEC); one also Apr. 12 at Wheeler Ref. (DCH) was the first record for the Tennessee Valley of Alabama; one last was at Hattiesburg, Miss May 4 (LJG). A W. Grebe found in March at L. Maumelle Dam, Pulaski Co., Ark. (DRH) remained until Apr. 28 (GRG, SEC).

PELICANS — White Pelicans are rarely detected inland in spring in this Region; this year these conspicuous birds were spotted three times: one at Cheatham L., Nashville Apr. 23 (RJM), one May 4-6 at Hattiesburg (LJG), and 22 on the Mississippi R. opposite Golddust, Tenn., May 25 (G&BW). The usual small increase in Brown Pelicans in April and May took place on the Alabama coast, but no big numbers were noted. Near Port St. Joe, Fla. a high count of 72 on

Mar. 30 included 53 immatures and no nesting was noted thus far (SS) perhaps because of the high proportion of immatures.

HERONS — A "Great White" Heron was noted at Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., May 10 where very rare (F.M.W.A.S.P.) A Little Blue Heron in Birmingham Mar. 22 (JVP, WRM) was the earliest recorded in Alabama north of the coastal plain. Although Cattle Egrets appear to be primarily coastal plain birds, migrants show up every spring around Birmingham far north of this area. This year 19 birds on four occasions Apr. 17 - May 22 (FB, RJM, S&WF, D&GW) brought Nashville's total to 11 records. At Holla Bend Ref., Ark., one on May 13 (PDD) was the first there in several years. A Snowy Egret at Old Hickory L., Apr. 23 (S&WF) is the tenth Nashville record. A Louisiana Heron 70 mi. inland at Hattiesburg Apr. 3 (LJG) was unusual. Two Yellow-crowned Night Herons in Memphis Mar. 24 were early (BBC).

STORKS, IBISES — Wood Storks were seen at Gulf Breeze, Fla., May 20, one, and 21, two (BJ, SR) and 450 mi. to the north at Ft. Campbell, an immature May 25 (MOD), provided third record for Middle Tennessee. Glossy Ibises are again nesting near Dauphin I., a maximum of seven Apr. 17 (S&TH) and eggs noted May 7 & 15 (GG); birds were noted far inland near Montevallo Apr. 26 (ALM, JTG) the fifth record for Alabama north of the Fall Line and third in spring, and near Uniontown, Perry Co., near a large Cattle Egret-White Ibis colony June 8 (SP, WMa).

#### S.A.

EIDERS — Two ♀ eiders present at Gulf Breeze near Pensacola from Christmastime on (B&LD, CLK, m.ob.) were called Com. Eiders based on sloping profile of bill and chocolate-brown color. However, one observer (PWS) pronounced them King Eiders. Subsequent examination of skins at Tall Timbers Research Sta at an F.O.S. meeting at Tallahassee and wide consultation of the literature convinced many that at least the bird that remained after February was indeed a King Eider. On May 8 the bird was found emaciated on the beach and died May 12 (B & LD — specimen to F.S.U.). Measurements prove it a **King Eider**. Apparently ♀ eiders are safely separable *only* by the relative length of the bill and the bony lobe above it. In Com. Eiders this lobe is a long or longer than the distance from bill tip to nostril; in King Eiders this lobe is considerably shorter than the distance from bill tip to nostril.

WATERFOWL — A Canada Goose of the *hutchinsii* race which occurs annually in Alabama, spent the period late December to May 3 at Oak S.P. Lake (ALM, m.ob.). Mottled Ducks again bred successfully at the Air Products and Chemicals Inc. Sanctuary in Santa Rosa Co., Fla., certainly for two years, probably for four, and a count of 20 was obtained there May 3 (CWM, many). Among late ducks were a Gadwall at

Hattiesburg May 4 (LJG), a Pintail Apr. 12 and a Green-winged Teal Apr. 6 both at L. Lurleen near Tuscaloosa, Ala. (JCT), and a ♂ Blue-winged Teal June 7 at Meridianville near Huntsville, Ala. (MLB, BGM, FB). Late Redheads were all over Alabama; at L. Lurleen Apr. 12 (JCT), in Birmingham Apr. 15 (RRR), in Shelby County Apr. 16 (ALM, SFH), on Blakely I., Mobile a male Apr. 23 (TAI & 4), and at Vance, Tuscaloosa Co., a male May 31 (TAI). Other late ducks were a ♂ Canvasback in Hattiesburg May 30 (LJG), a Com. Goldeneye on Dauphin I. Apr. 23 (LRT) and Buffleheads at L. Lurleen Apr. 5 (JCT), Old Hickory L., and Hattiesburg May (LJG).

**RUDDY DUCK** — Two pairs were near Memphis May 8 (B&LC) and one was in Hattiesburg May 11 (LJG)

**HAWKS** — Swallow-tailed Kites were noted May 30 (LRT) & 31 (BTo) on Dauphin, Apr. 21 at Ft. Morgan (TAI, others) and Apr. 12 & 26 at Hattiesburg (LJG). A peak of 11 Mississippi Kites was seen May 17 along the Arkansas R., Desha Co. (P.C.A.S.) Early Broad-winged Hawks were at Millwood near Texarkana Mar. 15 (HNH, EMH, A&RJ) and near Memphis Mar. 23 (B&LC). A Swainson's Hawk was at Holla Bend Ref., Ark May 4 (TF, JES, AS, RK). An imm. Golden Eagle well studied near Stevenson June 5 (JEK, BE) is the only June record for Alabama. An imm. Bald Eagle at Cheatham L. May 17-18 was the latest for the Nashville area by 9 days (MLB, RJM, others). Osprey news from the coast is good: five known active nests in Escambia and Santa Rosa Cos., Fla. against one last year and none for several years before that (CLK); in Alabama with 3-5 active nests in the two coastal counties, at least one pair raised young last year (PFC) and young were noted in one Baldwin County nest this May (HHK). The only Peregrines were on Dauphin Apr. (J&MM) and in Nashville May 10 (JRR). Merlins were seen Apr. 4 in Nashville (PSt), Apr. 21 at Tyndall Air Force Base, Panama City (SS), Apr. 24 on Dauphin (RH, TH), Apr. 24 at Ft. Morgan (TAI, others), and May 5 in Birmingham (HME).

**TURKEY, RAILS** — A hen Turkey with five chicks a week old in the Ouachita Nat'l Forest, Ark., May 25 was an indication of early nesting (GRG, AP). On Sullivan's I., Pulaski Co., Ark., rails peaked Apr. 26 at six Virginias and 25 Soras (GRG, BLT, DRH). At Wheeler Ref. a Sora Apr. 11 (DCH) was considered early and a Virginia May 19 (DCH) the latest for Alabama. A Purple Gallinule near Montevallo Apr. 16 (ALM, SFH) was the earliest of the few records for the Mountain Region of Alabama.

**SHOREBIRDS** — A good flight of Semipalmated Plovers was indicated by the bird on Apr. 6 at Marion Fish Hatchery (JCT) the earliest for inland Alabama, and a count of 97 at Gallatin May 10 (D&PC) the highest for the Nashville area. A Piping Plover at Hattiesburg May 7 was not only late but one of a very few inland in this Region. Snowy Plovers, two adults and two young May 23 near Panama City (SS), are encouraging for a species threatened by beach develop-

ment. The Am. Golden Plover which normally peaks in late March, showed a maximum in Arkansas of 665 at Lonoke Apr. 6 (GRG) and in Tennessee of 413 were counted in Lake County on very late May 11 (B&LC, JL). A Ruddy Turnstone at Hustburg, Humphreys Co., Tenn. May 22 (JL) is one of a very few inland in spring. Willets migrate through Alabama and Tennessee in the very narrow period comprising the last week in April and first week in May — in Nashville Apr. 25 to May 1; this year 11 were in Nashville Apr. 27 (WF) At Lonoke the peak for Lesser Yellowlegs was 2015 Apr. 20 (GRG, SEC) and for Pectoral Sandpiper 2080 Apr. 6 (GRG). The usual flight of White-rumped Sandpipers produced an estimated 50-100 on Cochrane Causeway, Mobile May 24 (BD, SS) and two June 3 near Corinth, first for n.e. Mississippi (B & LC). A Baird's Sandpiper at Gallatin May 10 (D & PC) was the seventh in spring for Nashville. At Muscle Shoals June 3, eight W. Sandpipers were, except for a coastal record, provided the latest record for Alabama (TAI, ALM); Four Stilt Sandpipers at Wheeler Ref., May 13 provided for spring only the third inland record for Alabama, the first for the Tennessee Valley (TAI, DCH, ALM), on the coast a count of 20 was made on Cochrane Causeway, Mobile May 24 (BD, SS). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Battleship Pk., Mobile Apr. 23 (ALM & 4) was the earliest of five coastal spring records. The second **Hudsonian Godwit** for Alabama was discovered May 12 on Blakely I., Mobile (PFC), was joined next day by another, and the two remained at least until May 26 (B&JW, m.ob.). The other record is Apr. 25, 1971, Sand I. (WMD). On Blakely I. in an extensive spoil basin excellent for shorebirds and ducks for several years now, 62 Am. Avocets were still present Apr. 26 (A&MN); one was at Lonoke next day, Apr. 27 (GRG, SEC). The Black-necked Stilt has apparently increased substantially in this Region. In 1962 it was casual in fall in Alabama, now it is a common transient, summer resident and breeds at the head of Mobile Bay. This year a maximum of 30 were recorded on Blakely I. May 13 (VDH), young were seen May 23 and eggs May 29 (B&JW) with an estimated eight pairs present (MAG) The species was noted Apr. 16 at Wheeler Ref. (DCH, ENP, JLW, TZA), making the third inland record in Alabama, the second in spring; Apr. 27 at Lonoke (GRG, SEC) probably the second record for Arkansas, and May 10 at Panama City (MAO) the second local record. Wilson's Phalaropes were noted Apr. 3 at Hattiesburg (LJG), May 10 at Destin, Fla. (F.M.W A S P., B.C.A.S.), and two May 17 at Blakely I. (PFC, m.ob.).

**GULLS, TERNS** — Laughing Gulls continue to be found occasionally inland, one was in Hattiesburg May 1 (LJG). Four breeding-plumaged Franklin's Gulls at Pine Bluff Apr. 4 (GRG, DRH) were the fourth for April for Arkansas. Bonaparte's Gulls showed up well inland this year; an inland Alabama maximum of 75 was counted at L. Purdy near Birmingham Mar. 30 where a few lingered to Apr. 11 (ALM, others); in Arkansas birds were near Pine Bluff Apr. 4 (GRG, DRH), near Texarkana Apr. 12 in breeding plumage (GRG), and at Little Rock two Apr. 16 (GRG); in Tennessee two on Old Hickory L. May 2 were the latest for Nashville area

(S&WF). An imm. **Black-legged Kittiwake** was photographed May 23 at Cameron, La. (CEN). On rainy May 3 Forster's Terns were in Birmingham (RRR) and two the same day at L. Lurleen near Tuscaloosa (JCT); one at Guntersville Dam on rainy June 11 was the latest for Alabama (TAI). Two Com. Terns were detected in Hattiesburg May 4-6 (LJG).

**DOVES, CUCKOOS, OWLS, HUMMINGBIRDS** — A White-winged Dove was on Dauphin Apr. 16 (AGT). An early Black-billed Cuckoo was at Merrill, Miss. Apr. 12 (LJG). Short-eared Owls were last seen at Eufaula Ref., Ala. Apr. 1 (SP) and at Stuttgart Air Force Base Apr. 4 (GRG, DRH) the latest for Arkansas Three Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in El Dorado Mar. 20 (LM) were the earliest for Arkansas.

**FLYCATCHERS** — A Gray Kingbird May 24 at Hurricane, Ala. (B&JW) was over 40 mi. from the Gulf and as far inland as we see Boat-tailed Grackles. A W. Kingbird was in Ada Valley, Conway Co., Ark. May 3 (JGr) and a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was in Shelby Forest S. P. n. of Memphis Apr. 8 (RWM & others); neither of these two species was reported this spring from the Alabama coast (MAG, TAI). Acadian Flycatchers were early, one banded Apr. 3 on Dauphin I (TH), another Apr. 3 at Marianna, Fla. (MGr), one at Hattiesburg Apr. 8 (LJG), and one in Memphis Apr. 19 (BBC). An Alder Flycatcher singing *fee-bee-o* was discovered in Nashville on the very early date of Apr. 26 (AC, MD, MPat). The Willow Flycatcher not only returned to its old breeding haunts around Nashville but was found singing in three new places there May 18 & 31 (PSt, MLB, m.ob.). The Coffeys found the Least Flycatcher more common than ever around Memphis, recorded daily from Apr. 24 to May 17. An early E. Wood Pewee was in Nashville Apr. 17 (SB, others). Olive-sided Flycatchers were noted in Alabama on Lookout Mt. May 10 (photo — PLT, others), in Arkansas at Wapanocca Ref. May 19 (RWM, others), and in Tennessee in Lauderdale County May 25 (MLB, m.ob.).

**SWALLOWS, NUTHATCHES, WRENS** — Late Tree Swallows were at Hattiesburg May 8 (LJG), Ft. Payne, Ala. May 10 (MKP), and L. Lurleen May 18, the latest for Alabama (JCT). Other swallows were early — a Rough-winged near Calion L., Ark. Mar. 2 (JJB) and a Cliff at L. Lurleen Apr. 5 (JCT). Except for one in Little Rock Apr. 15 (EMH), Red-breasted Nuthatches were noted only in Alabama. Reported in good numbers on Dauphin I. especially Mar. 31 (LRT, MAG) and last seen there Apr. 27 (LJG), last at Ft. Morgan Apr. 25 (TAI), in Birmingham two, miles apart May 3 (HHK, JVP), and, except for one which probably summered in 1973, the latest for the state was seen May 10 on Lookout Mt., DeKalb Co. (EGR). The House Wren, which has attempted to breed several times recently in Alabama was found May 3 in Birmingham (RMcd) and May 10 near Ft. Payne, DeKalb Co. (RRR). Both marsh wrens, five Long-billed and one Short-billed at Pardue Pond, Cheatham L. May 26 were the latest for the Nashville area (MLB, DV).

**THRUSHES, KINGLETS, PIPITS** — A Swainson's Thrush in Birmingham May 28, wind northerly after rain, ties the latest date for the state (TAI). A Gray-cheeked Thrush May 15-19 in Perdido, Escambia Co., Fla. (MLMa) was the latest recorded locally A Golden-crowned Kinglet in Marianna Apr. 7 was the latest for n.w. Florida (MGr). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet on Lookout Mt. May 10 (GDJ) was very late Late Water Pipits were one at Battleship Pk., Mobile Apr. 26 (A&MN) and two at Wapanocca Ref., Ark. Apr. 27 (JRW).

**VIREOS** — A late Solitary Vireo was on Lookout Mt. near Ft. Payne May 10 (RRR, EGR).

#### S.A.

The **Black-whiskered Vireo** undoubtedly occurs annually on both the Alabama and n.w. Florida coasts. Alabama has had six records since 1971 and at Gulf Breeze it has been recorded for four years in a row, even in June and in song (B&LD). Usually the birds occur in April and May during or immediately after periods of easterly winds which result from a low in mid-Gulf. This year a singing bird was present at Gulf Breeze May 13-17 (B&LD, SR) and two, one banded, were at Ft. Morgan Apr. 25 (TAI, photo — MLMa, others). Some of these birds are browner with a less conspicuous malar stripe, and were considered immatures, but what vireo has a noticeable immature plumage in April? Bob Duncan points out the possibility that the browner birds may be Yucatan Vireos, *Vireo magister* considered by some a race of the Black-whiskered. This species is probably in the process of occupying as a breeder an extensive area of the northeastern Gulf Coast beyond its favorite mangroves and where the Red-eyed Vireo is absent as a breeder. It seems to be attracted to tall hardwoods near brackish or salt water, a habitat it has occupied, for instance, on the shores of Old Tampa Bay since before 1932 (A. H. Howell). This same habitat is favored at Gulf Breeze.

**SWAINSON'S WARBLER** — This species seems to be trying to occupy as a breeder dense, damp thickets north of the coastal plain at least in Alabama, Arkansas, and Tennessee. Males show up singing in April and remain for varying periods even into late June, but seldom is any breeding evidence found, even after considerable effort. This year birds were noted on the coast Mar. 30 both at Dauphin I. (RH) and at Ft. Pickens (B&LD), the latter earliest for n.w. Florida. At Harris Brake, Perry Co., Ark., a favored locality where the species has been seen in numbers in the past, five were seen Apr. 19 but none were present May 3 or 4 (EMH, P.C.A.S.). At Culler L., Lonoke Co., Ark. in proper habitat, one May 13 (GRG) was the first seen there. In Nashville a male singing May 10-31 was only the fourth local record, with one instance of nesting (PSt) in Alabama after several April and May records north of the Fall Line this year, birds were noted singing in June

in two Jefferson County localities and one in Cullman (TAI) where they have not been previously recorded. At a favored locality, Turner, Shelby Co., where two males were banded in June last year, a female with a vascular brood patch was netted twice this year May 29 while two males, one undoubtedly her mate, sang nearby (TAI). Warblers are notably short-lived and Breeding Bird Survey experience shows us that many of them show up at different stops almost every year, an indication of high turnover. Apparently the ♂ Swainson's Warblers in what appears to be a pioneering situation have considerable difficulty finding mates in spite of their loud song and restricted habitat — perhaps females are scarce.

**OTHER WARBLERS** — A Prothonotary Warbler at Wapanocca Ref., Ark., Mar. 29 was early (RW, HSa). Other early warblers included a Worm-eating Apr. 2 in Birmingham (HHW), a Golden-winged Mar. 31 at Gulf Breeze (B&LD, SR), and Tennessee Mar. 30 in Birmingham (HME), Mar. 31 in Hattiesburg (LJG), and Apr. 4 in Memphis (B&LC). In the Nashville area, Tennesseees appropriately were especially common this spring, abruptly declining May 12 (MLB). An early Orange-crowned Warbler was in Nashville Apr. 4 (ATT) and a late one singing at L. Maumelle Dam May 4 (GRG). After over 25 years of logging the first singing Yellow Warblers around Birmingham the first week in April, one was finally heard this year "singing up a storm" Mar. 29, the only March record north of the coast (TAI). Late coastal Magnolia Warblers were at Gulf Breeze May 23 (BD, DB) and singing on Dauphin I., May 29 (TH). Unusual for Arkansas was a ♂ Cape May Warbler at L. Maumelle Dam Apr. 28 (GRG, SEC) Cape Mays and Blackpolls, were reasonably common on Dauphin I. this year during the same easterlies that sometimes bring Black-whiskered Vireos and a few Black-throated Blues. The latest of three Black-throated Blues this year was a male banded at Ft. Morgan May 6 (JVP). A Myrtle Warbler at Ft. Morgan May 5 (TAI, JVP) was the latest of this race for the Alabama coast. Blackpoll Warblers were much scarcer than usual in Nashville (MLB) but common on the coast (MAG) and a very late one was in Maude, Colbert Co., Ala. June 3 (TAI, ALM). A very early Bay-breasted Warbler was in Marianna Apr. 7 (MGr).

Early Prairie Warblers included one banded on Dauphin Mar. 28 (TH) and one at Oak Mountain S. P. Mar. 31 (ALM). The Palm Warbler flight produced a maximum of 200 in Huntsville the last week in April (BGM), one near Helena, Ark., Apr. 26 (EMH, HNH, H&MP), and the latest for the Alabama coast at Ft. Morgan May 5-6 (TAI, JVP). A singing Louisiana Waterthrush in Quintette Swamp, Escambia Co. May 28 (CWM) is very likely one of the very few breeding in Florida. A Wilson's Warbler on Dauphin Apr. 23 was the earliest for Alabama (HHK & 4). The Canada Warbler was much more common than usual in Memphis where 1-3 were seen daily Apr. 22 - May 9 & May 19-21 (B&LC). An early Am. Redstart was in Hattiesburg Mar. 31 (LJG).

**BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS** — Two W. Meadowlarks singing in Memphis Mar. 23 & 26 were the first in

several seasons (B&LC). A ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird at Ft. Pickens May 3 (LHo) was the second May record for Pensacola area, and one in Memphis since Mar. 10 remained through May 3 (B&LC). A "Baltimore" Oriole on Dauphin Apr. 3 (M&JM) was, except for many wintering records, the earliest of this race for Alabama. A Scarlet Tanager in Panama City May 17 was the latest for n.w. Florida.

**FINCHES** — A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Brentwood (FM), fifth wintering record for Nashville, and a Black-headed Grosbeak photographed in Gallatin (B & MH), third wintering record for Nashville area, were both last seen Apr. 18. A late Rose-breasted Grosbeak was in Panama City May 15 (MAO) and one on Dauphin same day (LRT). A ♂ Painted Bunting in Covington Apr. 24 (ASm) was the third Tennessee record outside of Memphis and a female in Tuscaloosa May 10 (JCT) was only the third for the Upper Coastal Plain of Alabama. The substantial flight of Painted Buntings each spring on the coast of Alabama, whose interior has practically no breeding birds, posed the question as to where so many birds were going. Last spring after noting an increase in catch with a shift to easterly winds, this writer concluded the birds were headed northwest and were Mississippi Valley breeders. Then he learned that a bird banded by Margaret E Miller on Dauphin I., Apr. 12, 1968 was found at Arabi, La., suburban New Orleans, June 22, 1971. A Dickcissel in Madison Co., Tenn., Apr. 9 (JL) was very early. A House Finch in Nashville Apr. 13, a brown bird chirping like a House Sparrow at a feeder (PSt), was the second record for the area, both of them this winter. The last Evening Grosbeaks in Birmingham were two Apr. 25 (HHW); and in Nashville eight were at three locations, one present since January (*vide* MLB). The only Red Crossbill reported was in s Arkansas, near Warren, Bradley Co. Apr. 5 (WMS). Three Savannah Sparrows on Blakely I. May 17 (PFC, m.ob.) were the latest for Alabama south of Birmingham. An estimated 20-30 singing ♂ Grasshopper Sparrows was perhaps one-third of the total number present on a 200-acre fallow field east of Little Rock Apr. 27 (GRG, SEC), probably the largest colony in Arkansas, and indicates how thoroughly this species can occupy the proper habitat when available. A Henslow's Sparrow at Wheeler Ref., Apr. 26 was only the fourth for the Tennessee Valley of Alabama. The last of the wintering Le Conte's Sparrows at Eufaula Ref. was seen Apr. 1 (SP) but three were at Wheeler Ref. Apr. 26, the fifth record for the Tennessee Valley of Alabama. Two Sharp-tailed Sparrows at Cheatham L., May 17 (MLB, RJM) become the seventh record for Nashville area. Two Vesper Sparrows on Dauphin May 5 (LRT) were the latest for the coastal plain of Alabama. Three Bachman's Sparrows were tallied on Lookout Mt., DeKalb Co., Ala., May 10 (HHW, EGR, RRR). A Dark-eyed Junco at Perdido, suburban Pensacola May 2 was the latest locally by almost a month (MLMa). Clay-colored Sparrows were seen at Ft. Morgan Apr. 23 (TAI, HBT, HHK, ALM, HHW) and two were at Calion L., Union Co., Ark., Apr. 25 (HHS & KLS). White-throated Sparrows departed Alabama about as follows: the last bird at Spring Hill, Mobile May 7

(MAG), Birmingham Count May 3, 242 birds, Lookout Mt. Count 100 mi. farther north May 10, 16 birds. They may breed up north and sing "Swee-eet Canada" but we have them 7-8 months of the year — and we feed them well. A Fox Sparrow in Nashville Apr. 26 (BG, MW) is latest for the area. A good peak for Lincoln's Sparrows was the count of 40 in four hours in Little Rock Apr. 25 (GRG, DRH, AP). Late Swamp Sparrows included one May 10 in Ft. Payne, DeKalb Co., Ala. (GDJ), one May in Lonoke Co., Ark. (GRG) and two May 18 in Nashville (T.O.S.) Late Song Sparrows were one Apr. 25 in Marianna (MGr), one May 3 in Birmingham (RMcD) and two, one singing, May 11 in Lake Co., Tenn. (RW, B & LC).

**CONTRIBUTORS** (area editors in boldface) — **Thomas Z. Atkeson**, Birmingham Audubon Society, Bay County Audubon Society, Emilie Bach, Dick Ballman, Sue Bell, **Michael L. Bierly**, Fred Bowman, Jimmie J. Brown, Ralph Brown, Frances Bryson, Jerome T. Carroll, P. Fairly Chandler, Susan E. Clark, **Ben & Lula Coffey**, Dot & Paul Crawford, Annella Creech, Paul D. Daly, W. Marvin Davis, Helen M. Dinkelspiel, Michael O. Dinsmore, Milbrey Dugger, Bob & Lucy Duncan, Howard M. Einspahr, Linda K. Einspahr, Francis M. Weston Audubon Society of Pensacola, Florida Ornithological Society, Florida State University, Sally & William Fintel, Thomas Foti, **Mary A. Gaillard**, Gary Gaston, **Larry J. Gates**, Juanita T. Goodson, Gary R. Graves, Mary Gray, Jane Greer, Ben Groce, Bessie & Monte Hagan, **Edith M.**

**Hallberg**, Henry N. Hallberg, Ralph Havard, Sharon & Tuck Hayward, Susan F. Holt, Louise Horne, Verda D Horne, David C. Hulse, Donald J. Hulsey, David R Hunter, **Thomas A. Imhof**, Greg D. Jackson, Atha & Ross Jamison, Barbara Johnson, David Johnson Martha Johnson, Rebecca Kilmer, **Curtis L Kingsbery**, Helen H. Kittinger, Jerald Ledbetter, Mobile Bird Club, Mississippi Ornithological Society, W. Roger Maner, William Matheny, Mary Lou Mattis, Mary & Jim Mayhew, Robin McDonald, Robert W McGowan, Bob G. Meadows, Lyda Merkle, Rocky J Milburn, Ann L. Miller, C.W. & Judy Milmore, Fanny Murphy, Charles E. Newell, Albert & Mini Nonkes, Mary Ann Olson, Pulaski County Audubon Society, Helen & Max Parker, Sam Pate, Marge Patrick, **James V. Peavy**, Margarette K. Persons, Alan Pounds, E.N Prestriedge, Elberta G. Reid, Robert R. Reid, Rick J Remy, J. Richard Rimmer, Sharon Roe, Harry Sayle, Donald P. Scott, William M. Shepherd, H.H. & K Luvois Shugart, Alice Smith, Pat Stallings, **Steve Stedman**, Arthur Stern, Jane E. Stern, Paul w Sykes, Tennessee Ornithological Society, Alice G Tait, Ann T. Tarbell, Bruce L. Tedford, Helen B. & Percy L. Thigpen, **James C. Thompson**, Lib R Toenes, Bill Tonsmeire, David Vogt, Gary & Brenda Wallace, Miriam Weinstein, **L.A. Wells**, Richard Whittington, A. Fred Wicke, J.R. Wilson, Beverly & John Winn, Dot & George Woodring, Harriett H Wright, Joe L. Wright — **THOMAS A. IMHOF, 1036 Pike Rd., Birmingham, Ala. 35218.**

## NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS

/Esther M. Serr

Migrating through the Northern Great Plains wasn't easy for the birds this spring. April started out with a snowstorm, and then a few days of warming followed by another storm, and the same thing all over again.



For the birds it was a start-stop spring that delayed migration at least two weeks. There was a good variety of species but numbers were lacking. Observers felt

that many of the birds over-flew and at Rapid City there was some night migration noted.

**LOONS THROUGH WADING BIRDS** — Common Loons, totaling 75 for the region, migrated over the prairie with largest flock of 26 being seen on L. Wabamun, Alta., Apr. 27 (JW). There was a total of 179 Red-necked Grebes, 150 of that number on L. Wabamun, Apr. 27 (JW). Horned, Eared and Pied-billed seemed to be in normal numbers. Western Grebes, in courtship display, averaged 200 at Rush L., S.D. McGregor L., Alta., Buffalo Pound L. and Indian Head, Sask. White Pelicans weren't as numerous. Indian Head, Sask. reported 300 (MS), L. Campbell, Brookings Co., S.D. 100 (CP), Audubon N.W.R., Coleharbor, N.D., 195 (DM) and 150 over w. Winnipeg (M.N.S.). Double-crested Cormorants occupied a small, rocky island in Waubay L., Deuel Co., S.D. where there were about 300 nests with an average of three eggs per nest, May 18 (EMS). On Apr. 18 there were 592 cormorants at Swan L., Turner Co., S.D. (CB). Each of these locations reported a few Great Blue Herons, which originate at nesting colonies not far away.

The **Green Heron** made news with first records at Bismarck, N.D. May 11 (RNR, m.ob.) and at Regina, Sask., Waterfowl Park one was sighted by Robyn Donison, confirmed by F. Lahrman and m.ob., May 20, a first for Saskatchewan. There was a total of 15 sightings of Green Herons in North and South Dakota. A **Little Blue Heron** was observed, Oak Hammock marsh, Winnipeg, Man., May 22 — probably the third record for

Manitoba (GC, HS). The uncommon Great Egret was seen May 9 at Medicine Lake N.W.R., Mont. (JMa), Upper Souris N.W.R., Foxholm, N.D., four at one time (IOR), five at Last Mountain L., Sask. (WCH, SML), and seven from Manitoba (HWRC). A Snowy Egret was at Medicine Lake N.W.R., May 16 - 29, three each in North Dakota and Manitoba, and five in South Dakota. A colony of 20 Black-crowned Night Herons inhabited Crow Indian L., Alta. (HJ), and from the entire area there were about 100 observations. A **Least Bittern** was seen at a distance of 10 yards at L. Oliver, Deuel Co., S.D. (BKH). Saskatchewan led with 15 Am. Bitterns, with six of those at Saskatoon, (RBo). **White-faced Ibises** were positively identified by many observers at L. Manitoba and Oak Hammock marsh, for the first known sight records in Manitoba. A single White-faced Ibis was seen at Lone Tree L., Deuel Co., S D — a casual record (BKH).

**WATERFOWL** — There was a major flight of 2500 Whistling Swans over Perdue, Sask. (WER), 160 near Stettler, Alta (LML), and 35 on Apr. 29 at Grand Prairie, Alta. (W & YM). Medicine Lake N.W.R., Mont. had 240 Canada Goose nests — the most ever — and a brood of five by May 27 on the Homestead Unit of the refuge ( JMa). The White-fronteds, Snows and Canadas all moved across quickly and in good numbers. Seven **Brant** were noted, Apr. 27, at Crystal City, Man which is unusual (RWK). Some reverse migration was noted because of weather, but the ducks were probably bothered more than the geese. At Spring Valley, Sask there wasn't any water in the sloughs until Apr. 19 and the ducks did much milling around searching for water (FB). Generally, the numbers seemed average considering the lateness of the season. There were 24 reports of Cinnamon Teal and Alberta had 11 of those. A Eur Wigeon was seen in May at Audubon N.W.R., Coleharbor, N.D. which is close to L. Sakajawea, Missouri R. (DCM).

The "Blue Listed" Canvasback numbered 1516 and Saskatoon counted 561, May 24, their Spring Count day. In three sloughs near Yankton, S.D. 400 were seen May 14 (WH). A Greater Scaup appeared at Perdue, Sask May 12 (WER). Lesser Scaup numbered into the hundreds from all reporters and one that had been banded in Louisiana, Jan. 29, 1974, was found injured at Brookings Co., S.D. (NH). A **Barrow's Goldeneye** appeared at Long Lake N.W.R., Moffit, N.D. Apr. 12 — the first in many years (RLW). Then on May 3 at Deville, Alta., there was a pair (JW). Hooded Mergansers reports numbered 17 with South Dakota submitting 12 of those. Red-breasted Mergansers reports totaled 81 with 63 in Alberta. There were 56 White-winged Scoters at Saskatoon, and 20 at St. Albert, Alta. Twenty-six Surf Scoters were at Manning and Thunder L., Alta. at about 54° N (GPG, MH, RD).

**RAPTORS** — Hawks were in a hurry, too, but numbers seemed average with a few exceptions. Turkey Vultures totaled 11 from Saskatchewan and Alberta and on May 18, seven were in one thermal over Ft. Peck Dam, Mont. (CMC). South Dakota had 20 Turkey Vultures and one was seen at St. Norbert, Man. (RK). Accipiters looked well from the following area totals: Sharp-shinned 68, Cooper's 30 with two nests, and

Goshawks 11. South Dakota had its first specimen of a **Red-shouldered Hawk** at Big Stone City, Grant Co Apr. 18 (BKH). Red-tailed Hawks had a heavy migration over the region. Broad-winged Hawks seemed to be more numerous with 23 of the reported 33 in the Dakotas. Swainson's Hawks are still very low in numbers, however, 50 passed over Ft. Peck Dam in 15 mins. Apr. 27 (CMC). Saskatchewan showed the best Rough-leggeds count. It is possible that they remained there unusually late because of a peak vole population (WER).

Golden Eagle reports were few after a rather good winter season. Bald Eagle counts were highest from North Dakota and three times the count of Golden Eagles. Ospreys provided excitement over the prairie when reporters listed 33 sightings and one nest report. The stock dams and larger impoundments are full of fresh water this spring so good food should be available. Ospreys were also fishing mountain streams in the Black Hills. Prairie and Peregrine Falcons were about equal in numbers over the region. A Prairie Falcon was noted in a prairie dog town near Ft. Peck Apr 20 (CMC) and a Peregrine was harassing a group of six Sandhill Cranes near E. Braintree, Man., May 3 (HWRC, RWN, SS). There were 22 Merlin reports, the Am. Kestrel population definitely looks better than in 1974. A pair of kestrels took over a tree cavity at the end of April at Rapid City, S.D., that had been used by Lewis' Woodpeckers in 1974. The Lewis' returned May 25, but the kestrels chased them away to other dead trees in the area (BLG).

**GROUSE** — Sharp-tailed Grouse, pheasants and Gray Partridge are beginning a comeback after the hard winter of 1973 - 1974 in Saskatchewan (EWK). Many Sage Grouse young near Belle Fourche, S.D. failed to reach maturity in 1974 — reason unknown — thereby decreasing the 1975 production, according to Harold Haivala, conservation officer.

**CRANES, RAILS** — Two Whooping Cranes were seen Apr. 13 at Lamester N.W.R., Wibaux, Mont (JMa); six at Arrowwood N.W.R., Edmunds, N D Apr. 24 (RAS, WBH); three near Indian Head, Sask (MS); eight west of Saskatoon (RBo) and six near Kenaston, Sask., May 7 (PLB) totaling 27 of the 49 in the wild. Sandhill Cranes migrated by the thousands through the center of the Dakotas beginning in mid-April and had reached into Saskatchewan by the end of April. Alberta reports show heavy Sandhill migration the first week of May. Two crane nests with two eggs each were found May 11 in marshy areas near Biggar, Sask. — the first nesting record in ten years (WER)

Only a few Virginia Rails were reported. Saskatoon boosted the Sora count with 104, May 24, and a small stock dam in the S.D. Badlands had four, May 14 (RAW). A **Com. Gallinule** on the James R., Brown Co., S.D. May 30 was rare (C. Fjetland, L. Lockard )

**SHOREBIRDS** — The mixed-up weather probably cut down reported shorebird numbers. It was even difficult for the observers to get into the field. A Piping Plover nest with three eggs was spotted at Pierre, S D , May 20 (BJR). A **Snowy Plover** became the first documented record for Montana, Apr. 24 - 28 when it

lingered on gravel flats created by drawdown of Ft. Peck Res. (CMC). Black-bellied Plovers tripled the number of Am. Golden Plovers seen. L. Newell, Alta. had 1500 Black-bellieds in May (JE) and e. North Dakota was high with 563 sightings of Am. Golden. Ruddy Turnstones were most often reported in North Dakota with 75 at Grand Forks (FFK). Common Snipe were most seen in Saskatchewan and South Dakota with 71 of the 81 sightings reported. Long-billed Curlews seemed scarce and there were only a few Whimbrels at Edmont, Alta. and Oak Hammock marsh, Man. Upland Sandpipers were low with only 42 sightings in the entire area. Red Knots peaked at 300 on May 31, Last Mountain L., Sask. (WCH). Pectoral Sandpipers reached Saskatchewan and Alberta by May 1, and they peaked in flocks of a few hundred at several locations during the month. North Dakota counted 194 Dunlin and Grand Forks reported 125 of those. More Hudsonian Godwits were reported than Marbled. About 100 Hudsonian were present at L. Dauphin, Man. May 18 (WW) and Saskatoon had 60 Marbled on its Spring Count. Sanderlings peaked May 31 at Grand Forks with 171 (FFK) and 200 at Last Mountain L. Sask. (WCH). American Avocets were very much lacking. At Rolla, N. D. May 13 there were 40 and one nest on the sewage lagoon (PCH). Northern Phalaropes far outnumbered Wilson's. Saskatoon had 1815 Northern and on May 29 there were 1500 at Arrowwood N.W.R., Crystal Spring, N.D. (PMA). Moose Jaw, Sask., recorded a total of 178 Wilson's Phalaropes on May 18.

**GULLS, TERNS** — A **Glaucous Gull** — third year immature — was seen May 27 at Cold Lake, Alta. at about 54°30' N. (GPG, MH). There were 158 Herring Gulls on the Red R. n. of Winnipeg, Apr. 10 (DR, MH) and 30 immatures May 29 at Indian Head, Sask. (MS). About 350 California Gulls were counted at the dump near Edmonton. Ring-billed Gulls had a nesting colony at Bitter L., Day Co., S.D. May 18, but owing to a low water level the island was exposed to predators. Two ad **Mew Gulls** were on the Peace R. about 57° N. May 9 (GPG, MH). Franklin's Gull numbers are still low. Near Belle Fourche, S.D. 200 were seen following a plow Apr. 19 (NRW). Hundreds of Bonaparte's Gulls made a sudden appearance from the west at Tofield, Alta. May 2, (DD) and 52 were over Birds Hill P.P. n. e. of Winnipeg, Apr. 11 (RK). Audubon N.W.R., Coleharbor, N.D. had an unusual 504 Black Terns (GE), (DM) and Saskatoon had 662 on May 24.

**OWLS THROUGH KINGFISHERS** — Nine Screech Owls were seen in the Dakotas. Snowy Owls remained throughout April in the Region, with five in North Dakota, four in Saskatchewan, and 22 in the Stettler-Vegreville-Westlock area, Alta. The Com. Nighthawk seemed to arrive earlier in Canada than in the U.S. — following closely the June 1 migration line in Robbins, *et al*, *Birds of North America* p. 168. A Whip-poor-will was heard in Winnipeg May 1 (FMCC). White-throated Swifts were common at Cedar Pass, S.D. Badlands, and in the Black Hills. Chimney Swift numbers were good in South Dakota and by mid-May they had appeared in North Dakota and Ft. Peck, Mont. There were 18 reports of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in Canada.

Saskatoon had 12 on May 24, one at Point du Bois, Man. and one each at Stettler (LML) and Vegreville, Alta. A Rufous Hummingbird was at Grande Prairie, Alta., May 22 (WYM). The Belted Kingfisher is well spread through the Region with South Dakota having 27 sightings reported.

**WOODPECKERS** — Two Pileated Woodpeckers appeared at Pembina and Fargo N.D. April 1 - 14 and one was at Stettler, Alta. May 22 (LML). Single Red-bellieds were observed at Yankton, S.D. (WH) and Bismarck, N.D. (RNR). South Dakota had 30 of the 40 Red-heads reported. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker showed a good increase with 28 reported in the Region. The extraordinary sighting was of a **Williamson's Sapsucker** at Pierre, S.D., Apr. 23 - 25 by R. Hill. It was confirmed by B.J. Rose as a first state record. A pair of Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers appeared May 10, Nemo Road, Black Hills, (NE).

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — The region is inhabited by just a few more E. Kingbirds than W. Kingbirds. Out-of-the-ordinary was a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** Apr. 14 at Grand Forks (Neil Troutman, *vide* FFK). Two Great Crested Flycatchers were in Winnipeg by Apr. 21 (RK), two at Fargo and Cavalier, N.D. and five in South Dakota. The Say's Phoebe looked better than usual with 22 listed. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was observed at Fargo, May 29 (ELD) and one, Spring Valley, Sask. May 31, (FB). The Least Flycatcher was most common in Saskatchewan with 59 records out 87 reported for the Region. Horned Lark migration was still going strong in April and continued into May. There were three young Horned Larks May 31 at Dickinson, N.D. (GDK). Purple Martins seemed in good numbers, as Moose Jaw had 16 (EWK) and there were about 50 pairs at Burke, S.D. May 31 (GLS).

**JAYS, NUTHATCHES, WRENS** — Blue Jays left Ft. Peck May 4. Saskatoon counted 273 Black-billed Magpies and two were seen May 17 at Sieche Hollow, Roberts Co., S.D., an uncommon place for them (CB, BKH). There were only three sightings of the Com. Raven in Alberta (HCS). A White-breasted Nuthatch was nesting in Yankton Co., S.D. Apr. 16 (WH). Only South Dakota had Winter Wrens, with seven in a mile stretch in Deuel Co., (BKH). Long-billed Marsh Wrens were most commonly noted in North Dakota, with six pairs at Grand Forks (FFK). Six Rock Wrens were seen at Writing-on-the-Stone P.P. when Alberta Naturalists met there May 17 & 18.

**THRUSHES, WAXWINGS** — Single Mockingbirds were seen at Ft. Peck May 29, Hurley and Pickerel L., Day Co., S.D. (CB, GWB), and one Tofield, Alta. (DD). A **Varied Thrush** was viewed through an office window at Grand Forks Apr. 7, (Jean Bernard, *vide* FFK). This was a spring for the occasional sighting of the Wood Thrush with one at Fargo and one each in Yankton Co., Roberts Co., and Rapid City, S.D. Fifty Mountain Bluebirds were concentrated on 160 acres in Divide Co., N.D., Apr. 9 (RAS) and they were more abundant at Jamestown than usual. Ruby-crowned

Kinglets seemed to be concentrated in the Dakotas with 89 out of 119 sightings reported. Jamestown, N.D. had 30 Golden-crowns Apr. 30 (DHJ). Both the Bohemian and Cedar Waxwings continued low — even in Canada. There 96 sightings of Loggerhead Shrike and Saskatoon listed 47 on May 24. Two Philadelphia Vireos were seen along the e. border of South Dakota, and one Bell's Vireo was sighted in Yankton Co., and another in the South Dakota Badlands. One Yellow-throated Vireo, a seldom reported species, was at Winnipeg May 28 (RK).

**WARBLERS**—Warbler numbers were low in Canada: some species had not yet arrived on territory. Alberta had 20 species with following species between 54° and 57° N beginning in a line with Cold Lake on the e. border Black-and-white, Orange-crowned, Yellow, Magnolia, Cape May, Yellow-rumped, Blackpoll, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Palm, Ovenbird, Connecticut, Canada and Am. Redstart. Lynn Sharp, Graeme Greenlee, Miles Hennie and Walter and Yvonne MacAlister spent time during spring migration in uncharted lands for the above observations.

North Dakota listed 23 species with a **Kentucky Warbler** well documented at Fargo May 17 (PKL). Five Canadas were seen May 21 - 28 at Jamestown (JTL), Fargo (EGS) and Cavalier, N.D. (DLK). A **Golden-winged Warbler** was observed at Fargo, May 10 (EGA, m.ob.). South Dakota had 24 species including two more sightings of the Golden-winged Warbler at the Badlands May 6 (R AW) and Minnehaha Co., May 20 (GWB). Unusual warblers banded at Brookings, S.D. were N. Parula and Cape May (NH). Black-throated Blues were at Brookings May 8, (Husmann) and at Aberdeen, S.D., May 25 (BJR). Palm Warblers were seen at Pierre (R.L. Hill) and at Burke L. (GLS). Saskatchewan counted only 15 species, and the Cape May was reported from Birch Hills as being more common than ever before (MLM). Rarely seen in Winnipeg was a Black-throated Blue May 27.

**TANAGERS, FINCHES** — Western Tanagers came back in regular numbers to Rapid City after being so scarce in 1974. Manitoba had an unusual sighting of one at Riding Mountain N.P. (WW). Scarlet Tanagers numbered three in Manitoba, three in South Dakota and one at Fargo. A **Summer Tanager** was identified at Pierre, mid-May (BJR) and one flew into view of Frank Cassel's ornithology class at Fargo May 16 while taking their final field exam! The students all correctly named the second known record for North Dakota. Only 14 Cardinal sightings were reported in the Dakotas and Fargo had seven of them (EGA). The Rose-breasted Grosbeak population looked healthy with 93 sightings including 36 in Saskatchewan. Black-headed Grosbeaks were found mainly in w. South Dakota. A Blue Grosbeak May 16 provided a first record for Medicine Lake N W R. (JMa). Evening Grosbeaks seemed low in numbers and no one saw any Pine Grosbeaks. Only South Dakota had Red Crossbills, with 115 counted. There were just seven White-winged Crossbills at Indian Head and a pair at Saskatoon. Only three Dickcissels were reported!

**SPARROWS, BUNTINGS** — Migrating birds including McCown's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs and Snow Buntings got caught in a heavy, wet snow along the highway from Havre to Ft. Peck Apr. 15 and many perished. Saskatchewan easily had the best concentration of sparrow species. Baird's and Le Conte's numbers were high. Lapland Longspurs peaked at about 25,000 Apr. 16-May 24 through the Region A **McCown's Longspur** nest with one egg was found on ploughed stubble at Rosetown, Sask. May 19, for a northernmost breeding record (WER). Smith's Longspurs were seen migrating through Lyleton, Man May 2 - 11 and good numbers also passed through Tofield, Alta. May 8 - 9 (DD). Chestnut-collared Longspur numbers were highest in Saskatchewan and South Dakota.

**CONTRIBUTORS** (area editors in boldface) — **ALBERTA** — E. Baldwin, R. Danner, D. Dekker, J. Eisenhour, G. Greenlee, M. Hennie, H. Johnson, L M Lohr, W. & Y. MacAlister, H.C. Schuler, Q. Schulta, **R.W. Turner, J. Wolford**. **MANITOBA** — **H.W.R. Copland**, G. Cotter, D.R.M. Hatch, R.W. Knapp, R. Koes, F. McCall, R.W. Nero, G. Panting, S. Sealy, A.H. Shortt, W. Walley. **MONTANA** — C.M. Carlson, J.L. Martin (JMa). **NORTH DAKOTA** — **E.G. Anderson**, P. Arnold, E. Davis, G. Eslinger, D. Goeke, P. Hart, W.B. Hesselbank, D.H. Johnson, F F Kelley, L.M. Kirsch, G. Kobriger, D. Kubischta, P. Lago, **J.T. Lokemoen**, D. McGlauchlin, **R.N. Randall**, R.G. Rollings, I.O. Rostad, R. Stromstad, R.L. Wright. **SASKATCHEWAN** — W. Anaka, P L Beckie, R. Bobowski, (RBo), F. Bogdan, W.C. Harris, **C.S. Houston**, E. Hubbard, **E. Kern**, P. Kern, S. Lamont, M. Mareschal, W. Renaud, M. Skinner. **SOUTH DAKOTA** — G. Blankespoor, C. Breen, N. Eckmann, B. Frazelle, B. Green, W. Hall, B. Harris, **N. Holden**, R. Katterjohn, F. Klawiter, J.L. Mortimer, L. Palmerton, C. Peterson, B.J. Rose, **G.L. Steffen**, N. Whitney, R. Wilt. — **ESTHER M. SERR, 615 - 8th St., Rapid City, S. Dak. 57701.**

## **SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS** **/Frances C. Williams**

"A disappointing spring for birdwatchers." "We never had a peak migration." "Slowest migration since I started birding." "A nice spring for people, with virtually no storms or cold fronts to put migrants down." "There was no peak to migration and many usual birds were missing or few and far between"

Nearly every contributor began his or her report with a comment such as those above. There were a few exceptions. Mr. LaVal at Heavener, Okla., wrote, "The period April 17th through the 20th brought the heaviest concentration of trans-Gulf migrants I have seen except on the coast of Louisiana. The migration was accompanied by strong southerly winds which were the first after a very late winter."

At Huntsville, Tex., Kelly Bryan and Mike Pace had an experience to make every inland birder envious. On the night of May 3 and morning of May 4 a line of strong thunderstorms passed across Huntsville. At





Sarpy Co., May 25 (JSc). Only four Sharp-shinned Hawks and seven Cooper's Hawks were reported. Red-shouldered Hawks inhabit only the e. half of the Region and observers there see no evidence of a decline in population. A nest of this species was located in Cleveland Co., Okla., Apr. 29. In Walker Co., Tex., flights of 250 and 500 Broad-winged Hawks were observed Apr. 2 & 7, respectively. No other flocks were reported and there were fewer vagrants than usual. Flocks of Swainson's Hawks comprised 75 individuals in Kerr Co., Tex., Apr., 8, 150 in Midland April 11 and 57 in Donley Co., Tex., Apr. 13. Nests had been located at four Texas localities by mid-May. A Zone-tailed Hawk nest was found in the Davis Mts., Tex. (SR). Stray Ferruginous Hawks were recorded in Payne Co., Okla., Apr. 7, Waco Apr. 9, Comanche Co., Okla., Apr. 4. Harris' Hawks had disappeared from Midland and Glasscock Cos., Tex. by the end of the period, although they are normally abundant nesters there. Harris' Hawks in Tom Green Co., Apr. 5 and Kimble Co., Tex., Apr. 6 provided unusual locality records. Six pairs of nesting Black Hawks were found in the Davis Mts., Tex. (SR). Two pairs of Golden Eagles fledged young on the Miller Ranch in Jeff Davis Co., Tex. There were 28 records of Ospreys in the Region Apr. 4-May 11. A Caracara was sighted at Coolidge, Tex., Apr. 21 (CWE). Prairie Falcons were seen at only three localities and Peregrines at two. A Merlin in Tom Green Co., May 14 was a late migrant. There were five other reports of the species.

**PRAIRIE CHICKENS THROUGH RAILS**—In Rogers Co., Okla., 50 ♂ Greater Prairie Chickens were on their booming ground Apr. 5. On Apr. 19 there were 200 booming Lesser Prairie Chickens on the air strip at Olathe Naval Air Base, Kans. A Whooping Crane in Cherokee Co., Kans., Apr. 13 was probably somewhat east of the normal migration path of this species (HCC). A single Sandhill Crane in Walker Co., Tex., May 3 was very late. Virginia Rails were reported in Lyon Co., Kans., May 1, 2 & 7 (JM, DL), Denison, Tex., May 3 (KWH), Lubbock Co., Apr. 20-May 4 (SM, m.ob.). A Yellow Rail was carefully identified in Hopkins Co., Tex., Apr. 22.

**PLOVERS**—Piping Plovers were seen in Cleveland Co., Okla., Apr. 28, Potter Co., Tex., May 11 (FC), Oklahoma Co., Apr. 30 & May 3, Rogers Co., Okla., May 4 (DG), Wichita Co., Tex., Apr. 14 & 20 (NM *et al.*) A Snowy Plover in Rogers Co., May 4 provided a second record there. More than 40 Snowy Plovers were present at Muleshoe N.W.R., Tex., Apr. 27. This species was also sighted in Wichita Co., Apr. 3-17, Oklahoma Co., Apr. 5-15, Waco Apr. 19, Midland Apr. 6 & 13. A flock of Am. Golden Plovers was estimated at 500 individuals in Lyon Co., Kans., Apr. 12 (JM) Elsewhere only single individuals of this species were sighted. There were few reports of Black-bellied Plovers.

**SHOREBIRDS**—Ruddy Turnstones were sighted at Dallas May 16, Wichita Co., Tex., Apr. 24, May 23, 28, Canadian Co., Okla., May 11, Rogers Co., May 18 and Boys Town, Neb., May 17. Several hundred Com.

Snipe were present in Lyon Co., Kans., Apr. 12-13 Long-billed Curlews were noted in Lyon Co., Apr. 12-18 and Osage Co., Okla., Mar. 30. Whimbrels were found at Oklahoma City May 11 (GL, JSh), Washington Co. Okla., Apr. 1 (DW), Lubbock, May 3 & 10 (RE, DS *et al.*) and Waco, Apr. 22 (YD). In contrast to their usual solitary habits, 40 Spotted Sandpipers arrived in a flock at Dallas May 10 (HN, MBr). Red Knots were sighted at Dallas Apr. 5 (HN, HC) and Boys Town May 15



*Dunlin, Oklahoma City. Photo/John Shackford*

(MH, WN). Dunlins were observed at Oklahoma City Apr. 12, May 11-12 (GL *et al.*), Tulsa, May 26 (HB, E&KH), Boys Town, May 15-17 (MW, MH). A single Buff-breasted Sandpiper was noted in Archer Co., Tex., May 3 (NM, KZ). Both Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits were unusually common this spring. The normally scarce Hudsonian was reported at seven localities Apr. 15 - May 15, the largest flock comprising 22 birds at Oklahoma City Apr. 19. American Avocets at Bellevue, Neb., Apr. 18 & 20 were newsworthy. Black-necked Stilts appeared in Walker Co., May 4 and Dallas Co., May 14-16.

**PHALAROPES THROUGH TERNS**—Northern Phalaropes were sighted in Payne Co., Okla. (no date), Osage Co., May 11 and Boys Town, May 16. A **Pomarine Jaeger** was discovered in Wichita Co., Tex., May 5 (NM). There is a specimen from this area collected in October, 1957, but no previous inland spring records in the State. A Herring Gull was reported in Rogers Co., May 10. Laughing Gulls were observed in Wichita Co., Tex., May 29 & 31 (MBy, KZ) and in Lubbock Co., May 24-26 (m.ob.). Bonaparte's Gulls were sighted in Archer Co., Tex., Apr. 6 and Tarrant Co., Tex., Apr. 25. Forster's Terns were recorded in Howard Co., Tex., Apr. 25, Wichita Co., Tex., May 16 and El Paso, May 3. Careful study of the approximately 2000 Forster's Terns which migrated through Hagerman N.W.R. during the period revealed two Com. Terns (KWH). Over 400 Black Terns were counted at Lubbock May 14 but elsewhere the species appeared in small numbers or was absent. Only three contributors reported Least Terns: Wichita Co., Tex., May 4 - June 3, Ft. Worth May 10, Cherokee Co., Kans., June 1.

**DOVES THROUGH GOATSUCKERS**—Inca Doves continue to spread northward and were sighted in Wichita Co., Tex., Apr. 16. All contributors noted that Yellow-billed Cuckoos arrived unusually late and in low numbers. A Black-billed Cuckoo was seen at Garland, Tex., May 27 (MF). At the end of the period Groove-billed Anis were present in both Midland and Ector Cos. in w. Texas (ME, BE, m.ob.). Birders are making special efforts to find Barn Owls with a resulting increase in number of sightings. A **Flammulated Owl** in Lubbock Co. was the first there since 1950 (KR). A Pygmy Owl was seen and heard in Big Bend N P, Tex., May 15 (CPW, WPB). Twenty years ago it was difficult to find Burrowing Owls in w. Texas - now they are becoming so numerous in parks and golf courses that groundskeepers consider them a nuisance and occasionally try to poison them. Long-eared Owls were observed in Lubbock Co., May 3, Potter Co., Tex., Apr. 15, Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Tex., Apr. 19. A Whip-poor-will in McClain Co., Okla., Apr. 17 provided a first county record. Three **Lesser Nighthawks** at Muleshoe N.W.R. May 31 were 200 miles north of their usual range in w. Texas (BB *et al.*)

**HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS**—A Black-chinned Hummingbird was seen in Walker Co., Apr. 29 (KB) and one was building a nest at Dallas Apr. 26 (JV) The Rufous Hummingbirds which wintered in Walker and Kerr Cos. remained until Apr. 5 and Apr. 1, respectively. A Rufous Hummingbird was sighted near Denison, Tex., May 17 (CRB). Pileated Woodpeckers now seem to be regular summer residents in Payne Co., Okla. and Lyon Co., Kans. Most contributors in the range of the species report that Red-headed Woodpeckers are increasing. They are scarce only at Lubbock, where most of the trees large enough for nesting holes were destroyed in the 1970 tornado. Hairy Woodpeckers are now a cause for concern at many e. localities.

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS**—Western Kingbirds were noted in e. Oklahoma in LeFlore Co., May 13, Tulsa, where a nest was found May 25 and Rogers Co. An Ash-throated Flycatcher near the Pawnee-Noble Co. line, Okla., May 22 was about 200 miles east of its usual range (SW, JGz). By the end of the period three Ash-throateds had fledged from a bluebird house at Iowa Park, Tex. (LS). Eastern Phoebe were again nesting in Howard Co., Tex. Coues' Flycatchers were observed at El Paso Apr. 30, May 3. At Dallas, E. Wood Pewees were nesting the last week of May. Olive-sided Flycatchers were recorded in Johnson Co., Kans., May 15, Sarpy Co., Neb., May 4, 14 & 27, and Walker Co., May 11. This species was much less common than usual in the w. part of the Region. A Violet-green Swallow was observed at Muleshoe N.W.R., Apr. 27 (AB *et al.*). Rough-winged Swallows were nesting at Tulsa by May 12 (GL).

**JAYS THROUGH DIPPERS**—A **Green Jay** was present at El Paso during late May (CM). A Red-breasted Nuthatch remained in Walker Co. until May 8. A Brown Creeper in Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co. was carrying nesting materials in mid-May (RG, AS). A

**Dipper** was carefully identified at Dallas Apr 21 (M&LH).

**WRENS THROUGH THRUSHES**—Winter Wrens remained until May 14 in Sarpy Co. and were unusually common in Johnson Co., Kans., Apr. 10-26.

S. A.

Charles Easley reported he found Bewick's Wren nests in a great variety of sites at Keene, Tex.: four in bird houses, two in mail boxes, two in flower pots and one each in a hole in a fence post, a clothes pin bag, a tractor and a '74 Cadillac. Perhaps if more houses were erected for Bewick's Wrens there would be no need to Blue List them.

A Canyon Wren nest with five young in it was located in Caddo Co., Okla., May 9. Gray Catbirds were sighted at nine localities where they are classed as "uncommon migrants" and were unusually abundant throughout their normal range. Wood Thrushes were nesting in Canadian Co., Okla., May 9, west of their normal nesting area in the State. Veeries were reported at six localities in the e. half of the Region. In Johnson Co., Kans., Mrs. Myers netted 114 Swainson's Thrushes, 31 Gray-cheekeds, two Veeries and five Wood Thrushes. "If we had not had the birds in the hand we would not have known there were so many moving through," she commented.

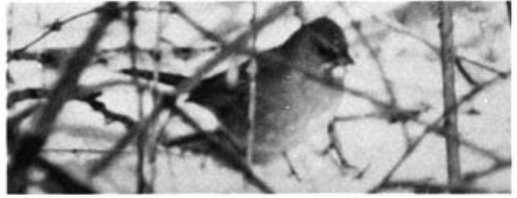
**VIREOS**—On May 10 there were five singing ♂ Black-capped Vireos in Methodist Canyon, Canadian Co., Okla. One nest was found which contained two vireo and three cowbird eggs. A Hutton's Vireo was observed at El Paso May 3. Contributors in the e. half of the Region note that Bell's Vireos are scarce, while those in the w. half report the species as common to abundant. Yellow-throated Vireos were sighted at Buffalo Lake Refuge May 18 (KS), Tulsa May 4 (RAS), Johnson Co., Kans., May 14, Lancaster Co., Neb., May 12. A Red-eyed Vireo was reported at Black Mesa S.P., Okla., May 2 (JDT *et al.*). Philadelphia Vireos were observed at El Paso May 3, Lubbock Apr 23 - May 15, Grayson Co., Tex., May 17 (CRB) as well as several localities on the e. edge of the Region.

**WARBLERS**—Warblers dribbled through the Region with no big waves reported. All the usual species were seen but never in large numbers. The hundreds of reservoirs built on the plains the past 40 years have increased the number of nesting Prothonotary Warblers. As the lakes filled, many trees were killed. Cavities in these trees were occupied by nesting Prothonotaries and with so many sites available the species has increased. This may be responsible for the ever-growing number of reports of stray Prothonotaries in the arid w. parts of the Region. Worm-eating Warblers overmigrated and were observed in Cherry Co., Neb., May 2 (RLH), Johnson Co., Kans., May 6, 19 & 23 (STP, MLM), Comanche Co., Okla., Apr. 23 (JMM), Cleveland Co., Okla., Apr. 28 (SW), Cimarron Co., Okla., Apr 21 (GS). Unusual western sightings of Tennessee Warblers occurred at El Paso May 10, Lubbock Apr. 30 (AB),

Randall Co., Apr. 14 and Potter Co., Apr. 22. A N. Parula at Lubbock Apr. 20 provided a first County record (EK). Magnolia Warblers were reported at 11 localities during May. Cape May Warblers were observed in Ellis Co., Kans., May 14 (MRO) and Cleveland Co., Okla., Apr. 21 (J&BK). A Black-throated Blue Warbler was sighted at Lubbock May 7 (M&OD). Cerulean Warblers were seen in Hopkins Co., Tex., Apr. 24, Dallas Apr. 17 and Walker Co., Apr. 15. Blackburnian Warblers were reported at El Paso May 10, Ft. Worth May 17, Lawton, Okla., May 14, Russell Co., Kans., May 18 and Bartlesville, Okla., May 23-24. Chestnut-sided Warblers were seen at eight localities Apr. 29 - May 14. Bay-breasted Warblers were found in 11 places May 2-24. One at Lubbock May 13 provided a first County record. Blackpoll Warblers were abundant in Linn Co., Kans. and one at Sherman, Tex., Apr. 16 was very early. Another at Lubbock May 2-3 constituted a new local record. Pine Warblers were observed at Topeka, Kans., May 15-16 (MN *et al.*) and Sherman, Tex., Apr. 5 (CRB). Palm Warblers were sighted in Lyon Co., Kans., May 1, Johnson Co., Kans., May 12, Ft. Worth, Apr. 19-20, Crosby Co., Tex., Apr. 25-27. Ovenbirds were recorded at nine localities. One in Tom Green Co., Tex., May 17 provided a new local record. Louisiana Waterthrushes in the Davis Mts., Tex., May 5 and at Lubbock May 15 were noteworthy. A Connecticut Warbler was reported at Waco May 5 (FG). A Hooded Warbler at Tulsa was the first since April, 1969 (JD). Other sightings of this species included Russell Co., Kans., Apr. 21 (SA), Johnson Co., Kans., May 5, 9 & 12 (STP, MLM), Caddo Co., Okla., May 10 (CMR), Sarpy Co., Neb., Apr. 27 (m.ob.) and four Texas localities.

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS—Twelve Bobolinks were seen May 11 near Sadler, Tex. (KWH). Single birds were sighted at Sherman May 13 (RT), Ector Co., Tex., May 26-28 (BE, m.ob.) and Oklahoma City May 15 (D&IN). In Lyon Co., Kans., a flock of 120 Yellow-headed Blackbirds was observed Apr. 18 & 20. This species was also sighted in Crawford Co., Kans., Apr. 19 (BBo). A W. Tanager was noted in Payne Co., Okla., May 24 (JSB). Scarlet Tanagers appeared in Payne Co., May 10 (JSB), Oolagah Co., Tex., May 11 (FC) and Dallas May 3 (RS). A **Hepatic Tanager** at Lubbock Apr. 18-19 (m.ob.) provided a first record there and was only the second record of the species on the w. Texas plains.

FRINGILLIDS — Black-headed Grosbeaks strayed east to Payne Co., May 16 (JSB), Grayson Co., Apr. 19-20 (KWH), Ft. Worth May 17, Dallas Apr. 20 (CGP), and Oklahoma City Apr. 6-10 (ND). Pine Siskins were scarce or absent throughout. Wintering Purple Finches lingered until early May at several localities. The Green-tailed Towhee reported at Leawood, Kans. in the winter report remained until Apr. 15 (JSG). One in Wichita Co., Tex., May 3 was also noteworthy. Grasshopper Sparrows were unusually abundant throughout. A Black-throated Sparrow visited a feeder in Amarillo, unusual behavior for this species. Clay-colored Sparrows were more numerous than usual in Payne Co. the last half of April and one was seen as



Green-tailed Towhee Photo/JoAnn S. Garrett

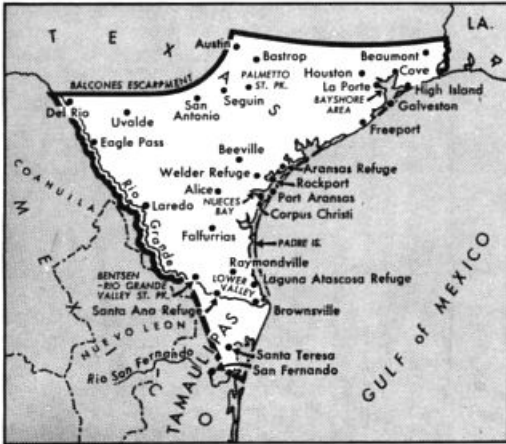
late as May 4 in Walker Co. There were numerous reports of very late winter sparrows of several species, but usually only of single individuals.

CONTRIBUTORS — Nebraska: **Shirley Doole**, Lancaster Co.; **Melba Wigg**, Douglas & Sarpy Cos. Kansas: **Bessie Boso**, Cherokee Co.; **Ivan L. Boyd**, Baldwin; **Earl S. McHugh**, Linn Co.; **Mary Louise Myers**, Johnson Co.; **Orville O. Rice**, Topeka; **John M. Schukman**, Ellis & Russell Cos.; **Jean Schulenberg**, Chase, Lyon & Coffey Cos.; **Donald Vannoy**, Wichita. Oklahoma: **Pat Bergey**, Cleveland & McClain Cos.; **Ella Delap**, Washington & Osage Cos.; **Elizabeth Hayes**, Tulsa; **Robert M. Laval**, Heavener; **Zella Moorman**, Payne Co.; **John G. Newell**, Oklahoma City area; **Richard A. Stuart**, Rogers Co.; **Jack D. Tyler & Janet M. McGee**, southwestern counties; Texas: **Peggy Acord**, Panhandle; **Lillian M. Brown**, Waco; **Kelly B. Bryan**, Walker Co.; **Charles W. Easley**, Johnson Co.; **Art Edwards**, Hopkins Co.; **Charles D. Fisher**, Nacogdoches Co.; **Karl W. Haller**, **Charles R. Brown**, Grayson Co. & Hagerman N.W.R.; **Sharon Menaul**, Lubbock; **Jody Miller**, Jeff Davis Co.; **Ernest & Kay Mueller**, Kerr & Kendall Cos.; **Hazel Nichols**, Dallas; **L.B. Paul**, Howard Co.; **Warren Pulich**, Dallas; **Midge Randolph**, Ft. Worth; **Lafayette Stankewitz**, Archer, Clay & Wichita Cos.; **Geth White**, El Paso; **C.C. & Iris Wiedenfeld**, Schleicher & Tom Green Cos.

INITIALED OBSERVERS — Steve Anschutz, J.W. Ault, J.S. Barclay, H. Bass, Al Bjelland, Bert Blair, Wm. P. Blakeslee, Margaret Broday (MBy), Mark Brown (MBr), Fern Cain, Helen Carlson, H.C. Chandler, Evelyn Conrad, Sue Corson, Robert Currie, Yvonne Daniel, Jean Devlin, Nancy Devore, Max & Orlena Dodson, Bill Edwards, Rosemary English, Midge Erskine, Jan Faeh, Jeff Fleischer, M. Francis, JoAnn S. Garrett, Ed & Madeline Gavit, Fred Gehlbach, Dottie Goard, Ruth Green, J. Greer (JGr), Joe Grzybowski (JGz), Mary Harberg, Margaret & Lynn Hardgrave, K. Hayes, Richard L. Hill, Charles Jensen, Elizabeth King, Jeffrey & Barbara Klopatick, Dorothy Laird, Gary Lee, Caroline McClintock, T.S. McDonald, Jake Miller, Nancy Moore, Wanda Neiderhauser, Dorothy Newell, Maurice Nuss, Sebastian T. Patti, Georgia Porter, C.G. Potter, Robert Reeves, C.M. Ridgway, Jack Roberts, Marvin Rolfe, Rena Ross, Steve Runnels, Kent Rylander, Andy Saunders, Gary Schnell, Julie Schroeder, Ken Seyffert, John Shackford, Darlene Stevens, R. Summers, Rita Talley, J. Varum, Claudia P. Wilds, Doris Williamson, Gertrude Wood, Scott Wood, Kathleen Zinn.—**FRANCES C. WILLIAMS, 3307 Neely, Midland, Tex. 79701.**

## SOUTH TEXAS REGION /Fred S. Webster, Jr.

Birders in spring keep one eye on the weather and are ready to cross half the state of Texas to be at High Island — a classic example of a migrant “trap” — at the exact moment when the confrontation of cold front or rain (preferably both) and migrant hordes causes the



live oak woodland to seethe (only a slight exaggeration) with weary avian travelers. Even on slack days High Island, near the eastern end of Bolivar Peninsula, usually provides sufficient exercise for the binocular wielder, so that throughout the spring season this relatively tiny area is under constant diurnal surveillance. If every tract in the Region were scrutinized as assiduously it is possible that a comprehensive picture of the migration could be assembled. Such a development being highly improbable, the regional compiler must grope on the twilight edge of knowledge, catching crumbs tossed from the picnic table by birders in a hurry to get to the next hot-spot or stakeout. (The editor must hasten to add that all crumbs are received with thanks, such a fare being preferable to starvation.) The other horn on the head of the dilemma symbolizes the inconsistency of weather conditions from area to area at a stated moment in time. While meteorological phenomena may be combining admirably to produce conditions for a tremendous pileup of migrants at point X — where no birders happen to be at the moment — hot, dry winds, more suitable for a day of golf, may prevail at point Y where all the birders are congregated. Result, “a lousy migration.” Blessed is the birder who can be at the right place at the right time! Your Regional Editor, taking the easy alternative, chose to cover the immediate area of his residence, daily, during the migration period, reasoning that this procedure would result in a seasonal sampling which would be representative of the locality. Perhaps it was. If so, it was the poorest migration at Austin in at least twenty years. Although insects were plentiful and mulberry trees were laden with fruit, the expected diners failed to arrive. Reports from other observers indicate that there were some brighter moments in certain localities of the Austin

area, which casts a shadow on the credibility of any conclusions drawn from the findings of the fixed-position observer. Such are the limitations and frustrations of migration reporting!

After scanning meteorological tables and compiling excerpts from many reports generously submitted, we follow our instincts and tremblingly postulate a migration below par (whatever that is), pointing the finger of blame at an unusually dry March-April period. However, we concede that there was light at the end of the tunnel for those birders who persisted; rainy and often turbulent weather in May produced visual evidence that transients can occur in abundance well into May. This possibility has not always been considered seriously, and many local birders are off to faraway places by mid-May. The paucity of reports from High Island in May suggest that either the store was left untended or there really wasn't much to report. Meantime, birders in areas farther west were reaping the late harvest. For the upper coast, Feltner called it the worst spring in years for wave-watchers. Many of the usually abundant species were considerably down in numbers. April was dry, although rain over the gulf seemed to have precipitated “a fairly good dropout that started around April 8 and lasted for several days.” Other sources reported an influx of migrants on the afternoon of April 19. On the central coast, migrants trickled through until mid-April when volume increased. Stormy weather brought rain on the morning of May 1 at Portland, and birds in the afternoon — “the best day” (TL). This development was noted likewise at Corpus Christi, just south across the causeway. However, the feature event occurred in the coastal bend two weeks later. A squall on the night of May 14-15 set the stage. Mrs. McCracken, who had left the day before for Canada, ruefully reported the episode. Starting at 7:30 a.m. on May 15, Catherine McCarty, on the west side of Corpus Christi, witnessed a spectacular movement of passerines. On a southeasterly wind, “birds simply poured from the southeast, going northwest ... thousands of passerines going over like a hawk migration. They usually came down into a thicket, rested or fed briefly, but soon lifted off, to be followed by another wave and still others.” On the south side of town, Emilie Payne observed the flight at 8:00 a.m. “Birds went over so fast she could identify few warblers. The flow exceeded the big windfall of May 6-8, 1966, following torrential rains.” Waves of shorter duration occurred on some days for the next week (KM). The sensational element was missing from the migration at Rockport, upcoast from Corpus Christi. Here movement was rather constant, without great numbers of any species, as migrants passed over on prevailing southeasterly winds. Best days were Apr 14, May 1 and 14, all following rain. The lower coast and Rio Grande Delta received little rain until well into May. Laguna Atascosa Nat'l Wildlife Refuge had experienced its last appreciable rain in October. Passerines were sustained here by insects attracted to mesquite and cactus blossoms, while grain sorghum was made available at some localities. Fresh water was running low. Three waves, on Mar. 15, Apr. 9-14, and May 12 were credited to frontal activity. (GAU). At Santa Ana Nat'l Wildlife Refuge on the Rio Grande, about 50 miles west of Laguna Atascosa Refuge, upland

habitat had been in a dried and cured state since late fall. Little wildlife food was available here except for the anaqua trees. All lakes were dry or drying up during the peak migration period. Migration was poor and late, the best show of warblers being on May 10-15 (WAS). Adequate to abundant rains came to most areas of the Region in May, along with an unusually late influx of migrating birds at inland localities. There is no indication that late concentrations equaled those of better years or were more than local in scope. A "good wave" was reported in the Victoria area on May 17 (GG). In San Antonio reporters singled out May 9, 11, 15 and 20. In Austin, May 10 was declared by some observers to be the best day with warblers down at the State Capitol Building. Meanwhile, your Regional Editor, stubbornly holding his ground in northwest Austin, found May 20 to be the best warbler day, following an overnight shower, and noted traces of this mild wave through May 24. Northward in Bartlett, Bell Co., the best period was May 3-28 (REC).

**LOONS, ANHINGAS, IBIS** — An **Arctic Loon** was observed at Galveston Apr. 29 (MA,TBF,BK&ER). Waves of White Pelican moved north along the Corpus Christi bayfront Apr. 13 (KM); 750 were at Stillhouse Hollow L., Bell Co., Apr. 18 (REC). Numbers of Anhingas were migrating over Hidalgo County Mar. 22 & Apr. 5 (GD), and the greatest flight ever recorded at Welder Wildlife Refuge occurred Apr. 12 (JH). Four **White-faced Ibis** flying over San Marcos, Hays Co., May 17 (WS) represented a "first" for Hays County.

**WATERFOWL** — Fulvous Tree Ducks appeared at Anahuac N.W.R. in late March and numbers increased until mid-April. A major influx occurred at Rockport Apr. 4 when birds could be found on every pond, with one concentration of 149 (DNW). **Masked Ducks** were reported as follows: Three in ♀ plumage on a pond on Lamar Pen. near Rockport, Apr. 6-8 (WDA); two pairs on a large pond about 9 mi. n. of High I., Apr. 20 (JF & MW); two on a pond in the Corpus Christi area, Apr. 27 and May 10-11 (RL & TL). Concerning the latter observation, one of the birds seen on May 10 was in ♂ plumage. Two **White-winged Scoters** were observed off Bolivar Pen. beach, in the surf and in flight, Apr. 22-23, and an estimated 24 **Surf Scoters** were reported in the same area on the same dates (TSM&HN).

**HAWKS** — **Swallow-tailed Kites** were seen in Refugio County Mar. 16 (NJC & KR); Santa Ana Ref., Mar. 30 (WAS); Lake Corpus Christi Park Apr. 8 (WDA); and in the Houston area Apr. 5 (2-GS), Apr. 13 (CJ & MV), & May 18 (FC & DHH). The first flight of Mississippi Kites was sighted at Santa Ana Ref., Apr. 6; the largest flight consisted of 300 birds Apr. 24 (WAS). Noteworthy groups were seen at Austin Apr. 28 (50-MT) & May 5(45-JWW). A late individual, flying northeast, was seen on the Mexican side of Falcon Dam May 17 (IC,EBK & SW). An estimated 15,000 Broad-winged Hawks passed over Santa Ana Ref. this spring. Migration began Mar. 14 with 30 birds, peaked Apr. 2 with 8000, and slacked off with 2000 on Apr. 4 and 3000 on Apr. 8 (WAS). This species was observed in the Mission area of Hidalgo

County, about 20 mi. n.w. of Santa Ana Ref., Mar. 22 - Apr. 24. Highest daily counts were 140 on Mar. 25, 361 on Apr. 4, 987 on Apr. 15, and 6480 on Apr. 16 (GD). "Hundreds" were reported at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., Apr. 7 (WDA). These reports suggest that Santa Ana Ref. is not the gateway to the U.S. for these hawk flights, as the reader might assume from some of our earlier columns. Just how wide the corridor is, and to what extent weather conditions may shift the flights, would be an interesting study for an army of border hawkwatchers. At Falfurrias, about 80 mi. due n. of Santa Ana Ref., a total of 8500 Broad-winged was estimated for the season, with a top count of 1500 on Apr. 17 (AWO). At Corpus Christi, about 60 miles n.e. of Falfurrias, a large movement occurred on Apr. 8, hours long, hawks generally following the bayfront. Another flight on Apr. 10, behaving similarly, was perhaps twice as large as the former (*vide* KM). At Woodsboro, about 30 miles n. of Corpus Christi, some 1000 Broad-winged were observed on Mar. 25 (DW). In the vicinity of Karnes City, about 60 miles n.w. of Woodsboro, several flocks, totaling about 500 birds, were seen Apr. 9 (WS). Just n. of Karnes City on Apr. 13, as thunderstorms dissipated, 14 separate kettles were observed, totaling around 4000 hawks, this along a five-mile stretch of highway (RR). Places, dates and numbers are furnished for the benefit of analysts. Obviously, more input is needed to trace the paths and progress of hawk movements. A **Gray Hawk** was well seen and described at Welder Wildlife Ref., Mar. 30 (EGB, SD & CNW). There is one previous record for Refugio County and one for nearby Nueces County. A **Com. Black Hawk** was observed on the spillway at Falcon Dam May 18 (EBK & SW).

**CRANES, JACANAS** — Of the 49 (47 ad. and two young) Whooping Cranes which wintered on Aransas Nat'l Wildlife Ref. and adjacent areas, two adult and one young had departed by the survey conducted on Mar. 25, two more adult by Apr. 1, nine more adult by Apr. 9, 28 more adult and one young by Apr. 15, four more adult by Apr. 21, and two more adult by Apr. 23 (RLM). An unusually large flight of some 3000 Sandhill Cranes was observed at Austin, Mar. 19 (RAR) A **N. Jacana** was observed by many persons at Welder Ref., Apr. 12 (*vide*JH).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Very small numbers of the sometimes abundant Am. Golden Plover were reported A **Surfbird**, "almost in summer plumage" was discovered at the Port Aransas jetty, Apr. 4 (SH) and subsequently observed by many, as late as Apr. 8 (KM, DNW) and reportedly later. It was at this site that a Surfbird was observed and photographed (though rather poorly, it is said) in April 1951, on the basis of which this species was added to the Texas hypothetical list. The species was next reported and photographed on Padre I. N.S., Apr. 13, 1974 (*Am. Birds* 28: 823). Upland Sandpipers moved over Beeville on the night of Apr. 13, an evening of low clouds and little wind. A heavy movement was audible at 9:00 p.m. and at midnight, on which latter occasion the calls of several species filled the night skies (AHG). White-rumped Sandpipers were common at Austin May 7 (MAM)

Stilt Sandpipers were abundant in ricefields in the Anahuac area Apr. 30 (TBF *et al.*). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were recorded at Stillhouse Hollow L., Apr. 14-19 (REC). Hudsonian Godwits were seen less frequently than in some recent years; however, "unusually large numbers" were reported at Laguna Atascosa Ref. (GAU). Ten birds appeared at Santa Ana Ref., Apr. 21 and remained for two weeks (WAS). A **Ruff**, first for Brooks County, was seen Apr. 12, beside a shallow fresh-water pond about 4 mi. s.e. of Falfurrias. It was well seen as it probed about in the short grass (WC & AWO). Several thousand Am. Avocet were concentrated at the Bolivar flats, Galveston, in April. Peak count for Wilson's Phalarope came from San Antonio's Mitchell L., Apr. 16, up to 300 birds (AH).

**GULLS, TERNS** — As a postscript to the winter report we furnish the following gull sightings: An "immature" **Glaucous Gull** observed from the Galveston-Bolivar ferry, Apr. 18, which circled the ferry and joined other gulls following a shrimp boat (TSM&HN); and a second-year bird photographed Apr. 20 on the Galveston beachfront at 45th Street (TG). Also, a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Galveston Apr. 4 (TBF, BK & ER). Three **Arctic Terns**, two in winter plumage, were thoroughly scrutinized at Port Aransas Apr. 20, by a five-member party from the Alice Audubon Society. A full report was submitted by Dr. Albert. Four or five individuals of this species were reported at Bolivar flats Apr. 12 (TCM *et al.*), and as many as six there Apr. 26 (EAK). Details were furnished on the latter observation. This species is on the hypothetical list for Texas on the basis of two previous sightings. Black Tern numbers were unusually low at Laguna Atascosa Ref. (GAU).

**CUCKOOS THROUGH SWIFTS** — A **Mangrove Cuckoo** was observed and heard at Santa Ana Ref., May 20 (TF, CMA & WAS). This species is a hypothetical, thanks to a sight record at Galveston in 1964. Both usual cuckoo species were scarce on the upper coast. A Groove-billed Ani at San Antonio, May 10 (AH), was unusual. A Chuck-will's-widow was heard at Falcon S P, May 17 (EBK *et al.*), a very late date for this species which is not known to breed in the area. Chimney Swifts were in unusually large numbers at Laguna Atascosa Ref. (GAU).

**HUMMINGBIRDS, FLYCATCHERS** — **Buff-bellied Hummingbirds** were seen at San Antonio May 10 (AH); at Corpus Christi May 21 (DNW); and in the Victoria area May 25 (GG). Large numbers of E. Kingbirds moved through Falfurrias the last week of April and the first week of May (AWO). Peak numbers were reported at Aransas Ref., May 5 (RLM). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers reached the Falfurrias area by Mar. 9 and were in some numbers by Mar. 13 (AWO). A **Great Kiskadee** was seen on Lamar Pen., Rockport area May 4 (DNW). A **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** was found along the Rio Grande near Roma, Starr Co., May 7 (WPB & CPW) and about May 15 (HPB), apparently at the same location. Descriptions were quite satisfactory, and Brokaw's previous experience with a closely related tropical species, the Streaked Flycatcher, which

ranges within 200 miles of the lower Rio Grande, precluded any question of confusion with the latter species. The Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher remains on the hypothetical list for Texas; one sighting was reported in the Rio Grande Delta around 1940. On the basis of reports, *Empidonax* flycatcher species made a poor showing in most areas. A good push was noted at Corpus Christi May 15 (*vide* KM).

**CATBIRDS THROUGH VIREOS** — Gray Catbirds received little mention except on days of abundance at High I., notably Apr. 20 (TG, ER), and to a lesser degree on Apr. 27 (RK & BL). Except for the Wood Thrush, thrushes were present in "very low" numbers on the upper coast (TBF). All thrushes seemed to be low at Austin. Swainson's Thrush was "common" at Portland, starting Apr. 15 (TL). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were generally numerous during the last 10 days of March. White-eyed and Red-eyed Vireos were fairly common on the upper coast during the first half of April. Philadelphia Vireos made a good showing in May, some rather late. May 1 was a good day at Portland with seven birds (TL). Mid-May was the best period for this species in Wilson County (WS) and at Austin.

**WARBLERS** — Except for a few species, warblers did not appear in most areas in the great numbers anticipated each spring. Warblers usually common on the upper coast, but which were reported in disappointingly low numbers were: Yellow, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Ovenbird, both water-thrushes, Yellow-breasted Chat, Canada and Am. Redstart. The main push of Swainson's Warbler occurred on the upper coast between Apr. 5 and 11. One at Portland, May 4 (TL), was west of its usual route, and one in the Victoria area, May 17, was very late (GG). Highest count of Worm-eating Warblers was nine reported at High I., Apr. 22 (CWE). Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers made a fair showing throughout the eastern half of the Region and along the coast. An influx of Golden-wingeds, was noted with the wave of May 15 at Corpus Christi and some individuals lingered for several days (CMc). Blue-winged Warblers were unusually common for a while at High I. Feltner reported up to 40 on Apr. 8 and 27 on Apr. 11. Easley reported 20+ there on Apr. 22. In view of the above, it may be less surprising that several hybrids were seen. A **Brewster's** type was seen at High I., Apr. 11 (TBF *et al.*), and one at Beeville, May 8 (AHG & TA). An individual of the **Lawrence's** type was seen at Harlingen, Cameron Co., Apr. 16 as it fed from blossoms in a garden (BAD). One at High I. was seen by many birders, Apr. 18-21 (HN *et al.*). One was at Corpus Christi Apr. 29 (EG *vide* KM). Descriptions of these hybrids fit the typical illustrations. The Tennessee was the most abundant warbler at Portland — "over 200 daily" — Apr. 11-13 (TL); large numbers were noted at Corpus Christi on these dates (KM). The rare **Cape May Warbler** was seen at a bird bath in Port Aransas Apr. 12 (TL & LT). Two were seen at San Luis Pass, west end of Galveston I., Apr. 24 & 30 (TB & ER). The rare **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was at High I., Apr. 20 (MJ, TN & ER) & 22 (CWE). One was seen near Sabine Pass, Apr. 25

(TBF & ER). A male was seen at Corpus Christi Apr. 4 (DB) At Austin, where this species is extremely rare, a male was present all day, **June 11**, in a residential yard adjacent to a city park with giant live oaks and a running stream. It sang frequently during the morning and infrequently thereafter, being last heard at 5: 20 p.m. as it slowly worked its way northward through the park (EBK). Chestnut-sided Warblers were among the more common warblers on the upper coast in late April. A high count of 55 was reported at High I., Apr. 22 (CWE). Bay-breasted Warblers were common on the upper coast in early May. This species was one of the most common warblers in mid-May at Austin (FSW *et al* ) and in Wilson County (WS). **Blackpoll Warblers** were recorded at Austin May 7, 8 & 10 (BR,MS,MT); years may pass between sightings of this species at Austin. Six were reported at Portland, May 1 (TL), a high count for the central coast. A very late male was seen at Houston May 24, after turbulent weather (MA). Reports indicate that Kentucky and Hooded Warblers were the most abundant warbler species at High I. this season, followed closely by the Com. Yellowthroat; most numbers were recorded Apr. 8-11, although the Hooded Warbler figured prominently in another push starting Apr. 20. Both the **Connecticut** and Mourning Warbler were seen at Bartlett May 27 (REC).

**BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, TANAGERS** — Two ♂ **Bobolinks** were seen near Sabine Pass Apr. 23 (TB & ER), and four birds in the marshes at Galveston's east jetty, May 3 (OG). Sightings of small flocks of Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported on a wide front, from Galveston to Medina County, during the second half of April. The highest count was 30, at Rockport May 14 (DNW). Six on Mustang I., May 20 (DNW), were interesting from the locality standpoint. Orchard Orioles were sometimes abundant on the upper and central coasts in April, but N. Orioles failed to stimulate superlatives. The **Western Tanager** was recorded at High I., Apr. 20 (TG) and at Portland, May 3 (TL) Scarlet Tanagers had an exceptionally good season on the central coast, but evidently an ordinary migration on the upper coast.

**FRINGILLIDS** — Grosbeak species were not outstanding. Three ♂ **Black-headed Grosbeaks** which frequented Dr. O'Neil's yard at Falfurrias, Apr. 16-20, gave Brooks County a new species. Mrs. McCracken called it "the best migration in twelve years" for Indigo Buntings at Corpus Christi and on adjacent islands in April. These buntings were more plentiful than usual at Falfurrias (AWO). In tiny Kempner Park, in the middle of Galveston's residential area, Easley counted 40 ♂ and about 25 ♀ Indigos Apr. 23. Dickcissels were moving in good numbers by Apr. 19. A late Purple Finch was seen at Houston, May 10 (TG). Cassin's and Clay-colored Sparrows, migrant mainly in the western half of the Region, seemed in below normal numbers.

**CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS** — Mrs. Teal Adkins, Dr. Richard O. Albert, Margaret Anderson, Mr and Mrs. W. D. Anderson, William P. Blakeslee, Eric G. Bolen, Mrs. Don Brickley, Howard P. Brokaw, Mr and Mrs. Ira Carver, Dr. Ralph E. Clearman, Win

Coffin, Fred Collins, Noel J. Cutright, Benjamin A. Davis, Scott Derrickson, Gladys Donohue, Charles W. Easley, Terry Fears, T. Ben Feltnr, Jean Frankenburg, Tony Gallucci, Mrs. A. H. Geiselbrecht, Gerry Green, Elizabeth Gunter, Adele Harding, Dan H. Hardy, Scott Holt, John Huntsberger, Charlotte Johnson, E. F. Johnson, Margaret Jones, Barbara Kendrick, Edgar B. Kincaid, Jr., Randy Korotev, Edward A. Kutac, Ray Little, Terry Little, Betty Lobos, Rees L. Madsen, Cruz Martinez (CMA), Terry C. Maxwell, Catherine McCarty (CMc), Mary Anne McClendon, Kay McCracken, T. S. McDonald, James A. Middleton, James G. Morgan, Tommy Newkirk, Hazel Nichols, Dr. A. W. O'Neil, Ornithology Group (Outdoor Nature Club of Houston), Emilie Payne, Kate Redmond, Barbara Ribble, Elaine Robinson, Mr and Mrs. Russell Robinson, Rose Ann Rowlett, Willie Sekula, Mary Shannon, Wayne A. Shifflett, Gwen Smith, Mike Thomasson, Leona Turnbull, George A. Unland, Madeliene Vogt, John W. White, Maxine Wigington, Claudia P. Wilds, Suzanne Winckler, Doris N. Winship, Charles N. Woodhull, Doris Wyman — **FRED S. WEBSTER, JR., 4926 Strass Drive, Austin, Texas 78731.**

## **NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION** **/Wayne Neily**

The return of warm weather, green leaves, and birds has an especially revitalizing effect on northerners, who have endured the rigors of an Arctic or sub-arctic winter. As a result, coverage of the Region improves dramatically in spring, and this year 34 observers not only represented a new high, but being better distributed, produced the best coverage yet. An excellent report from Inuvik, providing the first major coverage for the Mackenzie delta, was especially noteworthy, but all areas except the Arctic coast and the Cassiar-Dease Lake region were represented.

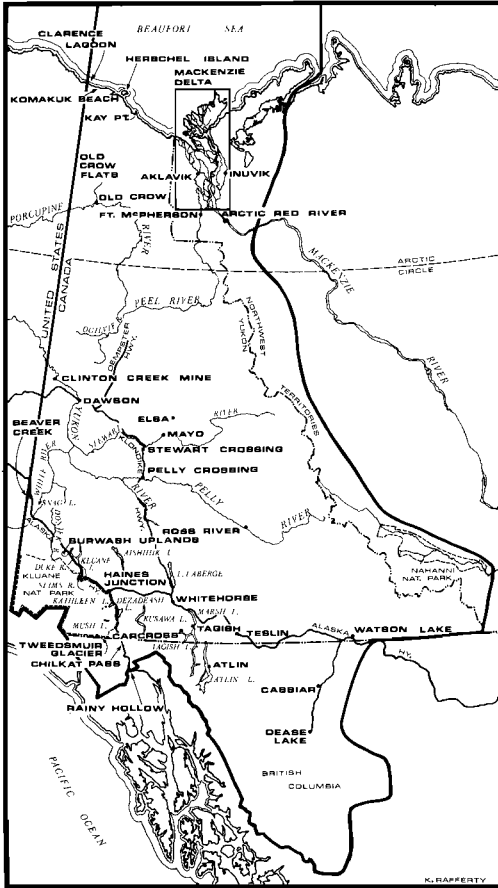
Temperatures were about normal in April and May, although with the conversion to the Celsius scale they seemed cooler — means at Whitehorse were 0° C and 7°, respectively. Precipitation was high in April and low in May, but the heavy, long-lasting snow and ice cover in many parts of the Region apparently delayed the return of some species, especially waterfowl, by a week or two.

The bird of the season was the **Common Redpoll**, which occurred in waves described by several long-time residents as unprecedented. It will be interesting to see how this correlates with reports from more southerly areas. In all, 136 species were reliably reported, a new single-season high, but another 60+ (including 10 permanent residents) were not found, so there is no room for complacency.

Unless otherwise noted, observations from the Beaver Creek area are by Maria and Heidi Ledergerber, those from the Dempster Highway by Robert Frisch, from Inuvik by Harold Pankratz, and from the Pelly R. area by David McCargo, often with John Lammers and Pauline Wilson.

**LOONS, GREBES** — Except for one Com. Loon on Whitehorse's Schwatka L. May 11 (WN), all loons re-





ported were in the latter half of May. Noteworthy was the absence of any reports of Arctic Loons; they should be watched closely in future to see if there is a real decline. A Red-necked Grebe returned to the Pelly R. mouth May 11; Horned Grebes arrived at Whitehorse May 6 (KJ), at the Pelly R. May 9, and Inuvik May 26.

**SWANS** — Much better data on the swan migration are available this year, except for the Tintina Trench route. The late but rapid break-up apparently delayed their arrival on the Yukon staging areas, but permitted them to move north after a week or two, perhaps causing them to overfly some traditional resting areas to make up lost time. Unfortunately many reports were still of "swan (sp.)", but those arriving in the Kluane area in late April — nine at Kathleen R., Apr. 25 (C & SP), and two Apr. 27 at Haines Junction (RM), building to 200+ there by Apr. 30 (JC) — were probably mostly Whistling Swans. The first definite "Whistlers" were three at Tagish, Yukon, Apr. 26, increasing to 30 the next day (BM). Twenty-six were at "Pipeline Pond", 15 mi. s.e. of Kluane L., May 2 (WO, BL, WN) and 50 over Haines Jct. the next morning (WN). They were last seen in this area May 9 (BL), and on the Yukon R. system May 22 at L. Laberge (KJ), and appeared at Inuvik May 22.

It became clear this year, however, that the Trumpeter Swans arrive 2-3 weeks earlier than the Whistling, and so

the first report, of a flock heard at Teslin Apr. 9 (P & DD), was likely the former, as was a flock over Whitehorse Apr. 11 (HM). Twelve Trumpeters arrived at the Tagish R. staging area Apr. 13 and built up to 166 there by Apr. 27 (BM), and 175 on adjacent Marsh L. by May 2 (SH). Singles were also seen, however, east of the normal range at Watson Lake and north of there, at Simpson L. in early May (ES). Late stragglers were 31 on May 22 near Beaver Creek, but observers should watch for possible nesting by this species in the Region.

**GEESE, DUCKS** — Canada Geese appeared first at Tagish, 16 on Apr. 21 (BM), followed by 50 over Haines Jct., Apr. 22 (LF, BL) and in the Whitehorse area two weeks later, 40-50, May 5 (DSc). A White-fronted Goose was seen May 8 near Whitehorse (DMo), and four were spotted in a flock of Snow Geese at Inuvik May 15. The latter were also sparingly reported, from four at Tagish Apr. 23 (BM) to the maximum of 50 at Kluane L., Apr. 29 (FP), and their arrival at Inuvik May 9.

Most "first reports" of ducks were about a week behind last year's, but the peaks seemed to be about the same, viz., Apr. 26 - May 10 for dabblers, and May 5-20 for divers in the s. and central parts of the Region. Records available show 14 of the 19 species with comparable data for both years arriving later this year, and only the scarce Redhead and Ring-necked Duck significantly earlier. As arrival dates for the Inuvik and Tagish areas have not been available previously, they will be given for most species concerned.

Six Mallards at Tagish Apr. 13 were 9 days ahead of all other reports, and four at Inuvik May 1 were described as "early" (HP); the earliest Pintails at Inuvik were May 10. Blue-winged Teals were at Tagish May 18-20, and Green-winged Teal and Am. Wigeon were the two dabblers ahead of last year in the south, being seen at Lower Kathleen L. (Kluane area) Apr. 25 (WN) and Apr. 24 (BL) respectively. The former arrived at Inuvik May 19 and the latter May 11, while N. Shovelers were first noted there May 22.

Out-of-(known)-range Redheads were seen three times a male Apr. 22 at Lower Kathleen L. (BL, WN); one at the Tagish R., May 3 (Y.C.S. party), and one at "Pipeline Pond" May 8 (BL, LF). Two ♂ Ring-necked Ducks were at another small pond between Haines Jct. and Kluane L., May 2 (WN, BL). Observers should be alert for evidence of breeding of either of these species in the Region. Lesser Scaup appeared at Inuvik May 18 (one pair), and for the first time reports of this species outnumbered those of Greater Scaup (although both were greatly outnumbered by "scaup sp.'). A special effort should be made to distinguish these difficult species in coming seasons, to give us a better idea of their actual distribution. Common Goldeneye arrived at Inuvik May 15, Bufflehead at Tagish Apr. 19 (BM), and Oldsquaws there May 4 and at Inuvik May 24, the only other report of the last-named being a flock of ca. 30 near the s. end of the Dempster Hwy., May 25. The White-winged Scoter was the only common diver ahead of last year's arrival date, with one in the Whitehorse area May 16 (KJ), and a Surf Scoter appeared at Inuvik May 27. A stray **Ruddy Duck** was seen May 15, at "Pipeline Pond", near Sulphur L., Yukon (BL).

DIURNAL RAPTORS — Goshawks remained scarce (only one report), while Sharp-shinned and Red-tailed Hawks moved through at about the same time as last year, except for early Sharp-shinneds Apr. 21-22 at Tagish (BM) Rough-legged Hawks reached Inuvik May 2, two days before the first Golden Eagle there and two days after the first Bald Eagle. Both eagles were reported well throughout the Region. Marsh Hawks were, as usual, the most conspicuous and widely reported raptor migrants, with sightings from Watson Lake (ES) to the Beaver Creek area in late April, and the first one at Inuvik May 11. An Osprey, the first report from the Region in the past two years, was seen near Beaver Creek May 4. An apparent Gyrfalcon at Inuvik May 25 and a Peregrine Falcon there May 4 constitute the only reports of these species. Merlins moved through the Kluane area Apr. 18-20(WN,BL), and one reached Inuvik May 20. American Kestrels, however, were less often seen than last year, with most reports Apr. 30 - May 14, from the Pelly R. mouth, and one in the Inuvik area, where it is rare, May 21.

GROUSE — Although Blue and Spruce Grouse went unreported this season, Ruffed Grouse were well represented, mainly from the Pelly R. area, where drumming began Apr. 12 and reached a peak with ten birds on May 3. A large, loose, flock of 120+ Willow Ptarmigan was moving in the Chilkat Pass, B.C., Apr. 13 (WN), and both this species and the Rock Ptarmigan were calling alongside the Steele Glacier, Kluane N.P., Apr. 16-18. Sharp-tailed Grouse were seen in the Beaver Creek and Pelly R. areas.

#### S. A.

CRANES — Reports from the Pelly R. team (DMc,JL,PW) give us a much better picture this year of the Sandhill Crane migration, although they were apparently not seen elsewhere in the Yukon. First report there was May 3, when 600+ arrived, forerunners of the onslaught of 10,000 that hit the next day. Of these McCargo notes "Flocks averaging 300 to 500. Some 'chimneyed', others temporarily detoured up the Pelly before heading down the Yukon. ... Several [flocks] may have over-nighted on the sandbar near the mouth of the Pelly which is an historical resting spot. This is the largest number which I have observed outside of North Platte, Nebraska." Another 5000 went through the next two days and the last seen there were 200 on May 13. Meanwhile, 14 reached Inuvik May 12.

SHOREBIRDS — Most reported arrivals of shorebirds were a week or more behind last year's, but this may have resulted from less intensive coverage of suitable areas in mid-May. Several, however, are of special interest. American Golden Plover were slightly early, appearing at the Yukon Game Farm, n.w. of Whitehorse, May 8 (DMo), and at Inuvik May 22. Semipalmated Plover and Killdeer appeared at Tagish May 18 (KJ) and at Inuvik May 25. Although Inuvik is outside the generally recognized range of the Killdeer, it has been common there for the past few years (HP), and was also seen north of its range in late May at Dawson (KS,RF).

A Greater Yellowlegs at Whitehorse May 13 was the only one reported, while Lesser Yellowlegs and Solitary

Sandpipers were common by mid-May (arriving at Inuvik May 12 and 17 respectively). A Spotted Sandpiper at the Pelly R. mouth May 14 was ahead of last year, and Wandering Tattlers (three on May 30, miles 45-65, Dempster Hwy.) and Ruddy Turnstone (one, May 31, Inuvik) made it into the report period this year. Least Sandpipers were common as usual, appearing at Inuvik May 17, and Baird's Sandpipers, previously unreported, were seen at miles 85-90 of the Klondike Hwy. (RF), and at Inuvik May 25. Pectoral Sandpipers, uncommon as usual, were noted only in the c. Yukon, but the few early Semipalmated Sandpipers were widely distributed, from Whitehorse (one, May 8 DMO) east to Watson L. (two, May 12, WN). Six Whimbrels appeared at Inuvik May 24, and a Hudsonian Godwit May 21. Long-billed Dowitchers were at Tagish May 18 and Inuvik May 25, and there were 19 reports of Com. Snipe Apr. 30 - May 30 from all over the Region (arrival at Inuvik May 20), putting to rest the idea that it is uncommon here. Northern Phalaropes got to Inuvik May 22.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS — No jaegers were reported this spring, and Glaucous Gulls were seen only in the Mackenzie delta, where they arrived May 9 (HP). Other gulls again returned first to the upper Yukon R. system, Herring Gulls appearing at Tagish (BM) and Whitehorse (SH) Apr. 25, spreading to Kluane L. by Apr 30 (DMa), Beaver Creek May 1, and Inuvik May 9. Mew and Bonaparte's Gulls followed a similar pattern, but were somewhat later, reaching Inuvik May 18 and 21 respectively. Two Arctic Terns at the "Lewes R. dam" on the upper Yukon R. May 3 (WS) were early, as were 20 at Whitehorse May 6 (SH), but they were widespread by mid-month.

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — The owl picture was similar to last spring's, except that Hawk Owls and Short-eared Owls, as during the past autumn and winter, remained scarce. A Snowy Owl was seen near Tagish in April (GM), and a Hawk Owl was observed Apr 5, flushing 14 Willow Ptarmigan at the n. end of the Chilkat Pass (BL). The only Short-eared Owls were two at Inuvik May 17, and an owl heard occasionally until May 5 at the Pelly R. mouth was, from the description of its call, a Boreal Owl. The Belted Kingfisher appeared first at the Pelly May 12, and was common in the s.c. part of the Region thereafter. "Yellow-shafted" Flickers were by far the commonest woodpeckers, arriving in early May in the south, and by May 21 at Inuvik. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers near the edge of their range were seen at the Pelly R. mouth May 12-17, and at Tagish May 31 (KJ). Hairy Woodpeckers were reported from the same two areas all spring, and a Downy Woodpecker appeared at Tagish in May (BM).

FLYCATCHERS, LARKS, SWALLOWS — Say's Phoebes arrived May 1 at Destruction Bay (Kluane L.) (AN) and at the Pelly R. mouth, where an *Empidonax* (sp) also arrived that day. Unfortunately, of the four *Empidonaxes* to be expected in this Region, only one, the Alder Flycatcher, was reported by name, that appearing May 31 at Wolf Creek, near mile 31, Dempster Hwy. Although this may be partly because of their late arrivals, we evidently need to work harder on this group in future

An Olive-sided Flycatcher was also heard at Wolf Creek May 31. Horned Larks moved through in their usual flocks (at least in the s.w. of the Region) Apr. 19 - May 6. A Violet-green Swallow was seen near Whitehorse Apr. 26 (WN); Tree Swallows appeared near Haines Jct., Apr. 30 (LT), and Inuvik May 9. Cliff Swallows were also seen near Haines Jct., May 2 (BL,WN), and at Inuvik May 30. Bank Swallows were not reported until May 21, near the s. end of the Dempster Hwy., and Barn Swallows not until May 31, at Tagish (KJ).

**CORVIDS THROUGH THRUSHES** — Corvid reports indicate normal numbers and distribution, including a Gray Jay on its nest between Haines Jct. and Whitehorse Apr. 13 (SH), and adults with young at the Pelly R., May 17 and the s. end of the Dempster May 22. Black-capped and Boreal Chickadees were common from the Pelly R. south, and a Dipper was seen at Otter Falls May 19 (SH).

A very early Am. Robin was reported from Sulphur L. (s.e. of Kluane L.) Apr. 7 (DSi, *vide* FS), the next ones Apr. 13, s. of Aishihik L. (SH), and peaks were noticeable May 1-3, and 5-8 (DMc *et al.*). One arrived at Inuvik May 11. Varied and Hermit Thrushes both returned May 2 near Haines Jct. (WN,BL), and the latter w. of Beaver Creek that day as well. The Hermits, along with a Swainson's Thrush May 6 at Beaver Creek and a Gray-cheeked Thrush May 14 at the Pelly R. mouth, are all earlier than last year's arrivals, but not enough data are available to show clear peaks or waves in their migrations. Varied and Gray-cheeked Thrushes made it to Inuvik May 25. A Mountain Bluebird returned to Whitehorse Apr. 14 (BM), a day ahead of the one near Haines Jct. that was earliest last year (LT). A Townsend's Solitaire appeared at the Pelly R. mouth May 4, but most reports of that species were from May 10 on.

**KINGLETS THROUGH STARLINGS** — This year's Ruby-crowned Kinglet reports complement last year's, as they were all from n. of Haines Jct. Now if we could just get reports from both sectors in the same season! The one nearest Haines Jct., at "Pipeline Pond" was seen May 1, the arrival date at the Junction last year, so other dates are likely comparable to last year's (May 4 at Beaver Creek, May 5 at Pelly R. mouth, etc.). Water Pipits moved through the s. and c. parts of the Region from Apr. 22 (3 at Kathleen R., BL) to May 10 (2 at Pelly R. mouth). Bohemian Waxwings were well reported throughout the Region, arriving in the Haines Jct. area Apr. 5 (LF,AN), at the Pelly Apr. 13, and Inuvik May 30. Peak numbers were May 4-9 (v.o.). There was a definite movement of N. Shrikes through the s. Yukon from Apr. 11, when one appeared at Dezadeash L. (JC), through Apr. 22 (KJ,BL,DSc,WN). Two were spotted at Inuvik, where they are scarce, May 1. Starlings returned to Haines Jct. Apr. 20 (WN) and they were also seen at Tagish May 31 (KJ).

**WARBLERS, ICTERIDS** — Common warblers arrived on about the same dates as last spring; earlier arrivals of less common species probably reflects better coverage of wooded areas. An Orange-crowned Warbler was seen at the Pelly R. mouth May 14, and they were as far north as the s. end of the Dempster by May 21. Yellow Warblers

were at Beaver Creek first again (May 11), and got to Inuvik by May 29. Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers were widespread by May 11, arriving at Inuvik May 25. The request for attention to Townsend's Warblers seems to have worked: one male was seen at Aishihik L., May 19 (SH), and "several" in late May near the s. end of the Dempster Hwy., north of their known range. A Blackpoll Warbler was e. of Haines Jct. (Cracker Creek) May 19 (SH), and a N. Waterthrush was back at the s. end of the Dempster May 21, matching last year's arrival, and only 6 days before the first one at Inuvik. Common Yellowthroats appeared May 22 in the Whitehorse area, and Wilson's Warbler arrived throughout the Region in late May, including Inuvik May 25.

Red-winged Blackbirds reached Whitehorse May 2 (WS), while Rusty Blackbirds were at Beaver Creek May 1 and Inuvik May 9. Brown-headed Cowbirds, however, were seen only at Tagish, May 18 being the earliest date (KJ).

**FINCHES** — Purple Finches appeared at feeders in Tagish from May 18 to the end of the month (KJ), and at Teslin earlier in May (P & DD, WN). These are both at the n. limit of the species' range and the occasional reports from farther north and west in spring may be non-breeding wanderers. Pine Grosbeaks were sparsely reported from Tagish (Apr. 12, KJ) to Inuvik (Apr. 30), and a ♂ Gray-crowned Rosy Finch returned Apr. 2 to Kluane L. (WN,BL), preceding the main flocks by about 2 weeks. Redpolls were the scene-stealers this spring, with flocks of up to 2000 or more throughout the s. half of the Region all during April and the first week of May (v.o.). Hoary Redpolls were identified in these flocks occasionally (*e.g.*, May 2 at Tagish, BM, and Apr. 28 at Haines Jct., WN), and a straggler was at Whitehorse May 18 (SH); probably a small portion of many of the flocks consisted of this species, but the vast majority were Com. Redpolls. These appeared at Inuvik May 3 and were common there after that date. White-winged Crossbills were reported only from Inuvik, four, May 10.

**SPARROWS, BUNTINGS** — A Savannah Sparrow arrived at "Pipeline Pond" May 1 (WN), and they were widespread by May 20, when the first one arrived at Inuvik. Apart from the wintering one at Tagish, the earliest Dark-eyed "Slate-colored" Junco was one at Beaver Creek Apr. 25; small flocks moved through the south fairly steadily from then until mid-May, and some arrived at Inuvik May 10. Two Tree Sparrows were seen at Whitehorse Apr. 16 (SH), but the main waves didn't hit until May 1, with an apparent peak May 5-6 (v.o.), and arrival at Inuvik was May 15. Chipping Sparrows seemed scarce this year, but an early one was at Kluane L. May 6 (F&KP). Harris' Sparrows at Inuvik May 25 reflect the Canadian Shield component of the Mackenzie delta avifauna. Both White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows arrived a little earlier than last year, appearing Apr. 26 at Tagish, and were common in the south by the first week in May. The White-crowns reached Inuvik May 15, and Golden-crowns had apparently left the lowland areas by May 8. Early Fox Sparrows were at Tagish Apr. 19 (BM) and Inuvik by May 12, while Lincoln's Sparrows slipped through the south unnoticed, appearing first at the

s. end of the Dempster May 21, and at Inuvik May 25. The only Song Sparrows reported were from Teslin in late April (P&DD), and Tagish May 31 (KJ).

With many fields still deep in snow by mid-April, the early wave of Longspurs was not seen this year, except for a few scattered in Snow Bunting flocks in early April. The main wave of Lapland Longspurs (Smith's have still not been seen here in migration) along the Alaska Hwy. occurred Apr. 26 - May 9 with flocks in the hundreds commonly reported (v.o.), and they appeared at Inuvik May 12. The Snow Bunting migration was similar, but about two weeks earlier.

**OBSERVERS AND CONTRIBUTORS** — Jack Christensen, Denny & Patricia Denison, Lloyd Freese, Robert Frisch, Sylvia Hackney, John Lammers, Heidi Ledergerber, Maria Ledergerber, Brent Liddle, Don Mackenzie, Hector MacKenzie, Rose Mazur, David McCargo, Bea & George McLeod, David Mossup, Arnold Nijssen, Wilf Oakley, Harold Pankratz, Carson & Sally Petersen, Fred & Kate Postoloski, Karel Sars, Don Schuler, Douglas Sias, Frank Sias, William Sinclair, Ernest Swerhun, Lois Tremblay, Pauline Wilson; v.o., various observers; Y.C.S., Yukon Conservation Society. — **WAYNE R. NEILLY, Haines Junction, Yukon, YOB 1L0.**

## NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION /Thomas H. Rogers

The spring season was one of the coldest and snowiest on record, continuing the late winter trend. Heavy April snows and temperatures much below normal added to the already deep snowpack in the mountains and dumped more snow in the valleys. May temperatures were close to normal, with strong winds in some localities and late snowstorms in others. Many

areas had deficient precipitation which, however, had little effect because of the accumulated snow. Flooding occurred in the Helena, Mont. area. Plant growth was delayed from one to four weeks and even more at higher elevations.

Those contributors who evaluated the effect of the weather on the migration almost unanimously asserted that many arrivals in perhaps every major bird group were late, that many wintering species lingered long often far beyond their normal departure date and that nesting of some species was deferred. A few remarkable exceptions are described in the main text. Hand analyzed the situation at Missoula for 35 species, mostly land birds, and found that 16 arrived from 6-26 days later than the median arrival date, six were within one to four days of the median, 13 arrived at or in advance of it and two set new early records. Proportionately more species were late in April than in May and fewer were early. On the other hand, many late-May-arriving species were behind schedule, a few not having arrived by the end of the month.

Many displaced species were found, ten from eastward and fifteen from the West or Southwest. Those from the East were mostly warblers (three) and Fringilids (four) and those from the West, mostly water associated species (eight) and Fringillids (four).

Projected into summer, the effects of the cool, wet spring should be abundant vegetative growth supplying food and cover and well-filled lakes, marshes and streams, promising an excellent nesting season for bird life.

**LOONS AND GREBES** — Common Loons were returning in April and May, the earliest Apr. 13 in the Bozeman area. A very late bird still in winter plumage was on the Columbia R. at Richland, Wash. May 24 The earliest Red-necked Grebes were at Coeur d' Alene L., Ida. Apr. 13. About 20 were at Kootenai N.W.R. Bonners Ferry, Ida. during the spring. A nest of this species with four eggs about May 14 at Liberty I., Wash. was destroyed by a storm a week later (GV) One bird at Harrison L. near Harrison, Mont. furnished only the second spring record for that area (ETH,RAH & PDS). Large numbers appeared on rivers at Prince George, B.C. in mid-May.

**HERONS AND IBISES** — Single Great Egrets visited McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash. and the Nampa Ida. area and two were seen at Pocatello, Ida. Two Snowy Egrets at Central Park, south of Manhattan, Mont. May 30 were noteworthy (ETH,RAH & PDS) as was one at the mouth of the Yakima R. near Richland May 11-12 (REW & EM) and another at the mouth of the Tucannon R., Columbia Co., Wash., May 4 (JM) The Black-crowned Night Heron nesting colony near St. Andrews, Grant Co., Wash. seemed to be in trouble, with only four birds there May 18. A fair-sized heronry of the species at the Yakima R. mouth had several birds on nests and in the air May 12 and a colony was found at the desert ecology area south of Quincy, Wash. (PWC). A White-faced Ibis appeared at a hatchery near Hamilton, Mont. (WJ) and another possibly the same bird, was seen at Ravalli N.W.R. near Stevensville, Mont. at about the same time (RT)



In the Pocatello, Ida. area the birds appeared Apr. 7 near the Portneuf R. and on May 24 at least 20 were on Market L. where they nested last year.

**WATERFOWL** — Snowstorms in early April in n.w. Montana harassed Whistling Swans. About 100 in Helena Valley found little open water and no food. Several of the birds became too weak to fly. A flock of 50 was seen in the Fortine, Mont. area Apr. 7 flying high toward the southwest, apparently seeking open water. Weydemeyer speculated that the more severe weather east of the Continental Divide drove many swans westward. He reported many in Ravalli Co. even in small ponds where they normally do not appear, in mid-April. He received a report from an unspecified locality east of the Divide of a flock of swans taking cover in a ranch shed and remaining three days while the rancher fed them! Over 10,000 Whistling Swans were at Malheur N.W.R. early in the period. A pair of Trumpeter Swans in the display pool at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash. produced a brood of seven (FBH). Thirty-five Trumpeters at Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., had four nests located or suspected.

Canada Goose nesting pairs were down 11% from 1974 at Malheur N.W.R., with 1800 birds present. At Kootenai N.W.R. they were having an exceptionally good nesting, with 50 goslings, a record high number, counted so far. Nesting in the Helena area was apparently delayed by the harsh weather. Fifty White-fronted Geese remained at Malheur N.W.R. until Apr. 13. A single bird was at Baker, Ore. Apr. 6 (AW) and three remained at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash. for three weeks in mid-May (OHV). Malheur N.W.R. had over 28,000 Snow Geese in early April; numbers were believed up in the valley south of Flathead L., Mont. A Ross' Goose was at Malheur N.W.R. in mid-April (BT)

Pair counts indicated an upward trend in duck nesting at Malheur N.W.R., which had about 27,000 birds there. Overall waterfowl trends were impossible to arrive at because of personnel shortages at some refuges, resulting in scant or no reports.

Gadwall pairs were seen throughout the period at Kootenai N.W.R., raising hopes they might nest there. A ♂ **European Wigeon** was closely observed on Cougar Bay, Coeur d'Alene L., Apr. 20 (SGS). A brood of eight young Wood Ducks was on the Yakima R. near Parker May 29. The species was present at Salmon, Ida., a highly unusual event there, most of the spring season. Canvasback were seen in above usual numbers in the Helena area, where 150 were on Hauser Res. and a like number on L. Helena. The same number was estimated for them on Pablo Res. near Ronan, Mont. They were described as common at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash. At least three Greater Scaup were at Reardan, Wash. Apr. 24. A ♂ Harlequin Duck was on Liberty L., Spokane Co., Wash. May 20 (GV), and one was seen at Lakeview, Pend Oreille L., Ida. May 31 (DC). About 35 Red-breasted Mergansers at Ravalli N.W.R. Apr. 15 were noteworthy, as the species occurs only erratically in w. Montana (WW). At least 50 were on Am. Falls Res. near Pocatello May 19, late for so many. Some 32 were on Banks L., Grant Co., Wash. Apr. 12 and one was on the Yakima R.

Apr. 30. More than usual numbers were reported at Salmon, Ida.

**HAWKS** — Single Goshawks were sighted in the Beaver Creek area near Baker and at Fortine, where they have become very rare. Two nests of Swanson's Hawk were located in the Columbia Basin of c. Washington (WD). Rough-legged Hawks lingered very late, often well into May, in many localities. Three to five stayed until about the second week of May at Kootenai N.W.R., apparently because of very high mouse populations. Three sightings of the Ferruginous Hawk were made in c. Washington and one in Park Co., Mont. Their density in s. Idaho in the Pocatello area was very low, coinciding with low rabbit numbers. Only one nest was found in 900+ square miles of desert (CHT). In the Pocatello area only one Golden Eagle nest, with two half-grown young May 28, was found, apparently because of the dearth of rabbits. The Snake R. Birds of Prey Natural Area, Ida. had 21 Golden Eagle nests with 33 young. A pair was at a nest in Ellensburg Canyon south of Ellensburg, Wash. A brood of five young Prairie Falcons was banded in w. Montana. Three sightings of Peregrine Falcons were made in s. Idaho. The only Merlin sightings were of one in n.w. Montana and a pair in w.c. Oregon.

**GALLINACEOUS BIRDS** — Four ♂ Sharp-tailed Grouse, down from 20 two years ago, were seen near Omak, Wash. Apr. 20 (EH). The only other report was of one south of Creston, Wash. where 15 - 20 dancing Sage Grouse males were also seen Apr. 12 (SAS). In the Rupert, Ida. area their numbers were down, with 17 males and eight females at three booming grounds (WHS). A pair of **Scaled Quail** was seen and photographed near Beverly, Grant Co., Wash. May 4 (JE,LPa). A single **Mountain Quail** was seen at Table Rock Viewpoint, Columbia Co., Wash. (JW) and one was found in the Lemhi Mts. near Howe, Ida. (MRC). A ♀ Turkey was sighted near Naches, Wash. and the species was seen in the Bozeman area.

**CRANES** — Totalling at least 1500, Sandhill Cranes were moving north in the Bozeman area, s.w. Idaho and c. Oregon and Washington during April. A group of about 60 tried to land on the lawn of a home in Parker Heights, near Yakima.

Fourteen eggs taken by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from Whooping Crane nests in Canada were placed in Sandhill Crane nests at Grays L. in s.e. Idaho in an attempt to start a flock there (Spokane *Spokesman-Review*, May 31).

**SHOREBIRDS** — From a human point of view the shorebird movement was disappointing, with high water levels greatly reducing feeding areas. A few of the uncommon Semipalmated Plover appeared at Ennis, Mont., the first May 25, a record late date; on Am. Falls Res. in the Nampa area, Ida. and at Newman L., Spokane Co., Wash. One at Richland May 31 was two weeks later than any previous late date (REW). A **Snowy Plover** appeared again this spring at Malheur N.W.R. May 8. Single Black-bellied Plovers showed up at Malheur N.W.R. Apr. 27 and at Banks L. and St

Andrews in Grant Co., Wash. (JA,WH). The Upland Sandpiper seemed to be maintaining its precarious footing in the Spokane Valley east of Spokane; three were found May 16 (JA). Ann Ward got her first spring record for the Solitary Sandpiper at Baker, Ore., with two on May 3. Two were seen Apr. 30 and May 7 at Pocatello, where they are always rare (CHT). A Dunlin stopped for a few days the second week of May at Ravalli N.W.R., Stevensville, Mont. (PLW *et al.*). A few appeared at the Yakima R. mouth Apr. 17 and May 11 (REW) and 12 were at Am. Falls Res., Pocatello, May 19 (MRC). The Nampa area had 24 Black-necked Stilts May 18 and six were in the Rupert, Ida. area Apr. 16. Thirteen N. Phalaropes, rare in s. Idaho, were at Springfield May 20 (MRC). Thirty-plus at Reardan, Wash. on the same date were noteworthy.

**GULLS AND TERNS** — A Bonaparte's Gull at Fortine May 3 was Weydemeyer's first ever there in spring. A remarkable 40 Ring-billed Gulls were at Salmon, Ida., where they are listed as very rare, during the third week of May (HBR). The Charlo, Mont. area had three Franklin's Gulls and two Com. Terns May 7 (CJH). A few Caspian Terns were seen in the Yakima, Richland and Umatilla, Ore. areas and in s. Idaho. Two were shot at a trout farm near Pocatello Apr. 27. Federal authorities were notified.

**OWLS** — Single Barn Owls appeared at Yakima and Clarkston, Wash. and in the Nampa, Ida. area. The last of the wintering Snowy Owls were four seen Apr. 3 and three Apr. 12 near Davenport, Wash., and one at Bonners Ferry, Ida. Apr. 25. Burrowing Owl sightings in c. Oregon and Washington and s. Idaho were encouraging and may represent an increase. Two Barred Owls were heard at Trinity Valley Ecological Reserve near Vernon, B.C. May 30 (JG). A Saw-whet Owl was heard south of Vernon at Oyama Apr. 25 (JG).

**POOR-WILLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — Single individuals of the scarce Poor-wills were found May 10 at Wenas Creek campground n.w. of Yakima (DR & JS) and May 18 in the Odessa, Wash. area (JA & WH). "Hundreds" of Black Swifts in flocks of 30-50 were fighting their way north against strong wind and heavy rain at Vernon the afternoon of May 17 (JB). About four White-throated Swifts were at a cliff in the South Thompson valley near Spence's Bridge May 28. If breeding they would make a considerable range extension in British Columbia (JG). Sightings of Black-chinned Hummingbirds were more numerous. In the Bitterroot Valley around Stevensville, Mont. the species has become the most common one at feeders (MG). The species was recorded at Malheur N.W.R. where it is rare. A Calliope Hummingbird at Malheur N.W.R. May 18 was the first since 1970.

**WOODPECKERS** — Davenport, Wash. had a ♀ "Yellow-shafted" Flicker Apr. 20. A Lewis' Woodpecker was seen entering a nest hole at Liberty L., Wash. May 24 and thereafter (GV). A White-headed Woodpecker was watched as it excavated a hole in a dead snag at Wenas Creek campground Apr. 30. A pair of Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers was observed in the Steel Circle residence area in Crater Lake N.P.,

Ore., from May 24 on. A nest of this species was found at Fish L. near L. Wenatchee, Chelan Co., Wash. (HO). Single individuals of the scarce N. Three-toed Woodpecker were found at Heyburn S.P., Benewah Co., Ida. May 24 (RM) and at 8600 ft. in the Lemhi Mts. near Howe, Ida. May 29 (MRC).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — An Ash-throated Flycatcher was found Apr. 30 at Wilson Creek bridge near the Yakima R. (YAS). March 2 was the earliest ever arrival date for Say's Phoebe at Vernon, where the area was completely snow-covered (JG). Baker, Ore. had one on Feb. 17, however (AW). A pair that built a nest on the porch of a home near Lowden, west of Walla Walla, had young hatching May 3. One at Missoula Mar. 15 was 11 days earlier than Hand's previous early date there. A total of 12 singing ♂ Gray Flycatchers was obtained at the isolated colony at Wenas Creek campground May 24 (EH). Swallow arrivals seemed about on time except for Tree Swallows, which seemed late. Following a violent storm May 11 thousands of Cliff Swallows swarmed in the canyon of the Yakima R. between Yakima and Ellensburg (NFM). Bozeman had a Purple Martin May 24 (RLE).

**JAYS THROUGH CREEPERS** — A pair of **Blue Jays** stayed through April just south of Bigfork, Mont. (HE). An occupied Com. Raven nest was located on Yakima Firing Range. The nest of a Brown Creeper was found May 24 in a burn at 3400 ft. on Browne Mt. just s.e. of Spokane.

**WRENS THROUGH THRUSHES** — Sight records suggest that Bewick's Wren is extending its range in c. Washington. It was reported near Malaga, south of Wenatchee (PWC); at Satus, halfway from Yakima to Richland (YAS), and at Lewis and Clark Trail S.P. near Dayton (SM). The Mockingbird that wintered in Bozeman was seen into late May (LM) and a Brown Thrasher that wintered at Malheur N.W.R. stayed at least as late as Apr. 15 (CL,BT). A single Hermit Thrush appeared at 4000 ft. in Crater Lake N.P. Apr. 22 when four feet of snow covered almost all the ground. A ♀ Western Bluebird seen May 24 at Wenas Creek campground was mated to a male that appeared to be a hybrid Western X Mountain Bluebird (EH).

**WARBLERS** — Some species were late, particularly in the Missoula area. However, others were right on time and the Am. Redstart showed up at Spokane May 17, nine days ahead of the median arrival date. As for unusual records, Malheur N.W.R. had a Black-and-white Warbler May 26, the first since 1973. A "Myrtle" Warbler, Ann Ward's first there, appeared at Baker May 7 and one or two were in the Nampa area May 11-20. The Black-throated Gray was seen at Malheur May 26 and singles were seen near Howe and Aberdeen in s.w. Idaho, where they are more to be expected. An ad. ♂ **Black-throated Green Warbler** May 18 was Malheur's first and Oregon's third record (RS). A **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, belatedly reported, was sighted in December at Bear L. in extreme s.e. Idaho (JJ). A **Palm Warbler** was noted at Malheur

N.W.R. May 17 (FS) and a N. Waterthrush, listed as rare in fall and winter at that refuge, was reported May 19 (RS). Elsewhere the species was noted only in the Bozeman and Pocatello areas. The Com. Yellowthroat was mentioned as sighted at seven localities, mostly in the w. and s. parts of the Region. In the lower Flathead Valley around Charlo, Mont. it arrived early, May 11.

**BLACKBIRDS AND TANAGERS** — Bobolinks were on nesting grounds at Malheur N.W.R. by May 17. A **Rusty Blackbird** was identified at close range along the Snake R. near Blackfoot, Apr. 15 (CHT). Western Tanager numbers were distinctly up in the Wenatchee area and at Prince George, B.C. where the May 17 arrival date was earlier than for many localities much farther south. Their arrival at Vernon, B.C. May 14 was described as very late.

**FINCHES** — A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was seen for several days w. of Bozeman and verified May 30 (ETH,RAH & PDS). In s. Idaho two imm. males were banded at Pocatello May 23 (CHT) and single birds were sighted near American Falls May 25 and near Aberdeen May 26 (MRC). A singing **Dickcissel** was found at Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, Mont. May 25 (PLW). Evening Grosbeak and Cassin's Finch numbers remained high in the Coeur d' Alene-Spokane area and at Fortine. Young of the latter were reported from Apr. 14 on. Bozeman had a **Purple Finch** at a feeder Apr. 16 (ETH) and the House Finch was noted there May 25. At least one male and three ♀ **Purple Finches** were at Fortine, Mont. for a few days beginning May 5, perhaps w. Montana's first record (WW). Six House Finches were at Fortine May 3 (WW). The only White-winged Crossbills were two at Bickleton in the mountains of Klickitat Co., Wash. and two at Hayden L., Ida. May 17 (RM). Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were found in the Gallatin R. canyon s. of Bozeman, as were Black Rosy Finches Apr. 18 (ETH & RAH). The former were present throughout the period feeding along roadsides in Crater Lake N.P.

**SPARROWS** — Green-tailed Towhees were reported in the Bozeman, Pocatello and Baker areas. Grasshopper Sparrow numbers at Spokane were still down, with three, possibly more, seen May 16 (JA). The only other report was of one found dead in Pocatello Apr. 17 (CHT). Two **Black-throated Sparrow** reports came in. The birds were found nesting near Nampa (LP) and one was photographed near Missoula about May 21 (RLH & PLW). This is the second record for Montana. A Sage Sparrow in a Bozeman yard May 13 was the first there in 50 years (RAH,ETH,PDS *et al.*). From one to four Harris' Sparrows appeared at Prince George, Richland, Walla Walla, Baker, and at Spokane and Davenport, Wash. The White-crowned Sparrow migration seemed sparse in the Spokane area and in interior British Columbia, looked very good at Baker and seemed normal elsewhere. Three **White-throated Sparrows** were seen and heard near American Falls, Ida. May 19 (MRC). The seldom noted Lincoln's Sparrow was seen at Bozeman, Davenport, Richland, Baker and Sunriver, Ore. A Lapland Longspur lingered in e. Washington south of Omak until Apr. 15 (PM) and one, the first

since 1967, showed up at the abandoned airport south of Missoula Apr. 17. That locality has largely become urbanized (RLH). The only Snow Bunting reported was of a flock of 50 near Davenport Apr. 3.

**CONTRIBUTORS** — (Area editors in boldface, number of observers in area, observers cited): British Columbia: **James Grant** (7), John Baumbrough; Idaho Coeur d' Alene area, **Shirley G. Sturts** (6), Dean Carrier, Ron McDow; Kootenai N.W.R., **Delano A. Pierce**; Pocatello area, **Charles H. Trost** (4), Mark R. Collie, (JJ) Joe Jeppson, Leon Powers; Rupert area, **W. H. Shillington** (2); Salmon area, **Hadley B. Roberts**, s.w. area, **Belle Shaw** (31); Montana: upper Flathead Valley (Bigfork), **Wanda Jamieson** (7), Herb Earhart, Bitterroot Valley (Stevensville), **Opal Foust**; Bozeman area, **P.D. Skaar** (6) R. L. Eng, Eve T. and Ray A. Hays, Louis Moos; lower Flathead Valley (Charlo), **C. J. Henry**; n.w. area, (Fortine), **Winton Weydemeyer**, Helena area, **Sid Martin** (4); Oregon c. area, (Bend), **Julie Johnson** (21); Malheur N.W.R., **Richard Sjostrom** (4), Carroll Littlefield, Floyd Schrock, Bill Tweit; n.e. area, (Baker), **Ann Ward**; Crater Lake N.P. **Robert V. Ellis**; Washington: Asotin and Garfield Cos., **Margaret J. Polumsky** (6); McNary N.W.R., Owen H. Vivion; "Tri-cities" area (Richland), **Robert E. Woodley** (6), Elisabeth Moore; n.e. area, **Mrs S.O. Stanley** (Spokane Audubon Society) (11), James Acton, Warren A. Hall, Frances B. Huston, Glen Volyn; Walla Walla area, **Niel F. Meadowcroft** (11), Jim May, Shirley Muse; n.c. area (Wenatchee), **Wayne Doane** (4), Phil W. Cheney, Howard Oswood; Yakima Valley (Yakima Audubon Society), **Alice Horschel**, (9).

**OTHER CONTRIBUTORS CITED** — Jim Erckmann, Marion Gebhart, Eugene Hunn, Ralph L. Hand (WJ) William Jellison, Phil Mattocks, (LPa) Lynn Paulson, Dick Reynolds, Jan Smith, Robert Twist, John Wingfield and Philip L. Wright — **THOMAS H. ROGERS, E. 10820 Maxwell, Spokane, Wa. 99206**

## MOUNTAIN WEST /Hugh E. Kingery

Spring brought almost weekly snowstorms to the Mountain West — an interminably wintry spring caused mortality to thousands of birds (particularly well-



documented in Utah), but also ushered in a memorable migration. In Nevada the heavy moisture nurtured growth all over the desert, affording migrants a wider choice of resting spots than the usual oases which birds and bird watchers usually frequent during migration. The stormy spring delayed leafing of cottonwoods by three weeks, and the migration seemed to run about that late. In Southeastern Colorado the storms whipped up days-long dust clouds reminiscent of the Dust Bowl era. H. Frost attributes to two severe cold spells in central Utah "rather high mortality of insectivores." On April 30 his class picked up 200 dead swallows, of all six species. On May 20 after another cold spell with snow many birds died in a Massachusetts-sized part of western Utah; most numerous were warblers, juncos, tanagers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, towhees, Chipping Sparrows, buntings, and siskins. He postulates that snow and cold reduced insect activity and lack of food put additional stress on the birds in terms of energy needs. Examinations showed empty stomachs, low fat content, and some tissue deterioration. Perry cites similar mortality at Flaming Gorge N.R.A., Utah, after the May 29-30 storm, with a heavy toll of tanagers, doves, and especially Chipping Sparrows.

Utah's Wildlife Department reported meadowlarks so hungry they ate small birds hit by cars, and Chipping Sparrows and Gray Flycatchers found frozen in rocky outcroppings where they sought shelter. At Logan Dixon says a Black-throated Gray Warbler dropped off a branch, frozen, at the feet of a startled birdwatcher.

Despite the disaster which seemed most concentrated in Utah, the variety of birds in the Region ran high. Of the 400 species reported in the Region, Colorado had 344, Nevada 250, Utah 242, and Wyoming 202. Although the variety was proportional to observers in the field, Colorado did enjoy an outstanding May migration.

Some species staged spectacular invasions: White-faced Ibis, Western Tanager, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak, plus orioles, rare warblers, and Whimbrels. Some staged local spectacles, like the 2000 Northern Phalaropes on a prairie reservoir in Colorado, 20,000 Eared Grebes at Bear River N.W.R., Utah, and 293 dowitchers feeding in a Crow Creek pasture east of Cheyenne. Colorado added three species to its state list and Nevada added two.

**LOONS TO CORMORANTS** — All four states participated in reporting more Com. Loons than ever, topped by Utah's concentration of 42 on Apr. 13 on Deep Creek Res. in Tooele Co. (PA) and 13 at Pelican L., Uintah Co. Apr. 23 (MS). An April snowstorm grounded dozens of Eared Grebes on a golf course at Dugway, Utah Apr. 15, and one in a gutter in Salt Lake City. Grand Junction had the highest count of 500 on Apr. 26, until an unseasonal irruption of 20,000 at Bear R. on May 29, gone by May 31. On Apr. 20, 400 Double-crested Cormorants plied the waters of Prewitt Res., Colo. Bear R. reported good numbers of nesting cormorants — 60 nests, 160 young — with some loss owing to weather, and Stillwater had more than last year.

**HERONS, EGRETS** — Many observers saw the Little Blue Heron at Denver Apr. 12-15. Zion N. P. re-

ported its first Cattle Egret, in company of eight Snowy Egrets which dropped into upper Zion Canyon May 18 because of cloudy and rainy weather (†). Reflecting the desert dispersal, one Great Egret stopped at Diamond Valley, Eureka Co., Nev., May 3, its first record. Downtown Grand Junction, Colo., boasts nesting Snowy Egrets and Black-crowned Night Herons; a May 15 count tallied 31 egrets and eight herons. An Am. Bittern dropped into a Pueblo backyard, mistaking a pool and chain fence for its habitual marsh and cattail closet; it unsuccessfully tried to dissolve into the fence. A butterfly net enabled Ligon to remove it to a real marsh.

**IBIS** — White-faced Ibis overflowed s. Nevada, apparently via everywhere else in the Mountain West, because they arrived in normal numbers at Stillwater — which had 2000 on the nesting grounds May 21 — and Bear R., where nests increased to over 300 pair (although with some evidence of soft shells). Almost every other reporter mentioned first records or high counts: 23 sites in Colorado including one at high mountain Twin Lakes May 21, one at McCoy May 4, 65 at Boulder, 45 at Pueblo, 43 at Hayden, 140 at Grand Jct. Wyoming records included six at Dubois Apr. 30 May 7, plus several in the eastern half. Utah had peaks of 25 at Kanab May 8-9 and 75 in Garfield Co. May 8, plus a surprising five at Zion May 5.

**WATERFOWL** — Nesting Canada Geese at Monte Vista N.W.R., Colorado, dropped to 33 nests compared with 79 two years ago; Bryant attributes the drop to refuge hunting pressure combined with a spread of nesting geese to suitable habitats throughout the San Luis Valley. Lack of water will reduce duck nesting at Monte Vista; the breeding population of 3200 has dropped from 8500 last year. The Mountain West duck migration had mostly ended by April, with 9067 the season's highest. Colorado count Apr. 19-20 at Julesburg Res. Hutton Lake N.W.R., Wyo. counted 9796 ducks on May 1, including 4630 scaups. Pintails dominated the Utah migration. Bear R. tallied lower duck counts than average, but 30,000 Pintails; Desert L. had 3392 Pintails Apr. 9, and Pelican L. had 2400 Pintails among its 6500 ducks Apr. 9 (MS). Observers in all four states identified almost 20 Greater Scaups among the Lessers. Late Oldsquaws remained for observation at Ft. Mohave Res. south of Las Vegas, to Apr. 9 and at Kanab Apr. 26.

**HAWKS, EAGLES** — A Mississippi Kite strayed north to Fort Collins May 19 (DWS) — the furthest northwest that species has strayed. Observers noted 12 Goshawks, 35 Sharp-shinneds, and 36 Cooper's, continuing the increase which the latter two have shown over the past three years. Utah's second **Broad-winged Hawk** stopped at Provo, Utah, Apr. 25; Shirley observed distinct banding, rusty horizontal markings on the breast (*fide* HHF). Nevada had its first **Zone-tailed Hawk** at Las Vegas Apr. 19-21. It behaved like a Turkey Vulture, except that it would fold its wings, assuming a triangular shape, and then dive-glide (J & KO; details to be published elsewhere). Zion's annual spring Black Hawk arrived Apr. 10; the next day it or another was seen 20 miles downstream, for the only other observation. In Colorado, Golden Eagle nesting



pairs numbered close to the total of 1974, but production dropped dramatically as only half the pairs are laying eggs. Tentative diagnosis: low jackrabbit population (WDG). Observations of Ospreys tripled over last year, with the increase particularly striking in Nevada. We had eight Peregrine reports, up over previous years.

**GROUSE, CRANES, RAILS** — Sharp-tailed Grouse lead a precarious existence in not-yet-suburban Douglas Co., south of Denver — threatened by a multitude of proposed developments. The second April Douglas Co. survey turned up 50 birds (41 last year). Lesser Prairie Chickens show a stable population in Baca Co., Colo., protected by Comanche Nat'l Grassland; so do Greater Prairie Chickens in Yuma Co., Colo., which have no protection from encroaching farm development (WDG). Cold weather delayed the Sandhill Crane departure from Monte Vista by 3 weeks, and one even remained to May 31. A migrating flock of 350 hit Grand Junction Apr 3; 35 cranes at Piceance Basin, near Meeker, Colo., were foraging and dancing in late April, as were 180 near Hayden, Colo., on a long-used spring staging area. Diligent work by Colorado Audubon groups and the state Div. of Wildlife publicized this staging ground, and detoured around it a planned coal access road.

**SHOREBIRDS** — Hedges' explorations of desert reservoirs around Kanab produced odd s. Utah sightings such as 15 Semipalmated Plovers Apr. 27 (and a few to May 11); two Black-bellied Plovers May 11-12; a peak of 38 Willets Apr. 29; a Pectoral Sandpiper May 9; and 12 Marbled Godwits May 29. These observations may echo the Nevada desert dispersal. Northeastern Colorado had three reports of Piping Plovers (SL,VR,BA,BC,MOS,et al.) May 10-17. At Overton the O'Connells found Nevada's second spring Am. Golden Plover Apr. 13. Black-bellied Plovers swept through in such unusual numbers that Bear R. has declared them a common spring migrant — with 250 plus in early May.

Colorado had 2 Ruddy Turnstones — at Julesburg May 10 (BA, SL,VR) and Bonny Res. May 17 (DSt). Whimbrels invaded, with one at Overton, Nev. Apr. 13-17 (JO,CSL,ph.) and two at Las Vegas; others included Cheyenne's first flock, 11 May 7 (HEK) plus 12 at Sheridan May 8, and 5 Colorado reports, including 10 at Longmont May 8. Red Knots visited Overton Apr. 17 (JO,CSL), Logan, Utah, May 5 (KLD), and Casper May 26 (OKS). Dunlins occurred in unprecedented numbers, with 18 birds at 9 sites through all 4 states. Short-billed Dowitchers were identified in Kanab May 2, Boulder Apr. 8 (SL), and Denver May 13 (BA). Long-billed Dowitchers seemed scarce, except for 293 at Cheyenne May 7 (HEK). A Hudsonian Godwit stopped over in Pueblo May 29 (VT et al.). American Avocets arrived at their Bear R. stronghold 14,000 strong, but weather delayed nesting for a month. Bear River's Black-necked Stilt nesting population was average at 3500. One migrating stilt fought blowing snow along a Pioche, Nev. highway on May 20 — flying south (JA). Peak counts of Wilson's Phalaropes mounted to 1600 at Hutton L. May 15 and to 1500 at Julesburg Res. May 10. A Red Phalarope at Monte Vista May 28-30 added to Colorado's handful of records. Andrew's discovery

of 2000 **Northern Phalaropes**, flashing wing stripes on Prospect Res. n.e. of Denver May 13, ranks as the most unusual observation of the season.

**GULLS, TERNS** — A couple of winter Glaucous Gulls lingered, one in winter plumage at Pueblo Apr 15 (VT) and one at Farmington Bay Apr. 20 (fide PA). At Bear R., California Gulls increased about 30 per cent; with about 2000 nests and over 5000 eggs, the rising Great Salt L. may be responsible for the influx. Franklin's Gulls continue to change their migration pattern with spring appearances in the hundreds at Colorado Springs, Boulder, and Longmont. Their numbers at Bear R. declined, but strays visited Alamo, Nev., exhausted by a snowstorm, and Las Vegas, Kanab, Cheyenne and Cody, Wyo. A single Sabine's Gull at Colorado Springs Apr. 21 (EW) provided a rare spring record. Six Caspian Terns visited Overton Apr 17, with four remaining Apr. 24, and Sheridan had its second on May 3 (PH,OKS). They arrived at Stillwater 2 weeks late, and Bear R. notes an increase in nesting birds, with 52 nests, 96 eggs, and over 175 birds.

**DOVES, OWLS** — A flock of 5-25 Band-tailed Pigeons spent the spring in Salt Lake City, seen by many observers. The Inca Dove at Las Vegas May 15 was Nevada's first spring and tenth state record (JO,CL). Flammulated Owls hooted at Zion Apr 26 and May 9, and Piceance Basin in late May; a dead one was found at Logan May 10 (JY). Rarely found in the Mt. West, three Whip-poor-wills called and flushed on Mt. Charleston near Las Vegas May 29. Poor-wills arrived first at Pueblo Apr. 4; Reno had its first in years May 28. Davis Dam on May 1 and Colorado Springs on May 10 had the first Com. Nighthawks.

Hummingbirds arrived late this year, with the first Black-chinneds at Zion Apr. 3 (Mar. 28 is average), and Davis Dam Apr. 9. Surprising spring Rufous Hummingbirds visited L. Mohave Apr. 1, Piceance Basin in April, and Colorado Springs, Fort Collins and Glenwood Springs in May. Zion reports a probable ♀ Rivoli's Hummingbird in May.

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — In spite of the inclement spring, and unlike other years, flycatchers arrived in mid- to late May in fair numbers. On Spring Counts May 10 Pueblo counted 272 and Colorado Springs 113 W. Kingbirds, and Fort Collins had 111 May 17. Zion noted a dramatic rise in *Empidonax* May 20, when cloud cover and a snowfall dropped a migration wave of several hundred into Zion Canyon, at the same time they seemed scarce at Las Vegas. The first Gray Flycatcher arrived in Uintah Co. Apr. 23, but not until May 20 at nearby Piceance Basin. Western Wood Pewees arrived an average of 10 days earlier than in 1974. A small number apparently stayed in Piceance Basin for a week in early April (even before Say's Phoebes came); however in most places first pewees arrived the week of May 10. A stray which reached Diamond Valley May 19 perished May 23, perhaps from effects of storms on its food supply. Swallows arrived late, and in lower numbers than usual in most locations. Pueblo did count 2696 on its spring count,

but Colorado Springs had only 131, less than half of normal. Ryser reports a group of Violet-green Swallows tried to enter burrows of Bank Swallows during a heavy snow and hail storm on May 19 at Pahrana-gat Ref. At Davis Dam the wintering flock of swallows built to 10,000 Trees and 3000 Rough-winged in mid-April, the flock dropped to 4000 by Apr. 30. Tree Swallows arrived at Logan Mar. 29, Pueblo and Durango, Colo., Apr. 5, Boulder Apr. 8. While R M N.P. mustered a good count of 123 May 17, Denver's peak was a mere 62 on May 23. Scattered Barn Swallows appeared on early dates like Apr. 4 at Bear R., Apr. 6 at Reno, and Apr. 10 at Boulder. An out-of-place Com. Bushtit visited Cheyenne May 14 (MST)

**WRENS, THRASHERS** — First House Wrens arrived at Las Vegas Apr. 6 and Durango Apr. 9. The low spring count at Colorado Springs — 59 — and a high count by one party of 65 at Bonny May 17-18, suggested late migration for the bulk of the population. Two of winter's Winter Wrens stayed at Boulder Apr. 12 (BA) and Kanab Apr. 19. Bewick's Wren maintained normal numbers, but strays reached Pawnee Nat'l Grassland May 7 (HEK) and Dubois May 1 and 17. Sight and song identified a spring Short-billed Marsh Wren at Pueblo Apr. 5 (D.F.O.). Three Bendire's Thrashers accompanied Sage Thrashers at Vernon, Utah May 24 (GK). Zion had a rare Sage Thrasher Apr. 1, and they arrived at Las Vegas Apr. 6, staying late to May 18 at Uintah Co., Apr. 24 at Dubois, and Apr. 27 at Reno. They were very scarce at Denver with only one report, May 15.

**THRUSHES** — The storms trapped large numbers of Am Robins in Zion Canyon the first week in April, but May Spring Counts tallied normal numbers such as 445 at Colorado Springs and 210 at Longmont. Zion had its first Varied Thrush on Apr. 28, apparently blown in by high west winds. Colorado observers found four Wood Thrushes, with the one May 18 at Gunnison having strayed far into the mountains (ASH). Boulder recorded the first Hermit Thrush Apr. 10, and Durango noted the first Swainson's Apr. 15, but peak migration counts came in late May. At Longmont, Collister banded 33 Swainson's May 24 - June 3, and hundreds staged an isolated influx into Berthoud June 1. Cheyenne had 50 on May 17. Las Vegas had only two Hermits and one Swainson's altogether, the latter May 28. A Gray-cheeked Thrush at Bonny May 11 was thoroughly studied (BA,SL,VR). Mountain Bluebirds appeared early and in numbers, and the early April snowstorms caught many. North of Longmont hundreds sought shelter around houses and outbuildings, crammed into every cranny. "They seemed exhausted, hungry after an all-day snowstorm. Some even entered the house when the door was opened ... I really expected casualties, but we found none. Next morning most had left, but many may have perished since insect food was not available and the temperature went below zero." (AC). Numbers in the Colorado mountains did decline, and only 200 were reported from Boulder in April. However, Cody had 150 in early April, and at Eureka, 105 appeared on Apr. 25, unusually high.

**GNATCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS** — More than usual Blue-gray Gnatcatcher reports came from the piedmont, with 11 reports from Pueblo to Cheyenne. All these reports postdated the species' arrival on its normal nesting grounds in Kanab, Zion, and Uintah Co. Black-tailed Gnatcatchers penetrated north to Las Vegas, with several records in April. Scattered Bohemian Waxwing flocks visited in April in Cody, Dubois, and Logan. Numerous reports of Loggerhead Shrikes suggest a reasonably healthy population in the Region, they were even plentiful in Nevada. Nevada had its third Yellow-throated Vireo May 25-27 near Las Vegas (JO), and Colorado had its third White-eyed Vireo May 31 - June 1, in Baca Co. (LW), 50 mi. from the state's first accepted record last year.

**WARBLERS** — Colorado observers tallied an amazing 39 species of warblers, including two new to the state; the other states had an ordinary migration. Nevada added the **Bay-breasted Warbler** to its list with a bird found by Lawson high in the trees at Corn Creek oasis. Other notables, all in s. Nevada, included three Black-and-whites, one Tennessee, seven Nashvilles, five Hermits, one Chestnut-sided, an Ovenbird, and a Painted Redstart. Utah's best records were a Palm Warbler at Salt Lake City, (RF, *fide* GK), the state's fourth, and a Painted Redstart Apr. 28 - May 2, Zion's third. Others in Utah included two Black-and-whites (100 miles apart on May 17) and four Nashvilles. Wyoming had a Hooded which brightened the gray sagebrush in s. Campbell Co. May 5 (JLT) and a N Parula at Cheyenne May 17 (OKS); two Black-and-whites, three Tennessees, a Virginia's at Casper, a Magnolia at Cheyenne May 17 (OKS) and two at Sheridan May 22 (MC) and May 28 (HD); a Townsend's, a Blackpoll, and an Ovenbird.

Colorado rarities begin with a Swainson's, the state's fourth record, May 20-22 (m.ob.), and two Blue-wingeds, May 3 and 10, all at Boulder. The state had four Golden-wingeds including Colorado Springs' first May 9 (EW), four Prothonotaries, and two Black-throated Blues. The state's fourth Cape May Warbler pleased Baca Co. observers May 3 (BA,SL,VR). Truan found the state's first **Hermit Warbler** in Pueblo (C.F.O.) May 8, unfortunately not seen by other Pueblo observers. The late May snowstorm produced several **Blackburnian Warblers**: three at Boulder and the state's first specimen found dead in a yard west of Denver (DK; \*Den.Mus.Nat.Hist.). A Yellow-throated Warbler startled a D.F.O. trip when it lit on the Barr L. dam near Denver Apr. 12; another visited Pueblo May 4 (DG). Of nine Bay-breasted Warblers, six came to Boulder. Lurking in small cottonwoods near Denver May 10, the state's first **Prairie Warbler** thrice darted out of sight when chased by a larger Virginia's Warbler (HEK,PJ, *et al.*; ph.). A second one May 30-31 sang loudly enough to draw the attention of many observers at Boulder (BC,m.ob.). Collister banded Colorado's third Kentucky Warbler at Longmont, a bird which stayed May 6-9. Other Kentuckies appeared at **Durango** May 12 (ME) and Boulder May 13 (BC,SL *et al.*). Two Mourning Warbler reports, from Pueblo May 13 (VT) and Colorado Springs May 18 (C.F.O.) will add another new species for the state, if accepted by the

C F O. Records Comm. Finally, a Painted Redstart graced the Big Thompson R. bottoms for the Longmont count May 10 (WR).

Among regular Colorado warblers, Yellow-rumped staged a conspicuous migration, with notable counts like 330 at Boulder Apr. 28 (SL); a May 10 count of 277 at Colorado Springs; and on May 31, 433 at Durango. An abundance of Virginia's Warblers included high counts like Colorado Springs' 99 and Denver's 39 on May 10. Uncommon warbler records included 20 Black-and-whites, 3 Worm-eating, 19 Tennessees, 29 Nashvilles, 16 N. Parulas, 21 Magnolias (including one at Glenwood Springs May 25 and 2 at Evergreen May 30 WWB,DSt), 12 E. Slope Black-throated Grays (A mystery: these birds nest straight north of the piedmont cities near Wheatland and Casper; why do so few come up the Colorado E. Slope?); 5 Townsend's, 4 Black-throated Greens, 20 Chestnut-sided, 13 Blackpolls, and 14 Ovenbirds; 6 Palms, including one at Durango May 31 (HW), and W Slope N. Waterthrushes at Grand Jct. May 14-15 and Gunnison May 24.

**BLACKBIRDS** — Dubois had a rare Bobolink May 22-25 visiting a feeder, and Las Vegas had its second spring record May 28-30 ( ph.). Larsen located a colony of E. Meadowlarks Apr. 20 near Julesburg, with 10 found there May 10; the birds offered perfect E. Meadowlark song and 'breet' call; details included descriptions of both the tail feathers and non-streaked cheeks. Easterns favored long-grass wet meadows while nearby Westerns preferred drier pastures. Orioles invaded Nevada: Reno's best bird of the season was a Hooded which visited the Pickslay feeder May 20-23 (ph ), and the Las Vegas area recorded a surprising 16 Hoodeds during May, plus one at Pioche (*fide* JA). Scott's and N. Orioles likewise seemed numerous. Colorado had a remarkable showing of **Scott's Orioles**: at Denver an imm. male and an ad. male May 1-3 (J&JC) and May 4 (D.F.O.) became the first accepted state records; they were followed by a possible one at Glenwood Springs May 21 and a fourth using a McCoy feeder in June.

**TANAGERS** — Birders and non-birders exclaimed over the show of **Western Tanagers**. Grand Junction dubbed it the bird of the spring, with flocks everywhere from mid-May on. Similar reports came from Boulder, Pueblo, Salt Lake City, Zion, Reno, and Las Vegas. At Zion the invaders displayed "incredibly gluttonous habits at feeding stations." High counts were 35 at Las Vegas Apr. 28-30, 37 at Colorado Springs May 10, and 49 at Durango May 31. Scarlet Tanagers visited Pueblo May 13-14 (VT) and Beulah, Colo. May 10-11 (DG *et al* ), Colorado had five Summer Tanager reports, Zion had one, and the Las Vegas area had two.

**FINCHES** — The Las Vegas Cardinal reported last season stayed for the first half of April. **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**, now regular Region migrants, nevertheless staged a spectacular. Colorado had about 135 birds, Wyoming had 11, Utah had one, at Zion, and Nevada had one, at Eureka; most amazing report came from Baker, in whose Longmont yard a caterpillar hatch

attracted 16 at once. Add to the tally several hybrids Spring Counts came up with record numbers of Black-headed Grosbeaks: 86 at Colorado Springs May 20 and 158 at Durango May 31. A Blue Grosbeak at Cheyenne May 17 deserves mention. Indigo Buntings increase along the piedmont; however intermountain records included ten at Glenwood Springs (plus several hybrids), three at Durango, one at McCoy, one at a Salt Lake City feeder, and two at Las Vegas. The Region has had a smattering of Purple Finch reports in the past few years, all of them females and almost all associated with Cassin's (except a few in s. Utah 2-3 years ago and three at Las Vegas this spring). One wonders where the males are, or if the females might be young birds, male or female, or whether the plumage of female or young Cassin's varies enough to produce female Purple Finch characters. After their massive invasion last spring, Pine Siskins this year appeared in only scattered, small flocks in e. Colorado; they irrupted, though, in Glenwood Springs May 25, with about 1000 attracted by a bumper dandelion crop, and Durango counted 495 on its spring count May 31. Similarly Am Goldfinches seemed scarce especially at Las Vegas and Zion; only at Cheyenne did normal numbers arrive. Only the Colorado foothills boasted Red Crossbills, there they nested in early spring — at Evergreen four young had left the nest on Apr. 14. A Brown Towhee strayed north to Loveland, Colo., seen well on May 10 (CC,AM). Lark Buntings increased on the Colorado Springs count, to 917. Fort Collins had 408 on its Spring Count May 17, and King estimated 600 nesting on her 10,000-acre ranch at Cheyenne.

**SPARROWS** — Three Rufous-crowned Sparrows strayed north to a Colorado Springs yard May 9 (G&CB *et al.*). Nevada had a dearth of Sage Sparrows; only one in s. Nevada — that on May 31 — none at Reno, and low numbers at Diamond Valley. Large flocks of Chipping Sparrows migrated throughout the Region, with 586 on the Colorado Springs count, 1112 on Boulder's, 303 in Baca Co. May 3, many attracted to Glenwood Springs' dandelions, and similar abundance at Zion, s Nevada, and Reno. Unknown is the effect of the c Utah mortality. A **Field Sparrow** at Cheyenne May 17 is Wyoming's second of this century (OKS) Four Golden-crowned Sparrows, arriving with west winds, landed at Zion Apr. 25-26, and Logan had one Apr 25 May 8 (MHB). Several Swamp Sparrows included a handful at Pueblo regular through mid-May (JCL) and singles at Overton Apr. 19 and Las Vegas May 3 McCown's Longspurs were abundant on the e. Plains, with 500 estimated by King at her Cheyenne ranch, two on the Colorado Springs May 10 count (no prior record) and some nesting as far south as Limon, Colo. (WDG) Farmington Bay, Utah, had three Chestnut-collared Longspurs Apr. 20 (VK, *fide* PA). Van Horn located a breeding pair in late May in Piceance Basin, the first W. Slope nest.

**ABBREVIATIONS:** C.F.O. — Colorado Field Ornithologists; D.F.O. — Denver Field Ornithologists, R.M.N.P. — Rocky Mt. Nat'l Park; ph. — photograph, \* — specimen; † sight report on file with Regional Editor or as indicated.

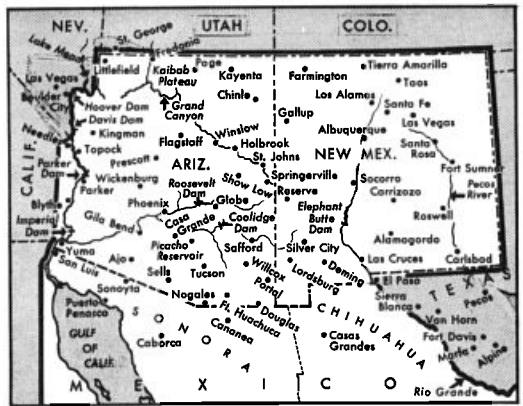
CONTRIBUTORS — (Editors collecting observations from their communities in boldface, with number of contributors listed). *Nevada*: State Editor—**C. S. Lawson**; Diamond Valley—Janet Eyre; Eureka—Art Biale; Las Vegas (14)—**C. S. Lawson**; Pahrnagat Valley—Leon Hill; Reno (10)—**Jessie Alves**; Stillwater W.M.A.—Lynn Howard; Also, John & Kay O'Connell, Bill & Jo Pickslay, Fred Ryser. *Utah*: Bear River N.W.R. — Dave Beall; Desert Lake W.M.A.—Larry B. Dalton; Glen Canyon City—Jim & Julie Clark; Kanab (3)—**S. P. Hedges**; Logan—**Ann Schimpf** (5) and **K. L. Dixon** (12); Pelican Lake—Mimi Sangster; Provo (5)—**H. H. Frost**; Salt Lake City—Gleb Kashin; Vernal—M. L. Ferry; Zion Nat'l Park (34)—**Peter Scott** & **Ken N. Kertell**. Also, Paul Adamus, M. H. Balph, Reed Ferris, Vern Kousky, Dennis Shirley, Jan Young. *Wyoming*: Casper (4)—**O.K. Scott**; Cheyenne (11)—**May Hanesworth**; Cody (4)—**Ursula Kepler**; Dubois—Mary Beck; Sheridan (9)—**Platt Hall**. Also, Marion Collins, Helen Downing, A. King, J. R. Rees, M. Stetzel (MSt), J. L. Tate, Jr. *Colorado*: Boulder—**Louise Hering** (21) and **Narca deWoskin** (37); Colorado Springs—Elinor Wills and Mahlon Speers; Denver (18)—**Bob Andrews**; Durango (19)—**R. W. Stransky**; Evergreen (25)—**W. W. Brockner**; Fort Collins **Fort Collins Audubon Society**; Greenwood Springs (11)—**Bev Hutchins**; Grand Junction (11)—**David Galinat**; Gunnison (3)—**A. S. Hyde**; Longmont, Lyons, Berthoud, Loveland (31)—**Allegra Collister**; Monte Vista N.W.R.—C. R. Bryant; Piceance Basin—Dennis Van Horn; Pueblo (11)—**Van Truan**; Rocky Mountain Arsenal—R. L. Fairbanks; R.M.N.P. (20)—**Warner Reeser**. Also, Inez Baker, Bayard Cobb, John & Joyce Cooper, Camille Cummings, Maribel Ellis, Walter D. Gaul, D. A. Griffiths, K. J. Harte, Dave Hutchinson, Paul Julian, Dolores Kenning, G. & C. Burghard, Steven Larson, J. C. Ligon, Ann Means, P. W. Post, Van Remsen, M. O. Snyder, D. W. Stahlecker, Doug Stotz, Lois Webster, Howard Winkler. — **HUGH E. KING-ERY, 869 Milwaukee St., Denver, Colo. 80206**

## SOUTHWEST REGION

**/Janet Witzeman, John P. Hubbard and Kenn Kaufman**

A cool winter passed into a cold spring — one of the coldest on record in parts of the Region — with temperatures below zero recorded in April, frost on May 6 in Tucson and Nogales, and snowfall at higher elevations into late May. So it was not surprising that observers in Arizona and western New Mexico commented on a delayed migration. Several of the less common wintering species remained later than usual, and various insect-eating birds were termed as up to two weeks behind schedule in their arrival or passage.

Another striking event that was probably related to the cold weather was the appearance of many migrants at lower elevations than normal. Transient Virginia's Warblers were much more numerous than usual in the lowest desert zones. There were more lowland reports than usual of Coues' Flycatchers, Red-faced Warblers, Hepatic Tanagers, and particularly Painted Redstarts.



The Painted Redstarts, typically early in returning, may have been seriously affected by the heavy snow in late March and early April; toward the end of the period they were found to be conspicuously scarce in many of their breeding areas.

Broad-tailed Hummingbirds — common summer residents in the Arizona mountains, and normally present there from March onward — appeared in unprecedented numbers in the lowlands around Tucson and Phoenix this spring. Farther east, at the slightly higher elevations of Portal and Silver City, the Broad-taileds were concentrated at feeders, as were orioles (Hooded, Northern and Scott's). This led many local feeder-watchers to report to our area compilers that these species were more common than usual — during weather conditions which, if anything, probably hurt the populations — further evidence that feeder data should be digested carefully, not swallowed whole.

There were scattered reports indicating that the cold and snow may have caused delayed nesting or nesting failure in some species. Piñon Jays actually nested early in northern Arizona, in response to an excellent piñon pine cone crop — but some pairs under observation failed in their first two nesting attempts, and were in their third attempts at the end of the period. Black Hawks arrived in southern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico by mid-March, as usual, but most pairs were at least a month late in their nesting. Other possible cases of delay or failure will be clarified when the nesting season reports come in.

Eastern New Mexico fared better than the rest of the Region; not only did that area escape the worst of the cold weather, it also received most of the "rarities" of the season. The latter was owing mainly to intensive mistnet surveys during May at Bonne's Draw, Roosevelt County, and Bell Lake, Lea County. These localities are oasis situations on the southeastern plains, in a section of the state which had never been so intensively worked in spring before. Predictably, these migrant traps produced an impressive list of "Eastern" birds, including three first records for New Mexico. The reader will find these two localities mentioned repeatedly in the account that follows.

LOONS — Seven Com. Loons in one group on Upper Lake Mary, Coconino Co., Ariz., Apr. 8 (RPB) was an unusual concentration. The only report of this

species in New Mexico was one at Morgan L., San Juan Co., May 25 (WS).

**CORMORANTS, HERONS** — Records of two Olivaceous Cormorants on the Gila R. in Grant Co., N. Mex., Mar. 24 (*fide* DAZ), and four on Patagonia L., Ariz., in late April (GM) were further proof that observers should not assume all cormorants in this Region to be Double-crested.

#### S. A.

The increase in reports of Olivaceous Cormorants might reflect only the increased vigilance of observers, as specimen records dating from the 19th century indicate the species has been around for a while. The adaptable Olivaceous, which in South America occupies habitats from rocky coasts and the Amazon to high Andean lakes, may be limited from ranging farther north in North America by competition from the Double-crested. One of the few areas where the two species nest side by side is at Elephant Butte L., in what is New Mexico's only known breeding colony of cormorants and most important heronry. It is also the only locality in the Region where the Olivaceous has been known to attempt nesting, beginning in 1972; this year the species built 4-5 nests there, and two small nestlings seen May 11 (CAH) were the first verification of young actually being produced in the state.

Double-crested, with 150-200 nests active by May 25 (CAH), were still by far the predominant cormorant there. Also present there May 11 were 300-500 nesting Black-crowned Night Herons, four nesting pairs of Snowy Egrets, and one nesting pair of Great Egrets (CAH); the first two species are regular there, but Great Egrets are seldom reported breeding anywhere in New Mexico.

An ad. Little Blue Heron in Phoenix May 15 (SB) was perhaps only the eighth record for Arizona; nearly half the previous occurrences have also been May records in the Phoenix area. A Cattle Egret near Albuquerque May 1 (C. Hyder, *fide* DDe) was at a new northern limit in New Mexico. The species is still rather rare and local in the state, occurring mainly in autumn and to a lesser degree in spring.

**DUCKS** — A Mexican Duck was reported without details May 10 (*fide* MW) at the Bitter Lake N.W.R., N. Mex., where persistent reports invite a deeper study of the situation. Careful counts showed Blue-winged Teal passing through the Tucson and Phoenix areas in double or more their normal numbers this spring; the Blue-winged is usually a sparse migrant in Arizona. There are few New Mexico records of Surf Scoter, so of interest was a report of two males and a female at Bosque del Apache N.W.R., Apr. 22 (G. Zahm).

**RAPTORS** — Mississippi Kites first appeared in New Mexico in 1955, coinciding with the general increase in their numbers on the southern Great Plains. Small numbers have summered more or less regularly

since then in the Rio Grande Valley and eastward. This May single adults were recorded at the new localities of Bell L. and Boone's Draw (JPH *et al.*), and two adults and two immatures were seen together in the Rio Grande Valley at the Texas/New Mexico border (BP, CD). Old and new records for the Gray Hawk — one seen n.e. of Phoenix Apr. 13-19 (SB, ST, KK) was north of any published record for Arizona (and the world), but we have just learned of an unpublished record from farther north: a nesting pair found in June 1963 at Seven Springs, 25 mi. north of Phoenix (C. Stensrude). In s.w. New Mexico, a pair of **Gray Hawks** photographed in early May (DAZ) marked the first verification of the species' occurrence in the state. The original New Mexican nesting records have been discredited: eggs taken in 1876 actually appear to be those of Cooper's Hawk (see Hubbard, 1974. *Auk* 91: 163-166). Aside from that doubtful record, and sightings near Cliff (1953) and Rodeo (1961), all reports of the Gray Hawk in New Mexico have been since 1973 in the well-worked Silver City region. Possibly the species was overlooked there before; but at least in Arizona the species has been subject to irregular fluctuations in status. These peripheral records should not be taken as evidence of any increase in numbers. Following the winter's unusual number of Merlin sightings, there was a very late report of one near Flagstaff May 20 (S. & A. Alden).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Analysis of shorebird migration in the Southwest is complicated by the presence of major migratory routes passing just to the east and west of us. In Arizona, several shorebird species have been considered regular only on the lower Colorado River at the western edge of the state. But recent coverage indicates that all the Colorado River migrants may occur east to Painted Rock Dam near Gila Bend when water conditions are right, and most of the same species turn up on the artificial ponds near Phoenix. Just to the east of our Region, the Great Plains carry the greatest shorebird flight on the continent every spring; and many of the typical plains migrants may occur sparingly in e. New Mexico, as evidenced by records from Laguna Grande, Eddy Co., this May.

On May 18-20 at Laguna Grande, the salt lake east of Loving, s.e. New Mexico, JPH *et al.* found a variety of shorebirds including five White-rumped Sandpipers, 15 Baird's Sandpipers, 25 Stilt Sandpipers, and two Semipalmated Sandpipers. These species have all been considered uncommon to rare in the Region, but migrate in numbers through the Great Plains. The Semipalmated in particular has rarely been recorded in New Mexico (the few specimens are all for April-May on the eastern plains), but it may well be overlooked.

Single Am. Golden Plovers at Painted Rock Dam Apr. 26 (SB, SMA) and the Riggs Ponds south of Phoenix May 18-20 (RBo *et al.*) were the first spring records for Arizona since 1953. Single Black-bellied Plovers were at the Riggs Pond Apr. 19-20 (RBo *et al.*) and in Phoenix May 11-16 (RS, ST *et al.*); in c. Arizona the species is an uncommon fall transient, generally rare in spring.

Whimbrels appeared twice in Arizona, where they are very rare transients: one at Painted Rock Dam Apr. 26 (SB, SMA) and one in Phoenix May 25 (BB). Spring

records of Solitary Sandpiper in n. Arizona are scarce; one was at Pipe Springs Nat'l Mon., May 11 (SH). Five Dunlin were at Bell L. Apr. 10 (MCC, CGS) and two at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Apr. 21 (B. Schrank, MW); the species is still considered rare in New Mexico. Two Sanderlings at the Riggs Ponds, May 16-18 (SMA, SB) and one to three at Willcox, Ariz., Apr. 26-May 5 (Bjo) were among the few spring records for Arizona. In e. New Mexico where the species may be a regular transient, five were at Laguna Grande May 18-20 (JPH *et al.*). Northern Phalaropes, generally rare in spring in Arizona, appeared in small numbers near Phoenix Apr. 11 - May 25. The species is sometimes abundant in the Gulf of California, where BP saw 3000 off Guaymas, Sonora, Apr. 11.

**GULLS, TERNS** — Following close on the fourth state record (March, 1975, at L. Havasu), Arizona's fifth **Laughing Gull** — an adult in near-complete breeding plumage — appeared in Phoenix May 18 (RBr, GB, RN, RW *et al.*). Six California Gulls, uncommon migrants away from the Colorado River, were at Willcox Apr. 29 (HF, D. Larkin); another was at Painted Rock Dam May 3 (ST). Two Caspian Terns at Painted Rock Dam Apr. 26-27 (SB, SMA *et al.*) further implied the similarity of the migration there to that on the lower Colorado R., the only part of the Region where the Caspian is known to be at all regular. Only five Least Terns were counted May 10 (JCC *et al.*) at Bitter Lake N.W.R., New Mexico's only breeding colony and almost only place of record for this species.

**DOVES** — White-winged Doves were recorded at Socorro, N. Mex., with two May 17 and one May 29 (PB), in the Rio Grande Valley the species occurs northward regularly only to the Las Cruces area. Also out-of-range were two Inca Doves at Albuquerque in late May (HS, *vide* DDe). This species ranges northward regularly only to Las Cruces and — recently — Silver City, but stragglers occur elsewhere and could establish new colonies farther north. This would continue a trend of range expansion: Inca Doves evidently began invading Arizona just over a century ago, and have moved northeastward into New Mexico only within the last fifty years.

**OWLS** — The three Flammulated Owls that obligingly flew into mistnets at Bell L. May 7 (JPH *et al.*) may provide a clue that the species migrates regularly across the grasslands of s.e. New Mexico; there is one other spring record in the vicinity. Spotted Owls were found in two locations below Silver City (RAF) and a dead one was picked up at Randolph Park in Tucson in April (*vide* S.M. Russell). These are low elevations compared to most points where the species is currently known in the Southwest. However, breeding was verified in Lower Sonoran riparian woodland south of Glenwood, N. Mex., in 1973 (B. Hayward); and a century ago there were Spotted Owls nesting at even lower elevations around Tucson — in forests that no longer exist. Possibly this owl will occupy suitable habitats (i.e., tall trees especially in canyons or near cliffs) regardless of elevation. The Long-eared Owl

breaks more rules: records indicate it is rare and local as a breeding bird in the Southwest, but the points where it has been found nesting have been in nearly any mediocre habitat — in fact, it is almost unrecorded in the high mountains where one might expect a bird that ranges well north into the forests of Canada. This spring at least two pairs nested near Silver City (DAZ *et al.*), with young in the nests in late April; a pair brought off at least one young in a dry gulch near Phoenix (SH); a pair nested for the third consecutive year Oracle, Ariz., in mesquite-catclaw habitat (HF), and a pair was present (but no nest located) throughout the period at the bottom of the Grand Canyon (RRJ)

**NIGHTJARS** — Migrant Whip-poor-wills are seldom recorded in the lowlands; one was near Redrock, N. Mex., May 3 (BP, CD). Eight Lesser Nighthawks were present May 4-7 and May 16-21 at Bell L., a northern peripheral locality for the species (JPH *et al.*).

**HUMMINGBIRDS** — Exceptional numbers of Rufous Hummingbirds appeared in s.c. and s.e. Arizona from mid-March through April. Many were around Phoenix, and additional reports came from Tucson, Ramsey Canyon, Globe, and east to Portal and Guadalupe Canyon. A common fall migrant throughout most of the Region, the Rufous is normally extremely rare in spring except in the s.w. corner of Arizona, those that happened to be in the New Mexico half of Guadalupe Canyon (at least six males March 27 — JPH) were among the very few spring records for that state. A Violet-crowned Hummingbird was seen on the early date of May 9 in Madera Canyon, Santa Rita Mts., Ariz. (SMi), where the species is generally an uncommon late-summer stray. Single ♂ Calliope Hummingbirds, rare migrants in spring in s.e. Arizona, turned up Apr. 3 at Ramsey Canyon (M. King), Apr. 6-17 at Portal (SS *et al.*), and May 9 at Madera Canyon (SMi) — i.e., at each of the middle-elevation points where hummers gather conveniently at feeders. A ♀ Rivoli's Hummingbird was present May 2-8 at Glenwood, N. Mex. (LS); the species is very sparse in New Mexico, except perhaps in the Animas Mts. region

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS** — Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, regular in extreme e. New Mexico, strayed west to Albuquerque, Las Vegas, and Tularosa. One at Phoenix May 23 (SD, HL) was the only report from Arizona this spring. An E. Phoebe was reported at Silver City May 5-9 (M. Mosely); another at Shiprock May 24 (WS) was the northwesternmost record ever for this species rare in New Mexico. Mist-netting in the s.e. plains of New Mexico during May revealed Hammond's, Dusky and Traill's Flycatchers to be coming through in numbers, with the species peaking in passage in that order. Also netted were single Least Flycatchers May 5, 17 and 19 at Bell L. (JPH *et al.*), there were only two previous verified records for New Mexico. A Vermilion Flycatcher was recorded Apr. 30 near Mormon L., Coconino Co., Ariz., a new locality for the species (GM); the Vermilion has been expanding its range northward slightly over the last 100 years. Bank Swallows have seldom been detected in n. Arizona in spring, but this year they were seen in small

numbers throughout the period along the Colorado R. in the Grand Canyon (SC). In the same area were large numbers of Barn and Tree Swallows, not usually present there; the cold weather this spring may have concentrated these migrants at the bottom of the canyon. Very unusual were four Purple Martins at Morgan L., N. Mex., May 25 (WS); the nearest breeding colonies are in mountains to the west (and east?).

The colony of Blue Jays continues to prosper at Portales, N. Mex., where breeding has been verified in at least two years in the past (A.L. Gennaro). Two nests of Com. Ravens were found May 11 in the prairie region west of Clayton, N. Mex., where White-necked Ravens also nest (JPH). A single Clark's Nutcracker on LS Mesa n.w. of Silver City May 25 (RAF) was at a strangely low elevation for that time of year. After the winter's unusual numbers, Winter Wrens lingered into April in four localities with one until Apr. 29 at Portal (SS)

**THRASHERS THROUGH VIREOS** — A Brown Thrasher east of Portal May 25 (PN, LL) was very late; normally this species is only a rare fall and winter visitor in Arizona. The **Eastern Bluebird**, known for several years as a regular winter resident at Rattlesnake Springs, Carlsbad N.P., was found nesting there for New Mexico's first breeding record. A pair was photographed feeding noisy young in a nest hole, May 1-4 (JPH *et al.*), and there was probably another nest nearby. The locality is rather well removed from known breeding areas in Texas and s.e. Arizona. In fields near Phoenix where up to four Sprague's Pipits had wintered, one remained until Apr. 9, a late record for this species uncommon in Arizona (KK, JW). A vagrant ♀ Phainopepla at Bell L. May 19 (JPH) was east of the species' normal range. New Mexico's third record of **White-eyed Vireo** was obtained at Bell L., where one was banded May 5 (JPH). There were three reliable reports of Red-eyed Vireo: one near Supai, Coconino Co., Ariz., May 3 (JHi), one east of Phoenix May 17 (ST), and one banded at Bell L. May 18 (JPH). Although this species breeds directly north of the Region it is infrequent here, particularly in spring. A **Philadelphia Vireo** collected at Bell L. May 17 was the first verified record for New Mexico (JPH).

**WARBLERS** — In terms of variety and rarity, everything happened on the eastern plains of New Mexico. The mistnet surveys at Boone's Draw and Bell L. produced 25 species of warblers — impressive for this Region. Prize birds netted there were **Mourning Warbler** May 7 & 20 at Bell Lake (JPH), and **Canada Warbler** May 24 at Boone's Draw (MCC, CGS), providing the first verified records of these species in New Mexico. Other notable eastern vagrants at one or both of these localities and/or at Clayton included Prothonotary, Tennessee, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Kentucky and Hooded Warblers! Any of these would cause great excitement farther west in the Region — but they may occur regularly in small numbers in extreme e. New Mexico. This situation should be noted by those who believe in easy correlations between vagrants and local wind patterns: during the time when these eastern war-

blers were appearing, winds in that area were dominantly out of the *southwest*; the only "southwestern" warblers recorded there were six Virginia's, which could have been bound for e. Colorado; no Townsend's, Grace's, or Black-throated Grays were recorded.

True vagrants elsewhere in the Region included a Tennessee Warbler s.e. of Silver City May 8 (DAZ), and a Blackpoll Warbler at Albuquerque May 15-16 (M. Arthur). Reports of sparse but regular migrants in the Region included six Black-and-white Warblers, 11 N. Waterthrushes, and nine Am. Redstarts away from the e. plains of New Mexico where these species in small numbers were not considered unusual. There were a few reports of N. Parulas away from the e. plains, including a singing male found May 31 (ADZ, J. Minot *et al.*) in the Chiricahua Mts., Ariz., where the species has been recorded during late May at least four times in recent years. Nashville Warblers appeared in good numbers in Arizona, where the w. race is known as a common migrant; the few Nashvilles recorded in New Mexico were on the e. plains, and probably represent the eastern race. Ovenbirds in small numbers were not unexpected on the e. plains of New Mexico, but one at Farmington in mid-May (*vide* APN) was only the second record there.

**ICTERIDS, TANAGERS** — At least four Orchard Orioles were present in late May at Boone's Draw (JPH *et al.*). This is well north of the known breeding range of the species in New Mexico, and it should be checked for possible nesting. Great-tailed Grackles again nested at Lovington, N. Mex., an area which they invaded only recently: a pair was seen with a fledgling there May 21 (JPH *et al.*). Several observers mentioned Com. Grackle sightings in the Farmington region, the status of the bird in n. w. New Mexico is still uncertain, although there is one breeding record there (1971). A ♀ Scarlet Tanager at Boone's Draw May 24 (MCC, CGS) and an ad. male at Bitter Lake N.W.R., May 26 (D. Boggs *et al.*) were the only reports. A ♀ Hepatic Tanager at Bell L. May 7 (JPH *et al.*) was definitely east of the usual range, while a male at Socorro May 4 (PB) represented an unusual lowland report.

**FRINGILLIDS** — Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, now considered regular in spring, were reported at scattered localities throughout New Mexico and Arizona during May. In fact, at the e. edge of the Region, Rose-breasted outnumbered Black-headed Grosbeaks six to three in mistnet surveys at Boone's Draw and Bell Lake. There was the usual scattering of Indigo Buntings in New Mexico, and a few more than usual reported in Arizona. Nesting was noted south of Albuquerque in the period (HS, *vide* DDe); the Indigo has nested in both Arizona and New Mexico, but we still don't know how widely or frequently this occurs. Following the winter's heavy invasion into Arizona, dispersing Lawrence's Goldfinches finally reached New Mexico. Two were reported from Deming Mar. 3 (M. O'Byrne), several were in the Gila Valley near Cliff May 3 (WB), and one was at Shiprock May 24 (WS). The latter — a male, well-described by a good observer — was by far the northwesternmost ever reported in the state. In Arizona, a few Lawrence's were reported through the end of the

period at Phoenix (ST). There were four convincing reports of Dickcissels: one May 3 near Redrock, N. Mex. (BP, CD), one May 9-11 e. of Tucson (H. Barker, L. Smith), one May 15 at Los Alamos, N. Mex. (B. Lewis), and one May 20 on Bonita Creek, Graham Co., Ariz. (BJo). This is an exceptional number for spring; even in fall the bird is hardly to be expected, except irregularly in eastern New Mexico.

The Lark Bunting is an irregular breeder on the eastern plains of New Mexico. In view of the lush growth present on the plains this spring, it was expected that Lark Buntings would appear in numbers — but they didn't; surprisingly few were observed. Interpretations must await further data.

—S. A.—

The status of Cassin's Sparrow in the Southwest remains to be clarified, and observers should pay special attention to this species at all times of year. Seasonal variation in their numbers may be exaggerated by the fact that the birds are very conspicuous when they sing, and very inconspicuous when they don't. It has been thought that Cassin's were absent from Arizona during most of May and June; but this year they were heard singing through mid-May in several parts of s. Arizona and adjacent Sonora. Whether some factor (weather?) was causing them to sing more than usual and thus be detected, or whether they remained abnormally late, is impossible to say. On the Jornada Experimental Range near Las Cruces, where numbers of Cassin's seem to vary from year to year, large numbers were present and singing May 27 (BP, R.J. Raitt).

Following the winter's exceptional numbers of White-throated and Swamp Sparrows, a few were recorded as lingering late into the spring. White-throateds continued to be seen through late April in s.e. Arizona and s.w. New Mexico, with one as late as May 11 at Patagonia, Ariz. (SD, JW *et al.*). Swamp Sparrows remained through April in s. and c. Arizona, with one still at Patagonia May 17 (DAZ). These late dates might be laid to the law of averages, i.e., with so many around during the winter, a few would stay later than "normal". But weather seems a more probable explanation; the season was characterized by cold, hence — we believe — late nesting and late migration. More to the point, there were also late reports of Harris' and Golden-crowned Sparrows, which were *not* overly numerous this winter. These included two Harris' at Corrales, N. Mex., May 4 (JND), another Harris' at Glenwood, N. Mex., May 7 (LS), and a Golden-crowned at Glenwood May 9 (E. Rose, P. Meyers).

CONTRIBUTORS (Area compilers in boldface) — Russell P. Balda, William Baltosser, Pat Basham, Gene Bauer, Jon Bealer, Randy Bottcher, Robert Bradley, Bonnie Burch, Scott Burge, Steven Carothers, Marshall C. Conway, Jodi C. Corrie, Doug Danforth, Dot DeLollis, Salome Demaree, Carol Dimeff, John N. Durrie, Harold Fetter, Ralph A. Fisher, Lorraine Hartshorne, **Bill Harrison**, Nogales; Steven Hedges,

John Hildebrand, Charles A. Hundertmark, Betty Jackson, R. Roy Johnson, Betty Jones, Hugh Kingery, Lee Lohman, Helen Longstreth, Stan Majlinger, Barbara C McKnight, Scott Mills, **Gale Monson**, Tucson; **Alan P. Nelson**, n.w. New Mexico; Phil Norton, Robert Norton, Bill Principe, C. Greg Schmitt, Hart Schwarz, Sally Spofford, Portal; Rich Stallcup, William Stone, Doug Stotz, Lowell Sumner, Scott Terrill, Marjorie Williams, Robert Witzeman, Allan D. Zimmerman, **Dale A. Zimmerman**, s.w. New Mexico; Marian A Zimmerman. — **JANET WITZEMAN**, 4619 E. Arcadia Lane, Phoenix, Ariz. 85018; **JOHN P. HUBBARD**, 2097 Camino Lado, Santa Fe, N. Mex 87501; **KENN KAUFMAN**, Ithaca, N.Y.

We would like to encourage birders who visit the Southwest, as well as residents of the Region, to submit details with their reports of unusual sightings. We had to omit a number of records this time — including, probably, some that were valid — because of the total lack of substantiating details. Unusual sight record forms of the Arizona Bird Committee and the New Mexico Ornithological Society are available from the respective editors. Incidentally, if a visitor to an area finds a bird which he knows to be highly unusual there, it is only common courtesy to inform local observers as soon as possible — partly to aid in confirming the record, and partly because we would like to see some of these birds ourselves.

**ALASKA REGION**

**/Daniel D. Gibson and G. Vernon Byrd**

Owing to logistics difficulties involved in the writers' field work, observers were asked to submit observations for the period Apr. 1 through mid-May only so that a spring migration column of sorts could be put together by June 1. Data for the period May 16-31 will be included in the Breeding Season column.





Arrival of waterfowl was generally on time, if at the late end of the normal arrival period, as was that of many shorebird species. But many waterfowl species either failed to materialize (e.g., Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback), and many passage shorebirds failed to show up in areas in which they may be expected (e.g., very small numbers of golden plover at Cordova and Fairbanks). With very few exceptions, passerine species were late throughout the Region.

**SWANS, GEESE**—Three Whooper Swans last seen at Adak I. Apr. 20 (CM, *vide* AW) are the latest departure on record. Canada and White-fronted geese were on time in the Region but occurred in less-than-spectacular numbers. Up to two Emperor Geese observed at the Kasilof R. mouth, Kenai Peninsula, Apr. 26-May 13 (MAM *et al.*), were locally rare, as there are very few upper Cook Inlet records. Snow Geese arrived in the Kenai R.-Kasilof R. area Apr. 22 and peaked Apr. 29, when 1000+ were on the Kasilof flats and 3000+ were on the Kenai flats (MAM). There were two records of “**Blue**” Geese this spring: two adults at Creamers Field, Fairbanks, May 1-3 (m.ob.), and one subadult at 20 mile Copper R. Highway, Copper R. Delta (below, C.R.D.), May 9-10 (Isleibs, PGM, TGT, TTW *et al.*).

**DUCKS**—In the Interior, spring 1975 was not unlike spring 1974: not spectacular. No unusual species or high numbers were recorded, and migration peaks, when they could be discerned, occurred quickly and were often identified by a total absence of birds the following days. Elsewhere, however, there were many noteworthy exceptions.

A **Black Duck** studied with a flock of Mallards near Cordova May 17 (PI & RI) is the second spring record in Alaska and the first record in the North Gulf Coast-C.R.D. area. A pair of **Garganeys** (*Anas querquedula*) observed at length at Shemya I., w. Aleutians, for several days in mid-May (DDG, RSH, & GEH) provides the fifth Alaska record of this palearctic teal. One ♂ **Cinnamon Teal** was seen near Martin R. Slough, C.R.D., May 2 (PI), providing another first for that part of the state. European Wigeon were widely recorded in s. Alaska this spring. One male was seen near Cordova (PGM), a pair was seen in Orca Inlet, Prince William Sound (below, P.W.S.) (DWN *et al.*), one was seen near Anchorage (MH, *vide* DFD), three or four males were present at Kodiak I. (RAM, JTS, & JRS), and a few were seen at Adak I., c. Aleutians (GVB, AW *et al.*). The species was common at Shemya, where 28+ in flocks of up to 19 birds in mid-May provide a new state high count (DDG & RSH).

A pair of Redheads at the Juneau airport, May 12 (PI), were the only ones reported from Southeast Alaska, and the species was missed entirely in the Interior. A late April Com. Pochard at Adak (JLT) is the earliest arrival on record, and up to two were seen there at least through mid-May (GVB, GEH, & AW). One male was present with a flock of Tufted Ducks at Shemya until mid-May, when the flock peaked at *nine* pochards (4♂♂ 5♀♀) and *forty-three* Tufted Ducks, both new high counts for the state (DDG & RSH).

Tufted Ducks were also recorded at Adak (GVB, GEH, & AW) and at Amchitka I. (JLT *et al.*), 20+ birds at the latter location. Six Ring-necked Ducks on Smith L., College, May 12 (JRS), were the only Interior report brought to our attention. A male at Swan L., Sitka, May 6-8 (CHJ), may have been one of the birds that wintered there. Three ♀-plumaged Smews were recorded at Adak as late as Apr. 27 (AW), and *six* Smews, an adult male and five ♀-plumaged birds together, at Shemya for several days in mid-May were a new state high count for the species (DDG & RSH).

**RAPTORS**—During the period Apr. 19-May 12 a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spring migration survey in the North Gulf Coast-P.W.S. area (PI *et al.*) censused a heavy raptor movement. A few Goshawks, which are resident, most of them in late April and early May; 92+ Sharp-shinned Hawks; 4 Red-tailed Hawks, 28+ Rough-legged Hawks; 4 Golden Eagles; a few passage Bald Eagles (another resident species); 564+ Marsh Hawks; 12 Ospreys; 4 Gyrfalcons; 80+ Peregrine Falcons; 4 Merlins; and 8 Short-eared Owls were counted. There was a relatively heavy movement of Rough-legged and Marsh hawks in the Fairbanks area (m.ob.), and large numbers of Marsh Hawks were commented on at Palmer (DKP). An early Am. Kestrel was found at the Experimental Farm, College, Apr 9 (GFS & TTW), and it was the only raptor there for a week, until 10 Red-tailed Hawks were recorded Apr 16 (CML *et al.*).

#### S.A.

An annual component of the migrant and breeding avifauna of the central and western Aleutians, Wood Sandpiper was recorded this spring from Shemya to Adak (there were no observers on the few islands west of Shemya or on those east of Adak). The species arrived on time at Shemya on May 13, on which date numerous pairs and singing birds were observed. A single aggregation of *thirty-one* Wood Sandpipers on a Shemya bog the same day is the highest count known in the state (DDG & RSH).

**RAILS, SHOREBIRDS** — Single Am. Coots were noted at Sitka Apr. 12 (CHJ) and at Juneau May 1 (RJG & RA). Killdeers were reported in the P W S area May 9-10: one near Cordova (PGM *et al.*) and two in Orca Inlet (TTW). American Golden Plovers were first noted at Anchorage May 2 (DFD), but there were very few seen in Fairbanks at all (BK). **Long-toed Stints** (*Calidris subminuta*) arrived at Shemya May 13, when 10 birds were observed, and up to eight were present during the following week (DDG & RSH). One Long-toed Stint was seen at Adak (GVB, GEH, & AW), the easternmost Aleutian record to date. Red Knots arrived in Orca Inlet, P.W.S., May 2, and the population there built to 40,000+ birds May 11 (PI). A ♂ Ruff at Shemya May 14 (DDG & RSH) was the only one reported this spring. The fourth Alaska record of **Greenshank** (*Tringa nebularia*) was of a single bird observed at length at Shemya May 15 (DDG & RSH). Both yellowlegs were on time, and the only extralimital record of either was a Greater studied at Shemya, May

12 (DDG & RSH), where it provided the second Aleutian record.

At least one pair of **Com. Sandpipers** (*Tringa hypoleucos*) was present at Shemya for several days in mid-May (DDG & RSH). Following the first Aleutian record of Bristle-thighed Curlew at Amchitka only last year, it is interesting that this May a pair was seen at Shemya (DDG & RSH) and one bird was observed at Buldir (EPH & RD) at the same time. Do we have an isolated breeding population of **Marbled Godwits** in Alaska? A pair was observed on Hinchinbrook I., P.W.S., Apr. 30 (PI, MGS, & TGT); one bird was seen in Orca Inlet, P.W.S., May 6 (PI); and three were studied at Kodiak May 6, one of which remained through May 13 (RAM & WED). Bar-tailed Godwits were reported in small numbers from the Kasilof R. mouth, one bird May 12 (MAM & RP), and Kodiak (RAM) to Shemya. Two at Kodiak May 5 were the earliest reported, and a count of 133 in Womens and Middle bays, Kodiak, May 11 (RAM), is excellent, especially for an area east of the Bering seacoast. Hudsonian Godwits were seen in very small numbers, the maximum two, May 6-11 in Orca Inlet, P.W.S. (PI *et al.*), and the first arrival at Anchorage was observed May 11 (DFD), but none was reported from Fairbanks. Common Snipe *C. g. (gallinago)* had been recorded in Alaska before spring 1974 (AB 28:839, 1974, but see Kenyon and Phillips, (Auk 82: 624-635, 1965), on St. Paul I., in fall 1954. The 1974 records were the first from the Aleutians. These birds were fairly common at Shemya in May 1975, with a maximum of 18-20 individuals per day, in groups of up to seven, and birds performing courtship flights suggest that this form may nest in the westernmost Aleutians. Snipe are unknown in the c. and e. Aleutians.

**GULLS, TERNS** — A subadult **Ring-billed Gull** was closely observed at Kalsin Bay, Kodiak, May 6 and 10 (RAM), a first record for the island and the westernmost record in the Region. Up to five Black-headed Gulls, four adults and an immature, were seen at Shemya for a week in mid-May (DDG & RSH). Aleutian Terns were first seen in the Cohoe-Kasilof area May 7 (MAM), but birds did not come onshore at Adak and Shemya until May 18 (GVB, GEH & AW) and 19 (DDG & RSH), respectively.

**THRUSHES, KINGLETS** — Most passerine species were late by some days if not by a week or more. American Robins, late everywhere, were first seen at Auke Bay Apr. 6 (RBW), at Kasilof Apr. 27 (MAM), at Anchorage Apr. 28 (DFD), at Palmer May 1 (DKP), and at College May 2 (DRK, LG). Not often reported, Townsend's Solitaires were seen this spring at Juneau, one on May 11 (CLE), and at Ketchikan, one on May 16 (PI). Late like the robins, Ruby-crowned Kinglets were first recorded at Anchorage Apr. 27 (AS), at Kasilof May 9 (MAM), and at College May 2 (BK).

**WAGTAILS, STARLINGS** — Three White Wagtails were observed at Shemya May 11, and one bird that remained for days was seen well and was clearly a ♂ *M. a. lugens* (DDG & RSH), the first Aleutian record of this form since 1913. Yellow Wagtails were seen at

Adak (GVB, GEH, & AW) and Amchitka (JLT *et al.*), and five at Shemya (DDG & RSH) was maximum count. All those seen well were identified as *M. f. simillima*, not Alaska-breeding *M. f. tschutschensis*. A lone Starling at Cordova May 6 (DWN) is a first spring record for the North Gulf Coast-P.W.S. region.

**ICTERIDS, FRINGILLIDS** — A ♂ Red-winged Blackbird at Potter Marsh, Anchorage, May 6 (DFD), was very early, especially in the face of a generally late spring migration of passerines. One bird was recorded at this location in 1973 and 1974, but the species is rare in s.c. Alaska. One male was noted at the Juneau airport May 12 (PI), where the species has bred. Two different ♂ **Bramblings** seen the third week of May at Shemya (DDG, RSH, & GEH) were the only ones recorded this season, but they add another spring to the cumulative evidence that this species is an annual, rare migrant in w. Alaska. Single migrant **Harris' Sparrows** were recorded at Auke Bay May 19 & 21 (RBW). Golden-crowned, White-crowned, Savannah, and Lincoln's sparrows all moved into the Auke Bay area May 1 (RBW), and these species were correspondingly late in the rest of the state, to the north and west. A Golden-crowned Sparrow at Manley Hot Springs Apr. 22 (LG) was extremely early, and the only other Interior report was of one at Ester, May 7-8 (RSH). White-crowned Sparrows were common at Cordova after an influx May 10 (PI), but these birds are not normally numerous spring migrants there. Late arrivals at other locations included Savannah Sparrows at Kodiak May 8 (RAM) and Golden-crowned there May 11 (RAM). Lapland Longspurs were generally late and in small numbers, except for a few local concentrations "enormous" flocks in grain fields at Palmer May 1 (DKP) and a flock of 1500+ near Delta Junction May 4 (DDG & JJ).

**CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS** — Robert Armstrong, Robert Day, David F. DeLap, William E. Donaldson, Clifford L. Estabrook, Larry Goldstein, Richard J. Gordon, Raymond S. Hadley, George E. Hall, Margaret Heller, Eric P. Hoberg, Pete Isleib, Ruth Isleib, Charles H. Johnstone, Jennifer Jolis, Brina Kessel, David R. Klein, Craig M. Lowe, Richard A. MacIntosh, Peter G. Mickelson, Mary A. Miller, Charles Mitchell, David W. Norton, Ruth Pollard, David K. Porter, Gary F. Searing, James R. Shiflett, Alice Shoe, Michael G. Spindler, Jeff T. Stenzel, Theodore G. Tobish, John L. Trapp, Thomas T. Wetmore, Anthony White, Ralph B. Williams.—**DANIEL D. GIBSON**, University Museum, University of Alaska, Fairbanks 99701, and **G. VERNON BYRD**, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 5251, Adak, Alaska 98791.

**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT DATES**  
**Saturday, December 20, 1975**  
**— Sunday, January 4, 1976**  
**All completed forms must be submitted**  
**by January 15, 1976**

## NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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

April was considerably drier and colder than is normal; May was only slightly drier and colder than normal. Both February and March had followed the same pattern. The impression of many observers that



the spring migration was rather retarded and was decidedly unspectacular thus may well be objectively accurate and attributable to the climatological departures from normal. Nonetheless, as birders have come to expect, there were a considerable number of occurrences of ornithological interest and significance.

**LOONS, GREBES, PELAGICS, HERONS** — Concentrations of 60 Com. Loons at Alsea Bay, Ore., Apr. 12 (CW), and of 32 at Whiffen Spit in the Sooke District, n. of Victoria, Apr. 21 (RS, *vide* VG) are of interest, as is the single bird at Butte Falls, near Medford, Ore., Apr. 9 (OS). The Yellow-billed Loon which had spent much of the winter at Eld Inlet in s. Puget Sound was last seen Apr. 12 (G&WH); two Yellow-billed Loons were found at Everett, Wash., Apr. 15 (PC *et al.*, *vide* PM), one was seen at Vancouver, B.C., May 4 (TR, MSe, *vide* BK), and another was discovered May 10 at Tofino, B.C. (SW, *vide* VG). Again this spring large concentrations of Arctic Loons occurred at Active Pass in the Gulf Is. of British Columbia; 1000 were there Apr. 8 and 3500 were counted there May 3 (MS, *vide* VG). From the jetties at Westport, Wash., and at the mouth of the Columbia R. on May 3 large numbers of Red-throated Loons were observed moving north over the ocean (BT). Except for the vicinity of Victoria, B.C., where up to ten in a day were recorded (VG), only five individual Red-necked Grebe sightings for the spring season, all from w. Oregon, were reported. A Horned Grebe at Medford May 14 (SS) was late and unusual at that inland locality; Horned Grebes

were recorded up to May 20 at Victoria (VG). Two Eared Grebes at Fern Ridge Res., w. of Eugene, Ore., May 11 (LN), and two still at Sidney, B.C., May 10, where three individuals had been noted a month earlier (VG & RS) all are noteworthy, as is a single bird at Victoria Apr. 9-22 (VG). On Apr. 22 a concentration of 2000 W. Grebes was observed at Saanich, B.C. (VG); 500 were seen w. of Astoria, Ore., in the Columbia R. estuary, Apr. 5 (JBC & SJ). Boat trips from Westport on May 16 & 18 turned up 24 Black-footed Albatrosses, one N. Fulmar, 50 Pink-footed Shearwaters and 4-5 Flesh-footed Shearwaters (TW *et al.*). A freshly-dead Sooty Shearwater was found Apr. 23 at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. (TC). Single Leach's Storm-Petrels were observed at Westport May 3 (K&KL, BT) & 18 (EH). Double-crested Cormorants were seen at Fern Ridge Res. Apr. 17 (TL) & 27 (LN) in numbers up to four; one was at Agate L., near Medford May 14 (SS). Concentrations of Brandt's Cormorants also occurred at Active Pass, where 3000 - 3500 were present Apr. 8-13; by May 10 all but 100 were gone (MS, *vide* VG). Almost a score of Green Herons were reported at nine different lowland localities from Vancouver to the s. end of the Willamette Valley and at two coastal points, but centered in s.w. Washington along the Black and Chehalis Rivers. Although Great Egrets have been observed increasingly in the Region in the past ten years, few of the sightings have been spring records; the seven individuals from seven localities (as northerly as Saanich, B.C., and Redmond, Wash.) are another indication of a population and range expansion by this species. Adult Black-crowned Night Herons were recorded at Cottage Grove, Ore., May 10 (LM), and at the mouth of the Samish R., s. of Bellingham, Wash., Apr. 10 (JA, *vide* NL); imm. Black-crowns were noted at Reifel Refuge, s. of Vancouver, May 29 (WW) and at Iona I., also s. of Vancouver, May 31 (BM, *vide* BK). Nesting pairs of Am. Bitterns were at Fern Ridge Res. this spring "in usual numbers" (LM). Six Am. Bitterns were at Oyeht and Ocean Shores, Wash., May 17 (EH), and two were at the Columbia R. mouth Apr. 23 (TC, HN); single birds were recorded at Nisqually N.W.R., near Olympia, repeatedly during the spring (BT), near Gearhart on the Oregon coast Apr. 5 (JBC & SJ), and at Saanich May 24 (*vide* VG).

**WATERFOWL** — Seven Whistling Swans were seen at Seattle on the late date of May 13 (*vide* PM). Two Trumpeter Swans were vocalizing at Victoria Apr. 6 (RS, *vide* VG). Large numbers of Canada Geese were migrating up the w. coast of Vancouver I. the last ten days of April (*vide* JCO). Five Black Brant were seen both at Tillamook May 24 (JBC, RFi, HN) and at Yaquina Bay May 25 (FS). White-fronted Geese moved through the Region from late March until the first few days of May, completing their movement a full three weeks ahead of last year's schedule; a single individual at Iona I., May 19 (BK) was late. The only Snow Goose noted during the report period was a single bird at Finley N.W.R., near Corvallis Apr. 13 (LN). A belated report was received of another Ross' Goose sighting last spring. On May 4, 1974 Brian Kautesk found 4 Ross' Geese and one Snow Goose together on

the Iona I. jetty. A pair of Gadwall were at Fern Ridge Res., May 18 (LM); at Saanich, seven pairs were seen Apr. 23 and one pair was still there May 1 (V&MG). A late ♂ Pintail was seen at Saanich May 17 (VG,RS). A late date for Eur. Wigeon was Apr. 29 at w. Vancouver (BK,GAP) and at Victoria (RS), the bird at the latter place being an apparent hybrid. Six Am. Wigeon were still at Tillamook Bay May 24 (JBC,RFi,HN). A N. Shoveler was observed at Fern Ridge Res., May 17-18 (LM), a pair of this species was seen at Victoria May 25 (RS, *vide* VG).

On May 24 there were 30 Canvasbacks at Iona I.; a week later 15 birds were still present (BK). Also on May 24 there were up to 200 Greater Scaup still at Tillamook Bay (JBC,RFi,HN); two pairs were at Duncan, B.C., May 31 (JCo). A late Lesser Scaup and a ♂ Com. Goldeneye both were noted at Iona I., May 31, where a ♂ Tufted Duck was found both on May 19 & 24 (BK). Also on May 31, six Com. Goldeneye were observed at Cowichan, B.C. (JCo). A ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye was discovered at Tillamook, Apr. 26 (Rfi,HN) and a female was seen at Sooke, B.C., May 3 (VG,RS). Late Buffleheads were a female at Rockaway, Tillamook Co., Ore., May 24 (JBC,Rfi,HN), two males at Oak Bay, Victoria, May 27 (RS, *vide* VG), and a pair at Cowichan Bay May 31 (JCo). On May 4 a ♀ Oldsquaw was seen at Eld Inlet, near Olympia (BE, *vide* G&WH); Oldsquaw were common in the Victoria area during April, the last were a pair seen May 13 (V&MG). Three Harlequin Ducks were seen on Salmon Creek, near Oakridge, Ore., Apr. 22 (DJ, *vide* LM) and 14 were on Washington's Elwha R., May 4 (PC, *vide* PM). Approximately 30 Black Scoters were still on the Lincoln Co., Ore., coast, May 18 (JBC,DM,WT); a pair were at Vancouver's Stanley Park, May 23 (BK), and two were at Tillamook Bay, May 24 (JBC,Rfi,HN). Adult Com. Mergansers were seen on Oregon's Alsea R. and Alsea Bay, May 18 (JBC,DM,WT); single females with a dozen or more young were found near Montesano, Wash., May 24 (G&WH) and near Eugene May 28 (CW). A pair of Red-breasted Mergansers were at Duncan, B.C., May 31 (JCo) and two females were at Victoria May 29 (RS, *vide* VG).

**HAWKS, GAMEBIRDS, RAILS** — A White-tailed Kite was seen at Finley N.W.R., s. of Corvallis, Ore., Apr. 21 (JAn, *vide* FR) and near there again the next day (JCa, *vide* FR); one was reported at Baskett Slough N W R., Ore., May 4 (GW, *vide* HN), and another is reported to have been at Pacific City, Ore., May 17 (CT). Goshawk sightings were reported from Vancouver Apr. 6 & 10, From Victoria Apr. 10, from Saanich Apr. 18, and from the summit of White Pass, Wash., May 1. Only six reports of Sharp-shinned were received; more than twice that number were received for Cooper's Hawks, but half of those reports were from S. Vancouver I. Three pairs of Cooper's Hawks were known to be in the vicinity of Eugene this spring (LM). A Swainson's Hawk was noted at Baskett Slough N W R., Apr. 12 (LN), and another was seen at Seattle, Apr. 28 (BB, *vide* PM). An ad. Golden Eagle was seen Apr. 16 in the Malahat District n. of Victoria, carrying nesting material; no eagle was seen there again, however, until May 17 (VG, *et al.*); an imm.

Golden Eagle was seen nearby, May 19 (HH, *vide* VG). An ad. and an imm. Bald Eagle frequented Fern Ridge Res., throughout the spring (TL,LM); they, with the two adults seen over Alsea Bay May 19 (JBC,DM,WT) were the only reported Oregon sightings. In Washington, however, Bald Eagles were noted at seven locations (all but one from around Puget Sound) during the period; the exception was at Westport May 3 (BT). Up to 25 individual Bald Eagles were present through the spring around s. Vancouver I., with the center of abundance being the vicinity of Active Pass where the peak count was achieved on May 30 (VG). Only six locations furnished reports of Marsh Hawks. Ospreys were noted from three Willamette Valley and from four Washington locations south of Seattle after mid-April. At Bellingham, Ospreys were said to be above usual numbers after Apr. 19 (TW), and on Vancouver I., six nests were known to be active (VG). Two late Gyrfalcons were observed; one was at Lulu I., s. of Vancouver, Apr. 20 (BK), and the other was at Saanich, Apr. 22 (RS, *vide* VG). A Prairie Falcon was seen Apr. 1 in Victoria (VG); it may possibly have been the same bird seen in Victoria six weeks earlier (*Am. Birds* 29:732). The only report of a Peregrine was an immature at Vancouver May 4 (BK). Merlins were seen at the Skagit Flats, near Mt. Vernon, Wash., Apr. 6 (BT), at Corvallis, Ore., Apr. 7 (RJ, *vide* FR), at Victoria Apr. 12, at Cowichan Bay n. of Victoria Apr. 20, at Victoria May 8 & 24 (VG,RS) and at Port Alberni, B.C., May 10 (CWo,SW, *vide* VG).

A Spruce Grouse was observed at close range on the Elwha R. in Wash., May 4 (PC, *vide* PM); a female was seen in Manning P. P., May 22 (VG). Mountain Quail were seen at three points on the w. side of the Willamette Valley or in the nearby foothills in April and May; a pair was seen at Belfair, Wash., May 14 & 17 (Rfr, *vide* PM). The Sandhill Crane which wintered at Saanich was last seen there Apr. 26 (*vide* VG), two other individuals were found on S. Vancouver I. in the first half of May (CWo,SW, *vide* VG). During April and early May, up to ten Sandhill Cranes were to be seen on the Samish and Skagit Flats; one was near Ocean Shores Apr. 19 (G&WH). A nest of the Sandhill Crane was found at Davis L. in Oregon's Cascade Mts in May (AW, *vide* LM). A nest of the Virginia Rail containing six eggs was found near Victoria May 21, three days later it held nine eggs (*vide* VG). A Sora was heard on the Oregon coast, n. of Gearhart, Apr. 5 (JBC,SJ); two were at Ocean Shores Apr. 19 (G&WH), Soras were otherwise reported from five other locations in the s. half of the Region.

**SHOREBIRDS** — Two Snowy Plover were seen at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Apr. 23 (TC,HN), four were at Ocean Shores, May 9 & 31 (G&WH), while eight were there May 17 (EH). On May 3, nine Am. Golden Plover were observed at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. (HN *et al.*). A single Surf-bird at the mouth of the Nehalem R., Tillamook Co., Ore., May 24 (JBC,Rfi,HN), was late. As many as two dozen Ruddy Turnstones were present at Victoria, May 1-19 (RS, *vide* VG). On Apr. 25, there were 115 Black Turnstones at Vancouver (BK). Two Long-billed Curlew were seen in Skagit Co., Wash., May 10 (TW).

Whimbrel were again numerous and widespread in the Region this spring, with peak numbers after mid-May. Thirty Spotted Sandpipers at a park in Eugene along the Willamette R. May 18 (*vide* LM) was an unusual concentration. Solitary Sandpipers were noted at Finley N W R. Apr. 22, at Corvallis the next day where two were seen (*FR et al.*), at Toledo, Ore., Apr. 30 (*DF, fide FR*), at McKenna, Wash., May 7 (*DH,BT*), at Tigard, Ore., May 10 (*DFi*), and at Burlington, Wash., May 18 (*NL*). Wandering Tattlers were recorded Apr. 30 - May 31 at five different localities, a dozen being the maximum. A Willet was discovered near Grants Pass, Ore., May 7 (*SS*). Greater Yellowlegs were reported from eight different places between Apr. 2 and May 24, with nine individuals being the peak one-day count. Lesser Yellowlegs showed up at six different places, occurring either singly or in pairs Apr. 13 - May 24, repeated sightings occurred only at Eugene, where individuals were noted on five occasions, and at Iona I.

An estimated 1000 Red Knots were on the n. shore of Grays Harbor May 9 (*G&WH*); 20 were in migration at Seal Rocks and at Yaquina Bay, May 18 (*JBC,DM,WT*); these were the only reported sightings. Up to 34 Rock Sandpipers were counted at Victoria May 8 (*VG et al.*). A Pectoral Sandpiper was discovered at the Montlake Fill in Seattle, May 10 (*KB, fide PM*), four were found at Vancouver May 19, and four were seen again at Iona I., May 24 (*BK*). Baird's Sandpipers were recorded on the n. Oregon and s.w. Washington coasts, as well as at Victoria Apr. 22 - May 31. Maximum numbers of Least Sandpipers were noted in the last ten days of April, although individuals were recorded as late as May 30. After the first week of May, only a scattered remnant remained in the Region of the great numbers of Dunlin which winter here. On May 3, there were an estimated 10,000 Short-billed Dowitchers at South Bend, Wash. (*BT*); 12 were still at Nehalem Meadows May 24 (*JBC,RF,HN*), but generally they were scarce. Long-billed Dowitchers were to be found somewhere in the Region during the entire report period, the maximum being 1200 at Tofino, B C., May 2-5 (*JCo*), but generally numbers were fewer than ten a day. Two Semipalmated Sandpipers were noted at Whidbey I., May 10 (*B&PEv, fide PM*); one was at Seattle, May 15 (*EH*), and two were at Iona I., May 19 & May 24 (*BK*). The peak of migration for W Sandpipers occurred in the last week of April and the first week of May. On May 18, three Marbled Godwits were at Yaquina Bay (*JBC,DM,WT*), the only report for the season. An Am. Avocet, seen at Bellingham Apr. 17 added one to the very few records for w. Washington (*DD, fide TW*). Five Wilson's Phalaropes were recorded at Fern Ridge Res. up to May 18 (*LM*), two were at the Montlake Fill in Seattle May 9-29 (*DP et al, fide PM*), and up to six were at Burlington, Wash., from May 13 to the end of the period (*NL*). Ten Wilson's Phalarope were found at Nisqually N.W.R., May 11 (*G&WH,BT*), and 25 were seen at Iona I., May 14 (*WW*). Up to 150 N. Phalaropes were at Eugene, 44 were at Fern Ridge Res., 15 were at Finley N.W.R., one was at the Montlake Fill, and thousands were at Westport, Wash., all on May 3. Two were at Tillamook and one at Nehalem, Ore., May 24 (*JBC et al.*).

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS** — Two Parasitic Jaegers appeared in the Fraser R. at Steveston, B.C., about 3 mi. from the mouth, May 27; one was seen there again the next day (*BM, fide BK*). Glaucous Gulls were recorded in ones or twos at four locations, the latest May 10 at Whidbey I. The Iceland Gull which was seen repeatedly at Ladner, B.C., during the winter season was found there again May 27 (*BM, fide BK*). Four sightings of an ad. California Gull were made in the Vancouver area during April; by the end of May, 35 sub-adults were at Iona I. (*BK*). At Victoria, there were scattered sightings of up to five individual California Gulls in a day during the spring season (*VG*). On May 26, there were still 200 Mew Gulls at Sea I., most of them immatures (*BK*). There were only three Oregon sightings of Bonaparte's Gulls this year, of birds alone or in pairs, two coastally and one from the Willamette Valley. An ad. Heermann's Gull was found at Vancouver's Lighthouse Park, May 4 (*TR,MSc, fide BK*); four were at Westport, May 10 (*BK*), one was seen there May 18 (*EH*), and one was at Ocean Shores May 31 (*G&WH*). There have never before been that many spring reports for Heermann's Gull. On Apr. 5, there were nine Black-legged Kittiwakes at the n. jetty of the Columbia R.; on May 9, 250-300 kittiwakes were at Ocean Shores (*G&WH*), while a few miles to the south at Westport the next day, kittiwakes were "everywhere" (*BT*). On May 31, there were 800 imm. Kittiwakes at Ocean Shores (*G&WH*), one was at L. Sammamish in n. Wash., May 28 (*JM, fide PM*) and up to seven immatures were to be seen at Victoria the last week of May (*VG et al.*). An ad Sabine's Gull was in Vancouver harbor, May 29 and a sub-adult was found at Iona I. two days later (*BK*).

Common Terns were virtually unreported, sightings coming only at Ocean Shores with 50 birds May 9 and 20 birds May 31 (*G&WH*), and from Iona I. where one bird was seen on the early date of Apr. 29 (*Jl, fide WW*), and another two were seen May 31 (*BK*). On May 3, four Arctic Terns were observed at Ocean Shores (*KB, fide PM*) and May 18, three of these birds were noted at Westport (*EH*). Twenty Caspian Terns were at Ocean Shores as early as Apr. 19 (*G&WH*), in the first week of May single birds were seen near Medford, Eugene, and at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., four were at Tsawassen, B.C., May 17 (*WC, fide WW*), and nine were at Bellingham, May 20 (*JGn,CS, fide TW*). Black Terns were seen near Medford, at Fern Ridge Res., and at Seattle May 14-30, maximum two

Possibly 30,000 Com. Murres were at Cape Meares and Three Arch Rocks, Tillamook Co., Ore., May 24 (*JBC,RFi,HN*), while "large numbers" were at Ocean Shores, May 31 (*G&WH*). Pigeon Guillemots were present in small numbers at Yaquina Bay, Cape Meares, and Tillamook Bay, May 18 & 24 (*JBC et al.*) Small numbers of Com. Murres and of Marbled Murrelets were at Victoria during the spring season (*VG*) An Ancient Murrelet was reported from Yaquina Bay May 3 (*BL, fide FR*). Rhinoceros Auklets in numbers not exceeding twenty were in the waters around Victoria this spring (*VG*); on June 1, 27 were seen at Seattle's Discovery Park (*LF, fide PM*). Tufted Puffins were evidently nesting again at Cape Meares by late May (*JBC et al.*).

OWLS, GOATSUCKERS, SWIFTS, HUMMING-BIRDS — A check by B.C. Provincial Museum personnel of almost 200 barns in the Fraser R. delta this spring resulted in finding 26 active Barn Owl nests (*vide* WW). The last Snowy Owls of the winter were single birds at Iona I., Apr. 5 (DW,SW), at Skagit Co., Wash., Apr. 6 (TW), and at Boundary Bay Apr. 13 (WW). Pygmy Owls were recorded at Eugene (LM), at Alsea, Ore. (DM), and at Sooke, B.C. (MS, *vide* VG) this spring. A Burrowing Owl was discovered at Victoria Apr. 20 (HH, *vide* VG), for one of the very few records from there. A Burrowing Owl was also found on an island in the Columbia R. at Portland Apr. 25 (*vide* HN). A nest of the **Barred Owl** in Skagit Co., with three nearly fledged young, May 15 (TRe, *vide* TW) provides the first breeding record for Washington. A Long-eared Owl was at Finley N.W.R., Apr. 19 (JAn, *vide* FR) and another was at Samish I., Wash., Apr. 29 (NL). Up to three Short-eared Owls were seen at a time in five different localities during the report period. Saw-whet Owls were recorded from Springdale, Ore. e of Portland, May 17 (TC,HN), from Bellingham the same date (TW), and from Bellevue May 2 (JN, *vide* PM).

A Poor-will was found dead on a road near Hills Creek Dam in e. Lane Co., Ore., Apr. 28 (MK, *vide* HN). On May 24, Black Swifts were seen on San Juan I., Wash. (ARD, *vide* VG). Several hundred Vaux's Swifts were using a chimney at Eugene, May 7 (LM), where an individual had been seen as early as Apr. 18 (DG, *vide* LM); another early arrival was at Camano I., Wash., Apr. 16 (JW, *vide* PM). On May 18, there were 150 Vaux's Swifts drifting north along the e. edge of a line of thunderstorms near Victoria (HH, *vide* VG). Male Anna's Hummingbirds were seen at Grants Pass, Apr. 16, elsewhere in Josephine Co., May 4 (SS); in Seattle, Apr. 24 & May 31 (EH *et al.*), and at Saanich May 25 (VG); Anna's Hummingbirds were seen repeatedly in Vancouver, from early April to late May (WW), and in Saanich where there were at least two males present (VG *et al.*). A ♂ Allen's Hummingbird was seen at Brookings, Ore., Apr. 20 (SS) and more than one was seen along the Illinois R. trail on the e. edge of Kalmiopsis Wilderness Area in Josephine Co., Apr. 26 (EP). A Calliope Hummingbird was seen at Eugene, May 7-8 (LM), at Vancouver, May 1 (VW, *vide* WW) and in N. Vancouver, May 13-14 (TR,WW).

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS, JAYS — An Acorn Woodpecker was seen repeatedly at Tigard, Ore., during April and May (DFi,HN). A Lewis' Woodpecker was at W. Vancouver, May 4 (JI, *vide* BK); at Eugene May 10 was the latest date (LM). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker of the *varius* race was found and photographed at Stanley Park in Vancouver, May 4, 8 & 13 (BA,BK,PMr). Three birds of the *nuchalis* race were seen at Manning P.P., May 22 where a ♀ N. Three-toed Woodpecker was seen the same day (VG).

An E. Kingbird showed up at Buena Vista, s. of Salem, May 23 (JJ, *vide* FR). Western Kingbirds appeared singly at Ocean Shores May 31 (G&WH), at Saanich May 27 (RMG, *vide* VG), in Skagit Co., May 12 & 18 (K&JWi, *vide* TW), on the Samich Flats May

13 (NL), on Camano I., May 8 (JW, *vide* PM), and at Nisqually May 2 (JD, *vide* G&WH). In Oregon, W. Kingbirds were seen at six different localities during May from Sauvie I., s. to Wolf Creek and w. nearly to Waldport, with numbers of individuals at Eugene and at Corvallis. Several pairs of Black Phoebes were again found nesting in Jackson Co., Ore. (OS). Two Say's Phoebes were at Victoria's Clover Pt. Apr. 15 (MS,RF,KT, *vide* VG); single birds were recorded at Seattle Apr. 13, on Camano I., May 23-24 (*vide* PM), at Eugene May 4 (DG, *vide* LM), and along the Luckiamute R. in Benton Co., Ore., May 17 (JJ, *vide* FR). On May 29 there were 50 Willow Flycatchers on Camano I. where none had been present two days earlier (JW, *vide* PM); this species seems to have arrived unusually late. An extremely early W. Flycatcher was observed and heard at Francis Park near Victoria Apr. 8 (WW).

Two Bank Swallows were seen at Saanich May 7 (RF, *vide* VG). Ten Rough-winged Swallows were at Eugene Apr. 2 and two Barn Swallows were there the next day (TL); one of the latter species arrived at Saanich, Apr. 15 (M&VG). Early Cliff Swallows were seen at several points, including Saanich and the Skagit Flats during the first two weeks of April. More than 100 Purple Martins were at Fern Ridge Res., May 11 (TL); a pair had been seen at Hammond, Ore., as early as Mar. 28 (RFe, *vide* TL), while three birds were seen at Peedee, Ore., Apr. 7 (JJ, *vide* TL). Up to ten Purple Martins were found at Corvallis, Olympia, Seattle, Saanich and Duncan Apr. 7 - May 25.

The Blue Jay which wintered in Seattle was last seen in late April (*vide* PM); the one which had evidently wintered at Vancouver was last seen in early May (*vide* BK). A Blue Jay was seen and photographed at Green L., about 70 mi. n. of Vancouver May 11 (WC, *vide* WW). A Black-billed Magpie was seen at Seattle Apr. 25 (BR, *vide* PM). A Wrenit was noted at Alsea, Ore., Apr. 27 (LN).

WRENS THROUGH SHRIKES — House Wrens were established at a number of points on s. Vancouver I. by the end of the report period. A Rock Wren was found on the e. edge of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness Area May 16 (SS). The Mockingbird which spent most of the winter at Vancouver was seen last Apr. 2 (*vide* WW), and the one which had been at Victoria all winter was seen last May 2 (*vide* VG). A Veery was seen at Medford May 23 (JH). Western Bluebirds continue to be very scarce; only reports were of single individuals at Mima Mounds, Thurston Co., Wash., Apr. 6 (BT), in the Malahat District n. of Victoria May 3 (V&MG,RS), and at Newhalem, Wash., May 4 (TW). Mountain Bluebirds, on the other hand, appeared at such unexpected places as the s. jetty of the Columbia R. May 3 (HN), near Grants Pass Apr. 8, and nearby May 10 (SS), at the Samish Flats where 12 were discovered Apr. 9 (NL), and in Saanich and Vancouver where two females were seen Apr. 21 (V&MG) and Apr. 25-28 (BK), respectively. The species was also recorded near Eugene Apr. 19 (AS,AP, *vide* LM), at Rainier, Wash., Apr. 27 (G&WH), and at Manning P. P., May 22 (VG). Townsend's Solitaires were more widely reported in w. Oregon and w. Washington than in any

previous season with several from coastal localities; one was at Ocean Shores May 9 (G&WH), one was at Willapa Bay N.W.R., Apr. 26 (BT), one was at Seaside, Ore., May 11 and two were at Alsea, Ore., not far from the coast, Apr. 12 (DM, *vide* FR).

Two pairs of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers — one tending a nest containing four eggs — were discovered the last week of May near Eagle Pt., Jackson Co., Ore., farther north than any other regional record (OS). An estimated 80-100 Ruby-crowned Kinglets were observed in a relatively small area at Eugene Apr. 18 (CW); one at Olympia May 27 (G&WH) was lingering late. A Water Pipit at Fern Ridge Res. as late as May 18 (LM) is also of interest. On Apr. 4 there were still 43 Bohemian Waxwings on the U.B.C. campus in Vancouver (WW). Large flocks of Cedar Waxwings were around Corvallis all spring (FR) but not noted prominently anywhere else. Late N. Shrikes were at Pitt L. s. of Vancouver, Apr. 4 and at Iona I., Apr. 5 (DW, JEW). A very late N. Shrike was one at Tzuhalem, s. Vancouver I., May 14 (RMG, *vide* VG). Single Loggerhead Shrikes were noted at Fern Ridge Res., Apr. 30 (LM) and at Seattle May 25 (DP, *vide* PM).

**VIREOS, WARBLERS, BLACKBIRDS, GROSBEAKS** — A Solitary Vireo was found at Corvallis on Apr. 8 (early) & 15 (FR, *et al.*). A Red-eyed Vireo was noted at Philomath, Ore., and another on Mary's Peak w. of Corvallis, both May 31 (*vide* FR); one was at Victoria May 24 (RS, *vide* VG), but none were to be found in n. Washington by the end of the period (NL). Warbling Vireos were said to be abundant migrants at Eugene after May 8 (LM): on May 16, a surprising concentration of 28 was found in Vancouver's Stanley Park (BK).

A heavy movement of Nashville Warblers took place at Eugene, May 7 (CSw, *vide* LM), but elsewhere in the Region records were few for single birds. A migratory movement of Yellow Warblers was evident May 18-25 at Eugene (CW); an early individual was seen at Corvallis, Apr. 15 (RJ, *vide* FR). Large numbers of Townsend's Warblers were said to be at both Ocean Shores, May 9, and at Nisqually N.W.R., May 11 (G&WH); the species was reported to be common at Eugene to May 18 (LM), and at Stanley Park in Vancouver on May 16 there were 20 individuals (BK). A singing **Palm Warbler** was photographed at Sauvie I., w. of Portland, May 10 (RFi, HN) for one of very few spring reports from this Region. Six Com. Yellowthroats were observed together near Medford on the early date of Apr. 5 (OS). A group of a dozen Yellow-breasted Chats was observed near Lebanon, May 31 (WT, *vide* FR). An early Wilson's Warbler was observed at Corvallis, Apr. 15 (FR *et al.*); an amazing concentration of 500 individuals was estimated to be present at Stanley Park, Vancouver, May 16 (BK).

A Bobolink was discovered near Lebanon May 28 (WT, *vide* FR); another May 29 at Sea I., s. of Vancouver (JI, *vide* BK). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were noted at a number of s. Willamette Valley locations, at Nisqually, Seattle, Vancouver, Saanich and at Tofino on the s.w. coast of Vancouver I., after mid-April. Ten Tricolored Blackbirds were seen in the Rogue R. Valley near Medford, May 3 (OS). An early N. Oriole was

at Finley N.W.R., Apr. 11 (RR, *vide* FR). On May 18, there were 33 W. Tanagers in Stanley Park (BK). A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak was discovered at Eugene May 16 (OS, *vide* LM); two days later one was recorded near Dexter, Lane Co., Ore. (MM, *vide* LM), and then on May 24, a lone male appeared at Eugene (DW, *vide* LM).

**FINCHES, SPARROWS** — The s. Willamette Valley experienced an influx of Evening Grosbeaks May 14, they had been more numerous than usual at Medford this spring (OS), but were considerably less common in the Portland area than in recent springs. Purple Finches were more common than usual in n.w. Oregon. Six Cassin's Finches were at Manning P.P. May 22 (VG). Pine Siskins were scattered and in small numbers in n.w. Oregon during May; no one, however, seems to have birded the Cascades that month. On May 9, there were 130 Am. Goldfinches at Sauvie I., w. of Portland (HN). Lesser Goldfinches were encountered in numbers of no more than three a day in the vicinity of Corvallis on six dates during April and May. Red Crossbills were in the Coast Range, Lane Co., Ore., Apr. 11 (CW) and at Camano I., Wash., much of the spring (JW, *vide* PM); a single bird was at Saanich May 7 & 12 (RMG, LR, *vide* VG). Up to eight White-winged Crossbills were at Manning P.P. May 21-29 (VG). A group of 20-25 Grasshopper Sparrows was seen at Buena Vista, s. of Salem Apr. 21-28 (JJ, *vide* FR).

Vesper Sparrows were reported from Salem, Apr. 16 & 21 (TM), from the dunes at the mouth of the Winchuck R. in extreme s.w. Oregon where three were singing Apr. 20 (SS), from s. of Banks, Ore., in the foothills of the Coast Range where two were noted on May 24 (JBC *et al.*), from Mima Mounds, Thurston Co., Wash. on Apr. 30 (BT), from Ocean Shores where two were found May 9 (G&WH), and from Pitt Meadows, e. of Vancouver May 2 (RR, *vide* BK). Single Lark Sparrows showed up at Lebanon, May 28 (WT, *vide* FR) and in Skagit Co., May 18 (K&JW, *vide* TW). Twelve Black-throated Sparrows were among a flock of White-crowned Sparrows near Fern Ridge Res., Apr. 10 (HT, *vide* LM); a male was singing at Roxy Ann Butte near Medford, May 31 (OS), and one was found in n.e. Portland May 18 (CK). Individual "Slate-colored" Juncos were seen at Seattle May 1 (MP, *vide* PM) and at Nisqually N.W.R., May 8 (BT). An elusive bird on the Skagit Flats, from at least Mar. 30 to Apr. 20 was finally identified to the satisfaction of the local birding fraternity as a **Clay-colored Sparrow** (DP, EH, BT, PM *et al.*); it may well be the first record for Washington; we are not aware of any other. A Harris' Sparrow was at Medford, Apr. 9-20 (SS, OS). A late Golden-crowned Sparrow was still present at Philomath, Ore., May 31 (BP, *vide* FR), and another late individual was at Seattle May 28 (JW, *vide* PM). A White-throated Sparrow was found at the Skagit Game Range, Apr. 6 (EH); one remained at Victoria until late April (VG). Six Lapland Longspurs were seen at Seattle Apr. 22 (EH), one was at Victoria Apr. 29 (ARD, *vide* VG), one was noted on San Juan I., May 3 (G&WH), and another was at Victoria, May 12-15 (VG, RS *et al.*). A very late Snow Bunting was observed at Westport May 3 (JS, *vide* PM).

**OBSERVERS** — Bob Anderson, John Annear (JAN), Jim Ashleman, Blair Bernson, Ken Brunner, Wayne Campbell, John Casteel (JCa), Paul Cook, Tom Crabtree, John B. Crowell, Jr., A.R. Davidson, Jack Davis, Dave Drummond, Betty Estes, Bob & Pat Evans (B&PEv), Lloyd Farrell, Darrell Faxon, Richard Ferrell (RFe), Roy Fisk (RFi), David Fix (DFi), Rachel Freelin (RFR), Ralph Fryer, Jeff Gibson (JGn), Dan Gleason, Vic & Margaret Goodwill, Dave Hayward, Ollie Heide, Joseph Hicks, Glen & Wanda Hoge, Harold Hosford, Eugene Hunn, John Ireland, Stewart James, Jon Janosik, R. Jarvis, Dave Jones, Brian Kautesk, Chester Kebbe, Mike Kreiling, Kirk & Katy LaGory, Norman Lavers, Brad Livezey, Tom Lund, Bruce MacDonald, Donald MacDonald, R. MacKenzie-Grieve, Peter Marshall (PMr), Marian Mathews, Phil Mattocks, Tom McCamant, John Medley, Larry McQueen, James Nahser, Harry Nehls, Lars Norgren, Dennis Paulson, Michael Perrone, Bill Peterson, G.A. Poynter, Al Prigge, Eleanor Pugh, Fred Ramsey, Tim Reichard (TRe), Tony Roach, Leila G. Roberts, Robin Robinson (RRn), Richard Rogers, Beverly Ross, Ron Satterfield, Madelon Schouten (MSc), Floyd Schrock, Michael Shepard, Aaron Skirvin, Curtiss Smith, Jan Smith, Colleen Sweeney (CSw), Otis Swisher, Howard Taylor, Keith Taylor, William Thackaberry, Charles Thomas, Bill Tweit, Glen Walthall, Clarice Watson, Don Watson (DWa), Wayne Weber, Virginia Whitelaw, Keith & Jan Wiggers (K&JWi), Dorothy Williams, Jack Williams (JEW), John Wingfield, Al Winter, Chauncey Wood (CWo), Sarah Wood. **JOHN B. CROWELL, JR., 1185 Hallinan Circle, Lake Oswego, OR 97034** and **HARRY B. NEHLS, 2736 S.E. 20th Avenue, Portland, OR 97202.**

## MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION /Rich Stallcup and Jon Winter

Spring in Northern California was more like a belated winter, generally retarding the departure of waterfowl and in some cases delaying the arrival of summer Passerines. Those breeding species which arrived early or on time were massed in lowland areas well into May, unable to move upslope because of remaining heavy snow and freezing temperatures. Migrant land birds were one to two weeks later than usual along the coast, possibly as the result of persistent northwest winds and exceptionally cool, foggy and rainy weather. In the Central Valleys (below C.V.) arrivals were more or less on time but lowland insectivores had heavy competition for the few prey items available from mountain species and individuals present which could not yet move into the Sierra Nevadas.

Some nesting species in the C.V., particularly tule marsh dwellers, were seen to have major losses of young and eggs as unseasonably strong May winds bent cat tails to the ground.

During the first two weeks of June the most incredible assortment of "eastern" land birds yet witnessed in spring appeared on the Farallon Islands and most were banded, carefully examined and photographed. All references to Farallon land birds in this issue were on the



island during the period of May 31 to June 7 and all are credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory. Additional Farallon land birds for later June and for July, though truly spring migrants, will appear in the summer season issue.

A dagger (†) means that that observer has submitted an acceptable written description.

**LOONS THROUGH TUBENOSES** — All loon species departed on time and of 3000 seen passing Pigeon Pt. Apr. 26, 40% were Arctics, 30% Commonns and 30% Red-throats (DDeS). Common Loons were seen migrating slightly offshore in good numbers and a total of three on L. Millerton in the C.V. May 13-23 (RH,KH,JS *et al.*), one calling in the fog at Sausalito Apr. 23 (TC,BY *et al.*) and one far offshore at the Farallon Is. June 1-6 represent slight variations of the usual pattern. Usual small numbers were at mountain lakes. From Pigeon Pt., 7000 Arctics on Apr. 11 and 2210 on May 7 all flying north were high counts (BS). At the Klamath R. mouth 200 Red-throats, mostly in breeding plumage Apr. 19, were the most seen settled (SFB). Seven Horned Grebes were reported from inland localities, which is usual. At the Pajaro R. mouth 1500 W. Grebes Apr. 2 were more than ever there (J&RW) and 12 at Davis L. near Sierraville were the first there in four years of observations (JH) and may have been breeders.

The highest number of Black-footed Albatrosses seen in recent years on a Monterey pelagic trip was 60 on June 1 (TC,PM *et al.*) and singles were seen in and near the Gulf of the Farallons throughout the period which has not been the recent case. Thirty-one Pink-footed Shearwaters, 2800 Sooties and one Manx Shearwater (†) on May 1 from Pigeon Pt. (BS) were the highest numbers of each reported. It was the first spring Manx in many years. Many times in spring and summer more shearwaters may be seen near shore from the north end of Monterey Bay than on offshore trips. No Storm-Petrels were reported away from the Farallons where Ashies and Leach's breed.



PELICANS THROUGH HERONS — White Pelicans were reported from many stations throughout May as "migrating" (m.ob.) and 300 "climbing out" of Feather Reservoir were thought to be crossing the Sierra (DDeS,DAG). The first few Brown Pelicans arrived the first week of May as usual and a good per cent of first year immatures were noted (m.ob.). A Double-crested Cormorant at L. Millerton May 6-20 was one of few ever recorded there (RH,BW) and 50 at Gray Lodge Apr. 12 (JH) was high for any C.V. sighting. Two Great Blue Heron rookeries were up by several nests (BGE,RH) but one at the Porterville Hospital is doomed by highway construction (RH). As usual, Green Herons returned to breeding localities and were seen migrating throughout April and into early May (RS,PM,OJK). They are quite migratory! For the fourth year in a row an ad. **Little Blue Heron** was at Palo Alto May 3, 10 (BY,PM†) and it or another was at Bolinas Lagoon May 26 (P.R.B.O.†). Two Snowy Egrets at the Navarro R. mouth May 15 were thought to be the first Mendocino Co. records (OJK) and two at L. Tahoe May 13 (WS) were at an unusual locale. At Arcata, 11 Cattle Egrets Apr. 4-9 (DE,TS) were the most seen this period. A Least Bittern was well heard at Lower Klamath where it is very rarely detected (SS). The only White-faced Ibis were ten at Honey L. W.M.A. May 24 (SAL) which is normal.

WATERFOWL — Black Brant were late leaving and several flocks were seen flying north in May and early June. In the C.V., freshwater geese were similarly late but by only one to three weeks.

#### S. A.

In the past few years in the Central Valleys more acreage has been turned to rice than ever before. These increases have created desirable breeding habitats for dabbling ducks, Ruddies, Redheads and Black Terns and our records show increased production in these species there. Since the war in s.e. Asia has ended it is likely that the U.S. will no longer export huge amounts of rice and instead of lowering prices for local consumption, the fields will be burned and turned back to other cash crops. Again the great wetlands that once were the Central Valleys will be taken from the birds.

All species of regular dabbling ducks were late to leave, especially Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal and in some places not normally used, Gadwall and Pintails remained to nest. Blue-winged Teal were widely reported with a total of 19. Another Cinnamon X Blue-winged hybrid male was at Novato Apr. 6 (LCB). Male European Wigeon at Palo Alto (BY,BD) and in Golden Gate Park (AE) both Apr. 6 were the last ones reported. Wood Ducks are doing well.

Greater Scaup were once again found inland, which is now always the case in spring, doubtless owing to new awareness in identification techniques of birds on the water rather than a change in the species habits. Six males were together at L. Berryessa Apr. 6 (PM) and a total of four was seen Apr. 10-19 in the Davis-Woodland area (RS,DAG,DW). Over 100 Greaters

along the San Mateo Bridge in late May were doubtless summering, supporting the notion that they are by far our commonest summer scaup(RS). Large numbers of Lesser Scaup remained later than usual in the Woodland area (RS *et al.*) and a healthy female May 24 at Avacado L. was by far the latest ever there (RH,KH,BW). Most scoters at Monterey Bay pulled out early (!) this spring (BGE) but four Black Scoters May 17 (B&Y) and one May 18 (LCB) at Pt. Reyes were late. Two ♂ Red-breasted Mergansers were at Red Bluff Apr 5 (SAL).

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS — A Goshawk at Glacier Pt., Yosemite May 31 (BDP) was the only one reported. Sharp-shinned Hawks were lightly reported but Cooper's Hawks were widespread and five nests were located. An albino Red-tailed Hawk was described from the Fresno Co. foothills (RG *et al.*). We have descriptions of several different albino Red-tailed if anyone wishes to investigate that problem. Swanson's Hawks had a better-than-average spring in the northern C.V. (RS,DDeS). Three Rough-legged Hawks near Woodland Apr. 10 (RS) and one at Colusa N W R Apr. 13 (TL) were the last dates reported. Golden Eagles were in normal good numbers (m.ob.) but imm Bald Eagles near Mt. Hamilton Apr. 23 (RM *et al.*) and on the Feather R. May 19 (JH) were late. Marsh Hawks were in higher numbers this winter-spring (LCB) More migrant Ospreys were noted this season (15) but that is probably a function of more observers. Few large falcons were noted after Apr. 10. Near Honey L 15 ♂ Sage Grouse were still booming and stomping on Apr 13 (SS), which is very late. Three Mountain Quail 5 mi. w. of Calistoga Apr. 26, 27 (PM) were at a heretofore unknown coast range locale. Rails were scarcely mentioned in any reports, however a Black Rail Apr 7 May 18 at Olema Marsh (P.R.B.O. *et al.*) was probably territorial. A Com. Gallinule at Gold Bluff Beach May 11, 12 (TS,DE) was noteworthy but an adult on the Farallon Is. (below F.I.) June 6 was a first island record and a unique sight as it stalked among nesting gull-nests.

SHOREBIRDS — Semipalmated Plovers move north in the C.V. in late April and early May as demonstrated by a peak of 37 around Fresno Apr. 23 (RH,KH *et al.*) with a peak of 28 at Woodland Apr. 28 (RS,DW), five at the Bend district, Tehama Co. (a first county record) May 6 (SAL) and two at Lower Klamath May 8 (SS) Snowy Plovers, much rarer in the C.V., follow this pattern about ten days earlier. (RH,JH,RS). At the Pajaro R. mouth Snowies nested later than normal owing to late storms (J&RW) and at Dumbarton only one-third usual numbers bred (BGE). A Killdeer in Calaveras S.P. May 19 was the first ever seen there (MK) At Loleta, 65 Am. Golden Plovers Apr. 9 were down to 16 on the fifteenth (KT,DE,TS). A Black-bellied Plover at Tahoe Keys Apr. 22 (WS) was at an unusual spot. Twenty Surf-birds at Emeryville Apr. 13 (J&SL) and 50 at Año Nuevo Apr. 26 (DDeS) reflect their usual departure times and their gregarious migration preferences. A Ruddy Turnstone at L. Millerton May 6 was a first Fresno County record (RH). They are very rare inland. Whimbrels showed their usual heavy spring

passage in April and early May but six near Morgan Hill May 24 (LCB) were decidedly late for obvious migrants. A few always summer at coastal lagoons. Eight Spotted Sandpipers on the San Lorenzo R., near Felton were suspected breeders (RM,DB). They are rare as a nesting species away from the Sierra. Three Solitary Sandpipers were seen, including a first for San Mateo County at Belmont Apr. 29 - May 2 (PM) a first for Del Norte Co. at Ft. Dick May 5 (SS) and one at Arcata May 24 (*vide* DE).

Three Wandering Tattlers at Alameda Apr. 8 (J&SL) and one at Fremont Apr. 27 (AE) were unusual as both are inside S.F. Bay. Eight Willets at Fresno Apr. 19 (RH,KH) and six at Tahoe Apr. 22 (WS) were high numbers at unusual inland spots. Two Red Knots at Bolinas May 2 (LCB *et al.*) were late. A **Baird's Sandpiper**, very rare in spring, was impeccably described from the Reedly Sewerage Ponds Apr. 5 (RH,KH *et al.*). A single Short-billed Dowitcher with 400 Long-billeds at Woodland Apr. 10 was identified by plumage and call (RS *et al.*). On May 5 a single Sanderling was at Tahoe Keys where they are at best accidental (WS<sup>†</sup>). Also at Tahoe Keys a single Am. Avocet and two Black-necked Stilts Apr. 16 (WS) were exceptional. Stilts are continuing to gain territory northward along the e. shore of S.F. Bay (ER). At Pacific Grove, 1000 N. Phalaropes on Apr. 20 (B&CY) were the most reported, Wilson's were their usual few in the C.V. and Sierra and no Reds were reported.

**GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS** — A first-year Glaucous Gull at Bolinas May 2 (RS *et al.*) and one at Pigeon Pt May 22 (BS) were both late as was an imm. Mew Gull May 2 at Bolinas (LCB *et al.*). An ad. Laughing Gull was again noted at the Pajaro R. mouth Apr. 25 (J&RW). Normal thousands of Bonaparte's Gulls were on the coast late April and early May (m.ob.) and three immatures were noted inland (SAL,RS). The usual few Black-legged Kittiwakes were found at coastal harbors and calm bays. An oiled ad. Sabine's Gull was picked up at the Pajaro R. mouth May 29 (J&RW). Least Terns continue to decline and 12 on May 4 at Emeryville (SFB) was the highest number reported by far. Black Terns were well represented in the C.V. (see above) (RS), two at Tahoe May 5 (WS) and eight at Sierra Valley May 24 (JH) were at unusual places. Ten Pigeon Guillemots at Crescent City Apr. 1 (J&SL) were many since they are not known to winter there. Forty-five Marbled Murrelets at Pigeon Pt. May 7 (BS) was the highest number reported. This locality is the best spot to see these mystery birds and all of them probably nest in San Mateo County. A Xantus' Murrelet was seen near the F.I. Apr. 13 (TC,BY *et al.*). Individuals have been seen here before in spring and even been found dead onshore. It is likely that a very few pairs breed there. An Ancient Murrelet in breeding plumage on Monterey Bay June 1 (TC,PM *et al.*) is our latest-ever spring record. Rhinoceros Auklets are reestablishing a substantial colony on the F.I., with more detected there this year (P.R.B.O.). Ten Rhinos and a Tufted Puffin were seen offshore Bodega May 10 (BDP). Tufted Puffins are also increasing their number of nesting birds on the F I (P.R.B.O.).

**PIGEONS THROUGH NIGHTJARS** — Numbers of Band-tailed Pigeons in the Santa Cruz Mts. have declined sharply, mainly owing to a trichomonosis epidemic (BGE). A single Roadrunner was seen e of Aetna Spr., Napa Co. Apr. 20 (PM). Two Screech Owls from the Strigid-fertile Chew's Ridge on May 10 were the only ones reported. Doesn't anyone go owl-ing? Six Pygmy Owls at Chew's Ridge May 9, 10 (JW) was a good concentration of this locally common bird Spotted Owls, far more common than formerly supposed, were reported with four birds near Orick in late April and a single bird 5 mi. s. of Leggett May 23 (DE). Two individuals were heard at Richardsons Grove S.P. on Apr. 18, two or three were calling on the w. slope of Mt. Tamalpais May 2 (RS, LCB *et al.*) and a single bird was seen May 10 at Chew's Ridge (JW). Ten ad. Burrowing Owls were in one field in s Sacramento Apr. 23 (RS) still keeping one hop ahead of the bulldozers. Great Gray Owls are continuing to nest at at least one spot in Yosemite despite constant harassment by birders. One former long-time nest tree was recently abandoned when its exact location was publicized. Two Short-eared Owls, rare in the C.V. in spring, were seen near Woodland Apr. 23 (RS). A new location for Saw-whet Owls was found at Del Valle Park where a single bird was heard Apr. 13 (AE). Two individuals of this species were seen and heard at Chew's Ridge on May 9 (JW). A Poor-will found injured at Bayside, Humboldt Co. on May 19 is noteworthy as this species is quite rare on the north coast (DE, TS). Poor-wills were found to be common at Chew's Ridge May 10 (JW). A single Com. Night-hawk, scarce anywhere away from the C.V. was seen on the F.I. the week of June 1-7 (P.R.B.O.).

**SWIFTS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS** — At least 22 Black Swifts were seen along the coast from Arcata to Año Nuevo Pt. between May 18-31 (LCB,DE,TC). Three were reported from Feather Falls on May 17-18 (DDeS,DAG) and the Yosemite populations appear normal in number (BDP,JW). A total of 200 Vaux's Swifts were seen at Dog I. and Dales Station, Tehama Co., Portola S.P. (possibly nesting), Lafayette, Belmont, and Pomponio Creek, San Mateo Co. Apr. 19 - May 10 (PM,SAL,DDeS,LF,BK). A rather heavy movement of mostly *Selasphorus sp.* hummingbirds consisting of at least 8-14 birds/min. was observed Apr. 26 on Montebello Ridge near Stevens Creek S P (B&CY). Single ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbirds at Weaverville and Lewiston, Trinity Co. May 10 appear to be the first county records (*vide* DE,TS). A ♂ Costa's Hummingbird at the Weaverville location Apr 26-27 appears to be the northernmost record of this species in California (DE,TS *et al.*†). Migrant Rufous Hummingbirds were noted as being quite late at Ukiah where a single bird was seen May 1 (OJK). A nest of an Anna's Hummingbird found at the Arcata Cemetery, May 11 appears to be the first conclusive evidence that the species breeds in Humboldt county (TS). Calliope Hummingbirds passed through the region in normal numbers, however a sighting of two males and a female at the Arcata Cemetery May 2-8 is of interest as this species is rather rare on the north coast (DE *et al.*)

A total of 12 Pileated Woodpeckers was reported from Cherry Gap, Fresno Co., Calaveras S.P., Sugar Loaf S.P., Mt. St. Helena, Yosemite, Muir Woods, and Los Posades State Forest at Angwin (RH, MK, BDP, SFB, JW). Where silvicultural practices are limited or non-existent this species seems to thrive, which means that the most stable populations will be found in undisturbed parks and reserves. A single Acorn Woodpecker was seen Apr. 2 northeast of Albion in the humid coast belt where they are exceptional (OJK). Lewis' Woodpeckers are alive and well in the inner-coast range where at least 50 were seen between Williams and Stonyford Apr. 19 (JH). The continued expansion of Nuttall's Woodpeckers on the S.F. Peninsula produced two active nests on Jasper Ridge this spring (DDeS).

The only E. Kingbird of the period was photographed on the F.I. June 1-5. Western Kingbirds appeared to be about a week behind their normal arrival dates with the Region's first birds seen Apr. 13 at Crespi Pond (EM). A well-described Cassin's Kingbird found 1 mi. e. of Cape Mendocino May 27 is the northernmost California record for this species (BC†). The cold spring retarded the arrival of Ash-throated Flycatchers, the first being seen May 2 at Lafayette (LF). The Region's first spring **Eastern Pheobe** was photographed on the F.I. June 4. Reports of Willow Flycatchers were noticeably lacking this spring, however several were noted in the willows around Wawona, in Yosemite on June 1 (BDP). Population of this flycatcher warrants watching in the future as it is a riparian-adapted species and such habitat is known to be disappearing in much of the state. Although rare (or overlooked) throughout mainland California, the Least Flycatcher has been recorded on the F.I. more than a dozen times. P.R.B.O. personnel added another individual to this list when one was banded and photographed on the F.I. the week of June 1-7. An impressive number of well-documented Gray Flycatcher reports were received this spring. A total of 11 coastal records spanning dates Apr. 4 - May 17 indicate that observers are looking more carefully at migrant *Empidonax*. Careful attention to behavior will eventually reveal characteristics that will allow identification of the entire genus in California at any time of the year. Unlike a number of other insectivorous species, the Olive-sided Flycatcher appeared to return to the Region on time this spring.

**SWALLOWS THROUGH THRUSHES** — The small colony of Bank Swallows at Año Nuevo Pt. is reported to be nesting again with six birds observed there May 31 (TC). Rough-winged Swallows are down in numbers from last year at Calaveras (MK). Purple Martins in Sacramento were reported to arrive on Apr. 1 (BK), and another was noted at Belmont on Apr. 19 (PM). Two Gray Jays were noted just south of their known range on the coast n.e. of Albion May 14 (OJK). Populations of Chestnut-backed Chickadees continue to be discovered in the Sierras. Two birds at Feather Falls May 17 (DDeS) and a single bird near Volcanville Apr. 13 (PM) were both at new locations for this species. Racial determination of the Sierra populations is still lacking but they are most likely *P.r. rufescens*. A single Red-breasted Nuthatch seen on May 19 at Gray

Lodge provided the first record of this species for the refuge (BED). A new location along the coast for Dippers was found on May 10 at Gazos Creek, San Mateo Co. (PM), and two nests of this species were found again at Boca Reservoir Apr. 30 (RS). Records of Mockingbirds continue to increase on the north coast where a total of three birds were found at Crescent City Apr. 26, King Salmon May 12 and Fairhaven June 1 (*vide* DE). An out-of-range Sage Thrasher was in the Arcata bottoms May 4, 5 (*vide* TS, DE). Swainson's Thrushes were first noted Apr. 18 at Lafayette (LF) Probably because of heavy snows in the high country, Mountain Bluebirds were seen at low elevations late in the season. At Jelly's Ferry, 13 were present on Apr. 4 (SAL) and two individuals were known to be present until late Apr. at Big Lagoon (*vide* DE, TS). A single Townsend's Solitaire was present until Apr. 19 at Monticello Dam (RS, DW, DAG).

**GNATCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS** — Two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, rare on the north coast, were at King Salmon and Manila May 12 and 15 respectively (TS, DE). Flocks of Cedar Waxwings lingered in the C.V. into the second week of June (RH, KH, RS) which is slightly later than normal. The third Humboldt County record of Phainopepla was established when two birds were seen at Kneeland on May 24 (*vide* TS, DE). A very tardy N. Shrike was still at Honey L. Apr. 12 (SS). Solitary Vireos returned on time; a single bird was seen at Coyote Hills Apr. 5 (RS, JL). Three Red-eyed Vireos, two of which were photographed, were on the F.I. June 3-6 bringing the island total for the species to over 20.

As is now to be expected the F.I. produced a remarkable number of "eastern" travelers this spring. Between June 1-7 a total of 64 species (225 individuals) of land birds were recorded. Of this total, 24 species (38%) were vagrants, 14 species (22%) of which were warblers. All following observations of warblers on the F.I. were June 1-7. Black-and-white Warblers found were one at Drakes Beach May 10-18 (m.ob), one male at Zumwalt Meadows, Kings Canyon June 1 (RH) and five birds (4 banded) on the F.I. A peak wave of 25 Orange-crowned Warblers passed Dog I., Tehama Co. Apr. 17 and at the same location 13 Nashville Warblers were found Apr. 11 (SAL). Very rare in late spring, a ♀ N. Parula was captured on the F.I. Sixteen Yellow Warblers were late at Dog I. May 21 (SAL). Three Magnolia Warblers were banded on the F.I. as was a ♀ **Cape May Warbler**, the fifth regional spring record. Townsend's Warblers moved through the Winters area on May 2, when 20 individuals were seen (TL). Three Black-throated Green Warblers (2 banded, photo) on the F.I. brings the Region's number of spring records for this species to eight. Two **Blackburnian Warblers**, very rare in spring, were reported; a singing male at Pt. Reyes May 6 (RS), and another on the F.I. Two Chestnut-sided Warblers and two ♂ **Bay-breasted Warblers** found their way to the F.I. Blackpoll Warbler, although a regular vagrant in fall, is exceptional in spring. Three were banded and photographed on F.I. A wintering Palm Warbler remained in Ferndale until Apr. 3 (J&SL), three more were known to be in the Arcata-Eureka area Apr. 5 - May 8, (*vide* DE, TS) and

two more were seen on the F.I. An Ovenbird was seen in Lafayette (LF) and seven more occurred on the F.I. The sixth regional spring record of **Hooded Warbler** was that of a male seen on the F.I. Wilson's Warblers arrived about a week behind their normal spring dates at Palomarin while a wave of 32 individuals was recorded on the F.I. Four Am. Redstarts were banded on the F.I.

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS** — Rarely recorded in spring, two Bobolinks were reported; one from Mckerricker Beach S.P. May 14 (A. Earle), and another seen on the F.I. June 1-3. A ♀ Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen at Arcata Apr. 20, and a male and a female were reported from Prairie Creek S.P. May 25 (*fide* DE,TS). Two Tricolored Blackbirds, rare on the north coast, were found in Humboldt County; one at Loleta bottoms Apr. 29, and another at the Arcata bottoms May 9 (*fide* DE,TS). Arrival dates for both N. and Hooded Orioles appeared to be normal. A ♂ "Baltimore" Oriole was on the F.I. June 1. A rather large concentration of 2000 Brown-headed Cowbirds was seen 1 mi. s. of Woodland Apr. 10 (RS,DW). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported from three localities; eight were banded (4 photos) on the F.I. June 1-7 (P.R.B.O.), a male was seen at Palomarin May 18 (P.R.B.O.) and an ad. male was seen in Yosemite Valley June 1 (JW). A pair of Blue Grosbeaks was seen on the Feather River near Yuba City May 7 (JH) and a migrant female was seen at Drake's Estero May 6 (RS). The current status of this species in the region is questionable and like many riparian species it is probably on the decline. The regional editors hope that observers will be especially watchful of this species in the future. Records of Indigo Buntings continue to mount and three more were banded on the F.I. June 1-7 (P.R.B.O.). A low elevation observation of 14 Evening Grosbeaks at Feather Falls May 17 was probably the result of the late, heavy snows in the mountains (DAG,DDeS). A out-of-range ♂ Cassin's Finch was described from Lafayette Apr. 6 (LF). A large flock of 200 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches was seen near Lee Vining Apr. 28 (EM) and 20, including at least one Hepburn's form (*L. t. littoralis*) were seen at a mine shaft s.e. of Hallelujah Junction in late April (JM). A significant movement of Pine Siskins was observed between Apr. 8 May 20 on the S.F. Peninsula (PM). Lawrence's Goldfinches were reported in normal numbers throughout the period.

Grasshopper Sparrows were found breeding in the new location of Alum Rock S. P. May 25 (*fide* DDeS). Records of Vesper Sparrows on the north coast increased when a total of five birds was seen at Trinidad, L. Talawa, and Prairie Creek S. P. Apr. 17 - June 1 (*fide* DE,TS). Black-throated Sparrows returned to Cohasset Rd., Butte Co. where one was seen May 16 (SAL). Two Tree Sparrows were banded and photographed on the F.I. June 1-7 (P.R.B.O.). It is interesting to note that all of the region's spring records of this species have been on the F.I. Three Clay-colored Sparrows were on the island June 1-7 (P.R.B.O.) bringing the Region's total number of spring records for this species to ten, all of which have occurred on the F.I. As usual, small numbers of Brewer's Sparrows were reported from the C.V. and the coast. Black-chinned

Sparrows were reported on Mt. St. Helena on May 10 where they are irregular (BDP). This species is definitely expanding its range in California. A possible reason is that the rigid program of fire control over last 50 years has allowed an inordinate amount of fuel to build up on forest floors. Subsequent fires then destroy the existing canopy, creating in their wake large tracts of sub-climax chaparral which in turn has allowed the proliferation of chaparral-loving species. Two Harris' Sparrows remained quite late at Ferndale until May 10 and at Patrick's Pt. S.P. until May 29 (*fide* DE,TS) Single apparent Golden-crowned x White-crowned Sparrows were found at Monte Serrano Apr. 9 (L R Mewaldt, B&CY) and at Prairie Creek S.P. Apr. 20 (*fide* DE,TS). They are known to hybridize. Golden-crowned Sparrows were reported as much as two weeks past their normal departure dates. There were three reports for April of White-throated Sparrows which is not unusual. Lincoln's Sparrows were noted singing on territory at Crane Flat, Yosemite June 7 in spite of the fact that 80% of their habitat was covered with heavy snow (JW). A Swamp Sparrow at Eureka Apr. 4-13 (*fide* DE,TS) and another at the Feather River, Yuba City Apr. 9 (JH) were quite late. A single Lapland Longspur at Honey Lake W.M.A. Apr. 12 is only the second April record for the region (SAL). A calling ♂ **Chestnut-collared Longspur** at Boca Reservoir Apr 30 (RS) and eight more seen at Honey Lake N.W.R Apr. 20 (JM) provide the first spring records for the region.

**ADDENDA** — A belated report and description of an **Eastern Phoebe** has been received. The bird was found at Asilomar Feb. 27, 1975, was carefully watched by an observer familiar with the species and could not be relocated the next day (HE). It is one of very few regional records, most of which have been for winter

**CONTRIBUTORS** — Maurine Armour, Carol Anderson, Steven F. Bailey, Karen Bailey, Laurence C Binford, Gordon L. Bolander, Terri Braun, Ted Chandik, Brennan Davis, Dave DeSante, Bruce E. Deuel, Bob Dyer, Art Earle (AEa), Art Edwards (AE), Howard Einspahr, Bruce G. Elliott, Dick Erickson, Lynn Farrar, Janet Farness, David A. Gaines, Ron Gerstenberg, Keith Hansen, Rob Hansen, Bill Henry, Joel Hornstien, Suann Hosie, Paul Kelly, Margaret Keith, Betty Kimball, Oliver J. Kolkman, Steven A. Laymon, Tom Love, John & Susanne Luther, Ron LeValley, Eugene Makishima, Anne Manolis, Bill Manolis, Georgianne Manolis, Peter Metropulos, Randall Morgan, Joe Moran (JM), Jim Morris (JiM), Gary Page, Benjamin D Parmeter, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, William M Pursell, Tom Reed, Mike Rigney, Elsie Roemer, Mary Louise Rosegay, Dave Rudholm, Barry Sauppe, Tom Schulenberg, John Silvas, Dixie Sperling, Rich Stallcup, Gary Strachen, Bob Stewart, Lynn Stenzel, Wally Sumner, Steve Summers, John & Ricky Warriner, Bruce Williford, Dave Winkler, Jon Winter, Kris Tyner, Bob & Carol Yutzy. **RICH STALLCUP, 4409 44th Ave., Sacramento, California 95824 and JON WINTER, 1423 Hearn Ave., Santa Rosa, California 95401**

## SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION /Guy McCaskie

April was slightly cooler than normal with a number of storms pushing south along the coast. May saw much overcast along the coast, but clear skies in the interior. The waters of the Salton Sea were higher than in many years, and much of the mudflats were inundated, leaving little suitable habitat for shorebirds.



Migrant landbirds appeared somewhat later than normal this spring and no large concentrations were encountered at desert oases or elsewhere east of the Coastal Range. However, the coastal region was flooded with migrant flycatchers, vireos, warblers and finches during the first two weeks of May, and virtually all reports from that area included comments on the abundance of such species as Hermit Warblers and Western Tanagers. There is no doubt early May of this year was an excellent time to observe our regular West Coast migrants moving through the coastal regions of Southern California.

As usual the real excitement began after the flood of normal migrants had passed through the Region, for it is then, in late May and early June, that active birders go afield in search of out-of-range stragglers in isolated desert oases or on small offshore islands. Again those active birders were rewarded, and the fact that 32 species of warblers alone were reported would attest to this.

The most exciting finds were California's first Common Grackle and its second Hudsonian Godwit, and the most startling event was an "invasion" of Horned Puffins.

The early arrival dates for some of our key migrants were: Wilson's Phalarope, Mar. 29, Salton Sea; Common Tern, Apr. 16, San Diego; Least Tern, Apr. 16, San Diego; Elegant Tern, Mar. 8, San Diego; Black Tern, Apr. 22, Salton Sea; White-winged Dove, Mar. 30, Colorado R. Valley; Lesser Nighthawk, Mar. 29, Colorado R. Valley; Vaux's Swift, Apr. 11, San Diego; Black-chinned Hummingbird, Apr. 11, San Diego; W. Kingbird, Mar. 15, Oceanside; Ash-throated

Flycatcher, Mar. 26, Colorado R. Valley; Willow Flycatcher, May 24, Inyo Co.; Hammond's Flycatcher, Mar. 24, Colorado R. Valley; W. Flycatcher, Mar. 14 San Diego; Swainson's Thrush, Apr. 26, Salton Sea; Bell's Vireo, Mar. 25, Morongo Valley; Solitary Vireo, Apr. 10, San Diego; Warbling Vireo, Mar. 6, Morongo Valley; Nashville Warbler, Mar. 26, San Diego; Yellow Warbler, Apr. 2, San Diego; Black-throated Gray Warbler, Mar. 26, Colorado R. Valley; Hermit Warbler, Apr. 24, San Diego; MacGillivray's Warbler, Apr. 9, San Diego; Yellow-breasted Chat, Apr. 4, San Diego; Wilson's Warbler, Mar. 16, San Diego; Hooded Oriole, Mar. 2, Encino; Scott's Oriole, Mar. 4, Morongo Valley; N. Oriole, Mar. 16, San Diego; W. Tanager, Apr. 16, San Diego; Black-headed Grosbeak, Mar. 28, San Diego; Blue Grosbeak, Apr. 16, Escondido; Lazuli Bunting, Apr. 5, San Diego; Black-chinned Sparrow, Apr. 5, San Diego.

**LOONS, GREBES** — Loons were seen flying north past Goleta Pt., Santa Barbara Co., in large numbers from early April to mid-May, with 5000 Com. Loons, 13,000 Arctic Loons and 4500 Red-throated Loons counted during regular two hour surveys in the period (PL). At least 12 Com. Loons were found on and around the Salton Sea Apr. 6 - May 11, and 19 were counted on Tinemaha L. in the Owens Valley Apr. 10 (TH) indicating a regular movement through the e. part of the Region at this time of the year. A breeding plumaged Horned Grebe at the north end of the Salton Sea (hereafter N.E.S.S.) Apr. 13 (JD) was the only one reported away from the coast.

**ALBATROSSES, SHEARWATERS, STORM-PETRELS** — During a scientific research cruise, covering the offshore waters (40 - 200 miles from the coast) from Pt. Sur in Monterey Co. south to Pta. Banda in n. Baja California, May 7 - 24, at least 94 Black-footed Albatrosses were counted (JB); in addition four were seen off Morro Bay May 6 (FRT) and three more were encountered off San Diego May 10 (GMcC *et al.*). Most interesting was a Laysan Albatross about 80 mi. west of Pt. Arguello, Santa Barbara Co., May 12 - 13 (JB) for few have been reported off s. California, but few observers venture into far offshore waters for extended periods of time.

As expected Pink-footed and Sooty Shearwaters were the only shearwaters seen offshore, and a group of 20,000 Sooty Shearwaters off the Palos Verdes Pen., Los Angeles Co., May 20 (JB) was the largest number reported. A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel about 90 mi. off Pt. Arguello May 12 (JB) was near the southern limit of its range. A Leach's Storm-Petrel seen between Oxnard and Anacapa I. May 11 (JD *et al.*) was the only one reported. Some 250 Ashy Storm-Petrels were also seen on May 11 (JD *et al.*) and were also the only ones reported.

**HERONS** — A Cattle Egret at Playa del Rey, Los Angeles Co., May 14 (FH) and 6 - 10 at Goleta, Santa Barbara Co., May 2 - 30 (PL, BM) were the only ones found away from the Salton Sea. A Louisiana Heron seen near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co., Apr. 30 (ABA) had probably wintered nearby; one at N.E.S.S.

Apr. 26 (DRo, J & SL) was unexpected; very few have been recorded away from the coast of s. California.

**GEESE, DUCKS** — At least 3500 Black Brant were seen flying north past Goleta Pt. during April and May (PL). A single Black Brant at N.E.S.S. Mar. 26 (BDP), one at the south end of the Salton Sea (hereafter S.E.S.S.) Apr. 13 (JD), four more there May 6 (DVT), and one more in Arcadia, Los Angeles Co. June 5 (DWF) were the only individuals found inland this spring. At least 30 different ♂ Blue-winged Teal were reported during April and May, and it appears that the species is on the increase in California. A pair of Wood Ducks near Bishop, Inyo Co., throughout May (TH), and two pairs near L. Cachuma, Santa Barbara Co. Apr. 28 (PL) were the only ones reported, and it is possible both sightings involved breeding birds. A late ♀ Oldsquaw was at Playa del Rey May 1 (GSS) and the ♂ Harlequin Duck that has been present since 1972 was still there June 1 (BB). Surf was the common scoter seen flying north past Goleta Pt. with some 6000 counted during April and May compared to only 100 White-winged Scoters during the same period (PL). Five Black Scoters at Goleta Pt. Apr. 15 (PL) were the only ones seen. A White-Winged Scoter at S.E.S.S. May 11 (EAC, SC) was the only scoter found in the desert areas of e. California, indicating a regular movement through that region; this year one was at Desert Center, Riverside Co. Apr. 13 (JD), at least five were seen at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley (hereafter F.C.R.) May 17 - 31 (PU) and another was at nearby Stove Pipe Wells May 18 (J & SL).

**HAWKS, OSPREY, FALCONS** — Two Broad-winged Hawks were well observed together at Kelso, San Bernardino Co. May 1 (GA, JM); I suspect continued checking of desert oases will produce additional records indicating that the species is a regular spring migrant in limited numbers. Most encouraging was an increase in the number of Swainson's Hawks; one was over the Brock Ranch near Holtville, Imperial Co., Apr. 16 (BB, GSS), another was near Desert Center Apr. 26 (J & SL), one flew over Sunnymead, Riverside Co. Apr. 20 (Anderson, *vide* GSS), one was seen over the Antelope Valley, Los Angeles Co., May 9 (SFB) and at least 17 were noted around Big Pipe in the Owens Valley Apr. 10 - May 31 (TH). At Borrego Springs in e. San Diego Co., a single Swainson's Hawk was seen Mar. 16 (GMcC), then ten on Mar. 30 (PU), 15 on Apr. 8, and an amazing 120 on Apr. 10 (DDeS); these birds appeared to be attracted by an abundance of large catapillars feeding on the desert flowers, for most were on the ground among the flowers. The normal number of Ospreys were reported from along the Colorado R., around the Salton Sea, and along the coast. The only Peregrine Falcon reported was one on Santa Barbara I. May 26 (LJ).

**GALLINULES, PLOVERS, SANDPIPERS** — A Com. Gallinule near Bishop April 20 (TH) and another there May 9 - 26 (TH) appear to be the first reported in the Owens Valley. A Semipalmated Plover was at Desert Center Apr. 26 (JD), another was near Daggett, San Bernardino Co., May 9 (GS) and four were noted

around Big Pine, Inyo Co. Apr. 13 & May 6 (TH, LSM); inland records of this species away from the Salton Sea appear to be scarce. A Snowy Plover was at Desert Center Apr. 13 (JD), one was at Owens L., Inyo Co. May 30 (LSM) and 25 were noted around Big Pine Apr. 13 May 3 (TH); the status of this species away from the coast is still unclear. A Black-bellied Plover was seen at Desert Center Apr. 13 (JD), one was at F.C.R. Apr. 6 (FH), and another was there May 30 - 31 (GMcC); few records of this species have been published from the desert regions of California.



*Hudsonian Godwit* Photo/Guy Sawyer

A ♂ **Hudsonian Godwit** in stunning breeding plumage photographed at some evaporation basins near Daggett, San Bernardino Co., May 9 (GS) represents the second record for California; the first was photographed in flight (dark under wing coverts clearly evident on photo along with other diagnostic markings) at the north end of Humboldt Bay by Richard Webster Aug. 9-10, 1973. A Whimbrel at F.C.R. Apr. 6 (FH) was at an interesting locality. An **Upland Sandpiper** on Santa Barbara I. May 23 (LJ) is only the fourth recorded in the Region, and the seventh for California. A Lesser Yellowlegs at Big Pine Mar. 30 (TH) was early for that area. A Solitary Sandpiper was at San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co., Apr. 12 (ABA), another was near Big Pine Apr. 27 (TH) and a third was at Oasis, Mono Co May 24 (DRo *et al.*); this species is always scarce in spring. Four Ruddy Turnstones at N.E.S.S. Apr. 26 (J & SL) were the only ones reported away from the coast. Red Phalaropes were exceptionally scarce close to shore, for John Butler saw only 20 individuals during the May 7 - 24 cruise; however, a flock of 20 flew past Goleta Pt. May 8 (PL). Six Red Knots on the Salton Sea May 3 (JD) were the only ones reported away from the coast. Fewer than the normal number of Sanderlings was found inland on the Salton Sea with but six individuals reported Apr. 13 - May 4 (PL, HK *et al.*) Again Semipalmated Sandpipers were found on the Salton Sea in May with one at S.E.S.S. May 4 (HK) and another there May 12 (GA, JM); all but one of the 13 spring records for California are for the Salton Sea, and there are but four additional fall records for the State. A Pectoral Sandpiper, most unusual in spring, was well seen at Goleta May 2 (PL). As usual Stilt Sandpipers were present around S.E.S.S. in April and early May with a high count of 25 on Apr. 13 (JD *et al.*).

SKUAS, GULLS, TERNS — An all dark skua was seen near San Clemente I. May 21 (JB); the South Polar Skua is the only species so far collected off the West Coast, but some of the southern races of the Great Skua could well occur.

An imm. Thayer's Gull was at N.E.S.S. Apr. 13 - 26 (JD), it appears to be scarce on the Salton Sea and is unrecorded elsewhere in s.e. California. A Mew Gull at Goleta May 27 (PL) was exceptionally late; however, an occasional individual of all the northern species of gulls lingers late into the spring, and even on through the summer. Four sightings of single ad. Franklin's Gulls were made at N.E.S.S. between Apr. 26 and May 31 (DRO, EAC, SC, HB); this species is regular in small numbers in both spring and fall at the Salton Sea. A Franklin's Gull at F.C.R. May 31 (PL *et al.*) was most unusual. A few Black-legged Kittiwakes lingered along the coast until late April; a regular occurrence following a heavy winter influx. An early Sabine's Gull was seen between Santa Barbara and Santa Rosa Is. Apr. 19 (LJ), and about 60 were reported seen off the coast during May (LJ, JB, JD, PU).

The first Gull-billed Tern had returned to the Salton Sea by Mar. 21 (DVT). Several ad. Com. Terns were at N E S.S. May 31 (EAC, SC); few inland spring occurrences have been recorded.

MURRES, AUKLETS, PUFFINS — Two Com. Murres between Oxnard and Anacapa I. May 11 (JD) were rather late, and one more between Oxnard and Santa Barbara I. May 29 (GMcC *et al.*) was exceptionally so. Rhinoceros Auklets appeared to be scarcer than usual in s. California waters this spring, with only three individuals reported during the period. **Horned Puffins** appeared offshore in unprecedented numbers during May, with 160 between Pt. Sur, Monterey Co. and Pta. Banda, Baja California, May 7-24 (JB), seven off San Diego May 10 (GMcC *et al.*), five near San Miguel I. May 13 (LJ), 19 between San Miguel I. and Santa Rosa I. May 14 (LJ), one near Santa Cruz I. May 15 (LJ), one between Oxnard and Anacapa I. May 18 (AS *et al.*), eleven between Santa Barbara I. and Santa Rosa I. May 27 (LJ), 25 between Oxnard and Santa Barbara I. May 29 (GMcC *et al.*), and one more near Santa Barbara I. June 8 (LJ). All the birds appeared healthy and many were seen flying. Prior to this year only 33 Horned Puffins had been found in California, and only 10 of these were live birds, the rest being found dead along beaches. Of the 33 puffins found in California only 10 were from s. California, and it is previously unrecorded in Mexican waters. It is little wonder we are baffled by reports involving 230 individuals in a 30-day period, and can only guess at how many thousands were really present on the vast area of uncovered waters off our coast. John Butler encountered 47 Tufted Puffins between Pt. Sur and San Nicholas I. but none farther south, one was near San Miguel I. May 13 (LJ), two were seen between Oxnard and Santa Barbara I. May 29 (GMcC *et al.*); this species is rare in s. California waters.

DOVES, CUCKOOS, OWLS — A Band-tailed Pigeon at Deep Springs, Inyo Co. May 31 (PU *et al.*) was east of its normal range, and another on Santa

Barbara I. May 22 (LJ) was west of its normal range A White-winged Dove in Claremont, Los Angeles Co., May 16 (LAS) and another in Manhattan Beach, Orange Co., May 28 (*fide* GSS) were both west of the coastal mountains and away from their normal range Two Ground Doves were seen in Garden Grove, Orange Co., Apr. 21 (DH); this species has been expanding its range in the coastal lowlands of s. California in recent years A migrant Yellow-billed Cuckoo was at Scotty's Castle, Inyo Co. May 30 (JD); this species is rarely seen away from the lower Colorado R. valley in s. California.

A Flammulated Owl was actively calling on Clark Mt., San Bernardino Co., May 17 (J & SL *et al.*), this species is suspected of returning to California around mid-April after spending the winter in Central America An Elf Owl had returned to Corn Springs near Desert Center, Apr. 25 (JD *et al.*); this species is being pushed out of California by land clearing operations along the Colorado R. and may soon be restricted to one or two desert oases in e. California. A Long-eared Owl on Santa Barbara I. May 20 - 26 (LJ) was unexpected

GOATSUCKERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A Com. Nighthawk was found at F.C.R. May 30 - 31 (PL, AS *et al.*); this species arrives in California during late May, but records of migrants away from known breeding localities are few indeed. Six Black Swifts flying over Flintridge, Los Angeles Co., May 19 (IM) were the only ones reported. An unusual number of Chimney Swifts were reported with 1 - 6 at Goleta June 3 - 5 (PL), another there June 10 (PL), 1 - 3 over Santa Barbara I. May 25 - 27 (LJ), another there June 7 (LJ) and two over Encino Res. Los Angeles Co., June 8 (JK); Chimney Swift has been found almost annually along the coast of s. California since 1968, and it is now looked for by the active observers in the Region A migrant Broad-tailed Hummingbird was seen at Earp, San Bernardino Co. Apr. 12 (GMcC *et al.*); one at Scotty's Castle May 24 (DDeS) and another in Kelso May 26 (EAC, SC) were both very close to known nesting areas in the mountains of e. Inyo and San Bernardino counties. A number of Calliope Hummingbirds were noted in the lowlands including the Colorado R. Valley; one male at F.C.R. May 3 (KH) and two more on Santa Barbara I. May 9 (LJ) are of special interest.

An Acorn Woodpecker at Yucca Valley, San Bernardino Co. May 25 (IM) was outside its normal range and habitat. A Lewis' Woodpecker at F.C.R. May 24 - 31 (GMcC *et al.*) was unexpected, since so few were found in the Region last winter.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — An E. Kingbird was at F.C.R. May 24 - 28 (PL, BS *et al.*) and another was at Morongo Valley June 11 (R & MW); this species is rare but regular in limited numbers in e. California at this time of the year. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, always an exciting find in California, was at F.C.R. May 18 - June 1 (J & SL, GA *et al.*) and another was on Santa Barbara I. May 23 (LJ). A Wied's Crested Flycatcher had returned to Morongo Valley by May 3 (BB) but it appears that only one pair was present, Morongo Valley marks the northwestern extreme of this

species' normal range. A **Least Flycatcher** was carefully identified on Santa Barbara I. May 24 (LJ) this is the second recorded in spring for s. California, and only the fifth for the Region. A Vermilion Flycatcher near Baker, San Bernardino Co. Apr. 20 (EAC, SC) and another at F.C.R. June 7 (GA, JM) were both near the northern limit of the species normal range.

Migrant Purple Martins were noted at various places within the Region including one at Earp on the Colorado R. Apr. 12 (GMc C), one at S.E.S.S. May 3 (GMcC) another at N.E.S.S. Apr. 13 (JD), one on Pt. Loma in San Diego June 5 (JD), five in Pasadena May 15 (*fide* GSS), four at Nojoqui Falls Park near Santa Barbara Mar. 11 (GH), and another over Santa Barbara Apr. 18 (GH); this species has become alarmingly scarce in s. California in recent years and the remaining population should be monitored with care.

**THRASHER, KINGLETS** — A Gray Catbird at Oasis, Mono Co. May 30 - June 1 (DRo *et al.*) appears to be the fifth recorded in this area of California in late May and early June. A Brown Thrasher was at a feeder on the Palos Verdes Pen., Los Angeles Co., Apr. 16 - May 6 (*fide* GSS), and another was on San Nicholas I. Apr. 20 (LJ); this species is a somewhat regular straggler to California. Singing ♂ Bendire's Thrashers were on territory around Cima in e. San Bernardino Co. by Mar. 27 (TS, DE); this species is believed to leave California in the winter but little is known about its migration habits. Two Golden-crowned Kinglets were in the lowlands of the Owens Valley at Big Pine Apr. 6 (TH), and another was on Santa Barbara I. Apr. 21 (LJ)

**VIREOS, WOOD WARBLERS** — A migrant Bell's Vireo was found at F.C.R. May 25 (PL *et al.*); this species is declining in numbers and is rarely seen away from known nesting localities. A few Solitary Vireos (*V. s. plumbeus*) were seen in s. Mono and e. Inyo Cos. during May, but are to be expected there since this form nests in the nearby White Mts. However, a "Plumbeous Vireo" on Santa Barbara I. May 9 (LJ) was unexpected. A Red-eyed Vireo was well studied at F.C.R. May 28 (BS) and another was on Santa Barbara I. May 29 (KG *et al.*); less than half a dozen spring records exist for the Region.

At least 20 Black-and-white Warblers were reported with 14 of these occurring at desert oases in Mono, Inyo and San Bernardino Cos., May 16 - June 1; the earliest were one in Los Angeles Apr. 17 (JR), one at Finney L. Imperial Co., May 2 (P & SK) and another in Whittier, Los Angeles Co., May 4 (RGW); additional records included one on Pt. Loma, San Diego Co. June 5 (JD) and two on Santa Barbara I. May 25 0 29 (LJ, KG) Most interesting was a singing ♂ **Blue-winged Warbler** at Deep Springs May 27 (EN); the only other spring record for California was one taken in nearby Wyman Creek Canyon in the White Mts., June 16, 1954 (*Condor* 58:75, 1956). A somewhat early Tennessee Warbler was at Morongo Valley May 3 (BB), then at least seven were seen in Inyo Co., May 18 - June 1, and an additional seven were noted on Santa Barbara I. May 22 - June 7; this species is noted in increasing numbers each spring. A wintering Virginia's Warbler remained in Riverside until Apr. 11 (EAC, SC); the only migrant

reported was one in Santa Barbara I. May 9 (LJ). Lucy's Warblers were singing on territory along the Colorado R. by Mar. 26 (DE, TS); this species always returns early in the spring and is frequently back by mid-March. Northern Parulas appear in California with amazing regularity each spring and this spring was no exception with a male at Deep Springs May 23 (DDeS), a female at Scotty's Castle May 30 - 31 (PL), another female at F.C.R. May 31 (AS), two males in Pt. Mugu S.P. June (*fide* GSS) and another male on San Miguel I. May 30 (LJ). Three Magnolia Warblers were found with a male at Oasis May 24 (J & SL), another at F.C.R. May 27 (HK), and a third on Santa Barbara I. May 29 (KG); this appears to be an average number for this Region. A brightly colored ♂ Cape May Warbler at Deep Springs May 30 (WS) appears to be only the fourth found in the Region during the spring. An interesting hybrid was a ♂ Black-throated Gray X Townsend's Warbler studied near Imperial Beach May 4 (EAC, SC).

A ♂ **Black-throated Green Warbler** on Santa Barbara I. May 26 (LJ) is the first found during the spring in s. California. Unexpected was a ♀ **Blackburnian Warbler** on Santa Barbara I. May 26 - 27 (LJ) and another there May 29 (KG), for it is previously unknown in spring from s. California. A ♀ Yellow-throated Warbler near Deep Springs May 24 (DD), another at Deep Springs May 26 (FH *et al.*) and a male at nearby Oasis May 31 (TH, GA) were all three *albiflora*; there are now 13 records for this species for California. Six ♂ Chestnut-sided Warblers were reported with one at Oasis May 26 (JD), one in Wyman Creek Canyon May 26 (DD), one at Deep Springs May 25 (HK), one at F.C.R. May 25 (JM) and another there May 28 (BS), and the other over the open ocean between Oxnard and Santa Barbara I. May 29 (J & SL). A ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler was well seen at F.C.R. May 25 (PL) and another was at nearby Mesquite Springs May 31 (GA), this species is decidedly rare in spring. Totally unexpected were eight ♂ Blackpoll Warblers, with one at Deep Springs May 26 (JD), one at F.C.R. May 28 (BS), five seen on Santa Barbara I. May 21 - June 8 (LJ, SFB), and another at sea 7 mi. off Huntington Beach May 19 (JB), for very few spring records exist for s. California.

Palm Warblers are normally unreported in spring but this year one was in Big Pine Apr. 30 - May 1 (TH), another was at Oasis May 18 (DRo) and a third was at Deep Springs May 24 (DRo). Seven Ovenbirds were reported with one at Finney L. in the Imperial Valley May 3 (GA, EH), one at Deep Springs May 27 (EN), one found dead on the Palos Verdes Pen. May 13 (GSS), and four seen on Santa Barbara I. May 23 - June 8 (LJ, KG). A very early N. Waterthrush was at F C R Apr. 19 (JD), then 11 more were found along the e border of the Region May 18 - June 1; this species is regular in small numbers in the desert regions of s California. A singing ♂ **Red-Faced Warbler** on Clark Mt. May 17 (JD, J & SL) was the fourth found in California. A ♂ Hooded Warbler, always rare in California, was at F.C.R. May 25 (DRo, JM). Two Am. Redstarts at Finney L. Apr. 13 (JD) were undoubtedly birds that had wintered locally; 40 in the e. part of the Region May 13 - June 7 were normal migrants, but



one on Santa Barbara I. June 7 (LJ) was a vagrant. Most exciting were five Painted Redstarts with one at the Brock Experimental Ranch near Holtville Apr. 16 - 19 (BB, PL), one at Morongo Valley Apr. 19 (R & MW), another at the base of the San Gabriel Mts. Apr. 22 (AS), a fourth at Cottonwood Springs May 7 (R & MW) and the other way up at Panamint Springs Apr. 27 (GA); these sightings may well be the result of the species expanding its range westward and additional nestings in our mountains should be looked for.

**BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES** — At least 20 Bobolinks were found at F.C.R. May 18 - 31 but a male at Deep Springs May 23 (JM) was the only one found away from there; it is now evident that small numbers of Bobolinks pass through e. California every spring. A Tricolored Blackbird at F.C.R. June 7 (GA, JM) and another on Santa Barbara I. Apr. 5 (LJ) were both outside their normal range. Three ♂ Orchard Orioles, a somewhat rare wanderer to California, were reported, with one in Los Angeles Apr. 24 (JR), another at F.C.R. May 28 (BS) and the third at Desert Center May 31 (JB). A ♀ Hooded Oriole in Big Pine Apr. 30 (TH) and a ♂ there May 6 - 11 (TH) were at the n. limit of their range in the e. part of the State. A ♂ Scott's Oriole in Big Pine Apr. 16 (TH) was at the n. limit of its range and single birds near Pasadena Apr. 24 (GSS) and in Manhattan Beach May 17 (GSS) were west of their normal range. Single "Baltimore" Orioles were seen at Oasis May 25 (SFB), Morongo Valley May 3 - 4 (HK, FB), on San Nicholas I. June 1 (LJ), and on Santa Barbara I. May 26 (LJ) and June 8 (LJ); this form of the N. Oriole regularly wanders west to California. One or two Great-tailed Grackles were seen around S.E.S.S. in April and May (DVT, FH), and five pair were on nesting territory at nearby Finney L. May 11

(EAC, SC). A **Com. Grackle** present at F.C.R. May 21-26 (M & NP, DE, TS) was seen and photographed by dozens of observers and represents the first valid record for California; it is interesting to note that the only documented record for Nevada is that of one collected in the nearby Pahranaagat Valley in May of 1932 (*Condor* 53:243-244, 1951). Three Bronzed Cowbirds at Earp on the Colorado R. Apr. 12 (JD) appear to be the earliest so far recorded in California.

**TANAGERS, FINCHES** — A singing ♂ Hepatic Tanager was defending territory on Clark Mt. May 17 (GMcC), a locality where the species undoubtedly nests, and a straggler was at F.C.R. June 7 (GA, JM) Territorial ♂ Summer Tanagers had returned to Morongo Valley and the Brock Experimental Ranch by May 12 (GSS, JM); at least seven vagrants were seen in e. Inyo and San Bernardino Cos. between May 18 & 31, and three more were found on Santa Barbara I. May 26 - 29 (LJ, KG). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were more numerous than usual with a least 11 seen in e. Mono Inyo and San Bernardino counties May 17 - June 1, five more along the coast in Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego counties May 10 - June 9 and eight on Santa Barbara I. May 19 - June 8. As usual Indigo Bunting appeared in the e. part of the Region with eight reported there between May 18 and 31; in addition one was near San Diego May 13 (AF), another was on the Palos Verdes Pen. May 14 (AF), a female was found on San Miguel I. June 1 (LJ) and at least 12 were on Santa Barbara I. May 20 - June 8 (LJ, KG). Five Lawrence's Goldfinches near Parker Dam on the Colorado R. Apr. 12 (JD) were in an area from which few records have been made.



*Common Grackle, 1st California record. Photo/Alan B. Meyerfeld*

SPARROWS — A Grasshopper Sparrow at F.C.R. May 11 - 23 (GA, PL) appears to be the first found at this time of the year in e. California. A Black-throated Sparrow on Santa Barbara I. May 23 - 29 (LJ) was far from its normal desert habitat. A "Slate-colored" Junco on Santa Barbara I. May 26 (LJ) was very late. Two Clay-colored Sparrows were seen together at Deep Springs May 24 (JD *et al.*) and give us one of the few spring records for the Region. The only Harris' Sparrow reported was one in Los Angeles Apr. 20 (JR). A White-crowned Sparrow in San Diego June 2 - 7 (PU) was exceptionally late; the bird had the characters of *oriantha*, but *leucophrys* from the East should be considered when one is dealing with birds at this time of the year. A Golden-crowned Sparrow at Deep Springs May 26 (DRo) was not only at an interesting locality, but was very late. Wintering White-throated Sparrows remained late with one in San Luis Obispo still present on May 2 (FRT), and another in San Diego there until May 1 (JD); a migrant was seen at F.C.R. May 3 (KFH) and a very late bird was singing at Oasis May 26 (PU). Unexpected was a Swamp Sparrow at Playa del Rey May 20 (*vide* GSS) and another at Oasis May 24 (PL *et al.*), these occurrences establish the latest dates for this species in California.

CONTRIBUTORS — Waldo Abbott, Ernest R Abeles, Allen B. Altman, Garth Alton, Stephen F Bailey, Fred Baker, Bruce A. Bartring, Bruce Broadbooks, Hank & Priscilla Brodtkin (H & PB), John Butler, Eugene A. Cardiff, Steven Cardiff, Dick Dean, Dave DeSante(DDeS), Jon Dunn, Claud Edwards, Dick Erickson, David W. Foster, Alice Fries, Kimball Garrett, Keith F. Hansen, Ed Harper, Andrew Hazi, Fred Heath, Tom Heindel, Don Hoehchlin, Lee Jones, Steve & Pem Kahler (S & PK), Larry Kirkendall, Harry Krueger, Paul Lehman, Bob & Roth Loveless (B & RL), John & Susanne Luther (J & SL), Ian MacGregor, Betty Malloy (BMA), Larry S. Mangan, Bill Manolis (BMo), Joe Morlan, Ed Navojosky, Benjamin D Parmeter, Mike & Nancy Prather (M & NP), Don Ramsey (DRa), Don Roberson (DRo), Justin Russlee, Barry Sauppe, Guy Sawyer, Tom Schulenberg, L.A. Shelton, Arnold Small, G. Shumway Suffell, Wally Sumner, Fern R. Tainter, Don V. Tiller, Philip Unitt, Robert G Wilson, Russ & Marion Wilson (R & MW), Sandy Wohlgenuth. — GUY McCASKIE, San Diego Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, California.

## Nesting of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Mississippi

Jerome A. Jackson, Robert Howell and David F. Werschkul\*

On July 5, 1975 we found the nest, adults, and three recently fledged young Scissor-tailed Flycatchers (*Muscivora forficata*) about 1 km west of U.S. highway 45 at the southern city limits of Tupelo in northeastern Mississippi. On our arrival at 5:30 p.m. we found the birds foraging from low (1-1.5 m) cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*) in a heavily grazed pasture. Within a few minutes the birds flew to a nearby 2 ha pond and, after making a few sorties among widely scattered baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and some dead willows (*Salix sp.*) at the pond, the Scissor-tails settled down to roost in a 7 m baldcypress that was growing in the pond about 20 m from the east bank.

Mrs. W. T. Watson had previously located the Scissor-tail nest 2.5 m up in a 4 m sweetgum (*Liquidamber styraciflua*). The nest tree was standing in about 0.5 m of water, 15 m from the southeast corner of the pond. It consisted of four separate trunks emerging from the water. Each trunk had several dead branches. The nest saddled a 3 cm branch where it emerged at a 45 degree angle from the northeast side of a 9 cm trunk. Smaller branches and leaves nearly concealed the nest, though several branches near the nest, and the trunk a few centimeters above the nest were dead and bare. The

remains of a nearly fully feathered nestling were in the nest. The nestling and nest have been deposited in the ornithological collection of the Department of Zoology at Mississippi State University.

Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Watson, who reside on the property, reported that the Scissor-tails still had young in the nest during the last week of June and that the adults frequently foraged in cherry trees (*Prunus sp.*) approximately 300 m from the nest.

Jackson visited the nest site again from 7:30 to 11:00 a.m. on July 6, but observed only the adult male Scissor-tail, again foraging from low cedars in the pasture. Howell visited the area from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. on July 6 and found all five Scissor-tails as on the previous evening. This time, however, the birds apparently roosted in a stand of pines (*Pinus sp.*) about 300 m east of the nest site. To our knowledge this represents the first record of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher breeding east of the Mississippi. The species has heretofore been known to breed in western Louisiana (Lowery, Louisiana Birds, Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University Acad. Sci. 18: 50-54, 1964).

\*Department of Zoology, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Ms. 39762.