

equally complex patterns of interactions with bird movements. Our understanding of these complex interactions is not aided substantially, however, when an almost equally complex, uncoordinated, largely random network of observations is offered in the hope of generating insights. Although DeBenedictis addressed these concerns more than a decade ago [AFN 22(1):4-8], little progress toward more adequate sampling has been made. One notable exception, an extreme case in the opposite direction, is Sauppe's migrant seabird census in San Mateo County, Calif. (see Middle Pacific Coast regional report).

The utility of rarities and first arrivals have always posed analytic dilemmas for writers. Paxton [AFN 20(1):4-6] long ago lamented the tendency "to dwell on the unusual; sometimes at the expense of the normal." Other reporters (DeBenedictis, *op. cit.*) have commented regarding the limited usefulness of first arrivals in assessing migratory patterns. Richardson (*op. cit.*, p. 229) is pointed in this regard: "First arrivals are easily over-

looked, constitute a small (and in many ways atypical) fraction of the total passage and usually represent the interruption of movement begun elsewhere rather than migration in progress."

More observations reporting the secondary effects of weather activities on bird populations would be stimulating. A good example is the commentary on the effects of a die-off of mesquite and mistletoe, caused by the severe winter of 1978-79, on the abundances of Verdins and Phainopeplas, which can be found in the Southwest Region report. More concentrated monitoring and reporting efforts, more attention to observing and reporting the secondary effects of weather on bird populations, and more coordinated observational efforts by local bird clubs still are needed.

**P**ERHAPS, GIVEN THE NATURE of the observational methods employed, reporting the unusual is what can be done best and most thoroughly here. It's difficult, if not impossible, to determine at this time what kinds of information

will be most valuable in the future. As a result of a preoccupation with the unusual, the "firsts", and the vagrants, we have recorded on these pages in the past some of the most extensive documentation available of northern finch invasions, incursions of boreal species of owls, and the spread and growth of populations of the Cattle Egret and House Finch. Reports of such events take advantage of the enthusiasm and energies of birders in pursuing such phenomena and require no more observational discipline than to document the occurrence carefully and report it to a regional coordinator. Perhaps at this stage of the evolution of bird study in North America, it's unfair to expect more than this.

—Laboratory of Ornithology and Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850 (Smith); National Audubon Society Research Department, Laboratory of Ornithology and Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850 (McCrimmon).

## CONTINENTAL SURVEY

# The Spring Migration

March 1-May 31, 1979

### NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

/Peter D. Vickery

The spring migration seemed typical in almost every way. Most birds appeared on schedule in expected numbers. A few early arrivals were noted but these were scattered individuals that established no patterns. Predictable Blue Grosbeaks and Summer Tanagers appeared in April and May and "southern" warblers occurred in good, but not unexpected numbers. Particularly interesting were four male Kentucky Warblers on territory along coastal Connecticut. Goodness knows what to make of a Prothonotary Warbler constructing a nest in a garage in western Massachusetts.

The extraordinary concentration of 2050+ Red-necked Grebes off Cape Cod was certainly the most significant event of the spring. No doubt a large percentage of the Red-necked Grebes wintering along the eastern coastline were concentrated into this staging area.

Weather this spring was generally mild with heavy precipitation falling only in May. In the northern part of the Region this rain seems to have had an adverse effect on nesting waterfowl. Coverage this spring was sporadic with

no centralized reports from Connecticut and New Brunswick and only partial material from Massachusetts and Nova Scotia.

**LOONS, GREBES** — Unlike the West Coast, large loon flights are not regularly

documented in the Region. Red-throated Loons numbering 750 noted passing Gay Head, Martha's Vineyard (hereafter, M.V.), Mass., Apr. 5 in a 75-min period was an impressive count (VL, *vide* BN). Interestingly, just one day earlier an unprecedented 2050+ Red-necked Grebes were carefully counted between Truro and Wellfleet, Mass., Apr. 4 (DMcN). Preliminary research indicates this may have been the largest concentration ever recorded in North America. No doubt this included most of the wintering birds in the w. North

Atlantic. By Apr. 9, Red-necked Grebe numbers had dwindled to 800+ birds, still an impressive total. A single Eared Grebe was carefully identified at Old Lyme, Conn., Mar. 30 (DAS *et al.*).



**TUBENOSES** — Single Sooty Shearwaters, possibly wintering birds, were seen off Gay Head, M.V., Mar. 14 (VL, *vide* BN) and off Nantucket Mar. 19 (*vide* EFA). An early Manx Shearwater was observed off Pt. Judith, R.I., Apr. 2 (*vide* CW). Undoubtedly Manx breed somewhere in Buzzard's Bay and/or Narragansett Bay and this species badly needs serious investigation.

**HERONS, WATERFOWL** — The northernmost Little Blue Heron reported, occurred at Roque Bluffs, Me., Apr. 24-26 (LF) while at least three Snowy Egrets were seen in St. John, N.B., in May (CJ).

Some 300 Brant at Newburyport, Mass., May 22 were late migrants (RSH). Interestingly, last year 350± Brant were seen at the same locality May 19 (AB 32:978). An ad. Greater White-fronted Goose at Plum I., Apr. 8-24, was thought because of the orange bill to be of the Greenland race, *A. a. flavirostris* (*vide* RSH). An estimated 1740± Snow Geese were seen migrating N at Pittsfield, Mass., Apr. 6 (RLF, *vide* BCH) while at Plum I., a high count of 3000+ Snow Geese was observed Apr. 12 (*vide* RPE). Three Gadwall at Lusby Marsh, N.S., Apr. 16 were unusual but not unexpected at that locality (CD, *vide* CRKA). Nineteen N. Shovelers at three Nova Scotia localities provided clear indication that the species has increased in the Province in recent years (v.o., *vide* CRKA).



♂ Garganey, St. John, N.B., May 3-19, 1979. Photo/Cecil L. Johnston.

S.A.

A ♂ Garganey near St. John, N.B., May 4-19 represented a first Provincial record and a fourth Regional occurrence (MB, *vide* CJ). The distance from aviculturists known to possess Garganeys is probably at least 400 mi. Also the date of occurrence corresponds closely with other Garganey sightings in e. North America — a period when Garganeys would be migrating from African wintering grounds. Finally, the wide distribution of East Coast sightings, unlike Tufted Ducks (see AB 32:978) also corresponds to expected patterns of vagrancy. Previous East Coast records include males at: Hatteras, N.C., 1957; Plum I., Mass., 1968; Prince Edward I., early 1970s; Bombay Hook, Del., 1976; Marshfield, Mass., 1978.

Two Barrow's Goldeneyes were notably late near Bangor, Me., Apr. 21 (MKL) as was a single male at Lincoln, Me., Apr. 24 (PDV). At least 17 Harlequin Ducks were noted at six e. Massachusetts localities in March (*vide* RSH).

These were easily eclipsed by the 149+ Harlequins carefully counted off Isle au Haut, Me., Mar. 18 (PDV *et al.*), certainly a Regional high and quite likely unique to e. North America.

**VULTURES, HAWKS** — Turkey Vultures experienced their largest flight into e. and c. Massachusetts this spring; 55 were seen at Quabbin Res., Apr. 1 and 30 were observed at the same locality Apr. 11 (*vide* RSH). At least 65 Turkey Vultures were reported from New Hampshire (*vide* DJA) and 40± individuals were seen in Maine (*vide* MKL, PDV). Unusual for the Province were three Turkey Vultures over Brier I., N.S., May 11 (BMacT *et al.*). A single Black Vulture was observed over W. Greenwich, R.I., May 25 (RAC, *vide* CW).



Mississippi Kite, Amherst, Mass., May 13, 1979. Photo/Peter Trull.

S.A.

Extraordinary this spring was the number of kites to visit the Region. Five Swallow-tailed Kites and two Mississippi Kites were reported. A Swallow-tailed Kite was photographed in Danville, N.H., May 5 for a second State record (*vide* DJA). Single Swallow-taileds, lacking details, were observed in Massachusetts, at Milton May 21 and Westwood/Norwood May 10 (*vide* RPE). In Connecticut, two more Swallow-tailed Kites were reported with no reference to locality (*vide* NSP). A Mississippi Kite was photographed at Amherst, Mass., May 13 (PT) and another was carefully identified near Chatham, Mass., June 1 (ICTN, *vide* RAF). Until documented the Massachusetts and Connecticut Swallow-taileds should remain hypothetical but mis-identification of such a distinctive and remarkably beautiful bird seems highly unlikely.

The spring migration of Gyrfalcons at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld., was better than in recent years: 30-40 individuals were observed from early March through late April. White Gyrfalcons, thought to be Greenland breeders, were among the late migrants (BMacT). In Nova Scotia, a white Gyrfalcon sporadically present at Amherst Pt., from mid-March to mid-April was a notable Provincial record (v.o., *vide* SIT).

**CRANES, RAILS, GALLINULES** — In Massachusetts, the wintering Sandhill Crane was seen in the Beverly area to Mar. 21 (*vide* RSH). In recent years King Rails have been increasingly scarce in Massachusetts; pairs at

Middleboro and Lynnfield and a single bird at Squantum are noteworthy records (*vide* RPE, RSH). An ad. Purple Gallinule was unique at Groton, Conn., May 6 (RAP).

**SHOREBIRDS** — American Oystercatchers continued to consolidate their position in s. New England. In Massachusetts, 15+ were found on Monomoy, 16 occurred on Nantucket and four were seen in Chatham. Perhaps more unusual for the locality were three oystercatchers at Greenwich Pt., Conn., May 16 (TB). Black-necked Stilts appeared this spring in surprising numbers. In Rhode Island, three were seen at Quonnie May 25 (*vide* CW) while singles appeared on Nantucket Apr. 27 - May 12 (*vide* EFA) and at Guilford, Conn., May 28 (SCS *et mult al.*, *vide* DAS, ph.). The season's only Wilson's Plover was seen at Galilee, R.I., Apr. 28 (Linda McGraw, *vide* CW). An Am. Woodcock was well n. of its usual range at Terra Nova N.P., Nfld., Apr. 14 (*vide* RTB). Nine Whimbrels, normally rare spring migrants, occurred at five e. Massachusetts localities. Particularly unusual was a white-rumped individual of European origin at Nantucket. Ten Whimbrels at Small Pt., Me., May 5 were remarkable (JP). In Nova Scotia, a single Whimbrel was noted on Cape Sable May 13 (*vide* ELM). No doubt the rarest shorebird this spring was a very buffy Long-billed Curlew on Monomoy May 31 (ICTN, *vide* BN). The absence of a white rump was clearly and carefully noted. A Spotted Sandpiper at Three Fathom Harbour, N.S., Apr. 8 was exceptionally early (IAMcL, *vide* ELM). Single Stilt Sandpipers occurred at Galilee, R.I., Apr. 29 (RLF, *vide* CW); Plymouth, Mass., May 4 and E. Boston May 20 (*vide* RPE). An early Ruff was seen in Guilford, Conn., Mar. 24 (*vide* DAS), three occurred in e. Massachusetts (*vide* RSH) and a breeding plumaged male was observed in S. Harpswell, Me., May 18-20 (JP *et al.*). Curiously, Wilson's Phalaropes went unreported this spring, almost certainly a matter of omission rather than absence.

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS** — A single ad. Long-tailed Jaeger was seen in Cape Cod Bay May 31 (*vide* BN) while 13 were noted off Newfoundland, on the e. part of the Grand Banks at 46°44' N 48°46' W in late May (JGM). The Lesser Black-backed Gull wintering at Greenwich Pt., Conn., apparently summered at the same locality (v.o., *vide* TB). Elsewhere Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen on Martha's Vineyard and at Rowley, Mass.; more unusual was an adult at St. John's, Nfld., in April and May (*vide* MMP). An ad. Mew Gull, unreported in recent years in Massachusetts, was carefully identified at E. Bridgewater Apr. 1 (WRP). New England Black-headed Gulls numbered 20± individuals while Little Gulls numbered perhaps 14 birds. Ivory Gulls were reported as common 5-10 mi out to sea from L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld., Apr. 20-30 (*vide* BMacT). Apparently these gulls move N along the edge of the pack ice. A Sabine's Gull was unique on Monomoy May 25-31 (ICTN, *vide* BN).

Common and Roseate terns appeared early along the s. New England coast, many were present Apr. 28. Single Gull-billed Terns were seen on Martha's Vineyard May 1 & 29 (VL, *vide* BN) while three were seen on Monomoy May 28 (ICTN, *vide* BN). Three Royal Terns

were seen in s New England but a **Sandwich Tern** at Chatham, Mass., May 28 was rare indeed (WRP). At least seven Caspian Terns were noted in the three s. New England states.

**ALCIDS** — The only alcids of note were: 18 Razorbills off Nantucket Apr. 16 (*vide* RPE) and an estimated 10,000 Com. Puffins off the Great I., Nfld. puffinry (JGM).

**OWLS, GOATSUCKERS** — A red phase **Screech Owl** was heard and seen near Hull's Cove, Mt. Desert I., Me., Apr. 26 (Dale Coman, *vide* WCT) and interestingly, in the same community the last Great Gray Owl from this winter's incursion was observed May 11 (*vide* MKL). A **Chuck-will's-widow** heard in N Harpswell, Me., May 12 provided only a third state record (*vide* CEH).

**WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — A Red-bellied Woodpecker appeared again at S. Natick, Mass., Apr. 8 where the species bred last year (*vide* RSH). Along coastal Connecticut Red-bellied Woodpeckers have apparently increased to the point where they are considered common and 10-15 are not unusual (DAS). Red-headed Woodpeckers were found n. of Massachusetts in above-average numbers; four occurred in New Hampshire, at least two were found in Maine and most unusual was a single Red-headed Woodpecker on Kent I., N.B., May 14 (*vide* PFC). Acadian Flycatchers returned again to regular breeding areas in Connecticut and Rhode Island and appeared to be increasing their toe-hold in Massachusetts as a singing male was found on territory in the w. part of the state at Blandford May 28 (SK *et al.*). Notably early swallows included a Bank at W. Bridgewater, Mass., Apr. 7 and a Cliff at W. Harwich, Mass., Mar. 31 (BN *et al.*).

**THRUSHES, GNATCATCHER, SHRIKES** — The previously reported Varied Thrush at Chelmsford, Mass., remained to at least Mar. 4 (*vide* RPE). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers occurred in unprecedented numbers on Cape Cod, where 20 birds per day were easily seen from late April to early May (BN). Perhaps a total of 40 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was noted in Maine where breeding seems a good possibility. Six gnatcatchers were seen on Kent I., N.B., including three birds May 11 (*vide* PFC). Two Loggerhead Shrikes were observed in New Hampshire and Maine respectively.

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was rare at Brier I., N.S., May 11 (BMacT). Vernon Laux proved once more, if proof be necessary, that the Region's outer islands can be as extraordinary in spring as fall. In a spring's birding on Martha's Vineyard he observed two plus Prothonotaries, two Worm-eatings, a Cerulean, a Louisiana Waterthrush, a Kentucky and a Hooded Warbler. Some nine Prothonotary Warblers reported from s. New England were more than in recent years. Most interesting was a Prothonotary nest-building in an open garage in Hawley, Mass., May 18 . . . (*vide* SK). In New Hampshire, a Worm-eating Warbler observed in Portsmouth May 14 was notably unusual for the State (*vide* DJA). Blue-winged Warblers have apparently experienced impressive increases in e. Massachusetts (RAF) and this

may partially explain extralimital occurrences in Lincoln Center, Me., May 18 (PDV) and on Kent I., N.B., May 15 (*vide* PFC). A single Cerulean Warbler was unusual on Appledore I., Me., May 26 (*vide* EWP). Only two Yellow-throated Warblers were reported from Massachusetts, notable was a male in Stockbridge Apr. 18-23 (*vide* BCH). Ten Kentucky Warblers in s. New England were better than average. Especially interesting were three ♂ Kentuckys on territory in New Canaan, Conn. (*vide* TB) and another territorial pair near Old Lyme (AD,BD). Clearly this species merits careful monitoring in s. Connecticut. The only extralimital Hooded Warbler was a male on Monhegan I., Me., May 16 (*vide* TM).

**ICTERIDS, TANAGERS, FRINGILLIDS** — In Massachusetts, single Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found in Essex May 20-26 and Manchester May 22 (*vide* RPE). Summer Tanagers appeared throughout New England in good numbers. These included: 15 in e. Massachusetts, five in Connecticut, two in Rhode Island, one in Eliot, Me. Blue Grosbeaks were also quite numerous with at least eight individuals in the outer Cape Cod — Nantucket area, four in Rhode Island, five in Maine and one in Nova Scotia. This spring's northernmost House Finch was found in Old Town, Me., Apr. 9 (BB, *vide* MKL). In n. Newfoundland, Hoary Redpolls were quite regular mid-March to mid-April, at least 30 individuals were noted (BMacT). The Massachusetts wintering Harris' Sparrows were last seen at Acoaxet Mar. 10 and at Peabody Mar. 9 - Apr. 23 (*vide* RPE). Lark Sparrows were unusual spring vagrants in Orleans, Mass., Apr. 28-30 and on Monomoy May 12 (v.o., *vide* BN). Particularly late was a Snow Bunting at Nauset, Mass., May 16 (*vide* BN).

**SUB-REGIONAL EDITORS** (boldface italic), Contributors (boldface), Observers and other abbreviations — **Dennis J. Abbott, Charles R. K. Allen, Edith F. Andrews, Michael Banford, Bruce Barker, Tom Burke, Roger T. Burrows, Joe Cadbury, Peter F. Cannell, Robert A. Conway, Robert J. Craig, Peter A. Cross, Neil Currie, Andrew Dasinger, Bruce Dasinger, Con Desplanque, Phyllis R. Dobson, Ruth P. Emery, Richard L. Ferren, Richard A. Forster, Lou Frey, Richard S. Heil, Bartlett C. Hendricks, Charles E. Huntington, Cecil Johnston, Seth Kellogg, Vernon Laux, Michael K. Lucey, Bruce MacTavish, Tom Martin, Ian A. McLaren, Doug McNair, Eric L. Mills, James G. Morgan, Blair Nikula, Ian C. T. Nisbet, Michael M. Parmenter, Wayne R. Petersen, Ronald A. Pfeffer, Elisabeth W. Phinney, Jan Pierson, Noble S. Proctor, David A. Sibley, Steven C. Sibley, Stuart I. Tingley, William C. Townsend, Peter Trull, Richard R. Veit, Peter D. Vickery, Charles Wood, N.P. National Park, ph. photographed, v.o. various observers, — **PETER D. VICKERY, BOX 14, Lincoln Center, Maine, 04458.****



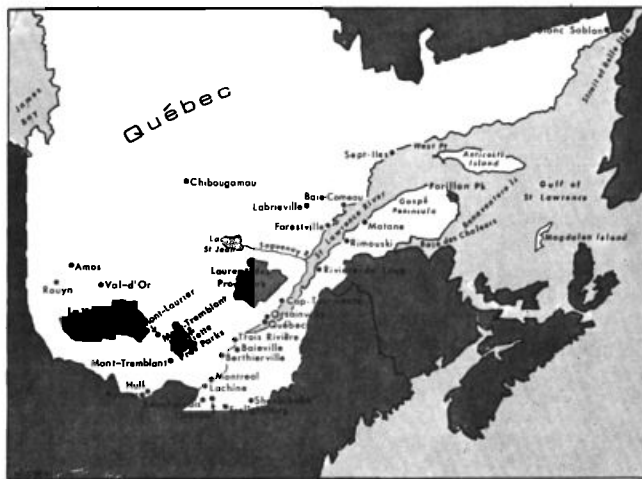
## QUÉBEC REGION /Normand David and Michel Gosselin

Spring 1979 was marked by above-average mean temperatures. In contrast with last spring, the passerine migration was early and involved good numbers of species spread over many "waves". At least twenty species breaking record arrival dates in the Saguenay River valley was a good illustration of the various comments offered by observers in all regions. Waterbirds were apparently less influenced by subtle weather patterns and appeared on time at their usual haunts; an invasion of southern herons, although less spectacular than that of 1976, was however noticed.

Observers often stress the unfair treatment given to widespread species in this column, while single records of rarer ones are emphasized. This is perhaps owing the fact that individual birds are easier to monitor than large shifting populations, especially in vast areas such as the Québec Region, where little or no numerical data are available for most species, to provide comparisons. The purpose of this report is, however, to present records and trends that add new knowledge to that which we now have on bird distribution.

**LOONS THROUGH IBISES** — An unprecedented count of 2000 Red-throated Loons was made at Ile aux Basques May 20 (PL). Two Red-necked Grebes and one Horned Grebe near Hull Mar. 10 were very early (*vide* IJ,PJ). At Cap Tourmente a **Little Blue Heron** (standing in an apple tree) May 21 (AG) provided a ninth regional record. A Cattle Egret at Piopolis May 26 (*vide* JLD) marked a third occurrence in the Eastern Townships, and the only Great Egret of the season was at Rimouski Apr. 26 - May 8 (CG, m.ob.). A Snowy Egret at La Baie Apr. 29-30 was the first-ever on the Saguenay R. (DStG, GS,YG); one was also recorded at Pointe-au-Père May 12-16 (GG). On May 1 PBa discovered 11 Glossy Ibises at Sabrevois and another at Henryville; some of these birds probably accounted for subsequent sightings of single birds at St-Blaise May 5 (PC), and Yamachiche May 14 (RBt,LC).

**WATERFOWL** — A sub-ad. **Mute Swan** of unknown origin was seen by many observers at St-Romuald, near Levis, Apr. 8 -May 31+. A Whistling Swan was feeding with Canada Geese at Berthierville May 12 (MG, PC). One hundred twenty Brant at Grandes-Bergeronnes Mar. 24 (AB) broke a very old record arrival date (Mar. 27, 1887). Snow Geese are well known on the s. shore of the St. Lawrence R., from Montmagny to Riviere-du-Loup, but they are seldom reported from the n. shore e. of Tadoussac, this year 1500 were found at St-Paul-du-Nord May 11 (AB), and three reached Sept-Iles May 12 (AG). Single Eur. Wigeons were found at Ile d'Orléans May 1-2 (MD,PBr), and at Cacouna May 5 (AB). Two Am. Wigeons were unprecedentedly early: one in Deschênes Rapids Mar. 6 (RBn), the other at Sabrevois Mar. 9 (PBa). Fifty-one Oldsquaws at Quyon on the Ottawa R., May 13 (BD) were rather unusual. Very large concentra-



tions of Black Scoters were recorded on the St. Lawrence R.: 3000 at Ile aux Coudres Apr. 28 (CDu), 5000 from the St-Siméon Ferry May 6 (LF), and 8000 at St-Paul-du-Nord May 9 (AB). The two Ruddy Ducks of the season were both extralimital: one appeared at Latulipe (Témiscamingue) May 14 (LG), and the other was recorded at St-Paul-du-Nord May 26 (AP,AB), for the second occurrence on the North Shore in 85 years.

**VULTURES THROUGH WHIP-POOR-WILLS** — Warm spring weather did not fail to produce Turkey Vultures; in addition to the usual birds in the Eardly area (*vide* IJ,PJ), the most outstanding records included three record early birds at Ste-Barbe Mar. 24 (MJ), up to two birds over Mt. Rigaud in April and May (*vide* JW), and a first occurrence at Cap Tourmente Apr. 29 (RP). The least common raptors were reported in numbers quite representative of their abundance: six Cooper's Hawks, including a pair at Old Chelsea (MBk), four Golden Eagles, and eight Peregrine Falcons. A Broad-winged Hawk at Bromont Mar. 17 (JL) was very early, and single Gyrfalcons were seen at Matane Apr. 1 (JLa) and Rimouski Apr. 12 (GG). Extralimital Am. Coots included single birds at St-Gédéon, L. St-Jean May 1 (MBd), Rimouski May 2-12 (JR), and Grandes-Bergeronnes May 17 (AB). A generally poor shorebird migration produced, however, a Willet at Barachois May 30 (PPo), a very early Dunlin at St-Fulgence May 6 (DC,YC), a record early Least Sandpiper at Berthierville Apr. 24 (GP), and a Ruff at Henryville May 5-6 (SH,PBa); the first Wilson's Phalarope on the North Shore was at St-Paul-du-Nord May 11-17 (AP,AB). Two Little Gulls at Ile du Moine May 29 (BB) and a Franklin's Gull at Lasalle the same day (PBa) were no more unexpected. The last Great Gray Owls of the 1978-79 invasion included single birds at Moisie Apr. 2 (AG), Lauzon May 10 (PBr), L. Aylmer May 5 (*vide* JHy), and Ile aux Basques May 20 (PL). A Whip-poor-will at Grand-Remous May 27 (RBd), and another at St-Ambroise near Chicoutimi May 24-25 (YB,NB) were quite far n.

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH SPARROWS** — A Red-headed Woodpecker at Plaisance May 28 (MS), probably established

a first local record, although this locale is within the range of the species. Two Willow Flycatchers were found at both Breckenridge (RT) and Thurso (HM) during the May 27 Ottawa-Hull Spring Census. An early Long-billed Marsh Wren at Granby Apr. 29 (RL) fell one day short of the record arrival, a previously unpublished Apr. 28, 1976 report from the same locality (NP). New locality-records for the Mockingbird were L. Simon Apr. 28

(MBu), Amos May 13 (FG), and Old Chelsea May 27 (MBk). No fewer than four Wood Thrushes were found near Rimouski May 26 (GG *et al.*); the reasons for this deep woodland species are difficult to assess, but an increased awareness of its song may be a significant factor. An E. Bluebird at Grandes-Bergeronnes May 22 (AB) was just outside the present breeding range, although the species formerly nested as far as Godbout. Duplicating the previous record early arrival, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was at Philipsburg Apr. 27 (KN), one was on Mt. Royal the following day (PBA) and one occurred at Meach L., Apr. 29 (PBI); a maximum of three was seen on Mt. Royal May 8 (FH), one at Québec City May 11 (AC), and one at Grandes-Bergeronnes in mid-May (*vide* JHy). A Bohemian Waxwing noted at Barachois Apr. 29 (PPo) was a local rarity at the tip of the Gaspé Pen.

The Worm-eating Warbler found on Mt. Royal May 9 (MA, m.ob.) spent most of the day in the same patch of brushy hillside. Some early warblers included a Nashville at La Baie Apr. 30 (GS), a Yellow at St-Hyacinthe Apr. 29 (LJ), a Cape May at Chertsey May 6 (DL), a Black-throated Green on Mt. Royal May 1 (PBA), Blackpoll Warblers at Plaisance May 13 (DStH) and Boischatel May 14 (PPE), and an Ovenbird at L. Fortune May 1 (CDe). Single Cerulean Warblers were present on Mt. Royal May 11 & 26 (JDeM,JHn), and a Kentucky Warbler was seen and heard there May 27 (BB,MM,PC). The ♂ House Finch was back at St-Lambert Mar. 25 (JB)



Harris' Sparrow, near Rimouski, Qué., May 16, 1979. Photo/P. Chagnon.

and a pair was reported from Philipsburg Mar. 30 (CC). For the third consecutive year a Clay-colored Sparrow reached the Saguenay R., at Jonquière May 9-10 (MBd). Near Rimouski, an ad. Harris' Sparrow visited a feeder May 13-18 (GG, m.ob.) and was photographically documented; the three published Québec records were all fall occurrences.

**CONTRIBUTORS (boldface) AND OBSERVERS** — M. Ainley, P. Bannon (PBa), B. Barnhurst, J. Baugh, Y. Blackburn, P. Blain (PBI), R. Boisvert, M. Bostock (MBk), A. Bouchard, R. Bouchard, M. Boudreau (MBd), R. Bracken, N. Breton, P. Brousseau (PBr), M. Bureau (MBu), P. Chagnon, C. Chalk, Y. Chrétien, D. Côté, A. Couture, L. Crête, M. Darveau, J. De Marre, J. L. Desgranges, C. Despins (CDe), B. Dilabio, C. Duchesneau (CDu), L. Fortin, L. Gagnon, C. Gauthier, Y. Gauthier, G. Gendron, A. Gingras, F. Godard, F. Hilton, S. Holohan, J. Houghton (JHn), J. Hardy (JHy), L. Jauron, I. Jones, P. Jones, M. Julien, D. Lacroix, P. Lane, J. Larivée, R. Lebrun, J. Legris, H. Mackenzie, M. McIntosh, K. Newell, N. Paquette, G. Pauzé, A. Pelletier, R. Pelletier, P. Perreault, P. Poulin (PPo), J. Rocheleau, D. St-Gelais (DStG), D. St-Hilaire (DStH), G. Savard, M. Surprenant, R. Taylor, J. Wright. **NORMAND DAVID**, Centre de recherches écologiques de Montréal, 5858 Côte-des-Neiges #400, Montréal, Canada, H3S 1Z1, and **MICHEL GOSSELIN**, 370 Metcalfe #707, Ottawa, Canada K2P 1S9.

## HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

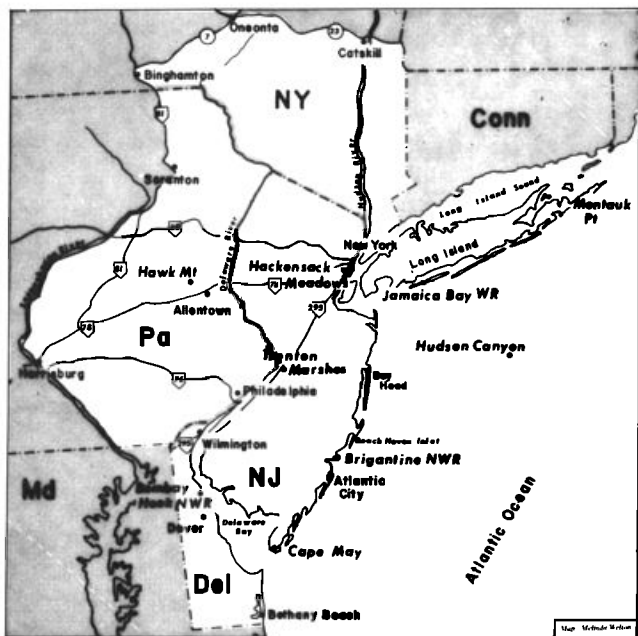
/Robert O. Paxton,  
P. William Smith, and  
David A. Cutler

Spring 1979 was warm and rainy. Precipitation ran nearly twice normal in New York City in May. In Philadelphia, while total precipitation was little above normal, the sixteen straight rainy days at the end of May broke an all-time record for continuous drip. In all, it rained twenty out of 31 days in May there.

Many long-experienced observers felt that warblers and other migrants "were not in the numbers of yesteryear" (EJR). It would be overhasty to blame this impression solely on inclement weather on weekends, for observers who were in the field nearly daily considered "the number of warblers to be especially disappointing" (WWK). Conditions were made worse in the southern part of this Region by persistent stalled or occluded fronts. "The surge of May was not there" (EJR). Even farther north, where fronts were perceptible (MDo banded 27% of her season's total at Island Beach, N.J., May 16) they were not spectacular. In truth, our measuring techniques for spring migration are more subjective and primitive than those for summer and winter. Turning to some of the meager hard data at hand, we find some confirmation in birds per net hour captured at Island Beach by MDo: 1.2, a figure near the low range of recent years but not off the scale (1.6 in 1975; 1.2 in 1976; 1.6 in 1977; 2.2 in 1978).

In a few places, such as New York City parks where 35 species of warblers plus





Lawrence's were observed, the season was actually better than average. Banders on Great Gull Island (hereafter, G.G.I.), between the tip of Long Island and Connecticut, netted nearly three times as many birds as in 1977 and 1978. Foggy drizzle seems to be favorable, in fact, for coastal migrant concentrations.

Rather than draw hasty conclusions about general decline, it might help to isolate several separate processes. Continued after-effects of the harsh winters of 1976-77 and 1977-78 may well still be reflected in low numbers among some half-hardy species. Some long-distance migrants may be affected by Latin American deforestation. These matters can probably be better measured in breeding season than on migration.

Another process may be the "banalization" of bird populations: the replacement of species with delicate environmental needs by man-hardy species. The Mirabellas noted ever increasing grackles and cowbirds, even in the woods, but fewer traditional forest species.

Another factor at work may be the "bunching up" of migrants in ways still poorly understood. On the biggest day at Island Beach, May 16, 32 Magnolia Warblers made up 15% of the day's total catch. Black-and-white Warblers composed over 10% of the season's total (MDo). Yet both species were considered low by many inland observers.

As usual, substantial passerine migration persisted into early June. Flycatcher migration hit its peak on G.G.I. then. Curiously enough, the last wave of May 31 - June 2 included species normally considered early migrants, e.g., American Redstarts (Rockland County, N.Y., RFD; G.G.I., JDiC). It would be interesting to know the age and sex of these laggards.

A main feature of this season was the continued pioneering of southern species (see kites, Prothonotary, Cerulean, and Yellow-throated warblers, Summer Tanager, Boat-tailed Grackle, and Blue Grosbeak).

**GREBES, PROCELLARIIDS** — The return flight of Red-necked Grebes was below that of last spring, following a mild winter. Among seven interior records (17 last spring),

six were in mid-April, including three at Culver's L., Sussex Co., N.J., Apr. 12 (FT) and birds in breeding plumage on the Delaware R., at Riverton, Burlington Co., N.J., Apr. 18 (AG) and in e. Pennsylvania, at Hecktown, Northampton Co., Apr. 4-10 (BM). The latest of several coastal records was of one in changing plumage at G.G.I., Apr. 24-25 (JDiC, H. Hays). An Eared Grebe was closely studied at Henlopen S.P., Del., Mar. 5 (BF).

Northern Fulmar numbers grow in giant leaps. An unprec-

edented 265+ were at Block Canyon, at the edge of the continental shelf 85 mi s. of Montauk Pt., L.I., Mar. 12 (RAR), around trawlers, although the number had diminished there to six on June 2 (THD *et al.*). In the scallop grounds toward Hudson Canyon, 60+ mi e. of Island Beach May 26, fulmars were constantly present in numbers variously estimated at 69 to 150, depending on how one treated repeats. It was in any event the largest assemblage encountered so far by an organized pelagic birding trip off New Jersey (Urner Club/D.V.O.C.; THD,PWS). No great concentrations of shearwaters or petrels were found this spring. Maxima of 8-10 Greater Shearwaters and 50-75 Sooty Shearwaters near Hudson Canyon May 26 were low. A Manx Shearwater there could now be considered normal, although this species was first verified off New Jersey in May 1975.

**PELICANS THROUGH HERONS** — A White Pelican at Brigantine N.W.R. (hereafter, B.N.W.R.) from mid-April to around Apr. 22 (DW *et al.*) may have been the same bird seen there September-Christmas 1978, or one of the New England stragglers of that fall. A notable Gannet count was 3600+ at Block Canyon Mar. 12 (RAR). Gannets passed the Long Island shore from Jones Beach S.P., to Shinnecock Inlet at 250-600/hour Mar. 24, on strong SE winds (AJL, D. Kibbe), but such counts reflect mainly local wind conditions.

Shoreline counts of Double-crested Cormorants, by contrast, could document their striking increase, for a large proportion of the e. seaboard population follows the beach on migration. Tantalizing sample counts this season included 1000 passing Sandy Hook, N.J., in a half hour Apr. 18 (JP) and a steady passage of flocks of 15-30+ moving E along the Westchester County, N.Y., shoreline Apr. 21, reaching a total of 1180 in a few hours (M.F.N.). Sustained shoreline counting from late April through early May would generate some surprising totals. The recently increasing Delaware R. assemblage of Double-crested Cormorants is believed to be feeding on fingerling shad and herring returning to the sea in spring, the result of a cleaner river (JTMcN).

Notable among s. herons prospecting

beyond breeding range were a Louisiana Heron at Rye, N.Y., May 12 (M.F.N.), a Yellow-crowned Night Heron Apr. 16 at Allentown, Pa. (BM) and Glossy Ibis there Mar. 26 (BM). The recently-established Black-crowned Night heronry near Exeter, Luzerne Co., Pa., was up to 64 birds at 35 nests Apr. 24 (WR). A single White Ibis in a flooded field near Lewes, Del., Apr. 25 (BF) was the only report of this species whose 1977 irruption has receded.

**SWANS, DUCKS, GEESE** — Whistling Swans peaked at 6500 Mar. 10 in the Susquehanna Flats, Washington Boro, Pa. (TH), the best count in recent years. The annual May census in Dutchess County, N.Y., gives a nice precision to the establishment of feral Canada Goose populations on suburban ponds during the last 15 years, a process little noted in this space. This year's count on May 13 found 190 Canada Geese "nesting on almost every pond in the county" compared with an average two per census in the early 1960s (OW). At the Susquehanna Flats 20,000 Canada Geese passed Mar. 8 between 6:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. (TH). Three White-fronted Geese at L. Ontelaunee, Pa., Mar. 5 (MS) suggest that this species is now annual in small numbers.

Since the Eurasian race of Com. Teal goes under-reported these days, we note that a male was in Orange County, N.Y., Mar. 25 - Apr. 8 (*vide JT*). The wintering Eur. Wigeon remained at Mecox, L.I., until Apr. 28 (GSR). Farther s., where fewer are found than in the 1960s, one was at Heislerville, Cumberland Co., N.J., Apr. 8 (PD), and another in a flooded cornfield with Am. Wigeons at Magnolia, Del., Mar. 25 (DN). The Canvasback return flight up the Hudson could be dated rather precisely around Mar. 17-18 when peak counts reached 500 at Cornwall Bay, Orange Co. (*vide JT*) and 2-300 in Dutchess County (R.T.W.B.C.). A Tufted Duck was carefully studied among Surf Scoters at Longport, Atlantic Co., N.J., Apr. 1 (JD) for what may be a first s. Jersey record. Returning diving ducks were not reported in spectacular numbers on inland lakes this season with the exception of Com. Mergansers which were "in the thousands" at the Lincoln Park gravel pits, Morris Co., N.J., Mar. 10 (RM,FWe); 500 were at Spruce Run Res., Hunterdon Co., N.J., Mar. 18 (RK *et al.*) continuing a series of massive spring concentrations there.

**VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES** — In a winter roost in the Oldwick - Mountainville, Hunterdon Co., N.J., area that built to 125 Turkey Vultures, two Black Vultures remained until Mar. 18 (JB,WJB). In s.e. Pennsylvania, the Black Vulture population builds steadily. One flock at Drumore, Lancaster Co., comprised 65 birds Mar. 26 (RMS). Notable coastal records included singles at Cape May Pt., Mar. 16-18 (PD) and at Sandy Hook Apr. 12-13 (JDo).

The third spring hawk watch at Sandy Hook had its best day May 1, with 807 Sharp-shinned and 15 Cooper's (JDo). Three out of 12 Sharp-shinned netted on G.G.I. were already banded. While we await the Bird Banding Laboratory's tracer, we will hazard a guess that these birds had been banded at Cape May or Sandy Hook, reinforcing W.S. Clark's hypothesis that part of the *Accipiter* population follows the coast regularly so that, unlike

passerines, they can be retrapped at successive coastal stations

The best ridge count for Red-tailed Hawk was 50 at Raccoon Ridge, Warren Co., N.J., Mar. 13. Following recent increases in wintering populations, JG reports that more Red-tailed Hawks remain to breed in e. Pennsylvania, he has six pairs under observation where he felt fortunate to find one or two in previous years. In Rockland County, N.Y., RFD estimates that Red-shouldered Hawks have "made a fine comeback." Ridge counts of 213 Broad-winged Hawks at Sunrise Mt., Sussex Co., N.J., Apr. 21 (HDr) and 95 the following day (FWo) dovetailed very nicely with the Mt. Aspetong, Westchester Co., maximum of 31 on Apr. 22 (M.F.N.) to suggest that this species' spring migration is as concentrated as in the fall. Wintering Rough-legged Hawks lingered exceptionally late in Dutchess County, N.Y., where a May 13 bird provided the second May county record, and in Cumberland County N.J., with two at Fortescue May 7 and one (or one of the same) at nearby Dividing Creek, amazingly, after the end of the period (PD).

#### S.A.

This was the season of the kites. There were an amazing five observations of single **Swallow-tailed Kites**, some of which might conceivably involve the same bird: at Cape May Pt., Apr. 24 (PD); at Brookhaven, L.I. (J&CH); at Henlopen S.P., Del., May 11 (Bruce Peterson); again at Cape May June 12 (CS); and over Great Neck, Nassau Co., L.I., June 12 (RB,JA). Each spring more **Mississippi Kites** prospect up the coast as the dramatic restoration of this species' population within its former breeding range produces an overflow of pioneers (cf. James W. Parker and John C. Ogden, "The Recent History and Status of the Mississippi Kite," *Am. Birds* 33:2 (Mar. 1979), pp. 119-129). For the fourth spring in a row this species turned up at Cape May, this time two birds May 30 (PD,AN,CS). They could not be the same two that made history as first New York State records on Staten I., May 26 - June 9 (RC,RZE, m.ob., ph.), where they feasted on 17-year cicadas. One bird appeared fully adult, the other bearing some brown feathers in the tail. See Northeastern Maritime Region also.

The season's six Golden Eagles were divided evenly between three on the coast (Little Creek, Del., Mar. 11 (SRL) into April; B.N.W.R., imm., Mar. 18-21 — DW,GW; Sandy Hook, adult, Apr. 12 — JDo) and three upland, all in March. Ten Bald Eagles during the season was about par for recent years, the only concentration being three adults and an immature at Bashakill, Orange Co., N.Y., Mar. 18 (*vide* JT). The others were overwhelmingly immatures, an encouraging sign. The Osprey migration was "excellent" inland (GH,WR). Top ridge counts were nine and 12 at Sunrise Apr. 21 & 22 (HDr,FWo), and ten at Millbrook Gap Apr. 25 (FWo). Apart from the usual 6-8 Peregrines on the Jersey coast, we had reports of only seven for the season.

**RAILS, SHOREBIRDS** — Five King Rails near Heislerville May 17 (DW) were reported

as typical of Cumberland County brackish marshes where they are common. One Black Rail at Delmont, Cumberland Co., May 12 (DK,KJ) was the only Regional report. Four trips to traditional Delaware sites produced none at all, for the second straight year (DAC). Do Black Rails still nest in the Region?

Shorebird migration seemed good because the birds flocked to temporary rain pools and flooded fields, but these opportunistic concentrations allow for little firm judgment about real populations. There will be repeated references below to some of the best of these, at Lewes, Del., Pedricktown, Gloucester Co., N.J., and at Amenia, Dutchess Co., N.Y.

American Oystercatchers continue to prosper. Three pairs were on eggs surprisingly early Apr. 12 at Avalon, Cape May Co., N.J. (DW). A notable concentration of migrant Semipalmated Plovers was 250 in a plowed field near Cape May Court House May 18 (C&PS). A Wilson's Plover carefully described at B.N.W.R., May 26 (WJB *et al.*) was considered "one of the very few convincing records of this species for the state since they became extirpated as a breeder in the mid-1960s" (PWS).

Whimbrels with a white wedge up the back, presumed to belong to one of the Eurasian races, are now seen annually in this Region. This season one was at the Tuckerton Marshes, Ocean Co., N.J., Apr. 28 (CD,MD) and another at Linwood, Atlantic Co., N.J., May 3-6 (CD,MD,PWS,JP). Exclusively coastal as breeders, the occasional inland Willet may belong to the w. race *inornatus*. One at the Lincoln Park gravel pits, N.J., May 12 (PB,DR) was "possibly the first record for this species inland in n. New Jersey" (IB) and one on the Hudson R., at Cruger's I., Dutchess Co., May 13 provided a second county record (R.T.W.B.C.). In the Delaware Valley, one at Marsh Cr., Chester Co., Pa., May 14-15 (B&FH,JG) was approximately the fifth for e. Pennsylvania.

Rain pools and flooded fields suited White-rumped Sandpipers, which turned up in unexpected places such as Amenia, N.Y. (two, June 1 — FG,AJ), and in good numbers (40 Oak Beach Marsh, L.I., May 11 — HDa; 25 Port Mahon, Del., May 10 — JTL), but inland pools did not quite reach last spring's heroic numbers. At any rate, this species is clearly more regular here in spring in appropriate grassy pools than it used to be thought. Photographs of what is believed to be three Baird's Sandpipers at the same Amenia, N.Y., rain pool May 31 have been submitted to N.Y.S.A.R.C. At this writing we are still unaware of any East Coast spring record of Baird's Sandpiper confirmed by photograph or specimen (*Am. Birds* 32:(5)985). Only one Curlew Sandpiper was reported, May 19 & 28 at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Ref. (hereafter, J.B.W.R. — PAB,THD). Fifteen Stilt Sandpipers in a flooded field at Lewes, Del., May 9 (BF) was an exceptional spring count; elsewhere, four to five at Stone Harbor, N.J., Apr. 28 - May 5 (PD *et al.*, and four scattered individuals on Long Island in May (HDa,GSR *et al.*) were more normal. A Marbled Godwit was photographed at Amenia, N.Y., June 3 in the aforementioned flooded field (R.T.W.B.C.).

Ten Ruffs were almost up to 1976's 11, and well above most recent springs. As usual, they tended to be early and inland, most of them occurring along Delaware Bay. A white Ruff and a Reeve were at Heislerville, N.J., Mar. 12,

one remaining until Apr 2 (AGI,MG,RK,IB) Up to three, including a developing white Ruff and a black one, were near Pedricktown, N.J., Mar. 26 - Apr. 30 (JB,RL,DS,IB,RK). A different black Ruff was in a flooded field near Pennsville, Salem Co., N.J., Apr. 13 (RB,BM) Away from Delaware Bay, one was at Lewes, Del., May 3 (BF) and three on Long Island (one at Sagaponack Mar. 7-10 — RH; two, Oak Beach Marsh, May 9-13 — ph., HDa, m.ob.).

While the breeding Black-necked Stilt population seems stabilized at its n. limit at Little Cr., Del. (16 there May 6 — SRL), an extraordinary number of stragglers turned up elsewhere. Twelve were in a flooded field at Lewes, Del., May 7 (BF) and one at the Philadelphia airport May 28-31 (B&FH, J. Miller, C&KR) was the third in s.e. Pennsylvania in 50 years. One at the B.N.W.R., May 30 traveling with Willets (HA) recalled the State of New Jersey's efforts there a few years ago to reintroduce the species from eggs, but there was no ascertainable connection. An unprecedented five appeared on Long Island (Mecox, May 15 — C. McKeever; four at Oak Beach Marsh May 24-28 — R. Miller, J. Greenlaw)

A single Red Phalarope May 20 at Kearny, N.J., was only a second record for the Hackensack Marshes (IB). Northern Phalaropes were there from May 19-31, reaching a highly unusual 12 on May 20 (RK,JC,SB,WW) Northern Phalaropes were also above normal elsewhere, with four on the New Jersey coast May 20 - June 1 (JD,WJB,MGr,DK,PH) and up to three at J.B.W.R., May 20-28 (GSR, m.ob). Wilson's Phalaropes, now breeding in adjacent regions, were not in very good numbers; one or two pairs tarried at J.B.W.R., during May, but only one was reported from the Jersey shore, at S. Cape May Apr. 29 (PB,PD), and one at Lewes, Del., May 17 (BF)

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS** — The most remarkable feature of the May 26 trip toward Hudson Canyon was its failure to turn up the most likely *Stercorariid*, Pomarine Jaeger. There was one each of the other three, however. The skua was believed to be *maccormicki*, as fits current theory, but more good photographs and eventually a specimen or two are greatly needed.

A Lesser Black-backed Gull that had wintered at L. Parsippany, Morris Co., N.J., was last seen Mar. 3 (RM,FWe), and two were in the Captree, L.I., Herring gullery Mar 4 (AJL). Most unexpected, however, was an ad Lesser Black-backed Gull along the Schuylkill R., in downtown Philadelphia Mar. 25 (H Armistead). While only two Black-headed Gulls were reported (S. Amboy, Middlesex Co., N.J., through March — EB *et al.*; Great Kills, Staten I., Apr. 17 — RC,RZE), Little Gulls were even more in evidence than usual. An immature at Rye, N.Y., Apr. 15-22 was only the second locality record (others were at nearby Greenwich Pt., Conn.). At more usual Long Island sites, three were among the Bonaparte's Gulls at Fire I. Inlet Mar. 17 (RH) and up to four in Jones Inlet in late April. Two were at Plum Beach, Brooklyn, Mar. 25 (JD,C) and one at S. Amboy, N.J., Apr. 14 (R. Radis)

Gull-billed Terns nested as far n. as Barneget Inlet, but although a pair prospected as far n. as J.B.W.R., after May 5 and one was carrying a fish at the Cedar Beach, L.I., Common ternery May 13 (E. Levine), there was no

evidence of a repeat nesting on Long Island. The first Com. Tern appeared over G.G.I., Apr. 22, the earliest arrival date since this colony was established in the early 1950s (JDiC). The May 26 trip toward Hudson Canyon produced at least two Arctic Terns (PWS *et al.*). Although Roseate Terns breed abundantly on e. Long Island, they are rarely reported s. along the coast. Thus two at the Tuckerton Marshes May 4 (R. Ryan) were unusual, but even more so was the Roseate Tern paired with a Com. Tern near Barnegat Inlet (FL). Although only a few Caspian Terns were reported on the coast (two, Sandy Hook Apr. 26 — JDo; three, Shinnecock Inlet, L.I., May 2 — GSR), five were at Delaware City May 27 (DAC).

**CUCKOOS, OWLS, GOATSUCKERS** — Both species of cuckoo were ubiquitous, even in suburbs, and in New Jersey Yellow-billed Cuckoos were "superabundant" outnumbering Black-billeds ten to one (RB) as they profited from the second major tent caterpillar invasion in a row. EJ.R reported that "I have heard more cuckoos during this period than at any time since I started birding fifty years ago."

The remnants of last winter's epochal Great Gray Owl invasion lasted until March on Long Island. One was found dead Mar. 12 at Centerport (L. Marshall) but the Lloyd Harbor-Caumsett bird remained until Mar. 29 (S. Ruppert). A Long-eared Owl with three fledged young was in Muhlenberg Township, n. of Reading, Pa., May 29 (MS).

Chuck-will's-widows reached Stony Brook, on the n. shore of Long Island, as early as Apr. 22 (C. Wurster) and were calling through May as far e. as Calverton, L.I. (GSR). Slowly filling in along the n. New Jersey shore, at least two pairs were at Island Beach and at Sandy Hook — where nesting is still looked for — one called May 2 (JDo).

**WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — Red-bellied Woodpeckers will soon pass out of the news in this Region as they fill in its n. edges. They showed a "noticeable increase" in Orange County (JT). They are nesting in all five New York City boroughs (THD). Three were well upland at a beaver swamp at Culver's Gap, Sussex Co., N.J., Apr. 13 (FT). The Dutchess County May census figures for the last six years speak eloquently: 1, 2, 0, 5, 12.

A W. Kingbird, far less likely in spring than in fall, and especially so inland, rested briefly on wires at Sergeantsville, Hunterdon Co., N.J., Apr. 25 (VA). The continued increase of Acadian Flycatchers in the n. of this Region was underscored by six banded on G.G.I., May 30 - June 4. They occupied new sites in n.w. New Jersey (GH) and maintained outposts in Orange and Dutchess Cos., and at Red Rock, n.e. Pennsylvania (E. Johnson). Willow Flycatchers are expanding even more conspicuously in numbers and in new locations throughout the Region (DAC, JG, GH). By contrast, Least Flycatchers were reported drastically decreased everywhere except in n.e. Pennsylvania (WR). A lowland breeding population in s.e. Pennsylvania and Delaware has dropped from 20-25 pairs in the 1960s to one pair (DAC), and for the first time in 20 years none are breeding in Princeton's Rogers Wildlife Ref. (RB). Tree Swallows were termed

"invader of the year" in Chester, Berks, and Lancaster Cos., Pa. (JGr) where they are moving in aggressively on bluebird boxes, as they already do on the coast.

**CORVIDS TO VIREOS** — Common Ravens continue to explore in this Region, without the anticipated settling in. One circled Millbrook Gap, Warren Co., N.J., Mar. 21 (FWo) and one was reported from the Knickerbocker Landfill, Chester Co., Pa., Apr. 15 (G. Saunders). A curious fall-out from last autumn's spectacular Tufted Titmouse invasion in the n. of this Region brought ten to Sandy Hook during the season (JDo) where they do not normally occur, and 17 to G.G.I. (banded) where they had previously gone unrecorded (M. Male, JDiC).

The previously reported **Varied Thrush** remained at Mastic, L.I., until Mar. 17 (GSR). Migrant thrush numbers were believed low by most observers, but we lack hard data. Fragmentary but insistent evidence points to healthier E. Bluebird populations. At Sandy Hook 30 passed during the season (JDo); at Longwood Gardens, Pa., mortality rates were low and the birds increased five-fold to 20 pairs (JGr). Many commented on the abundance of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. At G.G.I., they arrived suddenly Apr. 26 (six banded) and 20 were banded there during the season. Remnants of last winter's N. Shrike flight were at Newburgh, Orange Co., N.Y., Mar. 2 (BS), Yard's Cr., N.J., Mar. 10 (PBo), at J.B.W.R., up to Mar. 30 (TS), and up to Apr. 18 at Jones Beach S.P., L.I. (L. Shore).

**WARBLERS** — Ever more Prothonotary Warblers explore beyond their n. breeding limits each spring, although those limits in n.c. New Jersey have in fact remained quite stable. This season some eleven were in the New York City area, well above average, including several females and a pair that seemed settled at Nissequogue S.P., L.I. (M. Wheat *et al.*). For the third spring in a row, Swainson's Warbler was recorded in a New York City park — this time Central Park, May 7-11 (m.ob., ph., A. Swoger), and another was banded at Island Beach May 17 (FL). Brush-loving warblers are doing well in many parts of this Region. Although Blue-winged Warblers are commoner in the n. part of the Region, Golden-winged Warblers were above normal there (five in New York City parks, one on Long Island — F. File). The Brewster's hybrid was found in Setauket, L.I., May 20-26 (D. Powers), and at Great Swamp, N.J., May 22-31 (*vide* IB). Lawrence's hybrids were found in Alapocas Woods, Del., Apr. 29-30 (R. West) for one of the few Delaware records, once again at its traditional Old Troy Park site, Morris Co., N.J., in early May (*vide* IB), at two other n.c. New Jersey locations (*vide* RB), and in New York City — Central and Forest Parks — May 4-6. Prairie Warbler, almost a test species for abandoned farms and cut-over woods, is prospering in Dutchess County. Successive May counts there have grown from 13 in 1970 through 59 in 1978 to 105 this May 13 (R.T.W.B.C.). The great increase in spruce-breeding warblers during the spruce budworm infestations of recent years may be entering a downward phase. Among the spruce-breeding species, Bay-breasted Warbler and Cape May Warbler were generally

considered down as compared with the last three banner years.

Cerulean Warblers are staking out new territory n. and e. in the Region. Along the coast, where they remain rare, one was banded at Island Beach May 12 (FL) and another was at Allaire S.P., Monmouth Co., N.J., the same day (DW), a locality where breeding has been suspected. Two singing males at Parvin S.P., Salem Co., N.J., May 22 (LH) raise the possibility of a new breeding site in s. New Jersey, where the species is rare. In Orange County, where it is very local, seven were found this spring (BS). Yellow-throated Warblers are increasing along every suitable sycamore-shaded stream in s.e. Pennsylvania and Delaware this spring (DAC, B. Brodey, PH, B&FH). These birds are presumed to belong to the *albiflora* race, distinct from the population of the nominate race found along the s. coast of this Region. Near the n. limit of the latter, at least seven pairs were settled around Dividing Cr., N.J., this May (DW, PWS). Yellow-breasted Chats were doing very well in New Jersey and Delaware after a number of low years (SRL *et al.*); DAC could find 15 in an 8-mi radius around Redden, Del., May 10. One was banded on G.G.I., May 17 (JDiC).

**ICTERIDS, TANAGERS** — Six Yellow-headed Blackbirds were above average this season: two in a large flock of Redwings in a plowed field near Lawrenceville, Mercer Co., N.J., Apr. 1 (RB), a female on Staten I., Apr. 5 (RZE), a male Mar. 17 - Apr. 15 at W. Sayville, L.I. (W. Lamoureux *et al.*), and two males (possibly the same) at Newark and Port Mahon, Del., Apr. 15-16 (*vide* JTL, T. Reeves). Boat-tailed Grackles are still known to breed only n. to the vicinity of Barnegat Inlet, N.J., but, as the population increases, the jump to the next extensive area of suitable habitat, on Long Island, has been long expected. Two or three were so evident around J.B.W.R., and several Long Island localities this spring that breeding before long seemed a certainty.

An unprecedented 27 Summer Tanagers were found in the New York City area Apr. 24 - June 2, including more fully ad. males and more lingering individuals than usual. One ad. male was banded May 9 at G.G.I., the second such record in a row (JDiC). The presumed source population for these pioneers is burgeoning in s. Delaware, where DAC found eight singing males within a 5 mi radius of Redden Apr. 11-12, all in overcut deciduous habitat. So far the conclusively proven n. breeding limit remains Dividing Cr., N.J., but we wager that the line will move N in the next season or two.

**GROSBEAKS, FINCHES, SPARROWS** — A **Black-headed Grosbeak** was at Cornwall Bay, Orange County, until Mar. 3 (*vide* JT). Blue Grosbeaks have been exploding in overcut woods and edge habitat in Delaware during the past two years (DAC), which make more pioneers in the n. only normal. An extraordinarily early one was at Cape May Pt., Apr. 1 (JD). No less than nine reached the New York City area, including an unprecedented flock of four at Riis P., Apr. 29 (THD, M. Chamberlain). One was in Philadelphia, in Carpenter's Woods May 7 (SRL).

Vesper Sparrows continue to be hard to find

in this Region, and Henslow's Sparrows almost impossible. Small colonies of Vesper Sparrows appear, however, where plowing ceases. This spring seven sang from a field near Alpha, Hunterdon Co., N.J., Apr. 14 (GH), three or four singing males were near Princeton (RB), and three were near Redden, Del., May 11 (DAC). A **Golden-crowned Sparrow** at a feeder in Paoli, Chester Co., Pa., Apr. 29-30 (B. Blust, JGr *et al.*) represented a fourth Pennsylvania record. A Clay-colored Sparrow sang for three hours at Pound Ridge, Westchester County May 26 (TWB), a first spring locality record; the species has bred sporadically in w. New York State.

**OBSERVERS** — (subregional compilers in boldface) Vince Abraitys, C. U. Atkinson, Harold Axtell, Pete Bacinski, **Irving Black** (n.e. N.J.: 2 Beaumont Place, Newark, N.J. 07104), James Blasioli, **Raymond Blicharz** (c. N.J.: 827 Pennsylvania Ave., Trenton, N.J. 08638), Ed Bloor, Pete Both (PBo), W. J. Boyle, Sharon Brady, Carl Bresler, Joe Burgiel, P. A. Buckley, **T. W. Burke** (Westchester Co., N.Y.: 235 Highland Rd., Rye, N.Y. 10580), Robert Clermont, Joyce Cloughly, **D. A. Cutler** (s.e. Pa., Del.: see below), John Danzenbaker, Chris Danzenbaker, Michael Danzenbaker, **T. H. Davis** (s.e. N.Y., L.I.: 94-46 85th Road, Woodhaven, Queens, N.Y. 10421), **R. F. Deed** (Rockland Co., N.Y.: 50 Clinton Ave., Nyack, N.Y. 10960), Joe DiCostanzo (JDiC), Harry Darrow (HDa), S. B. Dempsey, Mary Doscher (MDo), James Dowdell (JDo), Howard Drinkwater (HDr), Peter Dunne, John Ebner, Bill Frech, Art Gagnon, Anne Galli (AGI), Florence Germond, John Ginaven, Marion Glaspey, Marjorie Grant (MGr), Jesse Grantham (JGr), James Haag, Barbara and Frank Haas, Ted Hake, **Greg Hanisek** (n.w. N.J.: 363 James St., Phillipsburg, N.J. 08865), Celia and Julius Hastings, Louise Henry, Robert Hines, Phyllis Hurlock, Alice Jones, Cliff Jones, Rich Kane, W. W. Kelley, Jr., Jim and Mary Key, Don Kunkle, A. J. Lauro, S. R. Lawrence, Fred Lesser, J. T. Linehan, Ronald Logan, Edward Manners, R. May, J. T. McNeill, **J. K. Meritt** (s.e. N.J.: 809 Saratoga Terrace, Whitman Square, Turnersville, N.J. 08012), August and Judy Mirabella, Bernie Morris, Al Nicholson, David Niles, Jack Peachey, Eleanor Pink, Peter Post, G. S. Raynor, Charlotte and Keith Richards, E. J. Reismann, **William Reid** (n.e. Pa.: 556 Charles Ave., Kingston, Pa. 18704), D. Roche, R. A. Rowlett, Dorothy Sacks, R. M. Schutsky, Beezer Seguin (BS), **P. William Smith** (coastal N.J.: see below), Matthew Spence, Barbara Spencer, Timothy Stiles, Clay and Pat Sutton, Fred Tetlow, John Tramontano, Wade Wander, James Walker, Dave Ward, Otis Waterman, George Wenzelburger, F. Weinfeldt (FWe), Floyd Wolfarth (FWo), Richard ZainEldeen (RZE) Abbreviations: D.V.O.C., Delaware Valley Ornithological Club; M.F.N., Mianus Field Notes, Westchester County, N.Y.; N.W.R., National Wildlife Refuge; N.Y.S.A.R.C., New York State Avian Records Committee; R.T.W.B.C., Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, Dutchess Co., N.Y. — **ROBERT O. PAXTON**, 560 Riverside Drive, Apt. 12K, New York, N.Y., **P. WILLIAM SMITH**, 24 Heyward Hills Drive, Holmdel, N.J. 07733, and **DAVID A. CUTLER**, 1110 Rock Creek Drive, Wyncote, Pa. 19095.

## MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/F. R. Scott

March was very warm this year, contrasting rather strikingly with a frigid February. The rest of the season produced about as normal temperatures as could be expected, and precipitation was normal to slightly above average overall, although the coastal areas had torrential rains during April and May that were not reflected inland. Although this weather should have produced a normal spring migration, field observers were not happy and complained that it was too cool, damp, and windy. Perhaps the major problem was that there were no weather abnormalities of the type that bring in big waves or other concentrations of migrants. As one observer put it, "if happiness is a spring with lots of warblers, there are a lot of people singing the blues." Another was more blunt: "It was lousy weather for birding."

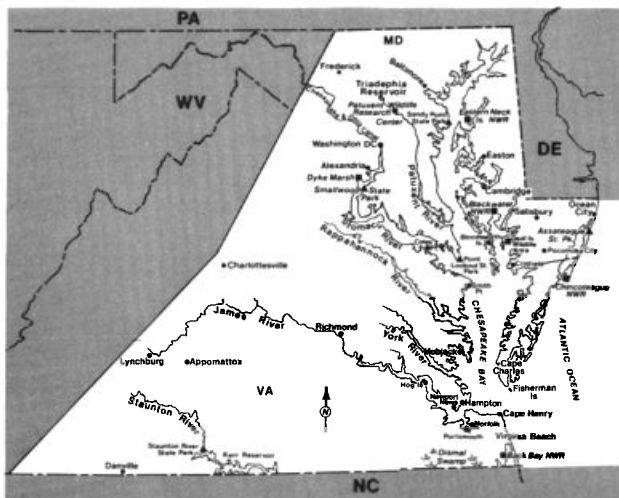
What flights there were seemed quite local. Peter May's excellent concentration of early migrants at Manassas, Virginia on April 12 seems to be the only significant wave reported. There was a kill along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel across the mouth of the Bay, apparently during the night of May 4-5 when a northeast storm accompanied by rainfall moved through. When the islands were checked by Kenneth Gabler on the 6th, he found 161 dead birds of at least 21 species, but the total loss was certainly many times larger.

**LOONS THROUGH IBISES** — The Com. Loon spring flight past Annapolis and Sandy Point S.P., Md. (hereafter, S.P.S.P.) totaled 1039 birds Mar. 29 - May 24, with a peak of 449 Apr. 22 (HLW). A Red-throated Loon at Richmond, Va., Apr. 19-21 (JWD,FRS) was very unusual this far inland. Only a few Red-necked Grebes were reported. One was photographed near Hopewell, Va., Mar. 10 (RLA, DLH *et al.*), another was seen at L. Anna, Louisa Co., Va., Mar. 11 (JWD,FRS), and one at Baltimore remained through May 7 (WB). The last Horned Grebe at Craney I., Portsmouth, Va., an apparently healthy bird, was seen May 23 (GG), and a pelagic trip off Ocean City, Md., May 12 totaled one **Manx Shearwater**, two Sooties, and 1500 Wilson's Storm-Petrels (RAR *et al.*). The **White Pelican** which wintered at Back Bay N.W.R., Va., remained to about Apr. 27 (RLA), and possibly the same bird was photographed at Smith and Fisherman Is., Va., May 12 (BT, BJ). Three ad. Gannets were noted at Hoopers I., Md., Mar. 31 (HTA), always a good record for the mid-Chesapeake Bay, and the peak spring count of Double-crested Cormorants on the lower Potomac R., was 1000+ near Coltons Pt., Md., Mar. 13 (JMA). Two **Anhingas**

soaring high over the mainland marshes near Ocean City May 5 (JPT,JGd,AM *et al.*) provided only the second recent record for the state.

Several new Great Blue heronries were found by J. M. Abbott, the most interesting being 30-40 pairs at Masons Neck N.W.R., Va., the first Fairfax County breeding record since the early 1940s. An ad. Little Blue Heron at Annapolis Apr. 6 (HLW) was unusual, and Cattle Egrets were noted inland at L. Anna, Va., Apr. 16 (one — JLI *et al.*) and May 9 (two — BWK), the only Piedmont reports this spring. There were several inland sightings of Glossy Ibis, including one near Williamsburg, Va., Apr. 3 (BW), three near Hopewell Apr. 22 (JWD *et al.*), one at Baltimore Apr. 22 (PK, JLS), and three at S.P.S.P., Apr. 27 (HLW).

**SWANS THROUGH HAWKS** — An apparently feral Mute Swan at L. Anna Mar. 17 (TDW) seems to be the first for this locality. Migrating Whistling Swans across Virginia's Piedmont included 70 in e. Culpeper County Mar. 3 (JWE,RJW) and 300 in w. Fairfax



County Mar. 8 (JWE), the latter a record Piedmont count. Parks noted three White-fronted Geese flying with migrating Snows in Kent County, Md., Apr. 11, and a flock of about ten **Fulvous Whistling Ducks** was seen in Surry County, Va., Apr. 28 (LR). A Eur. Wigeon at Craney I., Va., Apr. 29 (RLA) was the first Regional report in a year, and a ♀ Wood Duck followed by 17 downy young was photographed in Washington, D.C., May 24 (*vide JMA*). The last Com. Eider was reported along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Va. (hereafter, C.B.B.T.) Mar. 18 (RLA), and a ♀ Hooded Merganser at Charlottesville, Va., May 14 (BWK) seemed very late.

Although the hawk migration past the Annapolis-S.P.S.P., areas was down from 1978, with 1841 recorded it was still the second best since Wierenga has been recording it annually. Four record counts of migrating birds were obtained here Apr. 5: 58 Turkey Vultures, 8 Cooper's Hawks, 14 Red-shouldered Hawks, and 132 Am. Kestrels. For the second consecutive year here flights of subad. Broad-winged Hawks occurred into early June with a remarkable 35 on June 5 and the last one June 8. A Merlin here May 15 was also late (HLW), tying the Maryland departure record. Elsewhere, an ad. Goshawk was reported in n. Fauquier County, Va., Mar. 10 (DFA,JMA), and a Broad-winged at Fred-

ericksburg, Va., Mar 18 (JMA) was a bit early. Rough-legged Hawks seemed in good numbers not only in s. Dorchester County, Md. (hereafter, S.D.C.), where Armistead recorded seven Mar. 16, but even about Baltimore city (EB,JLS *et al.*).

An imm. Golden Eagle remained at Blackwater N.W.R., Md., until Mar. 31 (HTA), and single adults were found at Edgemere, Md., Apr 22 (PK,JLS) and Blackwater Ref., May 5 (HTA,EWM). Four Bald Eagles (1 subadult, 3 immatures) at Kerr Res., Va., Mar. 17 (JHD, (JHD,TD) was a good count for the Piedmont. Armistead thought that numbers of Bald Eagles were down in S.D.C., during April and May, although he had a peak of 18 there Mar. 31 (8 adults, 6 immatures, 4 not aged). Four Ospreys first appeared in S.D.C., Mar. 16 but had increased to an impressive 58 by Mar. 31 (HTA), a number that could have been substantially increased if better coverage had been possible. Wieboldt found several Turkey Vulture nests, the earliest containing two eggs near Charlottesville Apr. 5, and a Black Vulture nest with two eggs in Culpeper County, Va., Apr. 22. A Cooper's Hawk nest near Manassas, Va., was first located Apr. 7, and the female was still incubating four eggs May 26 (PMa).

**RAILS THROUGH WOODCOCKS** — A dead Black Rail was picked up along the C.B.B.T., May 6 (JKG), and the peak count at Elliott I., Md., was ten May 12 (HTA). At S.P.S.P., Black Rails were heard calling in two different localities in April and May (HLW). An unusual find was a Com. Gallinule in a hardwood forest in Dranesville Park, w. Fairfax Co., Va., Apr. 24 (RP).

The shorebird migration can best be described as quiet and unremarkable with few sizable concentrations or rarities. A Black-necked Stilt appeared at Craney I., Apr. 29 (RLA), and the Am. Avocet flock here reached 380 Mar. 24 but then declined significantly in April and May (RLA). Up to three Am. Golden Plovers were present at Worton, Md., Apr 16-21 (FLP), and one was seen near Williamsburg Apr. 22 (BW *et al.*), the only spring reports. A Marbled Godwit was at Craney I., May 3 (RLA), and at S.P.S.P., three Whimbrels were found May 23 (MLH) and one May 24 (HLW). As usual only a few Upland Sandpipers were noted away from known nesting areas, and one in Amherst County, Va., Apr. 1 (RC) was rather early. The Lesser Yellowlegs was the only shorebird that seemed more numerous than usual. The peak at Craney I., was 800+ Apr. 29 (RLA), whereas farther inland record counts included 48 near Hopewell Apr. 14 (FRS) and 94 at Alexandria, Va., May 5 (DFA). The only inland phalaropes this spring were at Craney I.: up to three Wilson's Apr 28 - May 3 and two N. Phalaropes May 17 (RLA *et al.*), but the pelagic trip off Ocean City May 12 totaled ten Northern and 20 Reds (RAR *et al.*). The Abbotts and others recorded 15 or more Am. Woodcock performing near Alexandria Mar. 17.

**GULLS THROUGH SKIMMERS** — No significant gull concentrations were reported during the spring, and at S.P.S.P., they peaked at only 1600 in late May, down some 80% from recent years (HLW). Second-year Glaucous Gulls were noted at Assateague I., Md., Mar. 18 (SHD) and at Craney I., Apr. 28-29 (RLA),

but apparently no Icelands were present. A Lesser Black-backed Gull remained at Baltimore into April (WB) and another was seen at S.P.S.P., Apr. 27 (HLW), while a well-described subad. **Thayer's Gull** appeared at Alexandria May 1 (DFA,JMA). Migrating Ring-billed Gulls seemed somewhat more common than usual locally in Piedmont Virginia. Good counts included 961 at L. Anna Mar. 12 (BWK) and 279 in two flocks over Scottsville Mar. 24 (TFW). Black-headed Gulls were found only at Baltimore, an adult Mar. 8-17 (EATB,RFR *et al.*) and an immature May 5 (EB,JLS), whereas Little Gulls were found in four localities, including two adults at Baltimore Apr. 1 and 22 (PK,JLS). A peak of 90 Bonaparte's Gulls at Richmond Apr. 18 (FRS) was unusual here, and Klockner and Bystrak were lucky enough to observe an ad. **Sabine's Gull** both in flight and at rest at Chincoteague N.W.R., Va., May 19, the last only the fourth sight record for the state. A Gull-billed Tern at Cape Henry, Va., Apr. 11 (RLA,NS) was somewhat early, and Wierenga recorded a Black Skimmer at S.P.S.P., May 24.

**CUCKOOS THROUGH RAVENS** — For the second year in a row Yellow-billed Cuckoos were in excellent numbers during May with many comments from observers. A possible regional record occurred May 12 when Armistead and Parks recorded 63 in S.D.C. Wierenga totaled 22 migrating Barn Owls over Annapolis Mar. 2 - Apr. 30 with a peak of six Mar. 13 between 9 and 11 p.m., and a Long-eared Owl was found freshly killed on a road in Louisa County, Va., Mar. 12 (JBB). The last Short-eared Owls were seen at Cambridge, Md., Apr. 14 (HTA) and S.P.S.P., Apr. 15 (BC). A Chuck-will's-widow near Charlottesville Apr. 5 (MWB) was surely a record arrival date for Virginia, and also early were a Whip-poor-will in Fairfax County Mar. 29 (DFA) and a Chimney Swift at S.P.S.P., Mar. 31 (HLW). A count of 53 Great Crested Flycatchers in S.D.C., May 12 (HTA,FLP) was excellent, and Taylor found a singing **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at Chesapeake, Va., May 3, an extraordinarily rare bird in extreme s.e. Virginia. Another Olive-sided was noted near Lynchburg, Va., May 17 (MRB), a more normal location for this species.

There were significant numbers of Bank Swallows nesting at Presquile N.W.R., near Hopewell, Va., in May, with perhaps >400 pairs (HO). Just e. of Hopewell at a bridge over the James R., Murphy noted a few **Cliff Swallows** in June 1978, and in April and May of this year a small nesting colony was discovered here (JWD,HO,FRS). This is the first one found on the Virginia Coastal Plain and is some 70 mi n.e. of the nearest known colony (near Kerr Res.). Several new Piedmont nests of the Com. Raven were located in Virginia. These included an adult flushed from an inaccessible nest on a cliff in Buckingham County Apr. 1 (MWB,TFW), an adult at an empty nest on a rock face in Culpeper County Apr. 22 (TFW), and a nest with two young in a white pine in Rappahannock County Apr. 22 (MWB). Unfortunately, two of the nests occupied in 1978 had been usurped by Great Horned Owls this year.

**CREEPERS THROUGH WARBLERS** — A Brown Creeper singing at Williamsburg

May 6 (RAB) was quite late, and at Bellevue, Md., a creeper again was singing as late as May 28 (HTA), about the fifth year they have been found here in late May or June. A **Bewick's Wren** was banded at Towson, Md., May 9 (GC) where there are no recent local records. The thrush migration was considered poor by most observers, and the last Swainson's Thrush was singing at Charlottesville June 4 (CES). Eastern Bluebirds in this Region seem to be plentiful only where "housing projects" have been initiated by individuals or local clubs. In Stafford County, Va., McKnight finds that the birds are slowly recovering from the disastrous winter of early 1977 with 27 breeding pairs under observation vs only 16 in 1977. At Newport News, Va., Mitchell banded 109 young in May. As in the spring of 1978, few Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported with several active observers emphasizing that *none* were found. Unusual for extreme s.e. Virginia were one Philadelphia and three Warbling vireos in Dismal Swamp May 6 (RLA *et al.*). Another Warbling Vireo was picked up dead on the C.B.B.T., the same day (JKG).

A Swainson's Warbler was singing in Kent County, Md., May 17 (FLP), and in Dismal Swamp Meanley recorded 40 territorial males May 18-21 and located a nest with three eggs May 19. The only outstanding warbler concentration reported was a "tremendous" flight of Yellow-rumped in the Alexandria area Apr 19 - May 6 with a maximum of 500+ on Apr 29 (JMA). A Cerulean Warbler in Kent County May 14 (FLP,JGr) was unusual for the Eastern Shore, and early Blackpolls were at Richmond (FRS) and Kent County (FLP), both Apr. 24.

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS** — A ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird flying with what appeared to be two Red-wingeds was spotted near Alexandria May 28 (CB), and Kaestner found a Brewer's Blackbird in n. Baltimore County Apr. 22. Armistead and Parks totaled 23 Blue Grosbeaks in S.D.C., May 12, and several apparent transient Dickcissels were reported, including one at Green Springs, Va., Mar. 5 (JBB) and another at a Baltimore city feeder Apr. 9 (JLS). House Finches continued to increase, and adults feeding fledged young were noted at Lynchburg May 4 (TH) and Richmond May 20 (FRS). After a spotty winter for northern finches, Evening Grosbeaks became quite common in n. Virginia from late March to early May with several concentrations of up to 100 birds (JMA,JWE). Pine Siskins were found only twice, single birds at Clifton, Va., Mar. 1 (JWE) and Great Falls, Va., Apr. 22 (DFA), whereas a single White-winged Crossbill at Towson, Md., Mar. 2 (GC) was the only report of either crossbill. The only sparrow observation of note during the period was a late Tree Sparrow at Dyke marsh, Fairfax Co., Mar. 20 (JMA).

**CONTRIBUTORS** — D. F. Abbott, J. M. Abbott, R. L. Anderson, H. T. Armistead, Mrs. Celia Baldwin, J. B. Bazuin, Jr., R. A. Beck, Warren Bielenberg, E. A. T. Blom, M. R. Boatwright, Ed Boyd, M. W. Britten, Danny Bystrak, Ray Chandler, Gladys Cole, Barry Cooper, J. H. Dalmas, Thelma Dalmas, J. W. Dillard, S. H. Dyke, J. W. Eike, J. K. Gabler, John Getgood (JGd), Gisela Grimm, Jimmy Gruber (JGr), Tom Hicks, M. L. Hoff-



man, D. L. Hughes, Bob Jenkins, J. L. Jones, Hank Kaestner, B. W. Keelan, Wayne Klockner, Peter Knight, E. W. Marshall, III, Peter May (PMA), E. T. McKnight, Brooke Meanley, Al Merritt, Mrs. D. L. Mitchell, Paul Murphy, Harold Olson, F. L. Parks, Robert Per-Lee, R. F. Ringler, Larry Robinson, R. A. Rowlett, J. L. Stasz, Nick Stavros, C. E. Stevens, J. W. Taylor, J. P. Tramontano, Barry Truitt, R. J. Watson, T. F. Wieboldt, H. L. Wierenga, Bill Williams, T. D. Wilson. — F. R. SCOTT, 115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond, Va. 23226.

## SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

The spring of 1979 in the Carolinas and Georgia was cloudy, cool, and wet overall. March was warmer than normal, but April and May were noticeably cool and not much warmer than March. Between mid-April and mid-May, the prime time for migrants in the Region, weather conditions alternated between long periods of bright, sunny days, but (alas) just as long periods of cloudy, gloomy weather. Normally, cold fronts in the spring pass through the Southeast every four or five days; however, in 1979 most of the fronts bogged down over the Great Plains and Mississippi Valley states and passed through only about once a week. With the fronts spending so much of the spring over the Plains and the Mississippi, high pressure centers tended to occur just to the east of our area, or just to the north of it. As a result, winds tended to be from the south or the southeast, and such winds are not conducive to bringing migrants into our Region, particularly those migrating over the Gulf of Mexico or through Texas.

Based on these weather observations, one would have predicted a very poor and late spring migration for the Southeast. Such was exactly the case! *Without exception*, observers mentioned that the migration was light in their areas, and some said it was the poorest for passerines that they had ever noted. The cool April and May also caused the migrants to be late, and in some places, especially in North Carolina, the "peak" of the warbler migration was May 10-20, five to ten days later than normal. A quote from Jim Mulholland's report summed up things well: "The spring migration was the latest and poorest I have experienced in my seven years at Raleigh. I noted few early arrivals, many seemed later than usual, and for many migrants numbers seemed to be quite low." The rainy spring kept reservoirs full; thus, inland shorebirding was rather uneventful, except at the new Jordan Reservoir in eastern Chatham County, North Carolina. Also, winter finches were in low numbers this winter and spring. On the bright side, Dave Lee continued his "pelagic magic" off the North Carolina Outer Banks by again adding a first Regional record. And with each of the three states adding at least one new species to its state list, the spring certainly was not a total loss!

## LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS

— A Red-throated Loon at Eufaula N.W.R., Ga., Apr. 21, established a first record for the refuge (BO, DaC), and an Eared Grebe in winter plumage seen by Ortego Mar. 22 at the refuge provided Georgia's long overdue first record. Lee noted six Northern Fulmars off Oregon Inlet, N.C., Apr. 22, and nine in the same area the following day. The previous high fulmar count for the state was only two birds; records have greatly increased in North Carolina waters since 1976. A well described Cory's Shearwater was seen both in flight and resting on the ocean at Oregon Inlet Mar. 8 (AB, KH), and Lee observed four Apr. 23 and three May 16 offshore from this inlet. Other highlights from Lee's pelagic trips off Oregon Inlet were two Greater Shearwaters Apr. 23, 40 May 10, and 42 May 16; 13 Black-capped Petrels Apr. 23 and two May 10; a Leach's Storm-Petrel May 16; and a peak Wilson's Storm-Petrel count of 79 Apr. 23. Most importantly, he collected an ad. and an imm. Red-billed Tropicbird off Oregon Inlet May 16, for a first Regional record and one of only several records for the Atlantic coast. Nearly 5000 Gannets were seen in the Pea I., N.C., area Mar. 5 (AB, KH), and 1275± were noted migrating N along the beach near Corolla, Currituck Co., N.C., Mar. 21 (JF). A Great Cormorant of unspecified age, but probably an immature, was seen Mar. 10 & 17 near Wrightsville Beach, N.C. (AS, ST), and an immature was noted in this area Apr. 21 (JHC). This bird, or birds, may well be the ones that spent the winter there, as previously reported in this journal. A remarkable number of inland Double-crested Cormorants were observed, with good counts being 36 at Eufaula May 4 (BO, DaC) 25 between Red Springs and Lumberton, N.C., Apr. 12 (JHC), ten at Beaverdam Res., n. Wake Co., N.C., Apr. 26 (SG), seven at White L., N.C., May 22 (DM), and five at Jordan Res., Chatham Co., N.C., Apr. 29 (JOP, ET, BL). Always noteworthy in the Region is the Magnificent Frigatebird; an immature seen May 10 at Wrightsville Beach (RN, FN, JFP) was rare and somewhat early.

WADERS — The Reddish Egret that wintered at Eufaula was seen again Apr. 22 (BO, MB). Great Egrets, rare in the Piedmont in the spring, were noted at Pendergrass and near Atlanta, Ga., near Townville, S.C., and at Roanoke Rapids L., and Jordan Res., N.C. Two Snowy Egrets in the Jordan Res. area May 26 (JOP, ET) were very unusual, as was one near Fayetteville, N.C., Apr. 1 (PJC, KM, CH). Migrant Black-crowned Night Herons generally pass through the Region almost unnoticed in April and early May; sightings in North Carolina were made at Winston-Salem, Williamston, Raleigh, and Fayetteville (at the latter site on the surprising date of May 29 — PJC). Ortego noted a peak of 92 at Eufaula Apr. 7, but he has yet to observe any evidence



of breeding. A Glossy Ibis, rare inland anytime, was observed near Raleigh Apr. 21 (CS), and another was at Eufaula on the same day (BP, MAV, HO). Especially noteworthy were 24 seen in flight at Fayetteville Apr. 4 (PJC). An imm. Roseate Spoonbill was noted at Jekyll I., Ga., May 26 (LB, HG), and a remarkable eight Am. Flamingos were on the beach at Bull's I., S.C., May 16 (JCE). The birds had good color, were very wary, and were last seen flying N over the ocean. Four flamingos at Bird I., S.C., the next day (JBA) might have been members of the Bull's I. flock.

WATERFOWL — A total of 150 Brant at Morgan I., near Cape Lookout, N.C., Feb. 27 was excellent (SP). A ♂ Pintail and two ♀ Redheads were late at Pea I., May 12 (BL, MT), as was a ♀ scaup (sp?) at Emory Univ., Atlanta, Ga., May 27 (MAV, BP). Most unusual were two Com. Eider records: a female at Huntington Beach S.P., S.C., Mar. 8 (BL), and two females at Sullivans I., S.C., Apr. 14 (PN). Other notable spring waterfowl were two ♀ Com. Goldeneyes at Jordan Res., Mar. 4 (DA), a ♂ Com. Merganser at Eufaula Mar. 22 (BO), and a very late ♀ Red-breasted Merganser May 27 in Laurens County, Ga. (TKP).

KITES THROUGH GALLINULES — Standard fare for the spring season is the occurrence of Swallow-tailed Kite n. of its breeding grounds. This year two were seen in the Holly Shelter swamp, Pender Co., N.C., Apr. 26 (M & CG). A late Rough-legged Hawk was observed near Chapel Hill, N.C., Apr. 5 (BW, MW). Again this season, inland Bald Eagles were too numerous to mention in detail; North Carolina locales were Raleigh, Beaverdam Res., Jordan Res., Chapel Hill, Clinton, and Fayetteville. A pair of adults near Valdosta, Ga., Apr. 21-22 (m.ob.) was believed to have been nesting there or in adjacent Florida. A good Osprey count was eight in view at one time at Jordan Res., Apr. 29 (JOP, ET). This new "reservoir" is now being cleared of vegetation and is slowly filling. Many good waterbird sightings are expected from this area over the next several years, as has happened in recent years at the relatively new and productive L. Surf and Beaverdam Res., both also in c. North Carolina. One, and perhaps two, Peregrine Falcons near Hoffman, N.C., were rare and very late May 15 (JHC); and a Merlin was late at Pea I., May 22 (JEP, RD). Atlanta observers noted an excellent migra-

tion of Sandhill Cranes this spring, but this may have been because the flights were squeezed into the period Mar. 1-5, rather than spread out over several weeks. About 15 reports from this area, totaling 550± birds were received (*vide* TM). Other reports of interest were three Apr. 22 near Valdosta, where they are not known to nest but possibly could (AW *et al.*); three near Dublin, Ga., Mar. 17 (TKP); and one near Charlotte, N.C., Apr. 1 (DG) and several days later (WI,FB). Rare although somewhat regular inland in spring, Com. Gallinules were seen at Winston-Salem May 12-26 (J & LC, B & SH), and at Jordan Res., May 15 (BL).

**SHOREBIRDS** — A tally of 57 Piping Plovers near Beaufort, N.C., was excellent Mar. 17 (JF,JT), and the rare Am. Golden Plover was detected 30 mi n. of Atlanta Mar. 31 (single bird — JC) and at Jordan Res., Apr. 21 (two birds — BL). Just as rare inland were two Black-bellied Plovers at Jordan Res., May 15 (BL), three there May 20 (DA), and one at L. Surf, near Vass, N.C., Apr. 29 (BLa). Even rarer inland, a Ruddy Turnstone was at Jordan Res., May 15 (BL), with two present May 20 (DA). *Three* Long-billed Curlews near Cape Lookout, N.C., Mar. 13 (SP) made an excellent state count, and one at the Middle Marshes near Beaufort, Mar. 30 may have been one of the Cape Lookout individuals (JF). Two Long-billeds were also noted at Sullivans I., S.C., May 20 (PN). The usual number of Upland Sandpiper reports was received, covering Mar. 29 - Apr. 29; the best count was an excellent 32 in a single pasture, plus six in another, Apr. 16 in Laurens County, Ga. (TKP). Another rare shorebird inland, Willet, was noted at L. Surf, where four were present Apr. 29 (BLa). Normally, Greater and Lesser yellowlegs are regular although rather uncommon migrants inland in spring, but extraordinary numbers were encountered during the season. The best totals were 50 Greaters and 200 Lessers at Jordan Res., Apr. 20 (BL), but also notable were 45 Greaters and 15 Lessers near Dublin Apr. 7 (TKP), 39 Greaters at Augusta, Ga., Apr. 1 (AW), five Greaters and 35 Lessers near Townville Apr. 30 (HL,TV), and 20 Greaters with eight Lessers at Columbia, S.C., Mar. 16 (CW).

White-rumped Sandpipers were also found in good numbers at several places, especially at Bodie-Pea I., where Lewis and Tove counted 200 May 11-13 and estimated that 1000 were present, as only 20% of the peeps observed were close enough to be identified. On May 22, another count of 200 was made in this area (RD); and inland, good totals were 15 at Jordan Res., May 15 (BL) and nine at Dublin May 27 (TKP). Rare inland in spring were single Dunlins at Clemson, S.C., Apr. 4 (HL), at Beaverdam Res. (RJH), and at Jordan Res., both Apr. 21 (BL). Jordan Res. was also home to two Short-billed Dowitchers May 20 (DA). An exceptional find was a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** studied carefully and photographed near Dublin Apr. 29-30 (TKP), for the second spring record for the Region. Just as astonishing, and a second spring record for the Region as well as the second inland record, were three **Hudsonian Godwits** found on the athletic fields at Clemson Univ., Apr. 26 (TV). Two individuals remained there until Apr. 30 (HL, SGa). Steady and heavy rainfall in the Great Plains and Mississippi Valley states during the

last few days of April were clearly responsible for bringing these two species to our Region. Last spring, Wilson's Phalaropes "invaded" the Region, but such did not happen in 1979. The only phalaropes this season were the pelagic ones: 1000+ Reds off Oregon Inlet Apr. 23 (DL), 91 Northern in this area May 10 (DL), and a Northern onshore at Pea I., May 22 (JFP,RD,LJ).

**JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS** — Lee observed five Pomarine Jaegers and one **Long-tailed Jaeger** off Oregon Inlet Apr. 23. The Long-tailed is rare enough in late May; thus, the April sighting was quite unexpected. Single imm. Glaucous Gulls were at Buxton, N.C., Mar. 7 (AB,KH) and at Cape Lookout Mar. 22 (SP), and two Black-headed Gulls were a good find on a beach with Bonaparte's Gulls at Oregon Inlet Mar. 6 (M & SG). Rare inland Laughing Gulls were four near Dublin Apr. 28 (PR) and one at Roanoke Rapids L., Apr. 1 (FE). A belated report of a Little Gull was received: a winter-plumaged individual was seen at Pea I., Aug. 20, 1978 (BD,SS). Forster's Terns were recorded inland at Raleigh, Beaverdam Res., and Eufaula, but only one inland Com. Tern was seen, near Fayetteville May 25 & 29 (PJC). The tern of the season was an **Arctic Tern** at Huntington Beach S.P., S.C., a first record for the state. It was noted May 5 by Dennis Abbott and Elizabeth Phinney, who are experienced with the species in New England, and it was seen again, apparently independently May 12 (JH,EH,EM) with other terns on a mudflat. Another rarity was an ad. Sooty Tern onshore at Hatteras, N.C., May 1 (WK). It was probably a non-breeder, but nesting occurred at nearby Cape Lookout last summer.

**CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Extremely early was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo at the w. end of Bogue Banks, N.C., Mar. 26 (JF,NM,DR), and a Black-billed Cuckoo was quite late at Jekyll I., Ga., May 26 (JB). A **Smooth-billed Ani** was found dead at Hunting Island S.P., S.C., Nov. 29, 1978 (RF), but the specimen was not saved, as the observer lives outside the Region and was not aware of its extreme rarity. Each of the three states in the Region now has one record, although North Carolina's 19th Century record was likely an escapee. A Whip-poor-will at Jekyll I., May 19 (MAV) & 26 (D & PB) was very late; on the other hand, Atlanta had an early Com. Nighthawk Apr. 16 (VJ). A rare find was a Short-eared Owl near Laurens Mar. 5 (TKP), and also unusual was a Red-cokaded Woodpecker on the w. edge of Raleigh May 5 (TH). Perhaps the woodpecker came from the small isolated population in the n. part of Wake County.

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS** — Three Gray Kingbirds were reported, all from the c. coast of South Carolina: one near McClellanville in mid-April (JS), another at Awendaw L., Apr. 29 (PL,GM,PN), and a third at Sullivans I., May 20 (TR). A second-hand, unconfirmed report of a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher came from Raleigh May 4 & 6, but no details were received adequately to verify the sighting. A Great Crested Flycatcher was very early Mar. 25 in Atlanta (D & AF). Records of the rarer flycatchers included a Yellow-bellied near L. Keowee, S.C., May 19

(RS,ED), three Willows near Charleston May 12-13 (PN,DAb), two "Traill's" heard and seen near Fayetteville May 21 (PIC), and an Olive-sided near Marietta, Ga., Apr. 29 (BP). Late Bank Swallows were three at Carolina Beach, N.C., May 26 (RD), and 50 at Jordan Res. (DA) and two at Blewett Falls Dam, N C (DM), both May 27. Ortego had a very early Cliff Swallow at Eufaula Mar. 22, and quite late and unusual was an individual seen 40 mi e.s.e. of Topsail I., N.C., June 3 (MT). Always rare, a Bewick's Wren was found Mar. 24 near Pendergrass, Ga. (JG), & 25 (m.ob.). Two Short-billed Marsh Wrens seen and heard near Fayetteville Apr. 29 (PIC) provided a first local record, and another was seen near Marietta Apr. 27 (JSw). June 1 was a very late date for a Swainson's Thrush at Raleigh (GW), and also late was a Water Pipit May 9 near Charleston (DAb,PN). The elusive Warbling Vireo was detected a gratifying three times, in each case seen by experienced observers: one at Eufaula Apr. 22 (BO,MB), one at Raleigh May 5 (BL), and *three* near Atlanta May 5 (JH, D & DC).

**WARBLERS** — As mentioned in the introduction, numbers of migrant warblers, especially the Trans-Gulf species, were very low. The only migrant species in good numbers (besides Yellow-rumped) were two "Florida" migrants — Cape May and Blackpoll warblers. A Swainson's Warbler in John Ward Swamp near Marietta Apr. 29 (BP), if breeding, represented a new nesting locality, one of the rather few Piedmont sites in the Region.

#### S.A.

A well described *pair* of **Bachman's Warblers** was reported; the birds were seen 3 mi from Fairlawn Plantation near Charleston Mar. 18 (NG). It must be pointed out that although the details were impeccable, the observer is unfamiliar to the writer, and the continued long-term search for the species by Paul Hamel has yet to turn up a Bachman's, despite 2950 man-hours coverage of 18,400 acres of Francis Marion N.F., from 1975-79 (*vide* PH). The last *absolutely unquestionable* sighting of a Bachman's in South Carolina was in the early 1960s, even though seemingly convincing reports are received nearly every spring.

Single Orange-crowned Warblers were noted in North Carolina in April at Orton Pond in Brunswick Co. (MT), near Newport (JF), and near Cary (CO). Nashville Warblers, which generally stay w. of the Region in spring, were noted at Atlanta Apr. 27 (RP) and Raleigh Apr. 30 (GW). A ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler was well e. of its migration route on Bull's I., near Charleston May 11 (JBA), as was the rare Connecticut Warbler at Ft Macon S.P., N.C., May 26 (CO). One-to-several Connecticut Warblers were noted in Decatur, Ga., near the center of the migration route May 6-28 (GS,EM). One of the best warbler records was of a Wilson's studied carefully in Dublin Mar. 24-31 (TKP *et al.*). This bird was so early in the season that it almost certainly could not have been a migrant, but must have been a

wintering individual. A ♂ Canada Warbler at Elizabethtown, N.C., May 22 (DM), was another warbler e. of its normal migration route.

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES** — A ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird near Rome, Ga., Apr. 5 (LS) was an exciting find, as was a ♀ Western Tanager near Jordan Res., Apr. 29 (DK,SG). Single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at Pea I., and Buxton on the North Carolina Outer Banks May 12 (BL,MT) were noted, as were three males farther n. on the banks near Nags Head May 16 (ML,JMo). Why this species occurs so regularly along the banks in spring is puzzling, since very few other Trans-Gulf migrants occur in this area. As with the Wilson's Warbler mentioned above, two ♂ Blue Grosbeaks near Raleigh Mar. 12 (JM) were so early that the date suggests overwintering individuals. A few Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins were reported this spring, but no impressive numbers were noted. Quite surprising, however, was a banded Red Crossbill that was seen regularly at Greenville, S.C., Mar. 23 - June 3 (WG); not a single crossbill was reported all winter. The Grasshopper Sparrow seen during February in a Pinehurst, N.C., yard was last observed Mar. 17 (MJ), and another was seen and heard at

nearby Fayetteville Apr. 29 (PJC). This species is rare in the North Carolina Sandhills, so rare, in fact, that the latter bird could have been a migrant, a breeding bird, or a wintering bird. The Sandhills are a "gray" zone somewhat close to both the s. breeding limit and the n. wintering limit of the species' range. Very rare, indeed, was a carefully observed Lark Sparrow May 18 near Fayetteville (PIC), since the species is usually seen only along the coast in fall or winter. The best finch report was that of *three Clay-colored Sparrows* at Jay Shuler's home near McClellanville, S.C., Feb. 28 - Mar. 9 (m.ob.). The late winter date is unprecedented for the Region. A Lincoln's Sparrow was seen near Chapel Hill Apr. 7 (BW,MW,JP), and late sparrows included a White-throated in Charleston May 30 - June 9 (PN) and a Swamp at Rockingham, N.C., May 19 (DM).

**CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS** — Dennis Abbott (DAb), Dennis Alwon, J. B. Andre, Fran Baldwin, Jean Bevis, Liz Bradshaw, Donna and Patrick Brisse, Mark Brown, Allen Bryan, J. H. Carter III, John and Lee Carter, John Cely (JCe), Don and Doris Cohrs, Dan Combs (DaC), P. J. Crutchfield, Evelyn Dabbs, Ricky Davis, Bill Drummond, Frank Enders, Ramona Flewelling, Dan and

Ann Forster, John Fussell, Mark and Cathy Galizio, Hugh Garrett, Sid Gauthreaux (SGa), Donna Goodwin, Marie and Steve Graves, Nancy Gray, Joe Greenberg, William Grimm, R. J. Hader, Paul Hamel, Bill and Susan Hammond, C. Hamner, Kevin Hints, Joel Hornstein, Tom Howard, Eileen Hutcheson, Wayne Irvin, Vince Jackson, Leon Jernigan, Marion Jones, Daniel Kaplan, Wayne Klockner, Pete Laurie, Bill Lazar (BLa), Dave Lee, Harry LeGrand, Bob Lewis, Merrill Lynch, K. Mason, Elizabeth McCain, Douglas McNair, Gardner Miller, Julie Moore (JMo), Terry Moore, Jim Mulholland, Nora Murdock, Frances Needham, Robert Needham, Perry Nugent, Helen Ogren, Clark Olson, Brent Ortego, Richard Parks, J. F. Parnell, T. K. Patterson, Johnnie Payne, Elizabeth Phinney, Skip Prange, Billy Pulliam, J. O. Pullman, Dave Rackley, Tom Reeves, Paul Riddle, Georgann Schmalz, Jay Shuler, Len Sisson, Clyde Smith, Alan Snavelly, Ramona Snavelly, Sherman Suter, John Swiderski (JSw), Elizabeth Teulings, John Thompson, Sarah Tichnor, Mike Tove, Tom Valega, Mary Ann Vernocy, Bill Wagner, Margaret Wagner, Ann Waters, Gail Whitehurst, Chuck Whitney. — **HARRY E. LeGRAND, JR., Department of Zoology, Clemson University, Clemson, S.C. 29631**

## FLORIDA REGION /Herbert W. Kale II

The spring 1979 migration in the Florida Region (for new readers, Florida is in two regions — the panhandle west of the Apalachicola River is part of the Central Southern Region) was a typical one — excellent in some places, so-so in others, and as always, numbers and variety of species were dependent upon the number and intensity of cold fronts associated with rainfall which passed down the peninsula. Most of the frontal systems in March were not accompanied by rainfall, nor were large numbers of migrants aloft until the end of the month. I was at Royal Palm Hammock in Everglades National Park (hereafter, E.N.P.) on the afternoon of March 23 when Eastern Kingbirds suddenly began raining down from the sky. Four fronts each in April and May crossed the peninsula. The most dramatic, bird-wise, was that of April 26-28, following a trough of heavy rains that reached from Cuba to Ft. Lauderdale April 24 (16 inches fell on Ft. Lauderdale, 11 inches on Homestead, and 5 inches on the Keys). That weekend many of Florida's birders were away attending a joint meeting of the Alabama and Florida Ornithological Societies on Dauphin Island, Alabama, amidst a deliriously fantastic fallout of migrants, an event for which Dauphin Island is justly famous.

My plea last year for reports from competent birders visiting Florida resulted in several responses. We are grateful for these and encourage your continued cooperation (and also understanding if we do not accept everything you report without question.)

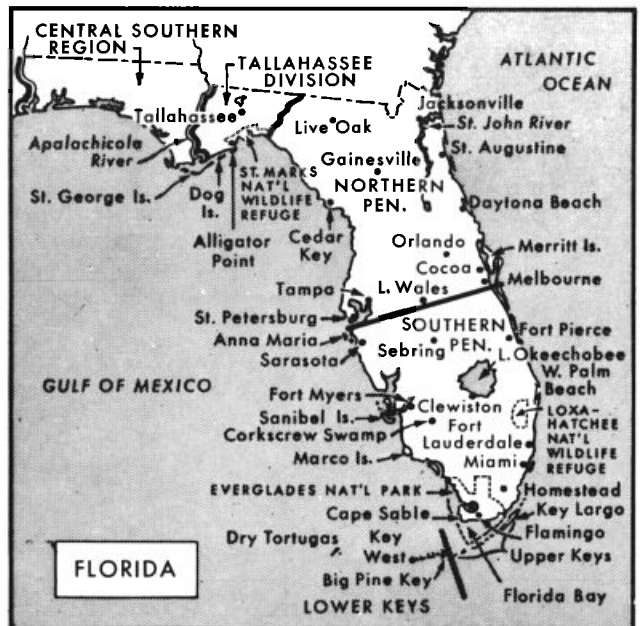
Probably the most notable species for the period was a carry-over from the winter season

— the Key West Quail-Dove — still present through the end of the period (OLB) along Snake Bight (note the spelling) Trail in E.N.P., and still so tame that some observers expressed suspicions about its wild status. As far as can be determined, no quail doves have been in captivity in south Florida in recent years. We may never know the real facts concerning the source of this bird — so indulge yourself. Anemic birders are warned to bring along an extra pint of blood — the numbers and hunger of the mosquitoes along Snake Bight Trail are unbelievable!

Several other noteworthy accidentals for the period (details below) were: Lesser Nighthawk, Tropical Kingbird, Wied's Crested Flycatcher, Cave Swallow, Bahama Mockingbird.

**LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS** — A Com. Loon at Key West Apr. 23 (TJC) and Longboat Key, Sarasota May 26 (R&MS) were the latest for the Lower Keys and Southern Peninsula (hereafter, S. Pen.), respectively. Three Horned Grebes in Florida Bay May 21 (BWP,RTP) were late. Trips offshore from Ponce de Leon and Ft. Pierce Inlets, Pompano Beach, Islamorada, and to-and-from the Dry Tortugas (hereafter, Dry Tort.) reported sev-

eral pelagics (but, surprisingly no Cory's or Greater shearwaters). Five Audubon's Shearwaters were off Pompano Beach Apr. 27 (TJC), one off Ponce Inlet May 3 (KK,RGM, PWS *et al.*), one between Marathon and Dry Tort., May 5 & 7 (RGM *et al.*), and 60± in the Gulf stream 5-15 mi off Islamorada May 9 (RGM,JLD *et al.*) **Black-capped Petrels** were again seen off Ponce Inlet; three Apr. 14 (DSS) and 38 May 3 (PWS,KK,RGM *et al.*), and 11 Wilson's Storm-Petrels were encountered on the latter trip. Another one was seen off Ft. Pierce Inlet May 13 (W&HD). The only White-tailed (=Yellow-billed) Tropicbird reported was an immature off American



increased slightly, but Pied-billed continued to be in low numbers except in South Dakota.

The Missouri R., with its power dams and controlled water level, tends to provide security and food on the islands in the river below the dams. This habitat appeals to White Pelicans and the numbers reported indicated they should have another good year. The Great Blue Heron and its companion nester, the Double-crested Cormorant, also did well on the Missouri R., and its tributaries.

Green Herons came into s.e. South Dakota via the Missouri R., by Mar. 30 (KJH) and by May 19 a total of 12 sightings was reported in the state. North Dakota had five sightings May 16-31 at Turtle L. (TAG), Jamestown (CF), Fargo (MAB,CAS) and a pair at Grand Forks (DOL,SOL).

The egrets — Cattle, Great and Snowy — have become established in the n.e. corners of each of the three states — the pothole areas of the Region. Cattle Egrets arrived Apr. 10 at Jamestown (HK) and Apr. 26 at Sand Lake N.W.R., S.D. (RLW). Great Egret arrival dates were Apr. 16 at Waubay N.W.R. (HOS); Apr. 26 & 27 at Grand Forks (DOL) and Fargo respectively (GIO *et al.*). Snowy Egrets were first sighted at Burbank, S.D., Apr. 12 (KJH); two were at Bowdoin N.W.R., Apr. 17 (TP); one Apr. 30 at Billings, Mont. (HWC, BBF) and one at Kelly's Slough, N.D. (DOL *et al.*). During May Black-crowned Night Herons numbered 20 in McKenzie Slough, e. Bismarck, N.D. (RNR). A Yellow-crowned Night Heron surprised those living along Moccasin Cr., within Aberdeen, S.D., May 2 (RB *et al.*), and another was seen May 26 in Tacoma P., Brown County, S.D. (ECM). A Least Bittern was unusual at Long Lake N.W.R., N.D. (RNR *et al.*). American Bittern sightings showed an increase with 19 for the Region. Four were seen May 20 at Salyer N.W.R., N.D. (RLB).

At least three White-faced Ibises were in e. Montana in Stillwater and Phillips Counties (CD) and Bowdoin N.W.R. (TP) Apr. 25 - May 27. One was at Long Lake N.W.R., May 13 (RAS) and four were at Sand Lake N.W.R., S.D. (SJW).

**GEESE AND DUCKS** — A six million pound dragline with a boom the length of a football field is used to mine coal at the Tongue River Res., Big Horn Co., Mont. Geese, Great Blue Herons and Osprey nest at this reservoir. A Canada Goose took over an Osprey nest nearly 80 ft high within 50 ft of the dragline in all the dust and noise of the mining operations (EP,HD).

Snow Geese peaked at 210,000 on Apr. 15 at Sand Lake N.W.R., which is one of their main staging areas (SJW). A nearly continuous skein of flocks of 300 totaling 25,000 moved up the James R., N.D., in a half hour on Apr. 21. A peak of 75,000 moved through Salyer N.W.R., N.D. (RLB).

A strange looking duck at Ft. Peck Res., May 1 was believed to be a Green-winged × Blue-winged Teal hybrid (D. Skaar, ph., CMC). A pair of Cinnamon Teal was in s. Custer County, S.D., Apr. 24 (EMS) and a pair was seen at Eagle Butte ponds, Dewey Co., S.D., Apr. 25 (DLB). Singles were at Ft. Peck and Phillips Cos., Mont., May 10-20 (CMC,CD) and at s.e. Bismarck and Turtle Lake, N.D., May 12-24 (DMR,SCR).

Wood Ducks flourished over the Region.

Canvasbacks remained scarce; however, 50 were seen May 1 on Bierman W.P.A., Brown Co., S.D. (D. Linehan). Ring-necked Duck reports have never been so numerous from South Dakota. In Yankton and Bon Homme Cos., S.D., Apr. 8, 27 were counted (WH).



*Possible hybrid Blue-winged X Green-winged Teal, Ft. Peck, Mont. Photo/C. M. Carlson. Photos are being circulated to experts.*

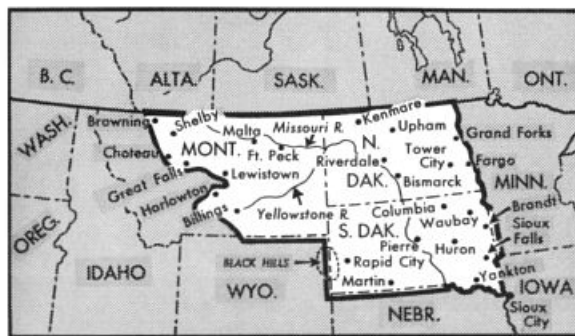
**RAPTORS** — The Blue List species of this group were generally increased in number which could be owing to better coverage by observers. A movement of 65 *Accipiters* in one hour, mainly Sharp-shinned, was noted along the Red R., at Grand Forks (DOL). Only five Cooper's Hawks were reported in the Region. Observers near river valleys all reported a good Red-tailed Hawk movement and many nests were active in South Dakota by early April.

Two Red-shouldered Hawks were reported from Fargo Apr. 1 & May 9 (CWC,RT). Broad-winged Hawks were far more than is usual in North Dakota with seven May 12 at Minot (GBB). There were two at Waubay N.W.R. (RRJ); one at Sand Lake N.W.R. (RE,PE); and another was unusual in Phillips County, Mont. (CD). A migrating flock of 88 Swainson's Hawks was on the ground and 40 in the air at s. Hermosa, S.D., Apr. 24 (BMN).

Bald Eagle numbers were much higher than those of Golden Eagle. All members of the falcon group were reported much more than is usual and the seldom-mentioned Merlin totalled seven in the Region. Four Peregrine Falcons were seen, in Montana and North Dakota.

**GALLINACEOUS BIRDS** — Greater Prairie Chickens were booming this spring in the grasslands along the Missouri R., S.D. On Apr. 16 in Gregory County 104 were counted (D. Lengkeek, GLS) and 25 were seen at the edge of prairie dog towns in the Ft. Pierre area (JLB,EMS). The traditional booming grounds around Grand Forks were vacant and the Sharp-tailed Grouse have increased instead, (R. Crawford, DOL). Sage Grouse were the least reported in this group. A flock of 150 Turkeys was on Preacher Smith Hill, Deadwood, S.D., Mar. 23 (DLB).

**CRANES THROUGH RAILS** — There



were four Whooping Cranes seen over Yankton County, S.D., Apr. 15 (JEW) and at least seven in the Crosby, N.D. area Apr. 12-20 (TLF). An estimated 10,000 Sandhills went over Ft. Peck in two hours Apr. 15 (CMC). Rail populations are increasing with the most notable being Sora. Five Virginia Rails were seen May 2 — at Long Lake N.W.R. (WAB). At Kelly's Slough near Grand Forks the seldom reported Yellow Rail was flushed several times on May 12 and by the clicking sounds there may have been up to four birds (Lambeths,JFK,FFK).

**SHOREBIRDS** — A total of 29 Piping Plovers and two nests with eggs were reported from the three states. A flock of 750 Am. Golden Plovers was seen at Spiritwood L., Jamestown, N.D., May 14 (CF); 150 Black-bellied were at Rolla May 23 (PCH) and 50 Ruddy Turnstones were at Rush L., S.D. (RRJ).

American Woodcock were seen along the e. border of the Region from Brookings, S.D. (NJH) up through Fargo and Pembina County, N.D., Mar. 31 - May 27 (FJC,GCB,ERF). A flock of 20 Whimbrel was unusual at Ft. Peck May 20-24 (CMC). Upper Souris N.W.R., had 100 Pectoral Sandpipers May 13. A flock of 30 Dunlin was seen e. of Astoria, S.D., May 27 (GF). Observers continued to send in reports of Short-billed Dowitcher from both Dakotas. The *Birds of South Dakota* (1978) lists the status as uncertain. Two Red Knot were at the w. end of Ft. Peck L., May 23 (CMC). Hudsonian Godwit numbers were out of the ordinary in the Dakotas Apr. 19-29 with 200± in scattered places. A Ruff with brownish tufts was in Kelly's Slough May 8-10 after one was seen there in 1978 with white tufts. This bird displayed to a bird believed to be a Reeve (Lambeths *et al.*). One Black-necked Stilt was at Brown's L., near Billings, Mont., Apr. 30 (HWC,BBF). The Lambeths found 5000 N. Phalaropes May 20 at L. Williams, McLean Co., N.D.

**GULLS AND TERNS** — Glaucous Gulls were seen at Kelly's Slough Apr. 19 (PID) and at Ft. Peck May 9 (CMC). Almost 100 Com. Tern sightings were sent in from throughout the Region. Caspian Terns were seen Apr. 14 in Cass County, N.D. (PJD,VSS) and May 12 at Ft. Peck (CMC). Black Tern reports were few but several came from South Dakota.

**CUCKOOS THROUGH PICIDAE** — Ten Black-billed Cuckoos were seen in 2.5 highway mi May 28 at Yankton (WH). Two Screech Owls in a nest box May 27 provided a new species for the Bowdoin N.W.R. list (TP). A pair of Great Horned Owls had two young in a nest pan on a tilted goose platform in a flooded creek at Belvidere, S.D., May 18-28 (DHD,

**DOVES** — Although White-winged Doves are no longer being transported and released by the Game Commission, the results of several years of this activity are evident, with reports from St. George I., Mar. 24 (NOW), Mullet Key Apr. 14 (EC) and May 6 (JHH *et al.*), Key West Apr. 24 (TW), Ft. Pierce May 20 (H & HV), and one at Dry Tort., May 12 (KK) & 20 (PWS *et al.*). The latter bird may have been mistakenly reported as a Zenaida Dove by one visiting party. In the late 1960s and early 1970s Inca Doves nested in Key West, but few have been reported in recent years. This spring one was seen Apr. 23 in the parking lot of the SE Motor Inn (TJC). The **Key West Quail Dove** on Snake Bight Trail remained May 31+ (OLB).

**PARROTS** — Several species of exotic parrots are now feral in the Miami area. Less well-known are those species living in Palm Beach County, 75 mi to the n. On Mar. 24 the following were observed: two Red-crowned Parrots (investigating cavities), four Lilac-crowned Parrots, one Blue-fronted Amazon, and two Hispaniolan Conures (JA,GSH,HPL,PWS). At Hypoluxo I., Apr. 1 the following were seen: one Red-crowned Parrot, two Yellow-headed Parrots, and one Blue-fronted Amazon (HPL,RPR,PWS *et al.*). South of Miami, two unidentified Amazons were on Plantation Key throughout April until mid-May (JCO,RTP,SS).

**CUCKOOS THROUGH SWIFTS** — A Mangrove Cuckoo on Hypoluxo I., Apr. 25 (AYA *et al.*) was the first record for Palm Beach County. One was heard calling along Snake Bight Trail Apr. 20 (TJC) and May 2 (RGM *et al.*), and others were seen and heard in their usual habitat on Sugarloaf and Big Pine Keys (m.ob.). Last year we overlooked the earliest record of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo in the Tally Div. — a bird in Taylor County Mar. 31, 1978 (GEM). Black-billed Cuckoos, never abundant in Florida, were reported from Mullet Key Apr. 9 (JD) & 28 (DC *et al.*), Cedar Key Apr. 24 (BM,RC), and No Name Key May 7 (PWS,RST). A late Whip-poor-will at Mullet Key Apr. 25 (MH,JF) was a rare Pinellas Co. record. Occasionally Com. Nighthawks winter in s. Florida, but one in Jacksonville Mar. 7 (JPC) established the earliest spring date for the N. Pen. A bird giving the typical *kity-kadic* call of the Antillean Nighthawk was heard twice in Ft. Lauderdale Apr. 26 (WG), and one was at Homestead May 29 (OLB). One of the few places in Florida where **Lesser Nighthawks** have been found, St. George I., was again host to one Apr. 28 (JMS,SC,MB). Chimney Swifts are rarely seen in the Keys, even in migration, hence birds seen flying over mangroves near E. Buchanan Key in Florida Bay Apr. 25, 27, & 29 (RTP) were unusual. Others were reported at Key West May 2 & 18 (FTH,TW), and Long Key May 4 (PWS,RST).

**WOODPECKERS AND FLYCATCHERS** — A Pileated Woodpecker on Summerland Key May 19 (GD) and one on Sugarloaf Key June 4 (J. Reinoehl) establish only the second and third records s. of Plantation Key (RTP). Another xanthic Red-bellied Woodpecker has been sighted, this one near Orlando at Longwood May 29 (L. Pittocelli *et al.*), thus emphasizing caution and care in identification before concluding that one is looking at a Golden-

fronted Woodpecker A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on St. George I., Apr. 28 (JMS,MB) was the latest by one day for the Tally Div. Red-cockaded Woodpeckers continued to decline drastically, and were not helped by massive clear-cutting in the Withlacoochee S.F., this summer, hence it is encouraging to note the discovery of a small colony near Port St. Lucie May 30 (SJM,W & HD). Gray Kingbirds usually do not stray far from the coast, but one along St. Rd 60, Indian River Co., 18± mi inland May 24 (HWK) was surprising. Several pairs were breeding in downtown Vero Beach, up from a single pair that first began nesting there three years ago. The rare **Tropical Kingbird** at Hypoluxo I., May 12 (AYA,PWS,WJS) was well seen and photographed, and a second one appeared on Garden Key, Dry Tort., May 20 (A&BL,BH,PWS). The only W. Kingbird reported was one at Beer Can I., Longboat Key Apr. 11 (J. Ginaven) & 17 (R&MS). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was still in Key West on the late date of Apr. 26 (TW). An unprecedented five **Wied's Crested Flycatchers** were seen and heard calling at Royal Palm Hammock Apr. 8 (HPL,RHP,PWS *et al.*), at least one of these wintered there (HPL), and one was calling at Key West salt ponds Mar. 28 (BMA,HR). A Least Flycatcher on Dry Tort., May 5 (RGM *et al.*) appears to have provided the first definite record (of a bird calling) for the Lower Keys.

**SWALLOWS THROUGH THRUSHES** — Two Bank Swallows were late in Tallahassee May 27 (GEM) as was one at Dry Tort., May 29 (OLB). **Cave Swallows** appeared at three locations — one at Mullet Key Mar. 25-27 (LA,WB,RH *et al.*), the first Pinellas Co. record. Dry Tort., where usually seen, Mar. 29 (BMA,HR), and on Big Pine Key Apr. 29 (RHP,PWS). Blue Jays are rare in the Keys, hence one seen harassing a Broad-winged Hawk at Key West Mar. 28 (BMA,HR) was noteworthy. Unlike the winter of 1977-78, few Red-breasted Nuthatches reached Florida this past winter, however one was seen at Tosa-hatchee S.P., Mar. 25 (B. King, B & N Gray). Florida's third record (first for S. Pen.) of the **Bahama Mockingbird** was established on Elliott Key, Apr. 22 by R. P. Russell, and subsequently seen Apr. 24 (OLB & PWS, details to be published), but was gone by Apr. 27 (HPL *et al.*). Although Gray Catbirds breed locally in n. Florida, several seen on St. George I., May 26 (JMS) would be migrants and were the latest for the Tally Div. Thrush migration was considered "normal" by several observers, but the front of Apr. 25-28 precipitated large numbers of Wood, Swainson's and Gray-cheeked thrushes and Veeries on the upper Gulf coast. A Wood Thrush on St. George I., Mar. 24 (JMS) tied the earliest date for the Tally Div., while a Veery there May 24 (HMS) was the latest on record.

**WAXWINGS, STARLINGS, VIREOS** — Cedar Waxwings were relatively scarce until late winter or early spring when they became abundant, with flocks of up to 500 at Ft. Pierce Mar. 22 (JMB) and near Tallahassee May 5 (GEM), with scattered smaller flocks in the Region through May 31. The peregrinations of two Starlings seen on the Dry Tort., May 9 (MBr) would be revealing. Were they visitors from the Florida mainland, or true migrants from the s.? A Black-whiskered

Vireo near Mullet Key Mar. 25 (LA,KT) was the earliest for the N. Pen., but still more fascinating was an "invasion" of them on St. George I., with ten counted Apr. 20 (JMS *et al.*), and one singing there May 16 (NOW), but absent when the site was checked May 24 (HMS). No nesting has ever been observed on the upper Gulf coast, yet each spring individuals make landfall on the barrier islands of Florida and Alabama. A rare Philadelphia Vireo on St. George I., Apr. 28 (JMS) was the only one reported for the Region.

**WARBLERS** — Except following the strong cold front of Apr. 25-28, warbler migration was considered "mild". The late April front grounded numerous birds during its passage down the peninsula. As usual, the most numerous warblers were the West Indies migrants — Cape Mays, Blackpolls, Black-and-whites, Black-throated Blues, Ovenbirds, Am. Redstarts, and Com. Yellowthroats, with lesser numbers of South American migrants. Between 5-7 p.m., Apr. 26, Sykes counted 309 warblers of 13 species on Hypoluxo I. "Swarms" of Cape May Warblers were present throughout the Keys for several days following this front (MBr,JCO). Rarities or significant observations included: a late Prothonotary at Mullet Key Apr. 29 (LH *et al.*), a Swainson's "with a short tail" first seen at Mullet Key Apr. 29 and last seen May 19 (RH, D. Crews latest for the N. Pen.), a Golden-winged at Ft. Lauderdale Apr. 26 (WG), a Blue-winged near St. Marks Light Apr. 16 (FHS), and a Tennessee singing in Tallahassee May 20 (HMS), the latest for the state.

An Orange-crowned near Tallahassee May 5 & 10 (JEC) was the latest for the Tally Div. A rare Nashville was seen at Dry Tort., May 5 (PWS *et al.*), and a late Yellow Warbler was on the Sante Fe R., near Olena S.P., May 25 (APJ). An early (possibly wintering?) Magnolia on Snake Bight Trail Mar. 31 (JCO,NKP) was the earliest for the Region, and one on St. George I., May 25 (JEC) was the latest for the Tally Div. The only Cerulean Warbler reported was one at Cedar Key Apr. 28 (PSW). An early Blackburnian at Dunedin Hammock, Pinellas Co., Mar. 19 (C & L Collum), if not wintering was the earliest for the state. A Kentucky at Mullet Key May 3 (LA) was the latest in the N. Pen. American Redstarts were still passing through s. Florida well into late May with one along U.S. 441, Osceola Co., May 24 (HWK), and 37 on Hypoluxo I., May 26 (PWS).

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES** — Undoubtedly a colorful sight in cultivated fields near Homestead May 2 were flocks of 1000± Bobolinks (RGM *et al.*), while a lone bird was still on Hypoluxo I., May 26 (PWS). A Yellow-headed Blackbird was late on the Bayway May 4 (LH *et al.*). The latest Orchard Oriole for the S. Pen., was in Vero Beach May 23 (*vide* MCB) and a ♂ Bullock's in Gainesville Mar. 1-15 (MV) was the latest for the N. Pen. for this race of the N. Oriole. By way of correction, last year's Monticello record for Brewer's Blackbird should have been listed as Mar. 5, not May. No authentic records for the Boat-tailed Grackle exist on the Florida Keys, hence four on Elliott Key Apr. 22 (RPR) were unusual. A "pair" of W. Tanagers was seen



feeding on the golf course on Jupiter I., Martin Co., Apr. 4 (K. Quesada). Migrating Dickcissels were at Seminole, Pinellas Co., Apr. 20 (JF), Elliott Key Apr. 24 & 27 (OLB,PWS *et al.*), St. George I., Apr. 25 (JMS), and Mullet Key Apr. 29 (LH,JH,RH). No invasion of Evening Grosbeaks occurred in Florida this past winter, hence the appearance of 11 birds at a feeder in Tallahassee on the late date of Apr. 22 (B. Fisher) was perplexing. A rare Le Conte's Sparrow in n. Pinellas County Apr. 14 (LA) was the latest for the N. Pen. Other rarities were a Lark Sparrow on St. George I., Mar. 31 (RMC), and on the Bayway Apr. 21-22 (PJF *et al.*), and a Dark-eyed Junco in Orlando Mar. 15 (S. Scott). White-throated Sparrows rarely reach s. Florida, thus a female along Anhinga Trail Apr. 10 (JB) is noteworthy. Finally, two relatively rare Lincoln's Sparrows were at Mullet Key Apr. 21 (LA) & 29 (CB,DC *et al.*).

**CONTRIBUTORS** — (Area Editors in boldface type) — James Arnold, Brooks & Lyn Atherton, Ann Y. Ayers, Larry G. Balch, Oron L. Bass, M. Baxley (MB), **Ted H. Below**, Jim Berry, Maryann Biggar (MAB), Wes Biggs, Margaret C. Bowman, Jane M. Brooks, Marge Brown (MBR), Chuck Buhrman, Robin M. Carter, Debbie Case, James E. Cavanagh, Ed Christian, Ron Christian, Julie P. Cocks, Sam Cole, Elizabeth Copper, Thomas J. Crabtree, Guy Deeks, William & Helen Dowling, Jack Dozier, Jon L. Dunn, Caroline H. Eastman, **John B. Edscorn**, Paul J. Fellers, DAVIS Finch, Judy Fisher, Chuck Geanangel, Wally George, Jeff Gilligan, Dave Goodwing, Joseph A. Gubanyi, Ed Hagen, Frances T. Hames, Dan Heathcote, **John H. Hintermister**, Brian Hope, Larry Hopkins, Richard Hopkins, Marie Hughes, Gloria S. Hunter, A. Penny Jaques, Kenn Kaufman, Jim Lane, Howard P. Langridge, Al and Barbara Liberman, Fred E. Loh-

rer, Betty A. Lovell, Bruce Mack (BMA), Graham Madge, David S. Maehr, Barbara Mashlitz, William D. Matthews, Billy Matthews (BIM), Robert E. Maurer, Jr., R. Guy McCaskie, Scot J. Mele, Gail E. Menk, **John C. Ogden**, Barbara W. Patty, Nancy K. Paul, **Richard T. Paul**, Robert M. Paul, Becky Payne, Ray H. Plockelman, **Peggy C. Powell**, Richard A. Rowlett, Hazel Russell, Robert P. Russell, William C. Russell, Oliver Scott, Polly Sherman, Robert & Marge Sokol, Sandy Sprunt, Richard Stallcup, Donald S. Starks, **Henry M. Stevenson**, James M. Stevenson, Mrs. F. H. Stoutamire, **Paul W. Sykes**, Wes. J. Sykes, Karl Thompson, Rob S. Thorn, Tadzin Trotsky, Horace & Helen Vick, Mildred Vyverberg, Noel O. Wamer, Thurlow Weed, Joseph L. Wilson, Phillip S. Winerich, Jerry & Ruth Young. — **HERBERT W. KALE II**, Florida Aud. Soc., 35-1st Court SW, Vero Beach, Fla. 32960.

## ONTARIO REGION /Clive E. Goodwin

A May deluge of southern species captured most of the attention in the past spring. It was a Province-wide influx, but in other respects the character of the season depended very much on one's location.

In the south it was a long season, introduced by a March that was more like April. Mild temperatures encouraged early migrants, and good weather towards the end of the month apparently induced waterfowl to move directly through — it was one of the poorest springs in years for waterfowl concentrations and for the usual late lingering ducks. Supporting this idea was the March 31 arrival of Canada Geese at Pimisi Bay, the earliest in 35 years of observations (LdeKL). Farther south the warm weather yielded a crop of early and record-early arrivals. These included a Virginia Rail on Pelee Island March 31 (TT,MS), an Eastern Phoebe at Whitney March 24 (J&JF) and a number of swallows: a Tree at Wingham March 25 (R&NM), an amazing Barn at Port Credit March 31 (DRG), and a Cliff in the southwest April 1 (*vide* AHK).

April tried to balance matters by behaving like March, and April 5-6 brought the worst storm of the winter! It remained cold, with more snow, for the next few days in most areas, and it was not until the third week of the month that warm temperatures and good weather returned. It brought a flood of early migrants with it, principally warblers, but a Ruby-throated Hummingbird which was trying to reach flowers in the window of a house at London April 12 (BH) was one of the earliest reports. On the 16th a Rose-breasted Grosbeak appeared at Fort Erie (HHA), the 18th brought a Yellow-throated Vireo to Point Pelee National Park (and vicinity, hereafter, Pelee) and the 21st an Orange-crowned Warbler there (RC,KO,JPK,JAG), as well as a Common Tern at Collin's Bay (RW) and a Yellow-rumped Warbler at Dwight (RT). On April 22 there was a Black-and-white Warbler in Toronto (B & JW) and a Northern Parula at

Kingston (GP). A record-early Red-eyed Vireo appeared at Pelee Apr. 24 (AW) and an Eastern Kingbird at Presqu'île Provincial Park the next day (RDM). Kingston's earliest-ever Ovenbird was on the 26th (KFE), and Pelee's other early arrivals included a Black-billed Cuckoo on the 27th (RJP) and a Blackpoll Warbler on the 28th (JWi). These dates are no more than representative in a host of early sightings in this period.

More cool weather followed and the newcomers must have been hard put to survive. Then on May 8 the floodgates opened as skies had cleared after several days of clouds and rain, and a warm front brought southerly winds and classic conditions for heavy northward migration. Birds poured in along the lower Great Lakes, and the next few days provided that rare combination of delightful weather and superb birding. It was with this air mass that the heaviest influx of southerners occurred. Later May cooled again, with the result that steady movement was prolonged through the month and continued past the end of the period. It was much the best spring migration in many years with all the components — groundings, rarities, reverse movements — that make this such a fascinating phenomenon.

So much for the lower lakes; if you lived in n. Ontario the story was very different. At Marathon it was one of the latest springs ever experienced even by long-term inhabitants there, and there were five feet of snow in the bush at the end of March and birch trees just



opening on June 5 (NGE)! Indeed, in March the mild weather soon gave place to heavy snow cover even within 100 miles of the lower Great Lakes, and inland localities reported a lackluster spring.

The interest in rarities and generally good birding diverted attention from the absences and low numbers, but these continued although there seemed to be some improvement. Wrens have been among the hardest hit and only House Wrens were common. There were six Carolina Wren reports (only one at Pelee), very few reports of either marsh wren, and a "modest recovery" (RT) in Winter Wren numbers. Kinglet was the other group most observers noted as being seriously reduced; for example, at Bradley's Marsh no Ruby-crowneds were seen or banded, and only five Golden-crowneds. Normally large numbers of each are handled (*vide* AHK). Many observers failed to see an Eastern Phoebe all spring, and Bobwhites, Red-headed Woodpeckers and East-

ern Bluebirds were other candidates for the scarcity list. No King Rails were seen, Black Terns seemed scarce and even fewer Acadian Flycatchers were reported than normally.

**LOONS, GREBES, PELICANS** — The largest Com. Loon concentration was 80 at Komoka from Apr. 15 (m.ob.) although a Quetico buildup of 37 on a small lake May 4 reflects the heavy and late ice conditions in the n. (SP). Only two Red-throated Loons were reported: one at Prince Edward Pt. (hereafter, P.E. Pt., and now a Nat'l Wildlife Area) May 22 (FC) and another dead at Kettle Pt., May 16 (AR). Red-necked Grebes were unusually common from an early Mar. 3 on Amherst I. (RDM). There were up to 310 off Pickering Apr. 16 (MB,m.ob.) and elsewhere 80 were in Wicklow Apr. 10 (GB), 16 at Barrie and 19 at Wasaga Apr. 29 (CJM) and two on Horseshoe L., Central Patricia, May 18 (S&GG). Horned Grebe were scarce in many areas but 117 at Long Pt., Apr. 29 (MP *et al.*) and 235 in one flock in the southwest (*vide* AHK) were quite high counts for spring. Six Eared Grebes were all in the southwest, e. to Strathroy Apr. 29 - May 26. White Pelicans started their roving early this year, and the increasing frequency of this species on the Great Lakes hints at range expansion, although ice could be part of the story this year: on May 12-13 when 150 were seen at Lake of the Woods most of the lake was frozen (DHE). One was at Dorion May 14 (HA), but four at Gore Bay (GR) and one at Stokes Bay May 28 (VE) were the most reported away from the breeding grounds since 1950, and there was still a bird at McGregor Pt., June 16 (CEG).

**CORMORANTS, HERONS** — Double-crested Cormorant numbers were encouraging: there were up to 20 at P.E. Pt., from Apr. 22 (*vide* HQ), 15 at Pelee (AHK) and four reports of flocks exceeding five birds elsewhere. Northerly Green Herons included a bird at Parry Sound May 20 (CAC,JLC) and five on Manitoulin I. (*vide* JL). Great Egrets were n. and e. of their range to Manitoulin I., May 8 (CB) and Willow Beach May 15 (ERM), with seven other sightings. The St. Clair heronry had 35 pairs this spring (*vide* AHK). Rarer herons were scarce: the only reports were of Snowy Egrets at Peterborough May 1 (JC), Port Maitland May 30 (AS,AC) and Pelee May 11 (AW *et al.*), where there was also a Louisiana Heron May 10-14 (m.ob.). No Cattle Egrets were reported at all, in keeping with the apparent decline of this species in the Province recently.

**SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS** — Whistling Swans were widespread in flocks of up to 40 birds Mar. 10-31, but the only large concentration away from the usual areas was 3400 at Aylmer Mar. 31 (GG). Eight were still migrating May 13 at Horseshoe L. (S&GG). Brant were in their customary numbers: 40 at Virginiatown May 22 (PWR) and four on L. Opeongo June 2 (JR) were noteworthy. White-fronteds were remarkably numerous: two at both Port Hope Mar. 13 (ERM) and Wesleyville Apr. 7 (TN *et al.*), singles at Kingsville and Ottawa (GPr), and 13 at Holiday Beach Mar. 18 (JPK,JAG). This is the largest flock since a similar number were seen at Hamilton in the spring of 1970 (CW), which were judged by the Records Committee of the day to be

escapees, but hindsight suggests they were certainly wild. Dave Elder's May 12-13 visit to Lake of the Woods yielded 14 Snow Geese and two Gadwall. The status of the latter is intriguing: were they prairie birds at their e. limits, or evidence of the farther W push of the expanding Ontario population? Ontario's tenth **Fulvous Whistling Duck** was seen at Pelee May 3 & 10 (AW,BC *et al.*). There have been six records, all since 1960. There were three Eur. Wigeon sightings: Pelee Mar. 25 (JPK, JAG), Ottawa Apr. 16 (SG) and Pickering May 13 (DB,GF), the largest number since 1974. The visit to the heronry in L. St. Clair May 28 revealed a pair of Ring-necked Ducks and 200 pairs of Redheads (*vide* AHK). Barrow's Goldeneyes usually appear in the fall and winter, but this spring there were three reports: at Mindemoya Mar. 3-4 (CB *et al.*), Amherst I., Mar. 12 (MR,MG) and Nogies Cr., Apr. 9-11 (RDM,GC *et al.*). High Oldsquaw counts included 1010 at Long Pt., Apr. 12 (L.P.B.O.) and 800 at Presqu'île Apr. 28 (RDM *et al.*).



Mississippi Kite, Pt. Pelee Nat'l Park, Ont., May 16, 1979. Photo/Alan Wormington.

**VULTURES, HAWKS** — Turkey Vultures were widely reported n. to Algonquin and a high of 76 were seen at Pelee May 13 (NR), which also had the hawk of the season when a **Mississippi Kite** was seen May 16-20 (MJB, KAQ,m.ob.). There have been three prior sightings: an undocumented report dating from 1951, and documentation on records in 1971 (also at Pelee) and in 1977, but this year's bird should provide ample photographic evidence to support the species full inclusion on the Ontario list, Lambton County was also host to a flight of 1000 Broad-winged Hawks in April and Pelee a late May 21 movement of 400 (TH). Spring concentrations are unusual there, and figures are not available from Beamer Pt., the main observation point for spring hawk migration in the Province. However, there were reports of Golden Eagles from there Mar. 15 & 17 (JC-B,HK), and another at Leith Mar. 6 (TM), as well as a bird in Algonquin to early March (EK). In the s., pairs of Bald Eagles were reported from Rondeau, Arner and Holiday Beach, and there were two Long Pt., and three Pelee birds. Elsewhere there were two Manitoulin I. records and birds at Ottawa Apr. 22 (BD) and Marathon Apr. 27 (NGE) as well as several reports from the northwest. A rare spring Gyrfalcon was reported from Thunder Bay Mar. 25 (DA). Other falcon reports included ten Peregrines (five on the Great Duck I.-Manitoulin route) and 21 Merlins s. of the usual breeding range (11 from Great Duck — Manitoulin).

**CRANES, COOTS** — Sandhill Cranes were unusually widespread in the s., as birds were

seen at Pelee May 15 (GB) and P.E. Pt., the Kingston area's first, May 18 (RDM) as well as six on Manitoulin Apr. 15-28 including a colour-banded bird (CB,JN,JL). Marathon had its first spring Am. Coot Apr. 18 (NGE).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Shorebird records this spring are limited mainly to a few locations where good habitat occurred. At Amherstview early records included a Semipalmated Plover (FC) and a Sanderling (RKE), both May 5 and a Red Knot the previous day (NS); it also had the only Ruffs reported: one May 2-19, and a Reeve May 12-13 (RKE,FC,K.F.N.). Piping Plover appeared at McGregor Pt., Apr. 28 (JWJ), Pelee May 7 & 14 (m.ob.) and P.E. Pt., May 21 (FC,MGo,JD), and the three on the Lake of the Woods visit May 12-13 (DHE) were probably local breeders. The latter trip also yielded two Red Knots, two Marbled Godwits and a remarkable 63 Wilson's Phalaropes, again attesting to the western character of this area. A Black-bellied Plover and two Short-billed Dowitchers at Lake of Two Rivers May 27 were noteworthy for that inland area (RDM,RT *et al.*), as was the Ruddy Turnstone June 4-5 at Lakefield (DCS). There were good numbers of Whimbrel, Dunlin and Red Knot along the lower Great Lakes in the last week of May: e.g., 1500 knot at P.E. Pt., May 30 (RDM), 600 Whimbrel at Long Pt., May 22 (EN,MO), and a high of 1500 Dunlin at Blenheim. Numbers elsewhere were also high, with 400 Whimbrel at Nipigon May 25 (AW) particularly noteworthy. Nick Escott's first-ever Upland Sandpiper at Marathon was seen May 11.

Fifteen Willet reports, Apr. 29 - May 31, were double the numbers for any previous spring: all the birds were along the lower Great Lakes (seven at Pelee) apart from one at Ottawa May 4-5 (MG,m.ob.). Ottawa also had a high of 50 White-rumped Sandpipers May 30 (BD,RAF) and smaller flocks were widespread from an early May 2. Four Stilt Sandpipers were split between Amherstview May 12 (RKE) and Lighthouse Pt., May 11 (DS *et al.*), and there were only two Marbled Godwits in the s., at Kingsville Apr. 29 (JPK,JAG) and Ottawa May 30 (BD), which also had the only Hudsonian May 19 (RMP). Wilson's Phalaropes were seen from May 2, with about 22 reports n. to Manitoulin I. This probably represents a real decline in the sightings of this species this year, and not merely a decline in reporting due to the species being more common in recent years. By contrast the five N. Phalaropes seen at Ottawa, Blenheim and Chelmsford, all on May 26! — were about average for recent years.

**GULLS, TERNS** — A Lesser Black-backed Gull was seen at Mimico Mar. 1-4 (JAK *et al.*). The rarer small gulls provided few reports this spring: a Black-headed at Rondeau May 17 (PAW,PS) and a Black-legged Kittiwake there Apr. 3 (PAW); Laughing Gulls at Whitby May 30 (MB,JB) and two at Pelee May 5-12 (m.ob.), which also had one of the three Franklin's Gulls May 7 (TH), with the others off Amherst I., May 20 (RKE) and Mimico May 29 (JAK). Toronto accounted for most of the 34 Little Gulls reported from Apr. 15: there were ten at Cranberry Marsh May 27 (CEG,JEG) and up to nine at Mimico May 20 - June 11 (JAK, m.ob.). In the north 40 Bonaparte's Gulls at Marathon (NGE) and 28 at Quetico all on

May 11 (SW) were noteworthy, as was the Quetico Caspian Tern May 30 (AW) Three Forster's Terns were at the Steep Rock marsh May 8 (TNa,DHE), the first for the district, and six at Lake of the Woods May 12-13 (DHE).

**CUCKOOS, OWLS** — A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Sandfield May 21 (DBF) was near the edge of its range. Barn Owls are nowhere common in the Province, but one at Peterborough from May 31 (JP) was particularly noteworthy. Owl counts for Amherst I., subsequent to those in the winter report included highs of 21 Snowies Mar. 4 & 17, with the last seen Apr. 8 (MHE). The Hawk Owl there was last seen May 3 (MCE,AEH), and the last Boreal Apr. 1 with a high count for this species of four Mar. 7, when six Saw-whets were also seen. The March high count of Great Grays was 18 on Mar. 10 and two on Apr. 8 (MHE) the last seen. There were also at least 24 Long-eareds Mar. 4, and a nest was found there Apr. 1 (FC). Elsewhere the Great Gray influx followed a similar pattern: there were three in the Toronto area to Mar. 22, Oshawa's last was Mar. 21 (*vide* PB), four were around Cobourg to Mar. 25 (ERM), and there were birds at Ottawa Apr. 1, 14 & 16 (*vide* SG). Four were killed around Peterborough Mar. 2-19 (*vide* DCS), there were Owen Sound reports on Feb. 15 and Mar. 22 (*vide* KT), Mt. Pleasant Mar. 5 & 7 (MO) and Providence Bay to Apr. 7 (CB *et al.*). The latest of all was a bird on May 14, from downtown St. Catharines of all places, which was brought to the Owl Research and Rehabilitation Foundation, one of five they handled during the invasion (KMCK). In a different category — because on breeding range — was the bird Mar. 7 and three young Apr. 15 in the Thunder Bay area (TP,BHu) and the bird along the Pineimuta R., May 22 (S & GG). Most of the other owl reports are also from the n. Hawk Owls were at Quetico Mar. 29 (SP), Paipoonge Twp., Apr. 13 (DA) and an injured bird at Marathon Apr. 27, which also had a Saw-whet in a garage Apr. 5 (NGE). A Boreal Owl was calling at Quetico May 30-31 (SP) and there was one at Red Rock May 11 (OC) as well as dead birds picked up at Levack and Peterborough. Long-eareds were scarce, and Short-eareds widely reported in small numbers. Algonquin had noteworthy sightings of both: the first May 17 (JBF) and dead on June 5; and the second May 27 (KB,RB,AM). Finally, (when did a spring report ever occupy so much space with owls?), a Saw-whet banded at P.E. Pt., May 24, had a large brood patch (*vide* HQ).

**FINCHES, SPARROWS** — Winter finches added little more to the sparse showing of the winter report. A few more of all species appeared, but it was not a finch winter. The London Black-headed Grosbeak vanished in mid-April (*vide* WRJ) but birds appeared at Thunder Bay May 20 and Sibley May 23 (PT, JH, JCr). Pelee had Blue Grosbeaks May 7-22: four or more were reported, but documentation for more than one is lacking. Far to the n. a pair of Indigo Buntings at Marathon May 22, with the male present four days (NGE), were almost equally noteworthy. Great Duck continued its avalanche of records with a Dickcissel May 18 and a House Finch May 3 (JN). This was one of seven House Finches seen away from Niagara on the Lake: they

were e to Ottawa Apr 21-28 (RTa, m ob ) and n to Lively Apr 23 - May 9 (L&DMF) Sparrows made a rather thin showing this spring, and against the barrage of rarer species in other groups merit little comment.

**CAPRIMULGIDS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — There were again two calling Chuck-will's-widows at Pelee from May 8 (JEF, m.ob.). Six Red-bellied Woodpecker reports included one n. to South Baymouth May 12 (CB) and Red-headed's ventured as far n. as the Slate Is. (MPa) and Neys P.P. (NGE) both May 20. Most exotic of the crop of rarities on Great Duck I., during John Nicholson's seven week stay there were a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** May 20 and a **Say's Phoebe** May 11. In the last few years the Scissor-taileds have become almost annual, but the phoebe is considerably rarer: there is a photograph of a bird in 1961, three sight records lacking adequate description or supporting documentation of any kind, and a specimen (previously unnoted) from North Pt., James Bay, Aug. 4, 1976 (RIGM, *vide* RDJ). Two Purple Martins were seen at Quetico May 31 (AW).

**MIMIDS THROUGH VIREOS** — The 15 Mockingbirds reported included birds at Thunder Bay, Algonquin and on Great Duck I. There was a major kill recorded at the Great Duck I. tower — soon to be dismantled — May 27-28, when 929 birds of 42 species died. Most numerous were Swainson's Thrushes (269), with Tennessee (168) and Bay-breasted Warblers (59) also in high numbers (JN). It was a good spring for Blue-gray Gnatcatchers: there were nine in the Oshawa area including three pairs and at least one nest (*vide* PB), to 15 at Presqu'île from Apr. 22 (RDM *et al.*), up to nine at P.E. Pt., with a nest there May 22 (FC), 13 on the May 19 Toronto spring round-up (*vide* AD) as well as birds n. and e. to Great Duck I., Peterborough and Ottawa. There was a Varied Thrush in Paipoonge Twp., May 20 (KD). Bohemian Waxwings lingered late again — one was at Eastbourne Apr. 13 (DC) — and Cedar Waxwings were in exceptional numbers from March on — ten at South Baymouth was a record early Mar. 13 (GGa). A Loggerhead Shrike at Neys P.P., May 25-27 (NGE) was exceptionally far n. The vireo news was even more White-eyed Vireos than in recent springs: the southwest was reporting them as "common" (at Rondeau, the commonest vireo!), and there were five other reports along the lower lakes and n. to Peterborough May 23 (GC).

**WARBLERS** — The warbler story was more rarity in abundance. At Pelee estimates as high as eight Worm-eating Warblers (Apr. 24 - May 21), 13 Kentuckys from May 5, and 20 Hoodeds were being offered; and while numbers of birds on the Point are notoriously difficult to assess accurately (if only because the observers are not there with that objective!) it is clear that exceptional numbers of all the rarer species were present. The sightings elsewhere in the Province may be even more indicative of the scale of the invasion. Prothonotaries were at London May 20 (JRC *et al.*) and Long Pt., June 7 (DTH) but this species did not feature much in the reports. Worm-eating did, and there were six Rondeau reports, sightings at P.E. Pt., May 16-26 (RKE,MCE,

m ob ) and an amazing three birds at Toronto May 9-13 (RBA,PW,JW) A Louisiana Waterthrush and a Kentucky Warbler appeared at Great Duck together May 9 (JN), and other Louisianans were at Dorchester Apr. 18 (DMcL) and P.E. Pt., Apr. 22 (FC). There were four Kentuckys at Toronto May 9-17 including one killed (MBu,AD,R&DS), three at Long Pt., May 11 (MD), four at Rondeau, and a bird banded at Kingston May 10 (*vide* HQ). Hooded Warblers follow the same pattern with nine at Rondeau, three at Long Pt., five at Toronto, one at Kingston and two at Great Duck. The story is similar again for Yellow-breasted Chats, except that they were even more widespread: the most noteworthy were Great Ducks with four, Mississagi Light one May 9 (CB,JL) and there was one at Ottawa the same day (BD,BB). Pelee, however, as usual yielded the rarest species: a Townsend's May 13 (DEP,m.ob.), a dingy ♂ Kirtland's May 14-19, and Yellow-throateds Apr. 28-29 and May 10-17 (m.ob.). The latter species was also recorded at Long Pt., May 10 (RS,PV).

**BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS** — Yellow-headed Blackbirds were recorded at Thunder Bay May 5 (M & TR) and at Marathon, where they seem to turn up almost every spring, May 16 & 25 (NGE). Also at Marathon, a Com Grackle survived the winter at feeders Orchard Orioles and Summer Tanagers were other southerners that were exceptionally numerous: there were 14 oriole reports away from Pelee and Rondeau. Pelee had at least four, and Rondeau five tanagers, and others were at P.E. Pt., May 4-25 (K.F.N.), Manitoulin May 20 (DBF) and Quimet Apr. 28 (RTa)

**CORRIGENDUM** — The reference to five Long-tailed Jaegers at Moosonee in 1978 Nesting Season Summary (AB 32:1154) should be changed to read jaeger sp.

**SUBREGIONAL EDITORS** (boldface), **CONTRIBUTORS** (italic) and **CITED OBSERVERS** — **R. F. Andrie**, **D. Asquith**, H. Atkinson, H. H. Axtell, M. Bain, R. Barkley (RBA), C. Bell, **G. Bennett**, B. Bracken, **P. Bridges**, K. Brock, R. Brock, M. J. Bronskill, J. Burns, D. Burton, M. Butler (MBu), D. Calvert, **C. A. Campbell**, J. L. Campbell, J. Carmichael, G. Carpentier, J. R. Cartwright, O. Cearnas, A. Clark, B. Clark, R. Coker, F. Cooke, J. Cranmer-Byng, J. Crowe (JCr), **A. Dawe**, J. Dean, K. Denis, B. Dilabio, M. Dyer, K. F. Edwards, M. C. Edwards, M. H. Edwards, R. K. Edwards, D. H. Elder, **V. Elliott**, **N. G. Escott**, J. E. Faggan, G. Fairfield, J. B. Falls, D. B. Ferguson, L. & D. M. Ferguson, J. & J. Foster, R. A. Foxall, G. Garrette (GGa), M. Gawn, **Stephen Gawn**, G. Gilbert, C. E. Goodwin, J. E. Goodwin, M. Goossens (MGo), S & G. Graves, J. A. Greenhouse, D. R. Gunn, **D. Hasley**, J. Hebden, T. Hince, B. Houlton, A. E. Hughes, B. Hunter (BHU), **D. T. Hussell**, **R. D. James**, **W. R. Jarmain**, J. W. Johnson, **A. H. Kelley**, J. A. Kelley, H. Kerr, Kingston Field Naturalists, J. P. Kleiman, E. Kuiack, **L. deK. Lawrence**, **J. Lemon**, Long Point Bird Observatory, **C. J. MacFayden**, **E. R. McDonald**, **K. McKeever**, D. McLeod, **R. D. McRae**, A. Messina, R. I. G. Morrison, multiple observers (m.ob.), R. & N. Mundy, T. Murray, T. Nash (TNa), **J. Nicholson**, E. Nol, T. Norris, M. Oldham, K. Overman, M. Palmer, M. Par-



remains to be found. Although **Swainson's Hawks** have been seen with increasing frequency in the northeast in recent years, the occurrence of two or possibly three birds on the L. Ontario plains Apr. 26 - May 20 (FS, AK, BP *et al.*) was totally unexpected. Gray Partridge are normally restricted to a tier of counties in n. New York and n.w. Vermont so the origin of one flushed n. of Herrick's Cove Apr. 23 (WJN) is problematic. It was probably a released bird as are all of the Bobwhite that appear briefly throughout the Region (to the excitement of observers). This season's **Sandhill Crane**, injured in the right eye, toured the Rochester area Ma 17 (WS *et al.*).

A generally lackluster shorebird migration was brightened by the fallout in Vermont of several species which certainly fly over each year but were previously unrecorded in the spring. A passing storm front the morning of May 26 grounded a Whimbrel at Dead Cr. (AP *et al.*) and a Willet at West Rutland Marsh (SL, HP *et al.*), both only fourth state records, plus a N. Phalarope at Springfield (EE *et al.*). Other phalarope sightings included a Red May 20-21 on a Hobart, N.Y., farm pond (EP *et al.*) and single Wilson's May 18, 23 & 26 near Rochester (R.B.A.) and May 28 at Bethany, N.Y. (B.O.S.). With Wilson's recently confirmed breeding in e. Massachusetts observers should intensify their searches for the first Regional nest. Noteworthy concentrations of waders in New York included 42 Greater Yellowlegs in Clarence Sinks Apr. 22 (DF), up to 300 Lesser Yellowlegs near Murray in early May (RC, WS *et al.*), and 220 Red Knots at Eldorado Shores May 30 (TC). The latter were part of an immense gathering of 3000+ grounded shorebirds. Although regular in the Region in the fall, a Baird's Sandpiper May 1 at Murray (RC), a Long-billed Dowitcher May 30 on Eldorado Shores (TC, *vide* LC), and a W. Sandpiper May 20 at Perinton (GM *et al.*) are all remarkable spring records. The latter species should occur, regularly however, in New York in early spring if it is in fact a major component of wintering East Coast "peep" populations (see *Am. Birds* 29: 799).

**LARIDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Single Little Gulls at Pt. Breeze Apr. 16 (WLi) and Braddock Bay May 18 (ST) and a Franklin's on Pt. Breeze May 30 (ST) constituted the only notable gull reports. A Barn Owl was reportedly seen in E. Bethel, Vt., in early May (MP). Snowy Owls stopped at nine localities on their return flight in March. The Westford, Vt., **Hawk Owl** tarried through Mar. 22 (MMA) to set a Regional late date. Three starved Barred Owls found in n. New York support suggestions of the possibility of a scarcity of prey this past winter. Last reported Apr. 5, **Great Gray Owls** were reported from 11 New York localities and specimens were picked up on the L. Ontario Dead Bird Survey (*vide* CS) and in Peacham, Vt. (*vide* Fairbanks Museum). It will be interesting to see if an "echo" invasion occurs next winter. A handful of Long-eared and Short-eared owls were found in New York and a single Short-eared was identified in E. Montpelier, Vt. (BC). A **Boreal Owl** discovered Mar. 3 (MC, m.ob.) lingered three more days in Northup Cr. confers to the delight of Rochester area birders and others. This, the second consecutive local occurrence brings the

New York year total to five Vermont's aforementioned ♀ Red-bellied Woodpecker was last seen Apr. 21 at Podunk. Red-headed Woodpeckers, found in only two Vermont localities following a long decline, are doing only slightly better in w. New York. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were located at Island Pond and Goshen, Vt., and Chubb R. Swamp and Ferd's Bog, N.Y. A N. Three-toed, unconfirmed as a breeder in Vermont, was identified at Ferdinand May 4 (LNM), lending further strength to suspicions that it is indeed a very rare resident in that state.

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS** — An E. Kingbird arrived Apr. 14 in Alleghany County (FE). E. Wood Pewee spotted May 4 at E. Amherst (DF), and two Olive-sided Flycatchers heard May 12 on Ferd's Bog (FLF *et al.*) were all remarkably early. Regular Reports of Acadian Flycatchers along the L. Ontario plains continue regularly with sightings in at least four localities. Two Com. Ravens migrating E over Derby Hill in early March add another intriguing chapter to the mysterious behavior of this resident corvid. Several sightings from s.w. New York indicate that colonization of that area, presumably by birds from w. Pennsylvania is continuing. Boreal Chickadees at two c. New York localities in mid-March (MR, FS) and Middlebury, Vt., in early May (WSS) are indications that at least a small immigration from Adirondack and Northeast Kingdom breeding grounds occurred this winter. Readers are urged to monitor Short-billed Marsh Wren colonies in the Region. Only seven individuals of this late migrant had been recorded at three locations when the season closed.

Despite a "paucity" in w. New York Mockingbirds continued to expand in Vermont. A zealous Brown Thrasher in Alfred, N.Y., produced two eggs by May 6 (EB) to tie the state record. A **Varied Thrush** was identified May 3 at W. Seneca (Kikta, *vide* B.O.S.). Four days of cold rainy weather in late May caused >50% mortality among a sample of E. Bluebirds in w. New York (VP). Vermont continues to be overrun with Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. Eight Vermont reports included two pairs at Missisquoi N.W.R., on the Canadian border. In w. New York where the species is generally distributed, 14 at Braddock Bay was an excellent count. Both kinglets remained very scarce. At Cornwall, Vt., up to 80 Bohemian Waxwings lingered into early March (DS, BP). The first of 11 reported Loggerhead Shrikes arrived Mar. 22 (RS) while Northern lingers until at least Apr. 18 (MFM). Outlook for the former species remains gloomy; no nesting pairs were found. A mid-May influx of White-eyed Vireos brought birds to three w. New York localities; Tuna Cr. (VP *et al.*), Delaware P. (DF), and Penfield (M&RMc). Breeding should be looked for in this species in view of recent range expansions to the s.

**WARBLERS** — Seldom sighted away from Montezuma and Iroquois N.W.R.s. breeding areas, Prothonotary Warblers were discovered at Farmerville Station, Greece, and Braddock Bay. Breeding should be watched for in the latter areas given the number of recent spring sightings and the species' affinity for wet woodlands. The widespread warming trend in early May brought a tremendous influx of

southern (*i.e.*, Worm-eating, Yellow-throated, and Kentucky) warblers to all parts of the Region as well as a number of typically "late" migrants. Following the passage of this brief warm spell inclement weather returned and migrants trickled through until the end of the month. At least five Worm-eating Warblers were scattered between Vernon in the extreme e. corner of Vermont to Delaware P., in w. New York. Since the species has bred in recent years as far n. as Albany County in e. New York there would appear to be few constraints to its establishment throughout much of the Region.

Single Orange-crowned Warblers were identified at Greece May 9 & 15 (G.O.S., R.B.A.) A singing Cerulean Warbler spent several days in mid-May at Bomoseen S.P., 60± mi s of Vermont's only known colony. **Yellow-throated Warblers** were seen at Durand, N.Y., May 8 (L&NM *et al.*) and Winhall, May 13 (WJN). The latter bird found in the company of a flock of "Myrtles", represents only Vermont's fourth record. The Rochester vicinity hosted all the Kentucky Warbler sightings, at least six individuals in four locations (R.B.A., G.O.S.). A pair of Louisiana Waterthrushes feeding young in Eden, Vt. (FO, LNM) now hold the northernmost breeding record for the state; however it is anticipated that additional field work will soon push the known breeding range even farther n. Only one totally convincing description of a Connecticut Warbler was received, at Pt. Breeze May 27 (CP). Following several years of scarcity Yellow-breasted Chats rebounded in the Rochester area. Does this species really warrent Blue-listing in our Region?

**ICTERIDS AND FRINGILLIDS** — Two W. Meadowlarks were located in the Rochester area where they are an almost annual occurrence. Ingestion of a nitrate fertilizer spread on a frozen field caused the death of 10,000± birds (principally Red-wings, Com Grackles, and Brown-headed Cowbirds) in Newburgh, N.Y. Orchard Orioles were present at seven locations on the L. Ontario plains. A **Northern (Bullock's) Oriole** discovered May 7 at Durand lingered through May 9 to the joy of many (AS, m.ob.) seeking views of this Regional first. A ♀ Rose-breasted Grosbeak spied at Derby Hill Apr. 22 (FS) broke the Regional arrival date by a day. One or possibly two Blue Grosbeaks were present near Rochester in mid-May. Henslow's Sparrows were found at only four New York locations. A Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco was reported from Winhall, Vt. (WJN).

**CONTRIBUTORS (in boldface) AND CITED OBSERVERS** — **Alleghany County Bird Club**, J. Allen, R. Andrie, W. Benning, E. Brooks, D. Burton, L. Burton, **Buffalo Ornithological Society**, M. Carlson, B. Carpenter, T. Carrollan, L. Chamberlain, D. Clark, D. B. Clark, R. Clark, W. Colman, J. Dye, M. Dye, F. Elderkin, E. Ellis, D. Freeland, **Genesee Ornithological Society**, M. Gifford, A. Gosnell, **High Peaks Audubon Society**, S. Howe, A. Kemmitter, C. Kibbe, F. LaFrance (FLF), S. Laughlin, W. Listman (WLi), W. Lloyd (WLi), N. L. Martin, M. Mauer (MMA), M. McKinney (MMc), R. McKinney (RMc), G. Meade, M. Menuhin, L. N. Metcalf, M. F. Metcalf, L. Moon, N. Moon, H. Morse, W. D. Nichols, J. Nicholson, W. J. Norse, F. Oatman, Onon-



daga Audubon Society, F. Palmer, K. Palmer, B. Perrigo, C. Perrigo, M. Perrin, B. B. Peterson, A. Pistorius, V. Pitzrick, E. Post, H. Potter, J. Robertson, Rochester Birding Association, M. Rusk, F. Scheider, W. S. Scott, R. Spahn, C. Spies, A. Stear, D. Stemple, W. Symonds, C. Taylor, S. Taylor, C. Van Dyke (CVD), Vermont Institute of Natural Science, J. Walker, R. Walker, R. Yunick. — DOUGLAS P. KIBBE, Box 422, Saxtons River, Vermont 05154.

## APPALACHIAN REGION /George A. Hall

It was another unusual spring season (aren't they all?). A combination of weather events produced a rash of "earliest seen" dates as well as another series of "latest seen dates" for many migrants. Oddly in some cases the same species provided both kinds of records. March was much warmer and drier than usual. There was little snow. Both temperatures and precipitation in April were near normal, but May was cooler and wetter than average. In the north there was frost as late as May 17th. This had been preceded by a period of unseasonably warm weather.

During the mild March and early April the migration moved on a normal or slightly early schedule. In the last ten days of April the frontal systems stagnated and with no advancing warm air masses from the south the northward movement of birds stopped. This meant that in the south the warbler flight was on time or a little early, e.g., Bay-breasted, Magnolia, and Canada warblers in Knoxville April 22 (CN), but in the north those species expected in the last week of April arrived a week late. In early May the flight built up encouragingly and many observers reported some of the best birding in recent years. This was interrupted by the unseasonably warm weather. From perhaps May 10 on birds were not easily encountered, and the expected influx of migrants never peaked. Some observers opined that many birds overflow their areas. Although great concentrations were not found, migrants did continue to move, and even June 1 there were still many in the Region. The measure of the lateness of the season is illustrated by banding results from Presque Isle State Park, Pennsylvania (hereafter, P.I.): on May 20, 349 birds of 30 species were banded and on May 27, 87 birds of 31 species (JHS & JGS).

On the night of April 8-9 ice conditions developed in a rainstorm across central Pennsylvania. This resulted in thousands of migrating waterfowl being grounded over an area near Lock Haven and State College. On the following day over 11,100 waterfowl of 25 species were observed along three miles of the Susquehanna River at Lock Haven (PS). Near State College, and Bald Eagle S.P., similar concentrations were observed. Details are included below.

**LOONS, GREBES AND HERONS** — Common Loons were numerous in the precipitation of birds in n.c. Pennsylvania Apr. 9, and the only report of Red-throated Loon came

from State College that day (DP). A few Com. Loons remained in the Region on June 1. Over 1700 Horned Grebes were counted at Lock Haven Apr. 9 (PS) and during the ice storm many Horned Grebes were forced down on highways and were killed . . . at State College alone 200± (MW). At Lock Haven 30-40 birds were counted along 3-4 mi of highway. A similar catastrophe had struck Horned Grebes during the S migration last fall. There were 12 areas reporting Red-necked Grebes during the season; State College, 18 on Apr. 9 (DP), L. Chillisquaque, Pa. (SS), Erie County, Pa. (DK), L. Arthur, Pa. (JS), Lock Haven (PS), Harrisonburg, Va. (R.B.C.), Front Royal, Va. (RSi), and Chattanooga, Tenn. (2nd and 3rd state records — RSt). A Western Grebe was at Chattanooga Mar. 26 (RSi), for a second state record.

Prominent among the storm-caused concentrations at State College Apr. 9, were groups of 20-50 Great Blue Herons on individual ponds (KJ). At Warren, Pa., five heronries had 49 nests of the Great Blue Heron, a slight decline over last year's 56 (WH). As has been the trend in the last few years Great Egrets were reported more commonly than they were 10-15 years ago. Two Snowy Egrets were at P.I., May 2 (JM) and Little Blue Herons were reported from State College May 5 (MW), and Knoxville, Tenn., Apr. 29 (PP). A Louisiana Heron was present at P.I., Apr. 21 - May 13 (DS & SSi). The only reports of Cattle Egrets came from Tennessee; Knoxville Apr. 3 (PP) and Chattanooga Apr. 23 (RSt&KLD). Yellow-crowned Night Herons were found nesting at Botetourt County, Va. (two nests — NM), Elizabethton, Tenn. (two nests — HF), and Chattanooga (one nest — RS & KLD).

**WATERFOWL** — Besides the concentrations caused by the storm in n. c. Pennsylvania, the waterfowl flight was good elsewhere. The peak of the Whistling Swan flight at Pymatuning L., Pa., was Mar. 17 when 1000 were seen (RFL). On Mar 31, 8000 Canada Geese were at Pymatuning, the normal number for a spring season (RFL), and on Apr. 1 an individual of the small race known as Richardson's Goose was seen there (RFL & ML). On Mar. 17 Brant were reported from P.I. (CZK) and from near Front Royal, Va. (JB). Snow Geese were reported from Erie County, Pa., Mar. 1-18 (DS — one, white), Milton, Pa., Mar. 10 (4 blue and 2 white — SS), Pymatuning L., Apr. 18 (one blue — RFL & ML), and most unusual, Powdermill Nature Reserve, Pa. (hereafter, P.N.R.), May 25-30 (one blue — RCL). A White-fronted Goose was in Erie County Mar. 17-24 (DS) and the Lesser White-fronted Goose that has been present in the Region for over a year, was at Pymatuning L. (where it summered last year) Mar. 17 (RSk).



The Oldsquaw and the White-winged Scoter normally are unusual visitors to this Region but this spring both were fairly common. The storm of Apr. 8-9 precipitated large numbers of both. The short stretch of the Susquehanna R. at Lock Haven had 6040 Oldsquaws and 261 scoters (PS) while at State College 2500 Oldsquaws and 127 scoters were reported (MW). Both of these species were at Deep Creek L., Md., Apr. 10, possibly related to the storm (FP). Other concentrations of Oldsquaws were 400 in Montour County, Pa., Apr. 9 (SS) and 110 at L. Arthur, Pa., Apr. 19 (MG & BS). White-winged Scoters were reported from Chattanooga as late as Mar. 5 (RSt). This season the rare ducks were: Fulvous Whistling Duck, Roanoke, Va., May 29 - June 10 (m.ob., *vide* BK), Eur. Wigeon, Erie County, Pa., Apr. 1 (IGS) and Frederick County, Va., Mar. 17-20 (RSi), Surf Scoter, Chattanooga, Tenn., until Mar. 5 (RSt), and Seneca L., O., Apr. 8 (m.ob.).

**RAPTORS** — Most interesting were two reports of Black Vultures well n. of their usual range at Butler, Pa., Apr. 14 (FPr) and Leeper, Pa., May 19 (LC). A Goshawk was seen in Shenandoah N.P., Mar. 12 (R.B.C.) and two were seen there Apr. 15 (MB). The Cooper's Hawk continues to increase.

Small "kettles" of migrating Broad-winged Hawks were seen on the Blue Ridge in Virginia May 20 & 24 (R.B.C.), and there was a migratory movement of Red-shouldered Hawks along the s. shore of L. Erie May 30 (SSi), both of these remarkably late.

There were only three reports of Bald Eagles during migration; P.I., Mar. 31 (SSi), Blue Ridge, Botetourt Co., Va., Apr. 22 (MM & MP), and Mountain Lake Park, Md., May 5 (FP). The eagles nesting at Pymatuning L., Pa., failed to raise any young (RFL). The only reports of Golden Eagles came from Highland County, Va., Mar. 20 (R.B.C.) and near Elizabethton, Tenn., Mar. 5 (HF). It has long been suspected that a pair of Golden Eagles has been nesting near the Virginia location (GAH). Merlins were reported from Crawford County, Pa., Mar. 5 (RFL & ML), Austin Springs, Tenn., Apr. 2 (SG), Butler County, Pa., Apr. 15 (JG), Shenandoah N.P., and Natural Chimneys, Va., Apr. 25 (R.B.C.),

Montgomery County, Va., May 1 (GM), P.I., May 12 (SSt) There were two sightings of Peregrines: Allegheny County, Pa., Mar. 31 (DH) and near Chattanooga Apr. 9 (KLD).

**SHOREBIRDS, GULLS AND TERNS** — It was generally a great season for shorebirds. The rainy weather in late May provided suitable habitat in many places, and with only a few exceptions most places had good flights. The outstanding species was probably the Whimbrel five of which were reported from Youngstown, O., May 15 (VM), one at P.I., May 21 (SSt) and 23 on May 25 (DSt), 18 at Kingston, Tenn., May 27 (m.ob.), and one at Wooster, O., May 30 (JBr). Other unusual species for the Region were: Am. Golden Plover, Elizabethton, Tenn., Mar. 24 (GE), Chattanooga Apr. 2 (RSt & KLD), and Wooster, O., Apr. 22 (JBr); Willet, Austin Springs, Tenn., Apr. 29 (RK); 43 Long-billed Dowitchers near New Middleton, O., May 16 (WB) and one at P.I., May 26 (JGS); Hudsonian Godwit, Kingston, Tenn., May 11-16 (m.ob.), first state record; and Ruff, Wooster Apr. 8 (JBr). More usual rarities such as Ruddy Turnstones, and White-rumped Sandpipers were reported from throughout the Region at too many locations to list. The more usual species were quite numerous at most places, and I select only two examples, a flock of 49 Semipalmated Plovers at Lewisburg, W. Va., May 21 (CH) and 218 Dunlin near Milton, Pa., May 3 (SS).

Wilson's Phalaropes were reported from Lock Haven May 19 (PS & CHz), Roanoke, Va., May 23-25 (BK,BO & MP), Harlan County, Ky., May 9 (found dead — SM), and Wooster May 13 (JBr). Northern Phalaropes were found at Wooster May 29-30 (JBr), Mountain Lake Park, Md., May 5 (FP), Kingston, Tenn., May 27-26 (*vide* KLD), Clarke County, Va., May 5 (HH), and Roanoke May 26-27 (BK, NM,MP).

An ad. Great Black-backed Gull was seen at two locations near Lock Haven Mar. 1 (MC) and an immature was present in that area from May 17 - May 31+ (m.ob., *vide* PS). A Lesser Black-backed Gull was at P.I., Mar. 12-14 (JBx,SSt), and a Least Tern was there May 21-22 (SSt). Up to four Little Gulls were at P.I. in late May (*vide* DS).

**DOVES, CUCKOOS AND OWLS** — The Mourning Dove continues to increase in numbers throughout and at Pittsburgh it was felt that the dove nesting started in mid to late March (KP). In s. West Virginia and n. Tennessee there was a heavy infestation of tent caterpillars, and both species of cuckoo were unusually common. In n. West Virginia and s.w. Pennsylvania they were not so common, but by next year the outbreak of caterpillars which occurs about every ten years and which proceeds from S to N will have hit those areas.

There was an encouraging number of reports of Barn Owls, often not mentioned. Long-eared Owls were reported from Allegheny County, Pa., Apr. 1, (MR), and from Clarke County, Va., in March (RSi). Up to 10 Short-eared Owls wintered in Frederick County, Va., and a few remained until Mar. 31 (RSi). Several Short-eareds were also seen at Limestoneville, Pa., Mar. 9 - Apr. 2 (SS).

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS AND CORVIDS** — There were many more reports of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers than is usual in

spring, but Least Flycatchers were in short supply. Only 21 were banded at P.N.R. compared with an average of 40 (RCL), and none were banded at Morgantown, compared with an average of eight (GAH). For some years the Willow Flycatcher has been pushing into the more northern and higher elevation range of the Alder Flycatcher and replacing the latter, but this year the Alder was found at many lower stations in late May and two singing ♂ Alders were found near milepost 420 on the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina May 20 (BL).

Tree Swallows nested in Clarke County, Va. (RSi) and near Harrisonburg, Va. (four nests — R.B.C.), both localities representing recent range extensions. At Warren, Pa., Tree Swallows now occupy 40-50% of the boxes of the "Operation Bluebird" project (WH). In Garrett County, Md., there has been a small increase in the number of nesting Cliff Swallows (FP).

A Fish Crow at Lewisburg, W. Va., May 22 (CH) provided the first record for the state away from the Potomac-Shenandoah Rivers. Fish Crows have been common, particularly in winter in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, but nesting records are few. A nest was found near Fishersville (BM), possibly the first nest w. of the Blue Ridge.

**TITMICE, CREEPERS AND WRENS** — Several reporters commented on the scarcity of Tufted Titmice. The lone, and exceedingly tame, Brown-headed Nuthatch which wintered at Waynesboro, Va., was last seen May 15 (RS). Brown Creepers were very scarce at most places, possibly another consequence of the unusually cold weather in their wintering range in 1977-78.

The Carolina Wren remains at very low numbers or even absent throughout the n., and in depleted numbers even in the s. Last summer Winter Wrens had been scarce on the breeding grounds as the result of the severe winter of 1977-78, but in late May this year the population in the Cheat Mts., W. Va., was unusually high (GAH).

**MIMIDS, THRUSHES AND KINGLETS** — Mockingbirds in Towanda, Pa., in March (EW) were well n. of their usual range. The Brown Thrasher was in low numbers in n. West Virginia (GAH), Marietta, O. (JS) and at P.N.R. (RCL), but Gray Catbirds were in excellent numbers: bandings 35% above normal at P.N.R. (RCL).

The migration of spotted thrushes was excellent except for the Gray-cheeked which was reported in lower-than-normal numbers. Swainson's Thrushes were in good numbers, remained until the very end of the period, and sang more than is usual on northbound migration. In the Cheat Mountains Hermit Thrush populations were higher than they have been for several years (GAH). At Warren, Pa., E. Bluebirds occupied about 40% of the boxes in the nest box project.

Both kinglet species remain at low levels after the series of bad winters, but populations this spring were somewhat above those of last year. This was especially true for the Ruby-crowned during migration, but nesting populations of Golden-crowns in the Cheat Mts., W. Va. (GAH) and at Linville, N.C. (MPI) showed some improvement.

**PIPITS, SHRIKES AND VIREOS** — A flock of 500 Water Pipits at Slippery Rock Apr. 7-28 was noteworthy (GW). Loggerhead Shrikes were unusually low in n. Virginia (RSi, R.B.C.). A N. Shrike was seen in Somerset County, Pa., Mar. 1 (GRS), and what was probably only one bird was reported several times in the Lock Haven-Tyrone-Bald Eagle S P area of c. Pennsylvania (m.ob.).

The Red-eyed Vireo explosion which started last spring continued only slightly reduced. At P.N.R., 85 (average 49) were banded (RCL). The White-eyed Vireo continued to do well and to expand its range N. Up to five were seen on P.I., May 10-30 (DS) and three were banded there May 13 (RFL & ML). The Yellow-throated Vireo continued its slow decline in n. West Virginia (GAH) and at P.I., there were only two reported all season (DS). Many locations did not comment on this species.

**WARBLERS** — As usual there was little agreement among reporters about the warbler migration, which is always the highlight of the spring season. Nearly everyone agreed that the main arrival was late, although there were numerous early dates reported, and in the north at least migrants were still present in numbers on June 1. Only the Yellow-rumped Warbler was considered to be abundant almost everywhere. At P.N.R., ten species were considered to be in above-normal numbers, four in average, and six in below-average numbers (RCL). As an example of disagreement consider that at P.N.R., and elsewhere in w. Pennsylvania (PH) Yellow Warblers were considered unusually numerous and Nashville Warblers scarce, while at Morgantown, not far away the opposite was recorded for both species (GAH). Of the s. warblers at the extremity of their ranges the Worm-eating Warbler was unusually numerous, and the Yellow-throated Warbler continued to expand in w. Pennsylvania, and was reported from P.I., Apr. 29 (JBx). This species also nested in Botetourt County, Va., where it has not occurred before (BK) Of the warblers nesting to the n. of this Region, only the Tennessee was generally in outstanding numbers, although both Cape Mays and Bay-breasteds were locally abundant. Near Morgantown the Yellow-breasted Chat continued to decline (GAH). After some years of low numbers Ovenbirds were showing signs of increase.

"Brewster's" Warblers were reported from State College, Pa., May 10-23 (EB&PB), Botetourt County, Va., May 5 (JP) four times in the Pittsburgh area during the period (*vide* PH). The seldom-reported-in-spring Orange-crowned Warbler was seen at Knoxville Apr. 17 (SBS), Chattanooga, three Apr. 19-25 (RSt), and two at P.I., Apr. 29 (SSt).

**ICTERIDS AND TANAGERS** — A Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen near Youngstown, O., May 2 (VM) and Brewer's Blackbirds were at Boone L., near Elizabethton, Tenn., Mar. 30 - Apr. 1 (GE). Orchard Orioles were unusually numerous at most places, and at my home in Morgantown they outnumbered the N. Oriole.

Summer Tanagers continue to do well in extreme s.w. Pennsylvania (RB) and there were reports as far n. as Butler, Allegheny, and Westmoreland Cos., Pa., (PH). A W. Tanager was seen at Knoxville May 10 (DC).

**FRINGILLIDS** — Rose breasted Grosbeaks at Wheeling, W. Va., in late May gave some indication that they might nest there (GP). A Black-headed Grosbeak came to a feeder at Meadville, Pa., Apr. 3 (ML). Four Blue Grosbeaks were seen at Sewickley Heights, Pa., May 7 (m.ob.), two seen at Pymatuning L., Pa., May 12 (RW), and one in Turnbull County, O., May 16, (*vide* WB). A Dickcissel was at Erie, Pa., Apr. 4-8 (CZK).

Evening Grosbeaks remained in the Region until early to mid-May with the latest date being May 15 in Garrett County, Md. (FP). On Apr. 10 it was estimated that at least 10,000 Evening Grosbeaks flew over the town of Kane in n.w. Pennsylvania (RP). The other northern finches were almost absent except for Purple Finch, which as usual was numerous. There were only a few records for Pine Siskins but seven seen in Great Smoky Mountains N.P., May 28 (RSt) may indicate nesting there. The siskins were accompanied by 11 Red Crossbills (RSt). There seems to be a permanent population of Red Crossbills on Shenandoah Mountain on the Virginia-West Virginia border. Although no nests have been found in that area, a juvenile was seen there Apr. 6 (R.B.C.).

Lincoln's Sparrows were in below-normal numbers, and White-crowned Sparrows were almost completely absent in w. Pennsylvania and n. West Virginia. On the other hand at Morgantown, at least, the flight of White-throated Sparrows was unusually heavy, and long-lasting. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was reported from Alcoa, Tenn., Apr. 13 (PP). A Lark Sparrow was seen at Chattanooga Apr. 14 (RSt), and a Harris' Sparrow was at a feeder in Butler, Pa., Apr. 20 — May 8, the second s.w. Pennsylvania record (PH).

**CORRIGENDUM** — In the fall 1978 Season report (*AB* 33:177) it was inadvertently reported that the Ruffed Grouse was declining in Garrett County, Md. The opposite is true.

**CONTRIBUTORS** — William Bartolo, Jim Baxter (JBx), Ralph Bell, Mike Britten, Jim Bruce (JBr), Phil Bucher, Ed Budd, Janice Bursey (JB), Lois Callahan, Dennis Carter, Morton Cluster, Dave Cook (DC), Ken and Lil Dubke (KLD), Glen Eller, Harry Farthing, Marguerite Geibel, Norris Gluck, Sally Goodin, James Gray, Charles Handley (CH), Cecil Hazlett (CHz), John Heninger, Deborah

Hess, Paul Hess, William Highhouse, Kendrick Hodgdon, Olin Hotchkiss, Harry Hunt, Katherine Jones, Barry Kinzie, Rick Knight, Charles and Zettie Krantz (CZK), David Krueger, Mary Leberman, Robert C. Leberman, Ronald F. Leberman, Bob Lewis, Steven McKee, Vincent McLaughlin, Grant McQuate, Jerry McWilliams, Brooke Meanley, Norwood Middleton, Myriam Moore, Charles Nicholson, Bill Opengari, John Pancake, Paul Pardue, Kenneth Parkes, David Pearson, Glen Phillips, Margery Plymire (MPI), Francis Pope (FP), Frank Preston (FP), Raymond Prybis, Mike Purdy (MP), M. B. Roush (MR), Rockingham Bird Club (R.B.C.), Glen and Ruth Sager (GRS), Paul Schwalbe, Ray Sickels (RSk), Robert Simpson (RSi), Donald Snyder (DS), Ruth Snyder (RS), John Soloman (JSo), Stanley Stahl (SS), Betty Starr (BS), Dave Steadman (DSt), Sam and Barbara Stedman (SBS), Jerie Stewart, Randy Stringer (RSt), Jean Stull (JHS), Jim Stull (JGS), Sam Stull (SSt), Sallie Thayer, David White, Gene Wilhelm, Erika Wilson, Rick Wiltraut, Merrill Wood. — **GEORGE A. HALL, Dept. of Wildlife Biology (Mail Address: Dept. of Chemistry), West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26506.**

## WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

/Kim R. Eckert

With few exception, this Region's cold and wet spring was a difficult one for both birds and birders. Winter-like weather persisted into mid-May especially in the northern part, as evidenced by patches of snow still on the ground in Ontonagon County, Michigan, May 31, nearby Houghton having to wait for a record 356 inches of snow to melt, trees vacant of leaves and a lake full of ice along the Wisconsin and Minnesota shores of Lake Superior through Memorial Day, fields with standing water from snow melt in western Minnesota into June (not to mention major flooding along the Red River on the North Dakota border), and snowfall of up to nine inches in several northern Wisconsin counties in early May. With these examples from May in mind, one can imagine what March and April might have been like!

Predictably, most of the migrants were late, especially in Wisconsin where almost everything was reported two to three weeks behind schedule. However, Michigan's Lower Peninsula had a close-to-normal migration in March, and southern Minnesota enjoyed an earlier-than-normal influx of warblers and other passerines May 6-12. This wave of migrants, reported at the same time in southern Wisconsin and Michigan's Lower Peninsula (hereafter, L.P.), resulted from a strong push of warm air that grounded its accompanying birds as it stalled against a stationary front that bisected the entire Region for a week. Areas to the north of this front were still quite cold and relatively birdless, while places to the south had almost too many migrants stacked up for almost too long waiting to move on.

Many Minnesota observers encountered large numbers of warblers and other tree-top foragers on the ground in open areas searching for insects that were still in short supply. This behavior, said to be symptomatic of stress, continued in some areas later in the month and must have resulted in some starvation. The most graphic evidence of this stress was reported in Wabasha County, Minnesota, by the newsletter of Hiawatha Valley Audubon Society of Winona:

"Thousands of migrating warblers, Scarlet Tanagers, orioles and swallows were killed by cars along U.S. 61 between Read's Landing and Lake City on May 11, 12 and 13 as the birds fed on insects that had recently emerged from the bottom of Lake Pepin. Apparently, the birds went on a feeding frenzy, not looking where they flew, because other insects that normally would come out at this time of the year hadn't hatched yet. . . . The birds were warblers of every variety plus many kinds of swallows. Scarlet Tanagers, which are never numerous in our area, were estimated at over 100 killed. . . . If you're interested in the type insect the birds were eating, they were probably chironomid midges which emerged from the bottom of the lake. Midge tend to form mating swarms in open places near trees, which could account for their being so thick along 61, so the theory that the birds were hungry because normal food sources were lacking is quite logical."



But it was hardly a total loss this spring in the Western Great Lakes Region. The following account details a better-than-average array of interesting sightings, including a strong influx of southern and western vagrants and even a couple of first state records.

**LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS** — Although no Red-throated Loons were reported from Minnesota or Michigan, seven Wisconsin sightings were unusual, four of these "inland": in Dane County May 1 (AS) & May 19-20 (LE,CN), Taylor County May 10 (SR) and Dunn County May 24 (SL). Eared Grebes strayed as far e. as Lake County, Minn., May 21 (SW), Pepin County, Wis., May 28 (RH), and even to Fremont, Mich., May 11+ (m.ob.) and Midland May 12 where there was also a W. Grebe Apr. 23 (P&RR). White Pelicans also made a strong E push as evidence by sightings of small flocks from mid-April+ in Duluth and six counties in n.

and w Wisconsin Double-crested Cormorants continued to do well here as observers from all three states mentioned good numbers.

**HERONS** — A Great Blue Heron was very early at Knife R., n. Minn., Mar. 21 (KE) as was a Green Heron at Escanaba, n. Mich., Apr. 13 (B & CT). Again this spring the number of "southern" herons that turned up was high enough to prompt reevaluation of their current casual/accidental status. In Minnesota, Little Blue Herons, Cattle and Snowy egrets again returned to the heronry at Big Stone N.W.R., while singles of each species were recorded elsewhere once; Wisconsin managed single May sightings of Little Blue Heron and Snowy Egret and four of Cattle Egret including 100+ at Horicon N.W.R. (BD); in Michigan, three Cattle Egrets and one Snowy appeared, but the real prize was a **Louisiana Heron** Apr. 14 - May 20 at Whitefish Pt., and the mouth of the Tahquamenon R., a first for the Upper Peninsula (hereafter, U.P.) (JK,MK,AR). Great Egrets made a good showing in n. Minnesota with April reports from Agassiz N.W.R., Walker, the Duluth area and even Ely. A Black-crowned Night Heron Mar. 24 in Otter Tail County, Minn., established a record early date (RJ), and the usual few Yellow-crowns were reported from the s. parts of all three states, although the formerly reliable heronry at La Crescent, Minn., again appeared abandoned.

**SWANS THROUGH DUCKS** — The Whistling Swan migration throughout the Region was impressive, especially in e.c. Wisconsin where 20,000+ were concentrated in early April. Evidence of April's winter-like weather was also clear with the observation Apr. 5 in Murray County, Minn., of thousands of Canada Geese heading S (AD). There were few concentrations of ducks reported, with the only significant peak noted at Agassiz N.W.R., Minn.: 16,750 Lesser Scaup Apr. 30. But there were a few rarities to brighten the picture: a ♂ Cinnamon Teal near Oconomowoc, Wis., May 13 (EP,HB), an inland Oldsquaw May 3 on the Mississippi R., near Clear L., Minn. (EH), Harlequin Ducks Mar. 4-11 at Milwaukee (m.ob.) and Mar. 3-4 at Sault Ste. Marie (AR), and a ♀ **Common Eider** was carefully studied Mar. 9 & 19 at Port Huron, Mich. (JK,RS). The usual few scoters were reported from all four of the Region's Great Lakes, but it was curious that there were no Surfs recorded from Minnesota or Wisconsin. Also curious were the extremely early White-winged Mar. 6 at Wabasha, Minn. (D & WM) and the dead Black Scoter found Mar. 19 in Lincoln County, Minn. (*vide* JS). Red-breasted Mergansers were especially numerous during the smelt runs in early May on the n. shore of L. Superior and at Escanaba, Mich., where 3000+ were estimated Apr. 26-28 (B & CT).

**HAWKS** — Concentrated hawk-watching at Whitefish Pt., Mich., resulted in some healthy totals, including 33 Turkey Vultures, 11,453 Sharp-shinneds, 3017 Red-taileds (including individuals of the *krideri*, *calurus* and *harlani* races), 4004 Broad-wingeds, 1248 Rough-leggeds and 76 Ospreys (AR). There was another impressive peak of 4000+ Broad-wingeds on May 10 at Duluth (M. Kohlbry). Broad-wingeds also seemed to arrive early in Minnesota with apparently valid sightings

Mar 25 at Marshall (HK) and Mar 31 in Ramsey County (RH). Rough-leggeds were unusually late May 23 in Lake County, Minn. (MC) and May 31 in Ashland County, Wis. (DV), while an Osprey was very early in Hubbard County, n. Minn., Apr. 9 (HF). Rare, casual and accidental raptors were generously sprinkled throughout the Region: an imm. **Mississippi Kite** May 17 in Dane County, Wis., was well-described and represented a sixth state record (MM,JP); Red-shouldered Hawks were again noteworthy in four n.c. Minnesota counties and at two U.P. locations in Michigan; a Swainson's Hawk wandered E as far as Iowa County, Wis., Apr. 8 (RH); **Ferruginous Hawks**, often difficult to separate from atypical Red-taileds, were adequately documented no fewer than five times — in Minnesota at Carlos Avery W.M.A., Mar. 31 (BH), at Mud L., Traverse Co., Apr. 7 (GO) and a dark-phase bird Apr. 21 in Lac Qui Parle County (BE); in Wisconsin Apr. 12 in Wood County (DF), and an immature was described from Whitefish Pt., May 30 (AR, WR,KN); a total of one ad. and 12 imm. Golden Eagles at Whitefish Pt., and Brockway Mt., in the U.P. was noteworthy; a Bald Eagle nest in s.e. Minnesota near Reno was again active and successful (FL); a white-phase Gyrfalcon appeared near Aitkin, Minn., Apr. 1 (W. Nelson) while a gray-phase Gyr was in Winnebago County, Wis., Mar. 11 (TZ,CB); and finally Peregrines were reported in healthy numbers with six individuals in Minnesota, eight in Wisconsin and five in Michigan.

**GROUSE THROUGH COOT** — The elusive Spruce Grouse was reported at five locations in the n. part of the Region. At least ten Greater Prairie Chickens in Wadena County, Minn., again suggested a remnant population may exist in c. Minnesota (JM). Bobwhite were mentioned only from two s. Michigan locations, pheasants were reported scarce in the Detroit area but apparently are recovering somewhat in much of Minnesota, and a flock of Gray Partridge at Bemidji, Minn., Mar. 9 was e. of the normal range and represented further evidence of this species' increase in the state (KE,RJ). King Rails were reported four times, twice each from s. Wisconsin and s. Michigan, while Yellow Rails were again present in late May at McGregor, Minn. (KE,TS) and in Burnett County, Wis. (RH). In Minnesota, Com. Gallinules were unusual w. and n. to Cottonwood County May 12 (L&JF) and L. Osakis May 23 (NH), as was a very early Am. Coot Mar. 23 in Cook County, n. Minn. (SW).

**SHOREBIRDS** — An Am. Woodcock nest with eggs Mar. 22 near Detroit was said to be about a month premature (*vide* AK). The casual **Long-billed Curlew** was seen well Apr. 14 at Rothsay W.M.A., Minn. (D & GW). The usual few Whimbrel were reported in Minnesota and Wisconsin, but in Michigan there were unusually high numbers, especially the 700 at Pt. Mouille May 27 (AM). A record early Greater Yellowlegs was seen Mar. 4 in Dane County, Wis. (LE). Willets were numerous in Wisconsin with a peak of 84 at Milwaukee (MD) in late April. Unusual for inland Minnesota was a Red Knot May 23 at L. Osakis (NH). Very early were both Least and Semipalmated sandpipers Apr. 14 in Otter Tail

County, Minn. (GO,SM), as were Dunlins Apr. 13 at Milwaukee (DT) and Apr. 23 in Mower County, Minn. (R&RK); Dunlins were also especially common at Green Bay in mid-May with 3000+ present (m.ob.). Buff-breasted Sandpipers normally are only fall migrants here, so individuals seen May 17 in Jackson County, Minn. (L & JF) and May 18 in Newaygo County, Mich. (ES,HC) were unexpected. Also unexpected were Marbled Godwits e. as far as Duluth, in four Wisconsin counties and at Whitefish Pt., in May (m.ob.) The Hudsonian Godwit, considered uncommon and elusive in many areas, is still a fairly common spring migrant in w. Minnesota, and this spring was especially conspicuous as evidenced by a count of 52 in Grant and Otter Tail Counties May 20 (KE); a very early Hudsonian was seen Apr. 16 near Moorhead (L & CF). Finally, an Am. Avocet found dead at Kewaunee, Wis., in early May was farther e than usual (TE).

**JAEGERS, GULLS AND TERNS** — An unidentified jaeger flew past Whitefish Pt., May 1 (WG). There were only a few Glaucous Gull sightings in Minnesota, probably owing to L. Superior's late thaw, but both Wisconsin and Michigan had more reports than usual. While the four Iceland Gulls reported from Wisconsin and Michigan may have been correctly identified, many birders are not aware that this species is very rare in the Region and is often very difficult to separate from Glaucous Gulls (which are sometimes nearly Herring Gull-size) and from imm. Thayer's Gulls (which often look like white-winged gulls), both of which are more likely to occur here. Great Black-backed Gulls wandered w to Milwaukee Mar. 10-16 (m.ob.), Brown County, Wis., Apr. 20 (TE), St. Joseph, Mich., Mar. 24 & May 13 (RS,DP), and inland to Kalamazoo County, Mich., Apr. 9 (JJ). Easily one of the highlights this season was an ad (well-described and photographed) **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, Mar. 31 at Metrobeach, Monroe Co., Mich., providing the first state record (TH *et al.*). It was only a matter of time before this gull turned up here since the species has been seen more frequently in recent years on Niagara R., and on the East Coast. Immature Thayer's Gulls were found along L. Superior's n. shore May 23 at Lutsen (MC) & May 29 at Duluth (KE), while an adult was at Whitefish Pt., May 27 (AR). Laughing Gulls, not unexpected from L. Michigan e., appeared at Milwaukee Mar. 10 - Apr. 4 (m.ob.), just s of Detroit Apr. 8 (JK), at St. Joseph, Mich., May 12-23 (RS,WB), at Muskegon May 13 (LF), and near Sault Ste. Marie May 27 (DP, BB). Franklin's Gulls were seen e. as far as Whitefish Pt., May 11 (AR,DM) and six Wisconsin counties including 20+ at Horicon N.W.R. A Bonaparte's Gull Mar. 26 in Goodhue County, Minn., established a record early arrival date (LH). Little Gulls continued their rare but regular status in the Region with five reports, two at unexpected inland locations: three adults at Montrose, Minn., May 15 (JM) and a single May 13 in Dodge County, Wis. (DT). A **Sabine's Gull** at Duluth May 26 remained for less than an hour, but while there permitted close scrutiny and even photographs of its striking adult breeding-plumage (DB *et al.*); there had been only three previous sight records for Minnesota.

**DOVES THROUGH OWLS** — Detroit area banders found Mourning Doves more common than usual (*vide* AK); the same has held true in recent years in Minnesota where an attempt to legalize dove hunting failed nonetheless. Cuckoos, especially Black-billed were especially common in Minnesota and Michigan's L.P., to coincide with the impending tent caterpillar invasion. The only Barn Owls reported were in Michigan where one was found dead May 11 in Kent County (BBo) and in Monroe County where three pairs took advantage of a nest box project (AM). The Hawk Owl which wintered at Two Harbors, Minn., was last seen Mar. 15 (*vide* KE). **Burrowing Owls** were certainly a surprise in Houghton County, Mich., where one standing on the beach Apr. 24 represented only the second or third state record (A&AW) and in Duluth May 15-16 where one was spotted standing on a low concrete wall next to a small vacant lot in the crowded, industrialized harbor area (KE *et al.*). Great Gray Owls were present near Aitkin, Minn., Apr. 2 (TS) and just n.e. of Duluth May 15-16 (DA), probably in locations where nesting was attempted; lingerers from Michigan's winter influx were also seen Mar. 18 at Ft. Wilkins S.P., Keweenaw Co., and Apr. 29 at Whitefish Pt. (WG). Banders at Whitefish Pt., caught 23 Long-eared Owls, seven Boreal Owls, and 20 Saw-whets Apr. 21 - May 13 (WG *et al.*). A Boreal Owl was found dead at Knife R., Minn., Mar. 27 (*vide* K. Sundquist), but none was heard along the Gunflint Trail in Cook County, Minn., where 15 calling males and one nesting pair were found last year, suggesting that those owls were merely an isolated consequence of the earlier winter invasion. Saw-whet Owls seemed more common than normal in n. Minnesota as evidenced by nine calling males in a single township near Duluth (KE).

**CAPRIMULGIDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — **Chuck-will's-widows** may be rare but regular in s. Michigan; four were at three Kalamazoo County locations (RA *et al.*) and another was heard May 10 in Shiawassee County (AA). A Whip-poor-will Apr. 22 at Cedar Cr. Bog, Anoka Co., Minn., was very early (JH). Also early was a Com. Flicker Mar. 7 at Duluth (*vide* KE). Pileated Woodpeckers continued to do well in Michigan as did Red-bellied Woodpeckers, particularly in the Detroit area where Red-headed seem to be declining (*vide* AK). The usual few Black-backed Three-toeds were found in n. Minnesota, Wisconsin and the U.P.

**FLYCATCHERS** — Eastern Kingbirds were unusually early Apr. 17 in Vilas County, Wis. (JB) and Apr. 19 in Hubbard County, Minn. (HF). A lone W. Kingbird wandered E to Whitefish Pt., May 16-26 (DR, WG). The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher is an expected casual visitant in Minnesota, but the one at Duluth Apr. 29 was extremely early, especially considering the late spring (*vide* KE). A **Say's Phoebe** May 12 at Rothsay W.M.A., Minn., provided a well-documented fifth state record (L & CF), but although the four reported from Beaver I., Mich., May 27 were said to be clearly identified, it is difficult to believe that four individuals straying so far off course would end up at the same location. Acadian Flycatchers were again found n. of their presumed normal range at Afton and Hennepin County,

Minn., both May 23 (D&MB, ES), and at Traverse City, Mich., May 28 (Est) Very early was an Olive-sided Flycatcher May 2 at Ingham County, Mich. (JB *et al.*).

**SWALLOWS THROUGH WRENS** — Cold weather lingering into May took its toll on swallows: a heavy reverse migration of swallows was noted May 3 on the St. Clair R., Mich., 5000 Tree Swallows were delayed and concentrated in Anoka County, Minn., May 11 (KL), and a snow storm at Alpena, Mich., resulted in a large starvation die-off of Purple Martins May 5 (*vide* DMc). For some reason Blue Jays staged a massive migration through Michigan, with the most impressive total being an estimated 40,000 through Berrien County May 1-10 (WB); a lot of Com. Ravens also passed Whitefish Pt., in April with 1170 counted (AR). Whitefish Pt. also recorded a strong movement of 100+ Boreal Chickadees May 27-29 (DP *et al.*), although the rest of the Region had very few reports. The Tufted Titmouse continued scarce with mention of only two reports each from Minnesota and Michigan, while Winter Wrens were also reported scarce throughout Minnesota and in the Detroit area. Bewick's Wrens were seen twice in Wisconsin: Apr. 21 in Pepin County (RH) and May 12 in Kenosha County (RonH). Although the three Carolina Wrens in s. Minnesota and Wisconsin were refreshing, the species was limited to one or two unconfirmed sightings in Berrien County in s. Michigan where it has yet to rebound from recent harsh winters (RS). A **Rock Wren** at Blue Mounds S.P., Minn., Apr. 22 looked right at home crawling along the cliffs but established only the sixth state record (KE), and another was even more out of place at Whitefish Pt., May 8-10, representing a third Michigan record (DR *et al.*).

**MOCKINGBIRD THROUGH WAXWINGS** — The Mockingbird continued to exhibit a curious tendency of turning up more often in more n. locations: all three of Minnesota's sightings were in the n. half of the state while five of the six reporting Michigan counties were in the n. half of the L.P. The E. Bluebird picture was still discouraging this spring, especially in Minnesota and Michigan, but the Mountain Bluebird reinforced its recently defined regular status in Minnesota with reports of seven individuals from five locations, so that the May 10 sighting at Arpin, Wis., was not unexpected (DF). Also on the increase in the Region is the Townsend's Solitaire, represented this spring by individuals Mar. 21 - Apr. 2 at Lac Qui Parle S.P., Minn. (SM *et al.*) and May 3 in Dane County (RH). Kinglets, especially Golden-crowned, were still in depressed numbers as a presumed result of recent winters. Once again the **Sprague's Pipit** went unreported from its formerly reliable spot near Felton, Minn., but one was discovered at Muskegon, Mich., May 12 and was subsequently studied, documented and photographed into June providing a fourth state record (JW *et al.*). Big Cedar Waxwing concentrations were found near Detroit with two flocks of 1000 each (*vide* AK), another in Dane County Mar. 31 numbering about 3000 birds (DT).

**VIREOS AND WARBLERS** — An obvious example of the southern influx into the Region

was the White-eyed Vireo Although none were detected in Minnesota, at least 15 individuals were found in five s. Wisconsin counties and at least the same number appeared in s. Michigan where the species is not as unusual. The number of rare-to-casual s. warblers appearing in equally astonishing abundance included: three Minnesota Worm-eating Warblers, one as far n. as Otter Tail County May 20 (GO), and eight in Michigan, as far north as Benzie County May 3 (CF), were unexpected, but the *ten* Wisconsin individuals were even more remarkable; while the four **Yellow-throated Warblers** at the "usual" Three Oaks site in Berrien County, Mich., May 7 may not have been news (m.ob), the only May 10 at Metrobeach near Detroit was a first recent area record (TH), and another was found May 15 in Dane County, Wis., where the species is still quite casual (RH); Prairie Warblers were also up in Michigan, with eight sightings from six counties, and Wisconsin, with records May 3 & 17 in Dane County (RH) and May 12 at Milwaukee (JD); Minnesota shared in the Kentucky Warbler influx with one documented at Brooklyn P., May 22 (OJ) and another unconfirmed at Northfield May 15, while six s. Wisconsin counties had records as did seven s. Michigan locations plus another possible n. in Charlevoix County May 28.

There was only one "possible" Yellow-breasted Chat in Minnesota reported, but Wisconsin probably had the most ever with 20 seen in 12 s.e. counties, and Michigan had at least 18 individuals including reports n. to Iosco County May 8 (DP, BB) and Delta County May 15-18 (NC); and the Hooded Warbler was the final species of evidence in this amazing southern invasion, as s.e. Minnesota reported an unprecedented six individuals, not to mention two other unconfirmed "possibles" in Duluth, as Wisconsin had an "unbelievable" total of at least 20 in eight counties, and Michigan reported ten with one as far n. as Alpena Apr. 27 (LS). A few more conventional species were notable for their early arrival a Warbling Vireo Apr. 15 at Detroit was a local record (*vide* AK), a Nashville Warbler arrived in Minneapolis by Apr. 24 (AJ) and a Yellow-rumped was early for n. Minnesota Apr. 6 at Carlton (*vide* KE), while a Wisconsin record was set for the Cerulean Warbler Apr. 25 in Dane County (RH). Finally, to punctuate this eventful family, a first Minnesota record for the **Townsend's Warbler** came May 22 near Shakopee, Scott Co. with a breeding-plumaged male meticulously described (B Clauson). This sighting was easily the most outstanding evidence of the movement of western species into the Region, but, like the equally exciting Lesser Black-backed Gull, was not unexpected and somewhat overdue

**BOBOLINK THROUGH TANAGERS** — A Bobolink Apr. 21 in Lac Qui Parle County was the earliest ever for Minnesota (JD). There were more than the usual numbers of Yellow-headed Blackbirds in n.e. Minnesota and the U.P., while Orchard Orioles were also seen in increased numbers in Wisconsin and Minnesota; the latter state recorded Orchards as far n. as Clay and Hubbard Counties, Walker and Duluth, and also had an above-average number of N. Orioles present. The **Western Tanager** was again seen in Minnesota, with an obvious male and possible female described



from Richfield May 19 (BE). No fewer than eight Summer Tanagers appeared, three in Minnesota including two window casualties, four in Wisconsin, two each from Milwaukee and Dane County, and one from Detroit.

**FRINGILLIDS** — Yet another western stray was a ♂ **Black-headed Grosbeak** seen May 24 in Pierce County, Wis. (CF); also unusual for Wisconsin was a Blue Grosbeak May 9 in Dane County (RH). From the West again came Minnesota's fifth **Lazuli Bunting**, a window casualty from Plymouth, Hennepin Co., May 22 (Bell Mus., Univ. of Minn.). Winter finch reports were predictably few after last winter's shortage. Crossbills were most conspicuously scarce, with Minnesota reporting the only **White-winged** (one lone individual), and **Reds** being seen but once in Michigan, three times in Wisconsin, and not at all in Minnesota! Exceptions to this pattern were the 1217 Evening Grosbeaks counted May 11 at Whitefish Pt. (AR), fair numbers of Com. Redpolls in n. Wisconsin and the U.P., with a late individual May 22 at Marquette, Mich. (*vide* DMc), and a few Pine Siskins remaining in the s. halves of all three states to nest. A **House Finch** survived until at least Mar. 31 at a Utica, Mich., feeder (m.ob.), a second Detroit area record; whether this individual wandered in from the East, where the population has been rapidly expanding, or the West, where so many other strays originated this spring, is difficult to say. But there is no doubt from which direction Michigan's third **Green-tailed Towhee** came — one

was at a feeder for one day only, May 20, in W. Olive, Ottawa Co. (ST,LE). At least four ♂ **Lark Buntings** were blown E to Madison Apr. 12, the day after winds of up to 100 mph were recorded in Wisconsin (CBA), and another male was found May 3 in Dodge County, Wis. (MD). The last in the long list of western species reported was a very early Baird's Sparrow said to have been heard and seen at length in Waushara County, Wis., Apr. 29 (RH). Very late Tree Sparrows lingered until May 27 in Ashland County, Wis. (DV) and May 28 near Detroit (*vide* DMc), and a Field Sparrow wandered N to Duluth May 18 (D. Meyer). A ♀ Chestnut-collared Longspur was flushed Apr. 21 from an area in w. Yellow Medicine County, Minn., where breeding has been anticipated since the species nests within 10 mi in adjacent South Dakota (KE).

**CONTRIBUTORS** (sub-Regional editors in boldface) — **Minnesota:** Darryl Anderson, Don and Mary Beimborn, Don Bolduc, Ed Brekke-Kramer, Steve Carlson, Marj Carr, Mrs. A. DeKam, Joanne Dempsey, **Kim Eckert**, Bob Erickson, Laurence and Carol Falk, Herbert Fisher, Eugene and Marilynn Ford, Lee and Joanne French, John Frenzt, Harold Hanson, Tom Hargy, Lyle Herzog, Ed Hibbard, Nestor Hiemenz, Bill Hilton, Robert Holtz, James Howitz, Robert Janssen, Oscar Johnson, Alvina Joul, Ron and Rose Kneeskern, Henry Kyllingstad, Ken La Fond, Violet Lender, Fred Lesher, Don and Wynn Mahle, Jim Mattsson, Steve Millard, Gary

Otnes, Terry Savaloja, John Schladweiler, Evelyn Stanley, Dick and Gloria Wachtler, Steve Wilson; **Wisconsin:** Cynthia Barnett (CBA), Harold Bauers, James Baughman, Ty Bauman, Charlene Beede (CB), Ed Cleary, Mary Donald, Bob Drieslein, Tom Erdman, Laura Erickson, Craig Faants, Don Follen, Dennis Gustafson, Randy Hoffman (RH), Ron Hoffman (Ron H), Jim Ingold, Charles Kemper, Amy Kienitz, Steve Krings, Sally Landaal, Mike Myers, Charles Naeseth, Jon Peacock, Ed Peartree, Sam Robbins, Jerome Rosso, Allen Shea, **Daryl Tessen**, Dick Verch, Winnie Woodmansee, Thomas Ziebell; **Michigan:** Ray Adams, Andy Ammann, Glenn Belyea, Bob Blackport (BB), Walter Booth, Bill Bouton (BBo), Joan Brigham, Harry Clark, Linda Cox, Noel Cutright, Linda Ebel, Eugene Elsenheimer, Les Ford, Jim Fowler, Carl Freeman, William Grigg, Tom Heatley, Harry Hutchins, J. Johnson, Al Kayser, Alice Kelley (AK), Mike Kielb, Joe Kleiman, Al Maley, **Doug McWhirter** (DMc), Dan Miller (DM), Sue Nelson, Kate Nicholson, Ed Pike, Dave Powell, William Ray, Dave Rocheleau, Pat and Rick Ruzs, Alan Ryff, Lou Scheller, Chris Schumacher, Ellen Slater (ES), Roy Smith, Eleanor Stevens (Est), Bill and Charlotte Taylor, Scot Thomasma, Alan and Jan Walkinshaw, Alice and Arthur Weaver, Joan Wolfe (JW). There were also 270 other contributors, 38 from Minnesota, 82 from Wisconsin and 150 from Michigan, whose observations contributed indirectly in the preparation of this report. — **KIM R. ECKERT, 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804.**

## MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

/Vernon M. Kleen

The period was rather retarded and overall quite ordinary. There were no outstanding migration "waves", but there was a scattering of extralimital occurrences. The most useful notes dealt with increasing, expanding, or declining populations.

Owing to the early season flooding (extensive along some of the major rivers — especially the Illinois River), many birding areas were inundated and inaccessible. Such conditions were beneficial for migrating ducks, which were found in excellent numbers and were often late in departing, and for shorebirds, which passed through undetected in many areas because of the widespread available habitat, or abounded at well-known stop-overs.

Observers are still concerned about the low numbers of herons. They also noted no significant increases in Carolina Wrens, Eastern Bluebirds or Golden-crowned Kinglets. Other declines mentioned were for the Bobwhite and Ring-necked Pheasant, Screech Owl, Mockingbird, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Dickcissel, Field Sparrow. Noticeable increases were reported for both cuckoos, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Worm-eating Warblers, and Prairie Warblers — which may have included range expansions for the latter two species. Migratory species encountered more frequently or in larger numbers than usual were: Double-crested Cormorants, Whistling Swans, Sandhill Cranes, some shorebirds, Laughing Gulls,

and Connecticut Warblers.

The total amount of information submitted for this report surpassed that of all previous reports; this is a good sign and I acknowledge all observers and reporters for their excellent support. As usual, all extraordinary sight records must be thoroughly documented at the time of observation. For the spring migration, a total of 161 documentation forms was received: Illinois 55; Iowa, 40; Ohio 28; Indiana, 18; Missouri, 12; and Kentucky, 7. In addition, 13 photographs were received. All documented records are denoted by a dagger (†). Records which were not satisfactorily documented, but which may be credible, appear in the UNCORROBORATED RECORDS section.

Several localities have been repeatedly referred to throughout this report; they have been abbreviated as follows: E.St.L. (East St. Louis, Ill.); LaSalle (LaSalle Nuclear Power Plant Lake, Ill.); O.W.R. (Ottawa Nat'l Wildlife Ref., O.); S.C.R. (Squaw Creek Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Mo.); and Spfld. (Springfield, Ill.).

**LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS** — Normal numbers of Com. Loons were observed; lingerers stayed in all states at least through May 26, some well into June; the 13 at LaSalle



May 20 (JHm *et al.*) were noteworthy; maxima were: 75 in Lorain County, O. (JPo); 35 in Delaware County, O., Apr. 14 (J) and 16 in the Evanston, Ill., area Apr. 27 (Rbi). Four Red-throated Loons were noted along Indiana's L. Michigan shores Apr. 3 (KB,PG,EH); another arrived at Lorain, O., May 31 (†JPo). Encounters of Red-necked Grebes included: 1-3 in Gibson County, Ind., Mar. 4-11 (†DJo,m.ob.); two at the Monroe Res., Ind., Mar. 24 (TK); and singles in Lorain County, O., Mar. 12 (†JPo); Avon L., O., Apr. 20 (†JPo); and Spfld., Apr. 14-15 (†JPI, RCh,H). Horned Grebes passed through in respectable-to-excellent numbers, especially in the east, Mar. 11 (early) - Jun. 3 (late); most were noted mid-April and early May with concentrations of 400+ in Lorain/Cleveland area mid-April (JPo,M); peaks of <10 were the rule elsewhere. Eared Grebes were found singly at one Missouri, three Iowa and one Ohio location Apr. 1 - May 14; however, eight had appeared at Fel-

low's L, Mo, by Mar 25 (m ob) and five were noted at Amana, Ia., May 19 (T.CBe), several others were reported from w. Iowa. The only W Grebes found were singles at two Iowa locations: Nashua May 4 (JSc) and w. Sioux County May 8 (*vide* JVa).

Pied-billed Grebes were reported in normal numbers; nesting was noted at Spfld. and Springfield, Mo. As expected, good numbers of White Pelicans moved through the w. edge of the Region; only small numbers were noted elsewhere — and none e. of the Mississippi R. Double-crested Cormorants have either staged a moderate comeback or were reported more judiciously; the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's waterfowl censuses indicated the species' presence all along the Mississippi and Illinois rivers mid-March - mid-April with one day counts as high as 750 (late March); birds were still migrating during early May; singles were reported in many locations; in groups they numbered 2-8 (with a max. of 13, except in the extreme west).

**HERONS THROUGH IBISES** — Great Blue Herons were not as commonly reported as they should have been; some reporters felt they were definitely scarce. Green Herons were also scarce in many places; individuals had arrived at McNeely L., Ky., Mar. 29 (DP) and Carbondale, Ill., Mar. 31 (HD). Little Blue Herons did not stage a noticeable over-migration; the earliest report was of one in Erie County, O., Apr. 4 (JPo); the majority were found during the first two weeks of May. Cattle Egrets were observed in all states beginning the last week in April; most were found in May in groups numbering <10. Only small numbers of Great Egrets were encountered; the largest reported concentration was five. Two Snowy Egrets were present at E.St.L., May 13 (Rko); documented singles were recorded at Louisville, Ky., May 13 & 18 (†LR,m.ob.); Wayne County, O., May 6 (†DKI); and Rock Cut S.P., Ill., Apr. 27 (†LJ); undocumented reports were received from: St. Joseph, Mo., Apr. 8; Schell-Osage, Mo., May 5, Lucas County, O., May 12-17; Mercer County, O., May 26; and Wilmette, Ill., May 10. A **Louisiana Heron** was present at O.W.R., May 23 (†JPo,ET). Black-crowned Night Herons arrived late, but were apparently observed in normal numbers; the largest groups were: 70 at Gary, Ind., May 4 (KB); 50 at L. Renwick, Ill., Apr. 17 & May 17 (Rbi); and 31 at Clear Lake, Ia., Apr. 27-30 (DBi). For the most part, Yellow-crowned Night Herons were "absent" from the Region according to most reporters; however, a nest was found in the L. Calumet, Ill. area, May 26 (WM). Least Bitterns were also scarce. At least 17 Am. Bitterns were present at S.C.R., May 15 (TBk *et al.*), and ten at Oakwood Bottoms, Jackson Co., Ill., Apr. 27 (HD *et al.*); the species was scarce in or absent from many localities. A Glossy Ibis was detected at S.C.R., May 18 (†TBk).

**WATERFOWL** — Mute Swans were reported from six locations: two in Indiana, two in Illinois, one in Iowa and one in Missouri — where nesting occurred. Whistling Swans were "abundant" in Illinois marshes and other wet areas close to L. Michigan; 600+ were seen in a single day in late March (m ob.); two were noted in Tazewell County, Ill., Feb. 28 (VH); 18 in Monroe County, Ill.,

Mar 17 (LHo), and three in Shannon County, Mo., Mar. 5, the majority arrived/passed through in late March and early April; only normal numbers were encountered in Ohio and Indiana; there were more Iowa records than usual (four locations, flocks of 9-35), one bird lingered in Franklin County, O., until May 4 (J). Canada Geese departed mostly on schedule; however, the 13,500 birds heading S along Chicago's lakeshore Mar. 14 (Rbi) were unexpected; four individuals were still present at Danville, Ky., Apr. 27 (FL); four nests were found near Rockford, Ill., and more were suspected present. White-fronted Geese were reported in groups of 4-35 (except for 334 at Sloan, Ia., Apr. 4) Mar. 10 - Apr. 7 (m.ob.); none was found in Ohio or Kentucky. Good numbers of Snow Geese passed through the Region in March. The 22 **Fulvous Whistling Ducks** at Dundee, Ill., May 18, represented only the third occurrence of this species in Illinois (RMO). Dabbling ducks were reported in expected numbers; some lingered at favorable feeding/resting areas. Records of Cinnamon Teal (none documented) included: two at S.C.R., Apr. 3-5, then one, May 10 & 13; one at Tama, Ia., in early May; and one in Henderson County, Ill., Apr. 13. An excellent influx of diving ducks was noted throughout Ohio during March. The 1000+ Redheads in Lake County, Ill., at the end of March contrasted with the "only a few reported" from Indiana; 105 and 30 respectively reported from Danville, Ky., Mar. 10 (FL) and Bowling Green, Ky., Mar. 4 (HSh) were unusual there. More than 500 Canvasbacks were present in Lake County, Ill., Mar. 26 (DJ); 382 were counted at Pocahontas, Ind., Apr. 3 (RCu); fair numbers were also reported elsewhere. Iowa observers feel that Greater Scaup will be identified at inland locations at an increasing rate; many were documented there (†m.ob.).

The presence of one ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye at Chicago, Mar. 24 & 28 stirred local interest (†GN, †JLd). One or possibly two Oldsquaw were present at Bowling Green Ky., Mar. 4 (HSh); higher numbers than usual were found along Indiana's L. Michigan shoreline Mar. 18 - Apr. 1 — the max. at one time was four (KB); 50 were counted at Evanston as late as Apr. 20 (Rbi); one appeared at Cherokee, Ia., Apr. 16 (†DBi, †MB). The only Harlequin Duck was at Cleveland Apr. 12-17 (M,m.ob.). Up to 13 White-winged Scoters were noted at Chicago in early March (JLd,DJ); one remained at Waukegan, Ill., until Apr. 21 (DJ); one was detected at Louisville, Ky., Mar. 9 (BP); singles were observed in L. Michigan (Indiana) three times Mar. 31 - Apr. 30 (m.ob.); two were found in Ohio, one at Columbus Mar. 3-6 (J) and one at Cincinnati Mar. 4 (*vide* W). Only two Surf Scoters were identified — one at Des Moines May 5 (†DMn) and one at Evanston, Ill., Apr. 17 (Rbi). The only Black Scoter was reported from Iowa City, Ia., Mar. 31 (†MN, †T *et al.*). There was an excellent migration of Red-breasted Mergansers; singles were noted as late lingerers in two Illinois locations.

**DIURNAL RAPTORS** — The Turkey Vulture migration surpassed that of other recent years; 243 and 109 respectively were reported from Lorain and Cleveland, O., Apr. 11 (JPo) and Apr. 2 (DHo,M). The presence of three Mississippi Kites at Springfield, Mo., Apr. 25 (†VM *et al.*), was unusual; another was found

in Johnson County, Ill., May 19-29 (RCh,K, m.ob.). It was a good spring for migrating Sharp-shinned Hawks; 74 passed the Cleveland area Apr. 25 (M). There were mixed emotions about the Cooper's Hawk migration; one pair successfully nested in s. Kentucky. Spring concentrations of Red-tailed Hawks are not that common; however, 148 were counted at O.W.R., Mar. 17 (JPo); 123 at Spfld., Mar. 12 (H); and 61 at L. Calumet Mar. 18 (Rbi) Red-shouldered Hawks may be increasing again; 18 were observed migrating at Spfld., Mar. 12 (H) and 18 at O.W.R., Mar. 17 (JPo), notes suggested increases at other locations, too. The largest concentrations of Broad-winged Hawks were observed during the last week of April and first week of May; at Cleveland, 474 Apr. 25 and 429 Apr. 30 (M), 300 May 1 at Dundee, Ill. (RMO); 300 Apr. 28 around Chicago (DJ); 240 Apr. 27 at Waukegan (SMI); 185 Apr. 22 at Evanston (SMI); 150 May 1 in Bureau County, Ill. (JHm); and smaller groups at many locations; one bird had arrived at the Pigeon River F. & G. Area, Ind., Mar. 16 (PS,MW) and at Glasgow, Ky., Mar. 17 (*vide* S). Swainson's Hawks were regularly encountered in w. Missouri and Iowa; but there were three-to-four e. Iowa records including nesting and one bird in Platt County, Ill., Apr. 28 (†RCh, †JPI). Departing Rough-legged Hawks were delayed at O.W.R., until May 27 (†TBt), Pocahontas, Ia., Apr. 30 (RCu); Fern Creek, Ky., Apr. 21 (DSu); and Atterbury, Ind., Apr. 28 (CK *et al.*). Six Golden Eagles in March were unexpected: one each at Bloomington, Ind., Mar. 11 (TK *et al.*); Schell-Osage, Mo., Mar. 11 (KH *et al.*), S.C.R., Mar. 11 (TBk); Vermilion County, Ill., Mar. 12-18 (*vide* Mca); Spfld., Mar. 6 & Apr. 2 (H). Bald Eagles were widely encountered during March and April; however, the 230 near Muscatine, Ia., Mar. 25 was noteworthy for so late a date (EF). Only moderate numbers of Ospreys were reported; none lingered. The only Peregrine Falcons documented were one at Rockford, Ill., Apr. 29 (†MJ); and one at S.C.R., May 6 (JHi); seven others were not documented. Only fifteen Merlins were encountered this spring.

**GAMEBIRDS THROUGH COOTS** — The Illinois Greater Prairie Chicken population suffered another 10% loss from the 1978 census (RW). Bobwhites were nonexistent in many areas — and obviously scarce everywhere else. The Ring-necked Pheasant population was not as dramatically affected as the Bobwhite during the winter; however, the population remained low. Excellent numbers of Sandhill Cranes were present during mid-March in Indiana and n.e. Illinois; groups of more than 100 (max. 330) were reported three times; 100 from Kansas City, Mo., Mar. 15, the species may have nested in Lake County, Ill. Two unsuccessful Sora nests were reported from Tippecanoe County, Ind., in late April and early May (DA). Seven Yellow Rails were flushed from S.C.R., during the burning of cordgrass there; usual numbers (all singles) were encountered in Illinois and Iowa. An amazing four Black Rails were reported from Vermilion County, Ill., May 5 (*vide* Mca), another was found near Allerton, Ill., May 30 (JSm). Few Com. Gallinules were reported, they were first detected at Chicago Apr. 15 (WM). Many Am. Coots nested in n. Iowa

(JD), the 600 at Bowling Green, Ky., was considered unusual there Mar. 24 (HSh).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Owing to the flooded conditions, one would have thought that shorebirds would be everywhere; they may have been, but their haunts were not always discovered. High water made it impossible for the birds to use customary favored locales. Obviously, there were exceptions; many excellent reports were received. A peak of 375 Semipalmated Plovers was reported from S.C.R., May 9 (TBk). Ten Piping Plovers were present at S.C.R., May 1 (TBk); three were found at Nashua, Ia., May 9-11 (JSc); one arrived in Wayne County, O., Apr. 12 (†TBt, m.ob.); seven others were reported. American Golden Plovers passed through in very large numbers — thousands, as usual, in Livingston County, Ill., in early May; 6000+ in Champaign County, Apr. 13 (RCh); 1000 at Waterloo, Ia., May 4 (TSt); 500+ in Barton County, Mo., Apr. 5 (JR); plus many lesser flocks Mar. 24 - mid-May; the species was scarce in Ohio. Normal numbers of Black-bellied Plovers were encountered overall. Above-normal numbers of Ruddy Turnstones were reported; although the max. was 22 at one location, they were reported from nine areas (including all states except Kentucky) May 12-27. American Woodcocks were late in arriving — primarily early March; but normal numbers appeared. The nest of a Com. Snipe at Decorah, Ia., May 5 provided the first modern record for the state. A **Long-billed Curlew** was noted at S.C.R., Apr. 10 (†TBk). Seven Whimbrels stopped at S.C.R., May 19 (†L,R); singles were also found at Port of Indiana May 24 (KB) and Cleveland May. 4. Only small numbers of Upland Sandpipers were reported — but Regionwide, except in Ohio. Willets passed through in groups up to 12; they were recorded from four states, Apr. 23 to May 30.

The peak of 7000 Lesser Yellowlegs at S.C.R. May 4, was phenomenal (TBk); the species was well represented Regionwide. Six Red Knots appeared at S.C.R., Mar. 23 (†TBk,L); singles occurred at Magee Marsh, O., May 18-19; Wayne County, O., May 28 (DKI); Michigan City, Ind., May 24-25 (KB); and Chicago May 24-25 (JLd). Iowa's second record of a **Purple Sandpiper** was established Apr. 30 at Laurens (†DBI, †RCu). White-rumped Sandpipers were in excellent numbers mid-to-late May; 5000 were noted at S.C.R., May 17 (m.ob.). Baird's Sandpipers appeared in good-sized flocks: 200 at S.C.R., Apr. 23 & 29 (TBk,JR,RBt); 30 at Iowa City May 19 (KL); in smaller groups elsewhere. Dunlins were found by several observers; 200 were reported from Waukegan May 28 (RBt) and 185 at Grays Lake, Ill., May 26 (DJ); 84 were present at S.C.R., May 8 (TBk). Long-billed Dowitchers peaked at 500 at S.C.R., May 10 (TBk); 23 were noted at Licking, Mo., May 3-4 (DHa). The presence of 300 Stilt Sandpipers at S.C.R., May 10-13 was outstanding for the spring (TBk); other encounters were of 1-4 in Iowa; Wayne County, O.; and Clinton, Ill., during May. Fairly large groups of Semipalmated Sandpipers were encountered; e.g., 75 at Spfld., May 19-25 and 50 June 4 (H); 25 at Willow Slough, Ind., May 26 (KB). Up to ten W. Sandpipers occurred at Spfld., May 27 with eight still present June 3 (H); ten were also noted at Iowa City May 19-23 (T).

A total of six Marbled Godwits was recorded from five Iowa locations, three appeared at S.C.R., May 23 (TBk); and singles were reported from O.W.R., Apr. 28 - May 19 (BSt, m.ob.) and in Jasper County, Ind., Apr. 22 (PG). Hudsonian Godwits peaked at S.C.R., May 13 (TBk,JR); more than 100 occurred at Riverton, Ia., May 15 (T,TSh); and several others were found throughout Iowa Apr. 14 - May 28; five were reported in Illinois from three locations in mid-May. A Ruff appeared in Wayne County, O., Apr. 7-11 (†DKI,m.ob.) and another at O.W.R., May 15-17 (†J,m.ob.). Except for the 150 Sanderlings at S.C.R., May 13 (JR,TBk) and 30 at Iowa City May 23 (FT), the species was found only in small isolated groups. Twenty Am. Avocets arrived at S.C.R., May 1 (TBk); and were found as singles in two Iowa locations: Riverton May 15 (T,TSh) and Laurens May 1 (MB); and as a group of eight at Magee Marsh, O., Apr. 29 (JPo). The 150+ Wilson's Phalaropes at S.C.R., May 1-6 (TBk) was phenomenal; up to six were reported from O.W.R., in mid-May and 1-3 were encountered at Rockford, Ill., May 6-15 (LJ). Northern Phalaropes were also well represented: seven at S.C.R., May 20 (TBk); six in Whiteside County, Ill., May 19 (BSh); two at O.W.R., May 15-17 (Fry); and one at Round Lake, Ill., May 28 (RBt).

**GULLS AND TERNS** — At least seven Glaucous Gulls were present in the Chicago area Mar. 4 (RBt); 1-2 others were there through Apr. 7 (RBt,m.ob.); singles lingered at Lorain, O., into May (JPo); at Cleveland Apr. 1 (M); and Gary, Ind., Mar. 17 (KB). Five Iceland Gulls were observed: four in Illinois (Lake or Cook counties Mar. 17 - May 5) and one at Cleveland Mar. 1 (DHo). The w. extension of Great Black-backed Gulls was noted by individuals at L. Calumet, Ill., Mar. 4 (†RBt *et al.*); Michigan City, Ind., Apr. 1 (KB); and Chicago Apr. 7 (†RCh, †JPI). Five Thayer's Gulls were documented from the Chicago area Mar. 23 - Apr. 5 (†RBt *et al.*); another was present at Spfld., Mar. 12 (H). Nesting Ring-billed Gulls were found at LaSalle — for the second Illinois breeding location (JHm *et al.*); the species was noted as a late lingerer at Bowling Green, Ky., May 31 (HSh). A Black-headed Gull made a Cleveland appearance Mar. 21 (†M). Laughing Gulls appeared in force this spring, being reported from 13 locations from all states except Iowa Mar. 31 (Columbus and Lorain, O.) - June 2 (L. Chautauqua, Ill.); the majority, discovered as singles (except at three locations), were present during the latter half of May; (only nine records were documented). Only small numbers of Franklin's Gulls were encountered except in the extreme w. One Little Gull was observed — at Cleveland Apr. 28 - May 6 (M). Forster's Terns had arrived by Apr. 15 in c. Ohio (J) & Apr. 23 at Cleveland (M); two immatures were noted at Lucas County, O., May 17 - June 3 (J). Habitat at LaSalle may be conducive for nesting by Com. Terns; nests were not observed, but the May 20 presence (along with the nesting Ring-billed Gulls) may be significant. There were only two reports of Least Terns. Caspian Terns passed through in normal numbers except for the 144 at Cleveland Apr. 21-25 (M). Black Terns were frequently encountered throughout May — occasionally in large numbers: 500 in n.e. Iowa May 15 (T).

**CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Both Yellow-billed and Black-billed cuckoos were very common this spring, in some instances observers felt that their abundance was the most outstanding feature of the spring season. Barn Owls were reported from all states except Kentucky — a nest was observed in s.w. Iowa; there were two or fewer records from all states. The Screech Owl continues to be scarce in many areas. One Snowy Owl was reported: L. Calumet Mar. 18 (RBt, SMt). Several Long-eared Owls were noted during late March and early April; the species was located at 25 areas (in all states); the last was found Apr. 30 at Louisville (†DMu); however, nesting may have occurred in Nodaway County, Ia. Short-eared Owls were also widely reported during March and April (except in Ohio — where they were scarce); one remained in Vermilion County, Ill., until May 1 (*vide* MCa). Chuck-will's-widows continue their march northward; the species regularly occurs in isolated c. portions of the Region — especially, Illinois, Indiana and Iowa. The Mar 24 arrival of a Whip-poor-will at Columbus was exceptional (Fry). Many reporters felt that the number of Belted Kingfishers was down. Red-headed Woodpeckers returned *en masse* to their breeding localities. Many observers wondered where the Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were this spring.

**FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS** — Twelve Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in the Kansas City area were expected; however, singles at Shenandoah, Ia., May 4 (JB) and in Pike County, Ill., May 20 (JFu *et al.*) were not. A **Say's Phoebe** made a one-day appearance at Sioux Center, Ia., May 7 (†JVa). Alder Flycatchers were regularly noted late May - early June; a few were observed by May 16 — one by May 13 (Chesterton, Ind.). Olive-sided Flycatchers were more common or conspicuous this spring. The Tree Swallows that formerly nested at Long Run S.P., Ky., were absent this year. The Mar. 31 arrival of a Cliff Swallow at O.W.R. (ET) and Apr. 3 in Pickaway County, O. (Fry), were exceptional. In general, Purple Martins were late in arriving.

**JAYS THROUGH THRUSHES** — Blue Jays were moving along the Cleveland lakefront at the rate of 600/hour May 8 (M). Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce everywhere this spring. Winter Wrens have definitely made no real comeback yet; only small numbers were encountered. The Bewick's Wren remains scarce; it was reported from only five locations — including more n. sites as Vermilion County, Ill., and Lucas County, O. Carolina Wrens were still hard to find. The Mockingbird was noted to be "very few or completely absent" Regionwide. Most thrushes were found to be late in arriving and low in numbers (except n.w. Iowa); the Gray-cheeked Thrush was the most difficult to find. Eastern Bluebirds remained scarce. A **Mountain Bluebird** was documented in Sioux County, Ia. (for the third Iowa record) Apr. 7 (†JVa).

**GNATCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES** — There was a tremendous (unprecedented) incursion of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers; on the Illinois Statewide Spring Bird Count May 5, there was a 140% increase over the previous high total (over an 8-year span). Golden-crowned Kinglets were still scarce, but some

felt there was a slight population increase Ruby-crowned Kinglets were observed in near-normal numbers, again. As usual, two migration peaks of Cedar Waxwings were reported; the first ended in mid-April and the second occurred in mid-May. The last of the N Shrikes were reported Mar. 17 - Apr. 1. There was a fair increase in the number of Loggerhead Shrikes reported, including 20 records from Iowa.

**VIREOS AND WARBLERS** — White-eyed Vireos were well represented, including in n. counties. Bell's Vireos are being regularly discovered in new localities; they were thought of as unusual in n.w. Iowa. A Solitary Vireo nest in Illinois' Sand Ridge S.F., was noteworthy for that far s. (RBj). The warbler migration was long and drawn out; there were no exceptional waves and few eventful occurrences; in Iowa, it was noted that "If this year's report will be strengthened by future observations, we may have to revise our ideas about the occurrence of some species considered rare, casual or even accidental." (N). A Black-and-white Warbler had arrived at Cedar Rapids, Ia., by Mar. 31 (FT). Single Swainson's Warblers were reported from Evanston May 9 (†JWa *et al.*); Mingo N.W.R., Mo., May 18 (†JWI); and in Iron County, Mo., May 26 (*vide* BEd). Worm-eating Warblers staged a mini-invasion or range expansion well n. of expected limits; the number of reports was staggering — beginning Apr. 21. A **Virginia's Warbler** was unusual for Evanston May 6 (†LRA,m.ob.). Five Brewster's Warblers were reported from three states (Kentucky, Iowa and Ohio) May 4-12 (†m.ob.). Three Lawrence's Warblers were also reported: one from Evanston May 8 (†RCh,JPI); one from Dudgeon Conservancy Area, Ia., May 13 (m.ob.); and one at Illinois Beach S.P., May 25 (JN). Black-throated Blue Warblers were encountered in greater numbers farther w. than usual. A Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler in Lucas County, O., June 1 was late (JPo). Yellow-throated Warblers were found in several areas n. of their expected range — especially in Iowa and Ohio. The Chestnut-sided Warbler was mentioned as the species most difficult to find this spring of the normal migrants. A **Kirtland's Warbler** was documented in Chicago May 10 (†JLa *et al.*); another, not previously published, was documented there Sept. 26, 1978 (†EA). Prairie Warblers were also among the species staging a mini-invasion (range expansion?) this spring; although not as common as the Worm-eating Warbler, many were observed well n. of its expected range beginning Apr. 22. Kentucky Warblers were found in increased numbers at the n. edge of its traditional limits. Excellent numbers of Connecticut Warblers were observed — including in Iowa. Mourning Warblers were termed "unusually common" in Iowa and n.e. Illinois; the species was easily encountered in appropriate habitat Region-wide. Hooded Warblers were observed in many n. locations beginning May 5.

**BLACKBIRDS AND TANAGERS** — Yellow-headed Blackbirds were well-established throughout Iowa; one had appeared at Indianapolis Apr. 5 (†RKi); normal numbers were found in n.e. Illinois. Brewer's Blackbirds were reported somewhat e. of normal — including two reports from Ohio (along L.

Erie) The **Great-tailed Grackles** nesting in Missouri on S.C.R., constituted a state first, ten nests were found (†TBk). A few Summer Tanagers were found n. of its traditional range during late April and May.

**GROSBEAKS, FINCHES, SPARROWS AND LONGSPURS** — Blue Grosbeaks arrived in Kentucky by Apr. 13; another appeared in Holmes County, O., May 12 (DKI). An overall impression of Dickcissels is that the population has started to decline ("incredible as this may have seemed just a few years ago" in Iowa). A few Evening Grosbeaks were detected in March and April as they were returning N; a female built a nest at Mineral Ridge, O., but disappeared — this constitutes the first Ohio nesting attempt for Evening Grosbeaks. A ♂ House Finch was reported from Gas City, Ind., Mar. 10 (*vide* DHe). Pine Siskins were not common — reported only from six areas. A single White-winged Crossbill was detected at Iowa City Mar. 6 (TSh) and one Red Crossbill was encountered in Greene County, O., Apr. 3 (J). The sixth Illinois record of a **Green-tailed Towhee** was established at Sterling Apr. 25 (ph., KM). Henslow's Sparrows were found in their usual small numbers. Few observers mentioned Grasshopper Sparrows. The three Bachman's Sparrows reported were found at: Louisville, Ky., May 11 (†S); Warrick County, Ind., Apr. 25 (JCa, *et al.*); and Atterbury, Ind., May 28 (CK *et al.*). The second Illinois **Gray-headed Junco** was found at Urbana Apr. 13 (†RCh). Normal numbers of Clay-colored Sparrows were found in Missouri, Iowa and Illinois; one other was found in n.w. Indiana May 10 (KB). Is the Field Sparrow population declining — as suggested by Kentucky observers? Few Lapland Longspurs were reported after the snow melted. Smith's Longspurs were very difficult to find this spring — being reported from two Missouri and one Illinois locations — the latter is usually the site for fairly large numbers, but not so this year (H).

**UNCORROBORATED RECORDS** — White-faced Ibis (es) at S.C.R., May 12-15. Prairie Falcon in Polk County, Ia., Apr. 26. Black-headed Grosbeak at Kansas City May 2-5.

**ADDENDUM** — The Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker at Boyden, Ia., Dec. 23, 1978 (JSt) has been properly documented.

**CORRIGENDUM** — The two Water Pipits in Jackson County, Ill., Aug. 18, 1978, should have been from Perry County, Mo. (on the e. side of the Mississippi R.).

**CONTRIBUTORS** — (Subregional editors' names in boldface type; contributors are requested to send their reports to these editors). Major contributors (B) Lawrence Balch, (H) David Bohlen, (J) **Bruce Peterjohn** (Ohio), (K) **Vernon Kleen** (Illinois), (L) Floyd Lawhon, (M) William & Nancy Klamm, (N) Nicholas Halmi, (P) Peter Petersen, (R) Mark Robbins, (S) **Anne Stamm** (Kentucky), (T) **Tom Kent** (Iowa), (W) Arthur Wiseman, other observers and reporters included: E. Abeles, D. Arvin, E. Bacek (EBa), T. Barksdale (TBk), F. Bart, T. Bartlett (TBt), C. Becker (CBk), C. Bendorf (CBe), D. Bierman (DBi), D. Birkenholz (DBr), R. Biss (RBi), R. Bjorklund (RBj),

G Black, R Bodman (RBo), C Bonner (CBo), J. Bordman, L. Braband, A. Brei (ABr), M. Brewer, K. Brock, B. Brown, W. Brown (WBr), R. Brundage (RBr), A. Bruner (AB), V. Buchholtz, E. Burstatte (EBu), W. Buskirk (WBU), J. Campbell (JCa), M. Campbell (MCa), L. Carter, R. Chapel (RCh), M. Cincotta (MCI), H. Clay, J. Coffman (JCo), D. Coskren, R. Cummins (RCu), R. DeCoster, H. Detwiler, A. Dierkes (ADI), J. Dinsmore, A. Duke (ADu), D. Easterle, B. Eastman (BEa), B. Eddleman (BED), J. Elmore (JEI), J. Erwin (JEr), E. Fawks, N. Fay, D. Fight (DFi), D. Fischer (DF), K. Forcum, J. Frank (JFr), J. Fry (Fry), J. Funk (JFu), J. Garrett, I. Getscher, B. Gill (BGi), B. Goodge (BGo), C. Grimes, P. Grube, J. Hampson (JHm), J. Hancock (JHa), D. Harr (DHR), L. Harrison (LHa), D. Hatch (DHa), J. Haw (Haw), T. Heemstra, D. Heller (DHe), J. Hilsabeck (JHi), K. Hobbs, D. & J. Hoffman (DHo), L. Hood (LHo), E. Hopkins, V. Humphreys, B. Hunt, P. Hyatt, M. Inwood, P. Jack, M. Janos, C. Johnson, D. Johnson (DJ), L. Johnson, D. Jones (DJo), A. Kane, C. Keller (Indiana), T. Keller, R. Kinnet (RKi), D. & V. Kline (DKI), J. Knoblauch, D. Koening (DKo), R. Korotev (RKO), R. Krol (RKR), R. Ladenburger (RLd), J. Landing (JLd), E. Larson, J. LaSalle (JLa), R. LaVal (RLa), R. Lewis, (RLe), F. Loetscher, K. Lowder, J. Lucas (JLu), R. Lundgren (RLu), D. Lypke, J. Malanick (JMa), W. Marcisz, R. Matthews (RMA), D. McCarty (DMc), P. McCrow, V. McDonald, S. McKee (SMc), L. McKeown (LM), N. McLaughlin, L. McNeely (LMc), S. Mlodinow (SMI), B. Monroe, R. Montgomery (RMO), D. Mooney (DMn), J. Moore (JMo), L. Moore (LMO), D. Mosler (DMo), D. Mosman (DMs), K. Mount, D. Muntan (DMu), J. & M. Musgrove (JMu), R. Myers (RMY), J. Neal, G. Neise, M. Newlon, R. Niewiarowski, D. Osborne, R. Palmer (RPa), B. Palmer-Ball, D. Parker, L. Parker, T. Peterson, R. Phipps (RPh), J. Pogacnik (JPo), J. Polk (JPI), L. Ramsey (LRa), **J. Rathert** (Missouri), L. Rauth (LR), S. Rositzky, S. Sabo, P. Saminski, J. Schaufenbuel (JSc), H. Shadowen (HSh), B. Shaw (BSH), T. Shires (TSh), D. Smith (DSm), H. Smith (HSM), J. Smith (JSm), F. Stamm, D. Starks (DSk), R. Starr, B. Stehling (BSSt), T. Stone (TSt), J. Stravers (JSt), D. Styer (DSt), D. Summerfield (DSu), H. Sweet (HSw), F. Thompson, E. Tramer, R. Turner, C. Tveekren, L. Van Camp, J. Van Dyke (JVd), J. Versteeg (JVe), R. von Rotz, N. Walker, J. Walsh (JW), B. Walton, C. Ward, J. Ware (JWa), M. Weldon, R. Westemeier, **J. Wilson** (JWI, Missouri), H. Zalatel, R. Zumeta — **VERNON M. KLEEN, Division of Wildlife Resources, Illinois Department of Conservation, Springfield, IL 62706.**



## CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

/Thomas A. Imhof

After a cool January and February, spring temperatures were close to normal almost throughout the Region. The rainfall, however, made headlines, with damaging floods that doubled and sometimes tripled the usual April totals. Perhaps man should let much more water settle in the soil and do its job of nourishing life. But instead, he rushes most of it through its cycle by damming, draining, paving, and channeling.

These April storms made it difficult for the birds to migrate, and many of them were late and appeared in numbers where they are often rare. For instance, Larry Gates reported an impressive array of flycatchers, warblers, and finches at Hattiesburg, Mississippi, about 100 miles from the coast where it is usually difficult to see many trans-Gulf migrants in spring. Birders also enjoyed some outstanding concentrations. Perhaps the best was the fallout on Dauphin Island on April 27, described by Mark Brown as caused by a very strong north wind producing a pile-up of thousands of birds unable to reach the mainland, and forced back to Dauphin Island. This was witnessed by members of the Alabama Ornithological Society — Florida Ornithological Society attending a joint meeting April 27-29. Other good concentrations were on April 4-5, 9-11, 26-30, May 1, 15-16 on the coast and April 12 and 21, May 3 and 5 inland. Outstanding Big Days were April 21 at Eufaula Refuge, Alabama with 137 species (DMB,JBO); May 5, Sipsey Forest and Wheeler Refuge, Alabama with an inland record 157 species (DMB,CDC); and April 28, Hattiesburg to Gulfport, Mississippi (LJG, JAT) with a record 165 species, beaten in this Region, I believe, only by a Louisiana list in the 170s by Bob Newman *et al.*

Bird groups reported more numerous included shorebirds, cuckoos, flycatchers, vireos, warblers, summer finches; less numerous included Brown Pelican, American Kestrel, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush; unreported was Cooper's Hawk; local scarcities were Ground Dove in Louisiana and herons in the Tennessee Valley of Alabama where an aerial survey located only one colony in more than 250 miles of prime river bottoms. Meanwhile DDT levels from the old insecticide plant at Redstone Arsenal just east of Wheeler Refuge remained high enough to ban local fishing.

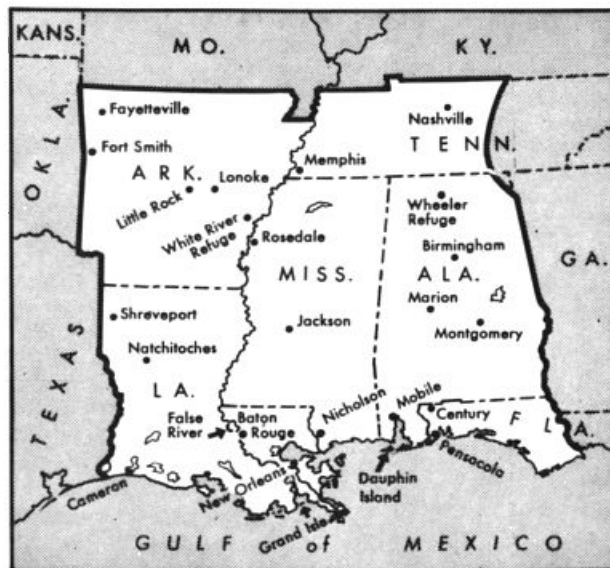
**LOONS, GREBES, PELICANLIKE BIRDS** — A Red-throated Loon was late at Eufaula Ref., Apr. 21 (JBO,DMB). A summer-plumaged Red-necked Grebe was well-described from Rockefeller Ref., La., Mar. 15 (JAT,BBod,AD,EP); and another was at Perdido Key, Pensacola Mar. 13 (OEF,RRo). Of four Eared Grebes reported from three states, the farthest e. was at Eufaula Ref., Mar. 22 (JBO,CDC) and the latest was in Hattiesburg May 8 with a late Horned Grebe, both in summer plumage (LJG). Two Pied-billed Grebes with six young were seen near Dauphin I., Apr. 14 (RWL,SU). Westward flights of White Pelican flocks were noted in n.w. Florida Apr. 11 & 21, May 5 and June 1 (CLK,DS,BBov);

May 6 (BMcK). The most Brown Pelicans reported anywhere were seven on Horn I., Miss., May 13 (JC). Four Blue-faced Boobies were on Dauphin I., Apr. 12 (AGT,RWL) and four Brown Boobies were there Apr. 24 (REH). Gannets peaked at Pensacola — 90 counted in ½ hr, going W all morning — Mar. 24 (RAD, CC); and a late one was on Horn I., Apr. 22 (JAJ, CDC). The increase in Double-crested Cormorants inland continues at Eufaula and Wheeler Refs. (DMB,JBO,RWL). A max. of 400+ was at L. Millwood, Ark., Mar. 11 (CM) and a late one was on Cat I., Miss., May 27 (WCWJAT).

**HERONS, STORK** — Increases in the Reddish Egret are shown by 17 in the Chandeleur Is., La., May 20 (RDP); six on Dauphin I., Apr. 27 (DMB); three on Horn I., Apr. 21 (JAJ,CDC,BJS); and one that wintered at Eufaula Ref., last seen Apr. 22 (JBO). Twelve Am. Bitterns were reported from Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi where they often go unreported (MLB,WCV,B & TW). Two Wood Storks in Cottondale Mar. 21 (MG) were the first in March in n.w. Florida.

**WATERFOWL** — The usual probable hunting casualties noted the last week in May mostly at waterfowl refuges included Canada Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Redhead, and Ring-necked Duck (RWL,LAL,DAR,WCV). At L. Millwood, Ark., Mar. 11 were 82 White-fronted Geese and a Canada smaller than a nearby Snow (CM). Unusual for Apr. 18 at Blountstown, Fla., was a flock of 75± Snows (MG). Fulvous Whistling Ducks peaked at 2058 at Miller's L., Evangeline Par., Mar. 18 (JBO). Mississippi's claim to a substantial breeding population of Mottled Ducks is supported by a count of 47 on May 14 at Pascagoula R. marsh (MH,EG). A late ♂ Oldsquaw was at Horn I., Apr. 21 (JAJ,CDC,BJS). All three scoter species were at Holly Beach, Cameron Par., in late April — a max. of eight White-wingeds Apr. 28-29; a max. of 11 Black's through Apr. 28; and a max. of 13 Surf's, seven of them May 5 (DBC,m.ob.). Ruddies peaked at 1200 at Lonoke Mar. 17 (E & HH); a Hooded Merganser with nine young were in Hot Springs County, Ark., May 2 (MHP); and a late ♂ Com. Merganser was at Eufaula Ref., Mar. 22 (JBO).

**HAWKS** — Earliest ever for Alabama were four Mississippi Kites in Mobile Mar. 21 (JBO). The usual number of Mississippi and Swallow-tailed kites, Sharp-shinned and Broad-winged hawks, Bald Eagles (12 in early March, five of them adults), and Ospreys were reported but no Cooper's Hawks. An imm. ♀ Goshawk at Ft. Morgan Oct. 28, 1978 (PFC, ph.-MLM,HHK,RAD,m.ob.) may also have been present Oct. 21 and Dec. 23, and provided



the first record for the Alabama coast and fourth for the state. A Swainson's Hawk was seen in Clark County, Ark., Mar. 31 (M&HP). A late Marsh Hawk was at Wheeler Ref., May 1 (ALM,HBT,MMcD). Lone Peregrines were at Eufaula Ref., Apr. 14 (DMB,JBO) and Pascagoula Apr. 29 (WCW); three Merlins were on Dauphin I., Apr. 14 (RWL,SU) and two were there Apr. 28 (DMB); Most of the summer Am. Kestrels are in cities and the only one reported from the coastal plain after Apr. 1 was at Little Cr., Stone Co., Miss., May 15 (WCW).

**RAILS, SHOREBIRDS** — A Black Rail was seen well but briefly on the Dauphin I. Causeway Apr. 14 as it ran from underfoot across the tops of the short grass (RWL,SU). Farther w. than usual were two Am. Oystercatchers in the Chandeleur Is., May 20 (RDP). The heavy rainfall, clouds, and bad flying weather produced good shorebirding and record concentrations in much of the Region. Some record big flocks, nearly all well inland, were 1000 in Nashville May 28 — 150 of them Semipalmated Plovers (D&PC); 165 Ruddy Turnstones at Wheeler Ref., May 19 (RWL); 16 Upland Sandpipers at Eufaula Ref., Apr. 14 (DMB,JBO); 62 Willets at Clarksville, Tenn., May 1 (MG); seven Red Knots at Gallatin Steam Plant, Tenn., May 28 (D&PC); 1300± White-rumped Sandpipers at Lonoke May 17 (DRH); three early Baird's there Apr. 8 (DRH); (a Baird's reported from Garland County, Ark., Mar. 10 was too early to be accepted without details.) 400 dowitchers, about 75% Long-billed, were at Pascagoula R. marsh Apr. 29 (WCW); 106 Stilt Sandpipers were there May 14 (MH,EG); and 2500 Semipalmated Sandpipers there May 23 (WCW, JAT); 2000 Semipalmateds at Lonoke May 26 (E&HH, H&MP); 16 Sanderlings at Gallatin Steam Plant May 28 (D & PC); five plus early Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., Mar. 27-28 (PVD,JSP); and at Pascagoula R. marsh 194 Am. Avocets Apr. 15 (LJG,JAT,WCV) and 24 Wilson's Phalaropes Apr. 29 (WCW). Two Wilson's Phalaropes at Lonoke were very early Mar. 17 (E & HH) but most other shorebirds were late: an Am. Golden Plover at Eufaula Ref., Apr. 21 (DMB,JBO); an Upland Sandpiper near Belle



Mina, Limestone Co, Ala, May 8 (ALM, HHW), a Dunlin at Wheeler Ref. May 31 (RWL); a Short-billed Dowitcher at Swan Cr., near Wheeler May 28 (RWL); and a Marbled Godwit at Cat I., Miss., May 27 (JAT,WCW). Two Hudsonian Godwits were in Cameron Par., Apr. 21 (DBC,KSZ,PMM) and five more nearby May 5 (DBC,TJP,NK). A late N. Phalarope was at Lonoke May 26 (H&MP, E&HH).

**GULLS, TERNS** — A Glaucous Gull at Gulf Shores Feb. 28 (ADM,ALM) was at least the tenth for Alabama in nine years, and an ad Great Black-backed Gull at Pensacola Beach May 21 (RAD) represented the only summer (April-October) record for n.w. Florida. Laughing Gulls inland were near Greenville, Miss. (JAT,NHe,M.O.S.) and near Nashville (RM,JS) both May 12. About 40 early Franklin's Gulls in full breeding plumage passed through Lonoke Apr. 8 (DRH). Three very late Bonaparte's Gulls were at Pascagoula R. marsh May 23 (WCW,JAT). Sooty Terns on the Chandeleur Is., May 20 totalled 45 (RDP).

**DOVES, CUCKOOS, HUMMINGBIRDS** — A max. of five calling White-winged Doves Apr. 21-22, Cameron Par. (DBC) and throughout the last half of April may denote local breeding. Although Ground Doves are getting really scarce in Louisiana (DBC), better news comes from Eufaula Ref., where a max. of 35 was recorded Apr. 14 (DMB,JBO). Yellow-billed and Black-billed cuckoos were especially numerous with an early Yellow-billed in Homochitto N.F., Miss., Apr. 14 (HM). Although Nashville reported a bumper crop of caterpillars (MLB), also evident in Birmingham, the bad weather was probably also involved. The extent of the recent Groove-billed Ani flight was further shown by the dead adult found in Ville Platte, La., Feb. 11 (KF) identified by JBO as the second record for Evangeline Parish, both this winter. Nashville had its earliest ever Ruby-throated Hummingbird Mar. 24 (KSJ).

**FLYCATCHERS** — The Gray Kingbird, only recently found nesting on the offshore islands of Mississippi was not only the earliest ever for the state Apr. 13 but also on the mainland at Biloxi (PVD). Even one Least Flycatcher report is unusual for this Region: this year two at Eufaula Ref., Apr. 21 (DMB,JBO) were the earliest ever for Alabama and first for the inland Coastal Plain; and two in Arkansas May 29 in Hampton (DRH) and June 4 at Wilton (CM) were late. An Alder Flycatcher was identified in Little Rock May 25 (E&HH). After reporting all five *Empidonax* banded in late September, 1978 (AB 33:187), Imhof was told by the Bird Banding Office at Patuxent that Willow and Alder flycatchers cannot be separated by the same measurements Stein used to describe these two as species and that museum people use to specify specimens. Sounds like the A.O.U. Check-list Committee and the Bird Banding Office need some communication. Olive-sided, another rarely reported flycatcher, was reported five times: Apr. 30 at Wilton, Ark. (CM); May 5 in the Spsy Forest, Winston Co., Ala. (DMB,CDC); May 12 on Yazoo Ref., Miss. (WCW); May 25 in Little Rock (E&HH); and May 29 in Hampton, Ark. (DRH).

**SWALLOWS, CREEPER** — Latest ever swallows were a Tree May 28-31 at the Wheeler Ref. (RWL), and a Bank at Pace near Pensacola June 4 (BM). One earliest ever was a Rough-winged in Nashville Mar. 14 (MPS). The Barn Swallow population explosion continues with many reports in new areas suggesting or verifying breeding nearly throughout the Region. A very late Brown Creeper was in Hattiesburg Apr. 7 (LJG); and after a 1977 attempt nearby, the species raised five young in the Tigrett Wildlife Area, Dyer County for the first w. Tennessee nesting — ph., young, May 15 (WGC).

**THRUSHES, PIPITS, VIREOS** — Concentrations of Swainson's Thrushes were 1000+, Dauphin I., Apr. 27 (DMB) and 308 in Nashville May 12-13 (T.O.S.). Three Sprague's Pipits remained at the Bonnet Carre Spillway, La., until Apr. 7 when the spillway was opened (MW,RS). Most notable of several late Solitary Vireos were three in Marianna, Fla., May 2 (MGr). Four Black-whiskered Vireos were reported from Dauphin I., and Ft. Morgan Apr. 10-30 (LRT,m.ob.ph. — PFC). A Red-eyed Vireo at Pace Mar. 10 (CLK, m.ob.) was the earliest ever for n.w. Florida.

**WARBLERS** — At least seven singing Swainson's Warblers were reported from five Mississippi locations (WCW,LJG), and it appears this species is widespread and relatively easy to find in this Region if one knows its song well. A Worm-eating Warbler Mar. 31 in Clark County (H & MP) was the earliest ever for Arkansas. A Brewster's was in Cameron Par., Apr. 28 (MRo *et al.*). Blue-winged Warblers were more common than in the last 50 years around Memphis (BBC) and were very early in Birmingham Mar. 31 (HHW) and at Wheeler Ref., Apr. 4 (ALM,HHW). Tennessees were noted as especially numerous around Little Rock (E & HH) and on Dauphin I. (DMB), and two latest ever for Louisiana were in New Orleans May 24 (BMCK,JR). Early N. Parulas were at Pensacola Feb. 20 (MLM) and on Dauphin I., Feb. 24 (*vide* MAG). A late Yellow Warbler was in New Orleans May 31 (BMCK), and a late Magnolia was in Memphis June 4. Cape Mays peaked at 54 on Dauphin I., Apr. 27 (DMB) and a female got as far w. as Cameron Par., Apr. 28-29 (VR,LH,DT). A ♂ Black-throated Blue was on Horn I., Apr. 21 (JAJ,CDC); two more were seen 12 mi out in the Gulf with two Magnolias May 11 (RWH). Latest ever for Louisiana was a ♀ Black-throated Gray at Grand I., Apr. 1 (DBC,SAH). Late Blackburnians were one at Bellefontaine Beach, Miss., May 23 (JAT,WCW) and three singing males were at New Orleans May 25 (BMCK,JR). Earliest ever for Alabama was a Bay-breasted at Montevallo, Shelby Co., Apr. 16 (GDJ). Record early Blackpolls were on W. Ship I., Miss., Apr. 16 (SU) and at Malvern, Ark., Apr. 21 (H & MP).

An early Ovenbird was in Hattiesburg Apr. 2 (LJG). A late Louisiana Waterthrush singing in coastal Harrison County, Miss., May 21 (WCW) may have been a local breeder. Connecticut Warblers, which normally migrate rarely across the n.e. corner of the Region about May 1, were identified near Montevallo Apr. 7 (ALM,HHW) and in Birmingham Apr. 20 (HME), both earliest ever for Alabama. In Nashville where the species is a bit more usual, it was recorded Apr. 28 - May 1 (DP *et al.*) &

13 (ATT) One Mourning Warbler reported from Montevallo Apr. 21 (GDJ) was earliest ever for inland Alabama. Five were noted in Nashville May 19-28 (RRI,MPS,D&PC). Two Connecticut and a Mourning, reported even earlier from Wheeler Refuge must remain uncorroborated until adequate details are submitted. A Yellow-breasted Chat at LaPlace, La., Feb. 24 (MW) indicates that it wintered successfully. Four Wilson's Warbler records before me show its dual status: in Louisiana, Feb. 18 at LaPlace (MW), Mar. 22 at Reserve (MW), on Apr. 1 Grand Isle (DBC,SAH) and in Alabama one on Dauphin Apr. 28 (DMB,CDC), for the sixth coastal spring record — all within a week of May 1. An Am Redstart at St. Andrew's S.P., Bay Co., Mar. 26 (TF) was the earliest ever for n.w. Florida.

**BLACKBIRDS** — A flock of 1100 Bobolinks at Decatur, Ala., May 5 was 75% male (RWL). Western Meadowlarks were seen and heard Mar. 11 at Holla Bend Ref., Ark. (H&MP); Mar. 9-20 at Natchitoches, La. (CV), and Apr. 10 at Wilton, Ark. (CM). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported from DeQueen, Ark., Mar. 31 (TWh) and from Cameron Par., Apr. 15 & 22 where no fewer than 75 were seen on the latter date (DBC,SAH,KSZ,PMM). A N. (Bullock's) Oriole was in Natchitoches Mar. 18 - Apr. 22 (CV *et al.*) On Dauphin I., Apr. 27, 110 N. Orioles were counted (DMB). The Great-tailed Grackle has been found 30 mi farther n.e. in Arkansas at Prescott Mar. 20-22 (TW). Bronzed Cowbirds were present in Reserve (MW) and Metairie (NN), both w. of New Orleans, in May and June. At the latter place a young was begging from an Orchard Oriole on June 2.

**TANAGERS, FINCHES** — A ♂ W. Tanager, second record for inland Alabama, first in spring, was seen at Mentone on Lookout Mt., May 5 (BC). High counts from the Dauphin I. fallout of Apr. 27 included 185 Scarlet Tanagers, 1000+ Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and 82 Blue Grosbeaks (DMB). A Black-headed Grosbeak was at a Natchitoches feeder in March and April (CV,KSh). For the second consecutive year a singing Painted Bunting was in Starkville, where rare, May 30 - early June (WCW). The only reports of Evening Grosbeaks were of eight Mar. 5 and three Mar. 6, at Hot Springs, Ark. (S&LC,KWa,Ke). A ♀ House Finch was in Nashville Apr. 6-7 (MPS). Grasshopper Sparrows peaked at 18 on Apr. 21 at Eufaula Ref. (DMB,JBO) and at four on May 12 at Yazoo Ref., Miss. (M.O.S.). A Henslow's Sparrow, rarely listed in this Region in recent years, was identified on Dauphin I., Apr. 29 (JVP). A Lark Sparrow was in Cameron Par., Apr. 29 (JSS,m.ob.) A **Rufous-crowned Sparrow** was still noted on Magazine Mt., Ark., Apr. 25 (WMS). The most eastern member of this genus, Bachman's Sparrow, can still be found in numbers in the coastal plain of Mississippi — seven singing on May 10 at Latimer (MH,DK) and 10 on May 20 in DeSoto N.F. Clay-colored Sparrows were noted Apr. 29-30 at Farville, Craighead Co., Ark. (C&NL), first record for n.e. Arkansas; and Mar. 14 in Jackson County (MG,KWi), first spring record for n.w. Florida. A Fox Sparrow, banded at Starkville Mar. 31, was recaptured Apr. 24 and last seen, apparently with injured wing, Apr. 30 (NHu), all dates unprecedentedly late for this species.

A Song Sparrow on Horn I, Apr 20 (JAJ, CDC) was very late for the coast

**CORRECTION** — Delete the record of two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at Starkville Apr. 11, 1978 and substitute two at Bellefontaine Beach Apr. 12, 1978 (WCW). The recent article on Rufous Hummingbird East of the Mississippi R., Conway and Drennan, *AB* 33: 130-132 appears to include only the Atlantic states for no mention of the eight or more Alabama records is made.

**CONTRIBUTORS** (area editors in bold-face) — Alabama Ornithological Society, Sue Bell, **Michael L. Bierly**, Barbara Bodman (BBod), Bill Bowersox (BBow), D. Mark Brown, Jerry Case, Charles Clark, Dan Combs, C Dwight Cooley, Buddy Cooper, Dot & Paul Crawford, D. Bruce Crider, William G. Cris-

well, P Fairly Chandler Schuyler & Lucille Christian, **Ben B. Coffey**, Peter V Donaldson, Annette Duchain, Robert A. Duncan, Howard M. Einspahr, Florida Ornithological Society, Owen E. Fang, Keith Fontenot, Tom Francis, Mary A. Gaillard, Mary Gray (MGr), Larry J. Gates, Mike Gilson, Harland D. Guillory, Ernie Guyton, Edith and Henry Halberg, Linda Hale, Ralph W. Havard, Richard E. Hayward, Martha B. Hays, S. A. Heath, Nona Herbert (NHc), Mal Hodges, Nellie Hughes (NHu), David C. Hulse, David R. Hunter, **Thomas A. Imhof**, Greg D. Jackson, **Jerry A. Jackson**, Kemkes (Ke), **Curtis L. Kingsberry**, Helen H. Kittinger, Doug Knapp, Niels Krabbe, Louisiana Ornithological Society, Cheryl & Norman Lavers, Robert W. & Laurie A. Lowe, Mississippi Ornithological Society, Mary Lou Mattis, Mabel McDonald, Bill McKee, Paul M. McKenzie, Ruth McMillan, A. D. & Ann

L Miller, Bill Milmore, **Charles Mills**, Hal Moore, P & N Newfield, **Robert J. Newman**, J. Brent Ortego, Helen & Max H. Parker, T J Parker, James V. Peavy, James S. Perkins, Elizabeth Phelps, Dick Porter, R. Dan Pur-rington, Jack Reinoehl, Van Remsen, Richard Rimmer (RRI), Mark Robbins, Roberta Ross (RRO), David A. Rowland, Bette J. Schardien, Don Scott, John Sellars, William M. Shepherd, Ken Shaw (KSh), Katherine Simpkins (KSi), M. Pat Stallings, Ronald Stein, James S. Stewart, Tennessee Ornithological Society, Dan Tallman, Ann T. Tarbell, Alice G. Tait, Helen B. Thigpen, Lib R. Toenes, Judy A. Toups, Steve Umland, Charles Viers, Kenneth Walter (KWa), Melvin Weber, Wayne C. Weber, Betty & Tom Whitley, Katie Willis, (KWi), John T. Winn, Harriett H. Wright, K S. Zinn. — **THOMAS A. IMHOF, 1036 Pike Rd. Birmingham, Ala. 35218.**

## PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION /Bernard Gollop

March in Alberta was mild and dry but in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, it was generally cold and wet. April began with record cold and ended with widespread flooding in northern Alberta, extreme southern Saskatchewan and Manitoba. In between, cold and wet conditions persisted. Almost every weather station recorded above-normal snowfall with many having 300% of normal. In May most of the Prairies reported temperatures 2°-3°C below normal. Frost was common during the last week and snowfall was above normal for the month. Winnipeg had the coldest May in 34 years (*Environment Canada*).

Migration was generally reported to be one to two weeks late. In an attempt to get something more quantitative, a comparison was made of early arrivals in southeastern Saskatchewan, from Moose Jaw to the Manitoba border and from Quill Lakes to the United States boundary. The first three arrival dates from 12 reports were averaged and 1979 was compared to 1978, which was also on the late side. It was assumed that if the two years were similar, 1979 would have the same number of species earlier and later than 1978 and that the average number of days early and late would be equal. Seventy-eight percent of 151 species were later and 20% earlier than in 1978. Looking only at differences greater than five days, the ratio was nine late to one early species. For 118 late species, the difference averaged 7.8 days; for 29 early species, it was 4.5 days (four species arrived on the same dates). Net days late was 5.2. As would be expected, species that arrived in March were later than those arriving in May - ten days vs four days (24 and 54 species, respectively). Among ducks, 15 species averaged 9.9 days late, 23 species of shorebirds were 3.8 days late, eight warblers averaged 4.0 days late, and 12 species of sparrows were 5.5 days later than last spring.

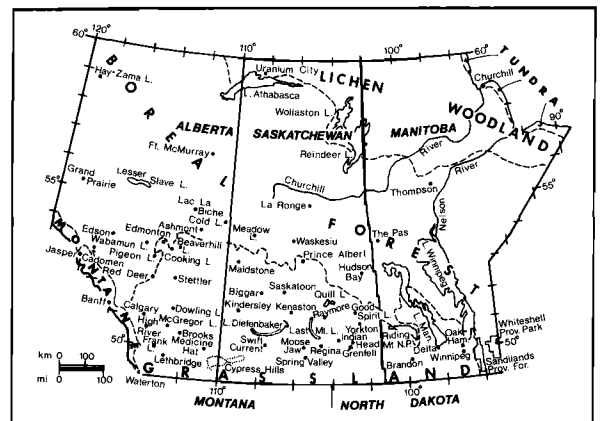
In summary, for this corner of Saskatchewan, almost four times as many species were later than might be expected compared to the already late 1978 and, on the average, the first

individuals were about five days later in 1979.

In Manitoba a wave of woodpeckers, thrushes and sparrows occurred April 15-18. Many remained in the south for a month, plus creepers, Yellow-rumped Warblers and Purple Finches. Cold weather caused noticeable mortality among Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Tree Swallows, martins and Mountain Bluebirds (RFK).

**LOONS THROUGH WADERS** — Single Arctic Loons occupied Miquelon and Pigeon lakes, Alta., May 17 (RJB,WRS). On May 4, 180 Com. Loons and 100 Red-necked Grebes were counted at Seven Sisters Dam, Man. (PT). Thirty miles of the South Saskatchewan R., w. of Saskatchewan Landing was used by 2000 W. Grebes Apr. 30 (DJN,GWG). Rarities were a **Green Heron** at Regina May 28-31 and a Great Egret found dead near Bruno, Sask., May 6 (MB *et al.*; RK); at least ten of the latter were reported from seven Manitoba localities (RFK). Three Cattle Egrets used the Oak-Hammock Marsh May 20-31 and a single bird was reported at Buck L., s. of Regina, Sask., May 22 (GDG,DF *et al.*; FWL). On Apr. 26 a Snowy Egret was found dead near Winnipeg and on May 3 another was seen on Chapleau Lake, Sask., (PK,GWB). American Bitterns were down in Manitoba (RFK).

**WATERFOWL** — A migration of 6000 Canada Geese passed over Spring Valley Apr. 20 (FB). On Apr. 26, 45,000 Snow Geese were estimated in the Kindersley-Kerrobert area (GWB,JRS). Duck populations in May were up over last year by 25% in s. Alberta, 43% in s. Saskatchewan and 16% in s. Manitoba. Mallard, Gadwall, wigeon, Green-winged and Blue-winged teal, N. Shoveler, Pintail, Red-head, scaup, Ring-necked and Ruddy ducks were up. Canvasbacks rose from 254,000 in 1978 to 388,000 this year. Among the common



species only Am. Goldeneye and Bufflehead were down in the s. Prairie Provinces (Canadian Wildlife Service — U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Rarities in Alberta include a ♂ Eur. Wigeon near Shepard Apr. 15 (MR), a pair of Wood Ducks at Medicine Hat May 17 (G&PG), a pair of Barrow's Goldeneyes on Miquelon L., May 17 (RJB) and three Old-squaw near Didsbury May 12 (C.F.N.S) There was a ♂ Cinnamon Teal at Winnipeg May 25 (DL) and a ♂ Eur. Wigeon at Killarney, Man., May 1 (KDS *et al.*). Two Greater Scaup were noted near Regina May 12 (FS) and, in contrast, they peaked at 700 at Seven Sisters Dam, Man., May 8 (PT).

**HAWKS, GROUSE** — Fifty Red-tailed Hawk nests were found in a 90/mi<sup>2</sup> block n w of Edmonton, indicating a high population (GRE). An ad. **Red-shouldered Hawk** established the second confirmed Manitoba record as it was seen and photographed near St Adolphe Mar. 31 and Apr. 3-11 (RWK,RFK, NM *et al.*). Rough-legged Hawks were down from last spring in Manitoba (RFK). Ospreys were reported down in the boreal forest of Saskatchewan (WCH,MS). A kestrel was seen n of its breeding grounds at Churchill Apr. 26 (BAC). Ruffed Grouse were down near Edmonton (GRE).

**CRANES, SHOREBIRDS** — From one to 15 Whooping Cranes were reported on 17

dates at 17 localities in Saskatchewan and Manitoba Apr. 19 - May 26. The most interesting record was of one seen near The Pas May 15 (EFW). Northwest flights of Sandhill Cranes in the order of 3000 birds were reported from Spring Valley Apr. 20 and Indian Head Apr. 30 (FB,MWS); near Edmonton cranes were migrating NW, May 7-14 with a peak of 6000 May 10 (GRE); the first birds (50) arrived at Churchill May 18 (BAC). A **Mountain Plover** nest along the Milk R., in late May may have been the first for Alberta (NK). A Whimbrel was seen and heard at Bottrel, Alta., May 29 (SJ). Five of seven Saskatchewan reporters felt that Upland Sandpipers were down. Butot saw a White-rumped Sandpiper and a Dunlin at Cheadle May 13 and two White-rumped at Sounding L., Alta., May 20. Two Ruffs were seen within Edmonton city limits May 6-10 (AdN *et al.*). Northern Phalaropes peaked at 18,000 May 26 around Saskatoon (S.N.H.S.).

**GULLS THROUGH OWLS** — Glaucous Gulls may now be regular, if rare, in Saskatchewan: they were reported from Perdue (one Apr. 30 — GW), Regina (two May 7-9 — LS, FWL), n. end of Last Mountain L. (one May 11, two May 17 — PST,JRC) and at Birch Hills (one May 19 — CD); all were in first or second year plumages. An ad. Iceland Gull photographed at Edmonton Apr. 29 may have represented the third Alberta record (TWT, AdN). A breeding colony of 3300 Franklin's Gulls was established by May 20 on Rice L., near Saskatoon (JBG). The first s. Manitoba record for Arctic Terns was obtained May 21 when two were studied in detail at St. Ambrose (IAW,PAH,WPN,GDG). A Mourning Dove was seen well n. of its breeding range Apr. 30 at Churchill (RH). Single Screech Owls were heard at Regina Beach Mar. 27 and near Regina on Apr. 1; one was found dead near Regina Mar. 29 (DG,RK,BL). Great Horned Owls were down n.e. of Edmonton where only four nests with two young each were found in 90/mi<sup>2</sup> (GRE). Snowy Owls were up in s. Alberta with 16 being seen in the Calgary-Carseland area Mar. 3 (JM), but down in most of s. Saskatchewan. The latest birds on the s. prairies were seven seen Apr. 19-22 in Saskatchewan, about three weeks later than in 1978. Nine Hawk Owls were banded near Hodgson, Man., Apr. 7 (RWN, HWC). Sixteen Short-eared Owls were seen in the Calgary-Carseland-Strathmore area Mar. 18 (JM).

**GOATSUCKERS THROUGH SHRIKES** — A **Whip-poor-will** was reported singing May 17-30, 30 mi w. of Edmonton, tentatively a first record for Alberta (Mr. Bell, *vide* GRE). A concentration of 24 Say's Phoebes was counted in 23 mi of highway s. of Maple Cr., Sask., May 5; none were present the next day (BCG,KMM). A leucistic Black-capped Chickadee managed to masquerade as a Gray-headed Chickadee for much of the winter in Edmonton. Under its alias, it became an international attraction. However, it began singing in March, mated with a Black-capped and had its true identification confirmed from a photograph by W.E. Godfrey, National Museum of Canada (TWT,GRE). Another Black-capped Chickadee was seen and photographed at Churchill Apr. 1, 5, 9, 16 and 22, far n. of its breeding range and provided a

first record for the area (BAC). Robins were particularly common in flocks the third week of April around Calgary and remained in flocks later than usual, *e.g.*, 154 Apr. 29 (DD), possibly owing to cold conditions farther n. (RJB). They also stayed in s. Manitoba later than usual (RFK). An estimated 300 Swainson's Thrushes occupied the Saskatoon Campus May 19 (MJL). With fewer than ten previous records, single Wood Thrushes were reported on four occasions in Manitoba: Apr. 29 in Winnipeg (KDS *et al.*); May 19 at Pinawa and May 26, 20 mi n.e. Pinawa (PT, NM,DG); June 1 at Altona (AS). Townsend's Solitaires were more common than usual around Calgary Apr. 17 - May 7 nine birds on five dates (RJB,JRR,CLH,DJS); singles also wandered to Edmonton Mar. 10 (PA), Good Spirit L., Apr. 16 (WJA) and Waskesiu Apr. 17-20 (MS). Most Bohemian Waxwings had left s. Saskatchewan by mid-April, as in 1978. Northern Shrikes were apparently moving N near Saskatoon Apr. 13 when six were seen and Apr. 16 when the same number was noted farther w. (JBG). Eight of 11 Saskatchewan correspondents reported Loggerhead Shrikes down.

**WARBLERS** — There were no pronounced peaks during a generally poor warbler migration. However, in Manitoba large numbers appeared May 16-17 (RFK). In Saskatchewan seven to 18 species were reported each day May 15-31 with the greatest variety of species May 28 and the next highest (14 species) May 29; numbers were highest May 15-21. A **Worm-eating Warbler**, the first for the Prairie Provinces, was studied, described and photographed during two hours in Saskatoon May 19 (MAG,MIH,JAS,GG). A ♂ Nashville Warbler was singing at Ft. Saskatchewan, Alta., May 10 (GRE). Two ♂ N. Parulas were also rarities in Regina May 28 (BL,FWL *et al.*). Cape May Warblers were unusually high in Manitoba, the peak being 20 in four hours May 26 at Pinawa-Sandilands P.F. (PT).

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES** — A Bobolink was unusual near Bottrel May 23 (SJ). Red-winged Blackbirds were missing from much of the Calgary area this spring to the extent that they were outnumbered by Yellow-headed (RJB). The same ratio occurred around Saskatoon but apparently owing to an increase in Yellow-headed (JBG). There was a concentration of at least 40 N. Orioles in Moose Mt. P.P., Sask., May 25 (RK). With fewer than ten previous Manitoba records, two ♂ W. Tanagers were photographed in Winnipeg on both May 13 & 14 (BR,GDG *et al.*). Single males of two rare buntings appeared in Saskatchewan: an Indigo May 31 was Regina's first and a Lazuli, photographed May 17 & 18, was the first in 12 years for Moose Jaw (TR,RK,FWL; EWK,PRK). Evening Grosbeaks and redpolls were up at Moose Mt. P.P., into May but down at eight other Saskatchewan areas, s. of Prince Albert (RD *et al.*). Pine Grosbeaks were everywhere down in Saskatchewan. A Gray-crowned Rosy Finch wintered until at least Mar. 30 at Pinawa, Man. (PT). A **Black-throated Sparrow** at Barrhead was the first for Alberta. It was described in detail from distances as close as one foot May 14-18 (M & PN). A Brewer's Sparrow was identified by song at Bottrel May 12 & 29 (SJ). Single Harris' Sparrows, w. of their normal

migration route, were seen at Calgary May 11 and at Botha May 19 (JRR, GPG). Migrant sparrows appeared in good numbers, mostly throughout the last half of May. Lapland Longspurs were noticeably down in s. Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

**CONTRIBUTORS** — (Area editors in bold-face), ALBERTA — P. Assmann, **R. J. Butot**, D. Denton, **G. R. Ebel**, G. and P. Greenlee, C. L. Hunt, S. Johnston, N. Kondla, J. Minty, A. del Nevo, M. and P. Norris, M. Rogers, J. R. Riddell, W. R. Salt, Calgary Field Naturalists' Society, D. J. Stiles, T. W. Thormin. MANITOBA — **B. A. Chartier**, H. W. Copland, D. Fast, D. Guinan, G. D. Grief, P. A. Horch, R. Hurst, P. Killeen, **R. F. Koes**, R. W. Knapp, D. Lemmon, N. Murdoch, W. P. Neily, R. W. Nero, B. Reed, K. DeSmet, A. Schmitt, P. Taylor, I. A. Ward, E. F. Whitney. SASKATCHEWAN — W. and J. Anaka, M. Belcher, F. Bogdan, G. W. Beyersbergen, J. R. Caldwell, R. Dixon, C. Dodge, B. C. Godwin, G. Galloway, **J. B. Gollop**, M. A. Galloway, M. I. Houston, W. C. Harris, E. W. Kern, P. R. Kern, R. Kreba, B. Luterback, F. W. Lahrman, M. J. Lewis, K. M. Meeres, D. J. Nieman, T. Riffel, F. Switzer, J. A. Simmon, J. R. Smith, L. Scott, M. Syroteuk, M. W. Skinner, Saskatoon Natural History Society, P. S. Taylor, G. Wapple. — **J. BERNARD GOLLOP**, Canadian Wildlife Service, 115 Perimeter Road, Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0X4.

## NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS

/Esther M. Serr

This spring was cold as usual and migration was two to three weeks late over the Region. Ice just did not melt and waterfowl sat on the margins and waited. Observers in northern South Dakota noted geese and ducks going back south 60 to 100 miles several times to feed along the Missouri River. The birds stacked up in the southern part of the state and ponds along I-90 were full of birds. Newspapers carried pictures of bird jams instead of the usual ice jams.

In April the worst flood of the century by four feet kept birders busy sandbagging in the Red River Valley of North Dakota. Ice didn't disappear on Ft. Peck Lake, in Montana until May 8 which probably caused the concentration of shorebirds there including a group of 125 Common Snipe from April 21-28 (CMC).

South Dakota observers sent in reports from 54 of the 65 counties of the state which probably is the best coverage there for a period of three months. It was evident that tough weather made unusual birding.

**LOONS THROUGH WADERS** — Forty Com. Loons were concentrated below Ft. Peck Dam owing to ice Apr. 20 (CMC) and additionally there was a total of 27 other sightings in the Region which is much more than usual. Single Red-necked Grebes were seen in North Dakota Apr. 28 - May 28 at Fargo, Rolla, Kelly's Slough and Upper Souris N.W.R. (MAB, PCH,DCA,IOR). Two were at Waubay N.W.R., S.D., May 8 (LLW). Western Grebes

increased slightly, but Pied-billed continued to be in low numbers except in South Dakota

The Missouri R., with its power dams and controlled water level, tends to provide security and food on the islands in the river below the dams. This habitat appeals to White Pelicans and the numbers reported indicated they should have another good year. The Great Blue Heron and its companion nester, the Double-crested Cormorant, also did well on the Missouri R., and its tributaries.

Green Herons came into s.e. South Dakota via the Missouri R., by Mar. 30 (KJH) and by May 19 a total of 12 sightings was reported in the state. North Dakota had five sightings May 16-31 at Turtle L. (TAG), Jamestown (CF), Fargo (MAB,CAS) and a pair at Grand Forks (DOL,SOL).

The egrets — Cattle, Great and Snowy — have become established in the n.e. corners of each of the three states — the pothole areas of the Region. Cattle Egrets arrived Apr. 10 at Jamestown (HK) and Apr. 26 at Sand Lake N.W.R., S.D. (RLW). Great Egret arrival dates were Apr. 16 at Waubay N.W.R. (HOS); Apr. 26 & 27 at Grand Forks (DOL) and Fargo respectively (GIO *et al.*). Snowy Egrets were first sighted at Burbank, S.D., Apr. 12 (KJH); two were at Bowdoin N.W.R., Apr. 17 (TP), one Apr. 30 at Billings, Mont. (HWC, BBF) and one at Kelly's Slough, N.D. (DOL *et al.*) During May Black-crowned Night Herons numbered 20 in McKenzie Slough, e. Bismarck, N.D. (RNR). A **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** surprised those living along Moccasin Cr., within Aberdeen, S.D., May 2 (RB *et al.*), and another was seen May 26 in Tacoma P., Brown County, S.D. (ECM). A **Least Bittern** was unusual at Long Lake N.W.R., N.D. (RNR *et al.*). American Bittern sightings showed an increase with 19 for the Region. Four were seen May 20 at Salyer N.W.R., N.D. (RLB).

At least three White-faced Ibises were in e. Montana in Stillwater and Phillips Counties (CD) and Bowdoin N.W.R. (TP) Apr. 25 - May 27. One was at Long Lake N.W.R., May 13 (RAS) and four were at Sand Lake N.W.R., S.D. (SJW).

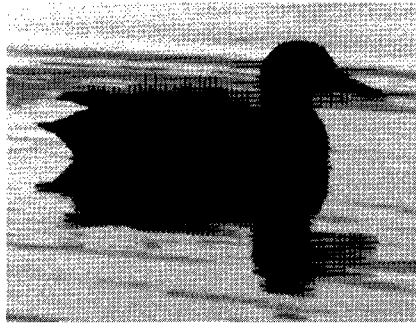
**GEESE AND DUCKS** — A six million pound dragline with a boom the length of a football field is used to mine coal at the Tongue River Res., Big Horn Co., Mont. Geese, Great Blue Herons and Osprey nest at this reservoir. A Canada Goose took over an Osprey nest nearly 80 ft high within 50 ft of the dragline in all the dust and noise of the mining operations (EP,HD).

Snow Geese peaked at 210,000 on Apr. 15 at Sand Lake N.W.R., which is one of their main staging areas (SJW). A nearly continuous skein of flocks of 300 totaling 25,000 moved up the James R., N.D., in a half hour on Apr. 21. A peak of 75,000 moved through Salyer N.W.R., N.D. (RLB).

A strange looking duck at Ft. Peck Res., May 1 was believed to be a Green-winged X Blue-winged Teal hybrid (D. Skaar, ph., CMC). A pair of Cinnamon Teal was in s. Custer County, S.D., Apr. 24 (EMS) and a pair was seen at Eagle Butte ponds, Dewey Co., S.D., Apr. 25 (DLB). Singles were at Ft. Peck and Phillips Cos., Mont., May 10-20 (CMC,CD) and at s.e. Bismarck and Turtle Lake, N.D., May 12-24 (DMR,SCR).

Wood Ducks flourished over the Region.

Canvasbacks remained scarce, however, 50 were seen May 1 on Bierman W.P.A., Brown Co., S.D. (D. Linehan). Ring-necked Duck reports have never been so numerous from South Dakota. In Yankton and Bon Homme Cos., S.D., Apr. 8, 27 were counted (WH).



*Possible hybrid Blue-winged X Green-winged Teal, Ft. Peck, Mont. Photo/C. M. Carlson. Photos are being circulated to experts.*

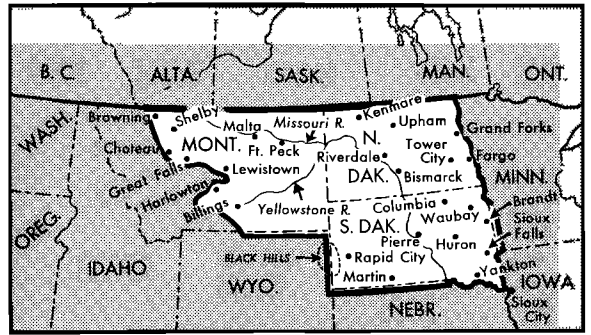
**RAPTORS** — The Blue List species of this group were generally increased in number which could be owing to better coverage by observers. A movement of 65 *Accipiters* in one hour, mainly Sharp-shinned, was noted along the Red R., at Grand Forks (DOL). Only five Cooper's Hawks were reported in the Region. Observers near river valleys all reported a good Red-tailed Hawk movement and many nests were active in South Dakota by early April.

Two **Red-shouldered Hawks** were reported from Fargo Apr. 1 & May 9 (CWC,RT). Broad-winged Hawks were far more than is usual in North Dakota with seven May 12 at Minot (GBB). There were two at Waubay N.W.R. (RRJ); one at Sand Lake N.W.R. (RE,PE); and another was unusual in Phillips County, Mont. (CD). A migrating flock of 88 Swainson's Hawks was on the ground and 40 in the air at s. Hermosa, S.D., Apr. 24 (BMN).

Bald Eagle numbers were much higher than those of Golden Eagle. All members of the falcon group were reported much more than is usual and the seldom-mentioned Merlin totalled seven in the Region. Four Peregrine Falcons were seen, in Montana and North Dakota.

**GALLINACEOUS BIRDS** — Greater Prairie Chickens were booming this spring in the grasslands along the Missouri R., S.D. On Apr. 16 in Gregory County 104 were counted (D. Lengkeek, GLS) and 25 were seen at the edge of prairie dog towns in the Ft. Pierre area (JLB,EMS). The traditional booming grounds around Grand Forks were vacant and the Sharp-tailed Grouse have increased instead, (R. Crawford, DOL). Sage Grouse were the least reported in this group. A flock of 150 Turkeys was on Preacher Smith Hill, Deadwood, S.D., Mar. 23 (DLB).

**CRANES THROUGH RAILS** — There



were four **Whooping Cranes** seen over Yankton County, S.D., Apr. 15 (JEW) and at least seven in the Crosby, N.D. area Apr. 12-20 (TLF). An estimated 10,000 Sandhills went over Ft. Peck in two hours Apr. 15 (CMC). Rail populations are increasing with the most notable being Sora. Five Virginia Rails were seen May 2 — at Long Lake N.W.R. (WAB). At Kelly's Slough near Grand Forks the seldom reported **Yellow Rail** was flushed several times on May 12 and by the clicking sounds there may have been up to four birds (Lambeths,JFK,FFK).

**SHOREBIRDS** — A total of 29 Piping Plovers and two nests with eggs were reported from the three states. A flock of 750 Am. Golden Plovers was seen at Spiritwood L., Jamestown, N.D., May 14 (CF); 150 Black-bellieds were at Rolla May 23 (PCH) and 50 Ruddy Turnstones were at Rush L., S.D. (RRJ).

American Woodcock were seen along the e. border of the Region from Brookings, S.D. (NJH) up through Fargo and Pembina County, N.D., Mar. 31 - May 27 (FJC,GCB,ERF). A flock of 20 Whimbrel was unusual at Ft. Peck May 20-24 (CMC). Upper Souris N.W.R., had 100 Pectoral Sandpipers May 13. A flock of 30 Dunlin was seen e. of Astoria, S.D., May 27 (GF). Observers continued to send in reports of Short-billed Dowitcher from both Dakotas. The *Birds of South Dakota* (1978) lists the status as uncertain. Two Red Knot were at the w. end of Ft. Peck L., May 23 (CMC). Hudsonian Godwit numbers were out of the ordinary in the Dakotas Apr. 19-29 with 200± in scattered places. A **Ruff** with brownish tufts was in Kelly's Slough May 8-10 after one was seen there in 1978 with white tufts. This bird displayed to a bird believed to be a Reeve (Lambeths *et al.*). One Black-necked Stilt was at Brown's L., near Billings, Mont., Apr. 30 (HWC,BBF). The Lambeths found 5000 N. Phalaropes May 20 at L. Williams, McLean Co., N.D.

**GULLS AND TERNS** — Glaucous Gulls were seen at Kelly's Slough Apr. 19 (PID) and at Ft. Peck May 9 (CMC). Almost 100 Com. Tern sightings were sent in from throughout the Region. Caspian Terns were seen Apr. 14 in Cass County, N.D. (PJD,VSS) and May 12 at Ft. Peck (CMC). Black Tern reports were few but several came from South Dakota.

**CUCKOOS THROUGH PICIDAE** — Ten Black-billed Cuckoos were seen in 2.5 highway mi May 28 at Yankton (WH). Two Screech Owls in a nest box May 27 provided a new species for the Bowdoin N.W.R. list (TP). A pair of Great Horned Owls had two young in a nest pan on a tilted goose platform in a flooded creek at Belvidere, S.D., May 18-28 (DHD,

EMS) The latest date for a Snowy Owl observation was May 1 at Salyer N.W.R. (WJB). Burrowing Owl numbers were fairly good considering the poisoning program on the National Grasslands. A Barred Owl was seen at Fargo Mar. 15 (PWA) and two were seen in Pembina County, N.D. (SOL,DOL). A pair of Long-eared Owls had three downy young May 27 at Bowdoin N.W.R. (JCC,CMC). Whip-poor-wills were so numerous Apr. 22 - May 15 that it was difficult to sleep along the Missouri R., in s. Clay and Union Cos., S.D. (RAP). A Red-bellied Woodpecker was at its nest hole May 20 on the Eagle Ref., Gregory County, S.D. (JLB,EMS,NRW *et al.*).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CORVIDS** — Four Great Crested Flycatchers were found May 20 on the Eagle Ref., S.D. After being scarce in 1978, Say's Phoebes were numerous and a nest with eggs was found at Chester, Mont., May 29 (HMM). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers are seldom reported but one was banded May 24 at Oakwood Lakes S.P., S.D. (GCR); two were seen at Bismarck May 17 & 30 (RQ,KJJ) and one was at Jamestown May 18-20 (CF).

Piñon Jays averaged seven daily in March near Spearfish, S.D. (RMH); six were at Robinson Flats, Fall River Co., S.D. (CPN). A sighting of a Com. Raven was reported with details from Salyer N.W.R. (RLB).

**NUTHATCHES THROUGH SHRIKES** — Two Pygmy Nuthatches were observed Mar. 12 & May 15 at Rapid City (NRW). A Wood Thrush was a highlight along the Missouri R., s. Union County, S.D. (RAP). Mockingbirds were found at n. Kinsey, Mont., May 8 (J. Swenson, *vide* D. Skaar) and at Upper Souris N.W.R., May 27 (IOR). Four Sage Thrashers was a good find at Broadview, Mont., Apr. 27 (HWC,BBF). Two Hermit Thrushes were at Bruce S.D., Apr. 18 (ERE); one at Brookings Apr. 26 (CAT) and one in Hyde County, S.D., May 4 (JHH). Transient Gray-checked Thrushes totalled 15 and Swainson's Thrushes peaked at 50 in one hour in May at Minot (GBB). Eastern Bluebirds died from cold rain in Hyde County, S.D., and none came back to Grand Forks this spring (DOL). Mountain Bluebirds were out of range in the e. part of

the Dakotas (GSL,DOL,JEW) A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** Apr. 28 was the second sighting in two years at Rapid City (JLB). Ruby and Golden-crowned kinglets were more numerous in the Region. At Lostwood N.W.R., N.D., 12 Sprague's Pipits were heard Apr. 22 (KAS) and 50 Water Pipits were seen in a field in Fairburn, S.D., Apr. 26 (BMN). Seven Bell's Vireos were seen and heard May 26-27 near Farmingdale, S.D. (JLB,EMS). Blue-listed Warbling Vireos and Loggerhead Shrikes were numerous and there were shrike nestlings by May 31 at Yankton, S.D. (WH).

**WARBLERS** — South Dakota recorded 27 species of warblers. A Prothonotary was found in willows along a small creek with Black-and-white Warblers May 11 near Reliance, S.D. (WCT). A Golden-winged Warbler was noted at Fargo May 18 after being seen there May 22, 1978. A **Blue-winged Warbler** was sighted May 7 in Hyde County, S.D., where it had not been seen since May 8, 1965 (JHH). Townsend's Warblers rarely wander e. of the Rockies but one was at Chester, Mont., May 22 (HMM). A **Hooded Warbler** was a rare sighting at Aberdeen, S.D., Apr. 29 - May 1 (DD *et al.*). Brookings, S.D., was the spot for warblers with casual transients such as Cerulean, Blackburnian, Connecticut and Canadas observed from May 10-26 (NJH,CF,GCR). Another unusual visitor was the **Louisiana Waterthrush** in Ransom County, N.D., May 23 (CF). Observer CF is familiar with the species and its song in Wisconsin.

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS** — One or more Scarlet Tanagers were sighted Apr. 27 - May 27 at Fargo (FJC *et al.*) and a female was seen at Grand Forks May 26 (JFK *et al.*). Black-headed Grosbeaks were photographed e. of their range May 20-31 at Jamestown and Fargo (CF,BFC *et al.*). Single White-winged Crossbills were at Jamestown Apr. 13-14 (CF) and at Bismarck Apr. 23 & 25 (RNR).

Sparrows not usually reported included five Sharp-taileds May 8 at Sand Lake N.W.R., S.D. (RE). Small nesting colonies of Baird's were found at Minot and Upper Souris N.W.R. (GBB). A Le Conte's was seen at Waubay N.W.R., May 8 (LLW). Single

Gray-headed Juncos were seen in April in Custer S.P., S.D. (RLS) and in Hyde County, S.D., May 7 (JHH). Fox Sparrows were at Brookings Mar. 15 and Apr. 3 (CAT), and one was at Sand Lake N.W.R., May 24 (RE) Seven McCown's Longspurs were viewed closely at Eagle Butte, S.D., Apr. 25 (DLB) A ♂ Smith's Longspur in summer plumage was at Kelly's Slough, N.D., May 1 (JFK) Grasshopper Sparrow sightings were exceedingly few — five in South Dakota and one in North Dakota.

**CORRIGENDUM** — AB 33:189. Last sentence of second paragraph under **RAPTORS** should read "One Bald Eagle was seen 15 mi e. of Judson, N.D., Nov. 24 (GCB) "

**CORRIGENDUM:** AB 32:1022 under **CRANES, RAILS** should read: a total of 24 **Whooping Cranes** sighted Apr. 10 - May 15 in Divide and Williams Cos. (RAS).

**CONTRIBUTORS** — (area editors in boldface). MONTANA — C. M. Carlson, H. W. Carlson, J. C. Carlson, C. Dahlen, H. Downing, B. B. FitzGerald, H. M. Marble, E. Pitcher, T. Planz. NORTH DAKOTA — D. C. Anderson, P. W. Aschbacher, W. J. Berg, M. A. Bergen, G. B. Berkey, G. C. Brucker, R. L. Bryant, W. A. Buresh, F. J. Cassel, B. F. Corwin, C. W. Corwin, P. J. Dubowy, C. Faanes, E. R. Fissinger, T. L. Fuller, T. A. Gatz, P. C. Hart, K. J. Johnson, F. F. Kelley, J. F. Kelly, H. Kantrud, D. O. Lambeth, G. S. Lambeth, S. O. Lambeth, G. I. Oliver, R. Quanrud, R. N. Randall, D. M. Rieckmann, I. O. Rostad, S. C. Rothe, R. A. Schmidt, K. A. Smith, C. A. Spurbeck, V. S. Steinhaus, R. Thierolf. SOUTH DAKOTA — J. L. Baker, D. L. Bjerke, R. Birdseye, D. Downs, D. H. Dudgeon, E. R. Edie, P. Evans, R. Evans, G. Froiland, W. Hall, J. H. Harter, R. M. Hickenbotham, N. J. Holden, K. J. Hoover, R. R. Johnson, E. C. Montgomery, C. P. Nichols, B. M. Nordstrom, R. A. Peterson, G. C. Rogge, E. M. Serr, H. O. Smith, R. L. Spomer, G. L. Steffen, C. A. Taylor, W. C. Thietje, S. J. Waldstein, L. L. Watters, N. R. Whitney, J. E. Wilcos, R. L. Wright — **ESTHER M. SERR, 615 - 8th St., Rapid City, S.D. 57701.**

## SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

/Frances Williams

Spring migration was marked by an unusual abundance of normally occurring species, but very few "first records". Warblers received the most enthusiastic reports. At Omaha, Melba Wigg reported: "The warbler migration was the best in at least ten years." At Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Nebraska, Fred Zeilemaker noted: "A spectacular wave of passerines, particularly warblers, descended May 14." In Tulsa, Elizabeth Hayes stated: "Exceptionally good migration, literally raining warblers in May. A total of 27 species and many individuals reminded me of High Island, Texas in April." At College Station, Texas, Keith Arnold reported: "The best spring migration in thirteen years. Warblers, thrushes and catbirds everywhere." Fort Worth birders counted 448 individual warblers May

5. In Nacogdoches, Texas, David Wolf reported on a fall-out which occurred May 4. "After heavy storms that flooded some areas of town we found restless bands of warblers and other migrants everywhere. Some of the species counts were higher than we have ever had before. There must have been huge numbers of warblers downed over the whole area."

**LOONS THROUGH ANHINGAS** — Common Loons remained until late May at Tulsa, Buffalo Lake, N.W.R., Tex., and Polk County, Tex. An **Arctic Loon** was carefully studied at Buffalo L., May 19-20 (BZ,KZ *et al.*). A Red-necked Grebe was observed in Douglas County, Neb., May 13 (WD). The Least Grebe which wintered in Big Bend N.P., remained until Apr. 1. Western Grebes remained in Douglas County until May 15 and Cimarron County, Okla., until May 27. At Arlington, Tex., a near collision between a flock of 300 White Pelicans and a F-4 Phantom Jet was witnessed

Apr. 12 (KN). During April, 1500 White Pelicans were present at both Marais des Cygnes and Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A.s, Kans., and large flocks were also present in Douglas and Sarpy Cos., Neb. Double-crested Cormorants were present in unusual numbers, with 542 counted at Ft. Worth May 5; 400 at John Redmond Res., Kans., Apr. 14; 250 at Crescent Lake N.W.R., Neb., May 15; and 100 at Tulsa Mar. 6. An Olivaceous Cormorant at Tulsa May 6-7 provided a first county record (JCH *et al.*). Two Anhingas flew over the Texas A & M Campus Apr. 1 (HH) and a flock of 29 was observed near Kosse, Tex., Apr. 19 (KA).

**HERONS THROUGH WATERFOWL** — Nests containing young Yellow-crowned Night Herons were discovered at Bryan, Tex., May 21 and Tulsa May 1. Cattle Egrets were common in Big Bend N.P., during April. A Least Bittern was seen at Ft. Worth Apr. 28. Two ad. Roseate Spoonbills were at an Anhinga



nesting colony in Walker County May 15 This represents the only e Texas spring record (JF) A Whistling Swan was reported in Osage County, Okla., Mar. 25 (EHi). Cinnamon Teal were sighted at six localities in the e. half of the Region. A Garganey accompanied a flock of 75 Blue-winged Teal in Roger Mills County, Okla., May 2 (RR,TF). This may have been an escapee but it was a long way from the nearest zoo Late records were provided by a Surf Scoter at Midland Apr. 29 - May '20, a Greater Scaup at Crescent L., Apr. 4 and an Oldsquaw in Randall County, Tex., Apr. 7. Hooded Mergansers were seen at six localities.

**RAPTORS** — A White-tailed Kite was discovered in Walker County Apr. 4 (KBB) and a Swallow-tailed Kite in Polk County, Tex., May 8 (EPE). At Ft. Worth, 124 Mississippi Kites were counted May 5. This species was again present in Big Bend N.P., in May. Very late Goshawks were sighted in Pawnee County, Kans., Apr. 23 (SS), Crescent L., Apr. 29 (CFZ) and at Wichita May 14 (DV). The reports of Red-shouldered Hawks were encouraging. Two active nests were discovered in Cleveland County, Okla., Mar. 27 (WI). Seven pairs were present in Washington County, Okla., four pairs at Tulsa, and a total of 11 adults was counted at Ft. Worth May 5. Once again no flocks of migrating Swainson's Hawks were sighted anywhere in the Region. Two Broad-winged Hawks at Lubbock May 7 provided a first record there (DS *et al.*). Zone-tailed Hawks are common in Big Bend N.P., and are frequently misidentified as Black Hawks. There were two reliable sightings of Black Hawks this spring: Mar. 21 and May 2. A Marsh Hawk at Ft. Worth May 5 was late. The population of Marsh Hawks at Crescent L. was significantly below the 1978 level. A **Gyrfalcon** harassed a Marsh Hawk at Crescent L., Mar. 3 (CFZ). There were four sightings of Peregrine Falcons at Crescent L., but only two were reported in the remainder of the Region. On Apr. 7, Merlins in Linn County, Kans., and Sarpy County, Neb., provided late records. Many Am. Kestrels were present in the El Paso area in late May (breeding?) and a pair was nesting at the mouth of Santa Elena Canyon in Big Bend, N.P.

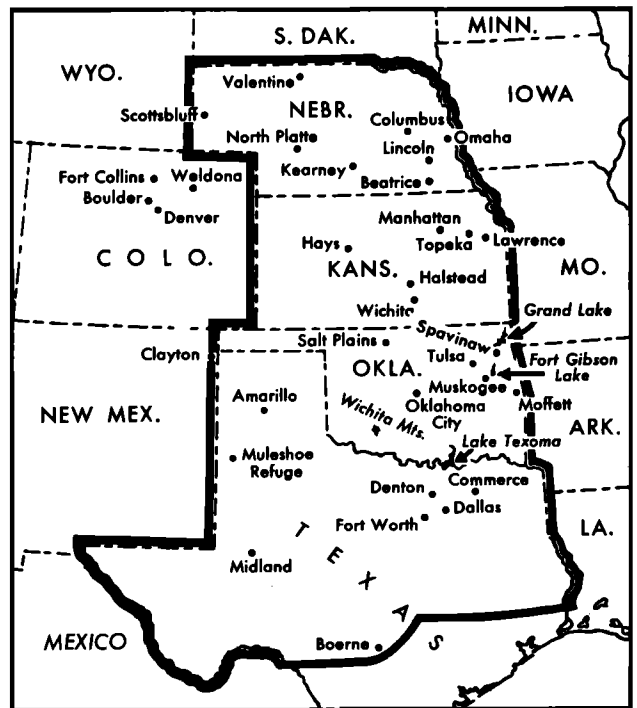
**GROUSE THROUGH RAILS** — The population of Sharp-tailed Grouse at Crescent L. was greatly reduced following last summer's hail storms and the severe winter. Kansas Game and Fish personnel reported an 81% winter loss of Bobwhites (*vide* DV). Five Montezuma Quail were observed in Big Bend, N.P., June 2 (LY). As this species was extirpated from the Park by 1940, this sighting may indicate the population of Montezuma Quail in Jeff Davis County is expanding into neighboring areas. Wild Turkeys were found near Tulsa. On Mar. 10, Zeilemaker observed two marked Sandhill Cranes among a flock of 1500 in Garden County, Neb. One of the marked cranes had been fitted with its green neck collar in w. Texas. The other had a yellow collar which it had acquired at Clarence Rhode N.W.R., Alaska. Virginia Rails were sighted in Ellis County, Kans., May 21 and at Tulsa May 18. A Purple Gallinule was present in Big Bend N.P., Mar. 21 (RJ).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Piping Plovers were located in Coffey County, Kans., Apr. 14 and

Lyon County, Kans., Apr. 12 At Quivera N.W.R., Kans., 20 Snowy Plovers were counted Apr. 22. No more than two were reported from any other locality. The nest of a **Mountain Plover** was found in the Davis Mts., Tex., May 23 (RJS,PE). This is the first nesting of the species in the Trans-Pecos region since Van Tyne and Sutton reported it in 1937. At Arlington, Tex., seven Ruddy Turnstones were observed May 23. A single individual was at Midland, Tex., May 20. In Brazos County, Tex., an Am. Woodcock with four chicks was sighted Mar. 28. At Cheyenne Bottoms 25 Whimbrels were counted May 17. A single bird appeared at Arlington May 22. A pair of Upland Sandpipers with chicks was discovered in Tulsa County May 31 (H&WE). White-rumped Sandpipers were unusually common in n.c. Texas, and one was recorded in Phillips County, Kans., June 1 (CAE). Dunlins were noted at Midland Mar. 22, Arlington May 23, Tulsa May 20, Lyon County Apr. 30 and Osage County, Kans., May 13. Sanderlings visited Douglas County May 5-12 and Crescent L., May 13. A remarkable number of Buff-breasted Sandpipers was located. At Oklahoma City 250 were counted May 12. There were "dozens" at York, Neb., May 15, five in Pawnee County May 15 and reports of one or two birds at several other localities. Hudsonian Godwits were seen at Balmorhea L., Reeves Co., Tex., May 12, Lyon County Apr. 12 and Osage County, Kans., May 13. In Osage County, Okla., a N. Phalarope provided an unusual spring record Apr. 29.

**GULLS AND TERNS** — Two Glaucous Gulls were sighted in Osage County, Kans., Mar. 6 (JS) and one was at North Platte N.W.R., Neb., Mar. 28 (SF,CFZ). Laughing Gulls were reported at Huntsville, Tex., Apr. 15 (RRM,KBB), Polk County, Tex., May 11 (KBB) and Oklahoma City May 19 & 28 (JGN). Forster's Terns visited Ft. Worth May 5 and Tulsa Apr. 21 & 28. Twelve Least Terns frequented a sandbar in the Arkansas R., at Tulsa May 10-29. One or two were noted at Midland May 20, Sedgwick County, Kans., May 20 and Douglas County May 31. Caspian Terns were widespread in the e. third of the Region. Black Terns were absent or appeared in low numbers except at Tulsa, where 80 were counted May 12. One at Huntsville Apr. 22 provided one of the few records there (RRM, KBB).

**DOVES THROUGH OWLS** — White-winged Doves at Amarillo May 11 and Irion County, Tex., Apr. 17 were unexpected. A Ground Dove spent the first week of April in Walker County. An Inca Dove on a nest in Tarrant County, Tex., Mar. 23 provided a new



nesting record. Yellow-billed Cuckoos were abundant everywhere, but Ft. Worth birders deserve applause for finding 101 secretive cuckoos during their spring count May 5 Black-billed Cuckoos are becoming more common on the plains each year. They are now regular summer residents in Douglas and Sarpy Cos., and at Wichita. Other sightings were Walker County May 2, Nacogdoches, Tex., Apr. 30, Comanche County, Okla., May 5 and Oklahoma City May 26. A Groove-billed Ani was observed in Big Bend N.P., May 13 (BZ).

In early April, Barn Owls were found nesting in a grain elevator at Bushland, Tex. On Apr. 7, the Nebraska Ornithological Union and the Wilson Ornithological Society were meeting at Omaha, Neb. The headquarters were in a motel on a very busy thoroughfare, but on a fence post less than 100 yards from the motel stood a real, live Burrowing Owl. Some 200 birders from 27 states spilled out of the conference rooms to see the first Burrowing Owl at Omaha in 60 years. Long-eared Owls provided excitement at Ft. Worth Apr. 5 and May 25, Buffalo L., Mar. 25, Amarillo Mar. 29 and Tulsa Apr. 2 A Saw-whet Owl was found dead at Buffalo L (KS).

**GOATSUCKERS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — Chuck-will's-widows were heard in Sarpy County May 24 and Douglas County May 20. A Whip-poor-will was heard in Pawnee County May 21. A Poor-will was netted in Ellis County May 9. A Lesser Nighthawk was seen and heard at College Station, Tex., Apr. 22 (KA). A Black-chinned Hummingbird visited a feeder in Sherman, Tex., Mar. 30 - Apr. 15, providing one of the few spring records there (JN,CRB). One was seen in Comanche County May 5. Visitors to Big Bend N.P., in late May found Black-chinned, Broad-tailed, Blue-throated, Rivoli's and Lucifer hummingbirds. Two Lucifer Hummingbird nests located June 1 & 5 contained

eggs. A Rufous Hummingbird at Waco Mar. 29 constituted an unusual spring record (JD).

**WOODPECKERS AND FLYCATCHERS** — A Red-headed Woodpecker in Big Bend N.P., June 10 provided a third park record. A Lewis' Woodpecker was found at Midland Mar. 3 (P&JN). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers lingered at Ft. Worth until Apr. 28 and in Walker County until May 5. A Ladder-backed Woodpecker appeared at Hagerman N.W.R., May 5. Eastern Kingbirds visited Midland May 12 (JAM) and Big Bend N.P., May 18 (CWS *et al.*). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher strayed to Sarpy County May 18 (MW). An Ash-throated Flycatcher in Jackson County, Okla., May 5 (JDT) and a Say's Phoebe in Wichita County, Tex., Apr. 5 (LS) were n.e. of their usual ranges. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was observed at Ft. Worth May 26 (MP). About 50 Least Flycatchers were present at Crescent L., May 14 and various *Empidonax* were abundant throughout the Region. At Ft. Worth 177 were counted May 5. *Empidonax* flycatchers and Olive-sided Flycatchers were still present in many areas at the of the period. Vermilion Flycatchers were sighted at Waco Mar. 22 and Johnson County, Tex., Mar. 9.

**SWALLOWS THROUGH CREEPERS** — A Cave Swallow colony was found in a low highway culvert on U.S. 290 in Kimble County, Tex., May 12 (CWS *et al.*). Scrub Jays were still present at Hueco Tanks S.P., Tex., Apr. 21 (KZ) and were sighted in Big Bend N.P., Mar. 20 and Apr. 20. Piñon Jays also remained late. There were two in Midland Apr. 10; 30 in El Paso May 11 and four in the Davis Mts., May 14. A Clark's Nutcracker was noted in Big Bend N.P., Feb. 28 (LF). The Mountain Chickadee which wintered at Amarillo remained until Mar. 11. Other late migrants were Red-breasted Nuthatches at Buffalo L., May 19 and Big Bend N.P., May 3, and a Brown Creeper at Ft. Worth May 5.

**WRENS THROUGH THRUSHES** — Good details were submitted on the observation of a possible Brown-throated Wren in Big Bend N.P., May 15 (CWS, GL). It was in a lowland riparian habitat, which the species normally does not visit. But the high peaks of the Sierra del Carmen where Brown-throated Wrens nest were visible from the spot where the bird was seen. Carolina Wrens and Bewick's Wrens remain in low numbers throughout the Region. A Gray Catbird was sighted in Big Bend N.P., May 12 (BZ, KZ). A Crissal Thrasher was feeding a fledgling at Hueco Tanks Apr. 21 (KZ) and a pair tending a fledgling in Big Bend N.P., Apr. 20 represented the earliest park nesting record (DW, RAR).

A Varied Thrush visited Idalou, Tex., Mar. 8-20 (m.ob.). Wood Thrushes were seen in Big Bend N.P., May 12 (BZ, KZ) & 19 (RIS). A Gray-cheeked Thrush was found dead in Brazos County, Tex., May 2 and one was sighted in Big Bend N.P., May 2. Veeries were reported at Ft. Worth, Nacogdoches, Tex., Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Sarpy County, and Crescent L., Apr. 21 - May 28. Townsend's Solitaires wandered far E of their normal range in Texas and remained surprisingly late. They were seen in Grayson County Apr. 7-16, Wichita County Mar. 10, Kerr County May

24, Crosby County May 6 and Hueco Tanks Apr. 21.

**KINGLETS THROUGH VIREOS** — The only Golden-crowned Kinglets reported were in Kerr County and Bartlesville, Okla., both Mar. 13. At Dewey, Okla., a N. Shrike was sighted Mar. 2 (SK) and one remained at Crescent L., until Mar. 12. Five Black-capped Vireos were found in Irion County, Tex., Apr. 16. A White-eyed Vireo was discovered in Crockett County, Tex., May 13 (CWS, GL) and one was sighted in Big Bend N.P., Apr. 18 (DW, RAR). Six contributors state that the population of Bell's Vireos had increased this spring. Yellow-throated Vireos were w. of their usual range at Lubbock May 6 and Midland May 1, and arrived at College Station on the early date Mar. 29. An amazing 65 Solitary Vireos were counted at Ft. Worth May 5. A Gray Vireo was photographed (T.C.W.C.) in Crockett County May 13 (GL) and one was observed in Irion County Apr. 17 (CCW). Whether the flurry of recent Gray Vireo observations on the w. Edwards Plateau represents a range expansion or merely an increase in birders is a matter for speculation. Five Warbling Vireos visited Muleshoe N.W.R., Tex., May 20; 46 were tallied at Ft. Worth May 5 and several were sighted in College Station in late April.

**WARBLERS** — A Swainson's Warbler at Lubbock May 7-9 was far from its usual habitat (DS). The uncommon Worm-eating Warbler was reported at nine localities from College Station Apr. 20 to Crescent L., May 16. Golden-winged Warblers were recorded at Big Bend N.P., College Station, Denison, Tex., Walker and Sarpy Cos. Blue-winged Warblers visited Washington County, Okla., Osage County, Okla., Cowley County, Kans., and Sarpy County. Tennessee Warblers strayed W to Midland May 10, Potter County, Tex., Apr. 29 and Crescent L., May 13. Magnolia Warblers were sighted at six localities in the e. half of the Region and at Ellis County, Kans., in the w. Cape May Warblers appeared in Big Bend N.P., Apr. 24 (LdMJA) and Ellis County, Kans., May 8 & 16 (CAE, MER). Except in Trans-Pecos, Texas, western warblers were very scarce. A Townsend's Warbler was seen in Potter County Apr. 28 (PA) and a Hermit Warbler spent two days at Midland Apr. 21-22 (P&JN *et al.*). Golden-cheeked Warblers were rarely seen away from the Edwards Plateau area of Texas so one at Tyler, Tex., Apr. 21 was noteworthy (SSa). The seldom reported Cerulean Warbler was seen in Limestone County, Tex., College Station, Washington County, Okla., Marais des Cygnes W.M.A., Kans., and Omaha. Blackburnian Warblers wandered west to Muleshoe N.W.R., and Lubbock both May 20 and Ellis County, Kans., May 8-14. Yellow-throated Warblers were out of range in Texas at Lubbock Apr. 19, Big Spring Apr. 8 and Wichita County Apr. 6. Chestnut-sided Warblers were unusually common in the e. half of the Region and were seen w. to Randall County, Midland and Ellis County, Kans. A Bay-breasted Warbler was discovered in Big Bend N.P., May 11 (BZ, KZ). Another unusual record for the park was provided by a Blackpoll May 15. Prairie Warblers were sighted at Bellevue, Neb., Apr. 21 and May 9 and in Sedgwick County, Kans., May 19. A Palm Warbler was observed in Tulsa May 6 (KK, JW). A MacGillivray's Warbler at

Wichita, Kans., May 21 was noteworthy. A Canada Warbler in Walker County May 30 was very late.

S.A.

A Rufous-capped Warbler was discovered in Santa Elena Canyon in Big Bend N.P., Mar. 23 and was reported at least once a week into June. There was one report of two birds, but all other reports were of a single bird. It socialized persistently with at least three chats at two chat nests. The chats sometimes chased the Rufous-capped away if it came close to one of the nests, but otherwise did not react to it. The warbler did not sing, but gave "whit" notes from time to time. Once it was seen carrying nesting material. Peter Scott, Park Naturalist, speculated that since the Rufous-capped did not have a mate of its own species available, it was trying unsuccessfully to mate with one of the chats.



Rufous-capped Warbler, Big Bend Nat'l Park, Tex., May 14, 1979. Photo/Gregory W. Lasley.

**ICTERIDS AND TANAGERS** — Small flocks of Bobolinks were found at Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Cowley and Ellis Cos., and Crescent L., in early May. In Walker County, a W. Meadowlark was heard during March and April. A Scott's Oriole wandered to Amarillo May 27 (BZ). At Mertzon, Tex., Scott's Orioles arrived Apr. 6 which is about two weeks earlier than N. or Orchard orioles are seen (CCW). A Great-tailed Grackle in Ellis County, Kans., provided a second spring record there. The report of 200,000 Com. Grackles in Tulsa's Mohawk Park intensifies the wish that some safe means of reducing the numbers of nuisance species could be devised. Western Tanagers were observed May 5 at both Ft. Worth and Comanche County, Okla. Scarlet Tanagers were reported at Buffalo L., Waco, Ft. Worth and Arlington in early May.

**FRINGILLIDS** — Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were unusually common at Ft. Worth and Tulsa and straggled W to Canadian and Comanche Co., Okla., Pawnee County, Kans., and Crescent L. Black-headed Grosbeaks were observed at Ft. Worth May 4-7, Wichita County, Tex., May 5 and Cleveland County, Okla., Apr. 26. Singing ♂ Indigo Buntings were conspicuous in the Chisos Mts., Big Bend N.P., May 21 - June 10. An Evening Grosbeak remained at Bellevue until Apr. 14. A Purple Finch in Crosby County May 16 was very late. In Ellis County, Kans., a pair of House Finches had fledged three young by May 21 (MER). This species visited a feeder in

Lawton, Okla., Apr. 11-22. Two Pine Grosbeaks in Morton County, Kans., May 26 were studied carefully (SK,ES). Although Pine Siskins had fledged young in Ellis County Apr. 26, migrants were seen as late as May 9 in Big Bend N.P., and May 15 at Omaha. Le Conte's Sparrows were recorded at Waco Apr. 24 (YD) and in Lyon County Apr. 14 (JS). Observers at Ft. Worth have noted a continual decrease in the number of Lark Sparrows during the past five years. A Bachman's Sparrow was seen and its song recorded in Leon County, Tex., May 1-3, providing a new county record (CWS). A Cassin's Sparrow was heard singing in Phillips County, Kans., June 2 (CAE). Gray-headed Juncos were sighted at Lewellen, Neb., May 6 (MZ,CFZ), Ellis County Apr. 23-25 and Morton County May 10 (CAE). Very late records were provided by Harris' Sparrow at Midland May 3 (TJ), Golden-crowned Sparrow at Lubbock Apr. 17-18 (KH,CS) and White-throated Sparrow at Ft. Worth June 6 (MR). Lapland Longspurs were observed in Lubbock and Crosby Cos., Mar. 15 - Apr. 13. Smith's Longspurs were reported

in Crosby County Apr. 5-12 (ML,KH,m ob), Pawnee County Apr. 20 (SS) and Stafford County, Kans., May 6 (SS). Chestnut-collared Longspurs were abundant in Crosby County Mar. 1 - Apr. 14, with an estimated 500/mi<sup>2</sup> being present in late March (KH).

#### CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS —

**Kansas:** Amelia J. Betts, C. A. Ely, Katharine B. Kelley, Steve Kingswood, Lloyd Moore, M. E. Rolfs, Jean Schulenberg, Marvin Schwilling, Scott Seltman, Eddie Stegall, Allen Tubbs, Donald Vannoy. **Nebraska:** Barbara Bergstrom, Tanya Bray, R. G. Cortel-you, Walt Duda, Sam Fitton, Ruth Green, Allen Grenon, Sandy & Jim Kovanda, Loren & Babs Padelford, Richard C. Rosche, Andy Saunders, Melba Wigg, C. Fred Zeilemaker, Melly Zeilemaker. **Oklahoma:** Pat Bergey, Ella Delap, Hazel & Wesley Ekholm, Thelma Fox, Carolyn Gritzmaker, Joe Grzybowski, Elizabeth Hayes (EHa), Steve Hickok, Elizabeth Hicks (EHi), James C. Hoffman, Wes Isaacs, Deloris Isted, Kanny King, Steve Kingswood, Janet M. McGee, John G. Newell,

Rena Ross, Jack D. Tyler, Jeff Webster, Scott Wood. **Texas:** Peggy Acord, J. Albera, Keith Arnold, Emma L. Bickler, Charles R. Brown, Lillian M. Brown, Kelly B. Bryan, Yvonne Daniel, Jan Dehm, L. deMarch, Gil Doran, E. P. Elliot, Pansy Espy, L. Feazel, J. Ford, Velma Geiselbrecht, Kelly Himmel, Holly Hobart, Ray Jochetz, Ted Jones, E. Kendall, Greg Lasley, Rudy Lasoya, Mark Lockwood, Jo Ann Merritt, Ralph R. Moldenhauer, Ernest & Kay Mueller, Kenneth Nanney, R. L. Neill, Pat & Jim Newmeyer, Jane Nosek, Margaret Parker, Midge Randolph, Rose Ann Rowlett, Rod Rylander, Steve Sabo (SSa), Charles W. Sexton, Ken Seyffert, Larry Spence, Layfette Stankewitz (LS), Ronald J. Stein, Darleen Stevens, Cliff Stogner, Gene Warren, C. C. Wiedenfeld, David Wolf, Jim Yantis, Laurie York, Barry Zimmer, Kevin Zimmer.

Abbreviations: T.C.W.C. = Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection at Texas A & M; W.M.A. = Wildlife Management Area. — **FRANCES WILLIAMS, 3307 Neely, Midland, TX 79703.**

## SOUTH TEXAS REGION

/Fred S. Webster, Jr.

Warm temperatures and adequate-to-excessive rainfall from late March through May assured good marsh and pond habitat, vegetative cover, and plant and insect food for birds. A frequently wet, often turbulent weather pattern contributed in large measure to one of the most successful birding springs in many years — and perhaps one of the more disastrous ones for migrating birds.

McCracken and Winship, who were birding in the Coastal Bend (central coast) when Rockport was the birders' Mecca, looked back 15-20 years to find a better migrant display. Today the upper Texas coast, with such easily accessible "hot spots" as the High Island and west Galveston Island migrant traps, and no barrier islands to intercept weary migrants, draw more birders if not more birds. Morgan, who with Eubanks summarize upper coast happenings for this column, reported some of the best birding in years from mid-April to mid-May when frontal activity and accompanying rains persisted.

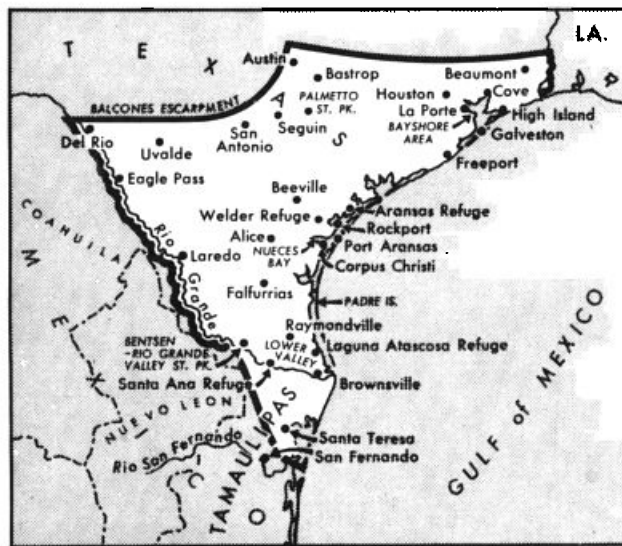
The nearest thing to a "classical" fallout was witnessed by Feltner around Galveston on April 3, with grounding effects noted by Morgan at High Island on the following morning. This was a rain-and-wind shift situation, and provided excellent early season birding. However, rather than a series of "classical" fallouts, Morgan commented, birders witnessed a gradual buildup of birds over periods of several days as frontal passage and storms grounded migrants. As a result, super high counts were generally missing, but variety and numbers were "probably the best in at least five years." Outstanding days on the upper coast were April 19-22, 27-28, and May 5 and 12. The first listed period, preceded by heavy rains which moved into the Gulf on April 18, was by far the best. For the next two days migrants were abundant in pockets — now on

Galveston Island, now at High Island — apparently precipitated by local rains. Farther west and about 10 miles inland, at Lake Jackson, "literally hundreds of small birds flew very low over our heads" in heavy fog from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on April 20 (T&S). But on April 21 the entire upper coast swarmed with birds. "Thunderstorms continued out over the gulf on the 21st, setting the stage for another good day on the 22nd" (JGM). On this latter date Galveston Island over-shadowed High Island.

The passerine migration seemed to get a late start in the western half of the Region. Observers on the central coast assumed that birds were passing over on prevailing southeasterly winds. Then on April 21 torrential rain — 5 inches measured at Corpus Christi — ushered in a super period of birding for the entire Coastal Bend, lasting for about three weeks (KM).

Reports indicate a heavy loss at sea, and what is observable may be only the tip of the iceberg. For example, a worker on an offshore rig 12 miles out from the upper coast reported hundreds of migrants falling into the water around the rig on several occasions this spring (fide JGM). There is no way to estimate the extent of such occurrences, whereas beachings are measureable to some extent. On April 28 hundreds of birds were reported washed up on a short stretch of beach on Bolivar Peninsula (FC).

Labuda sent this report from Aransas Nat'l



Wildlife Refuge (hereafter, N.W.R.). "On Sunday April 29, an Arctic cold front blew through the refuge with sustained winds of 25 mph and gusts up to 40 mph. The frontal edge was a very dark squall line and just before it reached our headquarters site I witnessed what I would estimate at 50,000 or more small passerines falling from as high in the sky as I could see, to the live oak and redbay trees around me. The succeeding five days produced a show of small birds which, according to the old-timers (17 years on the staff), surpassed any prior migratory show. . . We had very little indication that the storm had caught any migrants over the water." However, as the storms moved southward, F. P. Ward made the following observations. "On the evening and night of April 29, very severe thunderstorms moved through the area (S. Padre I.). Winds during one storm were clocked at 66 mph at the Brownsville airport. The following day, literally thousands of small birds began

to wash onto the beach. Many were not recognizable to species because of soaked feathers and some decomposition (or wave dismemberment). Dominant species and taxa included Northern Orioles, Gray Catbirds, cuckoos (mostly Yellow-billed but some Black-billed), warblers, thrushes, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, tanagers, and one Purple Gallinule. On the average, there were conspicuously 100 to 150 dead birds/100 yards of beach. Spot checks along the length of S. Padre I., confirmed that the phenomenon was not localized. If so, then along the roughly 40-mile length of S. Padre I., between 70,000 and 100,000 small birds washed ashore. This estimate probably only reflects near-shore mortalities — I cannot imagine that birds killed ten or more miles from shore could have washed up in that short period." That afternoon Ward picked up a radio conversation "between two employees of the Aransas N.W.R. They were discussing transect counts of the large number of dead birds washed up on the beach!" The location of the latter count is not known to this writer. It should be noted that Aransas N.W.R., has a bay front, protected by San Jose and Matagorda Islands, whose beaches would retain birds washed in from the Gulf.

**PELICANS, DUCKS** — A good White Pelican flight was reported w. of the c. coast and n. to Austin during the first half of April. Only a moderate number of Fulvous Whistling Ducks were reported in April and May, mainly from W. Harris County where they are attracted to rice fields. However, the largest single count was 150 on Bolivar Flats Mar. 18 (TLE,JGM), presumably coastwise migrants. A very rare **European Wigeon** was scrutinized carefully at Anahuac N.W.R., Apr. 14 (AD *et al.*).

**HAWKS** — About 1500 Mississippi Kites departed Santa Ana N.W.R., on the morning of Apr. 27 (DD,CM). Approximately 300 kites left the refuge on May 1 (DD,CM). Insofar as we can glean from reports, neither flight was observed subsequently — unless a remnant reached Austin, where several days of good kite-watching culminated in the spectacle of 250± birds in two rather compact flocks searching for a roost at dusk on May 4 (MW). The greatest number of Broad-winged Hawks, 15,000± was counted by Santa Ana N.W.R. personnel Mar. 25. The subsequent "trickle" was climaxed Apr. 17 with 1500 reported (*vide* DD). Apparently major flights were noted at Corpus Christi Mar. 18-19 and Apr. 13-14, and at Rockport Apr. 21-23, but details are lacking. In Karnes County, 40± miles e. of San Antonio, Sekula, during his lunch hour Apr. 10, watched flocks totaling 3000+ birds riding thermals under a low cloud cover. An environmental study concerning Peregrine Falcons, conducted by F.P. Ward, Chief, and associates of the Ecology Branch of the Chemical Systems Laboratory, was continued for the second spring on S. Padre I. Daily runs were made Apr. 7 - May 1, the major period of Peregrine migration. Fifty-five falcons were sighted, 17 of these captured and released. All birds appeared to be females. "To our surprise, the birds did not rocket N as we supposed they would. All stayed for days, in fact most for weeks, utilizing mostly the expansive wash-over areas just s and n. of Mansfield Cut to rest, hunt and feed" (FPW).

**CRANES, RAILS, JAÇANAS** — The Apr. 4 census of Whooping Cranes on Aransas N.W.R., showed 67 adults and six juveniles, one adult less than the winter high count. By Apr. 10 the next census date, 45 adults and four juveniles had departed. Fourteen adults and two young left Apr. 13-17. A final two adults departed Apr. 24-27 (SEL). Yellow Rails were seen throughout April at Anahuac N.W.R.; the population was estimated at 210 birds. Twelve to 15 sightings of the Black Rail were made — more than in recent years (RWC). A Jaçana was washed up on the beach at Matagorda I. (*vide* SEL), presumably in late April or early May.

**SHOREBIRDS** — In well-watered rice fields and short-grass pastures of Chambers County Apr. 14, 5000 Am. Golden Plover, 7500 Lesser Yellowlegs, and 21,000 dowitchers headed a tremendous shorebird display (TLE,JGM). American Golden Plover had arrived in numbers (500) on Galveston I., by Mar. 18, and cluttered (1700) Bolivar Pen., Mar. 30 (TBF). Among "hordes" of shorebirds at Anahuac N.W.R., Apr. 24 were 1000+ Buff-breasted Sandpipers (JD). The upper coast had almost a monopoly on Hudsonian Godwits with two counts of 400 each in flooded rice fields of Chambers County. Less expected were 21 godwits on Rockport beach after a heavy rain Apr. 29 (AN, *vide* CTC) — and not a rice field in sight! A rare N. Phalarope was photographed in Brazoria County Apr. 29 (D & RM).

**GULLS, TERNS** — Franklin's Gulls were plentiful on the c. coast, with wave after wave at Corpus Christi and Rockport Apr. 22. At Austin, in late evening Apr. 17, 1800 gulls moved N in "V's" (CS). A surprisingly high count of 60 Bonaparte's Gulls was made in the center of San Antonio's Braunig L., Apr. 5 (RAC,JAM). Two ad. Sooty Terns were flushed from the S. Padre I. beach Apr. 25 (FPW).

**CUCKOOS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS** — Both cuckoo species rated above average on the upper coast, and Black-billed were more common than usual in the Coastal Bend. On the upper coast, 500 Com. Night-hawks, in flocks of 15-25 birds, were watched as they came in from the Gulf May 12 (JE, TLE,JGM). A Kiskadee Flycatcher was found at High I., Apr. 13 (VE,TBF). A strange flycatcher seen on w. Galveston I., May 13, was thought to be a Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus*) by all observers (G&JC, J&NS) who have seen this species in Mexico. It breeds on the Gulf slope from s. Tamaulipas southward. The fact that it is migratory lends credence to the identification.

**CATBIRDS, THRUSHES, VIREOS** — All along the coast, Gray Catbird numbers were excellent in late April and early May, while thrushes were reported in good numbers. Vireos generally made a good showing. A singing **Yellow-green Vireo** was reported at Santa Ana N.W.R., Apr. 27 (SS).

**WARBLERS** — Warblers, as a family, were rated "excellent" on the upper coast (JGM), "good" on the c. coast (KM), and "better than usual" at San Antonio (JAM), and San Marcos (DGH). Migration was consistently good rather than spectacular. Golden-winged and

Blue-winged warblers were in good numbers, especially on the upper coast where some observers considered it the "best ever" migration for these species. High counts were 63 Golden-winged and 75 Blue-winged warblers for the upper coast Apr. 21 (TBF,JGM). One might suspect that such numbers would increase the likelihood of hybrids, and such was the case. Schorre obtained excellent photographs of two "Brewster's" hybrids at Rockport Apr. 28 & 30. At least two Brewster's were seen at High I., Apr. 21-22 (m.ob), another was on w. Galveston I., Apr. 20 (J&NS). At least two "Lawrence's" hybrids were seen at High I., Apr. 21-22 (WC,JGM,ER *et al.*) and one at Sabine Pass Apr. 21 (TBF). The Tennessee was the most common migrant warbler on the upper coast. One male migrant joined a birding-fishing party aboard the *Scat Cat* out of Port Aransas Apr. 17 during squally weather. After gaining entrance to the cabin it foraged in garbage cans and ate part of a ham sandwich that was offered him. He endured the rough trip better than his human companions and was released in port (WS). As everyone knows, the Cape May Warbler migrates e. of Texas — most of the time. Four individuals appeared in one yard in Port Aransas, two females Apr. 27 and two males several days later (LT). On Apr. 30 Mrs. McCracken watched two females in her yard at Corpus Christi. At least five birds were reported from the upper coast. A pair of Black-throated Blue Warblers was seen at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., Apr. 24 (DE). A Black-throated Gray Warbler was seen at High I., Apr. 21 (DLC, DTD). It was a good year for the rare Black-poll Warbler on the c. coast; more unusual, one was seen in Wilson County Apr. 28 (WS), and individuals in Austin May 1 (GL) & 5 (JR).

**FRINGILLIDS** — Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were spectacular on some occasions, *i.e.*, 600 on Galveston I., Apr. 22 (FC,TLE), and 50 at Austin May 1 (GL). May 4 was rainy and windy on N. Padre I., and "a constant stream of birds" was seeking shelter in the shrubbery by the rangers' station. Two surprise species along the Grasslands Nature Trail were a ♂ Black-headed Grosbeak and two ♂ Varied Buntings (DE), the latter most unusual. McCracken rated the Blue Grosbeak migration "fabulous" in the Coastal Bend. She needed a stronger word for the Indigo Bunting; it was *almost* like "old times" at Corpus Christi and Rockport, with buntings "all over the lawns." On Galveston I., 3500 were counted Apr. 22 (FC,TLE). Dickcissels were common at Rockport, with 800 in one flock Apr. 19 (CTC).

**CONTRIBUTORS AND CITED OBSERVERS** — Richard O. Albert, Robert C. Bradley, Dennis L. Caputo, Russel W. Clapper, Charles T. Clark, George and Jane Clayton, Fred Collins, Tom and Sherry Collins, Richard A. Cudworth, Wesley Cureton, David T. Dauphin, Don Delnicki, Archer Dillard, Jon Dunn, Charles W. Easley, Victor Emanuel, Dianne Engleke, Ted L. Eubanks, Jr., John Eyre, T. Ben Feltner, Velma Geiselbrecht, David G. Huffman, William H. Hunt, Hilde Kaigler, Kirke and Sharna King, Ed Kutac, Steve E. Labuda, Jr., Greg Lasley, Cruz Martinez, Kay McCracken, Don and Ruthie Melton, James A. Middleton, James G. Morgan, Avis Newell, Jan Randall, Elaine Robinson, Steve Sabo, Barth Schorre, Willie

Sekula, Chuck Sexton, Wayne A Shifflett, Jerry & Nancy Strickling, James A Tucker, Leona Turnbull, Paul S. Van Dyke, F. Prescott Ward, Marie Webster, David R. Wharton, Robert H. Wharton, Doris Winship — **FRED S. WEBSTER, JR., 4926 Strass Drive, Austin, Texas 78731.**

## NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION

/Helmut Grünberg

Thanks to the efforts of Don Karasiuk and his contributors in and around Yellowknife, our Region has been expanded to cover a portion of the Northwest Territories in addition to the Yukon and northern British Columbia. Within the original Region, Robert Frisch made a special effort to cover the Dawson/Dempster Highway area in the central Yukon well. An unprecedented twenty-five species of shorebirds were reported, many of them in the central Yukon, out of a total of one hundred and seventy species observed in the expanded Region.

Following a very cold February, temperatures in Whitehorse were close to normal during the report period. Yellowknife had cold weather persisting until early May following one of the coldest winters on record. Since snow cover was very deep during the winter and early spring and ice on rivers and lakes melted away slowly, spring migration, especially of early migrants, appeared to be one-to-two weeks later than normal. Precipitation was relatively low during the report period.

**GREBES THROUGH FALCONS** — A rare **Eared Grebe** (not known to occur in the Yukon or northern British Columbia) was seen in the Yellowknife (hereafter, Y.) area May 22 (JC,JD). Whistling and Trumpeter swans were staying in the southern parts of our Region during April and early May and were seen by m.ob. The peak number of Whistlers was 846 at Marsh L., Apr. 29 (RC & NW). The highest count reported from the Y area was 250± May 19 (DMu). At Marsh L., 239 Trumpeters were counted Apr. 23 (HG,DMo *et al.*).

A mixed flock of three small Canada Geese, 150 White-fronteds and 25 Snow Geese was seen at the Dempster Highway (hereafter, D.H.) May 10 (DMo). Six Snow Geese were noted at Mosquito Cr., near Rae-Edzo, Northwest Territories (hereafter, N.W.T.) by JC and JD. Ten were reported from Tay Bay, Bylot I., n. of Baffin I., N.W.T. (AG).

The second report for the Region of a ♂ **Cinnamon Teal** came from the Yukon R., between Marsh L. and Whitehorse (hereafter, Whse.) May 27 (RC & NW). Harlequin Ducks were regularly seen in the original Region by 8 observers. They were rare in N.W.T., with two at Tartan Rapids near Y., May 13 (JS,WT) and one pair at Mosquito Cr., near Rae-Edzo May 24 (TD,MHa). The first pair of Ruddy Ducks in many years was reported from a pond near the Carcross Rd., May 20 (RC & NW). Common Mergansers were seen in s. and c. Yukon by many observers, but only one was noted in N.W.T., a male on Yellowknife R., May 13 (DJK,JS).

While Goshawks were regularly seen in cer-

tain areas of the s. Yukon and reported by nine observers, they remained unreported for N.W.T. A probable Swainson's Hawk was observed in the Kluane area Apr. 22 (RC & NW). Golden Eagles were regularly seen in mountainous areas of s. and c. Yukon (m.ob.). One appeared in the Y. area Apr. 7 (DMu).

Individual Peregrines and Gyrfalcons or pairs were seen at the Yukon Game Farm Apr. 5 (DN & US), along the D.H., May 21-22 (RH,DMo) and during raptor surveys on the Peel Plateau, n.e. Yukon May 27-30 (RH,DMo). A Peregrine Falcon was noted at Twin Lakes, Klondike Hwy., Apr. 2 (DS).

### CRANES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS —

S.A.

We received these two reports of the endangered Whooping Crane from Bernie Gollop of the Canadian Wildlife Service, referring to the N.W.T. nesting area: "Accumulated results as of May 15 survey, 18 nests. Seventeen nests have two eggs each, one nest has three eggs. Fifty-one birds observed or accounted for on May 15 flight, including several banded one- and two-year-old birds. Total of 18 nests is highest on record as 1977 total was 17. Pick-up of eggs planned for May 30 to June 2 . . ." (Message by E. Kuyt, May 17). "Whooping Crane egg pick-up completed last night with 19 eggs collected. One nest had three eggs and another nest found destroyed. Ernie Kuyt departed for Idaho with eggs for transplant . . . today." (Message by S.E. Stephansson, June 1). Eggs have been successfully hatched and young reared by Sandhill Cranes in previous years.

An Am. Coot was seen at the Yukon Game Farm May 8 (HG,PMA) and one was noted at Mi 98, Klondike Hwy., May 18 (RF). Surf-birds arrived on breeding grounds near Mi 60, D.H., May 15 (RF) and Whimbrels at Mi

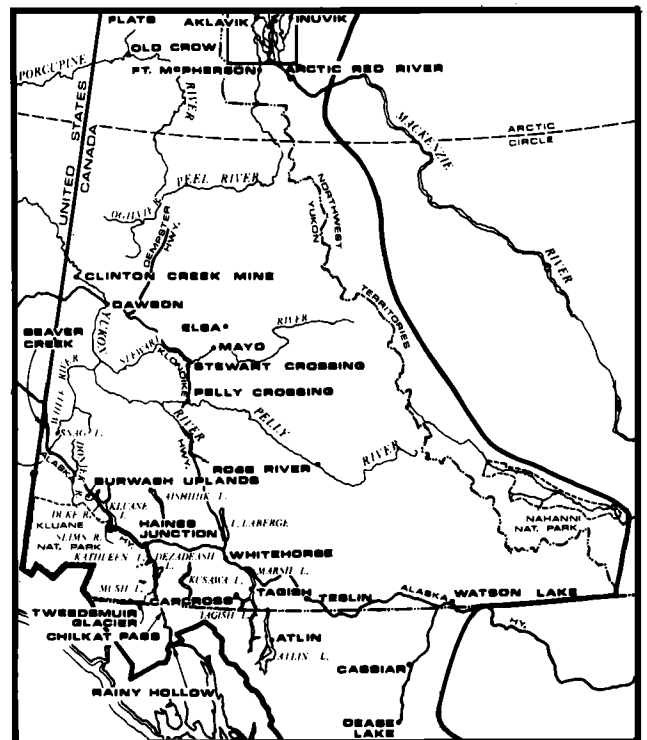
80, D.H., May 13 (RF). The latter was also seen along the D.H., May 21-22 (RH,DMo) and in the Beaver Cr. area (SM & LV). Upland Sandpipers were first noted in their breeding area at Mi 63, D.H., May 16 (RF). Three birds were seen at the Yukon Game Farm May 20-21 (WK) and they were also noted in the Beaver Cr. area (SM & LV). Wandering Tattlers arrived in their breeding area at Mi 81, D.H., May 14 (RF); they were also observed along the D.H., May 21-22 (RH,DMo). Baird's Sandpiper was seen in the Beaver Cr. area (SM & LV) and its likely arrival at the breeding area, Mi 60, D.H., determined as May 15 (RF). Baird's

Sandpipers were also noted at the Peel Plateau, n.e. Yukon, May 26-27 (RH,DMo). A rare Dunlin' observation (no details) was reported from the Beaver Cr. area (SM&LV).

A rare Hudsonian Godwit was noted in the Beaver Cr. area (SM & LV). A small flock of Sanderlings was observed along the Yukon R., near Dawson May 21 (MHo). The first sighting of a **Red Phalarope**, a female, for the Yukon was reported from the Teslin R., May 29 and substantiated by four observers in a detailed close-up observation (JL,PW, J & LB). At least one ♂ and one ♀ Wilson's Phalarope were observed at last year's nesting area at Swan L., 20 km n. of Whse., May 27 (HG,WH).

**JAEGERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — A rare Parasitic Jaeger was seen at Y., May 30 (DJK). Long-tailed Jaegers arrived at their breeding area, Mi 60, D.H., May 15 (RF). A rare Glaucous Gull was observed at Y., May 12 (JC); 80 were seen at Pond Inlet, Baffin I., May 31 (AG). The first California Gull, not recently seen in the Yukon, arrived in the Y. area May 13 (DJK); two more were seen at Frank Channel near Rae-Edzo May 19 (DJK,RPM). The first report of a **Ring-billed Gull** for the Yukon came from Watson L., where two individuals were seen May 30 (DS). In N.W.T., one was observed at Mosquito Cr., near Rae-Edzo May 19 (JC,JD) and one at Ft. Providence May 20 (DJK, RPM). Common Terns, not known to occur in the Yukon, were seen twice in N.W.T. — the first one was noted at Great Slave L., near Rae-Edzo May 20 (JC,JD) and another at Y., May 30 (JAT).

A Snowy Owl was caught in a trap 45 mi s.e. of Y., in February (DMu). Two Hawk Owls were seen near the Donjek R., Apr. 12 (DMo) and one was observed at Bear Cr., e. of Kluane L., Apr. 22 (RC & NW). Another and a Boreal Owl were noted in the Beaver Cr. area (SM & LV).





A Downy Woodpecker was seen w. of Whse., Apr. 21 (C & RH). A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was observed at Swan L., e.c. Yukon, Mar. 17 (TT). One male was seen near Whse., throughout the period (D&SS).

**PHOEBES THROUGH STARLINGS** — Say's Phoebe occurs commonly in the Yukon, but was not seen in N.W.T. On the other hand, four E. Phoebes were seen at Boundary Cr., near Y., May 19 (DJK,MS) and one at North Arm near Rae-Edzo May 19 (DJK), but were not observed in the Yukon. Common Crow, not known to occur in the Yukon, was noted once at Yellowknife R., May 13 (DJK,JS) and once at Ft. Providence May 20 (DJK,GW). There was only one report of a Black-capped Chickadee; one at Ft. Providence, N.W.T., May 20 (DJK) — although it is widely distributed in the s. Yukon. The elusive Gray-headed Chickadee was seen in a flock of Boreal Chickadees and verified by a lucky photographer in Whse., Mar. 6 (WH). A rare Mountain Chickadee was observed in the Dease L. area, B.C., Apr. 30 (PMa).

Last year's invasion of Red-breasted Nuthatches was not repeated. Isolated observations were of two at Telegraph Cr., B.C., Apr. 14 (HG,PMa) and one at Tagish May 21 (RC & NW). A Wheatear was seen at the Yukon Game Farm Apr. 25 (DN & US). The arrival date on the breeding area Mi 52, D.H., was May 16 (RF). Mountain Bluebirds, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Bohemian Waxwings, common in n. British Columbia and s. to c. Yukon, were rare in N.W.T.: a bluebird was observed at Y., May 3 (JAT), a kinglet at Mosquito Cr., near Rae-Edzo May

22 (JC,JD), one waxwing in the Y. area Apr. 15 (JS) and one in the Rae-Edzo area May 20 (JC,JD). One to four Starlings were observed in various areas of the s. and c. Yukon by 9 observers and not reported from N.W.T.

**WARBLERS THROUGH LONGSPURS** — The only warbler mentioned here is the Am. Redstart which was seen just once 50 mi w. of Rae-Edzo May 21 (GG). House Sparrows, which are fairly common in Y., have (luckily) not yet reached Whse., or other Yukon communities. Another increasingly successful species is the Red-winged Blackbird which has spread to the c. Yukon. Common Grackle, not occurring in the Yukon was observed at Y., May 13 (JAT). Four birds were noted near Ft. Providence May 19-20 (AG) and one in the Rae-Edzo area May 19-20 (JC,JD).

The following report was received about the Western Tanager: "Rare, possible range extension. One male arrived at residence of JAT in Y., May 14, female, approximately May 20; observations confirmed by GW, GG, DMu, DJK. JAT states that this is the third year that Western Tanagers were present at his residence. Arrival dates for 1978: male May 29, female May 15. To date no nests have been found."

Hoary Redpolls were fairly common this winter and early spring in all areas. The first observation for the Yukon of a **Harris' Sparrow** was made on the Peel Plateau May 25 (RH,DMo). One was seen at Y., May 15 (DMu) and eight were noted near Ft. Providence May 20 (AG,DJK,RPM). One White-throated Sparrow was seen at Ft. Providence May 20 (DJK).

At least 20,000 Lapland Longspurs were seen at the Yukon Game Farm May 8 (WK, DN & US) as part of a large influx in the s. Yukon, while they were "noticeably less common than last year" (DJK), in the Y. area. Smith's Longspurs were observed on the Peel Plateau May 25 (RH,DMo) and at the D.H., May 29 (RF).

**CONTRIBUTORS** — John and Janet Anderson-Thomson (JAT), Kate Bennett, Alan Bouvier, Josephine and Lincoln Brayton, Gregory Brunner, Syd Cannings, René Carlson, Jenny Clark, Tom Dafoe, Judith Donaldson, Susan Fleck, Jack Fraser, Robert Frisch, George and Troy Gibson, Bernie Gollup, Arni Goodman, Sylvia Hackney, Lee Harding, Willi Harms, Michael Hawkes (MHa), Carolyn & Robert Hayes, Manfred Hoefs (MHo), **Don J. Karasiuk (DJK), area editor, N.W.T., Canadian Wildlife Service, Box 2310, Yellowknife, N.W.T., Canada** **XOE IHO** (observations from N.W.T. should be sent to this address), Diane M. Karch (DMK), William Klassen, Ernie Kuyt, John Lammers, Maria Ledergerber, Paul Mantle (PMa), R. Patricia Marcellus (RPM), Clifford Matthews, Dave Mossop (DMo), David and Patricia Muirhead (D & PMu), Steve Murphy, Danny Nowlan, Larry Otto, Marta Samper, Ulrike Schmigale, Don and Sharon Schuler (D & SS), Kathy Southworth, S. E. Stephansson, John Stephenson (JS), Barbara Studts, David J. Sutherland (DJS), Thalina Tuchulokovsky, Wendy Thompson, Len Vining, Glen and Trish Warner, Pauline Wilson, Norbert Wolffe. — **HELMUT GRÜNBERG, Yukon Conservation Society, 302 Steele Street, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada Y1A 2C5.**

## NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

Weather in the Region, normally abnormal, ran true to form. March was warm and pleasant but generally turned cold and stormy the last week, delaying the early migration in some areas. April in the northern Rockies was generally cool and wet but much of eastern Washington tended to be dry, as was May in most localities. Water conditions at wildlife refuges were reported excellent but the snowpack in the mountains appeared below normal, leaving summer water supply somewhat in doubt. Many migrants at Chewelah in northeastern Washington arrived early but the birds' timetable apparently was little altered by the weather in most localities.

**LOONS, GREBES** — Common Loons in the Kimberley, B.C., area seemed to be coming back to their regular haunts and breeding in spite of increasing numbers of campers and fishermen. Red-necked Grebe pairs again appeared at Little Sweden Marsh near Waits L., Chewelah, Wash. (JN). The birds appeared on three lakes in Okanogan County, Wash., and at Moses L., Wash., for a total of eight. One bird of this species, very rare in the Helena, Mont. area, was at L. Helena cause-

way Apr. 20 (LT,ST). The species was down to 15 from 25 last year at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida. The only other reports were of one on the Clearwater R., in Lewiston, Ida., and a total of six at three points on Coeur d'Alene and Benewah L., Ida. (C.B.;SGS, MK,P.A.S.). A few W. Grebes were noted in s. Idaho, w. Montana, s.e. Oregon and e. Washington.

**PELICANS, CORMORANTS** — White Pelicans were reported plentiful on the Snake R., in the Rupert, Ida., vicinity and up to eight were at Ft. Boise W.M.A., near Boise, Ida. (JHe,NHe,RM). Wallula, Wash., had ten Apr. 12 (CFI). At Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., the birds appeared to be in good breeding condition. A pair of Double-crested Cormorants was at

Meadow L., near Malaga, 7 mi s.e. of Wenatchee, Wash., May 22 (PWC). This is apparently a new locality for the species. The birds seemed



to be doing well in s Idaho, where 56 were banded May 23 at Minidoka N.W.R. A new colony appeared at the upper end of Am. Falls Res. but the colony at Blackfoot Res., destroyed by human interference last year, failed to reestablish itself. Mud Lake W.M.A., Hamer, Ida., had a good colony that was showing no eggshell thinning (CHT).

**HERONS, EGRETS** — A Great Blue heronry at Potholes Res., Grant Co., Wash., comprised 250 pairs and one along the Yakima R., at Satus Cr., had 90 birds (RF). Cattle Egrets numbered about the same as last year, 4-8, at Minidoka N.W.R. (WHS;CHT). One along Lower Klamath L., near the California border provided one of very few records for that area (SS) and one appeared near Hamer, Ida., May 19 close to where one was found in June, 1978 (DH). Three pairs of Great Egrets were nesting in the heronry at Potholes Res. (RF) and one was seen at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash., May 20 (RH,REW). One appeared at a heronry in Wallowa County, Ore., May 30 (O.F.W.). Some Black-crowned Night Heron and Snowy Egret colonies in s. Idaho were showing eggshell thinning but several colonies including those at Minidoka and Mud L., appeared healthy. Fort Boise had a Snowy Egret Apr. 16 (RM). Sixty-one Black-crowned Night Herons were banded at a heron enclosure at a trout farm, where nets over the ponds are apparently taking the place of illegal shooting (CHT). Potholes Res., in c. Washington had 500± pairs (RF). White-faced Ibises seemed to be establishing a substantial breeding area at Market L., Ida. (DH), and Minidoka N.W.R., had 50 on May 21 (WHS).

**WATERFOWL** — Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., registered a good waterfowl migration with at least 300,000 birds using the Harney basin in mid-March (STh). No Whistling Swan comment was received from Malheur but up to 400 stopped at Cave L., and 65 at the Coeur d' Alene R. mouth, Kootenai Co., Ida Conley L., e. of La Grande, Ore., had 100 and the Spangle, Wash. area reported 45. Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida., reported a peak of only 50 and remarked that Creston W.M.A., in British Columbia had recorded similar declines (LDN). Nampa, Ida., had a peak of 89 (G.E.A.S.) and 50 stopped near Warm Springs, Mont. (PSc). The birds were not reported as stopping this spring in the Pocatello area but 106 flew over Mar. 23 (CHT). The May population of Trumpeter Swans for the Centennial Valley around Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont., was 266, 173 of them on the refuge itself. An aerial survey revealed 46 active nests on the refuge and five outside of it (RRS). Up to 100 of the birds were on a sump pond near Boulder, Mont., Mar. 26 (NN). At Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., the peak was only eight. Canada Goose nesting was reported principally from Malheur, which had 750 pairs and which was low for there. Nesting success there was 43%. At Kootenai N.W.R., 19 broods hatched compared to last year's 11. Turnbull N.W.R., had 300-400 adults. Conley L., La Grande, Ore., hosted 2500 White-fronted Geese Mar. 29 (JE) and Ft. Boise, Ida., had 300. Malheur had 35,000 Snow Geese and 9000 Ross' at mid-March. A blue phase Ross' Goose appeared near Burns, Ore., Apr. 18 (STh) and another was with 3000-5000 Ross' at Miller I.,

near Klamath Falls, Ore., in mid-April (SS)

Numbers of migrant ducks at Kootenai N.W.R., dipped, mostly owing to the decline of Pintails to 3500 from 11,000 in 1978. Six Eur. Wigeon were with thousands of Am. Wigeon in late March at Lower Klamath N.W.R. (SS). Three at Metcalf Ref., Stevensville, Mont., were noteworthy (*vide* CP). A very few appeared in the vicinity of Spokane. The Salmon, Ida. area had a flock of 800-1000 N. Shovelers, Roberts' largest concentration ever. A Wood Duck with a brood of 11 was sighted near Winthrop, Wash., close to where the species wintered (RF). Turnbull N.W.R., had a peak of 210 Canvasbacks and 66, mostly males, at L. Helena were the most there since 1975 (SM). A Barrow's Goldeneye at Salmon Apr. 21 was noteworthy (HBR). Glacier N.P., Mont., had its earliest-ever sighting of a Harlequin Duck Mar. 30 on the n. fork of the Flathead R., s. of Polebridge, and one on Upper McDonald Cr., in the park May 6 wore two yellow leg bands (SJB). Okanogan County, Wash., had three sightings of the species, two of them in the Winthrop area, the other at Wells Dam (RF). The Nampa area had two White-winged Scoters May 6 and the species was seen at Ft. Boise (JHe). Bruneau S.P., Owyhee Co., Ida., had six Red-breasted Mergansers Mar. 29 and nearby C.J. Strike dam counted 18 in April (JSM).

**VULTURES, HAWKS** — Fourteen sightings of Turkey Vulture in Washington included 13 individuals at Rimrock L., Yakima Co., and 13 more at Bonnie L., Spokane Co., near April's end. Swainson's Hawk sightings were fairly common in e. Washington, with a few in e. Oregon and s. Idaho and one at Boulder, Mont. Ferruginous Hawk sightings were up in e. Washington, probably owing to better coverage. Several nests were found, including five in the Juniper Forest s. of Connell (B.L.M.). The Salmon Falls Project, Twin Falls Co., Ida., reported six sightings and four active nests (I.F.G.). Golden Eagle nests in Ferry and Stevens Counties, Wash., were noted as "operating normally" (JN). Three resident ad. Bald Eagles were reported at Wasa L., near Kimberley, B.C. (MVW). Up to 100 were moving through Harney Basin, Malheur N.W.R. Six, including two probably nesting, were noted on Pend Oreille L., n. Idaho (DC). A pair at the traditional nesting site about 70 mi from Helena had two nestlings (VY). McNary N.W.R. had an Osprey May 22 (JC). The only Gyrfalcon report was of one Mar. 8, for the second consecutive year, in e. Washington (JA). Two sightings of single Peregrine Falcons came from w. Montana. A very few Merlins were seen in s. Idaho and e. Washington.

**GALLINACEOUS BIRDS** — Sharp-tailed Grouse were displaying on leks in Douglas and Okanogan Counties, Wash., in early April. About 15 leks are found each year in those counties (PWC;W.F.G.). A lek in the Pocatello, Ida., vicinity had 50± males (CHT). A single bird that appeared in a Bozeman, Mont., yard Apr. 9 was a real mystery (JR). Up to 29 Sage Grouse were reported in the Nampa, Ida., area (G.E.A.S.) and the dancing ground s. of Creston, Wash., revealed 16 on Apr. 21 (JA). The Nampa area had two Bobwhite May 19 (C & EF). Lake Lowell in that area had one Apr. 13 and a pair was found 5 mi to the s.

May 19 (DT) California Quail are becoming established along the Kootenai R., near Bonners Ferry, Ida., where private individuals have released birds. The wintering population was 60-75 and one appeared on Kootenai N.W.R. (LDN). Camp Cr., in the Imnaha, Ore., vicinity had a pair of Mountain Quail May 31 (O.F.W.). The only Turkey report was of a hen with seven young in the Brush L., area near Bonners Ferry (DC).

**CRANES THROUGH TERNS** — A possible sighting of a Whooping Crane May 23 came from Premier L., 20-25 mi n. of Kimberley, B.C. (Mrs. D., *vide* MVW). The St Andrews, Wash., area had 2500-3000 Sandhill Cranes in early to mid-April (JA;RF,TL,TT, N.C.W.A.S.). In the Salmon, Ida., area this species' population appears to be expanding, with more birds being reported from non-traditional areas (HBR). Two Snowy Plovers were seen on the Oregon side of White L., unit of Lower Klamath N.W.R., May 12 (SS). Malheur N.W.R., Harney Basin, an important nesting area for Long-billed Curlews, held 1500± pairs. The species was very common in the Ephrata-Moses L., area of Washington but the species has been virtually eliminated by agriculture and housing tracts in the Pocatello area. The birds appeared to be doing well on the n. side of Am. Falls Res., however (CHT). Three Forks, Mont., had its first-ever Whimbrel record May 27 (ET&RAH,PDS). A flock of 13 was along Lower Klamath L., May 5-6 (SS). A few Upland Sandpipers returned to the e. Spokane Valley, the only nesting site w of the Continental Divide. Spokane Audubon Society, Washington Department of Game and The Nature Conservancy are exploring ways to protect their habitat from expanding housing developments. A Willet at Mann's L., near Lewiston, Ida., was probably the first for that area (EM,SK). Single birds appeared at Salmon Apr. 15 (HBR) and at Deep Creek Res., Twin Falls Co., Ida., May 11 (I.F.G.). A sighting of Greater Yellowlegs at Salmon Apr 15 was unusual (HBR). Lesser Yellowlegs appeared Apr. 23 at Fortine, Mont., where they are rare in spring (WW). Two flocks of Marbled Godwits were sighted Apr. 26 on Ice Harbor Res. mudflats e. of Pasco, Wash. (BB, LB) and the Rupert, Ida., area had 14 on Apr 28 (WHS). McNary N.W.R., reported a Black-necked Stilt May 30 (JC). Two birds of this species were at a pond n.w. of Othello, Wash., Apr. 27 but were gone the next day (WS). At least six were near George, Wash., May 30 (PWC) and Metcalf Ref., Stevensville, Mont., had 12 (*vide* CP). Three gulls thought to be Ring-billed appeared near Fortine, Mont., for the second-ever spring date there (WW). Two terns believed to be Forster's were skimming the surface of the Spokane R., on the Idaho side of the state line May 7 (DC). One was at Salmon, Ida., May 19 (HBR).

**DOVES THROUGH OWLS** — The Region had more sightings of Band-tailed Pigeons than ever before. One got as far e. as Hamer, Ida., May 12 (DH). A road-killed bird was picked up at Malheur N.W.R., May 23 (STh). Two were sighted at Joseph May 5 and two along the Imnaha R., May 9, both in n e Oregon (O.F.W.). Richland, Wash. had one at a feeder Apr. 30 - May 3 (L & NJ). One was near Naches, Wash., May 6 and six were seen at Milk Pond near Chinook Pass, Mt. Rainier

N P, May 23 (Y A S.) The flock of 40± Mourning Doves that wintered at Libby, Mont., had dwindled to 8-10 by spring (E&RE). Barn Owls appeared to be on the increase at Malheur, where three nests were located. One at Spokane May 15 may have been the first for the county (JRi,WWa). Near Yakima a pair had a nest in a haystack and along Satus Cr., s. of Yakima a nest was found in a dirt bank cavity (LS). A similar site at Rufus Woods L., Okanogan Co., Wash., also held a nest (VM) and a bank cavity at Yakima revealed an adult (LS). A brood of seven was observed in rimrock 5 mi s. of Pilot Rock, Ore., May 26 (EM). Nampa had one sighting May 26 (G.E.A.S.). Scanning a circle of 1.5 mi radius in the Reardan-Davenport, Wash., area Mar. 8 revealed *nine* Snowy Owls (JA). A Burrowing Owl was reported at Three Forks, Mont., for an unusual record (SC,RL,ET&RAH,PDS). The Salmon Falls Project reported two nest sites of Burrowing Owl. Long-eared and particularly Short-eared owl numbers appeared good. The pair of the former that regularly nested near Chewelah, Wash., did not return, but a pair of Saw-whets moved in (JN). The latter species was heard at Fernan L., Coeur d' Alene, Ida. (SGS), and the Salmon Falls Project reported sightings of four Saw-whet Owls.

**SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS** — At least 50 Black Swifts were feeding over Park I., near Bridgeport, Wash., May 28 (VW). White-throated Swifts appeared at a new location, the Bowl and Pitcher area of the Spokane R., w of Spokane, where at least ten darted about the cliffs (JA). Anna's Hummingbird was found in four spots in Klamath County, Ore. (SS). A hummer of undetermined species at Fortin, Mont. Mar. 21 at a feeder might very well have been an Anna's. A ♂ Rufous Hummingbird near Bozeman in May was noteworthy (JM).

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — An **Acorn Woodpecker** near Lyle May 3 was apparently Washington's first (PWC). White-headed Woodpeckers were sighted in March and April, up to three birds, at Daggett Cr., n.e. of Boise (A&HL) and May 23, one near Council, Ida. (DJ). The only Ash-throated Flycatchers reported were one at Cold Springs Camp Ground 4 mi. w. of Sisters, Ore. (GG) and one along Rock Cr., Kllickit Co., Wash., May 15 (RK). The only Gray Flycatcher of record was at Malheur May 24 (GG). Up to 15 Purple Martins were sighted in the Chiloquin, Ore., area in April and May (TLu). A large colony of Bank Swallows was reported near the Okanogan R. mouth, as was a colony of 300-400, along the Snake R., in Franklin Co., both in Washing-

**JAYS THROUGH WRENS** — The Blue Jay that wintered at Kimberley, B.C., was last seen May 15 (MVW). A **Scrub Jay** at Lyle Mar. 31 was apparently e. Washington's first (WS). Tampico, Wash., had a "small flock" of Bushtits May 6 (ZB) and a flock of 25 Plain Titmouse was sighted at Boise Mar. 25 (HR). Pygmy Nuthatches, seldom found in w. Montana, were at Metcalf Ref., Stevensville May 19 (CP). Bewick's Wren numbers appeared satisfactory at Yakima and in the Klamath

Falls area Walla Walla, Wash., also reported one May 1 (SMu)

**MIMIDS THROUGH WARBLERS** — Fifteen sightings of Sage Thrashers in e. Washington totalled at least 28 birds (W.F.G.; Y.A.S.;JA). At least one brood had fledged in the Arco, Ida., area by the third week of May (CHT). A Mockingbird was sighted at Page Springs, Ore., and another was near Klamath Falls in May (GG;SS). Boise-Cascade Camp Ground on Wenas Cr., Yakima Co., Wash., had one May 29 (Y.A.S.) and one was found in the Bruneau, Ida., area May 18 (JD,TTh). A remarkably early Gray Catbird was in a Bozeman yard Mar. 31 (JR). The earliest previous record there is May 16. A Varied Thrush was reported at Murphy Hot Springs for about a week in early April furnished what is likely s. Idaho's first record (EB). A dead **Black-and-white Warbler** was picked up along Rocky Ford Cr., 6 mi e. of Ephrata, Wash., May 17 (DHo). Oregon produced two Tennessee Warbler sightings, one bird at Malheur N.W.R., May 27 (SS) and one at Fields May 28 (KF,DF,PS,SS). Malheur also had a **Magnolia Warbler** (SS *et al.*,EGW) and a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** (KF,TF,DF,EM,PS,SS) both May 27. The migration brought single "Myrtle" Warblers to the Davenport, Wash., cemetery May 3 & 18 (JA). Several ♂ Townsend's Warblers were listed in the Grandview-Bruneau, Ida., area May 13-21 (I.F.G.) and at Camas N.W.R., Hamer, Ida. (DH). An **Ovenbird** was singing in a juniper hillside area near Three Forks, Mont., June 12 (RL,DS). A N. Waterthrush was a highlight of the Salmon Falls Project May 14 (I.F.G.).

**BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS** — The Salmon Falls Project tallied a ♂ Bobolink May 22 for what is probably the first Twin Falls County record (I.F.G.). Boblinks at Chewelah, Wash., returned in spite of a housing development in their preferred field, the small colony now being sandwiched between a softball field and an apartment house complex (JN)! A large colony of Tricolored Blackbirds, 1000-2000 in number, along Lower Klamath L., near the California border was present from March to mid-May, when it disappeared (SS). Two ad. Com. Grackles were found frequenting the city park at St. Anthony, Ida., May 12 & 19 and were suspected of nesting. One was noted last year in the same place (DH). Brown-headed Cowbirds "seemed to be everywhere" in the Richland, Wash., vicinity and two observers in Kimberley reported eight and ten at feeders where normally one or two pairs visit (MVW). Numbers elsewhere drew no comments. A ♂ Scarlet Tanager at Malheur N.W.R., May 31 was believed to be Oregon's first (DP,MS *et al.*).

**FINCHES, SPARROWS** — A Black-headed Grosbeak at Fortine, Mont., May 3 furnished only the second spring record there (WW). The date seems very early. An **Indigo Bunting** was reportedly at Ketchum, Ida., May 25-27 (ph.?-*fide* WHS). At least two pairs of House Finches were noted at Fortine Apr. 20 - May 20±. A female was gathering nesting material several mornings beginning May 9 but no nest was located. This nesting attempt is the first for the area (WW). A flock of 43± Gray-crowned Rosy Finches at the sanitary landfill at Montpelier, Ida., Feb. 12 & Mar. 17

apparently provided the first record for that area (E & SMi). Crossbills, reported only from the Kimberley vicinity, were described as more numerous, with a flock of 50 seen (MVW). A single Grasshopper Sparrow was reported n of Creston, Wash., Apr. 21 (JA). Black-throated Sparrows were believed more numerous in s.e. Oregon. Ten were observed at Malheur, five at Hart Mt., and a singing bird was found in the Klamath Hills of s. Klamath County (SS). The species was found to be a common breeder on the Salmon Falls Project. Last year two nests and two instances of adults feeding young were observed in that area (I.F.G.). The only Sage Sparrow sightings were of four in Lincoln County, Wash., Mar 31 (JH) and of one near Marlin, Wash., Apr 9 (JA). A Gray-headed Junco appeared on the Salmon Falls Project May 25 (I.F.G.). The St Andrews, Wash., area had a **Clay-colored Sparrow** Apr. 21 (L & JT). Of the sprinkling of Golden-crowned Sparrows moving through e Washington the Davenport cemetery provided the best showing with five May 7, four May 12 and one May 19 (JA). Single Lapland Longspurs were noted on the Salmon Falls Project Mar. 20 (I.F.G.) and in the Rupert, Ida., area Apr. 16 (WHS). At least 25 in breeding plumage were on the Sage Grouse grounds s of Creston, Wash., Apr. 14 (JA). A likely sighting of a Chestnut-collared Longspur came from the E. Wenatchee, Wash., area Mar. 4 (L&JT). A late Snow Bunting was in the Davenport, Wash., area Mar. 8 (JA).

**CORRIGENDUM** — Delete the record of a Lesser Yellowlegs at Klamath Falls Feb 25, 1979, AB 33:299.

**OBSERVERS CITED** — James Acton, Ethlyn Barneby, Canyon Birders (C.B.), Larry Bow, Susan J. Buchel, Bob Bugert, Bureau of Land Management (B.L.M.), Zee Butler, Dean Carrier, Phil W. Cheney, Sharon Cotterell, John Coykendall, John Doremus, Mrs Drysdale, Esther and Ray Enders, Joe Evanich, Kathy and Tad Finnell, David Fix, Chris Flanagan (CFI), Ron Friesz, Cleo and Ernest Frost, Greg Gillson, Golden Eagle Audubon Society (G.E.A.S.), Eve T. and Ray A. Hays, Jim and Norma Heckathorn (JHe & NHe), Randy Heinz, J. Hickman (JH), Del Holland (DHo), Donnell Hunter (DH), Idaho Dept of Fish and Game (I.F.G.), Lowell and Nina Johnson, Dean Jones, Steve Kennedy, Rick Knight, Merle Koliner, Ron Lang, Al and Hilda Larson, Tracy Lloyd (TL), Tom Lund (TLu), Ed McVicker (EM), Judy Marchwich, Jeffrey S. Marks, Vern Marr, Sid Martin (SM), Pat Scown (PSc), Michael Sherrill, W H Shillington, Richard R. Sjoström, P. D. Skaar, Lee Stream, Shirley G. Sturts, Dan Sullivan, Priscilla (PS) and Steve Summers, Wally Sumner, Lorna and Jerry Tangren (L&JT) Dan Taylor, Steve Thompson (STh), Terry Thompson (TT) Tricia Thompson (TTh) Larry (LT) and Susan Thompson (ST), Charles H. Trost, Wes Walker (WWa), Washington Department of Fish & Game (W.F.G.), Winton Wey-

demeyer (WW), Mildred V. White, E. G. White-Swift, Robert E. Woodley, Yakima Audubon Society (Y.A.S.), Vince Yannone. — **THOMAS H. ROGERS, E. 10820 Maxwell Ave., Spokane, WA 99206.**

## MOUNTAIN WEST

/Hugh E. Kingery

This year's landbird migration featured unusually large numbers of several species. The "unbelievable inundation" on May 20 at Chatfield State Park near Denver produced 290 Western Tanagers, 490 Yellow-rumped Warblers, and 480 Virginia's Warblers (WWB). Other impressive numbers are discussed below under Swainson's Hawk, Water Pipit, Clay-colored and White-crowned sparrows.

We received this spring five reports of field observations of about 100 observers in Boulder County, Colorado (B.A.S., LH,MM, PM,IS). Each report provides different data. One relies largely on feeders and yard observations; two on birders looking for rarities; and two on a combination. The five provide a sense of the migration, but no definitive conclusions on how bird populations fared in Boulder County this spring.

Three of these reports cover probably the most intensively-birded acre in the Mountain West — Varsity Pond on the University of Colorado campus. Probably no warbler which ventures to that inviting den escapes notice — usually by 5-10 bird watchers. This year the campus produced 26 species of warblers, most at Varsity Pond, plus assorted other landbird migrants . . . remarkable for any heavily-populated campus.

Another reporting vagary occurs at the Great Salt Lake — which attracts prodigious numbers of water birds to seven federal and state refuges. Utah Division of Wildlife Resources reports show that, from year to year, ducks shift their allegiance among those refuges. Except for Bear River, we receive no reports from these refuges other than the Division's wildlife summaries, so we cannot trace declines at Bear River in herons, ibises, or shorebirds to the other refuges. Very likely similar shifts in loyalty occur among all migrating birds, thus skewing the significance of local population estimates.

Regional observers this spring identified 386 species: Colorado 344, Utah 249, Wyoming 235, and Nevada 230.

**LOONS, GREBES** — Griffiths found an Arctic Loon in winter plumage at Walsenburg, Colo., June 2, reportedly there since May 25 (†), the first Regional spring record. In Utah, mid-April migratory flocks of Eared Grebes numbered 1000 at Quichipa L., Minersville, (SH) and Bear River N.W.R. (LS), 250 at Antelope L., Great Salt L. (E&SM), and 150 at Provo Apr. 9 (MW). By May 31, 1000 had arrived for nesting at Ruby Lake N.W.R., Nev. (SB). The numbers of migrating W. Grebes seem to have increased over the past 5 years in Colorado; peaks included 326 Apr. 29 and 350 May 12 at Denver (D.F.O.), and 264

at Longmont May 12 (F.A.C.); unfortunately many summer without nesting. Bear River's nesting population yo-yos from year to year; this year it increased to 1000 from 500 last year.

**CORMORANTS, HERONS** — An Olive-backed Cormorant at L. Mead Mar. 12 provided Nevada's second record; this one, like the first last December (AB 33:300), was compared directly with a Double-crested (†VM).

Among more than usual Green Herons were an early one at Ridgway, Colo., Apr. 7-11 (JRG) and six at various Colorado locations May 12-13. Wyoming reported three: Jackson's first Apr. 20-28 (NA,WM,ph), Sheridan's fourth May 22 (HD,MC,SR,MEa), and one at Laramie May 27 (PW). Wyoming's second **Cattle Egret** visited Jackson Apr. 26 (SW *et al.*). One at Corn Cr., Apr. 21 gave Las Vegas its first area record (VM) and one stopped at the San Juan R., near Monticello, Utah, May 20 (FB). Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo., and vicinity hosted six from late March into late April (MTN). A Great Egret at Colorado Springs (hereafter, Colo. Spgs.) May 12 gave El Paso County its only record this century, and four visited Antero Res., in a mountain park near Hartsel, Colo., May 13 (†JP). The only Yellow-crowned Night Herons were two at Denver May 19, dwindled to one May 26 (F&JJ,HEK,ph.). White-faced Ibis reports increased, despite reports of poor nesting last year. They stopped all along the Colorado piedmont, with a peak of 82 at Longmont May 12; Colorado mountain locations had flocks of 12-30 at Antero Res., Buena Vista, and Durango, and 99 at Grand Jct. (MF). Several observers noted an Am. Flamingo in mid-May at Bear R., presumably an escaped exotic (LS). One was seen w. of Salt Lake City July 7, 1977 (WWB) — could it have survived 2 Utah winters, or has someone lost two flamingos in 3 years?

**WATERFOWL** — Utah refuges reported about 225,000 ducks present during March — 70,000 fewer than last year. The composition shifted: Pintails peaked in the first half, at 103,257, and Green-winged Teal peaked in the second half, at 71,264 (U.D.W.R.). Monte Vista peaked at 22,000 ducks, and Alamosa N.W.R., Colo, at 12,500, both totals about double last year's (MTN). Ruby L. peaked at 6000-7000 ducks, including about 1000 Canvasbacks. The best count in n.e. Colorado came Mar. 4 with 14,824, including 10,000 Mallards and 2675 Com. Mergansers (JR).

At Pueblo, Colo., three carefully-studied swans were identified as Trumpeters Mar. 24-25; like the one at Boulder 3 years ago, observers noted all field marks except voice (D&CG). The highest count of Canada Geese came with 3100 Mar. 4 at Denver's Chatfield Res. (F & JJ). Many flocks passed through Cheyenne Mar. 6 - Apr. 10; on Mar. 9, 500-600 passed over one Cheyenne home during 1½ hours (MWh). Although Utah had 400-500



Snow Geese in March, the only other regional reports were of 19 at Grand Jct., Mar. 6 (MF) and two at Sheridan Apr. 21 (GN). Sharp-eyed observers picked out Greater Scaups Apr. 6 - May 6 at Torrington and Sheridan, Wyo., and Boulder (CM,HD, B&CB). Sheridan had two Harlequin Ducks — a species usually found only in Yellowstone P. (*fide* HD). A count of 106 Red-breasted Mergansers in the Boulder area Mar. 16-31 represents a high count (B.A.S.).

**RAPTORS** — An ad. and imm. Mississippi Kite at Corn Cr., found by tourists, gave Nevada its first record, on a day with strong N winds (RCR,GKo,MCR,ph.). Jackson, Wyo. picked up its first Broad-winged Hawk record May 9 (JWi). Of 35 Swainson's Hawks Apr. 22, near Campo, Colo., 25 sat in a freshly plowed field (MM). At Sheridan two days later, several hundred were "either circle-soaring in large flocks or migrating one after the other about a second apart, into the wind. This steady stream occurred 11:09-11:49 a.m. They came from the s. . . and passed directly over, then headed N into Montana via the Wolf Mtns." (TM). We had several April records of Rough-legged Hawks, plus May observations reported from Colo. Spgs., Baca County, Colo., and Eureka, Nev. (A.A.S.,VT, JE). A heavy winter carp kill probably attracted the 259 eagles to Bear R., Mar. 14; 142 were ad. Balds, the rest Goldens and imm. Balds (LS). Utah's January count turned up 658 Bald Eagles. In Salt Lake City a man was fined \$750 for shooting one. The S. Platte R., between Greeley and Ft. Morgan, Colo., sported 134 Balds Mar. 1 (JF).

**GROUSE, CRANES** — Observers at Sheridan are studying a hybrid Sage × Sharp-tailed Grouse, described in detail and well-photographed (BH,BBe). The San Luis Valley, Colo., had eight of the nine Grays L. Whooping Cranes Mar. 15; the last left Apr. 13. They were also observed at Gunnison, Colo. (KC), Jackson Apr. 16-27 (BR), and Fountain, Colo., Mar. 12 (BWi) the latter a poser as to which flock it belongs. A Sora, appearing May 1, liked a desert pond near Monticello, Utah. "It stayed for at least 3 weeks, feeding on the edge of the pond. It adapted to the population of backpackers very well, by disappearing into clumps of sage brush at the slightest sign it had been spotted." (FB).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Bear R. reported very

few shorebirds this spring — its largest concentration was apparently no more than 5% of the 500,000 of 2 years ago. In the rest of the Region, the pattern was normal or less than normal numbers. A breeding-plumaged Piping Plover visited Pueblo Apr. 22 (D&CG). At Logan, Utah, an early Am. Golden Plover arrived Apr. 7 (Br. A.S.), and one in transition to breeding plumage was at Las Vegas Apr. 28-29 (VM). The few Whimbrels reported did include the second Latilong record for Durango, Colo., one Apr. 26 (EF). The peak of the Spotted Sandpiper migration occurred on Colorado's spring count day May 12, with 137 at Colo. Spgs. (twice the previous high), 53 at Longmont, 50 at Bonny Res., 31 at Estes Park, and 67 at Denver. The few notable shorebird records included a White-rumped Sandpiper May 11 at Durango, a Stilt Sandpiper at Torrington, Wyo. (CM), a Sanderling at L. Mead Apr. 4, first in Nevada since 1977 (VM), and a ♀ Red Phalarope in breeding plumage at Meeker, Colo., Apr. 27 (MG, † C.F.O.). Marbled Godwits did make a strong showing in e. Colorado, with impressive counts like 54 and 80 at two different Denver reservoirs Apr. 20 & 25 (MOS,AK), 100+ at Orday, Colo., Apr. 24 — all flushed into flight by a Peregrine (VT) — and 30 at Bear R., Apr. 14 (MK). A flock of 3500 Wilson's Phalaropes spun in the waters of Pueblo Res., May 12 (HMS); the same day spring counts turned up 1426 at Colo. Spgs., 702 at Longmont, but only 100 at Bonny Res., and 40 at Denver.

**GULLS** — Reports of the rarer winter gulls (two Glaucous and four Thayer's) ended in e. Colorado Apr. 1; one Thayer's was at Las Vegas Mar. 12 (VM). D.F.O. found 135 Herring Gulls at Denver Mar. 25, and a last report came of one Apr. 24 at Cheraw, Colo. (VT). Ring-billed Gulls peaked in s. Nevada with 1500 at Davis Dam and 700 at Las Vegas Mar. 22 (VM); Bear R. had 2000 in mid-March, after an arrival Feb. 28 (LS). A comparison of plumage and calls with nearby Franklin's Gulls, appeared in diminished numbers this spring, except at Sheridan where observations included a late flock of seven on May 30 (HD). A C.F.O. tour found two Least Terns at Rocky Ford and one at Eads May 27 (PM). The 250 Black Terns at Julesburg, Colo., represented the largest flock reported regionally in two years (RS,WWB).

**CUCKOOS, OWLS** — An expedition into the Nevada portion of Beaver Dam Wash turned up 6-7 probable breeding pairs of Yellow-billed Cuckoos (CL). Barn Owls are using at least six nest boxes in Utah County, Utah (MW). Of five Flammulated Owls picked up at Aspen, Colo., during a snowstorm May 8-9, one was dead, one died later, but three flew away after care in a wildlife sanctuary (*vide* ECT). Presumably part of a flight grounded by the storm; how many others perished? No one else reported seeing any during the spring, even Winn who is conducting a study project on them. Aspen lies n. of the E/W band where this little owl has been found nesting (AB 32:1192). Two Spotted Owls were calling and flying May 19 in Mesa Verde N.P. (BrW). A juvenile Long-eared Owl was at Lida

May 30-31 (BD,JB), the only spring record in s. Nevada in 7 years. A late report — a Boreal Owl at Dubois, Wyo., Jan. 16 — caught a House Sparrow at a feeder, ate it in the yard, and gave the Upper Wind R. Valley its first record (†SW). A Saw-whet Owl was reported in Grand Gulch near Monticello May 28 (*vide* FB).

**SWIFTS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — Two Black Swifts cruised L. Powell, Utah, May 28 (PC). White-throated Swifts arrived at Colo. Spgs., Mar. 28, Zion Apr. 2, and Gilman, Colo., Apr. 18. At Newcastle, Colo., "On Apr. 22 I saw one from an airplane 1000 feet above the Grand Hogback (JM)." First Black-chinned Hummingbirds appeared at Las Vegas Mar. 26. Zion's arrived a week late Apr. 4, but built up quickly; by Apr. 28 >200 were coming to one Springdale feeder. The first young appeared May 2 — 4 weeks from the arrival date (JG). Costa's Hummingbirds were found at Leeds and Washington Cos., Utah (MW,EH). Right on schedule, ♂ Calliope Hummingbirds arrived at Jarbridge, Nev., May 4 before the severe May snowstorm, with females arriving a week later (EB). They reached Sheridan May 13 and Cody May 15, with two nests found there by May 30 (HD, UK). A ♀ Rivoli's Hummingbird spent May 22 at a N.P.S. feeder at Blue Mesa Res., near Gunnison (†KC).

**WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS** — Downing reports that scoring flickers on a 10-point scale from Yellow-shafted to Red-shafted (Julian, "A Proposal for Reporting Flickers in Colorado", *Colorado Field Ornithologist* 14:16, Dec. 1972) has become an intriguing field exercise, and almost eliminated reports of "pure" Yellow-shafteds. One wonders what would happen with application of such a scoring system to Yellow-rumped Warblers (no hybrids ever reported in this Region), N. Orioles, or Dark-eyed Juncos. On Apr. 27 a Red-bellied Woodpecker returned to the same yard in Colo. Spgs., where one spent 15 minutes last December (EW). A Red-Red-headed Woodpecker drifted W to Moose, Wyo., May 10 (HW), for Jackson Hole's second record. Lewis' Woodpeckers included one Apr. 29 at Grand L., the first w. side record for R.M.N.P. (DJ), and 100 at Pagosa Spgs., Colo., May 15 (PWh). Early flycatchers included a W. Kingbird which sought shelter at a Ft. Morgan, Colo., farmhouse on a drizzly Mar. 31 and stayed until Apr. 2; a Cassin's Kingbird along the San Juan R., Apr. 19 (FB); a Dusky at McCoy, Colo., Apr. 10, seen several times that week (ME); and at Sheridan, an Olive-sided Apr. 16 (SR) and two Apr. 30 (BBE). Rare flycatchers included a Scissor-tailed which flew sorties from a fence line near Eagle, Colo., May 19 (JM), a new Latilong record; a Black Phoebe along the Arkansas R., near Pueblo Res., May 18 (VT); and a Vermilion near Denver Apr. 15 (*vide* F&JJ,ph.), in the same spot as one Mar. 19, 1972.

**SWALLOWS, JAYS** — At Eagle during a May snowstorm, "I saw five Tree Swallows at a time crowd into one birdhouse for the night. Another two dozen on the wire outside couldn't get in." (JM). While Cliff Swallows nest in large colonies — the 30 Cliff Swallows feeding in an Aurora, Colo. shopping center May 30, after a week of rain and snow, circling

low among cars and people, must have searched hard for that feeding site (MOS). Black-billed Magpies are suspected, but not confirmed, of nesting at Kanab, at the fringe of their range (SH). A few Clark's Nutcrackers spent the spring in mountain valleys like Silver Plume (EC) and Eagle (JM).

**THRASHERS, SOLITAIRES** — Spring counts occurred this year the day before the average arrival date for Gray Catbirds in the Colorado piedmont; Denver, Colo. Spgs., Longmont, and Boulder counts all failed to find them on May 12. A Brown Thrasher May 6, trapped and banded, provided Logan's first record (AS), and the one May 27 gave the w. side of R.M.N.P., its first record (DJ). Bendire's Thrashers were at St. George and Beaver Dam Wash. Utah, Apr. 22 (MW), the only other Utah reports in recent years have come from Kanab and the w.c. desert. Townsend's Solitaires stayed in the lowlands quite late: the Colo. Spgs. spring count reported 58 — previous high seven — one of which had strayed E to Yoder; Denver, Pueblo, and Boulder also noted them to mid-May. They did not linger at Sheridan or Cody (HD,UK) and at Grand L., a nest had four eggs in it May 28 (DJ).

**GNATCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS** — Blue-gray Gnatcatchers are abundant in the s. pinyon/juniper third of our Region, and in the Utah chaparral and oakbrush, but May observations from the Colorado piedmont exceeded most previous springs — 74 observed from Rocky Ford to Longmont. In Jackson Hole May 8 heavy snows apparently grounded 2000 migrating Water Pipits which gathered on roads at 6400-6800ft elevation (BWo). The same day Merchant saw three walking in an Eagle street (elevation 6600 ft) where the snow was not sticking. Bohemian Waxwings persisted in Colorado through mid-April, with large flocks of 500 Mar. 2-3 at Aurora (MOS) and 200 at Loveland Mar. 19 (F.A.C.), the last 75 at Colo. Spgs., Apr. 13 (CC). Las Vegas reported 51 Mar. 31 (VM), and Utah reported them only at Provo, 10-15 on Mar. 10 (CH). To the n., Wyoming had only small flocks of 15-30 except for the last sighting, 350 at Cheyenne Mar. 29 (MH). How did all those Colorado birds move N to nesting grounds without observations in Wyoming? An early Loggerhead Shrike was closely examined through a telescope Mar. 8 at Parshall, Colo (DJ). Six territorial Bell's Vireos, evenly spaced along a road, sang in response to songs of neighboring rivals May 18 near Crook, Colo (PM). Two Gray Vireos were at Canon City, Colo., May 11 (†VT). A Red-eyed Vireo singing at Dinosaur Nat'l Mon., May 31 provided a new Latilong record (BWe). Sheridan reported two Philadelphia Vireos May 22 (HD).

**WARBLERS** — Regional observers found 37 species of warblers. All but two occurred in e. Colorado — which picks up the fringe of the e. migration — while none of the other three states had half as many. Wyoming's variety would increase with more observers and coverage reported of good migrant drop sites; Utah and Nevada may have some unknown oases besides Las Vegas' Corn Cr., and Tule Spgs., which attract disoriented migrants. The reports do suggest Colorado's best warbler



migration in some years [All the following are Colorado observations, except Sheridan, Cheyenne, and Lida.] The most Black-and-whites in 7 years (23). Two Prothonotaries at Longmont May 12 (F.A.S.) and one at Fountain May 16 (PA). Worm-eating Warblers at Denver Apr. 21 (MJS) and Ft. Morgan May 16 (JCR). One Blue-winged at Two Buttes Res., Baca Co., May 14 (D&CG). Nine Magnolias. Cape Mays at Evergreen May 17 (ECT) and Ft Morgan May 23 (JCR). Black-throated Blues at Crook May 18-19 — in the same tree both days (PM,SL) — and Red Rocks P. (D.F.O.). Spring counts of Yellow-rumped: Colo. Spgs., 811; Longmont 399; Denver 103. A Hermit in the Cooper's yard, shared by them with many Apr. 27-29. One Blackburnian May 21 at Boulder (AC) and one at Cheyenne May 19 (FS *et al.*). Three Yellow-throateds at Pueblo Apr. 7 (D&CG, D.F.O.), Eleven-Mile Res., May 11 (HMS), and one banded w. of Longmont May 28 (CW). Grace's returned to Rye Apr. 28 for the second summer — perhaps three singing males. Chestnut-sided at Cheyenne May 19 (FS) and Sheridan May 31 (HD). Two Bay-breasteds at Boulder May 17-21, two at Fountain May 16-20, and one at Cheyenne May 19 (FS). Many N. Waterthrushes, including ten on May 12 at Colo. Spgs., one at Sheridan May 17, and one at Lida May 27 (BD,JB). A closely-observed Kentucky at Boulder May 16 (TMM,SL). Several rare species, very likely acceptable reports, came in without supporting details: two Hermits, and one Yellow-throated, Prairie, Kentucky, Connecticut, and Painted Redstart.

**BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS** — For the second year, 3-4 Bobolinks were at Eagle May 10, and one May 14 at Estes P. (T&LM,ph.) was the sixth R.M.N.P. record. The lone Red-winged Blackbird which arrived at Silver Plume in February reappeared sporadically during the spring (AB 33:302). April 7 found 5000 Red-wingeds at La Salle and 1000 at Latham Res., Colo. (VB). At Bonny Res., May 12, were five Baltimore, three Bullock's, and two intergrade N. Orioles (PM). A N. (Baltimore) Oriole was at Lida May 24-25 (KV). Away from Front Range cities, Brewer's Blackbirds exist in good numbers; the R.M.N.P. spring count May 12 found 365 and 200 flocked through Lykins Gulch May 11 (F.A.C.). Of three nests at Antonio, Colo., a magpie got the eggs of one and a cowbird egg occupied another (FC). A Great-tailed Grackle was at Durango May 9 (EF). At Pueblo, a "pair showed up at L. Minnequa May 1, and tried to set up a territory, but between competition with Com. Grackles and a fellow cleaning the lower limbs off the cedars they were trying to settle in, they gave up by May 10." (D,CG,DS). Observers found Scarlet Tanagers at Denver May 20 (JBo), Estes P., May 21-25 (T&LM,ph.), and two at Boulder May 23-29 (R&TV). A pair of Hepatic Tanagers on Mesa de Maya near Kim, Colo., May 24 was within 25 ft of the one observed last August (AB 33:200). The habitat of pinyon/juniper with scattered ponderosa seems appropriate for nesting (BeW). Summer Tanagers stopped at Durango Apr. 30 (EF), Santa Clara, Utah, May 11 (SH), Hat Flat near Mon-

ticello May 23 (FB), Denver May 26 (RF), and Lida May 27 (JLa)

**FINCHES** — After a hiatus of a year, good numbers of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks migrated in Colorado and Wyoming, the westernmost record at Cody May 28-29 (KF). Indigo Buntings also spread widely, and 6-7 apparently pure pairs are suspected of nesting at Mt. Charleston (CL). Impressive numbers of migrant Lazuli Buntings appeared throughout the Region. Killpack banded 40 at Ogden, Utah, last year, and 275 this year; he recaptured 15 of last year's birds. A ♂ Painted Bunting collected May 22 at John Martin Dam, Colo., provided Colorado with its first specimen (AP, \*Den. Mus. Nat. Hist.). Evening Grosbeaks displayed spotty distribution, with abundance at Durango, Glenwood Spgs., Sheridan, and selected feeders in Boulder; and scarcity in Cody, Cedar City, Cheyenne, and Eagle. Cassin's Finches exhibited similar spottiness. Common Redpolls lingered to Mar. 21 at Boulder (B.A.S.) and to late March in Jackson, Cody, and Sheridan. Two White-winged Crossbills at Alma May 7 (CC). The Green-tailed Towhee which arrived in Lakewood, Colo., Nov. 19 stayed to May 4, recorded 100 of the 167 day period (AB 33: 201; J&JC). First spring arrivals reached Denver Mar. 11 (F&JJ), R.M.N.P., Apr. 20, and Las Vegas Apr. 21. Their migration must have peaked around May 14, the day two killed themselves flying into windows in Cheyenne and one danced over a Silver Plume front porch, 1500 ft higher than the nesting grounds (MH,EC). At Bonanza, Utah, 20 Lark Buntings were found May 15-31 (JE), the fourth Nevada report in 7 years.

**SPARROWS** — Migrating Vesper Sparrows seemed particularly scarce in most of the Region. A Cassin's Sparrow skylarked May 27 at Punkin Center, Colo. ("much more famous as the best spot in Colorado to find the Massasauga, *Sistrurus catenatus*, than for any great attraction for birdwatchers" — PM). A Gray-headed Junco May 2-9 at Sheridan was n. of its usual range by about 300 mi (MC). At Bonny Res., Moulton reports "an impressive fallout of Clay-colored Sparrows May 12-13; my notes indicate no fewer than 750 on May 12 and 300 the next day; during this weekend trip usual counts range from 50-100 . . . Monotypic flocks infested every thicket and swarmed over every fenceline and their enthusiastic, if somewhat unaccomplished, songs, formed a nearly constant background in the field . . . we combed the horde of Clay-colored in vain — we couldn't even find one Brewer's; usually we find both species together during mid-May at Bonny." Calzolari reports being "inundated with White-crowned Sparrows during the snow of May 30 at Silver Plume. There were 100s in clumps of 12-24 up and down the valley. They were mixed with Gray-headed Juncos (about one-third as many juncos as sparrows). They stayed in large numbers till June 10, and since have disappeared." Counts of hundreds are not unusual in wintering sites or migratory flocks — Cedar City had 100/day in March and April (SH) — but Silver Plume is the threshold of the breeding grounds. The usual scattering of White-throated Sparrows

included one which wintered at Lakewood Nov 13 - Apr 15 (J&JC) and one which perished in a woodpile at Silver Plume Apr. 10 (EC).

**CORRIGENDA** — Referring to AB 32:381 the White-tailed Ptarmigan *has* been recorded in Yellowstone N.P. — a single one seen on the open top of Quadrant Mt., above timberline and 50 mi n. of the nearest record, the Idaho side of the Tetons, according to *Condor* 29, 4, July-Aug. 1927 (SG). Change the credit for the Nevada Kentucky Warbler (AB 31:1030) to CL, SaL.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — Bridgerland Audubon Society — Br.A.S.; Rocky Mt. Nat'l Park — R.M.N.P.

**CONTRIBUTORS AND CITED OBSERVERS** — Peggy Abbott, Aiken Audubon Society, N. Anderson, **Keith Archibald** (12), **Mary Back** (5), Ethlyn Barneby, V. Beeler, B. Berry (BBe), **Fred Blackburn** (8), J. Bock (JBo), Bruce & Cathy Bosley, Steve Bouffard, Boulder Audubon Society, J. Boyd, **W. W. Brockner** (20), Elaine Calzolari, **Charles Campbell** (14), P. Carlisle, R. Casserly, C. Chase (CCh), Francis Christensen, K. Clegg (KCl), M. Collins, Colorado Field Ornithologists, Cheryl Conrad (CCo), Kevin Cook, Joyce & John Cooper, J. L. Crawford, M. Cressman (MCr), A. Crockett, B. Daniels, Denver Field Ornithologists, **Helen Downing** (43), M. Eads (MEa), **Margaret Ewing** (3), **Louise Excell** (11), **Janet Eyre** (3), **Mary Fischer** (9), J. Fitzgerald, K. Flora, Ft. Collins Audubon Society, Foothills Audubon Club, Elva Fox, R. Franz, M. Getman, J. Gifford, B. Glenn, Steve Gniadek, **Dave & Carolyn Griffiths** (9), C. Groesbeek, J. R. Guadagno, Carol Hack, **May Hanesworth** (31), B. Harting, Kathy Hawkins, **Steven Hedges** (5), **Louise Hering** (23), C. Hill (CH), Mark Janos, **David Jasper** (8), R. Johnson, Frank & Jan Justice, Gleb Kashin, **Ursula Kepler** (7), Merlin Killpack, A. King (AKi), Steve Kingswood, G. Koch (GKo), A. Koeving, S. Larson, J. Laugham, Chuck Lawson, M. C. LeFever, **Paul Lehman** (6), Larry Malone, **Michael Manson** (10), Ted & Lois Mathews, T. McEneaney, **John Merchant** (7), Cheryl Michel, Elinor & Stauffer Miller, W. Morgan, **Pete Moulton** (5), **Vince Mowbray** (5), M. T. Nail, John Nelson, G. Novakovich, A. Phillips, Bill Pickslay, Judy Porrata, **Bert Raynes** (15), J. Reddall, **Warner Reeser** (10), R. C. Reynolds, J. C. Rigli, S. Rolf, Linda Sanders, M. J. Schock, Ruth Shea (RSh), D. Silverman, Helen Singer, M. O. Snyder, **Irrma Sparks** (36), Mahlon Speers, R. Spencer, F. Spring, W. Steffel, Henry M. Stevenson, A. Stokes, Judd Sundine, E. C. Thomas, Van Truan, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, K. VanVuren, Ridi & Tom VanZandt, Judy Ward, Rosie Watts (RWa), Betsy Webb (BeW), B. Webb (BrW), **Merrill Webb** (7), S. Welty, Pat Wheat (PWh), Phil White, M. Whitney (MWh), J. Wilbrecht (JWl), B. Williams, C. Williams, Elinor Wills, Roberta Winn, B. Winternitz (BWl), H. Wittmer, B. Wood (BWo), Stephanie Wood (SWd). — **HUGH E. KINGERY, 869 Milwaukee St., Denver, Colo. 80206.**

## SOUTHWEST REGION

/Janet Witzeman, John P. Hubbard  
and Kenn Kaufman

Spring weather in the Region averaged cooler and wetter than normal, encouraging luxuriant plant growth in many areas. Many of the grasslands, in particular, were lush and green by the end of May, suggesting the condition in late July or August of a more typical year. Avian responses to these conditions were not obvious.

Last winter (as detailed in our last column) much of southeast Arizona was subjected to record-setting cold weather. Some effects of this were not noticeable until late spring. The leafing-out season revealed that huge numbers of mesquites (and often their attendant mistletoe plants) were dead or mostly dead. In the Sierra Vista region, Danforth noted an unusual scarcity of Verdins, and attributed this to the mesquite kill-off; Phainopeplas were in exceptionally low numbers away from riparian zones throughout the lowlands, undoubtedly because of the heavy mortality of mistletoe during the winter. Sparrows of several species which were in low numbers during the winter remained difficult to find through the spring migration.

Observers were active in the Region this spring, with some positive results. New Mexico had its first believable sightings of Black Rail and Lucifer Hummingbird, while photographic evidence was obtained to raise American Golden Plover and Short-billed Marsh Wren from "hypothetical" to "confirmed" status. In Arizona a singing Cerulean Warbler, multiple Mew Gulls and a most surprising Cave Swallow were all photographed; the first had been seen but once before, and the latter two were both first state records.

**LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL** — At Davis Dam, Ariz., where an Arctic Loon wintered, an individual (evidently the same) lingered well into the summer. An imm. Oliveaceous Cormorant at Glenwood, N. Mex., Mar. 19 (JPH) was probably the same bird reported there during the previous period. Others were present during the season at Bosque del Apache N.W.R., at Bill Evans L., near Cliff, and e. of Douglas.

Spring strays were an ad. Louisiana Heron near Loving, N. Mex., May 28 (SW) for about the 11th state record, and an ad. Little Blue Heron e. of Yuma (BMW) May 9 (most of the dozen-or-so previous Arizona records are also for spring dates). A recently discovered heronry near Loving was comprised of Snowy Egrets and Black-crowned Night Herons; several young were banded there May 28 (SW). Two White-faced Ibises at Picacho Res., Ariz., Mar. 5 (GM) would have been exceptionally early for migrants, and thus may have represented a rare case of local wintering.

An unusual duck photographed near Mammoth, Ariz., May 6 (KVR,GR,ST) appeared to be a ♂ American × European Wigeon hybrid; this hybrid combination has been found before in North America, but not in the Southwest.

**RAPTORS** — The Sharp-shinned Hawk is quite rare as a breeder in s. Arizona, so of note was an active nest in the Mule Mts., found

May 13 (DD). In the Carlsbad area, Mississippi Kites were reported more frequently than in the recent past (RW,SW), and a nesting pair was found at Hobbs, N. Mex. (HS). Single Broad-winged Hawks at Hobbs May 6 & 13 (HS) were peripheral migrants, but a probable individual farther w. of Glenwood May 13 (R. Skaggs) would be exceptional.

Single ad. Gray Hawks were reported (with extensive details) at Las Cruces Mar. 31 (J. Bednarz) and e. of Roswell Apr. 22 (D. Lange *et al.*), for first locality records; the species appears to be at most, a rare straggler to New Mexico. An ad. Com. Black Hawk was present from Mar. 23 at least into May in the B. W. Delta (TB *et al.*), exceptionally far w.; not far away an imm. black hawk (sp.) was studied n. of Ehrenberg May 5 (BMW,DL). The Com. Black Hawk is a rare visitant to the Rio Grande Valley, so adults at Alameda Apr. 13 (JP) and near Isleta Mar. 30 (JND) were notable.

**RAILS, SHOREBIRDS** — A bird thought to be a **Black Rail** was seen fleetingly (but with some key details glimpsed to support the identification) at Harroun L., s.e. New Mexico, Apr. 17 (RW,SW); there are no previous state records. A Black Rail heard calling repeatedly Apr. 18 at B. W. Delta (JDB,AL) was n. of the known breeding areas in w. Arizona.

Five Snowy Plovers at Bosque del Apache May 5 (BRZ,KJZ) were the first to be reported there in several years. Occurrence of the **American Golden Plover** in New Mexico was confirmed this spring, with two birds present Apr. 21 at Bitter Lake N.W.R., one of them photographed (DH *et al.*). Two Ruddy Turnstones at Cibola N.W.R., May 16 (D. Ledford) provided Arizona's 8th (2nd spring) record. Two Whimbrels were near Poston in mid-April (BMW), adding to Arizona's handful of spring records for this elusive transient. Five probable Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen associating with Westerns at Bitter Lake N.W.R., May 5 (DH); the species is probably a rare-but-regular spring migrant on the e. edge of the Region.

Three pairs of Black-necked Stilts nested at Tucson (L.A. Hill, DSz *et al.*), where breeding has been very irregular. A N. Phalarope photographed above Davis Dam May 26 (BMW,SG) provided one of very few spring records for the L.C.R.

**GULLS, TERNS** — Mid-winter failed to produce the hoped-for gull bonanza on the L.C.R., but in mid-March the numbers and variety of gulls present at Davis Dam increased markedly. On Mar. 19-20, BMW and SG noted (among the numerous Ring-billed) at least 250 California Gulls (a high number for Arizona), three first-winter Herring Gulls (always scarce here), and an ad. Franklin's Gull (uncommon and early). Large concentrations of gulls at Davis Dam sometimes include rarities, and in this case, Whitney's photo of a



first-winter **Laughing Gull** established Arizona's second confirmable record for the species (since previous sight-records are now being questioned). The real prize (although not a surprise) was the presence of multiple **Mew Gulls**, with one adult and two first-winter birds Mar. 19-20 (BMW,SG), sightings of probable first-winter birds extending into April, and a second-winter bird present Mar. 31 - Apr. 17. BMW's photos confirmed this as a first Arizona record, although the species has been found before on the Nevada side of L. Mead.

A Com. Tern at Ganado L., May 29 (TKK,GR,JW) was perhaps Arizona's second spring record; the status of this species in the Region is still clouded by observers' lack of understanding of the true criteria for identification.

**ANIS THROUGH SWIFTS** — The Groove-billed Ani, a straggler to New Mexico, is very rare there in spring, so that one at Bitter Lake N.W.R., May 23-24 (G.H.Grossman) was notable. Although Band-tailed Pigeons breed in s. Colorado and Utah, and thus must pass through or over the lowlands of n.e. Arizona, a small flock in the cottonwoods at Teec Nos Pos May 27-30 (GR,KK *et al.*) evidently established the first such record. Stray White-winged Doves beyond normal limits were at Glenwood, N. Mex., Apr. 27 (B & DM) and at Silver City in May (DAZ); a wandering Inca Dove was noted at Rattlesnake Springs, s.e. New Mexico, May 2.

Intriguing was the presence of a Flammulated Owl in the B. W. Delta, heard at the same spot Mar. 9 (TB), Mar. 31 (KK,KVR *et al.*), and Apr. 18 (JDB). The duration of stay would have been remarkable for a migrant, and the first dates preceded normal arrival in s. Arizona, leading us to wonder if the bird could have wintered locally.

A Black Swift over Albuquerque in late May (JND) provided a second local record for a species which is scarce and little-known in the Region. A *Chaetura* sp., probably (and reported as) a Chimney Swift, was seen over Alameda, N. Mex., May 27 (SW). Chimney Swifts returned to Tucson (their only "regular" Regional locale) for a fourth consecutive year, with at least five present by late May.

**HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH TROGONS** — A ♂ **Lucifer Hummingbird** was seen and well-described at Williamsburg, N. Mex.,

Apr 25-26 (†Doris Miller), to provide what appears to be the first reliable state record. The locality (near Truth or Consequences) is surprisingly far from Guadalupe Canyon, the point in New Mexico where the species is most to be expected. Lucifers are still quite irregular in Arizona; a probable female was seen at Sabino Canyon, above Tucson, May 6 (SS); at Portal, one of the species' more usual locales, a male was present Apr. 2 and then Apr. 27 through the first week of May. Anna's Hummingbird is quite unexpected in New Mexico in spring; a male was noted at Mogollon May 27 (B&DM).

Normally we see spring migrant Rufous Hummingbirds only in s.w. Arizona, but there were sightings of one or more ad. males at Portal in Mid-March and May 1-4 (SSp *et al.*). North of normal limits, a ♂ Rivoli's Hummingbird visited a Flagstaff feeder Apr. 25-26 (*fide* JC). A ♂ White-eared Hummingbird turned up remarkably early at Ramsey Canyon on Mar. 9, and disappeared by around May 15 (R&CH *et al.*); farther e. at Portal, a female was seen Apr. 8 (also quite early) and a male was present May 26-31 (SSp *et al.*).

Broad-billed Hummingbirds were found outside their usual Arizona range at Quitobaquito Mar. 24 (RMCK) and at Portal from Apr. 5 through most of May (SSp). In New Mexico the species occurs regularly only in Guadalupe Canyon; the fourth "extralimital" record was provided by a male at Rattlesnake Springs May 13 (†SW).

A Coppery-tailed Trogon was heard and glimpsed June 6 in the Animas Mts., s.w. New Mexico (S. Dobrott), perhaps lending credence to an as yet undocumented report from the nearby Big Hatchet Mts., Apr. 26 (D. Hansen *et al.*).

**BECARDS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — In Sycamore Canyon, Ariz., where the Rose-throated Becard was first found nesting last year, one nest-building pair and another single bird were found May 19 (DSz, BR, GBk). Another surprising locality for the species was Madera Canyon, where a pair was seen May 18 but not subsequently (m.ob.).

A Thick-billed Kingbird in Sycamore Canyon May 19 (DSz) was also notable, since the species is rare and irregular in the Atascos region. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher s. of Poston May 22 (WH, JFD, VH) provided Arizona's only report this spring. The Buff-breasted Flycatcher population in the Huachuca Mts., was reportedly doing very well (GB).

#### S.A.

A **Least Flycatcher** was studied near Springerville May 26 (†KK, GR, EC); Arizona has few reliable records. A couple of other less definite reports were received. We should point out that it is not enough simply to say that a purported Least was singing, because some other *Empidonax* can make sounds approximating "che-beck." Details of structure, plumage, and behavior continue to be important, and of course thorough familiarity with all western *Empidonax* species is an essential prerequisite.

A first state record, and perhaps the most remarkable bird of the season, was a **Cave Swallow** found associating with Cliff Swallows

on the University of Arizona campus in Tucson May 11 (DSz) Remaining at least through June 7, it was seen by many and photographed for confirmation (Doug Cook). Details will be published elsewhere.

**JAYS THROUGH THRASHERS** — Scrub Jays from the winter's lowland invasion lingered into late April at Alameda, N. Mex. (JP), and in the L.C.V., where the last records were Apr. 18 at B. W. Delta and Apr. 19 at Cibola N.W.R. (*fide* SG); singles in s.e. New Mexico were noted in March at Hobbs (HS) and Apr. 18 at Otis (SW). Six Steller's Jays from the same incursion were seen near Roosevelt L., Ariz., Apr. 25 (KVR), and five near Cliff on the exceptionally late date of May 26 (RAF).

After nearly a decade on New Mexico's hypothetical list (first reported in December 1970), the **Short-billed Marsh Wren** was confirmed as occurring in the state on the basis of photographs obtained Apr. 22 at Bitter Lake N.W.R. (DH); this is the locality where the species has been reported as wintering repeatedly.

A Gray Catbird at Pipe Springs May 31 (KK) was well to the n. and w. of any known Arizona breeding locality. Single Brown Thrashers, rare stragglers to Arizona, were at Nogales in late March (RN), at Patagonia Mar. 31 (JH, RTS, RB), at Tucson Apr. 9 (L. Jones), at Tubac Apr. 28 (*fide* GG) and Phoenix May 1 (GR).

**THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS** — Last winter produced no Varied Thrush invasion here, so we were surprised by reports of an individual near Portal May 14 (†D. Charles, F. & D. Gillette). A **Wood Thrush** at Hobbs May 6 (†HS) produced apparently the fifth record for New Mexico.

Two Sprague's Pipits at L. McMillan, s.e. New Mexico, May 5 (†RW, SW) were rather late. The last of the winter's Bohemian Waxwings at Farmington were seen Mar. 3, except for a remarkably late individual there May 9 (APN). Phainopeplas are very rare and irregular in s.e. New Mexico, so one at Hobbs Mar. 2-3 (HS) was notable.

A **White-eyed Vireo** was well-described from Rattlesnake Springs May 4 (†RW) for a fifth New Mexico record. Single Yellow-throated Vireos near Kayenta May 30 (†KK, GR, JW) and near Portal June 13 (†B. & M. Schaugency) provided about the 10th and 11th records for Arizona. A Gray Vireo was banded on the early date of Mar. 28 (PW) at Tucson, whence there are few records of migrants.

**WARBLERS** — As more observers join the search for vagrant warblers, the numbers and variety recorded each season are steadily increasing. For example, in Arizona this spring we heard of about five Tennessee Warblers and roughly ten each of N. Parula and Am. Redstart; the latter two are becoming so regular that some observers no longer bother to report them (we would still like to hear about them, however).

Several species of uncommon interest were recorded. Single Worm-eating Warblers at Hobbs Apr. 18 & May 20 (HS) provided 7th and 8th sightings for New Mexico; the species is still undocumented in the state. A Magnolia Warbler at Tucson May 20 (DSz, SP, GG) was about Arizona's 11th. A ♀ Hermit Warbler reported at Rattlesnake Springs Apr. 25 (†RW) was exceptionally far e. for a spring

migrant, the species is generally a rare fall migrant in s.w. New Mexico. Single Chestnut-sided Warblers s. of Grants, N. Mex., May 13 (KS) and at Round Rock, Ariz., June 1 (DSz) were far w. for spring strays. Notable were a ♀ Bay-breasted Warbler at Rattlesnake Springs May 16 (KJZ) and a ♂ Blackpoll Warbler at Santa Fe May 28 (K. Giezentanner); a Palm Warbler at Nogales Apr. 27 (†DG, CC) was about the 12th for Arizona. A Hooded Warbler in Sabino Canyon near Tucson May 23-26 (B. Yelke *et al.*) fit the established pattern for this species, but one at Littlefield, n.w. Arizona, May 18 (M. Riffey, *fide* SH) was most unusual.

A few warbler species remain exceptionally rare despite the increased coverage, and this spring produced three such birds. A singing ♂ **Cerulean Warbler** was present May 18-20 in Madera Canyon (†CC *et al.*); photos (GM) made this the first documented Arizona record, although there had been one previous sighting. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was found on the Verde R., n.e. of Phoenix Apr. 14 (KVR) for about the fourth Arizona record. And at Rattlesnake Springs, a **Canada Warbler** was well-described May 25 (†RW), for New Mexico's third record.

**ICTERIDS, TANAGERS** — An E. Meadowlark, associating with a group of Westerns, was found Mar. 17, n. of Ehrenberg (RD; \* to A.S.U.). This was the first record for the L.C.V., although we suspect that a few, overlooked among the numerous Westerns, must winter there regularly; the E. Meadowlark remains unrecorded on the California side of the river. An ad. ♂ Orchard Oriole near Yuma May 20 (ST) was the only one reported in Arizona this season.

Both grackle species in the Region continue to expand their ranges. At Santa Fe, where a small colony of Com. Grackles is present, the first nest was confirmed in May (JPH). Commons are still scarce in some peripheral areas in New Mexico, so one at Rattlesnake Springs during the period (RW) and six at Farmington May 13-15 (H.H. Lesperance, *fide* APN) were notable; amazingly, Arizona still lacks a record of the species. At Springerville, n. Arizona, where individual Great-tailed Grackles have been recorded only since 1976, at least one pair was present this spring; one bird turned up May 19 at Fredonia, extreme n.w. Arizona (B. Lunceford). At Flagstaff, where the species was rare as little as five years ago, it is now seen commonly (JC).

A ♂ Scarlet Tanager at Santa Fe May 12 (C. Thomas) was the first to be recorded locally but New Mexico's 11th May record.

**FRINGILLIDS** — After being almost unrecorded in the Region during the winter, Lawrence's Goldfinches turned up in the L.C.V., in early April. A pair in the B. W. Delta was observed building a nest Apr. 18 (JDB, AL), and the birds were feeding three young by May 12; very few definite nestings have been recorded in Arizona or the L.C.V. the Verde R., in c. Arizona (where the species attempted breeding in 1978, 1977, and perhaps in previous years), two or three pairs were present at least into June, but no nest was found (GR, KVR, ST).

The Golden-crowned Sparrow at Santa Fe (about New Mexico's 12th) mentioned previously lingered until Apr. 29 (JPH), while two more were discovered at Corrales, near Albu-

querque, Mar. 9-13 (JND *et al.*). Chestnut-collared Longspurs, formerly considered very rare in the L.C.V., were noted there again this spring: about 15 (in breeding plumage, some singing) were near Poston Mar. 16 (SG, BMW), with five seen in the vicinity as late as Apr. 1. A single Lapland Longspur heard and seen flying over at Laguna Dam Mar. 4 (ST) provided the only definite record of the 1978-79 winter season.

**CONTRIBUTORS** — (Area compilers in boldface) — Gary Baker (GBk), Russell P. Balda, John D. Bean, **George Berlinger** (Huachuca Mts.), Rick Bowers, Robert Bradley (RBr), Tim Brush, Bonnie Burch, Steve Cardiff (SCa), Clarence Clark, Sue Clark, Elaine Cook, **John Coons** (Flagstaff), M. & M. Crutcher, Doug Danforth, William Davis,

Salome R. Demaree, John Disano, Jeff F. Drake, Robert Dummer, John N. Durrie, Ralph A. Fisher, Agnes & Harold Gaither, Don Garver, **Sharon Goldwasser** (L.C.V.), Grace Gregg, W. W. H. Gunn, Murray Hansen, **Bill Harrison** (Nogales), Steve Hedges, Rick & Connie Hewitt, Randy Hill, Vallerie Hink, Steve Hoffman, John Hoover, William Howe, Mary Hunnicutt, Chuck Hunter, Robin Hunter, Dustin Huntington, Betty Jackson, Betty Jones, Chuck Kangas, Andy Laurenzi, Diane Laush, Helen Longstreth, Robert McKernan, Barbara & Dan McKnight, Chuck McMoran, Neal Middlebrook, Scott Mills, **Gale Monson** (consultant on Arizona records), Robert Morse, Alan P. Nelson, Phil Norton, Robert Norton, Susan Parker, Carroll & Joan Peabody, Joanne Phillips, D. Randall Pinkston, Gwen & Dick Robinson, Bill Roe,

Gary Rosenberg, Ken V. Rosenberg, Steve Sabo, Bert & Millie Schaughency, Hart Schwarz, Robert T. Smith, **Sally Spofford** (SSp, Portal), Walter Spofford, Ken Stinnett, **Douglas Stotz** (DSz, Tucson), Scott Terrill, Ross L. Teuber, Dick Todd, **Carl S. Tomoff** (Prescott), Dick & Gloria Wachtler, Phil Walters, Steve West, Bret M. Whitney, Rick Wilt, Robert A. Witzeman, James R. Wolf, Barry R. Zimmer, Kevin J. Zimmer, Dale A. Zimmerman. Abbreviations: †, written details on file with New Mexico Ornithological Society or with Arizona Bird Committee; \* specimen; B.W. Delta, Bill Williams Delta; L.C.V., Lower Colorado Valley; m.ob., many observers. — **JANET WITZEMAN, 4619 E. Arcadia Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85018; JOHN P. HUBBARD, 2016 Valle Rio, Santa Fe, NM 87501; KENN KAUFMAN, Tucson, AZ.**

## ALASKA REGION

/D. D. Gibson

Most mainland Alaska observers commented on dry, warm weather and an undistinguished migration. Waterfowl, shorebird and passerine breeders were generally on time, but some (*e.g.*, Tree Swallow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit) did not seem to be as numerous as usual. The migration in the Bering Sea was exciting for its diversity, as always. Data available, plus space limitations, permit only pieces of spring 1979. Dates of record-early Regional arrivals are italicized.

**HERONS** — An ad. **Black-crowned Night Heron** identified at St. Paul I., Pribilof Is., Apr. 3 (†NS) provided the second single-observer sighting in Alaska, following an unconfirmed report from Atka I., Aleutian Is., in April 1975. Nominate *nycticorax*, which breeds in Japan and has been recorded once in the Commander Islands (*Ornitologiya* 5:166, 1962), is the likely race involved. The species remains on the Alaska hypothetical list.

**WATERFOWL** — A flock of nine Bean Geese at Attu I., w. Aleutians May 11 (†TGT, DWF,GBR) and a total of *ten* on May 21 (m.ob.) were new high counts in the state. Cinnamon Teal were recorded several places in s.e. Alaska, where rare but regular, this season: a pair on the Stikine R. flats Apr. 24 and May 11 (JH); a pair at Switzer Cr., Juneau, May 4 (SW); and two males and a female at the Mendenhall wetlands, Juneau, May 12 (FAG). Single ♂ Eur. Wigeon at Potter Marsh, Anchorage, Apr. 13 (DFD) and at Aialik Bay, Kenai Pen., May 28 (RHD) were early and late, respectively. There were only two reports of Com. Pochards, a female at Attu June 3 (DWF *et al.*) and a male at St. Paul June 1+ (NS *et al.*). Five plus Smews at Attu May 18 (TGT *et al.*) was high.

**RAPTORS** — A **Turkey Vulture** observed well both perched at and in flight near a dead cow outside Delta Junction in early May (BK ph., BLA,SR) was astounding, the first substantiated record of the species in Alaska, and the new northernmost North American sighting.

**SHOREBIRDS** — At least three Ringed Plovers were carefully identified at Gambell in

early June (WCR,RWS *et al.*). No observers have been present on St. Lawrence I., long enough in recent years to determine if this species breeds there regularly; there has been only one Alaska breeding record, from that island in 1960 (*Condor* 73:324, 1971). A Killdeer arrived at Fairbanks May 1 (DDG,RSH), but few were seen there subsequently. A Mongolian Plover arrived at Attu on schedule May 16 (PGD *et al.*), and normal numbers were seen there through May 30, max. three on the 24th (TGT, JLD *et al.*). At the n. end of the Bering Sea, one was observed at Safety Sound, Seward Pen., May 28 (PJB, OKS), and at least two birds were seen at Gambell June 7 (AS).

Hudsonian Godwit arrived on time in the Cordova area the first week of May (MEI), at Kasilof on May 5 (MAM), and at Anchorage on the 6th (DFD); four weeks later the species had crossed the state — one was seen at Franklin Bluffs, lower Sagavanirktok R., n. Alaska, and the species was 'uncommon' at Prudhoe Bay May 31 (CH). Rare godwits in s.e. Alaska included a Hudsonian on the Mendenhall wetlands, Juneau, May 10 and a Marbled there on May 12 (FAG). Regular in autumn but casual in spring, Spotted Redshank was recorded at Attu this May, at least two birds May 20-24th (BFK,TGT,JLD *et al.*). A **Green Sandpiper** (*Tringa ochropus*) carefully studied for a half hour by 30 observers at Henderson Valley marsh, Attu, May 22 (†BFK, †TGT, †JLD *et al.*) provided the first multiple-observer sighting of this palearctic species in Alaska. A lone bird at Attu in June 1978, was a single-observer record (†TLS).



Wood Sandpipers were present in reasonable numbers May 19-29 in the w. Aleutians, max. 21 birds at Attu May 22, and courtship displays were observed (TGT *et al.*). A Terek Sandpiper at Gambell June 6-7 (BFK *et al.*) was the only report from the Bering Sea islands this season. A **Terek Sandpiper** at Anchorage June 10-15+ (†BEL,ph. *et al.*) was amazing — the only other Alaska record e. of the Bering coast was a bird there in June 1977 (*q.v.*). A Black Turnstone at the *Colville R. Delta* May 29-31 (JWH,ph.) produced the first Beaufort Sea coast record of this Beringian sandpiper. Mindful of recent breeding range expansion of **Wilson's Phalarope** into Yukon Territory (AB 32:1185), observers in e.c. Alaska found two widely-separated pairs, at Delta Junction (†SOM) and at Fairbanks (RM), both June 3; neither pair was seen thereafter.

Common Snipe (nominate *gallinago*)

occurred in the w Aleutians in unprecedented numbers this spring. Birds were present at Attu May 12 - June 3, max. 28+ on May 21-22 (TGT *et al.*). Many were paired, and courtship displays were seen — for the first time in the Aleutians since 1975 (see *Condor* 80:311, 1978). As White *et al.* suggested for Wood Sandpiper (*Auk* 91:175-177, 1974), perhaps snipe, which occur in the Near Islands every year in small numbers, require a certain minimum density of conspecific, breeding-condition birds before such behavior, and breeding itself, is prompted. Perhaps annual in the Region in very small numbers in spring, Great Knot was seen this season at Gambell, one bird June 3-4 (WCR,RWS,PJB,PT *et al.*). Rufous-necked Sandpiper arrived at Attu May 19 (TGT *et al.*), and small numbers were seen in the Bering Strait area after June 1 (m ob.). One **Rufous-necked Sandpiper** was observed at Anchorage June 17 (RR, †JCP, DFD *et al.*), the first spring (?) record on the Alaska Pacific coast e. of the Aleutians. One Temminck's Stint was seen at Attu May 22 (†BFK,TGT, †JLD *et al.*); only a few Long-toed Stints were observed in the w. Aleutians this spring. Two Least Sandpipers at Fairbanks May 3 (MIC) were quite early; and at least one White-rumped Sandpiper occurred there, where very rare, in late May (BK *et al.*). Although a few Stilt Sandpipers, which often occur in e.-c. Alaska with the next species, were seen at Fairbanks, no Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported in c. Alaska this spring. In n. Alaska, Stilt and Buff-breasted sandpipers arrived on schedule at Franklin Bluffs May 27 (CH). The only Ruff observed at Attu this spring was late, May 30-31 (TGT *et al.*), but it presaged an unparalleled passage at Gambell. *Forty plus* birds, in flocks of up to a dozen, were estimated to have occurred there in early June, including males of every color combination, and courtship and copulation were observed. But all birds were apparently still on passage (WCR,RWS *et al.*).

**GULLS THROUGH CUCKOOS** — Four ad California Gulls and two ad. Ring-billed Gulls were reported at Ketchikan May 15 (†JCT, †RCT); both species are rare visitants in southeast Alaska. Black-headed Gulls arrived on time in the w. Aleutians; 25 at Attu May 21 (TGT *et al.*) was a new state high count. One was seen at Nome May 29 (RWS). At least three *Cuculus* were studied at St. Paul June 15-18 (WCR,RWS, †BFK, †HPL *et al.*), and a **Common Cuckoo** was found on the Yukon-Kuskokwim R. Delta in mid-June (REG), the first mainland record of the species.

**LARKS THROUGH THRUSHES** — A Skylark arrived at Attu Apr. 28 (TGT) and small numbers were seen there through May 19. Horned Larks arrived at Juneau Apr. 15 (RBW), where they were more numerous than usual, and the species was noted early at two locations on the Parks Highway s. of the Alaska Range Apr. 19 (PGM,DKP). Violet-green Swallows arrived at the early end of normal along a broad front: Apr. 25 at Juneau (RBW); Apr. 28 at Kasilof (MAM) and Anchorage (DFD); and Apr. 29 by a host of observers at Fairbanks (RBWe,MJC,BEL, RHD,others). Single Eye-browed Thrushes were seen at Attu May 21 & 29 (TGT *et al.*), and a Dusky Thrush was reported at Gambell May 31 (PJB,OKS,PDP,TP). A ♂ Siberian

Rubythroat arrived at Attu May 28 and, singing, briefly defended a territory through June 4 (TGT *et al.*) and a female was reported at Gambell June 13 (RN,BFK *et al.*). There have now been three spring records of this species on Alaska islands n. of the Aleutians. Solitaires were more widely reported than normal in e.-c. Alaska (m.ob.).

**WAGTAILS, PIPITS** — White and Yellow wagtails arrived on schedule, but by no means early, and in normal numbers in the w. Aleutians this spring. A **White Wagtail** observed on the Chatanika R., near Fairbanks, June 9 (†RSH) produced the second record for c. Alaska, both in spring. *Four* Indian Tree Pipits arrived at Attu May 20 (†BFK, †TGT, †JLD *et al.*), and three were present May 21, none thereafter. A **Pechora Pipit** was carefully studied at Attu May 22 (†BFK, †TGT, †JLD *et al.*), the first long-sought Aleutian record of this Asiatic, which breeds in the nearby Commander Is., and another was studied at Gambell June 6 (BFK,AS,DLK *et al.*), the third record at that location. Red-throated Pipits arrived at Attu in unparalleled numbers, 55+ birds May 20 that quickly dispersed; none was seen there after May 24 (TGT *et al.*).

**VIREOS THROUGH BUNTINGS** — A Warbling Vireo was observed near Juneau, where a scarce migrant, May 29-30 (RHA, FAG). A Yellow-rumped Warbler at Gambell June 1-2 (PJB,RA *et al.*) was a most unusual overshoot from the mainland. A singing ♂ Townsend's Warbler that arrived at Fairbanks May 2 (FCD) was almost two weeks early in c. Alaska. Western Tanagers, which are rare migrants in s.e. Alaska beyond the confines of the trans-Coast Range rivers, were recorded at Petersburg, up to three birds May 27 - June 3 (JH), and at Juneau, a male May 31 and June 11 (RHA). The w. Aleutian passage of Bramblings was quite small this spring. One bird arrived at Attu May 21, max. count was six on May 22, and none was seen after the 24th (TGT *et al.*). One was reported from *Pt. Barrow* — the second, and first spring, record at that location — in early June (*fide* GEH), but no details were available. Of interest was a Tree Sparrow at Gambell June 2 (PJB *et al.*). The species is a very rare visitant on St. Lawrence I. At the n. end of the species' Alaska range, Snow Bunting arrived at Pt. Barrow Apr. 29 (BDM), on time. Rustic Buntings arrived at Attu May 19; at least *eight* birds present May 24 (TGT *et al.*) provided a new high count for the state.

**CORRIGENDUM** — In autumn 1978 Horned Lark account (*AB* 33:205), word race should have read *species*.

**CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS** — B. L. Anderson, R. H. Armstrong, R. Austin, P. J. Baicich, M. J. Cartusciello, R. H. Day, F. C. Dean, D. F. DeLap, P. G. DuMont, J. L. Dunn, D. W. Finch, R. E. Gill, F. A. Glass, R. S. Hadley, G. E. Hall, J. W. Helmericks, C. Hohenberger, J. Hughes, M. E. Isleib, B. Kessel, B. F. King, D. L. Kraus, H. P. Langridge, B. E. Lawhead, S. O. MacDonald, B. D. MacLean, P. G. Mickelson, M. A. Miller, R. Morgan, R. Naveen, J. C. Pitcher, D. K. Porter, P. D. Pratt, T. Pratt, S. Regan, R. Rodriguez, G. B. Rosenband, W. C. Russell, T. L. Savaloja, O. K. Scott, A. Small, R. W. Stallcup, N.

Stepetin, P. Tans, T. G. Tobish, J. C. Tweit, R. C. Tweit, S. Watson, R. B. Weeden (RBWe), R. B. Williams; † = details on file U.A.M.; ph. = photo on file U.A.M. — **D. D. GIBSON, University of Alaska Museum, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.**

## NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

**/Eugene S. Hunn and Phil Mattocks, Jr.**

The season was uniformly warmer and drier than usual throughout, based on the Seattle, Portland, and Medford weather stations. Seattle and Portland experienced 43% of the month's rainfall and a period of storm activity April 8-13, with winds briefly up to 44 mph. The few instances, however, of large numbers of migrants found were in late April and early May.

We want to thank the observers and compilers who provide most of the material for this seasonal report, particularly Vic Goodwill for Vancouver Island and Harry Nehls for western Oregon. Their reports run to dozens of pages and include careful documentation and well thought out comment. In contrast, we have indications that some observers assume that their observations will be included with someone else's report, or that they are not worth the time required to send them in to *American Birds*. Attempts to analyse migration and distribution patterns, or population trends in possibly endangered species, *Accipiters* for example, are greatly aided by input from many observers. Our indexing system for these reports has not yet reached saturation, and we welcome all information from you, readers and observers, however brief.

**LOONS THROUGH HERONS** — The Yellow-billed Loon present all winter off Bayview S.P., Wash., was last seen May 18 (*fide* TW). Others were noted off Pt. Francis, Whatcom Co., Wash., Mar. 18 (P&DSc), at Yaquina Bay, Oreg., Mar. 31 (MSm,NC, *fide* HN), at Westport, Wash., May 12 (TW), and at Sooke, Vancouver I. (hereafter, V.I.), May 13 (DSt, *fide* VG). These numbers were above the recent average, and the dates were later than usual. The migration of loons passed unremarked this spring. Grebes were also little noted with declines suggested for Red-necked Grebes about Victoria (VG) and for W. Grebes along the Oregon coast (HN). However, 4560 W. Grebes Mar. 20 n.e. of Salt-spring I., in Georgia Strait, B.C., was a good count (MS, *fide* VG).

Wahl's single pelagic trip off Westport May 13 reported 111 Black-footed Albatrosses, 71 Pink-footed Shearwaters, and 18 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels; numbers well above those of the past two years. Sooty Shearwater flocks of 5000± were offshore as usual from the South jetty of the Columbia R. to Westport Apr. 28 - May 13. Northern Fulmar went unreported for the second straight spring, while in place of the few Flesh-footed Shearwaters of past years Wahl's boat had four of the erratic **Short-tailed Shearwater**.

Brandt's Cormorants were concentrated as usual about s.e. V.I., with 1000 Mar. 16 off Galiano I. However, counts from nearby Active Pass have declined steadily from 3700 (in 1976), to 1000 (in 1977), 700 (in 1978), and





500 this year (*fide* VG). Great Blue heronries of 100 nests on Ryan and Brown Is., and of 222 nests on Fisher I., in s. Washington were brought to our attention (SS *et al.*). We would appreciate more such reports in the future. Egrets as usual favored Coos Bay, Ore., with one Cattle Egret there Apr. 3 (*fide* HN), up to three Snowy Egrets wintering to Apr. 14 (AM), and 100+ Great Egrets staying until mid-April, a few of which still lingered until May 31+ (AM). The only other egrets noted were 65 Greats Mar. 13 censused by air along the Coquille R., in s. Oregon (U.S.F. & W.S., *fide* HN). There were three Black-crowned Night Herons reported in n. Oregon May 3-12 (*fide* HN), suggesting a minor migratory movement.

**SWANS, GEESE AND DUCKS** — The winter flock of 275 Whistling Swans on the Skagit flats, Wash., was last noted Mar. 4 (EH *et al.*). There appears to be a hiatus between the departure of locally wintering birds and the passage of birds from farther s. as migrants peaked Mar. 22 when 100 passed over Kalama, Wash. (*fide* HN). Highlights of the Brant passage were 2000 on Boundary Bay, B.C., Apr. 3 (G&WA), "thousands" at Leadbetter Pt. (B&GR) and 1000 at Ocean Shores (TB) both Apr. 7, and 3000+ on Dungeness Bay, Wash., Apr. 19 (DS). The Nehalem Meadows, Ore., Emperor Goose has apparently taken up residence and refuses to leave. Another Emperor Goose was reported Mar. 3-5 from Baskett Slough N.W.R., in the Willamette Valley of Oregon (JC, *fide* HN), while a third lingered with Brant at Leadbetter Pt., Feb. 20 - Apr. 7 (RW, B&GR).

The U.S.F. & W.S. aerial survey of the Coquille R., in s.w. Oregon Mar. 13 recorded 11,200 Pintails and 8000 Am. Wigeon. Six ♂ Eur. Green-winged Teal were reported, and three of these were considered intermediate. Blue-winged Teal arrived in late April-early May on the lower Columbia R., and on s. V.I., as usual a month or two later than the Cinnamon Teal. Thirty-nine ♂ Eur. Wigeon were

cited from throughout the Region, with the latest one in Seattle May 4 (EG). HN notes that Wood Ducks arrive at Sauvie's I., in late March in large flocks, then disperse to breed. Twelve pairs were at Ft. Lewis, Wash., Apr. 26 (KS,GR *fide* TB), presumably nesting.

#### VULTURES THROUGH COOTS

— The progress of returning Turkey Vultures is evident in this year's reports of first migrants: Mar. 7 at Roseburg, Ore., Mar. 8 at Finley N.W.R., near Corvallis, Ore., Mar. 16 at Dungeness, Wash., Mar. 18 at Westholme, V.I., Mar. 21 at Orcas I., San Juan Co., Wash., and Apr. 1 at Vancouver, B.C. Six White-tailed Kites were at five locations including a pair at Vancouver, Wash., Mar. 8 (DJ) and a single near Raymond, Wash., Apr. 29 (JW,MR), where a pair was noted through last winter and spring. The *Accipiter* reports this season were difficult to interpret. Sightings of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks are up again for the third consecutive year (to 34 and 32, respectively). However, most observations are from VG's encyclopedic summary from the s. V.I. area (25 and 16, respectively), while Washington observers reported only one Sharp-shinned and nine Cooper's. Since half of the Washington sightings are from the Dungeness area directly opposite s. V.I., a spring migration pathway up the Coast Ranges is suggested. However, the apparent gaps in reporting cloud the picture.

Sixty Red-tailed Hawks were counted Mar. 3-9 by the Vancouver, B.C., Raptor Survey (*fide* JG). That survey also found 24 Rough-legged Hawks, most of which were gone by the end of March, although reports of three late-April stragglers were received. The March Vancouver Raptor Survey also found 58 Marsh Hawks. Only nine others were noted from but four additional locations, including a pair May 25 at the Ocean Shores breeding site (G&WH).

Nesting Osprey pairs returned beginning Mar. 24 to Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene, Ore. (DF), and Mar. 25 to Carnation, Wash. (B&PE). DF observed 15-20 Osprey at six nest sites from the Rogue R., in s. Oregon to the Wind R., in s. Washington. According to HN: "an outstanding year" in Oregon. VG reported five active nests, one inactive, and four of unknown status in the s. V.I. area. The 21 Peregrine reports is four times the average for 1976-1978, while 15 Merlins is a shade under last spring's record 20+. Both falcons were widely distributed.

Some of the introduced Bobwhite remain at large, mostly in the Hart's L. vicinity, Pierce Co., Wash. (JW,MM), and in the n. Willamette Valley, Ore. (*fide* HN). Mountain Quail, extremely scarce n. of the Columbia R., were found at Key Center and Nisqually, both

near Tacoma, Wash., during May (GR, *fide* TB;AR). Flocks of 100+ Sandhill Cranes moved N through the Willamette Valley in March and were settling in at the Region's only contemporary breeding site at Pitt Meadows on the lower Fraser R., B.C., by Apr. 1 (WR *fide* A & JG). American Coot had downy young by May 2 at Albany, Ore. (GGi).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Semipalmated Plovers peaked Apr. 28 in Oregon when 250 were counted at Tillamook Bay and the S.J.C.R. (DI,DF *fide* HN) and May 5 on V.I., when 22 were at Cordova Spit, c. Saanich (RS, *fide* VG). A territorial pair remained into June at their 1974 breeding site at Ocean Shores (G&WH,EH). A pair of Snowy Plovers had a very early chick there May 25 (G & WH). One to four pairs of Snowy Plovers were at Leadbetter Pt. (B&GR, HF), and at Tillamook and Coos Bays, Ore. (*fide* HN) in April and May. Three Am. Golden Plovers were observed; one Mar. 4 at Victoria (WC, *fide* VG), one May 6 at Seattle (†EP), and one May 29 at Iona I., B.C. (DK,CB,MF, *fide* A & JG). The 49 Ruddy Turnstones at Netarts Bay, Ore., May 9 (HN) was an unusually large flock. The five Long-billed Curlews reported was an average count for spring, with the one Apr. 13 at Ocean Shores (G&WH) being quite early. An **Upland Sandpiper** May 5 in Saanich, V.I. (†RS, *fide* VG) represented one of very few spring records for the Region. Seven Lesser Yellowlegs, scarce in spring migration, were noted Apr. 25 - May 30. Willets were at usual locations such as Coos Bay, with up to 32 all spring (AM), and Yaquina Bay, with 13 on Mar. 13 (RSm, *fide* HN), and n. to Willapa Bay, Wash., with four May 13 (CC). Red Knots dropped in Apr. 14 - May 25 with high counts of 100-300 Apr. 28 - May 13 at their migratory "rest-stops" between S.J.C.R., and Ocean Shores.

#### S.A.

The Grays Harbor CBC routinely takes the Dunlin high count trophy, largely owing to the mass of birds which assemble at high tide on a development threatened mud flat adjacent to the Hoquiam airport, in Grays Harbor, Wash. On Apr. 29 "just as the tide was opening up the flats" MM encountered a staggering migrant flock here which he estimated at 125,000-150,000 birds. MM has netted and banded shorebirds for several seasons at Manomet Bird Observatory in Massachusetts. This was the largest concentration of shorebirds he had ever seen. The previous weekend there had been but 25,000 shorebirds on this mudflat (DP). The flocks in both cases were approximately 40% W. Sandpipers, 30% Dunlins, and 30% Short-billed Dowitchers. These may well be normal numbers for this time and place.

A single Baird's Sandpiper May 9 at Tillamook Bay (HN,JeG *et al.*) and a single very early Pectoral Sandpiper Mar. 25 at Iona I. (DK, *fide* A&JG), represent species scarce in spring. Two breeding-plumaged Bar-tailed Godwits at Tokeland on Willapa Bay May 13 (†CC) furnished only the second Washington spring record. Two **Black-necked Stilts** strayed well n.w. of their usual haunts to Scappoose Bottoms, near Portland May 7 (†SH, *fide* HN).

Northern Phalaropes passed through very quickly with all but one reported May 12-20. For the first time in several springs no Red Phalaropes were reported.

**JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS** — A dearth of jaeger sightings this season was partly offset by a perfect plumaged **Long-tailed Jaeger** carefully studied May 13 at the north jetty of the Columbia R. (†RH, RD). There are only two previous spring records for Washington. A Parasitic Jaeger dead on the beach at Tillamook Bay Mar. 3 (HN), together with recent December and January records suggest the possibility that a few might winter offshore. The first migrants were noted Apr. 29, about on time. Wahl's boat trip May 13 found no jaegers offshore, and just five Parasitics in the Grays Harbor channel. One Pomarine at Tokeland, Wash., May 13 (†CC) was the only one of that species noted.

Seven imm. Glaucous Gulls Mar. 3 - May 19, four after Apr. 29 and all but the March bird on or beyond the outer strand, appear to reflect a distinct coastal movement of more southerly wintering birds. On May 12, CR noted a "pure" Glaucous-winged Gull on a nest at Yaquina Head, Oreg., and another "pure" Glaucous-winged paired to an apparent hybrid in the Cape Meares colony, both among the more common breeding W. Gulls. DP counted a few W. Gulls in a huge smelt-following concentration of gulls 150 km up the Columbia R., Mar. 16. The Western is rarely recorded away from salt water. The bulk of the 15,000+ gulls counted there were Mew Gulls with 300 Herrings, 300 Thayer's, and a single California. In past years this gull mass has had quite different composition (DP & Am *Birds* 32:1047). An ad. Heermann's Gull May 2 at Victoria (RS, *vide* VG) was very early. The Bonaparte's Gull spring passage was little noted except in the s. V.I. area where the first arrivals were Apr. 1 and peak numbers were 1250+ Apr. 19 and 1600 Apr. 24 (RS, MS, *vide* VG). Few were found there in May. TW however, reported hundreds "summering" in Beltingham Bay and Drayton Harbor, Wash.

Small flocks of "Commic" Terns appeared off the Ocean Shores jetty Apr. 22 (DP), & 29 (MM), with two Arctic Terns seen closely the latter date. HN found no Com. Terns at the S J C.R., May 12 but noted a "very heavy migration" there on the 13th, the same day CC estimated 1100 at Tokeland, 60 km n. Caspian Terns were first reported Mar. 21 from Tillamook Bay, a single (AC, *vide* HN). On Apr. 1 DR & JR counted 35/hr moving N past Cape Blanco headed for their breeding sites on Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor where their arrival was noted Apr. 7 (B & GR, TB). Two dozen overshot to Boundary Bay s. of Vancouver, B.C., May 13 (D&SC, *vide* A & JG).

Two Marbled Murrelets 50 km off Westport May 13 was most unusual since the species rarely ventures more than a few km offshore (TW). **Horned Puffins** made waves with two reports, one heavily oiled bird dead on the beach at Tillamook Bay Mar. 30 (HN), and a juvenile May 11 at Victoria (†RS, *vide* VG). Tufted Puffins had not yet returned to their Tatoosh I., Wash., colony by Mar. 22 (BP), but a few were seen that day nearby at Dungeness (DS). Nesters began to return to the Cape Meares, Oreg., colony by Mar. 30 when four were seen, reaching 50 there by Apr. 7 (*vide* HN) and 70+ by May 12 (CR). "Many" were

about Coquille Rocks in s Oregon Apr 28 (BF, *vide* HN)

**OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Great Horned Owls had young out of the nest Apr. 20 near Roseburg (FP, *vide* HN). Snowy Owls departed early. The latest seen was one near Vancouver, B.C., Mar. 20 (G&WA). Four young Barred Owls were banded May 7 at the Bacus Hill site near Mt. Vernon, Wash. (*vide* TW). Single Barred Owl sightings were well documented from Saanich, V.I., Apr. 5-7 (MN, *vide* VG) and Seattle Apr. 15-28 (DW, GB, m.ob.). After several years of apparent decline, 20 Short-eared Owls Mar. 25 at Sea and Iona Is. (WJ *et al.*, *vide* JG), and 12 on Apr. 3 at Finley N.W.R., Oreg. (FR, *vide* HN), were encouraging migratory concentrations.

Single Com. Nighthawks Apr. 22 on Sauvie's I. (GW, *vide* HN) and May 1 in Seattle (†JW) were about a month early. Four **White-throated Swifts** were sighted at several Oregon coastal points; two Apr. 25 near Port Orford (BS, MSt, *vide* AM), one May 8 at Cape Lookout (CR), and one May 12 at Cape Meares, both Tillamook Co., Oreg. (DR, *vide* HN). There are very few Regional records of this species.

A ♀ Anna's Hummingbird had a nest under construction in Portland in late February, and young were at a nearby feeder by Apr. 22 (JD, *vide* HN). Nesting is also almost certain for s. V.I., under similar circumstances (*vide* VG). VG's summary indicates at least 12 territorial males in the Victoria-Saanich area this spring. Five males were on territory as usual in Seattle's Discovery P., Mar. 8 (AR). Green-backed ♂ *Selasphorus* hummingbirds were reported from Corvallis, Oreg., Mar. 27 (EE, *vide* HN) and near Dungeness, Wash., Apr. 21 (†KK, WS). It is possible but by no means certain that these were Allen's Hummingbirds, as young ♂ Rufous Hummingbirds occasionally have solid green backs. The several males of this description Mar. 17-early May at feeders in North Bend and Charleston on the s. Oregon coast (*vide* AM) are at the n. edge of the Allen's known breeding range.

VG observed two ♂ "Red-naped" Sapsuckers in Manning P.P., B.C., May 7, and Apr. 22 & May 8 in the same area, he also found two ♂ "Red-breasted" Sapsuckers, one of which was suspected of having some hybrid attributes. British Columbia is the area in which the opportunity is available to definitively sort out these sapsucker forms.

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRUSHES** — A pair of E. Kingbirds returned by May 27 to L. Joy near Carnation, Wash., where they nested last year (B&PE). Fifteen W. Kingbirds n. of their regular breeding range on the Umpqua R., in s. Oregon is more than usually noted. All reports were Apr. 29 - May 16. Black Phoebes were noted at their usual nesting sites in the Medford area by Mar. 9 (OS; MU, *vide* HN). A **Gray Flycatcher**, a species which breeds regularly on the e. slope of the Cascades n. to c. Washington, was on Roxy Ann Butte near Medford Apr. 14 (FR *et al.*, *vide* HN) for a first Regional record. The bird's distinctive call was noted and it wagged its tail down, not up. Hammond's Flycatchers near Poulsbo, Wash., Apr. 30 were slightly early (DP). Other flycatchers arrived on schedule.

Portland's breeding Violet-green Swallows arrived Apr. 5, about 10 days late, reflecting a

generally delayed and reduced migration in w Oregon (*vide* HN). The 1400 Tree Swallows at Tillamook Bay Apr. 14 were not considered unusual (HN *et al.*), but 700 Cliff Swallows in a migratory movement Apr. 30 over Sauvie's I., was cited as a high total (DF, DI). An early Purple Martin appeared at Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene Apr. 9 (TL). This species was noted at its other limited breeding sites by the end of April. A pair nesting in a snag at 600 m in the Cascades s.e. of Cottage Grove, Oreg (TL), was one of very few reported away from the city buildings and abandoned pier pilings that our martins prefer.

A White-breasted Nuthatch on Pt. Roberts, Wash., Mar. 18 (G & WA) is 200± km n. or w of the nearest breeding populations. An albino Dipper on the Carbon R., near Orting, Wash., May 14 (KC) was unusual. There was but one Mockingbird report. A singing bird at Salem, Oreg., Apr. 26 (RP). A Sage Thrasher was on the Oregon coast at Tillamook Bay Mar 18 (†PM). Small flocks of 10± migrating W Bluebirds were noted in early March at L Oswego near Portland (JC, *vide* HN) and at Metchosa, near Victoria (JiW, *vide* VG). Twelve Mountain Bluebirds at Ft. Langley, near Vancouver, B.C., Mar. 18-21 (JG *et al.*) were away from their usual habitat, as were also singles found at Seattle Mar. 26 (RA), at Saanich Apr. 14 (WC, *vide* VG), and near Port Orford, Oreg., Apr. 21 (DR, JR, *vide* AM).

**GNATCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS** — Blue-gray Gnatcatchers had returned to their n. breeding outpost near Medford by Apr. 14 (FR, *vide* HN). The Loggerhead Shrike present this winter at Sea I., B.C., departed after Mar. 3 (GA, DK, *vide* A & JG). Another straggled to Cape Blanco, Oreg., Apr. 21 (DR, JR, *vide* AM). Northern Shrikes were last seen Apr. 3. Red-eyed Vireos appeared early with singles May 5 near Duncan, V.I. (*vide* JCo), and May 17 at Victoria (RS, *vide* VG). By May 27 they were common near Carnation, Wash. (B&PE). This species arrives from the e. and in some years is not reported before June.

A ♂ **Black-and-white Warbler** Apr. 7 near Coos Bay (TF, DH, *vide* AM) is the second record from that area. Oregon's fourth **Magnolia Warbler**, well described by TC, was at Salem May 5. The first Hermit Warblers were seen Apr. 25 in Eugene and Apr. 26 at the Wind River Ranger Station, Wash., where the species was abundant thereafter. Hermit Warblers are rare n. and w. of the Mt. St. Helens and Mt. Adams area, except for the e. slope of the Olympic Mts., where breeding birds were found n. to the Dosewallips R., Jefferson County May 27 (CC). A Palm Warbler was in Corvallis Apr. 14-17 for one of few spring records (EE, *vide* HN). A Yellow-breasted Chat Mar. 27 in Eugene was extremely early (AC). Others were noted at Portland May 6-15 (*vide* HN), and at Finley N.W.R., May 22 (G&MGi). The species was "very common" in Jackson County, Oreg., in late May as usual (DF). A ♀ Am. Redstart strayed W to Finley N.W.R., Apr. 28 (†RP).

**ICTERIDS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS** — A ♂ Bobolink appeared briefly at Seattle May 25 (†BM) for w. Washington's fourth record. A new colony of Yellow-headed Blackbirds was discovered this spring near Forest Grove, Oreg. (*vide* HN). Up to four juv. males spent the spring at Seattle's Montlake fill (DP *et al.*)

and others were noted Mar. 11 May 27 at seven other places throughout the Region. G & MG counted 750 Evening Grosbeaks in the Siskiyou Mts., on the Oregon-California border May 16, a high single day total. The species was noted as common throughout Oregon, except coastally, after mid-April, but numbers were down from last year's in Seattle (EH) and were very low in Bellingham (TW). Stray Cassin's Finches were carefully described from Olympia, Wash., Mar. 20 (†G&WH), Corvallis, Oreg., Apr. 3 (FR, *fide* HN), and Cape Blanco near Port Orford, Oreg., May 31 (DF). Red Crossbills were feeding just fledged young at Metchosin, near Victoria, May 7 (BH, *fide* VG). Otherwise the species was scarcely noted. Pine Siskins were also considered scarce throughout the Region this spring on the heels of low winter numbers.

The wintering Vesper Sparrow departed Portland Mar. 24 (JL, *fide* HN), while breeding birds arrived at traditional nesting stations in Washington by early April. Three strayed to Manning P.P., B.C., Apr. 22 for the second park record (VG). Lark Sparrows arrived at their w. breeding outposts near Roseburg, Oreg., Apr. 3 (FP, *fide* HN). A single stray was noted May 15 at Baskett

Slough, N W R., near Salem, Oreg (RP)

A hybrid **White-crowned** × **Golden-crowned Sparrow** singing a medley of *Zonotrichia* themes was carefully described from Seattle's Discovery P., May 1 (†JW). Single White-throated Sparrows wintered until Apr. 14 at a Roseburg, Oreg., feeder (FP, *fide* HN), and two more White-throateds visited the same Roseburg feeder Apr. 27 (FP). Fox Sparrows on n. Washington coastal islands continued scarce this spring (BP,SR). Single ♂ Lapland Longspurs were late at Leadbetter Pt., May 13 (RH,RD) and at Ocean Shores May 17 (B&GRE). This winter's **McKay's Bunting** stayed at Ocean Shores at least until Mar. 3 (JW,R&SH,WeH). A single Snow Bunting lingered there to Mar. 10 (G&WH).

**CITED OBSERVERS**, and Abbreviations, with sub-regional editors in boldface. Gerry & Wendy Ansell, Richard Ansell, Thais Bock, Doug Brown, Greg Butcher, Colin Butt, Wayne Campbell, Dick & Syd Cannings, Kim Chandler, Chris Chappell, Neal Cobb, John Comer (JCO), Alan Contreras, Tom Crabtree, John Crowell, Richard Donham, Jay Drake, Elzy Eltzroth, Bob & Pat Evans, Ben Fawver, Tad Finnell, David Fix, Mike Force, Hal Fray,

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## MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Stephen A. Laymon

The spring season was cooler than normal, with evenly spaced rains until mid-May. This resulted in the grasses remaining green longer and in later bloom on many flowers, shrubs and trees. Despite the almost weekly pattern of cold fronts moving through the area few if any waves of migrants could be detected.

It was considered one of the slowest springs on record on the coast, with few migrant or vagrant warblers and no large movements of birds (P.R.B.O.). In the Central Valley (hereafter, C.V.), similar conditions were noted, with migrant numbers 60% of normal.

With the warming of the weather around mid-May, several observers commented that the landbird migrants disappeared overnight and only a few stragglers were seen after that. This contrasts to the normal tapering off of migrants through the end of May.

The most remarkable ornithological undertaking of the spring was Barry Sauppe's Pigeon Point (hereafter, P.P.) migration watch in San Mateo County. From March 7 to May 24 he censused migrant seabirds from dawn to dusk every day! In 1056 hours of observation he recorded 2,257,552 individuals of 44 species. Hats off to Barry and to his extremely valuable addition to our knowledge of seabird numbers and migrational timing.

Jon Winter who has served ably as regional co-editor for four years, retired this spring so he could devote more time to his research and teaching. This fall Dave Shuford will be taking over the landbird section.

**LOONS THROUGH TUBENOSES** — Common Loons were reported in lower-than-usual numbers inland, however 34,076 were counted at P.P., 3× last year's birds/man-

hour figure. The peak migration date was Apr. 12, with 3836 (BSa). A Yellow-billed Loon was at P.P., May 9 (BSa) for our latest spring record. Arctic Loon was the most abundant migrant at P.P., with 1,002,361. Peak of migration was Apr. 21 with 72,680 (BSa). The birds/man-hour ratio was equal to last year's. Red-throated Loons were 3× last year's birds/man-hour ratio at P.P., with 33,232 for the period and a peak of 3806 Apr. 21 (BSa). One was inland at Nicasio Res., Marin Co., Mar. 14 (DS).

Eared Grebes were reported only from the salt ponds in s. San Francisco Bay (hereafter, S.F. Bay) with an exceptional total of 1800 Mar. 28 (*fide* DE). Western Grebes were found to be abundant at L. Berryessa Apr. 14, with 1500 (SAL).

Black-footed Albatrosses were in normal numbers at P.P. (BSa), but few were reported elsewhere. Most were seen from the last week in April to mid-May which is normal. A Laysan Albatross was following a freighter at P.P., Mar. 30 (BSa). The only N. Fulmars reported were 12 at P.P., Mar. 7-19 (BSa). Few Sooty Shearwaters were found away from P.P., where 105,395 were recorded. The peak migration date was Apr. 26, with 28,217 (BSa). The only Short-tailed Shearwaters were eight at P.P., Mar. 16 (BSa), which is normal. Manx



Shearwaters were reported in numbers equal to last year's, but much higher than previous years with 170 at P.P. (BSa) and scattered sightings n. to Sonoma County. The only Storm-Petrel of the season was a Leach's found freshly dead at Pajaro Dunes May 28 (PM).

**HERONS** — An ad. Little Blue Heron was again found at Palo Alto Baylands May 5 (TC, J&SLi) where they have been seen in recent years. Cattle Egrets were found nesting in the Region again, with 15-25 pairs at the S. Wilbur Flood Area (hereafter, S.W.F.A.), Kings Co., May 13 & 18 (RW). An additional 15 were found, with ten at Maxwell, Colusa Co., May 2

(WA) being the largest group. In a few years this species will probably be a common nester in this Region.

The only Least Bittern report was of one calling at S.W.F.A., May 13 (RW). Scattered coastal Am. Bitterns are to be expected, but 8-10 at W. Pittsburg, Contra Costa Co., May 21-25 (DE) seems high. White-faced Ibises were reported from the C.V., in better-than-average numbers, with 11 at Delevan N.W.R., Mar. 16 (J. Snowden), 15 w. of Colusa, Colusa Co., Apr. 9 (B. Thornton), four still there in mid-May (*vide* WA) and two at S.W.F.A., May 13 (RW).

**WATERFOWL** — More Canada Geese than normal were found at coastal locations well into the spring with 17 reported at eight locations until May 20. Black Brant were recorded in record numbers at P.P., with 155,826 (BSa), about 50% higher/man-hour than last year. Twelve at Sherman I., in the Delta region Apr. 26 (CS) were quite unusual. The Ross' Goose at Crespi Pond, Monterey Co., was last seen Mar. 4 (JRI). Surprising was another at L. Pillsbury Mar. 25 (SAL) in the c. coast range, a probable first record for Lake County.

Mallards nested in unusual locations, with one nest at the Dumbarton Bridge in *Salicornia* marsh Apr. 3 (DE) and one brood of 11 in the Sutter Buttes May 15 (WA). Only eight ♂ Blue-winged Teal were reported, which is about 30% of recent spring totals. A Cinnamon × Blue-winged Teal was at Springtown, Contra Costa Co., Mar. 17 (AE). The existence of hybrids certainly complicates the identification of females of these species. Forty Am. Wigeon at Bolinas Lagoon Apr. 29 (LCB) were many for so late. Wood Ducks were common on the Russian R., near Geyserville Apr. 9 - May 31+, with 22+ present daily (DS).

The ♂ Tufted Duck was last seen at Liman-tour Estero, Marin Co., Mar. 10 (DRo). Three Oldsquaws were found along the coast, which is normal, but one at the Petaluma Sewage Ponds May 6 (BBu *et al.*) was of note. Scoter numbers at P.P., were 9613 White-winged, 250,879 Surf and 422 Black (BSa) which works out to the same number/man-hour as past years. Twenty-five White-winged Scoters in S F. Bay at San Leandro was noteworthy (DE). Away from P.P., 97 Black Scoters was a very high count for spring. One ♂ Red-breasted Merganser was at Oroville Mar. 9 (KVV) and 587 passed P.P. (BSa).

**RAPTORS, RAILS** — A Turkey Vulture was on the Farallon Islands (hereafter, F.I.) May 22 (P.R.B.O.) for the first island record. Only ten Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported, which is much lower than normal. One at Jenner, Sonoma Co., May 9 (J&BDP) was as late as they are ever found away from nesting areas. The Broad-winged Hawk at W. Pittsburg was last seen Mar. 27 (DE). Swainson's Hawks were reported in normal numbers, with all 25 sightings in the C.V. Rough-legged Hawks left the Region early. The only ones reported were 11 in Honey Lake Basin Mar. 2-4 (B&CY) and three there Apr. 7-8 (SAL). Despite the poor winter, seven Ferruginous Hawks, were recorded this spring, which is more than normal. All of these were seen Mar. 1-9. An ad. Peregrine Falcon and an unidentified large, brown falcon were at Mendota

Wildlife Area, Fresno Co., Apr. 29 (RH), a late date for the s C V

A Clapper Rail at Martinez, Contra Costa Co., May 26 (B. Richmond) was at a new location. The only Black Rail was one calling at Bolinas Lagoon Mar. 11 (DS).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Forty Semipalmated Plovers at Gray Lodge W.M.A., Apr. 26 - May 9 (BED) was unprecedented for the C.V. Snowy Plovers were well reported. Unusual were 150 at the Leslie Salt Ponds at Hayward Apr. 7 (CS) and 18 with one on a nest at S.W.F.A., May 18 (RW). Of the 35 pairs at Pajaro Dunes, 19 had either had nest failures or lost broods by May 31+ (J & RW). Eight Am. Golden Plovers were reported, which is more than usual for the season.

Up to three Marbled Godwits were at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Apr. 8-22 (RE). Whimbrels were found in smaller numbers in the C.V., than has been the case in recent years, with the largest flock, 28, at S.W.F.A., May 13 (RW). Three Solitary Sandpipers were reported, one near Lick Observatory, Santa Clara Co., May 12 (DES), one near Grenada, Siskiyou Co., Apr. 15-20 (RE) and one at Fresno Apr. 17 (KH).

Three hundred Wilson's Phalaropes were at L. Pillsbury for what seems to be a first Lake County record. Northern Phalaropes were well represented at P.P., with 239,404 Apr. 16 - May 24 (BSa). They peaked May 5 with 33,922. This same day 3400 were found in Lake County at various locations, including flocks of several hundred flying low over chaparral-covered mountains n. of Clear L. (SAL *et al.*). Red Knots were found inland, with one at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Apr. 17 (RE) and one at S.W.F.A., May 13 (RW). Inland Sanderlings were two at Mendota Wildlife Area May 15 and three at S.W.F.A., May 18 (RW). Three Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported this spring with one at Bolinas Lagoon Apr. 25 (†P.R.B.O.), one at Pajaro Dunes May 28 (†PM *et al.*) and one at S.W.F.A., May 18 (†RW) for one of few inland records for the Region. Up to seven Baird's Sandpipers were well described at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Mar. 24 - Apr. 22 (†RE). A Pectoral Sandpiper was found at Struve Slough, Santa Clara Co., Apr. 9 (†PM). A breeding-plumaged Rock Sandpiper was at P.P., May 3 (BSa) for one of our latest Regional records.

**GULLS, TERNS** — A Glaucous Gull at F.I., Mar. 1 - Apr. 2 (P.R.B.O.) and another at Tomales Bay Apr. 21 (SAL) were the only ones reported. An ad. **Black-headed Gull** was at the Stockton Sewage Pond, San Joaquin Co., Mar. 20-27 (†DRo, †JM, DE) for the seventh state record and the first one inland. A Laughing Gull was at Pajaro Dunes May 23 (J&RW) and breeding-plumaged Franklin's Gulls were at P.P., Apr. 25, May 17 & 21. A Little Gull was also found at the Stockton Sewage Ponds Mar. 20-27 (†DE, †DRo, †JM) and another was at P.P., Apr. 19 (†BSa) for the sixth and seventh Regional records. Sabine's Gulls were reported in low numbers with only 25 at P.P., May 5-6 (BSa) and one F.I., Apr. 22 (P.R.B.O.).

Common Terns made a poor showing with only 37, of which 36 were at P.P., Apr. 15 - May 24 (BSa). Arctic Terns were also much scarcer than in recent years with only 31 seen Apr. 24 - May 24, 30 of which were at P.P., (BSa). An ad. Royal Tern was at Pajaro Dunes

May 14-20 (J&RW) and an immature there May 20-28 (J&RW, PM), for only the fourth and fifth regional record for the 1970s. A very early Elegant Tern was at Moss Landing May 19 (†David Wharton).

**ALCIDS** — The Com. Murre total for the P.P., lookout was 125,421 (BSa). This is 30% of last year's/man-hour total. Marbled Murrelets were seen at P.P., in unprecedented numbers with a total of 562, and a peak of 203 Mar. 11 (BSa). High numbers of Tufted Puffins were recorded with 60± at Point St George, Del Norte Co., Apr. 12 (J&BDP, KVV), eight at Elks Head, Humboldt Co., May 5 (DE), eight on F.I., May 13 (DE) and a total of five at P.P., May 5-21 (BSa).

**PIGEONS THROUGH OWLS** — Band-tailed Pigeons, absent this winter in the C V, began to move into the valley by mid-April and were seen in flocks of 50 or more in the Chico area by mid-May (SAL). There seems to be little pattern to the migratory movements of this species.

Two Long-eared Owls at Pt. Reyes May 9 (P.R.B.O.) may have been breeding. Nesting Short-eared Owls were found in Contra Costa County with four fledglings at Livermore June 1 (AE) and a nest with young at W. Pittsburg in mid-May (*vide* DE). These are the first known nestings for the country. Four pairs of Saw-whet Owls were found on Pt. Reyes; three at Arroyo Hondo (P.R.B.O.) and one at Laguna Ranch (JE). Two nests were found, one was in a nest box and the other was in a dead alder in a riparian location. There are few nesting records for Marin County.

**HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH FLY-CATCHERS** — Hummingbirds were found to be very common in the Contra Costa area (JRI,LF), but were very scarce at feeders in the C.V. (m.ob.) and the Sierra foothills (MA) Costa's Hummingbirds were found at Healdsburg, Sonoma Co., Mar. 25 - May 15 (J&BDP) and Alama, Contra Costa Co., Apr. 15 - May 28 (JRI, †DE). A ♂ hummingbird, which appeared to be an Anna's × *Selasphorus* was at Golden Gate P., San Francisco May 17 (†DHE)

Lewis' Woodpeckers were reported from coastal locations in higher-than-normal numbers, including seven at Novato until May 6 (DS) and two at Filoli Estate, San Mateo County May 22 (PM), a late date. An influx of Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers was noted, with five found in an hour (EH) A woodpecker, described to be a ♂ N. Three-toed Woodpecker was seen at Castle L., Siskiyou Co., Apr. 29 (†B&CY). If accepted by the state rare bird committee it would be the first record for California.

The pair of E. Kingbirds returned to Edgewood, Siskiyou Co., May 21 (*vide* MT), for the second straight year. An E. Phoebe was at Laguna Ranch, Pt. Reyes Apr. 3 (†JE *et al.*) This is an unusual date as most records are for late fall and winter. Black Phoebes have become quite common in Shasta and Scott Valleys, Siskiyou Co., with a nesting pair under every bridge. They were formerly rare in this area, but have been expanding their range in recent years. A W. Wood Pewee at Fairfax, Marin Co., Apr. 14 (DS) was about two weeks early.

A Bank Swallow at the Chico Oxidation

Ponds Mar 16 (KVV) was quite early, as were two at L. Merced, San Francisco Co., Mar 27 (PM) and one near the Sutter Buttes Mar. 31 (LCB).

#### S.A.

Most of the Bank Swallow colonies along the Sacramento R., in Tehama Co., were destroyed by rip-rap bank stabilization projects, displacing at least 400 pairs (SAL). The rest of the nesting sites are slated for destruction in a similar manner in the next few years. These stabilization projects are also injurious to bank-nesting Belted Kingfishers and Rough-winged Swallows and to all species which are dependent on early successional stages of riparian growth, such as Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Willow Flycatchers, Bell's Vireos, Yellow Warblers, Blue Grosbeaks. By stopping the natural erosion and deposition, new willow forests will not be created.

Twenty-one pairs of Purple Martins were censused at Lava Beds, N.M., Siskiyou Co., breeding in lava tubes May 24-26 (T. Lund). This is one of the largest populations in the Region, but has declined in recent years.

#### CHICKADEES THROUGH WARBLERS

— The only Black-capped Chickadees were reported from Siskiyou County; at Grenada Mar. 2 and Greenhorn P., Yreka Mar. 8 (*vide* MT). Plain Titmouses were found at two locations in s.e. Humboldt County, May 8 (DE) where they are rare. Winter Wrens fledged five young in Golden Gate P. (JM) for the first modern nesting record there. Late migrants of this species were at Gray Lodge S.W.M.A., Apr. 4 (BED) and at Dog I., Tehama Co., Mar. 28 (SAL). Rock Wrens nested on F.I., for the first time since 1971 (P.R.B.O.). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were reported in numbers twice normal, both around the C.V., and in coastal foothill areas. Eleven Phainopeplas were at one location in the Sutter Buttes May 15 (WA), an unusual concentration. A Loggerhead Shrike was on F.I., May 11-12 (P.R.B.O.) for one of few island records.

Three Black-and-white Warblers were reported; one at Watsonville Apr. 16 (PM) and one at F.I., May 15 (P.R.B.O.) were normal for spring, but one at L. Merced Mar. 10 (PM) probably wintered. A Worm-eating Warbler at Palomarin, Pt. Reyes May 4 (P.R.B.O.) was quite unusual, especially in spring. Ten Tennessee Warblers were found; nine were from the outer coast and F.I., May 15-22 (P.R.B.O., JM). One at Golden Gate P., Mar. 7 (DHE) may have wintered. This is many more than normal for spring. A large flock of 35-45 Nashville Warblers at Aetna Springs, Napa Co., Apr. 11 (J&BDP) was impressive and unusual. Three Virginia Warblers at F.I., May 26, 28 & 29 (P.R.B.O.) were unusual for spring and one at Monitor Pass, Alpine Co., May 29 (KVV) was of interest. A ♂ N. Parula was at Princeton, San Mateo Co., May 24 (BSa).

Single Magnolia Warblers were found at F.I., May 20-23 (P.R.B.O.) and Lincoln P., San Francisco May 23 (LCB). The Black-throated Blue Warbler that wintered at Auburn was last seen May 15 (*vide* EH). The two Palm Warblers at Pacific Grove Mar. 3-4 (JRI) probably wintered, but the three at Santa

Cruz Apr 15 (PM) and one at Gold Bluff's Beach, Humboldt Co., Apr 25 (*vide* BBe) likely were migrants. An Ovenbird was on F.I., May 21-22 (P.R.B.O.). The N. Waterthrush at Five Brooks Pond, Marin Co., was last seen Mar. 10 (JM). A Kentucky Warbler was on F.I., May 11-12 (P.R.B.O.) for the sixth Regional record, five of which are in spring. Hooded Warblers were found on F.I., May 11-12 (P.R.B.O.) and Golden Gate P., May 21 (†DHE). The only Am. Redstart was on F.I., May 21 (P.R.B.O.).

**BOBOLINK THROUGH FINCHES** — A Bobolink was at the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse May 21 (JM). Twelve Hooded Orioles were reported, which is many more than usual for spring. The reports were all from known locations. A "Baltimore" Oriole on the F.I., May 15 was the only one reported. A **Common Grackle** at W. Pittsburg May 25 (†DE, S. Foreman) provided only the third Regional record. Brown-headed Cowbirds were noted in larger-than-normal numbers in c. Contra Costa County in early spring (AE, JRI). The wintering flocks broke up in late March. They were first noted in the Sierra foothills Mar. 15 (BBa) and in the riparian woodland at Red Bluff Apr. 9 (SAL). Three Summer Tanagers were reported; one on F.I., May 15 and another there May 20-24 (P.R.B.O.). An imm. male was at the Fish Docks May 16 (JM). This is more than are normal for spring.

The only Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at F.I., May 20 (P.R.B.O.). This is expected since most spring records are in June. An exceptionally early Black-headed Grosbeak was at Los Altos Mar. 13 (J&SLI). A Blue Grosbeak at W. Pittsburg May 22 was w. of its normal C.V. range (DE). Two Indigo Buntings were reported from F.I., May 10-11 and 21-22 (P.R.B.O.). The only lowland Evening Grosbeaks were in the n.w., with 12 at Arcata May 9 & 16 (*vide* BBe) and one on the Smith R., Apr. 12 (J&BDP). Two Pine Grosbeaks were at Gover Hot Springs S.P., Alpine Co., May 12 (EH, KVV). Pine Siskins continued their absence of the past winter and went unreported. A pair of Red Crossbills was at L. Merced Apr. 20 - May 31 (PM).

Three Lark Buntings were found; two at Panoche Pass, Fresno Co., Mar. 4 (DRO) and one breeding-plumaged male at s.e. Sutter Buttes Apr. 4 (WA). Only three Grasshopper Sparrows were reported, all from known locations. The four Sharp-tailed Sparrows which wintered at Bolinas Lagoon were still there May 1 (P.R.B.O.). One male was singing at Palo Alto Baylands Apr. 23 (WB). The only Chipping Sparrow seen was at Palomarin, Pt. Reyes May 31 (P.R.B.O.), much fewer and later than normal. A Brewer's Sparrow was at the Chico Oxidation Ponds Apr. 26 - May 8 (KVV, SAL) for one of few C.V. records. The only others reported were two on the F.I., May 12 & 25-26 (P.R.B.O.). Three Harris' Sparrows were reported, which is surprising since only two were found all fall and winter. The only longspur was a Lapland on F.I., May 15 (P.R.B.O.). This is one of our latest spring records.

**CORRIGENDA** — The Black Terns in the corrigenda AB 33:212 refer to AB 32:1051 not AB 31:1051. The Flammulated Owls AB 32:1052 were along Buckeye Creek near Claire Engle L. The White-faced Ibis AB 33:210

were not the first Marin County records. There were two, not one, Buff-breasted Sandpipers on F.I., Aug. 29 - Sept. 5, AB 33:210.

**CONTRIBUTORS** — Walt Anderson, Maurine Armour, Stephen F. Bailey, Bernice Barnes (BBa), Bob Behrstock (BBe), Laurence C. Binford, William Bousman, Betty Burridge (BBu), Ted Chandik, David DeSante, Bruce E. Deuel, Art Edwards, David H. Edwards, Ray Ekstrom, Bruce G. Elliott, Dick Erickson, Jules Evens, Lynn Farrar, Keith Hansen, Rob Hansen, Ed Harper, Joel Hornstein, Oliver J. Kolkman, Stephen A. Laymon, Jim and Sue Liskovec (J&SLI), Peter Metropulos, Joe Morlan, Fran Nelson, John and Benjamin D. Parmeter, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Jean Richmond (JRI), Mike Rippy, Don Roberson (DRO), Elsie Roemer, Dave Rudholm (DRU), Barry Sauppe (BSa), Don E. Schmoltd, Dave Shuford, Chris Swarth, Michael Taylor, Kent Van Vuren, John and Ricky Warriner, Richard Webster, Bob and Carol Yutzky. — **STEPHEN A. LAYMON, 3290 Ackley Rd., Lakeport CA 95453.**

## SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

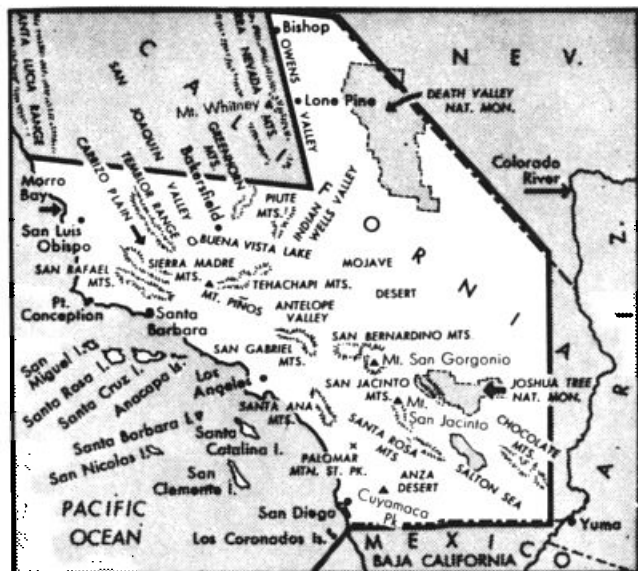
/Guy McCaskie

Wet weather continued through March, but April and May were dry with no strong frontal systems moving down the coast. As was the case last spring, migrants appeared scattered, with no major concentrations of landbirds reported.

The early arrival dates for some of our key migrants were: Wilson's Phalarope Apr 7, Salton Sea; Northern Phalarope Apr. 15, Ventura; Least Tern Apr. 15, San Diego; Elegant Tern Mar. 10, San Diego; Black Tern Apr. 21, Salton Sea; Lesser Nighthawk Mar. 27, Colorado R. valley; Vaux's Swift Apr. 12, San Diego; Western Kingbird Mar. 11, San Diego; Ash-throated Flycatcher Mar. 31, Ventura; Willow Flycatcher May 7, Colorado R. valley; Hammond's Flycatcher Apr. 7, San Diego; Western Flycatcher Mar. 10, San Luis Obispo; Western Wood Pewee Apr. 16, Colorado R. valley; Olive-sided Flycatcher Apr. 15, San Diego; Swainson's Thrush Apr. 21, Santa Barbara; Bell's Vireo Mar. 31, San Diego; Solitary Vireo Mar. 27, Colorado R. valley; Warbling Vireo Mar. 17, Ventura; Nashville Warbler Mar. 25, e. San Diego Co.; Yellow Warbler Apr. 1, Ventura; Black-throated Gray Warbler Mar. 25, e. San Diego Co.; Hermit Warbler Apr. 14, San Diego and Ventura, MacGillivray's Warbler Mar. 25, Orange Co., Yellow-breasted Chat Apr. 12, San Diego, Wilson's Warbler Mar. 23, San Diego; Hooded Oriole Mar. 10, San Diego; Northern Oriole Mar. 11, San Diego; Western Tanager Apr. 14, San Diego; Black-headed Grosbeak Mar. 23, San Diego; Blue Grosbeak Apr. 12, San Diego; Lazuli Bunting Apr. 7, e. San Diego Co.; Black-chinned Sparrow Mar. 23, San Diego.

**LOONS** — Two Com. Loons on L. Cachuma Apr. 29 (LRB), one in the Simi Valley May 6 (REW), two or three on L. Palmdale Apr. 4-8





(JD) and two on L. Cuyamaca Apr. 14 (PU) were inland, and away from the Salton Sea and Colorado R., where small numbers regularly occur each spring. A Horned Grebe at the south end of the Salton Sea (hereafter, S.E.S.S.) May 14-15 (BMW) was the only one reported from an inland locality.

**ALBATROSSES, SHEARWATERS, STORM-PETRELS** — Black-footed Albatross is a species apparently declining in numbers off s. California; two off Santa Cruz I., May 20 (KG) were the only ones reported. A Manx Shearwater off San Diego May 19 (DPa) and two off Santa Cruz I., May 20 (KG) were unusual as few occur off California so late in the spring. Two Leach's Storm-Petrels off San Diego May 19 (PU) were the only ones reported, the species probably remaining well offshore at this time of the year. Ashy Storm-Petrels were relatively common off San Nicolas I., with 300 seen there May 20 (KG); one off San Diego May 19 (PU) was in an area where few are recorded. Eighty Black Storm-Petrels were seen off San Diego May 19 (PU), but only six were found off San Nicolas I., May 20 (KG), indicating the species' more southerly distribution at this time of year.

**PELICANS** — An imm. Brown Pelican near the S.E.S.S., May 15 (SG) was most unusual, post-breeding wanderers not normally reaching the Salton Sea until late June with May 24 being the previous early arrival date.

**HERONS, BITTERNS** — An imm. Little Blue Heron was in Goleta Apr. 15+ (LB), and an adult was seen near Lakeview, Riverside Co., May 9 (ASE); the occurrence of this species in California has recently been reviewed (*W. Birds* 8: 151-154, 1977). Two Cattle Egrets at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley (hereafter, F.C.R.) May 19 (PL) and five at Baker May 28 (DR) were at unusual localities for the time of the year. A Louisiana Heron at Pt. Mugu Mar. 21 - Apr. 6 (RD) was quite far n., and another on San Diego Bay May 29 (EC) was exceptionally late, the species normally occurring as a winter visitor to the coast s. of Los Angeles. An ad. Yellow-crowned Night Heron, the seventh to be found in the

Region, was in San Diego Apr. 3 (TM, ph., S.D.N.H.M.), and what was probably the same bird remained near Imperial Beach Apr. 15 - May 2 (EC). A Least Bittern at F.C.R., May 19 (PL) and another at Baker Apr. 14 (SC) were migrants at desert oases; one in Goleta May 15 (LRB) is one of the very few recorded in the Santa Barbara region.

**GEESE, DUCKS** — As usual a few Brant were found inland with up to four at the north end of the Salton Sea (hereafter, N.E.S.S.)

Apr. 28 - May 5 (SC), twelve on L. Henshaw in the mountains of San Diego Co., May 2 (RH), and one on L. Hodges, San Diego Co., Mar. 22 (PU); it is evident that some birds wintering in the Gulf of California moved N in spring through the Salton Sea and/or W over the mountains to the coast. A Fulvous Whistling Duck was at Irvine, Orange Co., Apr. 15 (TS) and another was on Laguna L., near San Luis Obispo May 25 (FRT); whether these were genuine stragglers or escapees is most difficult to determine with the number of free-flying individuals maintained in parks here in s. California. A ♂ Garganey at L. Elsinore, Riverside Co., Mar. 21 - Apr. 4 (RRP) is the second to be recorded in California. A ♂ Eur. Wigeon at Pt. Mugu Mar. 31 - May 6 (REW) establishes one of the latest dates of occurrence of this species in California. A Wood Duck at F.C.R., May 20 - June 2 (PL) was most unusual. The ♂ Harlequin Duck present in Carlsbad during the winter was discovered May 23 (BBo) and appears to be summering at that locality. Totally unexpected was a White-winged Scoter at F.C.R., May 22-27 (PL). Up to 83 Surf Scoters on L. Henshaw Mar. 22-24 (RH) were undoubtedly birds migrating NW from the Gulf of California to the Pacific; one at F.C.R., May 22 (PL) and another at Little Lake, Inyo Co., June 3 (REW) were exceptionally late for migrants, and well into the desert region of e. California.

**HAWKS** — The only Broad-winged Hawk found this spring was one at Morongo Valley Apr. 19 (R&MW). Swainson's Hawks continue to decline with but 15 individuals reported; one in the Antelope Valley Mar. 20 (JD) was the earliest this year. A Merlin at Camarillo, Ventura Co., Apr. 21 (REW) and another in Goleta Apr. 23 (PL) were both late, the species normally having left the Region by Apr. 1.

**SHOREBIRDS** — The Anacapa I., Am. Oystercatcher, discovered there in 1964, was still present May 20 (KG). A Semipalmated Plover near Tecopa, Inyo Co., May 24 (JT) was in an area of California where few occur. A Snowy Plover at F.C.R., May 30 (REW) and another at nearby Stovepipe Wells June 1 (REW) were at interesting localities. A Wilson's Plover, only the fourth to be recorded on

the coast of California, was at Pt Muga Apr 21+ (REW). A flock of 25 Mountain Plovers on the Kern N.W.R., Mar. 30 (REW) and ten at S.E.S.S., Mar. 31 (LB) were late, most of these birds have departed from California by early March. Up to 11 wintering Am. Golden Plovers were present near Santa Maria through March (PL) and the bird wintering in Goleta was last seen May 3 (PL); one in Goleta Apr. 30 (PL), another at McGrath S.P., Mar 27 (REW), one at Pt. Mugu Apr. 29 (REW), a fourth at Imperial Beach Apr. 21-27 (SG,RCS) and one inland at S.E.S.S., May 5 (PL) were all believed to be migrants. A flock of 53 Black-bellied Plovers in the Antelope Valley Mar. 20 (JD) was a large concentration for any inland locality away from the Salton Sea, and suggests that the species may occur regularly in this area. Up to 175 Whimbrels were found in the Antelope Valley during March and April (KG) indicating that the species is of regular occurrence at that locality; one at F.C.R., May 31 (PL) was unexpected. An Upland Sandpiper at Deep Springs May 28 (REW) provided us with our sixth record, four having occurred during May.

A Solitary Sandpiper, rare in spring, was in Goleta Apr. 16 (E & JG), another was near Imperial Beach the same day (DPO) and two were at Zzyzx, San Bernardino Co., Apr. 29 (BBE). A Ruddy Turnstone was at Salton City on the Salton Sea May 5 (PL), 30 were at N.E.S.S., May 9 (ASE), one was found dead near Calipatria May 14 (BMW) and three more were along S.E.S.S., May 14-15 (BMW); small numbers are regularly found on the Salton Sea during migration periods, but the species is casual elsewhere inland in California. A Black Turnstone, a casual straggler to the Salton Sea, was at Salton City Mar. 30 (LB) and Apr. 16 (EAC). As usual a few Red Knots were found on the Salton Sea with a high count of 15 at Salton City Apr. 28 (DPa). Two Sanderlings, rare inland away from the Salton Sea, were near Blythe in the Colorado R. valley Apr. 14 (BH). Four Semipalmated Sandpipers were found with an early individual at S.E.S.S., Apr. 21-24 (GMcC), one on the Kern N.W.R., May 13 (REW), another near Tecopa May 24-27 (JS) and a late bird at Pt. Mugu June 3 (REW); one or two are found every spring but all previous spring records are for the Salton Sea. A Baird's Sandpiper, casual in spring, was near Blythe Apr. 2 (BH) and two more were at Baker Apr. 5 (SC, \*S.B.C.M.). Four Pectoral Sandpipers, also exceptionally rare in spring, were reported with one at S.E.S.S., Mar. 31 (LB), another near Lancaster Apr. 1 (FH) and two near Blythe Apr. 15 (BH). Ten Stilt Sandpipers at S.E.S.S., Mar. 31 (LB) were the only ones reported.

**SKUAS, GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS** — Four South Polar Skuas were seen off Santa Rosa I., May 20 (KG) and single individuals were found off San Diego May 19 (GMcC) and June 3 (JB); this species is now being found regularly off s. California at this time of the year. A Glaucous-winged Gull at N.E.S.S., Apr. 14-28 (JD) was at an inland locality. The only Thayer's Gull found away from the coast was one at Salton City Mar. 30 (LB). Two Mew Gulls, rare inland, were found on the Salton Sea Mar. 30, with an immature at Salton City (LB) and an adult at Desert Shores (JD). The only Franklin's Gulls reported were one at

N E S S , Apr 12 (RH), another near Calpatria Apr 14 (JD) and a third at Pt Mugu June 3 (REW). The only large concentrations of Bonaparte's Gulls away from the coast were 490 on L. Henshaw in the mountains of San Diego County Mar. 31 (RH) and 300 at the same place May 2 (RH). Two ad. Heermann's Gulls, an exceptionally rare straggler to the interior, were at S.E.S.S., May 15 (SG). The only Sabine's Gulls encountered were one off Ventura Apr. 28 (JD), 27 there on May 20 (REW) and eight off San Diego May 19 (DPo); it appears that numbers encountered at this time of the year off s. California have declined in recent years.

The arrival date for Com. Tern is difficult to determine this spring owing to the appearance of immature-plumaged birds in early April, ahead of the arrival of breeding-plumaged adults on Apr. 20; early immatures included one in San Diego Apr. 6 (EC) and another at McGrath S.P., Apr. 7 (REW); there is no way of telling whether these birds wintered locally or were spring migrants. As usual a few Arctic Terns were encountered offshore in late May with three off San Diego May 19 (PU) and six off Ventura May 20 (KG); six on the Salton Sea June 10 (GMcC) gives us the third June record for this inland locality. Two Black Skimmers at McGrath S.P., May 19 (REW) were the only ones found away from the Salton Sea and San Diego.

ALCIDS — Xantus' Murrelets appeared common around the n. portion of the Channel Is., with 600 seen there May 20 (KG). Two Horned Puffins, a species whose status in s. California waters is poorly understood, were found near Santa Cruz I., May 20 (KG). Two Tufted Puffins, rare in s. California waters, were seen near San Nicolas I., May 20 (KG).

PIGEONS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Band-tailed Pigeons appeared in a number of out-of-range localities with one at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley June 2 (REW), another at nearby Stovepipe Wells May 24 (PL) and a third in Blythe May 25 (SG) being in the e. part of the Region; one near Oxnard June 6 (REW) and five around San Diego May 3 - June 4 (PU) were on the coast. A White-winged Dove at Oasis, Mono Co., May 31 (REW) was far n., and one near Anaheim May 23 (DRW) along with three around San Diego May 12-26 (PU) were w. of the species' normal range. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at F.C.R., June 2 (LP) was the only one found away from the Colorado R. valley. Common Nighthawk, one of the latest species to arrive in spring, was first noted May 24; four at Pt. Mugu June 3 (REW) were at a coastal locality, and represent one of the very few records for this species away from known breeding localities. A Black Swift over Mt. Palomar May 9 (RH) and another over Goleta May 19 (BS) were the only two reported. A Chimney Swift was at Pt. Fermin, Los Angeles Co., June 6 (JD); this species is now of annual occurrence in s. California. It appears that Black-chinned Hummingbirds arrived along the Colorado R., substantially earlier than elsewhere in s. California with a male near Blythe Feb. 20 (BMW); late March is a normal time for arrival on the coast. A few Calliope Hummingbirds moved N along the coast during April with ten individuals seen Apr. 8-25 in San Diego, Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

WOODPECKERS — An Acorn Woodpecker on Pt. Loma, San Diego Co., June 4-6 (CGE) was at an unusual locality. A ♂ Williamson's Sapsucker on Mt. Palomar Apr. 10 (RH) was in an area where nesting is unrecorded. A ♂ Hairy Woodpecker on Clark Mt., May 29 (SC) appears to be the first found there since the last of the breeding population was collected in the 1930s.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — An E. Kingbird at Ft. Piute May 21 (*vide* DR) and another at Deep Spring May 27 (KVV) were the only two reported. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Needles May 26+ (DMM) was attending a nest containing five eggs and was believed to be paired with a W. Kingbird; needless to say this is far w. of the species' breeding range. Wied's Crested Flycatchers first arrival at Morongo Valley, the extreme n.w. outpost of the species' range, on Apr. 23 (R&MW). The E. Phoebe found during the winter at L. Henshaw was still present Mar. 14 (RH) and another was at Scotty's Castle Mar. 26-30 (JL). A Gray Flycatcher, rare on the coast in spring, was in Santa Barbara Apr. 19 (LB), another was in Goleta May 6 (MP) and a third was on Pt. Loma May 10-11 (DPa). A Vermilion Flycatcher at Deep Springs May 28 (PL) was exceptionally far n. The only migrant Purple Martins reported were single birds at Goleta Apr. 22 (GF) & May 16 (PL); this species has declined drastically in s. California over the past 20 years.

JAYS THROUGH PIPITS — A Scrub Jay near Tecopa Apr. 23 (JT) and another at Scotty's Castle May 26 (JS) were both at desert oases. A Winter Wren at Pt. Mugu Mar. 24 (KG) was quite late for a coastal locality in s. California. A Cactus Wren in Tecopa May 25 (KVV) was somewhat n. of the species' normal range. A Brown Thrasher was on Pt. Loma May 15 (ST) and another was at Deep Springs May 28 (REW); this is a casual straggler to California in spring. A Bendire's Thrasher near Lancaster Apr. 7-8 (JD) was somewhat unexpected. A Varied Thrush at Yucca Valley May 20 (EAC), another at Buckhorn in the San Gabriel Mts., May 26 (FH) and a third at Deep Springs June 1-3 (REW) were all exceptionally late and totally unexpected considering the paucity of records for the past winter. A Water Pipit in the Lanfair Valley May 16 (SC), another at Scotty's Castle May 19 (PL) and one more at F.C.R., May 23 (PL) were late.

VIREOS, WOOD WARBLERS — A White-eyed Vireo, only the fourth to be found in California and the first for this Region, was at Oasis May 31 - June 2 (PL,REW). Gray Vireos had returned to breeding localities in the Laguna Mts. of San Diego County by Mar. 25 (ME). A ♂ Yellow-throated Vireo, a casual straggler to California, was at Ft. Piute May 30 (EC). Interesting were two Solitary Vireos of the gray interior race *plumbeus* on the coast with one near San Diego Apr. 14 (DPa) and the other on Pt. Loma Apr. 22 (GMcC). A Red-eyed Vireo, inexplicably rare in s. California, was at Oasis May 20-21 (PL) and another was near Imperial Beach June 5 (EC).

Black-and-white Warblers were relatively scarce, with only nine reported Apr. 20 - June

2 A Prothonotary Warbler, a rare straggler to the Southwest, was at Oasis May 23 (JS) and another was on Pt. Loma June 1 (EC). Another exceptionally rare straggler to California, a Golden-winged Warbler, was at Scotty's Castle May 24 (KVV). Seven Tennessee Warblers were found in the n.e. part of the Region May 19 - June 2 along with five more in coastal Orange and San Diego counties during the same period: May 13 - June 2. A Virginia's Warbler at Morongo Valley Apr. 19 (R&MW) and another at F.C.R., May 31 (REW) were migrants at desert oases; one in Encinitas, San Diego Co., Apr. 29 (L&SS) was on the coast where rare in spring. A Lucy's Warbler singing at 7000 ft on Clark Mt., May 29 (SC) was at a most unusual locality. Three N. Parulas found in Mono/Inyo counties May 22-25 (PL, BD), a somewhat early individual at Ft. Piute Apr. 22 (SC) and another near Winterhaven, Imperial Co., May 12 (ST) were in the e. part of the Region; whereas, one in Santa Barbara June 4 (PL, †S.B.M.), another near Anaheim May 19 (DRW) and a third in nearby Santa Ana May 23 (SJR) were along the coast. A Magnolia Warbler at Scotty's Castle May 26 (HC) and another 75 mi off San Diego June 5 (JB) were the only two reported. A ♀ Cape May Warbler, casual in spring, was at Scotty's Castle May 29 (DLD). A ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler, only the second to be found in California during spring, was well-studied at Scotty's Castle May 26 (JMacD). A ♀ Cerulean Warbler on Pt. Loma May 26-27 (CGE,ph, S.D.N.H.M.) was the fifth to be found in this Region. The Yellow-throated Warbler is an exceptionally rare straggler to California, hence, the appearance of six along the coast this spring comes as a surprise, with one on Pt. Loma Apr. 18 (JD) followed by another there June 3 (DPo) and a third June 4-6 (CGE), one in Encinitas Apr. 29 (L & SS), another in Santa Monica May 12 (KG) and the sixth in Santa Barbara June 9-14 (BS). A ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler was on Pt. Loma June 5-6 (EC); one or two are seen every spring. A ♂ Blackpoll Warbler in Blythe May 10 (BMW) was somewhat early, one at Oasis June 2 (PL) occurring on a more typical date. Two wintering Palm Warblers remained in Goleta to Apr. 21 (LB) and another near Imperial Beach was still present on Apr. 22 (GMcC); single birds in Goleta Apr. 22 (PL) and in Encinitas Apr. 30 (BC) were believed to be migrants, but could well have wintered in the vicinity. Two Palm Warblers at Ft. Piute May 27 (SC) were certainly spring vagrants.

Ovenbirds were scarcer than normal with single birds at Oasis May 22-24 (PL), May 29-30 (KVV) and May 30 (DR), and a fourth in Santa Barbara June 5 (PL). Eight N. Waterthrushes seen in Mono/Inyo counties May 19 - June 2 were in an area of regular occurrence, whereas, one at Pt. Mugu May 12 (REW) and another in Santa Barbara June 3 (MP) were on the coast where rare in spring. A ♂ Kentucky Warbler, only the fifth to be found in s. California, was well-studied near Little Lake, Inyo Co., Apr. 30 (DG). Five Hooded Warblers were found, with one in Santa Ana May 23 (SJR), single males at Ft. Piute May 23 (BMW) & May 27 (SC), another at Tollhouse Springs in the White Mts., May 22-23 (KVV) and a female at Oasis May 30 (REW); small numbers are reported every spring. About 25 Am. Redstarts were found in the e. part of the Region May 17 - June 3, but one on Pt. Loma

May 26 27 (CGE) was the only one reported from along the coast. Two Painted Redstarts on Clark Mt., May 29 (SC) were in an area where nesting could occur.

**BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, TANAGERS** — A Bobolink was at Oasis May 31 (PL), another was at Scotty's Castle May 23 (PL) and ten were seen at F.C.R., May 17 - June 2; small numbers occur regularly in this area of California each May. Two wintering Orchard Orioles remained in Santa Barbara to Mar. 21 (PL); one at F.C.R., May 27 (PL) was a spring vagrant. A ♂ Hooded Oriole at Oasis May 19 (PL) was quite far n. for the e. side of the Sierra Nevada. Two Scott's Orioles at Oasis May 22 (PL) were near the n. limit of the species' range in California. Five N. (Baltimore) Orioles were found in the n.e. portion of the Region May 20-31, and another was on the coast at Pt. Loma May 26 (EC). A Great-tailed Grackle near Scotty's Castle May 28 (JS) was farther n. than previously reported in e. California, and another near L. Cachuma, Santa Barbara Co., May 12+ (PL) was far to the w. A Com. Grackle, a casual straggler to California, was at Scotty's Castle May 22 (PL).

A ♂ Scarlet Tanager was on Pt. Loma May 26-28 (LD); this is an exceedingly rare straggler to California in spring. A ♀ Hepatic Tanager on Clark Mt., May 29 (SC) was the only one found this spring. A Summer Tanager at Morongo Valley Apr. 21 (R&MW) marked the arrival date at this breeding locality; vagrants outside the species' known breeding range included five in the Deep Springs/Oasis area May 19 - June 2 (PL,REW), one at Ft. Piute May 20 (DR), a ♀ *cooperii* in the Kingston Mts., May 28 (SC), a male in the San Gabriel Mts., May 9 (RL), one in Coronado Apr. 12 (AB), and single birds on Pt. Loma June 2-3 (EC) & 5 (BC).

**FINCHES, SPARROWS** — As usual a few Rose-breasted Grosbeaks reached s. California with two wintering birds in Santa Barbara Feb. 28 - Apr. 25 (MP) and 22 migrants noted May 14 - June 6. Indigo Buntings appeared in small numbers with an early bird at Morongo Valley Apr. 15 (R & MW), another near Tecopa Apr. 27 (JT), and ca. 30 noted May 19 - June 2, with most in the n.e. part of the Region. An Evening Grosbeak at Oak Glen near San Bernardino Apr. 14 (JD) was the only one reported this spring. An Am. Goldfinch at F.C.R., May 27 (REW) was unexpected at that time of the year. A Lawrence's Goldfinch at Deep Springs May 19 (PL) is one of the very few recorded in that area of California. The only Lark Bunting was a singing male near Temecula, Riverside Co., May 12-14 (IPL). A Grasshopper Sparrow at F.C.R., May 25 (PL) was at an unusual locality. A Lincoln's Sparrow at Deep Springs June 2 (PL) was exceptionally late for a lowland locality. Single Swamp Sparrows near L. Elsinore Mar. 22 (JD), at Saticoy Apr. 8 (REW) and at Pt. Mugu Apr. 21 (REW) could all have wintered locally, but one at Scotty's Castle May 27 (BLaB) was clearly a spring vagrant. A Lapland Longspur in the Cuyama Valley of Kern County Mar. 10 (REW) had probably wintered locally.

**CONTRIBUTORS** — Jon Atwood, Stephen F. and Karen L. Bailey (SF & KLB), Larry R. Ballard, John D. Bean, Bob Behrstock (BBe), Louis Bevier, Bob Bohmke (BBo), Bruce

Broadbrooks (BBr), Alice Brooks, John Butler, Eugene A. Cardiff, Steven Cardiff, Herb Clark, Elizabeth Copper, Bart Cord, Alan M. Craig, Nancy Crawford, Fay Dalton, Brian Daniels, Linda Delaney, Fred S. Dexter, Donna L. Dittmann, Jon Dunn, Ron Dow, Claude G. Edwards, A. Sidney England, Mike Evans, Michael D. Fitzpatrick, Gary Fugle, Kimball Garrett, Sharon Goldwasser (co-ordinator for Colorado River Valley), Eileen and Julie Gray (E&JG), Dan Guthrie, Fred Heath, Dianna Herron, Roger Higson, Bill Howe, Lee Jones, Fran Kilfoil, Bruce LaBar, Andy Laurenzi, Paul Lehman (co-ordinator for Santa Barbara County), Ruth Lohr, Isabel P. Ludlum, John Luther, John MacDonald, Tony Mercieca, Doug M. Morton, Jean Okuye, Dennis Parker (DPa), Eleanor B. Parsons, Leonard Paul, Raphael R. Payne, Michael Perrone, Dave Povey (DPo), Sylvia J. Ranney, John P. Rieger, Don Roberson, Steve & Diane Ross (S&DR), Luis and Suzanne Santaella (L&SS), Brad Schram, Trudy Siptroth, Richard C. Smith, John Sterling, G. Shumway Suffel, Fern R. Tainter (co-ordinator for San Luis Obispo County), Jan Tarble, Scott Terrill, Philip Unitt (co-ordinator for San Diego County), Kent Van Vuren, Richard E. Webster (co-ordinator for Ventura County), Bret M. Whitney, Douglas R. Willick, Russ and Marion Wilson (R&MW). Specimen (\*), photograph on file (ph), San Bernardino County Museum (S.B.C.M.), San Diego Natural History Museum (S.D.N.H.M.), Santa Barbara Museum (S.B.M.). A plus (+) following a date indicates the bird or birds were present from that date to the end of the period. — GUY McCASKIE, San Diego Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, P.O. Box 1390, San Diego, California 92112.



Cattle Egret, on Plumeria tree, Sand I., Midway Atoll, Mar. 31, 1979. Photo/Jennifer Richardson.

Three Laysan Albatross chicks that hatched in February near Kilauea Pt., K., were almost ready to leave the nest in late May (VB). If they make it, they will be the first offspring successfully fledged from this nascent colony in three years of trying. At the n. tip of Oahu, two Laysans were seen circling offshore (PB) and one over Kii Pond (RC), both Mar. 10. Similar sightings at the same locality last spring were the first known reports of this species on Oahu at least in this century. Newell (Manx) Shearwaters were heard calling at a breeding area 5 km n.e. of Koloa, K., Apr. 6, the earliest return of this species yet documented in 10+ years of observation (JSi). An estimated 250 were heard Apr. 23. At Johnston Atoll, a U.S. outpost 1350 km s.w. of Hawaii, CH found 60 Brown Booby nests Apr. 26, and was surprised to find a Cattle Egret there. Another Cattle Egret has also been resident since mid-March on Sand I., Midway Atoll (JR), at 177.4° W longitude. This ubiquitous wanderer has now reached the far w. edge of both Hawaii and the western hemisphere.

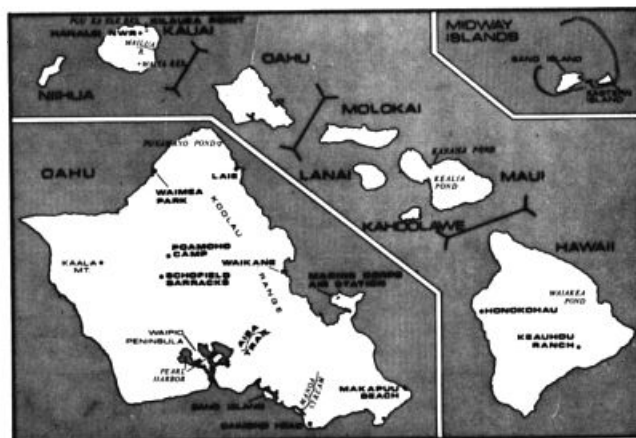
**GEESE AND DUCKS** — After a large pond on Waipio Pen., was drained in February, observers' attention shifted to Kii Pond as the key area for wintering waterfowl on Oahu. Ample water at Kii supported up to 200

## HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION /Robert L. Pyle and C. John Ralph

After a winter season of frequent rains that were particularly heavy during February, spring weather in Hawaii was uneventful. Precipitation reverted to subnormal, as has been characteristic of recent years. Honolulu's 1.7 inches of rain in March, April and May was only 30% of the 30-year mean. But ample water remained from winter to keep wetlands wet and hillsides green.

### GREBES THROUGH EGRETS

— Single Pied-billed Grebes were last seen at Kii Pond, James Campbell N.W.R. (hereafter, J.C.N.W.R.) O., Mar. 20 (GB) and at Lokoaka Pond, H., Mar. 30 (JSp). Thus ended a remarkable winter for this species which had previously been recorded in Hawaii only in 1974 and 1975.



ducks, mostly N. Shovelers and Pintails, until they began departing for the n. in the second week of March. Less common species among them included several Mallards, Green-winged Teal, two dozen Am. Wigeon and two Hooded Mergansers. A ♂ Garganey in full breeding plumage was there Mar. 28 (RC), and eight Koloa (Hawaiian Duck-*En*) were recorded Mar. 31 (RC,RP). The wintering Canada Goose remained until May 7.

**SHOREBIRDS** — Bristle-thighed Curlews appeared this spring at their regular haunt near Kii Pond, one Mar. 10 and two Apr. 11 (PB). A Bar-tailed Godwit coming into breeding plumage was seen regularly at Kure Atoll Mar. 15 - May 9 (MR). One in full breeding plumage was at Lisianski I., May 12-14, and three in winter plumage were on Laysan I., May 15 (MR). Hawaiian (Black-necked-*En*) Stilts started nesting very early at Kii Pond this year, the first egg being found Mar. 10 (RC).

**GULLS AND TERNS** — A Glaucous Gull in second-year plumage was at Kure Atoll Mar. 15 - Apr. 1 (MR). The W. Gull wintering at Paiko Lagoon, O., remained through the season. Two Laughing Gulls at Kii Pond were last seen together Mar. 10 (DS), and one remained until Apr. 10 (RC). Five Gray-

backed Terns Apr. 13 flying over Kii Pond (RC) represented a remarkable record. In the main Hawaiians, Gray-backed nest only on Moku Manu islet off Oahu's s.e. coast, and are virtually never reported any closer to the main islands. At Johnston Atoll, Sooty Tern nesting was in full swing with eggs, small and large young present Apr. 25. Numbers were estimated at 100,000 birds on East I., and 50,000 on Sand I. (CH). Hawaii's first Caspian Tern, reported last season, was seen at Kalua-puhi Pond, K.M.C.A.S., O., through the spring (m.ob.), and was still there May 31 (RC).

**OWLS THROUGH HONEYCREEPERS** — A Short-eared Owl found at Kure Atoll Apr. 16 was last seen flying to sea toward Midway Atoll, 100 km to the e. (MR). Four individuals were on Midway during the winter, raising the possibility that these strays may have been from Asia or Alaska. The Hawaiian endemic race normally is confined to the main Hawaiian Is., 2000 km s.e. of Midway. A stray Mockingbird first reported in January at Tern I., French Frigate Shoals, was still thriving Mar. 15 when the island was revisited (CH).

Japanese Bush-Warblers were introduced to Oahu 50 years ago, and remained rather scarce until the late 1960s. Since then they have been seen and heard more and more fre-

quently, and at new localities around the island. Now the species has crossed the Kaiwi Channel to Molokai. Its very distinctive song was heard in April (TBe) and identified May 28 (LP) at Pepeopae Lookout in the high mountains of Molokai, about 80 km from the nearest point of Oahu. Its status and range on the island will be better defined during the U.S.F.&W.S. Forest Bird Survey this summer. The 'O'u, one of the scarcest Hawaiian honeycreepers, was observed again this spring on Hawaii I. (DR *et al.*) and on Kauai (JSi).

**ABBREVIATIONS** — Islands: K. = Kauai, O. = Oahu, M. = Maui, H. = Hawaii; *En* = Endangered Species, P.H.N.W.R. = Pearl Harbor National Wildlife Refuge, K.M.C.A.S. = Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station.

**CONTRIBUTORS** — Tim Bertrand (TBe), Gordon Black, Phil Bruner, Tim Burr, Vernon Byrd, George Campbell, Rick Coleman, Ed Davis, Craig Harrison, Rey Larsen, Leilani Pyle, Mark Rauzon, Don Reeser, Jennifer Richardson, John Sincock (JSi), Dan Snider, Jean-Marie Spoleman (JSp) — **ROBERT L. PYLE**, 741 N. Kalaeo Ave., Kailua, HI 96734, and **C. JOHN RALPH**, U.S. Forest Service, Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, 1151 Punchbowl St., Honolulu, HI 96813.

## Alabama's first Leach's Storm-Petrel

*D. Mark Brown and Brent Ortego*

**W**HILE SEARCHING for shorebirds on a peninsula that extends into a bend of the Chattahoochee River at Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge on October 7, 1978, we discovered a dead bird lying 25 meters to the west of the river in Barbour County, Alabama. Upon picking it up, we immediately recognized it as either a Leach's (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) or Harcourt's (*O. castro*) Storm-Petrel by its single tubular nostril, forked tail, white rump and black feet. The specimen was in good condition and was deposited at the Auburn University Vertebrate Zoology Museum. It is specimen number AUM 326.

We later identified the bird as a northern Leach's Storm-Petrel (*O. l. leucorhoa*). It was distinguished from Harcourt's by its: (a) deeply forked tail — more so than Harcourt's (b) gray stripe bisecting the white rump — absent in Harcourt's and (c) dark shafted white rump feathers — Harcourt's are light-shafted. The subspecies was determined by the bird's large size (total length = 213 mm, wing chord = 165, tarsus = 24, and culmen = 16) and almost totally white rump. The

specimen was determined an adult male.

Bourne (1962, Leach's Petrel, pp. 225-230 in R. S. Palmer (ed.), Handbook of North American birds. Vol. 1. Yale Univ. Press, New Haven, Conn. 567 pp.) reported great geographic variation occurring within the species; northern subspecies being larger (wing chord = 153-160 mm, tarsus = 23-24, and culmen = 15-16) and having the whitest rumps, while those of the southern subspecies were smaller (wing chord = 139-141, tarsus = 20, and culmen = 13) and darker. The most southerly populations (*O. l. chapmani*) being very small and entirely black.

**T**HE BIRD WE FOUND (Fig. 1) was obviously of the northern race. This subspecies breeds in the North Pacific and Atlantic oceans. It has a wide winter distribution with main concentrations along tropical convergencies. Atlantic stragglers have occurred between the Canaries, Cuba, Buenos Aires and Cape of Good Hope (Bourne op. cit.).

Since there was no inclement weather prior to the bird's discovery, its appear-



**Fig. 1.** Leach's Storm-Petrel at Eufaula N.W.R., Ala., Oct. 7, 1978. Note tubenose, deeply forked tail, v-shaped white rump bisected by gray stripe, and long wings with pale wingbar. Photo/Brent Ortego.

ance and death 200 km inland was a mystery. The specimen represents the first Alabama record and the first non-aided inland record for the southeastern United States.

—2013 Park St. SE, Decatur, Alabama 35601 (Brown); Dept. Zoology-Entomology, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama 36830 (Ortego).