

ten on the status of this rather abundant migrant sparrow. Two regions reported above-normal numbers; eight regions had rare, early or late records; nine regions east of the Rocky Mountains did not report the species.—T. L-E.

SUMMARY

WAS ALL OF THIS a waste of time? Is *American Birds* the wrong journal for such migration/population data?

We hope not. Despite our comments, this is still the journal we turn to for a wealth of continent-wide information. We may not see the entire picture very often, but we find indicators which spur us to try and fill the gaps. Our exhortations to contributors and regional editors also left us with a feeling of *mea culpa*. It is a pleasure to report one carefully observed rare bird seen during the spring. It is tedious to wade through numerous records of common birds from the same season to detect trends. Next, one should refer back to previous years' data and seek the long term pic-

ture. We can think of several occasions when we, too, neglected to report the common bird. In the last analysis, however, it must logically be more worthwhile to add sound population data to the concentrations, range explosions and extralimital records which this journal reports so well.

We wish to thank all the Manomet Bird Observatory staff who assisted us with this article, particularly Christopher C. Rimmer and Peter W. Stangel.

—*Manomet Bird Observatory, Manomet, MA 02345.*

CONTINENTAL SURVEY

The Spring Migration

March 1-May 31, 1980

Abbreviations frequently used in Regional Reports

ad.: adult, Am.: American, c.: central, C: Celsius, CBC: Christmas Bird Count, Cr.: Creek, Com: Common, CO: County, Cos.: Counties, *et al.*: and others, E.: Eastern (bird name), Eur.: European, Eurasian, F: Fahrenheit, *fide*: reported by, F.&W.S.: Fish & Wildlife Service, Ft.: Fort, imm.: immature, I.: Island, Is.: Islands, Isles, Jct.: Junction, juv.: juvenile, L.: Lake, m.ob.: many observers, Mt.: Mountain, Mts.: Mountains, N.F.: National Forest, N.M.: National Monument, N.P.: National Park, N.W.R.: Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, N.: Northern (bird name), Par.: Parish, Pen.: Peninsula, P.P.: Provincial Park, Pt.: Point, not Port, Ref.:

Refuge, Res.: Reservoir, not Reservation, R.: River, S.P.: State Park, sp.: species, spp.: species plural, ssp.: subspecies, Twp.: Township, W.: Western (bird name), W.M.A.: Wildlife Management Area, v.o.: various observers, N,S,W,E,: direction of motion, n., s., w., e.,: direction of location, >: more than, <: fewer than, ±: approximately, or estimated number, ♂: male, ♀: female, Ø: imm. or female, *: specimen, ph.: photographed, †: documented, ft: feet, mi: miles, m: meters, km: kilometers, date with a + (e.g., Mar. 4+): recorded beyond that date. Editors may also abbreviate often-cited locations or organizations.

NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

/Peter D. Vickery

This spring seemed more or less typical in posing again a set of ornithological questions. It has been long established that Prothonotary Warblers, Summer Tanagers and a host of other "southern" birds regularly overshoot their nesting grounds and find their way into the Region. But surely such knowledge cannot account for the *three* Burrowing Owls that appeared in New England this season. And how, possibly, does one explain a **Mountain Bluebird** some 70 miles east of Nantucket Island? We all know birds wander in unexpected directions, but a Mountain Bluebird out in the Atlantic? Sadly, Maine's Band-tailed Pigeon, coincidental to the bluebird discovery, does not help at all to clarify the situation.

On the other hand, the **Pink-footed Goose** and associated European vagrants in Newfoundland are more easily understood, although it is less certain how the *four* Wheatears in New England fit into this picture.

Several new species appear to be pushing north. In addition to Acadian Flycatchers

and Cerulean Warblers, American Oystercatchers, their numbers having grown in southern New England, are making pioneering inroads into Maine. Similarly Chuck-will's-widows seem to be more numerous in the southern part of the Region. It remains to be seen if this is a trend which will continue.

It is impossible to know what significance to give general comments about the spring migration. Birders in Rhode Island and on Cape Cod felt that numbers of regular spring migrants were well above average. Reports from the Rockland, Maine area were precisely the reverse: few birds and especially no flycatchers and thrushes. Manomet Bird Observatory, without doubt the

most consistent monitoring network in New England, reported a good spring with good flycatcher and thrush totals. Obviously local conditions, time in the field and direction of migration can have profound effects on how



one views the spring season. The following edited chart compares the numbers of some species banded at Manomet in the springs of 1979 and 1980.

	1979	1980
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	0	3
Great Crested Flycatcher	11	21
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	7	29
Traill's Flycatcher	19	55
Least Flycatcher	3	16
Eastern Wood Pewee	2	9
Gray Catbird	491	574
Wood Thrush	6	20
Hermit Thrush	17	19
Swainson's Thrush	23	59
Veery	11	43
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	13	39
White-eyed Vireo	3	10
Black-and-white Warbler	55	89
Magnolia Warbler	37	90
Yellow-rumped Warbler	31	18
Mourning Warbler	2	27
American Redstart	60	102
Lincoln's Sparrow	4	25

GREBES THROUGH HERONS—An Eared Grebe in full breeding plumage was seen at Wachusett Res., Clinton, Mass., May 19-24 (*vide RPE*). As many as 6-10 Manx Shearwaters were again observed off Beaver-tail, R.I., Apr. 26 while lesser numbers were noted on other dates (v.o., *vide CW*). One wonders whether breeding will eventually be confirmed in Narragansett Bay. A **Manx Shearwater** off Greenwich Pt., Conn., May 17 was perhaps not a complete surprise, yet provided a first state record for that state (TB *et al.*). A Great Blue Heron at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld., May 21-23 provided a northernmost record for the island (BMacT). Louisiana Herons were reported "doing very well" nesting on Chimon Is., Connecticut (NSP). A pair of Louisiana Herons on Appledore I., Me., may have been first-time nesters for that herony (ACB). Two **White Ibises** were seen among Glossy Ibises at Guilford, Conn., April 19 (NSP).

WATERFOWL—Two Whistling Swans were found at Longmeadow, Mass., Mar. 18-22 (SK *et al.*), while a single individual remained briefly at Back Cove, Portland, Me., Apr. 10 (*vide PDV*).

S.A.

The **Pink-footed Goose** (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) at St. Anthony, Nfld., May 10-June 3 was unquestionably one of the rarest birds of the season (BMacT *et al.*). Considered by some authorities, including the 1957 A.O.U. Check-List, to be conspecific with Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis*), this bird's occurrence constitutes the first Canadian and the first unambiguous North American record of this species/form. There is a single 1924 Massachusetts record of dubious authenticity (Griscom and Snyder, 1955). Not surprisingly, the appearance of the Pink-footed Goose was coincidental with the arrival at L'Anse-aux-Meadows of a Eur. Wigeon May 11-12 and a Wheatear May 13 (BMacT).



Pink-footed Goose, St. Anthony, Nfld., May 22, 1980. Photo/Rob Walker.

Other than the L'Anse-aux-Meadows individual, single Eur. Wigeons were found at Trustom, R.I., Apr. 12 (*vide CW*), Newburyport, Mass., May 31-June 4 (*vide RAF*) and Lusby Marsh, N.S., May 8-22 (*vide CRKA*). A partial survey of Harlequin Ducks off Isle au Haut, Me., Mar. 9 counted 70 individuals (PDV *et al.*). It seems clear that 100+ Harlequins winter at that locality annually. No less than 12 Harlequins were noted off the n. end of Campobello I., N.B. (NF). Three Harlequins lingered into May in e. Massachusetts (*vide RPE*) and a pair was seen at Rye, N.H., May 6 (EWP, *vide DJA*). Late King Eiders included a male off Guilford, Conn., May 26 (*vide SS*) and an imm. male off Monomoy May 25 (*vide RPE*).

VULTURES, DIURNAL RAPTORS—Turkey Vultures continued to consolidate their position throughout New England; flocks of six and eight vultures respectively were noted in e. Massachusetts (*vide RPE*), 9-10 were seen near Camden, Me., May 19-20 (*vide MKL*) and three separate flocks of 5-7 individuals were observed in New Hampshire (*vide DJA*). A single Golden Eagle was carefully identified at Milton, Mass., May 4 (RRV, *vide RAF*) while two were observed in Nova Scotia (*vide IAMcL*). A white Gyrfalcon was, no doubt, happily observed at Amherst Pt., N.S., Mar. 29 (SIT). The spring Gyrfalcon flight at L'Anse-aux-Meadows numbered some 15+ individuals Mar. 13-Apr. 27 (BMacT). A conservatively estimated 22 Peregrine Falcons were reported this spring.

RAILS, SHOREBIRDS—Three King Rails were noted in e. Massachusetts this spring (*vide RPE*). Speculation about this species' status remains in doubt. King Rail in Massachusetts seems an excellent candidate for close study, and birders are asked to make a serious effort to search local freshwater wetlands and marshes during the breeding season.

American Oystercatchers have continued their steady increase along the coast of New England. At least 30 individuals were seen on Monomoy, while lesser numbers were noted elsewhere in Massachusetts. Three ad. oystercatchers and three young on Block I., R.I., were thought to constitute a first recent breeding record (DE *et al.*) but oystercatchers were apparently reported breeding at the same locality in 1978 (*vide RAF*). In Connecticut oystercatchers bred on islands off Noank/Mystic again for a presumed first

modern state breeding record (*vide NSP*). Considering the above, it is no great surprise that two **American Oystercatchers** were found in Portland, Me., May 31 (*vide PDV*) and that another pair was observed and photographed for a first confirmed state record at Biddeford Pool June 1 (B&SW).

American Golden Plovers were noted in Nova Scotia (6), Massachusetts (1), and Maine (1). A single white-rumped Whimbrel was seen on Nantucket Apr. 11 (EFA *et al.*) and in n. Newfoundland at L'Anse-aux-Meadows May 19 (BMacT). Elsewhere Whimbrels were found in Massachusetts (3), Maine (2) and Nova Scotia (4). An Upland Sandpiper was notably early at Bangor, Me., Apr. 6 (*vide WCT*) as was a Pectoral at Plum I., Mass., Mar. 23 (CR). A migrant Long-billed Dowitcher was unusual at Chatham, Mass., Apr. 13 but a **Marbled Godwit** at the same locality May 28 was rare indeed (BN). Spring Ruffs numbered five: four in e. Massachusetts and one at Lordship, Conn. (*vide CSW*). The report of 40,000 N. Phalaropes in Head Harbour Passage, off Campobello I., N.B., May 26 (NF) suggests that Passamaquoddy Bay may well be an important staging area in spring; concentrations are well known there in fall. About 120 Red Phalaropes at Jeffrey's Ledge, N.H., May 17 was an impressive total for that locality (EWP, *vide DJA*).

SKUAS, GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS—A skua off Cox's Ledge, R.I., May 31 was thought to be a dark-phased S. Polar on the basis of uniform black (not brown) coloration and an unambiguously white nape (PDV *et al.*). Four Glaucous Gulls lingering into May in Massachusetts was an above average number. In the same state, single **Mew Gulls** were found in Hull Apr. 13 (WRP, *vide RAF*) and in Revere May 9 (SZ *et al.*, ph). Perhaps



Mew Gull, Revere, Mass., May 9, 1980. Photo/Soheil Zendehe.

as many as 8-10 Black-headed Gulls were found in e. Massachusetts this spring; a second year Black-headed was noted in Frankfort, Me., Apr. 12 (PDV); 60+ individuals occurred in Dartmouth, N.S., throughout March (*vide RGBB*). Seven Little Gulls were noted in s. New England while a Sabine's Gull was unique at Monomoy May 19-22 (RAF *et al.*). Single pairs of Forster's Terns at Plum I., May 9 and Monomoy May 23 (*vide RPE*) were unusual spring occurrences. A badly decomposed **Sooty Tern** found in Chatham Apr. 27 was quite certainly a casualty from last fall's September flight (*vide RPE*). Single Royal Terns were seen in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Alcids made a generally lackluster showing this

spring; 82 Razorbills off Nantucket Apr. 18 represented the only significant numbers reported (SAP, *vide* RAF).

PIGEONS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS—Without precedent in spring was the occurrence of a **Band-tailed Pigeon** on Southport I., Me., Apr. 25-May 2 (BT *et al.*, ph). Previous Regional records in New Hampshire (1) and Nova Scotia (1 or 2) have involved fall or winter occurrences. Clearly, the Southport I. Band-tailed constitutes a first Maine occurrence. Interestingly, the appearance of the Band-tailed Pigeon coincided with the discovery of another w. vagrant, a Mountain Bluebird, in Massachusetts Apr. 28 (see below).



Band-tailed Pigeon, Southport Is., Maine, Apr. 30, 1980. First state record. Photo/Peter D. Vickery.

Two Black-billed Cuckoos seen together in Rocky Harbour, Nfld., in late May or early June were very rare provincial records (RW *et al.*, ph). Barn Owls were reported doing very well in the Hadley, Mass., area—4-5 pairs have been located (v.o., *vide* SK). What in the world is happening with **Burrowing Owls**? This spring individuals have been seen at Greenwich Pt., Conn., May 24 (TBa *et al.*) for a second state record, at Plymouth Beach, Mass., May 13 and on Monomoy June 6 (*vide* RAF). Unfortunately none of these individuals remained long enough to determine subspecific status. Chuck-will's-widows were widely reported from s. New England: in Massachusetts, three were heard repeatedly at Chappaquiddick where breeding is suspected, and one was inland near Florence May 29 for a first Connecticut R. Valley record (*vide* SK); Connecticut reported two Chucks near Guilford May 10-11 (*vide* NSP); a single **Chuck-will's-widow** on Block I., R.I., May 25 provided the first unambiguous state record (DE *et al.*).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES—Acadian Flycatchers continued to do well this spring in Connecticut; four were located in Haddam (NSP). The northernmost Acadians were a surprise indeed; a pair was found and vocalizations recorded along the Connecticut R. Valley in Littleton, N.H., May 29-June 10 (CAM *et al.*). An imm. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was a more-or-less expected spring vagrant in Branford, Conn., May 2 (NSP) but an **Ash-throated Flycatcher** in Rowley, Mass., May 18-24 (IG *et al.*, ph) was probably without precedent as a Regional spring occurrence. A bird identified as a Western Wood Pewee was noted to have an entirely dark lower mandible and some vocalizations were heard though the bird was apparently never in full song (WB, *vide* BN). A Bank Swallow at N. Carver, Mass., Apr. 5 was impressively early (WRP, *vide* RAF). At least four pairs of Com. Ravens were reported from Massachusetts, where there is increased speculation over breeding. Perhaps the most

unlikely pelagic encounter ever recorded for New England occurred this spring when a **Mountain Bluebird** landed aboard the Russian research vessel Eurika 70 mi SSE of Nantucket I., Mass., Apr. 28 (JC). Fortunately M.B.O. observer Jeff Cherry was able to secure the failing bird, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge. This was a first "state" and Regional occurrence and is quite likely the first spring record of Mountain Bluebird for e. North America—the two New York state records having occurred in winter. Equally startling this spring were the four Wheatears in s. New England, all of which occurred within a ten-day period in late May. Eastern Massachusetts recorded three: one each at Osterville May 19-21; Chatham May 23; Newbury May 24 (v.o., *vide* RAF). In Connecticut a single Wheatear was seen at Chaffinch I., Guilford May 17-27 (PJD, NSP). There has been recent speculation that individuals of this species might winter in North America although the impressive collection of European vagrants in Newfoundland suggests that the Wheatears might be misguided, overshooting trans-Atlantic migrants (see Bruun, AB:34(3)310-312). A single Loggerhead Shrike was seen in Southwick, Mass., Apr. 5 (SK).

VIREOS, WARBLERS—In Maine, a White-eyed Vireo was unusual on Monhegan I., May 25 (JP). A Yellow-throated Vireo was notably early at Guilford, Conn., Apr. 19 (NSP) as was a very early Red-eyed Vireo in Provincetown, Mass., Apr. 13 (BN, *vide* RAF).

Prothonotary Warblers strayed N to Connecticut (2), Massachusetts (5+), and Nova Scotia (2). Cerulean Warblers have further consolidated their position in Connecticut, with at least 11+ territorial males located (*vide* NSP). Interestingly, four Ceruleans were noted this spring farther up the Connecticut R. valley in c. Massachusetts where breeding is a distinct possibility (v.o., *vide* SK). In New Hampshire, two **Cerulean Warblers** were observed in Canaan May 11 and a singing male was recorded in Candia May 25, for the first documented and fully confirmed state records (DJA *et al.*). Yellow-throated Warblers were found in Guilford, Conn., Apr. 25 (NSP), Swan Pt., R.I., May 21 (*vide* CW), Biddeford, Me., May 18 (RC *et al.*) and Sieur de Monts, Mt. Desert I., Me., May 22 (*vide* WCR).

S.A.

Late April-early May explorations in the foothills of w. Maine revealed at least five territorial ♂ **Louisiana Waterthrushes**. This comes as something of a surprise, there being no more than five previous reliable records for the species in Maine. However, Louisiana Waterthrushes have bred regularly for at least 15-20 years as far n. as c. New Hampshire and the Maine discovery is more likely a matter of investigating ornithologically unexplored territory than a significant recent expansion of the species' breeding range. Breeding is expected to be confirmed this summer (PDV, B&SW *et al.*).

A (cat-killed) Kentucky Warbler was rare in Dixmont, Me., in early May (*vide* PDV) as was another fully described individual in Portsmouth, N.H., May 14 (*vide* DJA). The Connecticut Warbler banded in Sharon, Conn., May 27 was unusual (*vide* AG). Apparently another was observed nearby (*vide* AG) and there was a third report this spring from New Hampshire (*vide* DJA).

ICTERIDS, FRINGILLIDS—Two Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found in Nova Scotia (*vide* PRD) while one of this winter's W. Tanagers lingered into May at a Dover, Mass., feeder (*vide* RPE). A W. Tanager in Portsmouth, N.H., Mar. 8 should be added to the winter season's total (*vide* DJA). Summer Tanagers occurred in about average numbers: Rhode Island (4), Massachusetts (8), Maine (3), Nova Scotia (4). The overwintering Blue Grosbeak on Mt. Desert I., remained to mid-April (*vide* WCT). Three **Painted Buntings** in New England were more than recorded in recent years. All males, they occurred on Nantucket May 7, in Hull, Mass., May 14 (*vide* RAF) and in N. Yarmouth, Me., May 30-June 3 (v.o., *vide* PDV, ph), the latter providing a first confirmed Maine record.

S.A.

A ♂ **Chaffinch** (*Fringilla coelebs*) in Lincoln Center, Me., Apr. 3 provided only the third Regional and first state occurrence. Other North American records include: a male in Chatham, Mass., April 1-3, 1961 (ph); a male in St. John's, Nfld., Feb. 25, 1967 (ph); a single individual in Venice, La., December, 1978. The A.O.U. has not yet recognized the Chaffinch as occurring in North America. It seems likely that all the above records involve legitimate vagrants, some or all of which may possibly have been ship-assisted. It is worth noting that Wheatears, if anything, smaller than Chaffinches, routinely make trans-Atlantic crossings. Interestingly, there are three Newfoundland records (two in April, one in May) of Snow Bunting, another similarly small fringillid, banded in Scotland. In addition, there is a previously unpublished record of a **Brambling** in Mansfield, Mass., Dec. 1978-Mar. 1979 (*vide* RAF, ph). Considering the above, renewed attention should be given the (**European**) **Greenfinch** (*Carduelis chloris*) photographed in St. John, N.B., Mar. 31-Apr. 3, 1977 (AB 31:977). This species also remains an officially unrecognized North American species.

The wintering Harris' Sparrow in Marshfield, Mass., lingered to May 2 (BAS). A Golden-crowned Sparrow was observed and photographed in Orleans, Mass., Apr. 18-24 (*vide* RAF).



ADDENDA—A ad. ♂ **Yellow Rail** was collected by hunters on Byfield Marsh, Essex Co., Mass., Sept. 13, 1979 (*vide* RAF, *Patuxent Wildlife Research Center). Subsequent information indicates that there were two **Ash-throated Flycatchers** in Rhode Island last November and December. The first individual was seen and photographed at Riverside Nov. 12-30 while the second was photographed in Little Compton Dec. 15. These represent, respectively, the third and fourth state records.

CORRIGENDA—The Nova Scotia kittiwake colony off Cape Breton is not the first breeding colony s. of Newfoundland. Kittiwakes breed on Bonaventure I., Quebec, and Brown, Nettleship *et al.* reported 63 pairs nesting on Green I., N.S., in 1971 (Brown, 1975). Last fall's Massachusetts Green-tailed Towhee (*AB* 34:141) occurred in S. Peabody, not S. Ipswich.

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QUÉBEC REGION / Normand David and Michel Gosselin

March brought normal weather, but April was often rainy, and May decidedly cool. The usual flooding of the upper St. Lawrence River and its tributaries was of short duration, with levels very low; as a result, the annual staging of waterfowl was barely noticed. The passage of songbirds was somewhat delayed, and with only a few waves.

CORMORANTS THROUGH DUCKS—The two Great Cormorants that overwintered at Dixie I., near Dorval, were last seen Apr. 30 (FH). Southern herons this spring included a Little Blue Heron at Baie Ste-Catherine Apr. 12 (GS), another at Hudson May 24-27

(FH, PM), a **Louisiana Heron** at Cap St-Ignace May 9 (CO), and single Great Egrets at L. Weedon Apr. 10-19 (*vide* YA) and Rimouski Apr. 29 to May 3 (ML).

S.A.

On May 14, after several days of E winds, a "snowy" egret was discovered near Rimouski (JPL). Closer examination however, compelled GG and others (LH, JR) to consider the possibility of a *Little Egret*. The bird did not show the hunched posture typical of Snowy Egrets, appearing longer, and held its neck higher when fishing; the usual foraging strategy included quivering its feet with each step. The bluish-gray color of the lores and the basal one-third of the otherwise blackish bill, the black tarsi (including the posterior edge), the yellow feet (faintly tinged with green) and the lack of aigrettes, except on the lower back, fit perfectly with a sub-ad. Little Egret. The egret remained within a 5-km-radius area until May 16; on May 17 it was found at Bic, 15 km to the w., and on May 19 at Cacouna (65 km farther w.) where it was seen intermittently to May 31 (m.ob.). The only other North American record of the highly migratory Little Egret is a Newfoundland specimen taken May 8, 1954; there have been, however, three records from the Lesser Antilles area (Barbados, Trinidad, Martinique), two mid-Atlantic sightings (see Bond, J., 1967, *Birds of the West Indies, 12th suppl.*, and *Sea Swallow* 22:28, table), and a number of occurrences in the Azores.

Thirteen Whistling Swans (a high figure) flew over Hull March 29 (MMo). [It must be noted that a record of 28 Whistling Swans at Québec City May 27, 1968 (*A.F.N.* 22:508) is erroneous.] A Snow Goose was a rare sight at Barachois May 10 (PP), and a Brant at Bergeronnes Mar. 22 (AB) set an early arrival record. European Wigeons at Cote Ste-Catherine Apr. 5 (*vide* YA) and Lévis Apr. 12 (HM) furnished early records. A Canvasback at Cacouna Apr. 26 (AB) was unusual, while single Ruddy Ducks at Aylmer Mar. 29 (BD) and Ile Perrot Apr. 5-13 (*vide* BB, RY) were the earliest ever.

RAPTORS—The number of Turkey Vultures in spring in the Montreal area, for the period 1970-80, are as follows: 0,0,0,4,7,7,3,9,12,13,16; additional birds turned up this year at St-Anselme de Beauce Apr. 7 (JBt), L. Brompton May 3-19 (*vide* PS), Piedmont May 8 (JW); Sherbrooke (GM) and Baie Ste-Catherine May 10 (AB). Regular hawk watches were maintained at Valleyfield Mar. 16-May 10 (BB,MM), and a most exceptional migration was witnessed: all n.e. species were

represented with a total of 2300 birds. On Apr. 26-27, 1200 hawks were counted, 83% of which were Broad-winged. Other sightings at Valleyfield included one Turkey Vulture, four Bald Eagles, one Gyrfalcon, two Peregrine Falcons, and 79 Ospreys (a high figure). The total of 12 Golden Eagles noted there was amazing; added to six other Golden Eagles seen in the Montreal area this spring, these birds represented nearly the number recorded over the last decade in that area. The ♂ Peregrine Falcon returned to its eyrie in s. Quebec Apr. 5 (*AB* 34:142), to be joined May 19 by an ad. female (banded this time); by the end of the month, the female was sitting on a nest (*vide* YA).

CRANES THROUGH OWLS—A well-described Sandhill Crane at Ste-Anne de Bellevue May 14 (*vide* BB) represented the sixth occurrence in s. Quebec since 1975. A poor shorebird migration nonetheless produced a Willet at Ile aux Fermiers May 24 (GD, JH), two Ruffs at Cacouna May 4-5 (YP, RC), and 45 N. Phalaropes at Ile des Soeurs May 25 (BB, MM). Rare larids included a Black-headed Gull at Rimouski May 12 (GG, LH), a Franklin's Gull at Lasalle May 24 (PBa), a record early Little Gull at Beauharnois May 10 (BB, MM) and another at Aylmer May 30 (IJ, BD). A Black-legged Kittiwake, at Beauharnois Apr. 30 (MM, BB) provided the first spring record in the Montreal area. A very interesting report was that of a Forster's Tern studied at L. Magog May 23 (YA, PBo). Arctic Terns were recorded at Aylmer (one-BD) and Ile des Soeurs May 26 (two-YA); two Caspian Terns were also spotted at Ile des Soeurs May 27 (BB, MM). Record early Razorbills showed up at Percé Mar. 30 (RBI, PP), and eight Com. Murres were at LaBaie Mar. 27 (LR). Marked concentrations of Short-eared Owls occurred in the Montreal area in March, with 16 birds at St-Etienne de Beauharnois Mar. 16 (PBa) and 15 birds near Vaudreuil thereafter (*vide* JW).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH WARBLERS—A **Red-bellied Woodpecker** intermittently present in Aylmer Mar. 15-26 (BD—ph) was probably the one noted nearby in December. The easternmost Red-headed Woodpecker on the North Shore was at Bergeronnes May 27-29 (AB); the species had been previously noticed in Tadoussac June 16,



1970, by the same observer. In Thurso, a Willow Flycatcher reappeared May 25 (HMK). Extremely early swallows included Tree Swallows at Noyan Mar. 22 (PBA), a Barn Swallow at Valcartier Apr. 10 (CB) and a record-breaking Bank Swallow in Aylmer Apr. 12 (BD). A Mockingbird at Le Domaine, an isolated service area in the middle of La Verendrye P.P., May 3 (RBe) was noteworthy, as was a similar record in May 1976 (JBn). The spread of this bird since the '50s could almost be said to be linked with the spread of television antennae!

Now acknowledged as belonging to an expanding species (*A.B.* 33:768) our third regional White-eyed Vireo turned up at Cap-Tourmente May 12 (BJ), and the fourth on Mt-Royal May 15-17 (GS, m.ob.); in the same category was a Golden-winged Warbler at St-Adrien d'Irlande May 24 (AC). A Yellow-rumped Warbler at Compton Mar. 13 (MN) in all probability wintered locally. A ♀ Prairie Warbler was sighted on Mt-Royal May 19 (BB), followed by a male May 22 (ND).

ICTERIDS, FRINGILLIDS—A pair of W. Meadowlarks was discovered near Chic-

outimi May 18 (YB), at the n. edge of the E. Meadowlark's range. A ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird reappeared near Beauharnois Mar. 16 (YA, PBA) after an absence of more than a month. The first Québec occurrence of "Bullock's" Oriole was a female noted on Mt-Royal May 19 (MM, BB). The specific status of this taxon is still in controversy. In Oka, a House Finch was seen and photographed Apr. 13 - May 6 (JR). The Rufous-sided Towhee of the w. "spotted" race was last seen in Arvida Apr. 28 (*vide* YB) while a bird of the e. race was photographed near there Apr. 20-27 (CI, NB). A Grasshopper Sparrow at Ste-Marthe, Rigaud Co., May 3 (RY) provided the earliest record for the species. The same lucky observer who found a Clay-colored Sparrow at St-Felicien May 22 (MAB) also discovered two near Lanoraie May 24.

CORRIGENDUM—The last sentence for the Yellow-rumped Warbler in the original manuscript of the Winter Report (*A.B.* 34:257) read as follows: "There was only one previous wintering record for this species, at Hudson in 1966-67 (unpubl., JW)."

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HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION / Robert O. Paxton, William J. Boyle, Jr., David A. Cutler and Keith C. Richards

Spring 1980 began early, and then turned cool and wet. During March and April, eighteen inches of rain fell in New York City, about three times the average and eight inches of snow fell in upland New Jersey March 14. When recurrent rains ceased at the end of April, large numbers of raptors and passerines moved through on the weekend of May 3-4; migration was heavy again May 10-12 and 15-17. Following a mild winter, and despite heavy and precocious vegetation, most observers found migrants much more numerous than in recent springs. Our one fragment of quantitative evidence, however, suggests that while migrants were more numerous than last spring, their numbers did not far exceed recent norms. MDo trapped 1.5 birds per net-hour this spring at Island Beach, N.J., about average for the last five years (1.2 last spring).

LOONS TO FRIGATEBIRDS—Exceptional numbers of Com. Loons were grounded during migration when a warm front ran up into cool rain Apr. 29: 49 at Marsh Creek S.P., Chester Co., Pa. (PH), 41 at Muddy Run, Drumore, Lancaster Co., Pa. (RS), and 12 at Culver's L., Sussex Co., N.J. (FT). Red-throated Loons staged a good spring concentration of 2250 at the mouth of Del. Bay Apr. 1 (PD, KS).

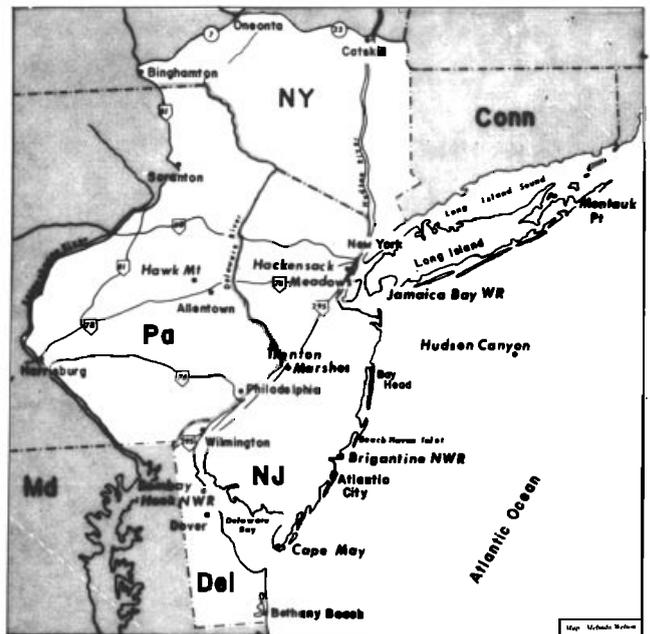
An imm. **Brown Booby** was carefully compared to an imm. Gannet off Cape May May 26, adding yet another sighting to the New Jersey records of this occasional southern wanderer. There exist, however, no photographs or specimens from New Jersey. Double-crested Cormorant migration was

first noted in Rehoboth, Del., Apr. 13 with 17, peaked with 750/hr May 2, and was still under way June 1 with 75 (WF).

An imm. **Magnificent Frigatebird** flying along the beach from Maryland to Fenwick I., Del., Apr. 28 (ph RAR) provided the third Delaware record and the first fully-documented one there (*AFN* 23:647). Of several dozen regional sightings over the years, this was the first to occur before June.

HERONS, IBISES—An ad. Yellow-crowned Night Heron in extreme n.e. Pennsylvania May 28 was highly unusual. For the second spring in a row, a pair of **White-faced Ibises** returned Apr. 6 to Jamaica Bay W.R., N.Y. (hereafter, J.B.W.R.), where breeding is suspected. We hope the ad. **White Ibis** at Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, May 17 (O. & R. Possner, R. Rosenblum) is the harbinger of another irruption like that of summer 1977.

WATERFOWL—Careful counting tallied an impressive 27,000 Snow Geese and 400 "Blue" Geese at Bombay Hook N. W. R., Del. (hereafter B.H.N.W.R.) Mar. 16 (BK, F. Day, T. Wilson). Only two Eur. Wigeon were reported: ♂ male May 3 at Port Mahon, Del. (L. La Via, JAG), and the wintering bird



at Shark R. Inlet, N.J., which remained until Mar. 15 (WB *et al.*). This species has been decreasingly reported during the past decade. An ad. ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye with Commons at the Sullivan County, N.Y. reservoirs in the first week of April (*vide* JT) was a good find.

The main exception to a generally lackluster waterfowl migration (most birds having wintered well north in the mild weather) was the continued concentration of Com. Mergansers on inland lakes. At Peace Valley P., Bucks Co., Pa., 220 were unprecedented Mar. 9 (A&JM), although 100 at L. Genevieve Mar. 19 and 120 at Halsey's L. Mar. 20, both in n.w. New Jersey (FW) were a bit below the numbers of the last two years. A ♀

Harlequin Duck on a fresh water impoundment at J.B.W.R. May 11 (JDiC, TB, J. Keil *et al.*) is believed to represent the first Long Island record away from the outer coast.

RAPTORS—A new spring hawk watch at Upper Montclair, Essex Co., N.J. counted 223 Turkey Vultures Mar. 9-May 10, a record seasonal total there for either fall or spring (*vide* IB); 110 at Cape May for the season (CS) was by far the best recent spring total there. Black Vultures continued their slow and uneven build-up. Although none was seen at Cape May, 15 at Primehook Apr. 10 (WF) may have been a record Delaware concentration. The most northerly records were produced by: a pair apparently resident at Eckville, Berks Co., Pa. (AN), up to three at Sharptown, Salem Co., N.J. (RK), one at Millbrook Gap, Warren Co., N.J., May 2 (FW), and four in a roost at Mountainville, Hunterdon Co., N.J. for the second year in a row (JB, WB).



Swallow-tailed Kite, Cape May Point, N.J., May 26, 1980. Photo/Clay Sutton.

S.A.

The late-spring kite circus, annual in this Region since 1975, was more spectacular than ever, although no birds reached as far north as New York this time. The sighting of a single Swallow-tailed Kite at Cape May Apr. 29 (R. & P. Acker) was followed by sightings there May 18 & 26 (KB, CS, PD, KS, AN) so widely separated in time in that intensely birded area as to suggest different individuals. Another was feeding on dragonflies at Birchrunville, Chester Co., Pa. June 7-13 (I. Kuch, ph B&FH). This species has now appeared in the Region during five of the last six springs. A Mississippi Kite was hawking over L. Assunpink, Mercer Co., N.J. May 10 (GW), while at Cape May no fewer than five individuals were distinguished by plumage: one adult, three sub-adults, and one immature, May 24-June 7 (BR, C&PS, AN). A bird seen over the Garden State Parkway June 4 (A. Panzer) may have been yet another, making either six or seven for the season. This expanding species (cf. AB 33: 119-129) has been seen here every spring since 1976, but previous regional maxima had been two in 1978 and four in 1979.

The new spring hawk watches have recently discovered how many raptors pass in May. This season's raptor migration was even later than usual. Most of the May birds were Sharp-shinned and Broad-winged Hawks,

Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks having peaked in March. Evidently held back by the rains of late April, Sharp-shinned Hawks moved through *en masse* during the first week of May. The season's biggest days were May 2 at Upper Montclair and May 5 at Sandy Hook, N.J. (May 1 last year), while on May 3 several parties on a Delaware statewide count found group after group of ten to fifteen working N along Delaware Bay. The season's total of 3654 Sharp-shinned at Sandy Hook made 1980 the best of the four springs censused there, with about a thousand birds more than last spring; this seems to confirm recent autumn increases. Record spring counts of 38 Cooper's Hawks at Cape May (CS) and 182 at Sandy Hook (JDo) were an echo of recent fall indications of recovery. Broad-winged Hawks were also evidently held back by April rains, their biggest day at Upper Montclair being May 2 with 584 (*vide* IB). Broad-winged Hawks were the commonest spring raptor there and at Cape May, with a peak of 240 May 15 on NW winds (PD, CS) and an astonishing 125 June 5, probably non-breeding immatures.

Although the two coastal hawk watches — Cape May and Sandy Hook — were not strictly comparable this spring, Cape May being manned part-time (CS) and Sandy Hook daily (JDo), the results suggest an interesting but perhaps predictable reversal of roles compared to fall. Sandy Hook concentrated large numbers of accipiters and falcons, while Cape May had more soaring hawks and vultures. Cape May's 1952 migrant raptors in 17 days of observation was a good number for an area rated "none" in spring in a recent guide to hawk watches (D.S. Heintzelman, 1979, *A Guide to Hawk-watching in N. America*). It would now be interesting to know whether these birds cross the mouth of Delaware Bay or swing around from the NW on cold fronts. Only a full-time spring hawk watch there will tell.

Five Golden Eagle reports almost matched last spring's six: three in March (Odessa, Del., JAG, MB; n. New Jersey, FT & IB), and a much more surprising two in May: Bull's I., Hunterdon Co., N.J. May 17 (RB *et al.*), and Yard's Creek, Warren Co., N.J. May 27 (D. Lennon).

Of the two active Bald Eagle nests now known in Delaware, the B.H.N.W.R. nest failed; results at the Cypress (Burnt) Swamp nest were still unknown after the bird was seen incubating in March. Last year each eyrie produced an eaglet, the first success in five years; ten barren years had passed before that, according to the Del. Natural Resources and Environmental Control Dept. (Paul Burns). The last known nest in New Jersey, in Cumberland County, which blew down last winter and was reconstructed in March, was abandoned in April, probably as a result of power-line construction nearby (CS). One ad. Bald Eagle, found stunned after crashing through trees at Longwood Gardens, Pa., Apr. 6 (P. Beach *et al.*, *vide* WJW), subsequently died. Elsewhere nine others were reported, six in March, one in April, and two wandering immatures in May.

Osprey figures were encouraging again: 72 at Sandy Hook was the highest number seen there in four spring surveys, and 60 passed

over Muddy Run, Drumore, Pa., Apr. 8-May 21 (RS). Like other April raptor migrants, Ospreys were held up by rain and the highest day-counts came late: an impressive 40 on May 1 at Hawk Pt., Pa. (AN), 44 throughout Delaware on May 3, and seasonal peaks at both Upper Montclair (9) and Cape May (12) the same day.

American Kestrel migration was tightly concentrated just before mid-April, on time: the maximum at Upper Montclair was 267 on Apr. 12, a new day-high for either fall or spring there (*vide* IB), and 550 passed Cape May Apr. 10-11 (CS); 80 in two hours at Yard's Creek, N.J., Apr. 7 (FW, GH) was the best mountain flight. Eight coastal migrant Peregrines in New Jersey (distinguished from the recently reintroduced hand-reared Peregrines there) were a shade above average in numbers, an echo of last fall's encouraging flight (CS, JDo). Inland a total of three was "high for a spring flight" in n.w. New Jersey (GH), and a late bird was in Westchester County, N.Y., May 3 (M.F.N.).

CRANES TO RAILS—The Sandhill Crane that wintered at Octoraro Res., Chester Co., Pa. was last seen Apr. 12 (RS); another was at Brigantine N.W.R., N.J. (hereafter Brig.), May 10 (PW *et al.*). The N.Y. State Dept. of Environmental Conservation recently reintroduced Wild Turkeys into Dutchess (1974) and Putnam (1979-80) counties, some of which moved into n. Westchester County where a female unsuccessfully brooded 17 eggs this spring (M.F.N.).

Four King Rails were calling at Mannington Marsh, Salem Co., N.J. May 11 (W. Middleton) and two at Sussex, Del., May 3 (WW *et al.*). The first reassurance about Black Rail in this Region in a decade was provided by a night census arranged by special permission at historical locations in Delaware; JAG, KG, & JR turned up at least five, possibly seven calling birds in late May. A single bird of undetermined sex was found at a historic Long Island site (AL).

SHOREBIRDS—Although coastal concentrations of shorebirds were poor (e.g. a minimum of 500 at J.B.W.R. compared to 10,000 in May 1979), the Delaware Valley was a major staging area for up-country migration. A mass of between 50-75,000 knots, turnstones, and peep was feeding on horse-shoe crab eggs at Reed's Beach, on the bay side of Cape May Co., N.J., May 23 (CS). Another choice location was the marshes around Pedricktown, Salem-Gloucester Cos., N.J. There were up to 12 Am. Golden Plover there Apr. 7-20 (JM, J. Jackson), and 15 at Mannington Marsh Apr. 19 (JB, WB). Seven were at Angola, Del., Apr. 6 (R.P. Hilton). On the coast there were singles at Cape May and J.B.W.R. into early May and two late birds May 15 at B.H.N.W.R. (BK, FD), altogether a good showing for this increasingly regular spring migrant.

Twenty migrating Am. Woodcocks, grounded by a Mar. 2 snowfall at Cape May, probed for earthworms in broad daylight on street shoulders exposed by snowplows (PD).

Excellent inland counts of Solitary Sandpipers included 55 at the Philadelphia sewage ponds May 16 (CP) and 100+ at the Basherkill, Orange Co., N.Y. May 12 (*vide* JT). A

Willet at the latter location May 6 (BSe) was extraordinary that far inland. Pectoral Sandpipers were also numerous at choice inland pools, and 250 near Pedricktown Apr. 12 (RK) tied the recent regional record. Three White-rumped Sandpipers were near Allentown, Pa., May 9-25, where they have not been recorded for years (BM), although elsewhere they were in tens and fifteens rather than the fifties and hundreds of the last two springs. A mere two Curlew Sandpipers — one at B.H.N.W.R. May 11 (*vide* AH) and one at Brig., May 26 (PWS *et al.*) — were a far cry from the levels of the 1950s. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper at the Philadelphia sewage ponds May 15 (CP) produced a far rarer inland spring record. Two Marbled Godwits May 4 at Middle Creek W.M.A., Lebanon Co., Pa. (G. Wertz) were one of a very few Pennsylvania records. A Hudsonian Godwit May 30-June 2 at Cape May (PD) furnished the second county spring record.

S.A.

It was a banner spring for Ruffs, the 10-12 birds reported matching 1978's ten and 1976's eleven. In this region Ruffs appear early and with remarkable regularity at traditional Delaware Valley sites, mid-March to mid-April, along with the first yellowlegs flocks. A white Ruff turned up on cue Apr. 12 in the marshes around Pedricktown (WB), and by Apr. 20 a dark Ruff and a Reeve (possibly two) had also been seen there. A dark Ruff was found Apr. 19 at Tinicum National Environment Center, Philadelphia (hereafter, T.N.E.C.), where JM has seen about 50 in the past 24 years. These areas evidently conform to the birds' wet-meadow preferences. Oddly, coastal records habitually occur later, and we have no explanation for this discrepancy. This spring these included a Reeve (or two) at J.B.W.R. Apr. 26-27 & May 1-2, a Ruff May 20 at Sagaponack, L.I. (AL), a Reeve at Kearny, N.J., in the Hackensack Marshes (hereafter H.M.), May 12 (RK, PB), a Ruff at Caven Cove, Jersey City, May 17 (RK *et al.*), a Ruff and a Reeve at S. Cape May May 8 & 18, respectively (PD).

Once again Black-necked Stilts explored far beyond their normal Delaware range, with three at Greenlawn, L.I., Apr. 12 (*vide* A McKay) and four at Cold Spring Harbor, L.I., Apr. 14-19 (J. Ricks *et al.*), but last spring's inland wanderings were not repeated. A prodigious 17,000 Red Phalaropes were estimated s. of Hudson Canyon, 75 mi e. of Atlantic City Apr. 18 (RAR), while, on-shore, one was found dead at Cape May Apr. 12 (PD) and a pair was at J.B.W.R. Apr. 29 (S. Schaefer). Wilson's Phalaropes were very scarce. In addition to a few scattered single birds on the coast and two May 31 at B.H.N.W.R. (JG), the only report inland was one near Allentown, Pa., May 7 (BLM). RAR found 12 N. Phalaropes s. of Hudson Canyon Apr. 18, while ashore, in addition to one at J.B.W.R. (T. Stiles), a male far inland near Allentown, Pa., May 25 (ph RW, L. Kucinski) provided a Lehigh County record.

GULLS, TERNS—In addition to the usual two or three Glaucous and Iceland Gulls in lower N.Y. Harbor, a second-year Glaucous Gull, at least three Iceland Gulls, and the county's first Lesser Black-backed Gull were drawn in late April and early May to a mound of fish put out for pigs at Cape May, where these species have been scarce. Elsewhere fewer Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported than last fall, with two Mar. 3 near Arlington, N.J., in the H.M., and one at Sea Girt, Monmouth Co., N.J. (RK *et al.*). Doubtless time spent in garbage dumps would reveal more. An Iceland Gull photographed at Indian R. Inlet, Del., Apr. 14 was determined to be a second-year bird; 90% of the Iceland Gulls reported there are first-year birds (J.C. Barber).

Ring-billed Gulls continue to increase inland during migration stopovers, where they frequent new lakes and corporate lawns. The biggest inland counts this season were 250 at Peace Valley P., Pa., Mar. 23 (A&JM) and a mixed flock of 500 Herring and Ring-billed Gulls Mar. 8 at Round Valley Res., Hunterdon Co., N.J. (GH). The same increase is occurring with the later-moving Bonaparte's Gulls: 100 were at the latter location, for example, Apr. 22 (HD).

Black-headed Gulls were more widely reported than usual: an immature at Somers Pt., Cape May Co., N.J., Mar. 2 (PWS, K. Prethwick) and another at Cape May Mar. 24-Apr. 24 (PD, CS), three at S. Amboy, N.J. Mar. 16 (B. Bender), a breeding-plumaged adult at Fire I. Inlet, L.I., Apr. 3 (PL), two into Mar., at Caven Cove, Jersey City (WB) and one inland at Mannington Marsh, Salem Co., N.J., Mar. 10, at a genuinely unusual location (PK, WW). As usual, Little Gulls outnumbered Black-headed, reaching totals unmatched in this Region since the early 1970s. Six were reported from Long Island (PL, P. Gillen, K. Brady *et al.*), at least four from Cape May (PD, CS), five adults at the traditional Little Creek, Del., Apr. 20 (A.C. Swab, ph JAG Apr. 27), while Caven Cove, an area newly opened to birding, seems to be the main collection point for Little Gulls of the entire N.Y. Harbor area. A group of five there had grown to 12, all immatures, by May 21 (R. Ryan). Oddly, they seem to have abandoned the once favored S. Amboy harbor.

The peak northbound Royal Tern passage of 50 at Rehoboth, Del., Apr. 21 (WWF) raises the question of where these birds were going. Royal Terns have long bred n. only to Maryland, but a pair at Westhampton Beach, L.I., May 27 (BS) adds to speculation about breeding there. The best count of transient Caspian Terns was twelve at Mecox Bay, L.I., Apr. 26 (GR), and included in the usual scattering of inland sightings was the first for Lehigh County, Pa., at Allentown airport, the same day (BM).

CUCKOOS TO FLYCATCHERS—Yellow-billed Cuckoos were abundant for the third spring in a row, while Black-billed Cuckoos varied from a ratio of 1:5-6 in the s. of the Region (DC) to near-parity in s. New York. Observers in widely separated parts of the region believed that Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were seriously reduced, but we have no hard data. Chuck-will's-widows were call-

ing at their recent outposts such as Island Beach, N.J. (MD) and Oak Beach, L.I., and a new e. limit on Long Island was marked by two calling birds May 26 at Springs, only 15 mi from Montauk Pt. (P. Polshek). In Cape May County, where equal numbers of Chuck-will's-widows and Whip-poor-wills could be heard calling five years ago, Chuck-will's-widows have taken over (PD).

Despite a number of early individuals (*e.g.* Acadian Flycatcher at Bull's I., N.J., Apr. 21, HD), the bulk of flycatcher migration seemed to occur even later than usual. Some E. Kingbirds were moving into traditional sites in Rockland County, N.Y., only in early June (RD). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at Tobay, L.I., May 28 (H. Moses); spring records of this s.w. vagrant are only slightly outnumbered by fall records. In Rockland County RFD considered that the E. Phoebe had at last recovered from the aerial spraying of DDT in 1957 and Sevin in 1958 which had "virtually eradicated them," but reports elsewhere were mixed.

Most *Empidonax* flycatchers seemed numerous late in the season. RB found no less than eight Yellow-bellied Flycatchers in Rogers Park, Princeton, May 15-27. Acadian Flycatchers, common in s. New Jersey (PD), were pressing on the frontiers in Dutchess and Westchester Cos., N.Y., and expanding in n.e. Pennsylvania (WR). Willow Flycatchers continue to expand in suitable habitat throughout the Region. An Alder Flycatcher, rarely detected in migration, was singing at B.H.N.W.R. May 31 (JAG). Least Flycatchers, believed to be losing ground in recent years to Willow and Acadian Flycatchers, have made a "great comeback" around Princeton (RB) and more spring records were received this year from other parts of New Jersey and e. Pennsylvania (JG, A&JM, DAC), although the birds are still low in Rockland County (RD). Early swallows included Purple Martins at Jones Beach, S.P., Mar. 9 (B. Hines) and at S. Cape May Mar. 18 (PD).

RAVENS TO VIREOS—One or two Com Ravens frequenting Rickett's Glen S.P., Red Rock, Pa., up to May 20 suggested potential nesting, but the long-awaited restoration of breeding ravens in this Region has not yet been confirmed (WR). Although Red-breasted Nuthatches were almost absent following a non-irruptive winter, individuals excavating nest holes at several s.e. Pennsylvania locations (Tyler Arboretum, Media, B&FH, JGi, Aspen, F. Arnold) continue a recent trend toward lowland breeding there. The northernmost known nesting site of Brown-headed Nuthatch, a dock piling hole at Henlopen Acres, Del., was occupied May 27 (WWF). JAG and JR confirmed two Short-billed Marsh Wrens at a historic breeding site in B.H.N.W.R., May 31; only two other Delaware locations are known, and a furtive singing male in Dutchess County, N.Y., May 4-18 (FG *et al.*) represented our only other report. Carolina Wrens returned after several years' absence to Hawk Mt., Pa. (J. Brett) and several other areas. A pair of Golden-crowned Kinglets nesting as in recent years at Middletown Res., Orange Co., N.Y. May 17 were typical of this species' adapta-

tion to ornamental conifers outside its historic range.

A White-eyed Vireo Mar. 30 at Hempstead Lake S.P., L.I. (A. Wollin, S. Schiff) was early, and another at West Pt., N.Y., in late May (KMCD) was prospecting far n. of its present limits. G. and P. Tonnucci provided a persuasive description of a **Bell's Vireo** May 13 at Maplewood, Essex Co., N.J. (*vide* RK) although no song or call was heard. A specimen and a photograph exist for this Region, both from September 1959, although sight records have been more numerous in spring, owing in part to this bird's distinctive voice (cf. P.A. Buckley and P.W. Post, "Photographs of New York State Rarities, 20: Bell's Vireo," *Kingbird* 20 (1970): 57-60). A Philadelphia Vireo photographed May 19 at Wilmington (JAG) was the first full Delaware confirmation of this elusive spring migrant.

WARBLERS—Warbler migration was pronounced excellent by most observers on the coast and in the Delaware Valley, but less good further inland. Numbers were particularly impressive following hindrance by rain, as on May 3-4 & 15-17, though in Westchester County, where 30 species of warblers were recorded, the best days were classical "groundings" by drizzle along a stalled warm front, May 7 & 13.

Opinions varied widely about the numbers of many migrant species, which may "bunch up" locally in migration, and most of our evidence is based on impression only. While Nashville Warblers were "back at their early 70s abundance" in Carpenter's Woods, Philadelphia, and Cape May Warblers had "their best migration that I've seen" there (K. Russell), Nashvilles were "scarce" in n. New Jersey (IHB) and Cape Mays "very low" in Orange County (JT).

Among breeding species, it was evident that many southern warblers continue to expand in this Region. Having bred at long last on Long Island, Prothonotary Warblers keep pressing at their n.e. frontiers; individuals were at Palisades, N.J., Apr. 27 (P. Derven) and at Rye, N.Y., Apr. 30 (M.F.N.). JT reports that in Orange County, Golden-winged Warblers are still present in traditional locales though Blue-winged Warblers are more widespread (cf. Frank B. Gill on the historic displacement of Golden-winged by Blue-winged Warblers in the Northeast, *Auk* 97 (1980): 1-18). The hybrid forms were widely reported this season, especially Lawrence's Warbler. There were three in Pennsylvania (B. Hoffman, D. Hartmann, T. Clauser), one in Orange County, (KMCD), one in Central Park May 3-4 (m.ob), and one in n. New Jersey (J. Hermann, R. Miller). Four Brewster's Warblers were reported from n. and n.e. New Jersey (IB, C. Kelly). An Orange-crowned Warbler in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, Apr. 20 (M. Sohmer *et al.*) and another at Allentown, Pa., May 14 (F. Brock) were unusual in spring.

Cerulean Warblers, which have long bred sparingly and locally as far n. as the lower Hudson Valley, had a banner spring not only along their usual s. streambanks but in n.e. Pennsylvania (WR), the New York City area (15+ records), Orange County, ("best numbers ever," JT), Dutchess County (4 males, May 12-13, *vide* EP, J&MK), and West-

chester County (two, May 6, M.F.N.). Yellow-throated Warblers were even more widespread, characteristically among the earliest arrivals in April. There was an "amazing population spread" along the Delaware Valley (GF, DC) where collecting has indicated the Sycamore race, *D.d. albiflora*, predominates, and an individual of undetermined race at the Basherkill, Orange Co., probably represented a county record (BSe).

Where the Kentucky Warbler frontier lay across n.c. New Jersey a few years ago, it now lies considerably nearer the n. border of this Region. Prospecting birds were common in the New York City-Long Island area (15+ records), an "amazing" six were found in Westchester County and immediately adjoining Connecticut (M.F.N.), and the species was noted repeatedly at the Basherkill, Orange Co., in the same locality as last year—a possible breeding site (JT). Mourning Warblers were widely detected, the highest count being five in Forest Park, Queens, on the typically late date of June 1 (G. Tudor).

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS—Another excellent flight of Bobolinks was observed in mid-May and, as in several recent springs, flocks fed on inchworms in treetops (e.g. 250 on May 10 at Primehook, Del., WWF, and 100 on May 13 in the Institute Woods, Princeton, RJB). Orchard Orioles, like other southern species, are increasing in n.e. Pennsylvania (WR) and in s.e. New York. A N. (Bullock's) Oriole at Doylestown, Pa., Apr. 7-13 (A&JM *et al.*) was noteworthy. Three Yellow-headed Blackbirds were a bit below last spring's six: one each at Ridley Park, Del. Co., Pa., Mar. 30 (B. Stocku, *vide* KCR), at Ridgefield, N.J. Mar. 12-13, and at Ship Bottom, Ocean Co., N.J. on the late date of May 4 (PG, D. Foy).

A Summer Tanager near Montgomery, N.Y., May 15 (KMCD) represented a first Orange County record, although in view of this species' gradual but steady spread throughout this Region, it was hardly unexpected. This season's 11 in the New York City-Long Island area provided a smaller total than last spring's mass of prospectors, and although the proven n. nesting limit is still Dividing Creek, Cumberland Co., N.J., two pairs were under observation in Lebanon State Forest, Burlington Co. (S. Brady, WW).

FINCHES, BUNTINGS, SPARROWS—After a winter devoid of winter finches, small groups of Evening Grosbeaks were widespread in May. The Eur. Goldfinch at a feeder in Medford Twp., N.J., remained until early March (*vide* JKM), and another turned up May 27 at Manahawkin, N.J. (I. Cramer); we have no clue to their origin. Although individual Dickcissels were widespread, mostly at feeders, with one on Long Island (FF), three in Pennsylvania (ph A. Bedics, GH), two in New Jersey (GH), and one in Delaware (P. Jahn), there is still no perceptible trend toward the restoration of this once-common breeder. One of the spring's best finds was a green-plumaged **Painted Bunting** banded at Island Beach, N.J., May 12 (MD), probably the first spring record there and a species that is less than annual in this Region.

The much-lamented Grasshopper Sparrow

was generally considered improving this season in widely separate parts of the Region. Thirty singing males within Middle Creek W.M.A., Lebanon Co., Pa. May 25 (RW) is the most encouraging count for this species in the Delaware Valley since the 1940s (DAC), and DAC has a survey indicating 15-20 other localities now occupied, owing perhaps to less plowing, more airports, or the birds' greater use of edge in cultivated areas. Henslow's Sparrows, by contrast, remained very hard to find. One on territory at Green Lane, Pa. Apr. 11 (GF) was near a traditional location, and two were at Harvey's L., Luzerne Co., Pa. (WR). A Lapland Longspur in partial breeding plumage at Brig., May 10 (PW) was among the latest on record.

ADDENDUM—The three **Baird's Sandpipers** photographed at a rain pool near Amenia, Dutchess Co., N.Y., May 31, 1979 (AB 33:756) have been confirmed by the N.Y. State Avian Records Committee. We know of no other confirmed spring record e. of the Mississippi.

INTRODUCED SPECIES AND PROBABLE ESCAPES—A report of a Chukar at a Medford, N.J., feeder in April (*vide* R Radis) seems to represent the first sighting of one of several birds released in the area a year earlier. A Ringed Turtle Dove reappeared at Hummelstown, Pa., Apr. 11 (G. Wertz), and another was at L. Ontelaunee, Pa. (D. Klem). A Red-crested Cardinal was at a feeder at Eckville, Pa., in late May and June (*vide* AN).

UNCONFIRMED REPORTS—The most bizarre report of this season was of a bird seen well, but briefly, over a Central Park lake just as the snowstorm of Mar. 14 swept in from the s.w., and identified as a Red-tailed Tropicbird by Dr. Nicholas Halmi, who knows this distinctive bird from Hawaii. Until the California pelagic observations of 1979 (AB 33:893; 34:200) this Indian Ocean-e. Pacific species had not been recorded in N. America.

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Kane, Brian Keelan, Jim and Mary Key, Anthony J. Lauro, Paul Lehman, **J. K. Meritt** (s.w. N.J.: 809 Saratoga Terrace, Whitman Square, Turnersville, N.J. 08012), Mianus Field Notes (M.F.N.), August and Judy Mirabella, J.C. Miller, **Bernie L. Morris** (e. Pa.: 825 Muhlenberg St., Allentown, Pa. 18104), Kenneth McDermott, Alex Nagy, Al Nicholson, Carl Perry, Eleanor Pink, Gilbert S. Raynor, **William Reid** (n.e. Pa.: 556 Charles Ave., Kingston, Pa. 18704), Keith C. Richards, R. A. Rowlett, Robert Rufe, Keith Russell, Joe Russell, Bob Russell, Paul Saraceni, Beezer Seguin (BSe), R. M. Schutsky, P. William Smith, Fred Tetlow, Peter Tozzi, **John Tramontano** (Orange, Ulster Cos., N.Y.: Orange Co. Community College, Middletown, N.Y. 10940), Wade Wander, George Wenzelberger, Floyd P. Wolfarth, P. Weirick, Rick Wiltraut, Richard ZainEldeen. —**ROBERT O. PAXTON**, 560 Riverside Drive. Apr. 12K, New York, N.Y. 10027, **WILLIAM J. BOYLE, JR.**, 15 Indian Rock Road, Warren, N.J. 07060 and **DAVID A. CUTLER**, 1110 Rock Creek Drive, Wyncote, Pa. 19095.

MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/ Henry T. Armistead

A late snow storm began the season, dumping from three to 14 inches over the Region. The worst hit area was Richmond. Temperatures dipped to almost the lowest point of the winter. March averaged 1.17°F below normal at the six regional weather stations, while April and May were 1.77° and 1.68° above, respectively, with all stations reporting higher-than-usual readings for those two months. Precipitation reached an inch or more above normal in most areas in March and April, but in May, except around Norfolk and Richmond, dry weather set in again. In spite of the unusual weather, however, spring temperatures and precipitation drew almost no commentary. Instead observers remarked about what most perceived to be an unremarkable spring, "thin on warblers," "passerines late," "fewer warblers," "waterfowl left early," "few birds," etc. Most felt that the migration began early and ended early. Contradictory comments, especially regarding shorebirds, cuckoos and swallows, coupled with a lack of records of pelagics, herons and flycatchers made the exercise of detecting trends a difficult one.

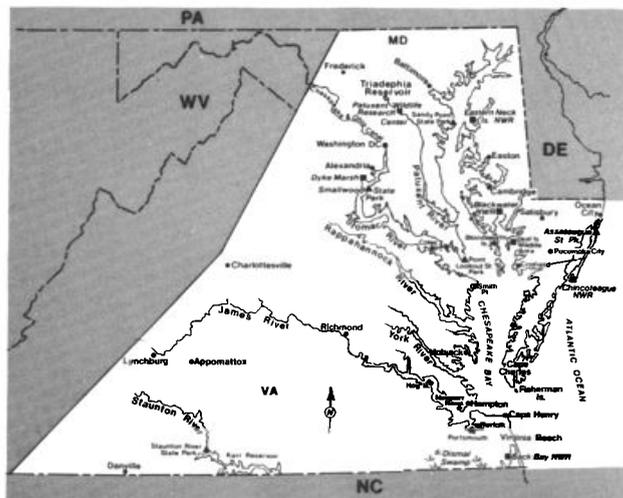
LOONS THROUGH IBISES—Com. Loons peaked at 236 at Sandy Pt. S.P. (hereafter, S.P.S.P) Apr. 12 (HW) with the usual few lingering until the end of the period: four at L. Anna, Louisa Co., Va. (JBB), one at Timber L., near Lynchburg, Va. (TD) and one 55 mi e. of Virginia Beach "in a huge feeding flock of 200 shearwaters" (DFA)—all seen May 31. Reese's count of 26 on Apr. 11 in Talbot County, Md., is representative. Nine Red-throated Loons at Dyke Marsh, Va., Apr. 12 represented the high

count there (DFA). Lingerers were at Ocean City May 11 (CSR, BM), lower Patuxent R., May 23 (EJW) and Baltimore May 31 (JLS, RB, RFR). Rare piedmont transients, single Red-necked Grebes were at Kerr Res., Mar. 1 (SG) and Piney Run P., Carroll Co., Md., Apr. 5 (RB, BR), the latter in breeding plumage and a third straight spring record for the locality. Another Red-necked Grebe was in Baltimore harbor Mar. 29 (RFR). At Pt. Lookout were 500 Horned Grebes Apr. 6 (RB, BR) and 383 were counted from one spot near Bellevue, Md., Apr. 19 (HTA). Lake Anna's peak number was 13 on Apr. 9 (SC *et al.*) and widespread singles lingered elsewhere up to the end of May.

Pelagic activity was for the most part not reported. The Abbotts and others saw 25 Cory's, 40 Greater, 100 Sooty and two Manx shearwaters as well as one Leach's and 150 Wilson's Storm-Petrels from 25-70 mi e. of Virginia Beach May 31. Off Ocean City nine Sooty Shearwaters and 250 Wilson's Storm-Petrels were seen May 25 (HW, RAR *et al.*). For an excellent summary of 1971-1977 sightings in this area see *Observations of marine birds and mammals in the northern Chesapeake Bight* (87pp., by RAR) available gratis from H. S. Rienstra, Information Transfer Specialist, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 1010 Gause Blvd., Slidell, LA 70458.

At Fisherman's Island N.W.R., a White Pelican was seen Apr. 26-May 5 (DFA, JMA, LT *et al.*). Three Great Cormorants were at Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel (hereafter, C.B.B.T.) Mar. 4 (RLA, NS) and two at St. George I., Md., Mar. 19 (RB). Widely divergent estimates of Double-crested Cormorants at Fisherman's Island N.W.R. were given for Apr. 26, ranging from 3000 to 21,500 (DFA, JMA, refuge staff). The refuge gave the figure of 6800 Apr. 11, on which date 6300 were seen at Pt. Lookout (RB—careful count), up from 300 there Apr. 6 (RB, BR). One at Piney Run P., May 24 provided the fourth Carroll County, Md., record (RFR). At their 1979 breeding site near Hopewell, Va., Scott saw none this year and also noted the absence of Cattle Egret, the dominant bird at the colony in 1978.

Bloodworth I., a naval bombing range, held 75 Great Blue Heron nests Mar. 30 (HTA, CP). A Cattle Egret at Baltimore Mar. 16 represented a record state arrival date, if only by two days (RFR, JLS). Closer to schedule were five at Tanyard, Caroline Co., Md., Mar. 28 (EE, *vide* AJF), and one near Roseland in Nelson Co., Va., May 11 was a first local record for that month (RC). Tripician reported a semi-urban colony of 50 pairs of Great Egrets, all with young, doing well in Norfolk "in the middle of a residential/shopping area," and he also located three Yellow-crowned Night Heron nests near



"the junction of Little Creek Road and Granby St." Oyster, Va., where 110 Glossy Ibises were seen Apr. 21 (DFA), is in the center of prime ibis country but one at Spotsylvania, Va., Apr. 18 (SC) and 150 flying over St. Michaels, Md., May 22 (JGR) were much more unusual. A White Ibis Apr. 18 at Hog I. (hereafter, the Hog I. on Virginia's Eastern Shore; BT, GJH) was in an area where breeding was suspected in 1978 and 1979.

WATERFOWL—The Chincoteague refuge Mute Swans continued to prosper at the s. limit of their breeding range. On May 26, 36 adults and 22 young were counted (DFA). Parks, who scrutinizes Whistling Swans for neck collars, noticed the first northbound North Carolina-marked birds in Kent County, Md., Mar. 5. At Myrtle Grove W.M.A., Md., 930 swans were seen in migration Mar. 19 with 1400 Canada Geese (RB). Ten Brant lingered at Chincoteague until May 26 (DFA) and Truit saw seven at Hog I., in company with one Greater Scaup May 23-28. In Kent County, Md., one "Blue" Snow Goose remained until May 3, a "white" Snow Goose as late as May 16 (FLP). One Gadwall at L. Anna May 31 (TDW, *vide* JBB) was of interest because there are no Virginia piedmont breeding records. A female with two young May 31 (JLS, *vide* RFR) furnished the first Baltimore area breeding record. At L. Anna 79 Blue-winged Teal Apr. 6 was a new Virginia piedmont high count (SC *et al.*). A Eur. Wigeon at Craney I., Portsmouth, Va., Mar. 31-Apr. 27 (NCM, JMA *et al.*) furnished the Region's lone record so far in 1980. A very late Am. Wigeon was at Patuxent W.R.C., May 31 (DB, *vide* BP). Craney I. attracted up to 1000 N. Shovelers Mar. 25, which declined to 200 by Apr. 15 and to one May 6 (TRW). Three at L. Anna Apr. 6 represented a first record there (BWK) and a late pair was at Hog I., May 11 & 19 (BT).

Ninety Ring-necked Ducks at Denton, Md., was a good number for a local count Mar. 6 (AJF). Single late Canvasbacks were at Craney I., May 31 (DFA) and Amherst County, Va., May 20 (RC). A ♀ goldeneye with a nearly completely yellow bill was at C.B.B.T., Mar. 4 (RFA), quite possibly a Barrow's Goldeneye. Up to 750 Oldsquaws were near Bellevue, Md., Apr. 13 (HTA). A

♂ Harlequin Duck was at C.B.B.T., Mar. 1-22 (RLA, DFA, TRW *et al.*). The only Com. Eider was a male at Wallop's I., Va., May 10-19 (CRV, m.ob.). Three King Eiders were seen at Ocean City May 11 (PGD, BM *et al.*). At S.P.S.P. 100 White-winged Scoters were late May 10 (HW) and a ♂ Surf Scoter five mi w. of Lynchburg Apr. 29-May 9 was the third Virginia (first spring) piedmont sighting (TD). Nine Ruddy Ducks and three Lesser Scaup were still at Baltimore May 31 (RFR) and earlier as many as 1000 Ruddies had been estimated on Mar. 18 and Apr. 1 at Craney I. (TRW). Wolfe reported 1000 Red-breasted Mergansers at Craney I., Mar. 18 and 26 birds at Hooper's I., Md., May 3 were a record May count for Dorchester County (HTA, CP, EMW).

HAWKS—Virginia boasted two Swallow-tailed Kites, one at Dismal Swamp N.W.R., May 3-7 (RLA, MBM *et al.*) and one at Cape Charles May 10 (GJH). Wierenga counted migrating raptors in the S.P.S.P. area on 50 days, among his best totals being 272 Sharp-shinned, 7 Cooper's and 113 Broad-winged hawks—all Apr. 20—plus a record ten Merlins for the period and two locally rare Rough-legged Hawks Apr. 2. Although the survey was not completed by the end of May, 85 active Bald Eagle nests had been found by then in the Chesapeake Bay area (JMA). Four of these birds at Kerr Res., Mar. 1 (SG) was a good count for there. The first Ospreys appeared in the Eastern Neck N.W.R. area Mar. 5 & 9 (JGR, RPH).

S.A.

Now that the hacking of Peregrine Falcons continues on the coast, around Chesapeake Bay, in cities, and inland at various regional sites, it is becoming increasingly difficult to determine which are naturally occurring birds, a problem we can all live with. Singles were seen in Richmond Apr. 1 (FRS) and Norfolk Mar. 25-Apr. 22 (TRW). Four were in the Parramore I., Va., area Mar. 28 (GJH) where 32 were banded last fall. The two best-known hacked birds, Scarlett and Rhett, live in Baltimore and have produced infertile eggs but seem to be doing well with the four young from Cornell they were given, according to Ringler, who says the birds may be observed on weekdays 12n-101 p.m. by calling 301-547-3750 in advance, something to keep in mind for next year.

Merlins were reported from seven localities. Patterson is conducting a study of Am. Kestrels in Anne Arundel County, Md., where he hopes to attract nesting pairs into areas where they are normally scarce breeders.

RAILS THROUGH PHALAROPES—Staying up all night in s. Dorchester County, Md., on a calm spring evening remains one of the best ways to experience a tidal marsh. On May 10, nine King, one Clapper, 97 Virginia, 12 Sora and 12 Black rails were counted, in addition to eight Least Bitterns and seven Com. Gallinules (HTA, FLP). Migrating

rails in night flyover were heard by Wierenga in the Annapolis area with a King May 3 and a Virginia Apr. 12. At Ni Res., Spotsylvania Co., Va., a King Rail—rare on the Virginia piedmont—was found May 12 (SC). Two pairs of Black Rails again bred at S.P.S.P. (HW) and one bird was singing at Saxis, Va., May 9 (RLA *et al.*). A presumably late Sora was at Elliott I., Md., May 30-31 (JGR). A **Purple Gallinule** at Grand View, Va., May 11 (BWK) was outdone only by another at Chester, Va., May 21 picked up by a policeman in a motel parking lot at 2:30 a.m., put on display at the county library, and later released in good condition (FRS). A late (?) Am. Coot was at L. Anna May 31 (JBB) where the watch is on for possible breeding.

Ten Am. Oystercatchers at Hooper's I., Md., was a record count for there Mar. 30 (HTA, CP). Thirty Piping Plovers at Fisherman's Island N.W.R., Apr. 11 (RP) was a good count, but one at a mall construction site near Fredericksburg May 17-18 was totally unexpected and apparently Virginia's first piedmont sighting (SC, JF). Vaughn *et al.* found a Wilson's Plover nest with three eggs at Wallop's I., May 10. The only Am. Golden Plover reported was one at Chincoteague May 6 (LT) where 7500 Ruddy Turnstones were estimated May 24 (DFA, HB). Outstanding this spring were unprecedented numbers of Whimbrels in the Chesapeake Bay area, where normally even one is an event. Scott saw two at Hopewell May 15, 15 at Baltimore May 18 (JC, *vide* RFR), 69 were at S.P.S.P., May 18 (HW), 75 flew over a shopping center in Annapolis May 20 (HW) and 26 were at Elliott I., May 24 (HW, RAR *et al.*). From one to five Upland Sandpipers were noted at six localities in Maryland and Virginia, the earliest ones being three at Williamsburg Apr. 10 (BW). Spotted Sandpipers made a strong showing this May with Maryland counts of 150 in Prince Georges County (BP *et al.*), 50 in Anne Arundel County (PGD *et al.*) and 41 in Talbot County (JGR *et al.*)—all on the M.O.S. Statewide May Bird Count May 3. Solitary Sandpiper was also common. At Beltsville, Md., 46 were seen May 2 (BM) and 52 were in Frederick County, Md., May 3 (DHW *et al.*). The only Curlew Sandpiper was at Chincoteague May 24-30 (DFA *et al.*). Dunlin peaked at 5000 May 21 at Craney I. (TRW). Parks reported a Long-billed Dowitcher at Worton, Md., Apr. 26. As many as 30 Stilt Sandpipers were on Wallop's I., May 11 (CRV *et al.*) and a very early one was seen at Worton Apr. 18 (FLP). Estimates of the number of peep at Craney I., May 21 ranged from 8000-10,000 (TRW, HCI), the vast majority being Semipalmated Sandpipers. Three W. Sandpipers were recorded at Ocean City May 11 (BM). Up to 1000 Sanderlings were seen May 21 by Wolfe at Craney I., where Am. Avocets varied from 105 on Mar. 11 (TRW) and 243 on May 2 (HCI) to as few as a handful of scattered individuals. One at Ocean City was present from at least Apr. 6-May 19 (RFR, RAR *et al.*). A Black-necked Stilt was at Chincoteague May 6-27 (LT, EG). Single Wilson's Phalaropes turned up at Craney I., May 30-31 (DFA), Wallop's I., May 10 (BM, CRV) and Chincoteague May 29 (EG, *vide* JPO). Five N. Phalaropes were found off Ocean City May 25 (HW, RAR *et al.*) and 31 fre-

quented Craney I., May 21 (TRW, HCI)—a record Virginia spring count.

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS—Hennessey and Truitt found terns, gulls and skimmers on the Virginia Coast Reserve of the Nature Conservancy nesting very late compared with the previous five years. Glaucous Gull records included singles at Craney I., Mar. 10, Apr. 25 (RLA), Baltimore Mar. 15-May 9 (RFR *et al.*), Hog I., Mar. 28 (GJH) and S.P.S.P., May 8 (HW) plus two at Ocean City Apr. 1-May 10 (JWC, CSR *et al.*). Iceland Gulls were reported from seven widely separated localities mostly in March and early April. The majority of these white-winged gulls were second-year birds. Buckalew found young Great Black-backed Gulls as early as May 23 in the Chincoteague marshes. In the Smith I., Md., gulleries they usually hatch much earlier than Herring Gulls (HTA). Five Chesapeake Bay localities had the only Lesser Black-backed Gulls including S.P.S.P., where there were at least three including the latest regional bird, seen May 10 (HW). The only Black-headed Gulls were at Baltimore Apr. 10 & 12 where they have been seen four years in a row (RB, RFR *et al.*). Wierenga detected single subad. Franklin's Gulls at S.P.S.P., May 18 & 20. Adult Little Gulls were at Baltimore Apr. 10 & 12 (ph, RFR, RB *et al.*) and Ocean City Mar. 15 (two by BWK). A convincing description of a winter-plumaged, ad. **Sabine's Gull** studied at Ocean City Mar. 3 was received (ES), for the fourth Maryland record.



Bonaparte's Gull (1) and Little Gull, near Baltimore, Md., Apr. 12, 1980. Photo/Bob Ringler.

An Arctic Tern off Ocean City May 25 was unique (HW, RAR *et al.*). The only Roseate Terns were one at Chincoteague May 28 (JH) and one near Yorktown, Va., May 4 (BW). A few Little Terns were breeding on the school roof in Cambridge, Md., by late May (HTA) and 150 were at Craney I., May 31 (HCI). Royal Terns arrived very early and in force on the lower Eastern Shore of Maryland with three at Hooper's I., Mar. 30 (HTA, CP) and 57 there May 3 (EME, CP, HTA) and five in Talbot County Apr. 11 (JGR). The first Caspian Terns were reported from Baltimore Apr. 4 by Blom who found 177 there Apr. 20, probably a record Maryland spring count. They are typically much less common e. of Chesapeake Bay. Four Black Terns were at Lily Pons, Md., May 15 (DHW), unusual away from the Bay. Spectacular was a **Common Puffin** in full breeding plumage off

Ocean City May 25 circling a boat at less than 50 yards—for Maryland's second and latest May record (RAR, HW *et al.*).

DOVES THROUGH SHRIKES—A Ringed Turtle Dove was in Hampton, Va., Mar. 15 (*fide* MM) and a pair nested successfully at Baltimore (dates not given, WB, *fide* RFR). A Black-billed Cuckoo seen in a Chincoteague salt-water meadow Apr. 26 (DFA, JMA) was a bizarre occurrence. Night migrant Barn Owls were heard over Annapolis Mar. 16-May 16 (HW). In Dorchester County, 20 Great Horned Owls May 10 were a record local spring count (HTA, FLP). A Long-eared Owl at Piney Run P., Apr. 5 (RFR *et al.*) and a Saw-whet Owl at Gude's Nursery, Rockville Mar. 9-17 (RB, RFR) were Maryland's last known winterers. Up to seven Short-eared Owls were at Green Springs, Va., Mar. 2 (BWK) with nine reported on an unspecified later date. On May 3, 25 Chuck-will's-widows and 14 Whip-poor-wills were heard in Dorchester County (CP, EMW, HTA). Early Chimney Swifts were seen in Richmond where Scott had five Apr. 1 and Talbot County where Reese had two Apr. 3.

Red-headed Woodpeckers bred in Newport News where two young were found May 14 (MM). A late Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at Tolchester, Md., May 3 (JG, DME *fide* FLP). Near Wakefield, Sussex Co., Va., three Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were present around a nest cavity Apr. 27 (JMA). Rare in spring near the coast, an Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen in Richmond May 11 (RJR *et al.*, *fide* FRS). Otherwise the lack of flycatcher reports was abysmal. A Tree Swallow nest with six eggs was found in n.e. Loudoun County, Va., May 25 (JBB) and at Big 1., Amherst Co., Va., a pair took over a Cliff Swallow nest May 15 (RC), a phenomenon first reported in these pages last year. Up to 41 Cliff Swallow nests were counted here May 27 (RC). A Bank Swallow colony with 298 holes was at Presquille N.W.R., Va., May 15 (HCO). Early Barn Swallows turned up at Blackwater N.W.R., Mar. 30 (CP, HTA), Newport News Mar. 30 (MM) and Richmond Apr. 1 (FRS). A Cliff Swallow near S.P.S.P., Apr. 5 (HW, BA) was early and 13 nests were found at Hopewell May 15 (FRS, HCO)—the only coastal plain colony in Virginia. The earliest Purple Martins were in Newport News Mar. 18 (MM) closely followed by two in Spotsylvania Co., Va., Mar. 25 (SC).

An astounding total of 2738 Blue Jays was counted in Anne Arundel County May 10 (HW *et al.*) indicating a big movement that day. Seventeen Com. Ravens were seen at Charlottesville Apr. 15, a large number for there (SW, *fide* CES). One of these charming birds was seen taking a half-grown Com. Grackle from a nest as 20 ad. grackles mobbed it at Sweet Briar College, Va., May 22 (RC). In a year when one is not supposed to see them it took courage to report a Red-breasted Nuthatch at Dyke Marsh, Va., May 3 (DFA, BM *et al.*) but the description and verification were excellent. A Brown Creeper in Talbot County May 3 was slightly late (JGR). Short-billed Marsh Wrens continue to be a cause for concern, with no reports from

the vast Dorchester County marshes (HTA). However, two were found at Saxis, Va., May 24 (DFA).

Scott banded thrushes in his Richmond yard, noting a good flight of Swainson's with 31 captured Apr. 28-May 26, seven Gray-cheeked May 12-16, nine Veeries Apr. 29-May 15 and a late Hermit May 5—most of these being tagged early in the day before work. An early Gray-cheeked Thrush was on the C.B.B.T., Apr. 26 (JMA, DFA) and even more surprising was one in Spotsylvania County Apr. 19 (SC). Parks indicates that the E. Bluebird is increasing in Kent County, Md. The first Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was in Laurel, Md., Mar. 30 (RB) and there were good counts of 58 at Myrtle Grove W.M.A., Md., Apr. 11 (RB) and 62 in Spotsylvania County Apr. 20 (SC, JF). A Cedar Waxwing at Chincoteague May 26 was noteworthy, even for this unpredictable species (DFA). A pair of the declining Loggerhead Shrikes was observed in Hanover County, Va., May 18 (RPH).

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS—The first White-eyed Vireos were singles at Virginia Beach Apr. 3 (TRW) and Dyke Marsh Apr. 8 (DFA). Two earlyish Yellow-throated Vireos were at Newport News Apr. 13 (DFA, HB). Scarce on the Virginia coastal plain, Warbling Vireos were seen at Dyke Marsh (DFA), Fairfax (JWE) and Presquille N.W.R. (CRB, *fide* FRS)—all in early May—but one singing on its nest at Hampton May 10 represented the first breeding record for this physiographic section of the state.

A singing Swainson's Warbler at Great Falls Park, Va., attracted much attention May 17-18 as in the past several years (JBB, FRS), Scott noting the presence of a second bird as well. A dead one at the base of the Faulconerville, Va., TV tower May 15 furnished the first local record (*, RC). Meanley heard 20 in Dismal Swamp N.W.R., May 6. A Blue-winged Warbler nest with four eggs May 17 near Woodstock, Md., set an early state record for eggs (RFR). Rare on the Eastern Shore was a Golden-winged Warbler in Talbot County May 3 (RLK, *fide* JGR). A Brewster's Warbler was at Charlottesville May 2 (BWK, *fide* CES) and the next day one was at Tolchester, Md. (DME, JG, *fide* FLP) and a Lawrence's singing a Blue-winged song was near Lyons Cr., Anne Arundel Co., Md. (WK). The feeder-frequenting Orange-crowned Warbler of Mt. Vernon, Va., was present from at least Mar. 3-mid-April (DFA *et al.*).

Cape May Warblers were reported in high numbers in some sections with 50 and 75 noted on May 9 & 7 respectively at Alexandria (DFA). Robbins had a singing ♂ Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler in his yard at Laurel, Md., May 31—tieving the state late departure date. Notable locally were Cerulean Warblers at Dismal Swamp N.W.R., May 9 (RLA *et al.*), Laurel May 5 (MCK) and Talbot County May 3 (RLK, *fide* JGR). Scarce in spring on the coast, Bay-breasted Warbler was seen at Fisherman's Island N.W.R. late April (MAB, *fide* RLA), Cobb I., Va., no date given (GG, *fide* RLA) and Craney I., May 8 (RLA, NS). A Prairie Warbler at Patuxent W.R.C., Apr. 3 set a new Maryland arrival date (MCK). The latest Palm Warbler

was at Huntley Meadows Park, Va., May 10 (RPH). At S.P.S.P. a Louisiana Waterthrush May 3 was only the second area record (HW)

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS—At Dismal Swamp N.W.R. a staggering 10,000 Bobolinks were feeding on caterpillars in the tops of trees May 6 (MBM). Forty-seven Orchard Orioles in Dorchester County May 10 were a good but not record count in this area where they far outnumber N. (Baltimore) Oriole (FLP, HTA). Two Boat-tailed Grackles Mar. 19 were at Pt. Lookout and two nest-building there in *Iva frutescens* Apr. 11 furnished Blom with the first breeding record for the w. shore of Maryland. Quite early was a Summer Tanager in Newport News Apr. 12 (MM). Very early were ♂ Indigo Buntings at Chincoteague Apr. 1 (JWC) and Hopewell Apr. 5 (FRS *et al.*). Single Dickcissels were at Norfolk Mar. 31-Apr. 2 (EVM) and Rockville, Md., Apr. 7 (*fide* CPW). Of greater interest were breeding birds near Hopewell May 26 consisting of four singing males and at least one female (FRS *et al.*), the first local summer records since 1977.

After a winter of virtual absence, Evening Grosbeaks surfaced in small numbers in April and early May, the high count being 33 in Richmond Apr. 10 (FRS). Purple Finches also continued in relative scarcity although Scott banded 137 during the period at Richmond, the majority (including the returns) being "ASY M" (i.e., males in adult plumage), leading him to theorize about the possibility of a differential migration (by sex) of this species. One banded in Baltimore May 31 was the latest ever for the Maryland piedmont (JB, *fide* RB). House Finches continue to consolidate their seemingly endless range expansions with signs of breeding at Newport News (feeding young), Kent County, Md (nests), Richmond and Charlottesville (MM, FLP, FRS, CES respectively). Pine Siskins were unreported.

Outstanding was a well-described **Le Conte's Sparrow** at Chincoteague Apr. 26 (JMA, DFA), for Virginia's first spring record. Forty Seaside Sparrows, one of which fell prey to a Merlin, were on the C.B.B.T., Apr. 26 (JMA, DFA). Eighteen other species of migrating passerines were grounded here on this date. It is always a curiosity to see such migrant landbirds here far from the mainland against a backdrop of paving, rock, or sparse grass growth. A late Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco was in Alexandria May 11 (DFA). The wintering Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco at Denton, Md., remained until Mar. 16 (AJF *et al.*). The latest Tree Sparrow was one at Patuxent W.R.C., Mar. 17 (RB). The last White-throated Sparrow was in Laurel May 25 (CSR). The Abbots had a near monopoly on Lincoln's Sparrows with 1-2 at Dyke Marsh May 10-14 (JMA) and one at Alexandria May 9 (DFA). The last and only Lapland Longspurs were two at Parker, Spotsylvania Co., Va., Mar. 3 (SC, JF).

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SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/ Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

If any March ever started out like a lion, the spring of 1980 did. The first half of March was very stormy, highlighted by a severe blizzard from March 1-3, and very strong fronts passed regularly through the Region into mid-April. A notable warm spell occurred in late April, although May had normal temperatures and rainfall.

The unsettled weather and strong frontal activity through mid-April provided for good shorebirding, though heavy rainfall caused many reservoirs to become full. A warm period featuring a strong flow of SW winds occurred from April 23 to early May, and this period produced an excellent push of Trans-Gulf migrants into the Region. Transient warblers and thrushes were in higher numbers throughout the Region than in the past four or five springs, and even the coastal strip, usually starved of passerine migrants at this season, got its share of birds. After early May, the migration was somewhat run-of-the-mill, with the major features of the month being the coast watch for pelagic migrants in Carteret County, North Carolina, and the ongoing series of pelagic trips led by Dave Lee off the coast of that state.

Although the season was a better-than-average one in terms of quantity of migrants, it was somewhat disappointing in terms of outstanding Regional records, albeit some notable shorebirds were reported. I was dismayed at the rather small volume of correspondence this season, for no apparent reason, and a promised pelagic report of major proportions (one that I hoped would spice up this summary) never arrived.

THE BLIZZARD OF '80—March 1-3 produced the most devastating winter weather in more than a decade in eastern North Caro-

lina, with a number of tidewater towns receiving 24-30 inches of snow. In addition, winds up to 70 mph buffeted coastal areas, and the extensive marshes on Cedar Island were literally under water. High temperatures during this period remained in the 20s(°F) over most of the Region; Charleston, South Carolina, managed a maximum temperature of just 28°F on March 2. The finishing touch was the frigid morning of March 4, when Cherry Point, North Carolina, hit 3°F, and the community of Sloan, in nearby Duplin County, dipped to an unbelievable 1°F below zero.

Fussell and Parnell reported that many Brown Pelicans, and a lesser number of Great Blue Herons, perished on the North Carolina coast during the storm, but they and others saw little other mortality among the larger species. However, ground-feeding passerines suffered considerable mortality, and many were killed by cars as they attempted to forage along roadsides. American Woodcocks were also believed to have suffered, and one must wonder how many rails and other marsh birds survived the blizzard. The fact that the storm occurred at the close of winter prevents us from determining the true extent of the avian damage, as migratory movements of many of these species take place in early and mid-March.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS—Always noteworthy inland, a Red-throated Loon was seen on L. Cammack, near Burlington, N.C., Apr. 13 (AB). John Fussell and several other birders spent considerable time watching for pelagic species along the Carteret County, N.C., shore from Atlantic Beach to Cape Lookout during May. Only small numbers of *Procellariids* were detected, with grand totals of 13 Sooty Shearwaters, two Cory's Shearwaters, and 52 Wilson's Storm-Petrels (JF, BL, BM, LC). Apparently, the coast farther n.e., from Hatteras Inlet to Cape Hatteras, is more conducive to "catching" the northbound migration of pelagic birds in May (see Buckley, P.A. 1973. *Am. Birds* 27:8-10). Dave Lee conducted six pelagic trips out of Oregon Inlet, N.C., from mid-April to late May. In addition to a very rare sighting of a **Manx Shearwater** on the May 22 trip (DL, RR), he observed Black-capped Petrels on nearly all trips, with counts of 50-100 individuals on three of them. Despite the heavy mortality of Brown Pelicans on the North Carolina coast in March as a result of the blizzard, the species was unusually common this spring in Carteret County, with a count of 326 at Sealevel Mar. 27 (TB). Tropicbirds are seldom reported in the spring; thus, an ad. White-tailed seen 70 mi off Charleston, S.C., May 23 (VW) and a tropicbird seen by a boat captain off Oregon Inlet in early April (*vide* DL) were of great interest. A surprising number of Gannets were noted by the Carteret County ocean watchers in May, with 200 seen May 7 at Atlantic Beach (LC), and several were still there May 23 (JF *et al.*). Three ad. Great Cormorants



were a rare sight at Kiawah I., S.C., Mar. 8 (JA). One adult and one immature were noted there the following day (JA). Double-crested Cormorants are rare in spring at many inland localities, but it seemed as though everyone saw a few this spring. The better inland counts were 28 at Eufaula N.W.R., Ga., Mar. 25 (BO), nine at Winston-Salem, N.C., Apr. 27 (HS, RS), eight in flight over McCain, N.C., Apr. 25 (LW), and five in mid-April at both Jordan Res. and L. Wheeler in c. North Carolina (SG). Strange as it may seem, both of the Magnificent Frigatebird reports for the season came from Carteret County: a female flying N over Ft. Macon S.P., May 6 (SG) and an immature flying N over nearby Radio I., May 19 (GG).

WADERS, WATERFOWL—Single Snowy Egrets at Jordan Res., Apr. 4-16 (BW, AB *et al.*) and at L. Cammack May 20 (AB) were unusual for spring, and at least three Black-crowned Night Herons were present at Jordan Res., May 4-11 (BL, JM *et al.*). Yellow-crowned Night Herons returned this spring to recent nesting sites in the Piedmont near Chapel Hill, N.C. (SG) and Duluth, Ga. (JV); the species is rare and erratic as a breeder in the Region away from the lower Coastal Plain. An Am. Bittern seen in Laurens County, Ga., May 18 and again May 26 (presumably the same bird) was probably just a late migrant (TKP).

A White-fronted Goose at Jordan Res., Mar. 29-31 (BL *et al.*) caused a flurry of excitement, and another was present on a farm pond near Morehead City, N.C. for most of March (*vide* JF). Small groups of Snow Geese (7-13 birds) were observed near Townsville, S.C., Mar. 16 (SAG, HL), Riverdale, Ga., Mar. 15 (SB), and at Atlanta Apr. 10 (SR). Three hundred Blue-winged Teals at Jordan Res., Mar. 26 comprised an excellent count (BW, MW), and Lewis noted six Greater Scaups there Apr. 9. One of the two ♂ Harlequin Ducks that wintered at Ft. Macon lingered to the first week of April, and was observed at Cape Lookout (CD, JT), and a ♀ Harlequin was found farther up the coast at the Cape Hatteras lighthouse Mar. 10 (RD, BN, JFP). A ♀ Com. Eider at Wrightsville Beach, N.C., May 8 was very late (RD, GM, JFP), and a ♀ Hooded Merganser with 15 chicks at Four Holes Swamp, near Harleyville, S.C., Apr. 13 (PN *et al.*) provided one of the few nesting records for the Region.

KITES THROUGH GALLINULES—Two Mississippi Kites seen at Charleston Apr. 2 (PN) were early. The only Rough-legged Hawk and Golden Eagle reports came from the South Carolina coast: a light-phase hawk at Kiawah I., Mar. 7 (JA) and an immature eagle at l'On Swamp near Charleston Mar. 23 (PN *et al.*). An ad. ♂ Marsh Hawk was noted carrying food May 31 at Cedar I., N.C., where nesting has been suspected for several years (DL); another individual was late at Jordan Res., May 11 (DA). Peregrine Falcons are rare in the Region in the spring, and therefore singles were of interest at Jordan Res., Apr. 26 (SG) and Cape Lookout May 2 (SP). Merlins were reported in inland Georgia four times Mar. 8-Apr. 9, but the only other inland record came from Jordan Res., May 6 (BL). The Sandhill Crane migration over n.c. Georgia peaked Mar. 6-9, with the usual number of reports from the Atlanta area (*vide* TM); the best count was 135 at Cumming Mar. 9 (JP). King Rails were noted in marshes at Jordan Res. on several occasions this spring and presumably are nesting there. The lakebed should have been under water by now, but the closing of the floodgates at the dam will not take place until late this year or in 1981. Even though the Cedar I., N.C., marshes were essentially flooded by the early March storm, Fussell heard seven Virginia Rails and 14 Black Rails there on the night of May 9-10. A Black Rail was seen at Chesser Prairie in the Okefenokee Swamp, Ga., Mar. 25 (TW); this bird could have been a migrant, a summer resident, a winter resident, or a permanent resident. Who knows?! A Purple Gallinule which was certainly out of the ordinary was seen flying along the beach and dodging between pilings of a pier at Atlantic Beach May 13 (LC).

SHOREBIRDS—An Am. Golden Plover was rare and early at Kiawah I., Mar. 9 (JA); inland, two to three were near Dublin, Ga., Mar. 16-25 (TKP), as many as five were near Duluth, Ga., Mar. 21-22 (JP), and nine were near Pendleton, S.C., Mar. 22 (HL). Although the Golden Plover was found inland only in mid-March, Black-bellied Plovers were noted inland only in mid-May: single birds at L. Cammack May 17-18 (AB), Pendleton May 18 (SAG, HL), and Jordan Res., May 24 (JOP, EP). The only report of Long-billed Curlews was of two birds on Shackleford Banks, N.C., May 5 (SP). A flock of 20+ Willets in n.e. Cobb County, Ga., Apr. 26 (JS) was noteworthy, and exceptional numbers of yellowlegs were observed at Jordan Res.—peaks of 270 Greater Apr. 9 (BL) and 320 Lesser Apr. 16 (BL, AB). A few White-rumped Sandpipers were detected inland at L. Cammack, Jordan, Res., and Pendleton, all in May, but one at Pendergrass, Ga., Apr. 26 (JG) was surprisingly early. **Baird's Sandpiper** has a "hypothetical" status as a spring migrant in the Region, with only one specimen and a handful of questionable sight records. One was well-described at Mt. Pleasant, S.C., Apr. 27 (PN); it was seen with White-rumped Sandpipers at rest and in flight. Inland, Dunlins were noted during the period Apr. 12-May 18 at Pendleton, L. Cammack, Jordan Res., and Fayetteville, N.C.; but do- watchers were found inland only in Georgia—

eight Short-billeds at Eufaula Apr. 9 (BO) and one of unknown species near Dublin Apr. 10 (TKP). Another rarity inland, the Stilt Sandpiper, was observed at Eufaula Apr. 9 (two birds—BO), and at L. Cammack May 13 (AB). Both Georgia and North Carolina recorded their first spring records for **Hudsonian Godwit**, but in completely different manners. Georgia's record was certainly the more amazing—a flock of 11 birds was seen inland near Duluth Apr. 15 (BMA, JG). In North Carolina two individuals were noted at a pond on a dredge island near Bodie I., May 29 (RD, JFP, BN). Observers at both sites carefully distinguished the godwits from the somewhat similar Black-tailed Godwit, which occurred this past winter at the lighthouse pond on Bodie I. Another rarity for the Region was a ♂ **Ruff** at Brant I. in Ft. Macon S.P., Apr. 29-May 5 (JF *et al.*). Seen with the godwits at the Bodie I. dredge island were ten Am. Avocets, unusual in the Region by late May. The early March blizzard was clearly responsible for displacing 30 avocets to Fussell's home on the shore of Bogue Sound, N.C., Mar. 3! Phalaropes were detected inland on three occasions: eight Wilson's seen with the godwits near Duluth Apr. 15 (BMA, JG) with one remaining to Apr. 19 (PF, TM), one Wilson's near Mayesville, S.C., Apr. 19-20 (ED), and three Northern's near Pendleton May 18 (HL, SAG). Interestingly, all these phalaropes were noted at rain pools or farm ponds, and not at the larger lakes and mudflats as one would expect. Lewis saw two Northern's over the surf at Cape Lookout May 18 and another on the Bodie I. lighthouse pond May 20.

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS—Fussell *et al.* were quite successful in finding jaegers along the Carteret County shore this spring. On Apr. 14 Fussell noted 11 jaegers, some or possibly all Pomarines, at Atlantic Beach, and eight Pomarines were seen there May 16 (BL, JF). A total of 19 Parasitics were counted in the county Apr. 24-May 18, with a peak of nine at Atlantic Beach May 17 (BL, JF). A Long-tailed Jaeger, seen with the latter Parasitics, established a rare onshore record, and another Long-tailed was noted off Oregon Inlet May 29 (DL). Ten years ago a report of a skua in late May off the coast of the Region would have been shocking, but not any more. Dave Lee had single individuals, both South Polar Skuas, May 22 and May 29 off Oregon Inlet. This species is rare though regular in this section of the Gulf Stream from mid-May to early June, and presumably migrates N with the Sooty and Greater shearwaters and Wilson's Storm-Petrels to spend its non-breeding season in the North Atlantic.

The imm. Iceland Gull that wintered at Morehead City was last seen Mar. 12 at Ft. Macon (JF), and a winter-plumage ad. Black-headed Gull was observed Mar. 5 at Kiawah I. (JA). Ten full-plumaged Laughing Gulls feeding on the Clemson University, S.C., rugby field Apr. 14 (HL), was a most unusual sight and Bryan noted single birds at L. Cammack Apr. 14 and May 18, as well as a late Bonaparte's Gull there May 15. It was a real pleasure to receive full details of a breeding-plumaged Roseate Tern, complete with a

faint pinkish breast color, at Cape Hatteras Pt., May 20 (BL); many of the Roseate reports I receive are marginally convincing, at best. All-in-all it was a lackluster spring for terns inland, generally because little unsettled weather prevailed during the peak period of the tern migration (late April to mid-May), though single Black Terns May 8 were of interest at L. Cammack (AB) and at Pendergrass (JG).

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS—A Ground Dove seen at Ft. Macon May 6 (SG) was the first report for Carteret County in over a year. Another Regional record of the **Groove-billed Ani** has been established—one was found dead, but not saved, on the beach at Waite's I., near Cherry Grove, S.C., Jan. 23, 1976 (RHM). The sighting of a Groove-billed at the Savannah N.W.R., S.C., over the past fall undoubtedly prodded the observer to make his finding of the dead ani known, although the refuge bird provides the first Regional record. A Short-eared Owl seen at Jordan Res. was not unexpected, although the Apr. 26 date was late (BW, MW, SG), and a Gray Kingbird at Ft. Fisher, N.C., May 23 (JMu), a rare sighting for the state, was not really unexpected in place or time. Perhaps May 2-3 was a big night for the passage of *Empidonax* flycatchers through the Region—a Yellow-bellied and an Alder were noted near Raleigh (RJ) and four Yellow-bellieds were seen and heard at Middleton Gardens near Charleston May 3 (PN).

SWALLOWS THROUGH VIREOS—A Cliff Swallow at Sunset Beach, N.C., May 18 (KM, PJC) was rare for the coast and the discovery of two Cliffs gathering mud and carrying it to a bridge at L. Cammack May 21 (AB) was significant. This represents the first breeding record for Alamance County and, although not a range extension, the locality fills a large gap between nesting colonies at lakes along the Virginia border and lakes in the s. Piedmont of North Carolina along the Yadkin-Pee Dee river system. Fish Crows have now become regular in the Clemson and Townville areas, with numerous sightings this spring (HL), though nesting has not been detected, and Lewis saw one or two in April and May at Chapel Hill, where the species is surprisingly rare considering its abundance at nearby Raleigh. Two Bewick's Wrens seen scolding at Jordan Res., May 10 (BR) defy an explanation, but the possibility of nesting would seem out of the question. A Short-billed Marsh Wren was noted at Jordan Res., Apr. 13 (RJe) and two were near Fayetteville May 9 (PJC). Several observers mentioned that migrant thrushes were in unusual numbers along the coast, where generally only Wood Thrushes and a few Veeries, as well as wintering Hermit Thrushes, are seen. Ricky Davis had three Swainson's Thrushes, a Gray-cheeked Thrush, and four Veeries at Middle Sound near Wilmington, N.C., May 10, and a Swainson's Thrush, was exceptionally early in the Francis Marion N.F., S.C., Mar. 30 (PN, GMi). An E. Bluebird must have been out of place at Cape Lookout Apr. 1-5 (SP). The first spring record for the South Carolina Coastal Plain was a **Warbling Vireo** seen and heard singing at Four Holes

Swamp near Harleyville Apr. 13 (PN *et al.*), and another singing May 18 at Williamston, N.C., was late and somewhat east of the usual migration route (THa). Individuals at Raleigh Apr. 25 (SG) and May 3 (MWe) were not as unusual.

WARBLERS—Nugent *et al.* observed 15 Swainson's Warblers—an excellent count—at Four Holes Swamp Apr. 13, and one noted near Chapel Hill Apr. 29-May 6 (JM *et al.*) was most unusual for that locale. Golden-winged Warblers and especially Blue-winged Warblers appeared in above-normal numbers in many areas, and Graves tallied five Golden-wingeds and 28 Blue-wingeds in the Chapel Hill area during the spring. A "Brewster's" hybrid, giving the Blue-winged song, provided a good observation at Winston-Salem, N.C., Apr. 28-May 1 (KH). Nashville Warblers, rare in the Region in spring, were detected at Sandy Springs, Ga., Apr. 24 (EH), Fayetteville Apr. 30 (PJC), and Jordan Res., May 4 (JM). Many species of warblers which are regular at this season in the Piedmont are extremely scarce along the coast. Thus, single Cape Mays at Morehead City Apr. 14 (CL), Cape Lookout Apr. 26 (SP), and Wilmington May 4 (RD), a Cerulean near Wilmington Apr. 24 (RD), a Blackburnian at Pea I., May 21 (BL) and a Chestnut-sided at Buxton, N.C., May 20 (BL) were notable. Even though the Cape May Warbler is a Florida migrant and the Bay-breasted Warbler is a Trans-Gulf migrant, most observers in the Piedmont noted a much better-than-average spring for these birds, and a Bay-breasted seen at L. Surf, near Vass, May 3 represented a first spring record for the North Carolina Sandhills (TH). A Connecticut Warbler was noted singing May 18 at Clemson (HL, SAG), and two parties found them at Atlanta also on May 18 (DC, GS, DP). Another Connecticut was exceptionally early near Dublin Apr. 20 (TKP), and the Wilson's Warbler that again wintered in this town was last noted Apr. 7 (TKP).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS—The Yellow-headed Blackbird that was present at Atlanta in February was last seen Mar 22 (KMc), and a ♂ Brewer's Blackbird was also seen on that date near Pendleton (HL), where the Brewer's is a rare but regular migrant. A ♂ Painted Bunting was found n. of its breeding range at Southern Shores, near Kitty Hawk, N.C., Apr. 26 (GR), and presumably migrant Dickcissels were noted at Pendergrass May 12 (JG) and near Hoffman, N.C., Apr. 27 (JHC). Although Pine Siskins and Red Crossbills were scarce-to-absent everywhere in the Region during the spring, Evening Grosbeaks were in moderate numbers at several places, including Atlanta, where they were rare in winter (*vide* TM). Five grosbeaks lingered to May 20 at Chapel Hill (GWa), and a Purple Finch was very late at Raleigh May 27 (GW). Four House Finches, two of each sex, were so late at Augusta, Ga., feeder (May 31—CB) that perhaps a nesting attempt was or will be taking place; and an observation of 11 birds at a feeder at Columbus, Ga. in late March (DF) was an excellent count for so far to the southwest. Lee had the good fortune of seeing a

bright ♂ **Lark Bunting** fly in front of his car at Bayleaf, near Raleigh Apr. 3, establishing the second spring record for North Carolina. A Grasshopper Sparrow was an unusual sight at a Harkers I., N.C., airstrip May 7 (SP); it may have been a late migrant, or perhaps a winter resident. Single Lark Sparrows seldom seen inland, especially in spring, were found at Aberdeen, N.C., Apr. 3 (TH) and near Six Mile, S.C., Apr. 16-17 (DPe). Lincoln's Sparrows migrate regularly in small numbers in spring through the w. Piedmont, but they are so quiet that they are easily overlooked. By some coincidence, two individuals were reported, both Apr. 18 and both singing (!), at Clemson (SAG, CH, HL) and near Duluth (BMa).

CORRIGENDUM—The name of Terry Moore (TM) was inadvertently omitted from the list of contributors in the fall 1979 report (*Am. Birds* 34:149-152).

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FLORIDA REGION /Herbert W. Kale II

This spring began with the coldest weather of the 1979-80 winter in Florida. Henry Stevenson reported "By the morning of March 2 temperatures across northern Florida had dropped below freezing, and a light snow fell intermittently throughout the day. The all-day cloud cover helped hold the afternoon maximum down to only 30° F at Tallahassee, the lowest maximum for any afternoon since 1917 (U.S. Weather Sta.)." Although damage to vegetation was extensive as far south as West Palm Beach on the east coast and Tampa Bay on the west coast, the low temperatures did not persist long enough to wreak havoc on birdlife. Mortality of nestling pelicans in the early nesting colonies of Brown Pelicans on the east coast was very low.

A total of 16 cold fronts passed over the peninsula (eight in March, five in April, and three in May). Migrant fallouts were associated with the last one in March and each of the April and May fronts. As usual, coastal birders seemed to benefit more from these fronts than did interior birders. Strong N and NW winds in the late April and early May tended to back up numerous migrants on the upper Keys (RP). While excesses of rainfall were recorded in the Tallahassee area, the rainy season in south Florida still had not gotten underway by the end of May, a respite which proved good news for the second nesting attempt of Wood Storks at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, where young were within a week or two of fledging.

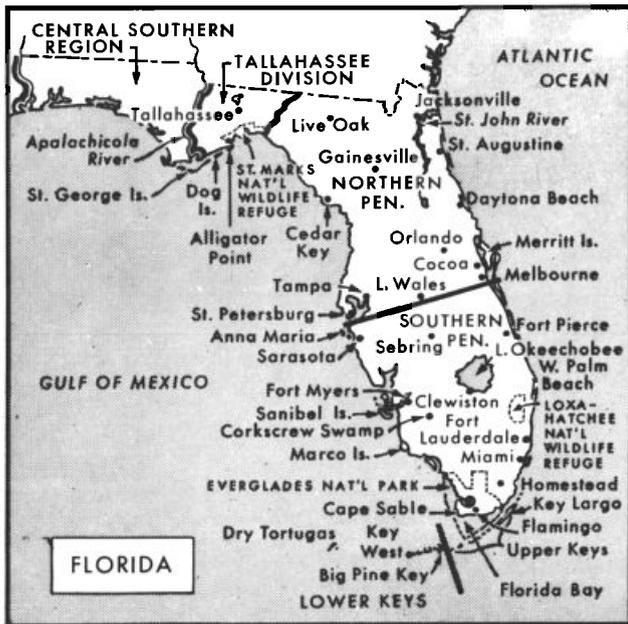
The 1980 spring migration in the Florida Region can best be characterized as "fair, with all normal migrants reported, but no spectacular fall-outs or surprises for most observers." [Note: The Florida panhandle west of the Apalachicola River is in the Central Southern Region.] As usual, the best birding locations in the Region were Mullett Key (Ft. DeSoto Park) on the Pinellas Peninsula, St. George Island (hereafter, St. Geo I.) in the upper Gulf, and the Dry Tortugas (hereafter, D. Tort.) including Bush, Garden, and Loggerhead Keys, 65 miles west of Key West.

The most exciting finds were Red-footed Booby at Lake Worth, Lesser Nighthawks at both St. Geo. I., and D. Tort., a Black-chinned Hummingbird and "Audubon's" Warbler, both on D. Tort. (details below) Finally, we note with dismay the translocation of Area Editor Bob Barber, one of the state's top birders, to Millville, N.J.—the gap he leaves in the Cocoa area will be difficult to fill.

ABBREVIATIONS—E.N.P., Everglades National Park; A.A.S.—Alachua Audubon Society; S.A.S.—Sarasota Audubon Soc, F.O.S.—Florida Ornithological Soc, T.T.—Tall Timbers Research Sta

LOONS THROUGH BOOBIES—A Com Loon along the Sanibel causeway May 8 (DW) and a Pied-billed Grebe at Matheson Hammock May 11 (JM) were late stragglers. An Audubon's Shearwater was observed flying NE in Florida Bay Apr. 18 (RP), and 47 were in the Gulf Stream between Marathon and Key West May 10 (PWS, VE, JRo *et al.*) Over 60 birders from throughout the U S boarded the *Bugs Bunny II* April 27—a trip arranged by Bill & Helen Dowling and led by Paul Sykes—and sailed 90-100 mi off Ponce de Leon Inlet (hereafter, Ponce Inlet), Volusia Co., to find Black-capped Petrels. No one was disappointed when three birds (two adults, one immature) appeared 80-90 mi out. Relatively common later on in the season, only one Wilson's Storm-Petrel was reported this spring—in the Gulf Stream off Marathon May 28 (JR).

From one to three ad. White-tailed (Yellow-billed) Tropicbirds spent most of May at or near Garden Key (m.ob.). Late migrating flocks of White Pelicans were seen off Casey Key May 9 and in Blackburn Bay May 10 (S&AS). Most White Pelicans remain close inshore, but four flying S 15 mi w. of Key West Mar. 19 (MRB & PB) and three there



Apr. 1 (B. Kittleson) were out of sight of land. The surest place to find the Brown Booby in Florida is at Rebecca Shoals Light, between Key West and D. Tort., where eight birds were sitting on the light May 3 (m.ob.) and five May 10 (PWS *et al.*). Three were 12 mi s. of Key West May 2 (JL, TW *et al.*), one just s.w. of the Marquesas Keys May 3 (PWS *et al.*), and one in the Gulf 35 mi w. of Pinellas County, May 6 (DG).

Recent sightings of the **Red-footed Booby** have all been in the Dry Tortugas area, but the only one reported this year was at Lake Worth where Macklin Smith, visiting from Michigan, first saw it from a sixth floor apartment overlooking the ocean! This sighting provided the first record for the Southern Peninsula (hereafter, S. Pen.) and was studied for the next hour or so near the Lake Worth Pier (MS, HL, GH).

WADERS THROUGH WATER-FOWL—A least Bittern Apr. 30 (MW) and May 23 (MW & RP) was on Buchanan Key where one was also seen last year. Glossy Ibises are rare both in the panhandle and on the keys. One on St. Geo. I., Apr. 3 (JC & HS) was the first recorded for that island, and two near Key West May 5-6 (TW) were unusual. A Roseate Spoonbill at St. Marks Light Apr. 10 (JC & FS), not only was a rarity, but provided the earliest record for the Tallahassee Division (hereafter, Tally Div.). A Canada Goose in extremely worn plumage on Bush Key, present since last fall, appeared incapable of flight (m.ob.). A pair of Fulvous Whistling Ducks with four young on Longboat Key golf course Mar. 27 (R&MS) confirmed the first breeding by this species on the Gulf coast to my knowledge. Four Lesser Scaup at Merritt Island N.W.R., May 10 (JM), and nine on the St. Johns R. at Tosohatchee State Preserve May 18 (Greg Bretz) were late. The Com. Merganser that wintered on Double Branch Creek in Hillsborough Co., was last seen Mar. 7 (LA).

RAPTORS—A migrating flock of 52 Turkey Vultures, relatively scarce in the Florida Keys, was drifting slowly up the Keys

birds & May 11 (two birds) (PWS *et al.*). Swainson's Hawks, five over Plantation Key Mar. 31 (RP) and one over Buchanan Key Apr. 1 (MW) were riding strong SW winds. An imm. Short-tailed Hawk was at Watson Hammock, Big Pine Key May 5 (JM), one of the few locations in the keys where it may be found. A Peregrine at D. Tort., May 27 (JR) may have been the latest for the Lower Keys. The first Am. Kestrel to be recorded in the Kenansville, Osceola Co., Cooperative Breeding Bird Survey was near Yeehaw Jct., May 26 (HK, MCB, FG). The s.e. race, *pautus*, is in serious decline in Florida. Only one pair remains at Archbold Biol. Station near Lake Placid, where they once were numerous (J. Layne).

RAILS THROUGH LARIDS—The first Clapper Rail hit the WCTV Tower at Tall Timbers Res. Sta., n. of Tallahassee, Apr. 9 (RLC). Two Soras were on dry, sandy Loggerhead Key, a most unlikely place for rails, May 4 (PWS *et al.*). The rarely seen Yellow Rail was present at L. Alice, Gainesville in late April (M. Laitenen). Black Rails were heard frequently (but seen rarely) in the St. Johns marshes west of Titusville from mid-April to mid-June (HK *et al.*).

Shorebirds along much of Florida's s.w. coast are hard-pressed to find any secure nesting sites that are not disturbed by boaters, fishermen, shell collectors, and bathers, but despite this, one plucky pair of Snowy Plovers successfully reared at least one chick on Casey Key n. of Venice (S&AS). An Am. Golden Plover was in the St. Johns marsh n. of S.R. 528 Apr. 30 (HK), while one remained at Alligator Pt., Apr. 5-May 6 (JC *et al.*). Up to five Upland Sandpipers frequented the open field in front of Ft. DeSoto Apr. 14-21 (LH, m.ob.). Others were reported at Alligator Pt., Apr. 30 (JJ *et al.*), D. Tort., Apr. 30-May 4 (m.ob.), and Key West May 1 & 5 (MRB, FH, TW). An estimated 700 Red Knots frequented Little Estero I., the sandspit at the s. end of Estero I., Feb. 10-Mar. 23 (HK, J. Berry), and one

from Big Pine Key May 11 (DW). Eight Mississippi Kites were counted e. of Bristol, Liberty Co., May 7 (WB). Everglade Kites continue their slow increase in Conservation Area 3A. Nine were counted May 7 along the Tamiami Trail between Shark Valley Rd., and Spillway S-12-A (JM). Red-tailed Hawks at D. Tort., three May 26 and one May 27 (JR), were the latest by over a month for the Lower Keys. Migrating Broad-winged Hawks were seen over Plantation Key Mar. 3 (RP), Tierra Verde, St. Petersburg Apr. 19 (F.O.S.) & 21 (LA), and Loggerhead Key May 3 (three

on Casey Key May 21 (S&AS) missed by one day tying the latest date for the S. Pen. White-rumped Sandpipers were reported from throughout the coastal areas Apr. 26-May 12 (m.ob.). A Stilt Sandpiper at Tallahassee Mar. 19 (JC & NW) was the earliest in the Tally Div., while one there May 11 (MD & GM) was late. Two Black-necked Stilts near St. Marks Light May 22 (CG) may have been summering there, and seven Am. Avocets at Alligator Pt., Mar. 23 (RLC, MD, NW) were the earliest in the Tally Div. A Wilson's Phalarope at St. Marks Light, first seen Apr. 1 in its basic plumage, had become highly colored by Apr. 28. Two others also showed breeding plumage on Apr. 20 (MD, JC, J. Epler).

Up to eight Pomarine Jaegers were seen off Key West by Mass. Audubon Tour members May 1 (JL, TW *et al.*). One of these birds may have been the one seen in Key West harbor May 1, suspected of having followed one of the boats in the Cuban flotilla into port (TW). Nine Pomarines were migrating N along the edge of the Gulf Stream s. of the Keys May 3 (PWS *et al.*). The rarer Parasitic Jaeger was in the Gulf w. of Pinellas County Apr. 2 (DG). A lone **Glaucous Gull** at Port Canaveral May 28 (JJ) was the latest for the entire state. At least 11 ad. and imm. Lesser Black-backed Gulls wintered at Toytown Dump near St. Petersburg, and up to five remained until Apr. 14 (LA). An imm. bird at Ft. Pierce Inlet Mar. 6 (HK, MCB, FG) was the first one for that area. One of the four wintering Thayer's Gulls at Toytown Dump remained until Apr. 12 (LA). A fifth individual, also in first year plumage, was photographed there Mar. 28 & Apr. 12 (LA—ph to T.T.). At least one **California Gull** remained through Mar. 29 at this gull paradise (LA, W. Hoffman).

An imm. **Black-legged Kittiwake**, a rare visitor to the Gulf of Mexico (See Duncan & Howard's review of pelagics in the northern Gulf, *AB* 34: 122-132.), was seen and sketched by Dave Goodwin w. of Pinellas County Apr. 2. A Forster's Tern in breeding plumage at Garden Key May 11-12 (PWS, VE, JRo) was the latest for the Lower Keys. A bonus for those on the Apr. 27 pelagic trip out of Ponce Inlet, an **Arctic Tern** 75 mi offshore, was the only one sighted this spring. Reports of Roseate Terns were frequent in the Key West-D. Tort. area, but 14 at Big Marco Pass near Naples May 19 (TB) were unusual. An estimated **40,000** Sooty Terns on Bush Key represented a considerable drop from numbers of recent years (PWS). Bridled Terns were reported from the edge of the Gulf Stream from Marathon to Key West, with 24 on May 3 and 34 on May 10 (PWS *et al.*), and eight off Marathon May 28 (JR). The earliest Least Tern for the N. Pen. was at Dunedin Mar. 7 (RF)—most Least did not return until early April. Four Caspian Terns, rare in Leon County, were at L. Jackson Apr. 22 (MD & HS).

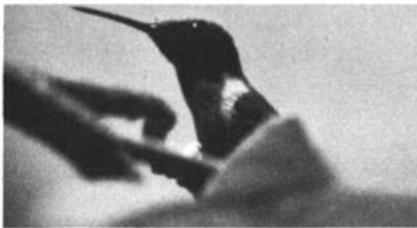
DOVES THROUGH PARROTS—Up to 79 White-crowned Pigeons—including one flock of 35 birds—were counted during 20 min at sunset May 11 as they flew high over Florida Bay heading up the keys (DW). An **Inca Dove** sitting on wires near the toll gate to St. Geo. I., causeway at East Point Apr. 2

(NW) was the second seen in northern Florida. One on a Key West sidewalk May 10 was about eight blocks from the site of the former colony near Amelia St. (AW & TW). Scattered reports of White-winged Doves around the state do not reveal the source of these birds—whether migrants or strays from Texas, or from the introduced population near Homestead, or the Game Commission's transplants (all banded) in c. Florida. Single birds were at a feeder w. of Ft. Pierce May 3 (H. Vick), at Flamingo May 3 (JM), east of Port Mayaca, Martin Co., May 4 (Malcom Simons), Immokalee "in early May" (DW), flying W over St. Geo. I., May 9 (JS & CW), on Lower Sugarloaf Key (DW) and Garden Key (PWS), both May 11. For the third year a Monk Parakeet was in Tallahassee Mar. 1 (GM). To last year's list of parrots in the Ft. Lauderdale area can be added the White-fronted Amazon, *Amazona albifrons*, observed closely in Wilton Manors Apr. 12, in the vicinity of the established roost of 50-75 Red-crowned Amazons, *A. viridigenalis* (C. Karch, R. Pittell).

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS—Birders who look for the Mangrove Cuckoo in the Florida Keys in late April or May usually find it, especially on Sugarloaf Key or Big Pine Key. A few winter there, but they are difficult to find then. Farther n., two good locations in May are Matheson Hammock and Black Pt., in Miami, where cuckoos were present May 5 & 17, respectively (JG). One at Pelican Cove, Sarasota May 12 (P. Engberg) was a good find. Yellow-billed Cuckoos at Wakulla Springs and Alligator Pt., Apr. 1 (HS) were the earliest in the Tally Div. The less common Black-billed Cuckoo was at Tierra Verde Apr. 19-20 (LA, F.O.S.) and Big Pine Key May 12 (D & B Hoechler).

The only known nesting site of Burrowing Owls in the Keys is at the Marathon Golf Course, where a pair with 5 young were observed May 6 (JM). The fifth and sixth records of the Lesser Nighthawk in the Region were of birds that arrived Apr. 20 on St. Geo. I. (JS), and Apr. 29 on Garden Key (second record for Tortugas, note in *Fla. Field Nat.*—L&BA, J&HD). Chimney Swifts are becoming more abundant in s. Florida, perhaps because new houses are being built with fireplaces and chimneys. Swifts were reported on Boca Chica Key Apr. 30, Key West Harbor May 2 (TW, H.G. Smith), Plantation Key and Twin Key in Florida Bay May 13 (RP) and D. Tort., Apr. 29-May 11 (m.ob.). Two seen flying over open ocean 30 mi e. of Ponce Inlet Apr. 27 (H&WD *et al.*) were an unusual sight, and one flying N over Loxahatchee Slough May 28 was considered a migrant (HS) although they now breed s. of the Palm Beaches. A **Black-chinned Hummingbird** on Garden Key Apr. 29, appears to represent the fourth record for Florida (L&BA, J&HD, ph—T.T., details in *Fla. Field Nat.*). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on St. Geo. I., May 9 (JS & CW) was the latest in the Tally Div.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS—Reports of W. Kingbirds came from Monteverde, Lake Co., Apr. 2-4 (R.J. Fleetwood), E.N.P., Apr. 5 (JG), Mullet Key Apr.



Black-chinned Hummingbird, Garden Key, Dry Tortugas, Fla., Apr. 29, 1980. Photo/Lyn S. Atherton.

18 (H&WD) and D. Tort., May 3 (PWS *et al.*). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen s.e. of Chassahowitzka Apr. 17 (HS) and two were on the causeway off the ill-fated Sunshine Skyway Bridge near St. Petersburg Apr. 18-19 (H&WD, F.O.S.). An Acadian Flycatcher near Wakulla Beach Apr. 7 (FS) tied the earliest Tally Div. date with one previously unreported in s.e. Leon County Apr. 7, 1979 (RMC). Rare on St. Geo. I., a Least Flycatcher was calling there Apr. 15 (JS).

Early swallows included two Banks near St. Marks Light Apr. 12 (HS *et al.*) and two Barns in s.e. Leon County Mar. 30 (GM). Both Cliff and Cave swallows were on D. Tort., with the latter species present only May 3-5 (PWS *et al.*), and a late Cliff and two Banks still there May 26-27 (JR). A Tree Swallow was late at Dunedin May 31 (RF). Although widespread in suitable habitat throughout Florida, Brown-headed Nuthatches are relatively scarce in many areas, hence a pair feeding nestlings in a long-leaf pine stand near Venus was considered a good record for Highlands County (E. Willis, F. Lohrer). Two Blue Jays on Key West Apr. 6 & May 6-12 (TW) are notable because of their scarcity in the Keys. An inspiring and humbling sight was a lone Long-billed Marsh Wren flying over the Atlantic about 50 mi e. of Ponce Inlet Apr. 27 (H&WD *et al.*).

An early migration of Brown Thrashers was suspected at L. Talquin, Leon Co., Mar. 22, when 35 birds were counted there (RMC). As usual, all of the thrushes expected in Florida were seen at Mullet Key between mid-April and mid-May (m.ob.). The last Am. Robin was there May 10 (SI), but once again robins nested about 30 mi to the n.e. near the home of Ted Mack in Tampa, the southernmost breeding location for the species (JE). A robin in Venice Apr. 24-May 30 never showed any inclination to nest (S&AS) and was the latest in the S. Pen. Migrating thrushes rarely sing in s. Florida, so the following songsters were noteworthy: a Wood Thrush in Sarasota May 3-5 (EM), a Gray-cheeked on Garden Key May 7 (JM), and a Veery in Sarasota May 10 (MDeR & EM). Other Veeries, uncommon in spring, were at Ft. DeSoto April 18-May 9 (m.ob.), Gainesville May 2 (B. Muschlitiz), Tallahassee May 4 (GM), Sarasota May 10 (J&LN), D. Tort., Apr. 29-May 11 (m.ob.) and Venice May 8-12 (S&AS).

The Black-whiskered Vireo made its regular spring appearance on St. Geo. I., Apr. 28 (JC). A Red-eyed Vireo in Sarasota Mar. 13 (EM) tied the earliest date in the S. Pen. At least two rare Philadelphia Vireos were reported at Mullet Key Apr. 19-26 (LA

et al.), and one was seen in Sarasota May 10 (J&LN). Rarer still were two or more Warbling Vireos, also at Mullet Key, Apr. 19-20 (Chuck Geanangel, LH, F.O.S.) & May 1 (DG). A **Bananaquit** reported in Cactus Hammock, Big Pine Key Mar. 7 (MRB) and filmed by John Ellis of Nashville, may represent the first record for the Lower Keys. Hopefully, Mr. Ellis (address unkn.) will send us a corroborating photo.

WARBLERS—The warbler migration generally was a good one in the Region. There were few spectacular fallouts, but with the frequent fronts warblers were present throughout the period, with 34 species and a hybrid species reported. Because some birds of many species occasionally winter in Florida, one wonders if some of the extremely early migration dates reported below might be for birds that wintered here rather than early arrivals from the tropics. A Prothonotary at Mullet Key Mar. 14 (CB) was the earliest in the N. Pen. Two Swainson's W. were early in Leon County Mar. 26 (GM), while both a Swainson's and a Worm-eating were late at Mullet Key May 9 (MH, LA). A Worm-eating in Palm Beach County Mar. 8 (PWS) and a Golden-winged on St. Geo. I., Apr. 4 (JC & HS) were the earliest in the state for both species. A Blue-winged in Palm Beach County Mar. 31 (JA) tied the earliest date in the S. Pen. Elsewhere, over 20 were at Mullet Key Apr. 1-20 (LA, MH, BJ *et al.*), one on D. Tort., Apr. 3 (MRB & BR), and two in Sarasota Apr. 15, 19 (DH & EM). The **Brewster's** hybrid of the latter two warblers was sighted at the Cedar Key cemetery Apr. 13 (A.A.S.) and on Mullet Key Apr. 15 (LA). Tennessee Warblers were abundant throughout the Region, more so than in any spring I can remember. One in Palm Beach County Mar. 8 (PWS) was the earliest in the state, one at East Pt., Apr. 6 (JC) was the earliest in the Tally Div., and one each at D. Tort. (PWS) and Key West (DW) May 12 were the latest in the Lower Keys. Late Orange-crowned Warblers were at Mullet Key Apr. 18 (H&WD), San Felasco State Preserve Apr. 20 (JHH), and in Sarasota May 4 (MDeR). A rare Nashville on Sugarloaf Key Mar. 28 (R. Wauer & F. Schell) was the earliest in the Lower Keys. Others were on D. Tort., May 3 (PWS *et al.*) and Mullet Key Apr. 4 (S. Mott, BJ, B&LA) & May 5 (LH). Another earliest-ever date for the S. Pen., was set by a Magnolia in Palm Beach County Mar. 8 (PWS) & Mar. 15 (HL & PWS). Over 35 reports of this uncommon spring migrant ranged from Tallahassee to the D. Tort. (m.ob.). A Cape May in Palm Beach County Mar. 8 (PWS) was the earliest in the state, if not one of the several that always winter here.

Most Florida birders consider the Yellow-rumped Warbler to be almost a nuisance bird—so abundant that they distract one from looking at something "special", yet so variable is their winter plumage that one is forced to look over every one to make sure it isn't that "special" bird. Few among us have the patience to examine carefully each one in hopes of finding that rarity—"Audubon's" Warbler, the w. subspecies. This persistence paid off for Lyn Atherton (the same gal who picks out imm. Thayer's Gull from 20,000

Ring-billed) on Garden Key when an ad. ♂ "Audubon's" Warbler appeared May 1 (L&BA, J&HD—second sight record for Florida, details elsewhere).

The Black-throated Green at Brooker Cr. Park, Pinellas Co., Mar. 14 (BS&PS) was the earliest in the N. Pen, and only one day short of tying the state's earliest date. Other sightings were at Gainesville Apr. 7 (S. Mashburn, A. P. Jacques), Sarasota Apr. 15 (DH), Sugarloaf Key May 11 (DW), and D. Tort., May 3-11 (PWS *et al.*). The Cerulean is one of our rarer warblers—with only four reports this spring—two each in Sarasota Apr. 15 (DH) and Mullet Key Apr. 18-19 (H&WD *et al.*) Other rare-to-uncommon spring warbler sightings included a Blackburnian at Mullet Key Apr. 18-19 (F.O.S.) and May 11 (PS), near L. Jackson Apr. 26 (JC), Key West May 1 & 6 (AW & TW), and Sugarloaf Key May 6 (JD); Chestnut-sided at Mullet Key Apr. 14-May 9 (m.ob.), St. Geo. I., May 9 (JS & CW), and D. Tort., May 11 (PWS *et al.*); Bay-breasted at Tierra Verde Apr. 15 (LA)—earliest in N. Pen—Sugarloaf and Pine Keys Apr. 29-May 1 (L. Kitching, E & MRB), D. Tort., May 4 & 11 (PWS *et al.*), Mullet Key (J. Hopkins) and Dunedin (E&L Collum), both May 11.

The earliest Blackpolls in Florida were two males at Mullet Key Mar. 28 (LA & BP). Over 1000 Palms were there Mar. 31 (KT & PF), and one 25 mi n. at Dunedin May 31 (RF) was the latest in the N. Pen. An Ovenbird on D. Tort., May 27 (JR) missed by one day tying the latest date in the Lower Keys. Annette Stedman considered N. Waterthrushes to be unusually common this spring near Venice where she banded 13 birds Apr. 7-May 15. One at Alligator Pt., Mar. 30 (RLC & MD) was the earliest in the N. Pen. Reports of Kentucky Warblers came from Mullet Key—about a dozen Apr. 5-21 (m. obs.), and D. Tort., Apr. 2-4 (MRB *et al.*). One of the truly late migrants is the Connecticut, with seven reports from Mullet Key May 2 (DG)-11 (LH *et al.*), also D. Tort., May 9 (TTr), Bill Baggs Park, Miami May 10 (JG), Lignumvitae Key May 11 (J. Parks), and Nokomis, Charlotte Co., May 14 (one banded-S&AS). Although the Yellow-breasted Chat breeds in Florida's n. counties it is curiously rare in migration in the peninsula. The only report was of one near Wakulla Beach Apr. 7 (FS), the earliest in the Tally Div. The Hooded Warbler was abundant, with 100+ sightings at Mullet Key Mar. 20-late April (m.ob.), and one there May 11 (LH) was the latest in the N. Pen. One Canada was reported in Palm Beach County Apr. 26 (W. Matthews).

BLACKBIRDS AND TANAGERS—A ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird at Mullet Key Apr. 19-20 (F.O.S.) was the latest in the N. Pen. (The date of the Yellow-headed on the nearby Bayway last year was Mar. 4, not May 4 as reported). Northern Orioles winter in small numbers in s. Florida, but two pairs on Hypoluxo I., Palm Beach Co., Mar. 29 appeared to be migrating (JA, HL, PWS) and were the earliest in the S. Pen. Fifteen Brewer's Blackbirds in n.e. Leon County Mar. 24 (GM) were the latest in the Tally Div. A Brown-headed Cowbird at Mullet Key May 10 (LH) was probably a migrant, although

this species now breeds as far s. as Cedar Key and Gainesville (See AB 33:856). All "late" cowbirds should be observed closely to ascertain their status in the peninsula. Two W. Tanagers visited the Region this spring—a male in s. Jacksonville Mar. 4 & 6 (J.P. Whiteman), and a female just s. of Gainesville Mar. 16-23 (T. Massey, JHH).

FINCHES—Two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at Mullet Key Apr. 5 (Donna Hopkins *et al.*) were the earliest in the N. Pen. Here and elsewhere in the Region they were abundant, as were Blue Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings. A ♂ Black-headed Grosbeak on South Lake Trail in Palm Beach Apr. 22 (JA) was the first for Palm Beach County and also the latest in the S. Pen. Two Blue Grosbeaks at Mullet Key May 10 (LH) were the latest in migration in the N. Pen., as was a Painted Bunting on the same date (SI & LH). Only one Dickcissel was seen at Mullet Key, Apr. 15 (PF & BC) and one at Key West Apr. 25 was considered a rarity there (TW). "Dozens" were seen by a park ranger at D. Tort., after a storm there in late April (*vide* LA) and three remained there through May 3 (L&BA, J&HD). A Savannah Sparrow at Dunedin May 21 (RF) was the latest in the N. Pen.

S.A.

With a great feeling of sorrow I report the extinction for all practical purposes—of the Dusky Seaside Sparrow from its habitat in Brevard County. Only four males and *no* females were found during the intensive surveys and resurveys conducted from mid-April to mid-June in all the remaining suitable habitat in the St. Johns River valley (I was a member of the survey team). With the two males already in captivity at the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's Wildlife Research Laboratory in Gainesville, the six males are all that survive of a population that numbered in the hundreds—possibly 600 pairs—as recently as 1968. The Dusky Seaside Sparrow Recovery Team has recommended breeding the remaining males with females from the dark-plumaged population of Seaside Sparrows inhabiting Florida's Gulf coast marshes and back-crossing the Dusky males to the female F₁ generation (a 98.6% Dusky would result by the sixth generation backcross) in an effort to preserve the Dusky gene-pool. However, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has declined to approve this technique because of a solicitor's adverse opinion concerning endangered species status of the progeny. Instead, the Service has decided to capture the remaining males and hold them in captivity for at least the next two years. The "last round-up" was to take place in July 1980. See this issue, pp. 728.

Seldom occurring in the Lower Keys, a Vesper Sparrow on Loggerhead Key May 4 (DF *et al.*) was the latest in the state. A Clay-colored Sparrow spent Apr. 15-23 at a feeder in south Jacksonville (V. Markgraf). Also rare in s. Florida, a White-crowned Sparrow was on the L-8 Dike, w. of the Corbett

Wildlife Mgmt. Area Mar. 22 (S. Black), and one was late on Paynes Prairie May 1 (RR & JH). This report ends with the first record for the Dry Tortugas and the Lower Keys of the White-throated Sparrow—a male *singing* inside Fort Jefferson May 10 (PWS, VE, JR)

CORRIGENDUM: After study of Lauro and Spencer's recent paper (AB 34: 111-117), and detail reexamination of the photographs of the Ponce Inlet bird reported as a Mew Gull (AB 32: 195), Lyn Atherton has concluded that this bird was instead a very small Ring-billed Gull, *not* a Mew Gull. The bird illustrated clearly shows the undertail barring characteristics of the Ring-billed, as described by Lauro and Spencer. Gullwatchers are urged to read this excellent paper.

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ONTARIO REGION

/ Clive E. Goodwin

A pleasant but rather cool spring produced a quiet and uneventful migration. Following the abnormally mild winter, March was cool in the south, and followed its traditional pattern of cold and snow in the north. Even there, however, snow went early and a hot spell in late April disposed of the tail end of winter.

Late April was unseasonably warm everywhere, and some early arrivals resulted. However, cool periods in May slowed movement and the overall impression was of a late, slow migration. Widespread waves of migrants were reported on April 4 and 20 and May 4-6, 18-20 and 22-24. It was one of the quietest springs in several years for southern "overshoots" and other rarities, although a fair assortment of rare species were recorded



in the Province as a whole. Even Point Pelee recorded a rather routine migration, with only the customary specialties and few less-usual birds.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS—The Mississagi Light (hereafter, M.L.) peak of Com. Loons was 530 May 4. The Red-necked Grebe high of 400+ came earlier, on Apr. 19-20 (JN). Both counts are average for this area, but the numbers e. of Toronto were high: the respective peaks were 511 also May 4 (JRN) for loons and 383 Apr. 2 for grebes (BP). Red-necked Grebes were widespread inland with birds at Wildwood Apr. 13 (*fide* MPD), three at Waterloo Apr. 4 (EH, MS), up to five in Algonquin P.P., Apr. 26-30 (RT *et al.*), and one at Strathroy Apr. 10 (TNH). About seven Red-throated Loons were seen Mar. 14-May 19, mostly along the Lower Great Lakes. Horned Grebes continued scarce, although 95 at Dyer's Bay May 3 was a good count (JWJ), and four Eared Grebes were seen, three along the lower lakes and a bird at Virginiatown which was picked up on a highway Apr. 6 and later released (PWR). A trip to the mouth of Rainy R. at Lake of the Woods May 9-11 underscored the western character of that area: sightings included 75 White Pelicans and 90 Double-crested Cormorants (TN *et al.*). Double-crested numbers in the south were encouraging as well, with several reports of flocks of 8-15 birds, and a Rondeau peak of 28 on May 15 (PAW). Seven birds inland at Peterborough May 11 (DB) were unusual.

HERONS—Northerly Green Herons were on the Madawaska R., May 16 (RK) and three on Manitoulin I. (JN). Southern herons were fewer this spring: the only Little Blue reports came from Pt. Pelee in the first week of May, and one or more Cattle Egrets were there from May 14 (m.ob.). Elsewhere nine birds of this species were reported Apr. 28-May 15 all along the L. Erie and Ontario shorelines. There were four Snowy Egrets seen, at Rondeau Apr. 18 (PAW), in the Ottawa area at Almonte Apr. 26 (TH, MR), at

Cranberry Marsh May 4-14 (JC-B, m.ob.) and at Kingston May 23-25 (RKE *et al.*). Great Egrets were particularly widespread and in exceptional numbers at both Pt. Pelee (m.ob.) and on Pelee I. (CAC *et al.*). They were n. to Sheguiandah (E. L. & G. Garrette) and 18 reports from the south-west ranged in date from Apr. 9 to a late May 29. Only three Least Bitterns were reported: observers are asked to report all their sightings of this species to allow a more accurate assessment of its status.

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS—There were over 5000 Whistling Swans at Long Pt., Mar.

21-22 (LW) and 2500 at Bradley's Marsh in March (m.ob.). Heavy Canada Goose movement occurred Apr. 21 - May 5, with a peak flight of 27,000+ at Kingston in the last four days of this period (RDW *et al.*) Brant were also in good numbers: the Kingston high was 900 May 17, there were 600 in Ottawa May 17-18, and 400+ in Whitby May 19 (EV, m.ob.), as well as five reports of smaller flocks and numerous single birds, mainly in the L. Ontario area, from an early Apr. 19 at Peterborough (J. Record). The Peterborough area had the only White-fronted Goose, May 25 at Lakefield (GC, CV). The Rainy R. trip recorded 130 Snow Geese (TN *et al.*). A Fulvous Whistling Duck was at Rodney in early May (m.ob.). The species now occurs almost annually! The Gadwall success story continues: at Kingston it was among the commonest dabbling duck, with 88 May 18 (RDW), and 250 at Bradley's Marsh Apr. 13 (MF). Other high duck counts included 2400 Pintail at Brentwood Apr. 19 (CJM, EAM), 43 Blue-winged Teal in Algonquin P.P., May 8 (WC), and 95 Ruddy Ducks at Pt. Pelee Apr. 19 (JPK, JGH). Kingston's first **Cinnamon Teal** was at Prince Edward Pt. (hereafter, P.E.Pt.) May 3-4 (JD *et al.*), the first good report of this species for Ontario in several years. European Wigeons at Talbotville Apr. 25 (RP) and Bradley's Marsh May 9-10 (PH, AMcT) were about average for this species in spring. The Niagara Falls Barrow's Goldeneye was last seen Mar. 1 (RFA *et al.*) and the Ottawa bird Mar. 16, but two birds appeared there later and remained to a record-late Apr. 30 (BMD). Even later was the Harlequin Duck off Cranberry Marsh to May 27 (m.ob.). Scoters were in their usual numbers: the M.L. peak of White-wingeds was 350 May 25 (JN) and a bird at Ottawa Apr. 10 was exceptionally early there. Black Scoters at Belanger Pt. and Komoka provided the first spring records for these areas (JN, D&MW).

VULTURES, HAWKS—Turkey Vultures maintained their high numbers in the south, and a bird was at Sibley P.P., Apr. 27

(AMk). A Mississippi Kite was seen for the second successive year, this time at M.L., Apr. 19 (JN). Red-shouldered Hawks were north to Algonquin P.P., Apr. 18-May 6 (*fide* RT) and Magnetawan from Apr. 26 (AM). Rough-legged Hawks moved N in April, and nine were seen between Matheson and Iroquois Apr. 24 (PWR), but one remained at Oshawa to May 29 (MB). Eight Golden Eagles were reported in all, and about twice that number of Bald Eagles. The latter seemed to be moving Apr. 10-16 as several sightings occurred during that period, including one of two birds flying NW at Marathon (NGE). Three active nests were also located during the reporting period in Essex County (*fide* AHK). A good Marsh Hawk movement took place near Casey Apr. 13, when 16 birds were seen (J&FW). Gyrfalcons were seen at Worthington Apr. 3 and Kelly L., Apr. 5 (JL) and another on Wolfe I., Mar. 23 (KEF, MCE, RKE). Eight Peregrine Falcons and 18 Merlins were reported, the latter in addition to the birds at two possible nesting sites on Manitoulin I., and a resident pair on Quetico P.P. (JN, SP). These totals are about average for recent years.

GROUSE, RAILS—The only reports of Bobwhites in the Southwest were seven at Kettle Pt., Apr. 10 (AR). Another was seen at Kitchener Mar. 25 (DF), but a bird at Toronto May 25 (HK) was likely to be a release, as were two Ring-necked Pheasants and a pair of Turkeys on Manitoulin I., in May (*fide* JN). Three Sandhill Cranes were seen in s. Ontario, at Kingston Apr. 19 and May 9 (RKE, MCE) and Wilkesport May 31 (DR). There were seven Manitoulin I. reports, but the breeding stations were not visited in May (JN); the island also had an early Virginia Rail Apr. 26 (CB, JL). Three King Rails were reported from s.w. Ontario, and one at Hyde Park Apr. 17 (PFD) was the first in Middlesex County in many years (*fide* WJR). The rarely reported Yellow Rail yielded five sightings this spring, two on Manitoulin I., May 3 and 25 (JN, DFn), one at Pickering, May 10 (JRN, JMS), and two at P.E.Pt., May 13 and 17 (RDM, RDW *et al.*). American Coots occurred in record numbers n. to Quetico and Algonquin P.P.s, Apr. 25 (NB, DHE) and May 21 (DFr) respectively. The Algonquin bird was the first-ever there.

SHOREBIRDS—Habitat for shorebirds was limited over most of the period, and there was not a particularly heavy flight. Piping Plover were reported from Tiny Marsh May 25-28 (CJM, EAM, m.ob.) and Presqu'ile P.P. in late May (J&J. Thompson), but there none occurred at Long Pt., their last breeding station in s. Ontario (*fide* RDTH). At the mouth of Rainy R. three birds including a pair with male in display flight were seen May 9-11 (TN *et al.*), and this may now be their only remaining foothold in the Province. Early migrants included a Killdeer at Huntsville Mar. 22 (WC) and two Am. Woodcock at Bradley's Marsh Mar. 14 (MF). A Black-bellied Plover and Upland Sandpiper at Algonquin P.P. airport May 25 & 28 (JR, JM, GT, RT), were rare for that locality. Two Upland Sandpipers were also at

Burk's Falls May 7 (AM) and the species occurred in generally good numbers across its present breeding range, although it is now rare in more intensively farmed areas. Most noteworthy numbers of Whimbrels were 600 in Burpee May 23 (JN) and 400 in Killarney May 24 (CW) in a generally light flight. Single Willets were seen at Pt. Pelee (m.ob.) in early May; on three dates at Toronto, May 12-June 6 (ADo, CEG, JEG, IM); and at Long Pt., June 6 (RV, AN). White-rumped Sandpipers were unusually common, particularly in the Southwest, where there were nine reports of some 24 birds, with a peak of 12 at Sarnia May 22 (DR). Sarnia was one of the few areas of prime habitat available and some high counts resulted there: 160 Pectoral Sandpipers May 10 and 350 Short-billed Dowitchers the next day (DR). Dunlin were found in high numbers along the Lower Great Lakes, with three counts of over 500 birds in the southwest alone (*vide* AHK). An early Least Sandpiper was at Smithville Apr. 27 (RFA *et al.*).

The crop of rarer shorebirds was highlighted by a **Curlew Sandpiper** May 17 at Bradley's Marsh (JLa, m.ob.), only the tenth-ever for the Province. It was the best spring for Silt Sandpipers since 1977: there were up to nine in the Southwest to a record-late May 29 (*vide* AHK), with two at Ottawa and others at Chelmsford and Smithville. Rainy R. had a Marbled Godwit and seven Hudsonians May 9-11 (TN *et al.*) and a Hudsonian was at Little Current May 15-17 (JL, DB, JN). Marbled Godwits were sighted at Sarnia May 12 (DR) and Tiny Marsh May 27-28 (FW *et al.*) and one at Mud L., Oxford Co., May 19 (DBu) furnished the first county record. Ottawa had the only Ruffs: two birds May 3 (FB, BMD) & 18 (RB, TH, MR), the second and third records ever there. Wilson's Phalaropes continued their strong showing of the last few years with at least 100 birds reported, n. and e. to Manitowadge May 13 (MG, SG) and Algonquin P.P., May 24 (JR, GT), the first there. The largest numbers were in the Southwest, with smaller concentrations at Kingston and in the Sudbury-Manitowin I. areas, and an even scattering elsewhere in suitable habitat across the south. Birds appeared as early as Apr. 4 at Kingston, a record-early date for the Province, but the totals suggest not an increase over the last peak year (1977) but rather a more widespread distribution of sightings. By contrast N Phalaropes occurred in smaller numbers: there were four in the Southwest, one at Exeter June 5 (AMcT) and birds at Ottawa May 18 & 25 (m.ob.).

GULLS, TERNS—Both Glaucous and Iceland Gulls followed their recent pattern of remaining in very small numbers into May. A Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Bronte Mar. 22 (GB). Four Franklin's Gulls were recorded: at Leamington May 15 (AW, PDP, DM), Whitby May 25 (DEP), Amherst I., May 18 (RKE) and Ottawa May 19 (RB, IJ, BMD). A Bonaparte's Gull at Ottawa Apr. 10 was probably the earliest-ever there (RAF). Little Gulls appeared in small numbers in their traditional centres of abundance—Whitby, Long Pt. and Pt. Pelee—from late April, and other birds were at Ottawa Apr. 10-12 and May 30-June 1 (m.ob.).

and Kettle Pt., May 4 (AR). There were four reports of Forster's Terns away from the favoured L. Erie shoreline: Fanshawe L., London Apr. 30 (TNH), Whitby May 17 (MB, DRh), Ottawa Apr. 17 (RB, TP *et al.*) and three at P.E. Pt., May 4 (RDW, PM, ML). The pattern for both these species now seems to be one of slow but steady increase in numbers. At Ottawa—the Arctic Tern capital of the Province—35 birds on May 18 (MBo, BMD) were the earliest-ever there.

OWLS—A Barn Owl was seen at Blenheim May 5 (KJB). Quetico recorded six owl species including Saw-whet, Boreal and Great Gray, all calling Apr. 5-6 (SP). Elsewhere in the n. a Boreal was recorded June 11 near Hillspport, n.e. of Manitowadge, and there were five Hawk Owls located there, probably four pairs, and a nest in late May and early June (DFi *et al.*). Far more remarkable were six Great Gray Owls located in the Kingston area, May 17 (K.F.N.) 150 miles s. of the species' known range: no evidence of breeding has been obtained to date.

A Long-eared Owl was located at Algonquin P.P., May 8 (RK): the Park recorded its first-ever only last year.

NIGHTJARS THROUGH SWALLOWS—No Chuck-will's-willows were recorded on Pelee I. this spring, but a bird was heard at Pt. Pelee as early as May 3 (m.ob.) and there was one or more at Rondeau from May 16 (PAW). More noteworthy Red-bellied Woodpecker reports included birds at P.E. Pt., Apr. 19 & May 24 (RKE) and a possible pair in the Waterloo area (CAC *et al.*). Three-toed Woodpeckers continued scarce in March: late reports were of a Northern from Ottawa to May 19 and a Black-backed to May 25 (BMD, RAF, DL), and the latter species was recorded at Thunder Bay May 31 (*vide* DA). Early flycatchers included an E. Kingbird at Peterborough Apr. 6 (PHO) and an Olive-sided Flycatcher at Kingston May 14 (K.F.N.). A W. Kingbird at South Baymouth May 17 (CB) and an Acadian Flycatcher banded at P.E. Pt., May 23 (K.F.N.) were other noteworthy sightings in this group. There were many early swallow records. The earliest for their locations were a Bank Swallow at Ottawa Apr. 12 (*vide* RAF), Rough-winged at Amherst Pt., Apr. 8 (BE), and Cliff at P.E. Pt., Apr. 4 (RKE). Swallow concentrations included 4000 Banks at Long Pt., May 15 (AM, GH) and the same number of Trees on Amherst I., Apr. 16 (RKE).

CROWS THROUGH WRENS—Common Ravens continue their push S as 30+ were seen at Petroglyphs P.P., Feb. 12 (GC, DCS, CV) and there were three Wolfe I. reports of at least two birds, Mar. 6-10 (RPY *et al.*). The wintering Tufted Titmice at Ottawa and Kingston were last seen on Mar. 16 (RAF) and Mar. 31 (DHo) respectively. Two Carolina Wrens were seen at both Toronto (LW, TRS) and Kingston (*vide* RDW), and there were four Rondeau reports (PAW) but it is not clear how many birds were involved. There seemed to be only one at Pt. Pelee, and none were reported elsewhere. Winter Wren numbers had obviously rebounded to some extent, but the species still seemed much be-

low normal in all reporting areas; the same can be said of E. Phoebes and Long-billed Marsh Wrens.

MIMIDS, THRUSHES—Mockingbird numbers seemed about normal and included seven at Toronto (*vide* AD, BP) and one at Thunder Bay to Apr. 30 (CG). Ottawa's wintering Varied Thrush was seen to mid-March, and a record-early Veery was there Apr. 27 (*vide* RAF). A Wood Thrush at Collins Bay Apr. 19 (RW) was another early arrival.

The oddest sighting of the spring was that of a European Blackbird at Erieau Apr. 12 (KJB). The report unfortunately probably lacks the level or corroboration necessary for a first Provincial record, but is intriguing nevertheless. John Nicholson assessed the Manitowin I. bluebird population at a probable one or two pairs, down from the 35 or so a few years ago, and there were the usual scattering of migrant sightings across the south of the Province. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher reports were down from their high of last year, but there were three at Ottawa, May 11 & 19 (RB, WEG, BG, JH).

WAXWINGS THROUGH VIREOS—A Bohemian Waxwing on Manitowin I., Apr. 10 was the latest of seven southern sightings, but in the north three were at Hillspport June 11 although there was no evidence of breeding (M & SG). There were some 24 Loggerhead Shrike reports, including three from Algonquin P.P., Apr. 8 - May 18 (RT, DFr *et al.*), an increase from last year: whether more actual nestings result remains to be seen. White-eyed Vireos were in their recent good numbers along L. Erie, and elsewhere a bird was banded at Wingham May 21 (JBM) and there were three P.E. Pt. records (K.F.N.) Point Pelee had a Bell's Vireo May 15 (CEG, JEG, JPK, AMcT).

WARBLERS—The L. Erie shore had its usual assortment of rarer warblers, but in smaller numbers than usual. Elsewhere Prothonotaries appeared at Peterborough May 23 (PB), London May 19 (MLa) and P.E. Pt., May 23 (K.F.N.), the first-ever for Kingston. Worm-eating Warblers were seen at Long Pt., May 5 (TD, AN, BPr) and Ottawa May 11 (HNM). Both Golden- and Blue-winged Warblers maintained their good showing of recent years, and were reported in small numbers by most areas in the south, together with assorted hybrids. A Blue-winged at Kingston May 8 was the earliest-ever there (RKE). The most numerous warbler of the spring was Yellow-rumped, which arrived early—one was at Atikokan by Apr. 10—and remained well past mid-May in the south. Cerulean Warblers are rare in the east, where birds were seen at Peterborough May 25 (GC) and Ottawa May 11 (BMD *et al.*). Rarities at P.E. Pt. included a Kentucky May 11 and two Yellow-breasted Chats May 15 & 17, and Kingston had three Louisiana Waterthrushes including two on territory (K.F.N.) Elsewhere a chat was at Woodbridge May 27 (AD), and Hooded Warblers at Willow Beach May 24 (RJ) and Newbury May 15 (JWL).

BLACKBIRDS—Seven W. Meadowlarks were reported from the s., where there had

been concern that they had been virtually extirpated by the severe winters. Well over 100 Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Rainy R. mouth, May 9-11 (TN *et al.*) and there were a number of sightings in the s. and e., with birds at Stanley May 24 (NH), Roger's Reservoir May 22 (LK), Kingston Apr. 21 (J & E Smith), and five in the s.w., including three at Bradley's Marsh from late May (MF). Orchard Orioles reappeared at a number of locations where the species was recorded last year: Port Britain from May 25 (ERM) and Bowmanville from May 23 (PBr) as well as pairs at Long Pt., May 22 (PV, GD, LA), in Waterloo from late May (CAC) and the usual Pt. Pelee birds. A N. Oriole at Marathon May 25 may have been the second there (NGE) and another was seen at Stanley May 24 (NH). In the south a bird of the Bullock's race appeared at a feeder in Toronto Apr. 1-18 (MAB, m.ob.), only the second on record for the Province. Brewer's Blackbirds are gradually becoming more and more established in the south, with their main centre continuing in the Bruce Peninsula, where up to 25 birds were seen at three localities at which breeding appeared likely, and seven birds elsewhere from late April (JWJ). Other birds on possible breeding stations were at Erieau Apr. 13 (AW, PDP), Pelee I., May 30 + (AW, TT, *et al.*), and P.E. Pt., Apr. 26 (RKE *et al.*). A Scarlet Tanager was at Thunder Bay, May 31 (*vide* DA) and Summer Tanagers at Toronto May 10-11 (OO), Long Pt., May 22 (TD), plus two or more at Point Pelee in May (m.ob.).

FINCHES, SPARROWS—Batchawana Pt. on L. Superior recorded a Cardinal May 9, two Le Conte's Sparrows May 10-11 and a Dickcissel May 10 (BGO, MG *et al.*). Another Dickcissel was at Marathon May 6-8 (NGE) and in s. Ontario birds were at Streetsville in March (WW, m.ob.), London Apr. 19 (HH, TNH) and Whitby Apr. 22 (DRh). A White L. sighting of 25 Purple Finches Mar. 2 was most unusual for that date, as the species normally does not winter there: the most prominent winter finches in the Marathon area were Pine Siskins, which were being killed in hundreds along the roads in March, and seven Am. Goldfinches were seen Mar. 19 (NGE). Some 30 House Finches were seen n. to Lively May 23-31 (DM & LF) and e. to Kingston, where there were 3-4 regular pairs in the city (K.F.N.) and a flock of 12 at P.E. Pt., Apr. 20 (RDM). The wintering Rufous-sided Towhee was at Maraton to Mar. 15 + (NGE) and another bird was at Thunder Bay Mar. 28 (J. Hebden, Mrs. Albo), where they are very rare. Two birds at a Port Stanley feeder from Mar. 25 led to lively debate: most observers felt one was an early imm. Indigo Bunting, although there was much yellow in the bill; and the consensus on the second was a Brewer's Sparrow, the first for the Province (m.ob.). Some question has been raised recently about the possibility of a hybrid; the bird was well photographed (MSS) and eventually captured, and is currently in a St. Thomas aviary (MHF). The four Harris' Sparrows were split between north and south: at Manitouwadge May 13 (MG, SG) and Marathon May 11 (NGE); and Sibbald Pt., May 14 (BP) and Peterborough to May 11 (PHo, m.ob.). One of the very few good re-

ports ever of **Smith's Longspur** in the south came from Long Pt., Apr. 20 where a female was meticulously documented (TRS, AMn, LVM). Late Lapland Longspurs were at Melbourne Apr. 26 (H & S. Inch) and Snow Buntings the next day at Barrie (CJM).

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NIAGARA-CHAMPLAIN REGION

/Douglas P. Kibbe

Although a modest winter storm ushered in the season, the remainder of the spring was exceptionally mild. A general absence of weather-induced groundings brought cries of despair from observers as migrants raced to breeding areas at record-setting paces.

A host of western strays appeared, but an absence of strong southerly winds in late April prevented most southern species from overshooting, and making their scheduled stops in the Region. Mild conditions apparently induced many individuals to return early, but the major portion of the migration occurred on schedule or even late.

Contributors are reminded that noteworthy sightings, be they early arrivals, late departures or regional rarities, require detailed documentation. All sectors of the Region appear infected with a competitive mania which threatens to erode credibility. Many, but perhaps not all, dubious records have been deleted from the following summary and several unsubstantiated but possibly correct ones were regrettably ignored.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL—The Rochester vicinity again hosted a fine flight of Com. Loons and Red-necked Grebes but opportunities for viewing these and other waterfowl which normally linger along Lake

Ontario were severely curtailed by an armada of salmon sport-fishing boats. Whether this potential threat from a new and rapidly growing recreational activity will have a significant impact on waterbirds seeking shoreline refuge remains to be seen. Double-crested Cormorants continued to improve in numbers but southern herons, following a recent trend, remained scarce. Noteworthy were a Snowy Egret at Herrick's Cove during much of May (C&DJK, m.ob.) and another near Rochester (G.O.S., R.B.A.); a probable Little Blue near Winooski, Vt. (FO *et al.*); two Louisiana Herons over Cornell's Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary May 6 (RB, *vide* WEB); and single Glossy Ibises at two areas near Rochester (R.B.A., G.O.S.). A Great Egret appeared at Braddock Bay Mar. 25 to set a record arrival date (G.O.S.).

An excellent Whistling Swan flight was recorded through w. New York and several of the species appeared in Vermont. Derby Hill, less widely recognized as a waterfowl concentration point than as a hawk lookout, exceeded all other reporting locations with 600 Brant May 17 (GS). The flock of Snow Geese



which annually stops at Montezuma N.W.R. peaked at 15,000 (WEB) or fifteen times the number using the refuge only ten years ago. **White-fronted Geese**, now perhaps best considered annual visitors, appeared at several w New York localities, with thirteen at Braddock Bay in mid-March setting a state record. Other rare waterfowl sighted included a Eur. Wigeon at the mouth of the Winoski R. (MM, WRB), only Vermont's third; two Barrow's Goldeneyes near Buffalo (*fide* VP) and another near Massena (JVR, *fide* LC); a ♀ King Eider at Nine Mile Pt., on L. Ontario (FS), and finally an ad. ♂ **Common Eider** on the Connecticut R. (actually New Hampshire 'water space') near Norwich Apr. 13-14 (MB *et al.*). The latter constitutes only the third seen from Vermont shores and the first away from L. Champlain.

HAWKS THROUGH RAILS—Continuous coverage at Derby Hill, the easternmost of two premier hawk watches on L. Ontario, produced another record-breaking tally of 54,690 birds by the end of May, including the following astonishing totals; 618 Cooper's, 7809 Red-tailed and 1208 Red-shouldered Hawks. No less than three **Swainson's Hawks** were identified in the Region; one Apr. 25 at Kendall, N.Y. (WL) and two over Derby Hill May 24 (FS) & May 31 (GS). Unprecedented in the Region was a convincingly-described **Ferruginous Hawk** May 3 at Parma (MDa *et al.*) Golden Eagles again outnumbered Bald 18 to 12 at Derby Hill. The nesting of a pair of Ospreys at Montezuma N.W.R., the first known record for c. New York, is a further reflection of the species' improving status (see *Am. Birds* 34:234). Surprisingly, Ospreys were down 40% at Derby Hill, a fact which highlights the need for caution when basing population assessments on count data. A white Gyrfalcon flashed past Derby Hill May 11 (GS, TLC). Spruce Grouse were found near Severy's Corners, N.Y., and Island Pond, Vt., both previously-known locations. Single Sandhill Cranes appeared Apr. 26 over Derby Hill and a month later at Braddock Bay The Sora previously reported at Mendon Ponds apparently overwintered successfully. A King Rail reportedly answered a tape near Ithaca (JC *et al.*, *fide* WEB) but at Rochester attempts to flush one calling (and answering a tape) from a tiny patch of cattails yielded only a Virginia. Caution seems advised whenever using vocalizations to identify any *Rallidae*.

SHOREBIRDS AND GULLS—The highlight of this spring's shorebirding was a regionwide grounding involving probably thousands of Short-billed Dowitchers and lesser numbers of a variety of other species May 17-18. Unusual species included in this movement were at least six Am. Golden Plovers, two or three Willets, several Stilt and one W. sandpipers along with about 75 Whimbrels, all in c. New York. Other notables included a record early **Reeve** at Port Byron Mar. 29 (FS), a **Piping Plover** at Elmira May 6 (MW, *fide* WEB), and a **Marbled Godwit** at Hamlin May 9 (RS *et al.*). Larids elicited few comments; a **Laughing Gull** at Ithaca Apr. 26 (JE, *fide* WEB), a **Black-headed Gull** at Perch River Village in

mid-May (R&JW,NL, *fide* LC), and a **Little Gull** at Rochester were the only noteworthy sightings.

CUCKOOS THROUGH SWALLOWS—Black-billed Cuckoos were numerous in w. sectors but scarce in Vermont, where it is suspected that populations had probably been "short-stopped" by immense outbreaks of gypsy moths in s. New England. A "migrant" Barn Owl at Braddock Bay Apr. 1 (R.B.A.) is of interest. Snowy Owls, very scarce all winter, lingered only until the third week of March. An inordinately tame and emaciated **Great Gray Owl** which flew into the side of a passing truck at Derby Hill was quickly rescued and is reportedly well on its way to full recovery at a raptor rehabilitation center at Cuba, N.Y. Only two Long-eareds were found, but Saw-whet Owl reports increased due partly to the concerted efforts of Vermont Atlas workers who found their searches with tape recorders in April well rewarded. A second Red-bellied Woodpecker was found near Vergennes, Vt., where one successfully overwintered, lending increased credence to previous speculation that a breeding-range extension may be imminent. Fair numbers of Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported from the Finger Lakes area, but most contributors expressed concern that firewood harvesting may have an adverse impact on already low populations. Will this species become yet another victim of the energy shortage? A Red-headed in the middle of Vermont's boreal "Northeast Kingdom" at Island Pond was far from expected haunts but may, like some other species (*e.g.*, Am. Kestrel), have been intent on colonizing dead snags on the hundreds of acres of the clear-cut which threatens eventually to wipe out the few remaining square miles of boreal forest in that area. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were found near Island Pond and in c. Hamilton County in the Adirondacks, the latter area also hosting the only pair of N. Three-toeds (FLF, CS) spotted in the Region.

Acadian Flycatchers were heard at four w. New York localities, and a careful survey of Great Lake plains woodlands would doubtless turn up many more. Olive-sided Flycatchers were reoccupying their breeding grounds by the second week of May, well ahead of schedule. Also early was a Bank Swallow Apr. 19, a Cliff Swallow Mar. 22, and a Purple Martin Mar. 20, all on the central L. Ontario plains (G.O.S.).

CORVIDS THROUGH SHRIKES—Sightings of extralimital Com. Ravens included three near Bolivar, N.Y., where the species may now breed; a migrant over Greece, N.Y., Mar. 15; and two May sightings at Sandbar W.M.A. on L. Champlain, best known for its nesting Cerulean Warblers. Derby Hill, in addition to its raptors, regularly hosts large numbers of other diurnal migrants. This year was no exception as 13,400 Com. Crows there Mar. 10 (GS) was narrowly lower than the previous Regional spring high count. Fish Crows (number?) continued to be regularly reported from Ithaca. Although very scarce in New York, Red-breasted Nuthatches appeared common in e. breeding habitats. Since no Regional flight was evident, it was as-

sumed that these breeders were overwintering birds. When and why these and other irruptive species select a breeding area are intriguing questions. Although the species is apparently still declining in New York, a Carolina Wren which wintered near Woodstock maintained the species' pattern of regular Vermont appearances. Short-billed Marsh Wrens failed to appear in Vermont and most other areas, and sightings were only reported from Rochester (R.B.A., G.O.S.) and Iroquois N.W.R. (RA *et al.*). Perhaps New York Atlas efforts will give us a more complete picture of this grassland species' distribution. If Tufted Titmice and Cardinals are sweeping N through the Region, can Mockingbirds be far behind? Apparently not, as a pair in Cambridge, Vt., a scant 25 mi from the Canadian border, amply demonstrate.

The **Varied Thrush** at Athens, Vt., lingered into March (see the Summer report). A belated report of one at Watertown last December was received (*fide* LC). Record early thrushes included two Wood Apr. 13, a Swainson's Apr. 21, and a Gray-cheeked Apr. 23 (all Finger Lakes area, *fide* WEB), the latter incredibly early. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, having colonized the Connecticut R. and L. Champlain shorelines, now seem intent on filling in the center of Vermont. Nearly half the reports received from that state were from 'inland' areas surrounded by mountains. A similar pattern should be looked for in the Adirondacks. Despite the severity of the past winter in the Southeast, most observers felt that both kinglets have continued to recover from their past decline. A rash of March Loggerhead Shrike reports prompts me to caution again that Northerns are also moving through the Region throughout that month. A shrike seen at Hamlin, N.Y., Mar. 21 was catching minnows (NM). The season closed without a single nesting attempt reported. Although the causes for the Loggerhead's decline remain obscure, its problems are obviously acute.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS—White-eyed Vireos appeared at Ithaca, Elmira (*fide* WEB), and Rochester (G.O.S) in mid-May. Although it is unclear whether any of these locations are the same that reported pairs last year, this species seems destined to colonize the Region in the near future. Extra-breeding-range reports of Prothonotary Warbler include two sightings in mid-May near Rochester (G.O.S.), where breeding should be watched for; and a possibly accurate report from Burlington, Vt. (BW). The latter bird, seen Apr. 24 in the company of Yellow-rumped Warblers, would be that state's first since 1916 when two specimens were taken. Full details are awaited. Worm-eating Warbler was found at Elmira, where it breeds, and Labrador Pond, Onondaga Co (DC, KC). Information on the species' status near Albany, where it presumably still breeds would be appreciated.



S.A.

More detailed information on the relative occurrence of Blue-winged X Golden-winged Warbler hybrids would also be helpful. Data from the literature (see *The Auk* 97:1), Vermont observers, and this writer's personal experience belie the low incidence of reported hybridization in w. New York, and it is suspected that many observers rely on vocalizations or superficial field inspection when making identifications. Observers are reminded that "Brewster's" and "Lawrence's" hybrids readily backcross to either parental type or other hybrids producing myriad recombination phenotypes (i.e., color patterns) many of which closely resemble the "pure" species (if such really exists any longer in the Northeast).

Only four Orange-crowned Warblers were spotted, all from the Rochester vicinity. An imm. ♂ **Townsend's Warbler** at Braddock Bay Apr. 20 (PR *et al.*) is particularly noteworthy, since there are less than a dozen previous New York records, over half of which occurred in spring. One Yellow-throated and three Kentucky warblers were located, all in c. New York. Two singing Connecticut Warblers were seen by many May 23 & 25 near Rochester. Two other c. New York sightings included one at Ithaca May 4 (*fide* WEB), an unbelievably early date.

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS AND FRING-

ILLIDS—Three Ontario lake plains reports of W. Meadowlark included one observed mating with an Eastern at Pultneyville (RS, m.ob.). Although the species appears regularly on the lake plains, its breeding status is, obviously, not well understood. On Mar. 20 Derby Hill hosted a million Red-winged Blackbirds and 50,000 Com. Grackles. It is interesting but perhaps not surprising, to note that this date also marked the peak flight day for Goshawks, Red-tailed and Red-shouldered hawks, Bald Eagles, and Merlins. All nine Orchard Orioles reported were in c. New York, most at known breeding areas. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found at Derby Apr. 26 (*fide* VP) and Honeoye Apr. 21 (R.B.A.). A ♂ **Western Tanager** appeared May 6 in an Irondequoit backyard (VM-D, R&SS) and a ♂ Summer Tanager was discovered at Letchworth State Park May 18 (PC, DB). A Dickcissel frequenting a Clifton feeder was photographed and a belated report of one in Ithaca was submitted (*fide* WEB). A **Blue Grosbeak** appeared at the latter location May 1 (JCr, *fide* WEB). This species, easily overlooked, is among the rarest of the southern strays that can reasonably be expected in the Region. A few small flocks of Red Crossbills appeared briefly throughout the Region, presumably on their way N, and a few White-winged Crossbills lingered in Vermont's "Northeast Kingdom" into early April. Whether the latter actually bred there this winter is unresolved, but much singing and territorial behavior was observed and the species has bred at equivalent latitudes during the winter. Both Grasshopper and Henslow's

sparrow reports were limited to a few areas of w. New York where, however, they were occasionally locally common. A "good report" of a Le Conte's Sparrow from Connecticut Hill near Newfield, N.Y., May 17 has reportedly been filed with the New York Avian Records Committee (JB, *fide* WEB). Sight records of this secretive species are notoriously difficult to verify.

CONTRIBUTORS (in boldface) AND **CITED OBSERVERS**—**Allegany County Bird Club, R. Andrie, J. Bandfield, D. Bassett, W.R. Beecher, W.E. Benning, W. Bousman, M. Breselor, E. Brooks, R. Brooks, Buffalo Ornithological Society, L. Burton, T.L. Carrolan, L. Chamberlain, J. Confer, P. Conklin, K. Coyle, K.L. Crowell, D. Crumb, J. Crump (JCr), M. Davids (MDA), P. DeBenedictis, J.&M. Dye, W. Ellison, J. Erickson, Genesee Ornithological Society, High Peaks Audubon Society, C. Kibbe, D.J. Kibbe, F. LaFrance (FLF), N. Leone, W. Listman, M. Maurer, V. Miller-Dardenne (VM-D), N. Moon, W. Nichols, W.J. Norse, F. Oatman, Onondaga Audubon Society, C. Perrigo, V. Pitzrick, P. Reister, Rochester Birding Association, F. Scheider, G. Smith, R.&S. Spahn, C. Spies, Vermont Institute of Natural Science, J. VanRiet (JVR), J.&R. Walker, B. Weeks, M. Wells, R. Yunick.**—**DOUGLAS P. KIBBE, Box 422, Saxtons River, Vermont. 05154.**

APPALACHIAN REGION / George A. Hall

As usual there was little agreement between observers about the spring migration, but overall the movement could perhaps be summed up as having been better than many recent ones but not outstanding, while generally on the late side.

March began with some of the coldest weather of the winter and was much wetter than normal (twice the normal rainfall at Knoxville), but with little snowfall even in the North. April was also on the cool side but slightly drier than normal at Pittsburgh, while May was slightly warmer than normal, with normal rainfall which came in an alternating series of dry and wet spells.

The early migration was slightly late, as few of the late February-early March species arrived before the second week of March. The lakes and ponds opened early, and in the mild late-March weather the waterfowl migration moved swiftly over the Region, with most locations reporting poor flights. By late March and early April the migration was again on time, but the late April-early May species were perhaps a week late. In the south the major warbler movement occurred about April 26-27, but in the north the main movement did not come until May 7-10. For nearly two weeks after that the migration was good in northern West Virginia and western Pennsylvania, but after May 23 the numbers of mi-

grants dropped markedly and little movement was still evident at the end of the period.

There were fewer than the usual number of extremely early sightings reported.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS—The Com. Loon migration was somewhat better than it has been in recent years, and there were two late records: L. Chillisquaque, Pa. to June 1 (SSt) and Wellsboro, Pa., to June 8 (FW). Worth mentioning is the report of six Com. Loons passing the hawk lookout on Tuscaroras Mt., Pa., Apr. 19 (CG). The only report of Red-throated Loon came from L. Arthur, Pa., Mar. 8 & 16 (T&NM). Red-necked Grebes were reported from Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., Mar. 29-30 (RW), and L. Arthur, Apr. 13 (GWi). There was a good movement of Horned Grebes with some unusual numbers being reported: 250 at Bald Eagle S.P., Apr. 9 (*fide* KJ) and 350 at Tamarack L., Crawford Co., Pa., Apr. 2 (RFL). Those reporters who mentioned Pied-billed



Grebes felt that they were in less-than-normal numbers. There was a total of seven reports of Double-crested Cormorant; Pymatuning L., Pa., May 18 (RFL), Bald Eagle S.P., Pa. (PS, RW), White Deer Game Lands, Pa., May 10 (PS), Milton S.P., Pa., May 6, Montour, Pa., May 11 (SSt), and Austin Springs, Tenn. Mar. 30 (RK, SG, MD).

In the Warren, Pa., area eight colonies (four new) of Great Blue Herons with 110

Dam, Warren Co., Pa., May 18 (TG), and Kingston May 18 (5—SJS *et al.*).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS—The Mourning Dove population in n. West Virginia continues to increase and it is now one of the most common roadside birds (GAH). Yellow-billed Cuckoos were thought to be quite common at most places, although absent at P.N.R. (RCL), and Morgantown (GAH). On the other hand Black-billed Cuckoos were uncommon.

There were many more reports of Barn Owls than usual, and nests were reported from E. Nittany, Pa. (CHa), three near Harrisonburg, Va. (RBC), and several in the 35 nest boxes set out in n. Virginia (RSi). Screech Owls are making a comeback, but still remain generally in low numbers. Short-eared Owls were reported from State College Apr. 21 (DP), Stuart's Draft, Va., May 10 (JR), and Roanoke, Va., all winter to Apr. 5 (NM & JA). A Saw-whet Owl was found on three occasions Mar. 26-Apr. 27 at Warren, Pa. (HJ), one was heard calling at Blackwater Falls S.P., W.Va., May 8-10 (KF), and one was banded at Lord Fairfax Community College, Va., May 24 (RSi). At Great Smoky Mountains N.P., four trips to the normal habitat failed to find any Saw-whet Owls



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Waynesboro, Va. (RS), as this species continues to expand its range. The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was unusually common this spring and at P.N.R. 15 were banded compared with the 5-year average of 5.5, and at this station Acadian Flycatchers staged the best spring flight on record (RCL). The only reports of Olive-sided Flycatchers came from Ramsey, Pa., May 17 (PS), Johnson City, Tenn., May 14 & 16 (GE) and two banded at P.N.R. on the late date of June 4 (RCL). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at White Pine, Tenn., May 18 (TKo). An unusually early E. Wood Pewee was in Botetourt County, Va., Mar. 8 (JV).

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A singing ♂ W. Meadowlark was seen in Allegheny County, Pa., May 17 (DF). Brewer's Blackbirds were reported from Waynesboro, Va., Mar. 11 and Highland County, Va., Mar. 16 (LT). Bobolinks were more common than usual at most places during migration.

A Summer Tanager was banded in Crawford County, Pa., well north of the normal range on May 16 (TP). At Morgantown there was a very heavy movement of Scarlet Tanagers (GAH).

FRINGILLIDS—A total of 40+ Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen at Presque Isle May 10 (RFL *et al.*). This species was unusually scarce at both P.N.R. (RCL) and Morgantown (GAH). Blue Grosbeaks were reported from Greene County, Pa., one or two pairs established (R & HB), Lynchburg, Va., May 8 & 10 (RS & MH), Rockingham County, Va., four records (RBC), and 3-4 pairs established at Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE), Dickcissels were reported from Erie County, Pa., Mar. 15 - Apr. 5 (JBx), and May 19 (BG), and in n.w. Virginia in late May (RSi).

A few Evening Grosbeaks remained in the Region until early May but were scarce almost everywhere through the winter and early spring. One was banded at State College at the late date of May 26 (MW). The only reports of Pine Siskins came from w. Pennsylvania (4 reports—PH), and Lock Haven, Mar. 30-31 (CHa). Red Crossbills were reported from Chattoohocsee N.F., Ga., in March (HDi) and from Shenandoah County, Va. in March (RSi). Although there has been a small resident population of Red Crossbills in the mountains of West Virginia and w. Virginia for many years no definite nesting had been shown until this year when a nest was found at 2500 ft on Reddish Knob, Va. (m ob.).

White-crowned Sparrows were rather scarce, but White-throated Sparrows were numerous. Both Song and Field Sparrows were above-average in bandings at P.N.R. (RCL). Henslow's Sparrow has been disappearing steadily for some years in this Region.

The once large population at L. Arthur, Pa. has declined to one pair (PH). Other reports came from North Park, Allegheny Co., May 19 (5-J & BB), Warren County, Pa. (HJ), and Clarksville, Pa., May 24 (RB). The reports of the Grasshopper Sparrow were more encouraging than in recent years.

The Lark Sparrow that wintered near Waynesboro, Va. was present until Mar. 26 (LT) and one was seen near Knoxville Mar. 22 (BS & SJS). Another sparrow that has almost disappeared from our Region is Bachman's but this spring there were two reports: Mar. 23 at Westel, Tenn. (BS) and near Winchester, Va., May 13 (RSi). The most exciting records for this family of the spring were of two reports of **Lark Buntings**: Elizabethton, Tenn., Apr. 26 (first local and second state record) (GW & DL), and from Delmont, Pa., May 25 (fifth w. Pennsylvania record) (M & EF).

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WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

/Kim R. Eckert

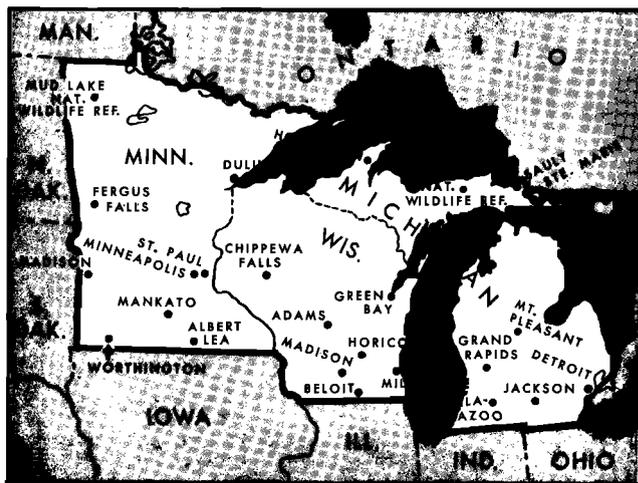
It hardly seems fair. After three dull seasons in a row, this Region's observers felt that they were owed an interesting spring migration. However, this migration was not simply lackluster, but actually the worst in memory according to many. The only interesting aspect of this summary may be the theorizing about why things were so dull and what caused each state to have its own different weather patterns.

Michigan's March migration was a bit late, although a warming trend produced some locally early migration dates. The migration in Wisconsin was also generally slow in March with average or slightly cooler than normal temperatures and a widespread lack of precipitation. March in Minnesota was generally cold, with only a few days of above-average temperatures and normal snowfall. The migrants seemed to be on schedule.

In April the weather became more interesting and confusing, even if the migration did not. Michigan reported alternating cold and warm spells with few average days during the month (e.g., after a mid-month warm front with temperatures in the 80s, Marquette had snow and a below-freezing high temperature April 23). Wisconsin continued mostly cool

and dry during April but also noted record-setting temperatures in the 90s April 21-22, followed by freezing. Heat and cold also alternated in Minnesota, with extreme conditions bordering on the bizarre: six inches of snow fell on the Twin Cities April 8; the mid-month heat wave mentioned above brought a 100°F reading to Fargo-Moorhead April 21 where the lakes were still frozen and some spent the day ice skating in the heat; on the same day it reached 85°F in northeastern

Minnesota except along the North Shore where a Lake Superior wind kept the temperature down to 40°. Normally alternating warm and cold fronts make for a good spring migration, but very little developed throughout the Region. One theory was that colder-than-normal weather, with one winter-like storm after another, hit states farther south in early April and cut off northbound migrants; another theory was that very dry conditions, especially in Wisconsin and Minnesota, persisted even during the passage of



cold fronts so that there was little or nothing to "ground" the migrants, and they just flew over without stopping.

May was normal to cool in Michigan, but at least there were a few modest waves of migrants May 10-11, 15-18 and 20-22. However, none of these waves was significant, and many species were first reported for the season from their breeding grounds and not from some migrant trap farther south. Wisconsin was mostly cool except for a heat-wave late in the month, and persisting dry

conditions resulted in numerous grass and forest fires. There was one good migrant wave May 10-11 in southern Wisconsin, but the rest of the month was abnormally quiet, with some species only trickling through (especially hawks, shorebirds, flycatchers, thrushes, vireos and warblers). Minnesota observers also waited in vain for something to happen in May, but the weather continued dry (fires were also a problem here) and warm (except for cool to average temperatures May 5-14). Some observers found the migration mildly interesting May 10-11, but no major waves were noted and the warm weather failed to produce much in the way of early migration dates. Birds tended to arrive late or not at all, and, as previously mentioned, this spring was one of the least interesting anyone could remember.

LOONS AND GREBES—A good migration of loons managed to develop at Michigan's Whitefish Point Bird Observatory (hereafter, W.P.B.O.): 600+ Commons were counted both May 2 & 3 (GC), and 15 Red-throats were seen May 19-31 (MJ). Wisconsin reported more than its usual share of Red-throated Loons, with 12 at Manitowoc Apr. 11 (Dt) and as many as 22 in Ozaukee County Apr. 11 - May 3 (m.ob.). Minnesota again failed to come up with a single Red-throated on L. Superior, although there was an apparently valid sighting in late April in Koochiching County (*vide* SM). Wisconsin had its fourth **Arctic Loon** sighting May 25 at Superior's Wisconsin Pt. which yielded an observer a three-minute study of a breeding-plumaged adult (RH). A peak of 62 Red-necked Grebes occurred at W.P.B.O., Mich., May 8. In a normal year thousands of grebes, mergansers and gulls congregate along Minnesota's North Shore for the late April - early May smelt run—but this was not a normal year, and the only peak noted was of thousands of Horned Grebes near Two Harbors May 2 (SW). Eared Grebes turned up as far e. as Muskegon, Mich., Apr. 19 (SM *et al.*) and Columbia County, Wis., May 10-19 (MS *et al.*).

HERONS THROUGH GEESE—Little Blue Herons were unexpected in n. Minnesota May 11 at Duluth (D. Follen) and May 13 at Agassiz N.W.R. (SY), and unusual for n. Wisconsin was a Snowy Egret May 12 at Green Bay (CSc). It seems likely that these three extralimital records were the result of the May 10-11 wave mentioned earlier. Also out of range was a Yellow-crowned Night Heron May 22 at Orwell W.M.A., Minn. (G&MO). Minnesota **Mute Swans** are normally dismissed as domesticated, but when they occur on L. Superior the assumption is that they are feral birds from long-established wild flocks in Ashland, Wis., or Michigan wandering across the lake. After only three previous records, an unprecedented number of such sightings occurred this spring: as many as seven individuals were reported on six dates Mar. 8-May 31 between Knife River and Duluth (m.ob.). One of the annual spring highlights in e.c. Wisconsin is usually the thousands of lingering Whistling Swans, but the low numbers this year were one of this spring's many disappointments. Nine Snow

Geese lingered later than usual at five locations in late May, certainly unexpected considering the season, and unusual for Duluth was a White-fronted Goose Apr. 19 (R. Ulvang).

DUCKS—The Cinnamon Teal is considered casual in Minnesota, but four were reported this spring: Apr. 20 in Pipestone County (L&JF), May 11 at Fulda (JHe), May 18 in Anoka County (KL), and at Agassiz N.W.R. in mid-May (J. Mattsson). Another wandered farther E to Madison May 6-11 (AS *et al.*). Three thousand Canvasbacks were counted Apr. 6 at Albert Lea, Minn. (D&MB), a very unusual concentration for this part of the state. A ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye remained at Milwaukee Apr. 1-4 (MD *et al.*). One of the few exceptions to the dull migration was the showing made by the scoters. At W.P.B.O., 3000+ White-winged were counted with peaks of 897 and 1774 May 20 and 21 (WG), and Ozaukee County, Wis. had good peaks of White-winged with 205 Apr. 13 and 400 May 3 (DT). Wisconsin also reported good numbers of Surfs and Blacks, and a Surf Scoter Apr. 14 in Scott County (RJ) was unusually early and unexpected away from L. Superior. An unusually large flock of 2000+ Ruddy Ducks was seen Apr. 20 at Pte. Mouillee, Mich. (EC, WL).

HAWKS—The third Minnesota record of a **Mississippi Kite** came May 25 with an excellent description of an adult at Brown's Valley (S. Greenfield, S. Schon). A very good peak of 1722 Sharp-shinned Hawks was counted May 10 at W.P.B.O. (MJ). Normally, undocumented March Broad-winged Hawk sightings in Minnesota are dismissed as misidentified *Accipiters* or Red-shoulders, but there were so many this year that it appears likely that at least some of them will emerge as having been legitimate, once documentation is reviewed. Unusual for Wisconsin were two Swainson's Hawks Apr. 12 in La Crosse County (BE) and Apr. 26 at Horicon N.W.R. (DT). Ferruginous Hawks are listed as casual in Minnesota, but perhaps only because they are often difficult to separate from atypical Red-taileds which frequent the prairie. A well-documented record came Apr. 23 from Otter Tail County (SM), suggesting that the species may be a rare but regular migrant in w. Minnesota. Golden Eagles were reported in Michigan twice: two immatures were seen Apr. 18 at Mackinaw City (E&PP), and five flew past W.P.B.O. during the season (MJ). A Gyrfalcon was also reported at W.P.B.O., Apr. 18 (WJ), another was identified in Brown County, Wis., Mar. 10 (RH), and the much observed Gyr at Duluth was last seen Mar. 9. Another previously casual raptor in Minnesota on the verge of achieving regular status is the Prairie Falcon; reports this spring came from Castle Danger, Lake Co., Apr. 19 (B. Pieper, D. Ruhme) and L. Elmo, Washington Co., Apr. 27 (DS). W.P.B.O. had a season total of 11 Peregrine Falcons, mostly chasing Blue Jays in May (MJ).

GALLIFORMES AND RAILS—Bobwhites continued scarce in s. Michigan where only a few were reported from five counties.

On the other hand, Ring-necked Pheasants in w. Minnesota again seemed to be up from the very low numbers of a few years ago. Very early for n. Minnesota and rare for Duluth was a Virginia Rail Apr. 21 (KE). Elusive Yellow Rails turned up May 3 in Branch County, Mich. (LW), May 21 in Ashland County, Wis. (DV) and May 27 in Forest County, Wis. (CSc).

SHOREBIRDS—A good concentration of 250 Semipalmated Plovers was found in Columbia County, Wis., May 14 (RH), but much more spectacular in Wisconsin was the movement of Whimbrels May 22 at Manitowoc and Bailey's Harbor where 3000+ were concentrated (JS, CSo, R&CL, *et al.*). The total of 108 Whimbrels at W.P.B.O., May 22 (WG) pales by comparison, and downright pitiful is the fact that Minnesota managed one lone individual at Duluth. Wisconsin also had more than the usual number of Willets with reports from nine counties May 7-31, while the lone Michigan Willet was seen May 18 in Berrien County (DP). Numbers of Marbled Godwits wandered farther E than expected, with sightings from Duluth May 19 (KE), and from six Wisconsin counties Apr. 30-May 28 with a peak of 21 at Long Island May 17 (m.ob.). Michigan had godwit sightings May 3 in Monroe County (TW, AM) and May 10-14 in Kalamazoo County (RA, DP). Hudsonian Godwits also turned up in unexpected numbers in Wisconsin (100± individuals in nine counties) and Michigan (19 individuals at four locations). A ♀ Ruff remained in Dodge County, Wis., May 15-19 (JH and m.ob.). Also unusual for Wisconsin were the 11 Am. Avocets at Milwaukee May 13-22 (m.ob.) and the four at Oshkosh May 15 (TZ). Very unusual for n.e. Minnesota was the Wilson's Phalarope near Isabella May 17-23 (SW).

GULLS AND TERNS—Two Iceland Gulls were reported from Michigan with "excellent details". Rare for the L. Michigan side of Michigan was the Great Black-backed Gull Apr. 26 in Berrien County (WB). Seven Little Gulls returned to the old Two Rivers, Wis. nesting site, the most seen here in years, but for the first time in nine years this gull failed to be seen at Duluth. A Forster's Tern Mar. 28 in Hennepin County, Minn. provided a record early date (DB). Arctic Terns were identified four times in Wisconsin: May 7 in Milwaukee, May 15 in Manitowoc, May 17 in Bayfield County and May 25 at Superior (m.ob.). But more noteworthy and even photographed was Wisconsin's fourth **Least Tern** May 29 at Milwaukee (RG, JJ).

CUCKOOS AND OWLS—An extremely early Black-billed Cuckoo Apr. 22 in Ramsey County, Minn. (M. Olson) was one visible result of the heat wave then occurring. A rare find for Wisconsin was a Hawk Owl Mar. 15-early April in Douglas County (RP), and rare for Minnesota was a pair of Burrowing Owls which took up residence in Clay County and eventually nested (G&MO *et al.*) Formerly an outstanding find in Wisconsin, the Great Gray Owl only rated a "several were reported" comment now that the species appears to be a permanent resident in and around Douglas County (*vide* DF). Three

Long-eared Owl nests were found within a half-mile radius in Duluth Township, St. Louis Co., Minn. (K&MH); Minnesota also had three active Saw-whet nests this spring, one even out in the prairie of Norman County in a grove of aspens (R. Glassel). A calling ♂ Boreal Owl was heard on at least two nights in early May along the Gunflint Trail in Cook County (K&MH), again suggesting that this species nests here regularly. Unfortunately the owl was heard calling from a relatively inaccessible spot and a search for nesting evidence was not attempted. The banding station at W.P.B.O. also caught two Boreals, less than their average, but the two Great Grays banded there offered some compensation for that deficit (*vide* WG).

WOODPECKERS AND FLYCATCHERS—Very unusual for n. Michigan was a Red-bellied Woodpecker May 16 at W.P.B.O. (TC). Also from the Upper Peninsula came the report that the formerly rare Red-headed Woodpecker appeared in good numbers, and that the species is apparently following the northward spread of Dutch elm disease. Normally the N. Three-toed Woodpecker is very rare even in winter, but this spring at least five were reported from n. Michigan and Minnesota. A W. Kingbird wandered as far as W.P.B.O. in May (MJ,TH), and an E. Phoebe was found in n. Michigan in Marquette County Mar. 7, an exceptional date even for s. Michigan (*vide* DM).

SWALLOWS THROUGH MIMIDS—Both Bank and Rough-winged Swallows were reported Apr. 5 in Wabasha County, Minn. (W&DM), an exceptionally early date. A peak of 5100 Blue Jays moved past W.P.B.O., May 31 (WG). Unusually far s. was a Com. Raven Mar. 2 at Cedar Creek Natural History Area, Anoka Co., Minn. (JHO), an area recently discovered to be a southern outpost for several boreal species. Defying the recent decline of the Tufted Titmouse in Minnesota was an individual way up in Duluth Apr. 17 (R. Ulvang). The Barry County, Mich. Bewick's Wren was last seen Apr. 2 (JO), and there was only one Carolina Wren report in Michigan, clear evidence that the species still has not rebounded from those harsh recent winters. An extremely early Gray Catbird was at a Winona County, Minn. feeder Mar. 23 (F. Clark), suggesting this individual was overwintering at an undetected location.

THRUSHES THROUGH STARLING—Veeries were early Apr. 21 at Detroit (*vide* AK) and Apr. 19 at Fairmont, Minn. (EB). Keeping its rare but regular status intact in Minnesota, a Mountain Bluebird appeared in Carver County Mar. 18 (L. Burmeister), and the Townsend's Solitaire at Devil's Lake S.P., Wis. remained into mid-March (m.ob.). Extralimital Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were farther n. than usual at W.P.B.O., May 21-22 (WG) and at Princeton, Minn., May 3 (R. Glassel). Three early Water Pipits appeared Mar. 29 in Dodge County, Wis. (JI), but even more out of the ordinary was a Sprague's Pipit in Duluth May 26 (BL, KE *et al.*), the second record for this location. A count of

5000 Cedar Waxwings moved through Berrien County May 24 (WB). It isn't often anyone has anything significant to say about the Starling, but an estimated 30,000 passed through Berrien County Mar. 28 & Apr. 3 (WG).

VIREOS AND WARBLERS—Minnesota had its sixth **White-eyed Vireo** record when two were seen and heard well in Oxbow County Park, Olmsted Co., May 23 (JB); this species is not nearly as exceptional in Michigan and Wisconsin where for the second spring in a row there were more than the usual number of sightings: 21 at nine Michigan locations and seven at six Wisconsin locations. A Bell's Vireo May 21 at Mountain Lake (RG) represented one of the few records for this species in s.w. Minnesota. Extremely early **Black-and-white Warblers** were found Apr. 7 at Flushing, Mich. (BR) and Apr. 8 at Racine, Wis. (GD). Another **Worm-eating Warbler** incursion took place in Wisconsin with six individuals at five locations; Michigan also reported two. Unusual for s.w. Michigan was a **Blue-winged Warbler** May 10 in Nobles County (RJ). Also unusual were the following scattered exceptional arrival dates for warblers each an obvious result of that heat wave on or about Apr. 20: Nashville Apr. 22 in Hennepin County, Minn. (B&DC), Chestnut-sided Apr. 20 in Duluth (J. Kotar), Pine Apr. 19 in Brown County, Wis. (MW) and Ovenbird Apr. 22 also in Brown County (MW). A long overdue first Minnesota record of a **Yellow-throated Warbler** was finally established when a singing male appeared in Roseville May 6-8 (T. Soulen *et al.*); Michigan also had a sighting May 14 in Kalamazoo County (MG). Other "southern" warblers of note: a **Prairie** in Milwaukee County May 1-11 (JI, MD), seven **Kentuckies** in two Michigan counties and 22 in six Wisconsin counties, 11 chats in four Michigan counties, at least seven in five Wisconsin counties and two in late May in Minnesota at Savage (m.ob.) and in Houston County (E&MF), and several **Hoodeds** in Wisconsin plus two in Minnesota in the Twin Cities area May 17 & 23 (SC, m.ob.).

ICTERIDS AND TANAGERS—An early **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was found Mar. 29 at Fergus Falls, Minn. (G&MO); also very early for Minnesota was a **N. Oriole** Apr. 11 at Duluth (*vide* K. Sundquist). Berrien County reported a substantial blackbird migration Apr. 3 which included at least 20,000 Com. Grackles and 100,000± **Red-winged Blackbirds**. Wisconsin had its tenth modern record of **Western Tanager** with a male at a feeder in Milwaukee May 8-19 (LS). Wisconsin also had the only **Summer Tanagers** with singles May 10 in Milwaukee County (DG) and May 11 in Dane County (RH). Complete details are still to come on a ♂ **Scarlet Tanager** in full breeding plumage seen in Anoka County, Minn., by a thoroughly reliable observer Apr. 2—an "impossible" date, but what else resembles a **Scarlet Tanager**?

CARDINAL THROUGH LARK BUNTING—Very rare for Minnesota northeast of Duluth was a **Cardinal** May 7-9 in Lake

County (T. Murphy). Early for the Detroit area was a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** Apr. 17 (*vide* AK). Very few **Blue Grosbeaks** are seen in Minnesota beyond the s.w. corner, so the male May 27 at Burnsville was noteworthy (KG). Exceptionally large numbers of **Dickcissels** appeared in Wisconsin in late May, this influx was also noted in s. Minnesota later during the summer season. Although there is no positive nesting record for the **White-winged Crossbill** in Minnesota, many family groups including fledged juveniles were found in Cook County during March and April; singing males in display flights had been seen here earlier. Several **White-wingeds** were also found Mar. 22-May 13 in Porcupine Mountains S.P., some of them singing males (MP, LW). The **Green-tailed Towhee** which overwintered at Mercer, Wis., was last seen Apr. 15, and a ♂ **Lark Bunting** appeared at a Manitowoc feeder May 20 (ph—JS).

SPARROWS AND LONGSPURS—A **Baird's Sparrow** was reportedly seen at Crex Meadows W.M.A., Wis., May 25 (CSC) Quite unusual for w. Minnesota was a **Henslow's Sparrow** in May at Big Stone N.W.R. (R. Glassel), although there was a flurry of reports nearby later in the summer. Early for the Detroit area was a **Grasshopper Sparrow** Apr. 19 (*vide* AK); also early for Minnesota were **Field Sparrows** Mar. 8 in Ramsey County (BL) and Mar. 19 in Houston County (E&MF). A large movement of some 400 **White-crowned Sparrows** was noted in Milwaukee County May 10 (JI, MD), and a remarkable concentration of 52 **Fox Sparrows** were at a single feeder May 9 in Washington County, Minn. (V. Rudolph) Finally, the best find of the season in Michigan was certainly the first-state-record of the **Chestnut-collared Longspur**, May 31 at W.P.B.O., an unmistakable male in breeding plumage (MJ, DR *et al.*).

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Wisconsin and 58 from Minnesota) whose welcome observations did not directly contribute to the preparation of this report.—KIM R. ECKERT, 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804.

MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

/Vernon M. Kleen

The 1980 spring migration was different from that usually encountered. It began in a normal way, but the extensive cool weather retarded migration nearly two weeks. Additionally, the dry conditions forced water-associated species to pass over normal stopping places and concentrate in the few remaining favorable locations. Once species arrived, they rarely lingered. A definite peak migration period occurred: May 10-21; there were few overflights noted.

March was a rather cool month and ice lingered on lakes and ponds. April and early May were also cool except for the 90-degree temperatures on April 21-22. The greatest problem was the lack of moisture—except for the unprecedented 5-8 inch snowstorm of April 14. Conditions were so dry that most wet areas had dried up by the time shorebirds arrived. Although the drought was a disaster locally, it was a bonus for those who lived near the remaining wet areas as large numbers of shorebirds concentrated—including rarities.

The season should be most noted for its importance to the recovery of those species dramatically affected by the past severe winters. Nearly all affected species demonstrated the beginnings of a population recovery.

As usual, all extraordinary sight records must be thoroughly documented at the time of observation. For the spring season, 191 documentation forms were received: Illinois, 56; Ohio, 49; Indiana, 36; Iowa, 36; Missouri, 10; and Kentucky, 4. In addition, 26 photographs were received. All documented records have been denoted by a dagger (†). Records which were not satisfactorily documented were either omitted or placed in the UNCORROBORATED RECORDS section.

As a reading aid, the following abbreviations have been used in the text: L. Cal. = Lake Calumet, Ill.; M.M.W.A. = Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, O.; O.W.R. = Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, O.; S.C.R. = Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Mo.; and Spfld. = Springfield, Ill.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES—Common Loons passed through in fewer than typical numbers; as usual, a few lingered well into May. Two Red-throated Loons were noted at Prairie Creek Reservoir, Ind., May 10 (†LC, †KB). The only Red-necked Grebe was at Lorain, O., Mar. 11 (†JP). It was a moderate flight year for Horned Grebes; the largest groups were: along L. Erie, 30-35 birds; Louisville, 35; and Spfld., 20; late departures lingered at Champaign, Ill., until June 4 (†RCh) and other areas until May 10-18.

Eared Grebes were found in fourteen areas Mar. 22-May 15 with the exception of one bird in Mills County, Ia., June 1 (BW). Pied-billed Grebes were widespread but in small numbers; the only exception was 380 birds at St. Joseph, Mo., Apr. 17 (L). The White Pelican flight was either sparse or missed in w. Missouri, but several thousand were noted in w. Iowa Apr. 26 (RM); the birds were scarce elsewhere.

Illinois Department of Conservation counts showed a high of 1065 Double-crested Cormorants along the Mississippi and Illinois rivers, Mar. 27 and 1252 Apr. 17 (RCr); in addition, there were 318 in s. Illinois Mar. 25 and 248 in n.e. Illinois Mar. 26 (RCr); up to 60 were present at S.C.R., Apr. 23 (L) and 24 at Hudson, O., Apr. 13 (LRO); it was a good flight year in many areas. The Great Blue Heron must have suffered a poor migratory season in Indiana, Ohio and Illinois. Little Blue Herons were noted at one Kentucky, two Missouri, one Indiana, four Ohio, one Iowa and four Illinois locations, Mar. 23 (Olney, Ill.—LH)—May 18 (O.W.R.—m.ob.); three of the locations were at or near nesting colonies. Cattle Egrets were found in one Kentucky, four Missouri, two Iowa, four Indiana, two Ohio, and eight Illinois locations beginning Apr. 3 (Madison County, Ill.—PS); two arrival periods were detectable: Apr. 3-15 and May 6-13. Few Great Egrets were encountered; the highest single encounter was 15 at L. Renwick (Plainfield), Ill., Apr. 20 (WM). Snowy Egrets appeared in six locations: S.C.R. & Swan Lake N.W.R., Mo.; O.W.R., Riverton, Ia.; Horseshoe L. (Madison County—nesting area) and Bureau County, Ill. Maximum counts of Black-crowned Night Herons were 62, 57 & 18 in Missouri; 33 in Kentucky; and 75, 40 & 33 in Illinois; the species was widespread in all states in small numbers. Yellow-crowned Night Herons were reported as singles at seven locations beginning Mar. 16 (Ohio) but primarily May 5-16. Eighteen Least Bitterns were observed—widely reported. More Am. Bitterns were encountered; the species was "absent" from Kentucky and scarce in Missouri and Indiana. From one to three White-faced Ibises were present at Horseshoe L., Madison Co., Ill., Apr. 28 - May 4 (fm. ob.); three were also present at Swan L., Calhoun Co., Ill. May 3-4 (†HWu, †PS). Two dark ibises, identity not discernible, were noted at M.M.W.A., May 11 (†JP).

WATERFOWL—One or two Mute Swans were reported from four locations. Whistling Swans passed through in late March and early April; a peak of 400 was noted in Wayne County, O., Mar. 29 but had arrived there by Mar. 8 (JHe); the species was noted at ten or more locations thought to be away from its regular migratory route. Moderate numbers of White-fronted Geese were reported; the 34 in Wayne County, O., Mar. 23-27 was the largest flock ever reported in Ohio (JHe); 33



birds were found at Jasper-Pulaski, Ind., Apr. 5 (CK, TK); more than usual were noted in e. & c. Iowa; up to 75 were found at Horseshoe L., Ill., Mar. 18 (BR). Single Ross' Geese were discovered in two Iowa counties: Fremont Mar. 19 (†T) and Mills Mar. 21 (†BW). Small numbers of ducks lingered to late May at various locations; included were: Gadwall (Ohio, Indiana and Illinois), Pintail (Indiana), Green-winged Teal (Indiana and Illinois), N. Shoveler (Indiana and Illinois), Redhead and Canvasback (Indiana), and Ring-necked Duck (Illinois). Ohio established its fourth state record for Cinnamon Teal at M.M.W.A., May 11 (†VF, m.ob.); the species was also documented at Spfld., Apr. 13-14 (†H, m.ob.) and reported from S.C.R., Mar. 21 - Apr. 19 (L) and Cone Marsh, Ia., Apr. 5-19 (TSt, m.ob.). A European Wigeon made an Ottawa County, O. appearance, Apr. 6 (†JP *et al.*). Greater Scaup were encountered at several inland locations; a peak of 2200 occurred at Lorain, O., Mar. 1 (JP). The first Tufted Duck ever documented for Ohio was present at Lorain Mar. 3-14 (†TL, m.ob.). What appears to be a hybrid Bufflehead X Hooded Merganser (photo) was present in s. Cook County, Ill., May 4 (†WM). The majority of Oldsquaw reported were from inland locations (including an 11:2 ratio in Ohio); 14 were found in w. Grundy County, Ill., Apr. 3 (RCr) and one was present at Prairie Creek Reservoir, Ind., May 12 (†KB). Single Harlequin Ducks occurred at Michigan City, Ind., through Mar. 22 (KB) and Lorain, O., May 2 (†JP). A King Eider was present in Erie County, O., Apr. 6 (†JP). Only small numbers of scoters were observed, primarily at inland locations. Merganser migration was normal.

VULTURES THROUGH FALCONS—The 207 Turkey Vultures at Crane Creek S.P., O., Apr. 6 and 121 at Lorain, O., Apr. 2 (JP) were exceptional. A Goshawk was documented in Porter County, Ind., Mar. 15 (†KB). Sharp-shinned Hawks were widely encountered in excellent numbers; the 109 at Lorain, O., Apr. 26 (JP) and 107 at Cleveland the next day (M) were noteworthy; 91 were also tallied at Crane Creek S.P., O., Apr. 6 (JP). Cooper's Hawks have demonstrated a mild comeback. Counts of 211 & 187 Red-tailed Hawks at Crane Creek S.P., O., Apr. 6 & Mar. 19 (JP), respectively, were noteworthy. So was the count of 64 Red-shouldered Hawks there, Mar. 19 (JP); this species, too, is becoming more numerous in more areas. The only really large flights of

Broad-winged Hawks reported were the 600 birds at Sweet Marsh, Ia., Apr. 26 (FM) and 257 at Cleveland Apr. 27 (M); 1161 were counted along L. Erie Apr. 24 - May 13 (JP). A Swainson's Hawk was reported from St. Louis Apr. 10 & 12 (PS, m.ob.). Rough-legged Hawks were almost absent. The report of 10-12 Golden Eagles Mar. 8 - May 1 was rather high for the Region; four of the birds were in Ohio. The departure of Bald Eagles was recorded along the Mississippi and Illinois rivers during March when the count of 829 Mar. 18 dropped to 322 Mar. 27 and 88 Apr. 4; they were 60-65% adults (RCr). Marsh Hawks were scarce; one remained in a Warrick County, Ind., strip mine May 31+ (JCa); 24 were counted at Crane Creek S.P., O., Apr. 17 (JP). Only 64 Ospreys were reported. A dark-phase Gyrfalcon was documented at Spfld., Mar. 31 (†H). The migration of Peregrine Falcons was noteworthy this spring; fourteen were reported (nine documented) Mar. 27 - May 30 (but primarily May 2-15) in all states except Iowa. Merlins were also widely reported; some observers apparently had difficulty with this species and therefore all observations are to be documented.

PRAIRIE CHICKENS THROUGH COOTS—The 335 birds in the Illinois Greater Prairie Chicken sanctuaries constitute a 55% increase since 1979 (RW) marking the first recent gain. The Bobwhite is still scarce, but is definitely "bouncing back". The same is true for the Ring-necked Pheasant. The flight of Sandhill Cranes was detected in n.e. Illinois Mar. 22 - Apr. 5 with flocks flying overhead in mid-day (JC, JL); 12 birds were noted at Westville, Ill., Mar. 27 (MC)—which is somewhat s. of the expected flight corridor; 25 were noted in Oldham County, Ky., Mar. 7 (*fide* S). Normal numbers of Virginia Rails and Soras were reported. At least ten Yellow Rails were reported from five states—most documented—Apr. 19 - May 18; the species was not observed in Kentucky. Black Rails were described for L. Rockwell, O., Apr. 4 (†LRO) and Dayton, O., Apr. 19 (†HB). Two Purple Gallinules made a Lorain, O., appearance, Apr. 18 (†JP—ph) and another at Hamlin, Ky., May 15-16 (†JEr). Common Gallinules were widely reported—especially in Illinois; however, the population in Ohio was believed to be declining. The Am. Coot was present in normal numbers everywhere except S.C.R. where 20-30,000 were noted this spring (L).

SHOREBIRDS—The dry spring apparently caused these birds to congregate at certain ideal locations; however, for most areas the shorebird migration was less than spectacular. Piping Plovers were noted in n.w. Missouri and n.e. Illinois Apr. 18-30. A **Snowy Plover** at Gary, Ind., May 19 was documented, for the first state record (†RG, †m.ob.). The 180, 175, & 100+ Semipalmated Plovers at Iowa City, Ia., May 13 (TG); O.W.R., May 11 (J); and in Franklin County, Ind., May 21 (JI) were noteworthy. As usual, large numbers of Am. Golden Plovers (in excess of 1000 in four areas) were reported. Ruddy Turnstones were "common" in mid-to-late May around Chicago, but scarce elsewhere. The 400 Com. Snipe at St.

Louis Apr. 7 (JJ) was high; as was the 150 at Cincinnati Apr. 19 (DS). Nineteen Whimbrels were noted at Waukegan May 18 (†JN) and 12 were at Ill. Beach S.P., May 26 (JG); singles were reported from Dayton, O., Apr. 19 (*fide* CM) and Gary, Ind., May 10 (†RG). Upland Sandpipers were widely reported—but usually as singles or pairs. The 49 Red Knots at O.W.R., May 17 (LRO, m.ob.) and 30 at Swan Lake N.W.R., Mo., May 11 (†BG *et al.*) were impressive; only three others were reported anywhere. White-rumped Sandpipers moved through as expected, but in large numbers in w. Missouri. Indiana's first **Curlew Sandpiper** was recorded in Lake County, Mar. 23 (†KB, †m.ob.); since the bird occurred precisely on the Indiana/Illinois line, it also constitutes the fifth Illinois record. The small numbers of Stilt Sandpipers recorded were welcome additions to many areas—primarily Illinois. Fourteen Marbled Godwits were observed (in all states except Kentucky)—all as singles except for the five at Rochelle, Ill., May 15 (LJ *et al.*). There were many Hudsonian Godwits as evidenced by the 300 at Swan Lake N.W.R., Mo., May 11 (BG *et al.*) and 39 at Rochelle, Ill., May 15 (LJ); smaller numbers were noted at 17 other widespread locations. All three Ruffs reported were in Illinois: Apr. 6 (Lawrence County—†LH, †DeJ—ph.); Apr. 20 (Wabash County—†LH, †DeJ); May 9 (Urbana—†RCh). The 13 Sanderlings near Riverport, Ia., May 13 were high for the area (RS *et al.*). From 1-25 Am. Avocets were encountered in eight locations excluding Missouri and Kentucky. The report of 38 Wilson's Phalaropes at Swan Lake N.W.R., Mo., May 12 (TB) was rather high. Seven N. Phalaropes were reported from Mills County, Ia., May 24 (†BW); five were present at M.M.W.A., May 17 (J, TB); and singles or pairs were found at six other locations.

GULLS AND TERNS—Glaucous Gulls remained beyond mid-April at four lakeshore locations; two were present at Horseshoe L., Madison Co., Ill., Mar. 9 (BR). The latest Iceland Gull occurred in Lake County, Ill., Mar. 19 (JN). Illinois' first **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was documented at Chicago Apr. 27-28 (†PC, m.ob.); the Huron, O., bird remained through Mar. 26 (JP). There was an "invasion" of Laughing Gulls—three at Waukegan (all of different ages), June 1 (†JN—ph); two in Macoupin County, Ill., May 10 (†MSw); two at Cleveland, May 24 (TI); and singles at six other Ohio and Illinois locations. Two Little Gulls were noted at Lorain O., May 17 (JP). the Ohio Heermann's Gull remained to Mar. 12 (JP, m.ob.). There were moderate flights of both the Forster's (usually the most common) and Com. terns. A Least Tern appeared at S.C.R., May 21 (L). It was an excellent season for both the Caspian and Black terns.

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS—Both species of cuckoos were late; there were good numbers of both, but not as many as last year. There were four reports of Barn Owls, including three young at Gas City, Ind., May 10 (NL). single Short-eared Owls were noted at Chicago Apr. 27 (WM) and at Rockford, Ill., Apr. 17 (LJ). Saw-whet Owls were detected in four states in March

and last noted at Chicago Apr. 14 (PC, m.ob.). Good numbers of Chuck-will's-widows were encountered including areas farther north than usual. Whip-poor-wills had arrived at two Kentucky locations by Apr. 3. Some observers believed that Com. Night-hawks were fewer in numbers, suggesting that the decline may be owing to the disappearance of flat-roofed buildings in many cities. A Chimney Swift had arrived at Dayton, O., by Apr. 3 (CM) and in Fulton County, Ill., Apr. 6 (KM). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were thought to be in normal numbers in the south, but in decreasing numbers in the north. There continued to be a modest increase in Pileated Woodpeckers farther north than usual. The number of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers appeared down, lingerers were noted well into May in five states and one at Westville, Ill., until June 9 (MC).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CROWS—Three W. Kingbirds were observed: one each at Glasgow, Mo., May 15 (TB); St. Louis May 26 (†RA); and in Mills County, Ia., May 21 (BW). The pair of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in Callaway County, Mo., was e. of its expected range, May 17 (TB); the one in Warren County, Ind., May 9 was exceptional (†WR). It was an excellent migration for Yellow-bellied Flycatchers; 18 were banded at M.M.W.A., May 29 (JP). Both Willow and Alder Flycatchers passed through in expected numbers; a Willow was identified in Kentucky as early as May 4; the earliest Alder was encountered May 17 (Lawrence County, Ill.—LH). An E. Wood Pewee had arrived at Lorain, O., Apr. 18 (JP); 28 were banded at M.M.W.A., May 29 (JP). Olive-sided Flycatchers were more widely reported (except in Indiana) than in most years. Large numbers of Tree Swallows passed through, arriving in late March and peaking in early April: 1700 at Lorain, O., Apr. 8 (JP); and 900 at Bristol, Ind., Apr. 9 (*fide* HWe). A Cliff Swallow had arrived at Dayton, O., by Mar. 25 (CM *et al.*); flocks of 30 to 300 were reported from six areas (four states) for unusually high concentrations; the large flocks were noted May 7-26 (m.ob.). The count of 1200 Blue Jays at M.M.W.A., May 10 (BS *et al.*) was comparable to the 221/hour at Cleveland (M) the same day; however, the rate increased to more than 700/hour at Cleveland May 21 (M). Six Fish Crows were reported from St. Charles County, Mo., Apr. 19 (PB) and "dozens" were noted near Columbus, Ky., Apr. 21-22 (JEr); there were normal numbers between these locations.

NUTHATCHES THROUGH THRUSHES—Red-breasted Nuthatches were very scarce—absent entirely from some states. Brown Creepers were regularly reported but were most noteworthy during mid and late-May in three Ohio and three c. Illinois locations—all suggestive of breeding. House Wrens were late in arriving and were found in low numbers. Winter Wrens staged a minicomeback. Reports of Bewick's Wrens in Missouri were very encouraging: "more than usual," "seems on the upswing," "nesting," etc.; the species was still scarce, but found in unexpected places; Urbana, Ill., Apr. 13 (RCh); Chicago Apr. 13 (EA *et al.*); Spfld.,



Male Bufflehead X Hooded Merganser with ♀ Bufflehead, Powderhorn Marsh, Chicago, May 4, 1980. Photo/Walter J. Marcisz.



Above, two views of Sutton's Warbler, Warren County, Ind., Apr. 26, 1980. Photo/Delano Z. Arvin.



Heermann's Gull, Lorain Municipal Pier, Ohio, Mar. 4, 1980. First record for Ohio. Photos/John Pogacnik.



Curlew Sandpiper, Lake County, Ind., May 23, 1980. Photo/?



Ruff, Lawrence County, Ill., Apr. 6, 1980. Photo/Denny Jones.

Apr 11 (H); and Martinsville, Ind., Apr. 2 (TPo, m.ob.). Carolina Wrens demonstrated the first stages of a comeback (m.ob.). Mockingbirds remain scarce—but they, too, are gradually gaining in numbers and distribution. Catbirds were late in arriving and some observers even suggested lower numbers. There were large concentrations of Am. Robins (especially in Kentucky). The two Ohio Varied Thrushes remained until mid-March; one made an Illinois appearance (Winthrop Harbor) Apr. 20 - May 1 (†JN—ph.). The thrush migration was highly variable—but it was generally held that all (with the possible exception of the Hermit) were late in arriving; only the Hermit and Veery were encountered at or above expected numbers and the Swainson's and Gray-cheeked (especially) were recorded in lower-than-expected numbers. There were conflicting reports concerning E. Bluebird; however, the species remained scarce—although there were definite signs of a population increase. A **Mountain Bluebird** was photographed at Mason City, Ia., Mar. 16 (CN).

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS—A wave of 40-50 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was present at Hamlin, Ky., Apr. 8 (JEr); the species was not as common region-wide as it was in 1979. The number of Golden-crowned Kinglets (despite the absence reported by some) appeared to be increasing; 32 were noted at Spfld., Apr. 2 (H); from 2-10 birds were reported from eight Iowa locations. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were "almost back to normal" in Ohio, but "not common" in the Chicago area; there were several early migrants encountered, especially in Iowa. The only Bohemian Waxwing was present at Cedar Falls, Ia., Mar. 9 and the only N. Shrike was in Clayton County, Ia., the previous day (FM). Loggerhead Shrikes were widely reported—but still in small numbers; an example included 14 birds in Iowa, Mar. 26 - May 31; a nest was found at Rockford, Ill. (LJ). A White-eyed Vireo had arrived at Cincinnati by Apr. 9 (*vide* W); two were found in St. Joseph County, Ind., May 10 and they were noted from four Iowa locations. The Bell's Vireo at Toledo, O., beginning May 21 was considered noteworthy there (†ET); the species did not arrive in Vermilion County, Ill. until June 12 (MC). Solitary Vireos may have been scarce this spring. The Apr. 20 presence of a Philadelphia Vireo at Hamlin, Ky. was certainly early; the species was only modestly encountered this spring. A Warbling Vireo had arrived at Cincinnati by Apr. 11 (*vide* W).

WARBLERS—As a group, they arrived from one to two weeks late and were encountered in very large numbers May 10-21; otherwise, their migration was "something less than spectacular." Some of the species encountered in greater-than-usual numbers were: Blue-winged, Nashville, Black-throated Blue (in the east), Yellow-rumped, Palm, Ovenbird, N. Waterthrush and Yellow-breasted Chat; those found in lower numbers were: Prothonotary, Tennessee (in the east), Black-throated Green, Blackpoll and Wilson's. There were only three reports of Swainson's Warblers: Trigg County, Ky.,

(one) May 10 (ABA *et al.*); in Pope County, Ill., (one) May 10 (MBi); and in Johnson County, Ill., (two) June 1 (K *et al.*); the species was not found at the best-known Missouri location nor at any of the other Illinois locations; the birds were not singing this year.

Worm-eating Warblers arrived Apr. 20 Springfield, (Mo., CBO) and Westville, Ill. (MC); minor overflights were detected by the presence of birds at St. Joseph, Mo., May 9-14 (L); S. Bend, Ind., May 4 (*vide* HWe); M.M.W.A., May 11 (JF); Euclid, O., May 22 (TL); and Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., Ia., May 13 (TSh). Dozens of Blue-winged Warblers were encountered at Hamlin, Ky., Apr. 13 (JEr). There were seven reports of "Brewster's" Warblers including one that returned to Columbus, and another to Mansfield, O., for the second year (†SM); another documented was at Cleveland May 15 (†M). The two documented records of "Lawrence's" Warblers were at Cleveland May 7 (†M) and in Lorain County, O., May 17-31 (†JP). An Orange-crowned Warbler was at a St. Louis feeder Feb. 27 - Mar. 31 (†KAr); migrants arrived Regionwide Apr. 18-23—rather early.

S.A.

"During late April on the Tippecanoe/Warren county line s. of Greenhill, Ind., Ted and Sue Ulrich noted an unusual warbler which superficially resembled a Yellow-throated Warbler, but gave the monosyllabic and multisyllabic songs of the Parula. Their alert to others produced a series of excellent photographs by DA and the eventual netting of the bird by EH. Noted in the hand were the small greenish patch in the middle of the back of *Parula americana* and a reduced white cheek patch and faint flank stripes characteristic of *Dendroica dominica*. The bird has subsequently been studied by many and the consensus of opinion is that it is a good example of *Dendroica potomac*, the so-called **Sutton's Warbler**. When last seen (June 1), pair association with a ♀ Parula was noted." (CK, ph—DA).

Yellow Warblers were termed "overabundant" in the Chicago-area after May 10 (JL). There were two reports of Black-throated Blue Warblers in Iowa and one in Missouri (May 20 at St. Louis, PS *et al.*), normal numbers elsewhere. Illinois' first record for a **Townsend's Warbler** was that of a female at Chicago, May 6 (†PC, †m.ob.). The ♂ **Black-**

throated Gray Warbler at Lorain, O., Apr 20 may have been the first for that state (†JP). Yellow-throated Warblers were encountered in modest numbers in areas farther n. than traditionally expected (Iowa, Ohio and Indiana). Chestnut-sided Warblers were noted in larger numbers in Kentucky, Missouri and Illinois—but in reduced numbers in Ohio. The Palm Warbler was very common and departed much later than usual. Mid-to-late March arrivals of Pine Warblers were typical. A ♀ **Kirtland's Warbler** was caught, banded and photographed at M.M.W.A., May 21 (†ET). There was a "smattering" of Connecticut Warblers in Indiana, but at least nine records for St. Louis (May 10-25) and two in Iowa (May 18-24); they were normally distributed elsewhere. The most northerly encounters of Hooded Warblers were singles at Pocahontas, Ia., May 18 (RCu) and in Winnebago County, Ill., May 26 (LJ). Hundreds of Am Redstarts were noted at Hamlin, Ky., May 14-16 (JEr) and 47 were counted at the Kankakee F.W.A., Ind., May 10 (DB).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH TANAGERS—Bobolinks made appearances in excellent numbers where habitat was available. The E. Meadowlark population is on the verge of recovery; 92 birds were counted in St. Joseph County, Ind., May 10 (HWe). A few W. Meadowlarks were found somewhat e. of normal expectations—among several reports four were from n.w. Ohio; and one from Hancock County, Ind. (*vide* HW). Yellow-headed Blackbirds returned to Missouri Apr. 10-16 (with 224 at S.C.R. by Apr. 26); they arrived at Gary, Ind., by Apr. 17 and have subsequently nested there for the first state record in 40 years (KB, m.ob.), singles were noted at Crane Creek S.P., O., May 14 (JP) and in Lucas County, O., May 18 (†KA1); separate individuals were found in Champaign County, Ill., May 14 & 15 (†RCH, †EW); and nests were located in traditional n.e. Illinois locations (m.ob.). An Orchard Oriole had arrived at Hamlin, Ky., by Apr. 9 (JEr). An excellent number of N. Orioles was reported. Brewer's Blackbirds were encountered in Lawrence County, Ill., Apr. 5-20 (max. = 37, Apr. 8—†LH) and in Lake County, Ill., Apr. 12 - May 18 (max. = 9, May 10—JN); at least one was noted at both Gary and Willow Slough, Ind., Mar. 27 & 29 (KB), respectively and another at M.M.W.A., May 16 (JHo). **Great-tailed Grackles** (one ♂, two ♀) returned to Holt County, Mo., and have bred for the second consecutive year (TB). There was a very

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minor overflight of Summer Tanagers—three reports in n. counties (two in Ohio, one in Illinois). There were two **Western Tanagers**: one at Forney L. (s.w. Iowa), Apr. 26 (†RMy, †RS); and one at Belmont, Ill., May 11 (†JL *et al.*).

FRINGILLIDS—Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were very common this spring; 215 were estimated at L. Waveland, Ind., May 10 (ABr). There were more Blue Grosbeaks than usually reported both e. and n. beginning May 9 (in s.w. Iowa) and May 11 (M.M.W.A.); one had arrived in Kentucky by Apr. 17. There were two May 19 records of Painted Buntings in Missouri: Springfield and Forsythe. there were conflicting reports about the abundance/scarcity of Dickcissels in n.w. Iowa; however, the species continued to be scarce in many parts of the Region—especially in the east; one bird was present at a Champaign County, Ill., feeder Mar. 15 (HP). There were very few reports of Evening Grosbeaks; however, the 35 at Connersville Ind., Feb. 22 - Mar. 16 (HW) and 30 at Mohican S.P., O., Mar. 2 (JHe) were exceptional. Purple Finches were rarely encountered—and then only as singles or pairs except for the flocks of up to 15 in n.e. Ohio in early May; departures were last recorded in late April or early May with the bird caught and banded at Spfld., May 21 (K) the latest. The flock of House Finches in Pulaski County, Ky., Mar. 1 - Apr. 29 reached a peak of 137 birds, Mar. 9 (JE1); 80 were banded at Lorain, O., during the period and young were noted there, Apr. 20 (JP) and at Cleveland (JHo); two were found at Porter, Ind., May 9 (†CF) and one at Crown Point, Ind., Apr. 3 (†KB); another was present at Danville, Ill., May 2 (†ME). A total of eleven Pine Siskins was reported. Red Crossbills were found at four locations (one Missouri, two Ohio and one Illinois—the latter part of a breeding colony). Only six Sharp-tailed Sparrows were reported—two at Mosquito L., O., May 17 (†CJ) and singles at four n.e. Illinois locations May 14-20 (JG, PC). Fifty pairs of Henslow's Sparrows were noted at Atterbury F.W.A., Ind., in mid-May (CK); otherwise, there were expected numbers encountered. Grasshopper Sparrows were termed abundant at Westville, Ill. (MC) but scarce throughout Ohio (m.ob.) and with only scattered reports in Iowa (m.ob.). Single Bachman's Sparrows were reported from Hamlin, Ky., Apr. 19 (JEr); Louisville May 4 (S); and Ava, Mo., May 19 (L). Clay-colored Sparrows were reported from only Iowa and Illinois Apr. 25 - May 21 (m.ob.). Fox and Lincoln's sparrows were plentiful this spring. The 37 Lapland Longspurs in Lake County, Ill., May 10 were exceptionally late. Smith's Longspurs were reported from five Illinois counties Mar. 21 - Apr. 26; maximum flocks were up to 300 birds occurring right after the Apr. 14 snowstorm (m.ob.). Illinois' first confirmed **Chestnut-colored Longspur** was documented at Spfld., Mar. 29 (†H, m.ob.). A Snow Bunting was found amongst several Smith's Longspurs in Madison County, Ill., Apr. 15 (just after the heavy snowstorm—BR); the latest to depart Ohio was Mar. 17 at Lorain (JP).

EXOTICS—A Ringed Turtle Dove was at Dayton, O., Mar. 11 - May 31+ (CM).

CORRIGENDUM—Illinois' Groove-billed Ani record (AB: 34:168) should be corrected and amended since there were two different birds: one at Olive Park (Chicago) Oct. 6 (†JL, m.ob.) and another at Evanston Oct. 13 (†RE, m.ob.).

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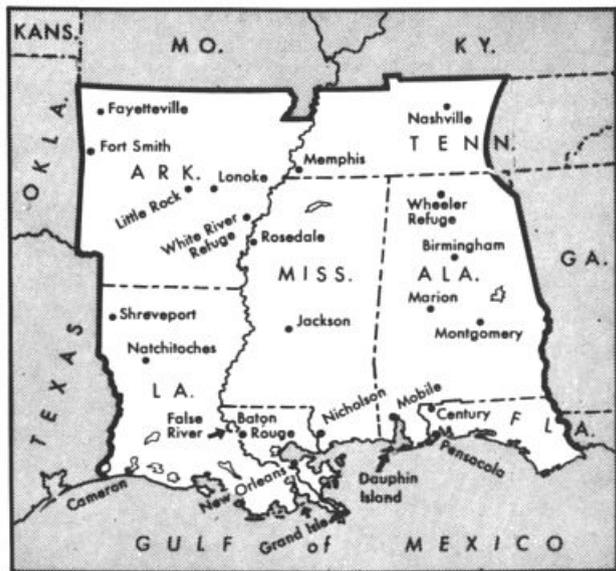
CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION
/Thomas A. Imhof

Generally spring 1980 was cold and wet throughout the Region and throughout the period. Thus on May 31 Birmingham had an accumulated deficiency of 204° F and its 41.3 inches of rain was 16.07 in excess. This means that each day of 1980 averaged 1.34° F cooler than normal and experienced 0.27 inches of rain. The birds had many extra difficulties this spring: cooler and rainier weather, bottomland flooding, faster river currents, delays in development of leaves, flowers, fruits and in the emergence of insects.

In this region spring migration is normally such a hurried affair that in good weather the birds usually pass by unseen. Bad weather especially on or near the coast, means that the birder has a better chance to see birds, often in spectacular concentrations. Thus the Duncans at Gulf Breeze labelled this season the "best since we have been birding." Greg Jackson at Mobile called it "good for regular migrants but only a few really unusual species." Mary Gaillard, also in Mobile, was more specific: "Good birding days on Dauphin Island were April 4-6, 12 (wonderful),

13-14 (fantastic), 26, 28, May 1, 3, 7." Jack Rheinoehl commented that there were many good days in New Orleans with many species in excellent numbers; best days were April 8 (17 species of warblers), 13 (following 10-12 inches of rain) with 98 species (21 warblers) by one observer (JR).

Far inland the migration is steadier and more dependable but with fewer big fallouts. Thus Birmingham (TI) experienced good bird variety on March 24-26, 29, 31, April 2, 6, 12, 15, 18, 24—May 4 (11 days). Charlie Duncan, also of Birmingham, reported an "exciting spring with good numbers of individuals and species, most right on schedule." At Wheeler Refuge on May 3, 17 observers logged the biggest inland species list for Alabama: 177



species featuring 15 lingering waterfowl, 17 shorebirds and 34 warblers. In Memphis, Ben Coffey judged the migration "late and poor but with nice waves on April 18-21, 29, May 2 and heavy on May 11, bird baths heavily used" Arkansas' above-average rainfall and cool temperatures featured a freak mid-April snowstorm that surprised everyone (CM).

April 12 was a long day of heavy rain throughout much of the Region and many bird migration "schedules" were disrupted. Note in the account below how often April 12 & 13 are mentioned.

LOONS AND GREBES—A Red-throated Loon at Biloxi Mar. 15 (JT, LG, SP) was very likely the same bird that was at Pensacola and Gulf Shores in December. A small loon reported from the Mississippi Coast, Mar. 15 & 30 with some Arctic Loon details is, in view of two nearby records of the Red-throated Loon in the winter report, a very difficult record to determine. A Horned Grebe at Walker County L., May 23 (DR, FC) was the latest for Alabama; there are no summer records. The Eared Grebe, for which there are several summer records for Mississippi and Alabama, peaked at 64 at Hattiesburg March 1 and two lingered there May 31 (TF, DHa).

PELICANLIKE BIRDS—Arkansas' greatest concentration of White Pelicans was 1300+ at Arkadelphia Apr. 12 (FB). An ad. Brown Booby at Alabama Pt., Apr. 27 (RL, DC) signaled the sixth year in a row that this species has been recorded off Alabama. Mississippi's first Olivaceous Cormorant last Aug 4 was only 65 mi away from and five months before Alabama's second Great Cormorant this January and March. Which state will be the first to have three cormorants?

HERONS AND IBISES—The earliest Green Heron ever reported for Alabama was seen Mar. 9 near Montevallo (DF, DWm, MWm). From the Tennessee Valley of Alabama, where high DDT concentrations have been a plague, came encouraging news of a colony of 79 Green Herons, 44 ad., 35 juv., near Decatur May 31 (RL, CC). An unidentified dark ibis was seen May 29 at Petal, Miss., 75 mi inland (TF).

WATERFOWL—Gratifying counts from Louisiana included 12,000 Snow Geese in Calcasieu Par., Mar. 19 (B&SO), 2545 Fulvous Whistling Ducks in s. Evangeline Par., Mar. 20 (B&SO), and 1507 Pintail in Evangeline Par., Mar. 17 (B&SO). A female Blue-winged Teal with a half-grown duckling May 17 just n. of Helena (H&MP) established the second breeding record for Arkansas, although the species often summers. Scaup were reported Mar. 6—200,000 in Mobile Bay (PC, NG) and 50,000 off Bellefontaine Pt., Miss. (JT, MH). A few Greater were among the horde of Lessers. At Petal, Miss., three late male Greater were identified by wing stripe Apr. 26 (TF). A breeding-plumaged female Oldsquaw was off Gulfport Apr. 15 (JT). Four late Com. Mergansers were near Decatur Apr. 1 (DHu) and a female at Pensacola Apr. 8 established the fifth local record (RD). Another high

waterfowl count was the 618 Red-breasted Mergansers at Wheeler Ref., Mar. 21 (DC). A female was late on Walker County L., May 23 (DR, FC).

HAWKS—Tops among the good reports of Mississippi Kites this spring were the 25 counted May 17 in St. Francis Forest, Ark. (H&MP). Although Sharp-shinned were far more numerous, Cooper's were noted on four March and April dates in Tallapoosa County, with a maximum of five Apr. 9 (BO). An ad. Bald Eagle was noted on three March and April dates on L. Martin, Tallapoosa Co. (BO, D&EG); in Harrison County, Miss., one juvenile was fledged in March (JT, SP, m.ob.). Little evidence of locally-breeding Ospreys was at hand, but the most encouraging news came from coastal Mississippi—ten records with a maximum of five in Jackson County Mar. 15 (SP, LG, JT). The only Peregrines reported were from Ft. Morgan Mar. 30 (GJ, DJ) and Dauphin Apr. 29 (DP, CS). Four Merlins were reported Mar. 25-May 7, three from Alabama, one from Mississippi (BO, TF, DHa, MB, DG, GJ).

RAILS—A Virginia Rail at very close range under a brushpile in an empty downtown Birmingham mountainside lot on May 3 (DM, PF, AMi) was a good indication of the migration peak. In Jackson County, Miss., 16 Soras were counted May 1 (JT, MHa) and three were still present May 9 (JT, MHo, GMo). On Apr. 12 when there was little cover in the salt marsh due to extremely heavy rains, four Black Rails were seen with these Soras (MHa, EHa).

SHOREBIRDS—American Golden Plover flocks this spring included 550 near Bell City, Calcasieu Par., Mar. 19 (BO), 200 in Tunica County, Miss., Mar. 29 (R&BP) and 200 in Miller County, Ark., Apr. 6 (CM). A Piping Plover on the Harahan Rd. to Dacus Camp, Crittenden County, Ark., Apr. 29 (BC, LC) was the second in spring for Arkansas and second for the Memphis area. A Long-billed Curlew in Arkadelphia Apr. 21 (TD) was the fourth for Arkansas and the first since 1968. Of the several reports of Upland Sandpiper, mainly in Arkansas, the most were 15 in Yell County Apr. 20 (HR) and the latest May 12 in Craighead County (NL). Two Spotted Sandpipers near Decatur, Ala., Feb. 27 (DH) were most likely wintering birds. Rare inland in any numbers, 13 Willets at Reelfoot L., Tenn., May 3 (JGu, JW, T.O.S.) were noteworthy. Yellowlegs were abundant in Cameron Par., Mar. 19, where 10,000 Greater and 2000 Lessers were counted (B&SO). Two White-rumped Sandpipers were early at Pascagoula Apr. 15 (MHo, JT). The 37 early Long-billed Dowitchers at Wheeler Ref., Apr. 21-22 (DHu) were the most for inland Alabama. An early Stilt Sandpiper was near Hattiesburg, Perry Co., Apr. 4 (TF, LGa). Two Buff-breasted Sandpipers were listed at Mobile Apr. 30 (GJ, DJ) and one May 4 at Wheeler Ref. (DHu). Forty Black-necked Stilts were at Pascagoula Apr. 27 (JT, EL). Near Huntsville, three Wilson's Phalaropes (two females, one male in alternate plumage) were seen Apr. 17 & 19

(ph—MH, CD); on Dauphin another alternate-plumaged female was seen Apr. 26 (ph—RH, CD),

GULLS—At Ft. Pickens, Escambia Co., Fla., an ad. Great Black-backed Gull was seen Mar. 29 & Apr. 26 (RD, LD, SD, DR, LGo, JG). Lake Millwood, Ark., illustrates a typical gull situation in this Region: all ten Franklin's Gulls seen Apr. 10 were in breeding plumage, and all seven Bonaparte's seen Apr. 28 were still in winter plumage (CM). Two imm. Black-legged Kittiwakes were at Ft. Pickens Mar. 29 after SE gales (ph—RD, LD, SD). This established the fifth record for Florida.

DOVES, CUCKOOS, GOATSUCKERS, HUMMINGBIRDS—Three late White-winged Doves were at Ft. Morgan May 7 & 10 (GJ, DJ). Cuckoos were universally reported to be scarce although an early one was at Biloxi Mar. 30 (TF, SP, PR). A Lesser Nighthawk at Ft. Pickens Apr. 14 was the sixth for Florida, the first locally (ph—RD, LD). A weak front on April 8 produced a count of 50+ Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at Bellefontaine Beach, Miss. (JT, MGI).

FLYCATCHERS—Early E. Kingbirds were at Wall Doxey S.P., Miss., Mar. 30 (NS, MWa) and Dyer County, Tenn., Apr. 2 (GC). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at Petal, Miss., May 31 & June 5 (TF). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was in Meridian May 3 (TF). In St. Francis N.F., Phillips Co., Ark., three Alder Flycatchers were identified May 17 (H&MP). An early Least Flycatcher was seen and heard at Wheeler Ref., Apr. 5 (DC, MB), and nine were counted at Reelfoot L., May 3 & 4 (T.O.S. *vide* BBC) and one was seen and heard in Tishomingo County, Miss., May 17 (TF, SP). An Olive-sided Flycatcher in Birmingham Apr. 19 (AM, MMc) was early for Alabama; in Arkansas three were counted in St. Francis N.F., May 17 (H&MP) and one May 24 in Hot Spring Co. (H&MP). A male Vermilion Flycatcher at Marion Mar. 22 (ER, m.ob.) was the fifth for inland Alabama.

SWALLOWS, WRENS—Two Bank Swallows at Chicot S.P., La., Mar. 18 (JBO) were very early. The first known record for Arkansas was a Long-billed Marsh Wren at Farville, Craighead Co., May 9 (NLa).

PIPITS, VIREOS—The Water Pipit that landed on the side of a dike after a brief rain shower at Marion Fish Hatchery May 7 (AM, HW) was the latest ever for Alabama. In Arkansas a count of six Bell's Vireos was made in Yell County May 3 (E&HH) and in Craighead County May 13 (NL). On Dauphin I., an ad. Black-whiskered Vireo was seen Apr. 25 and an immature Apr. 26 (RL, DC, CD, RH, DW).

WARBLERS—An early Prothonotary was at Wheeler Ref., Apr. 5 (DB, CC). Six Swainson's were heard in s. Clarke County, Ala., Apr. 21 (DC, MB), five in St. Francis N.F., Ark., May 17 (H&MP), and three in Hancock County, Miss., Apr. 25 (JT, GM). A Golden-winged singing at Jackson's Gap, Tallapoosa County May 12 (BO) established

the latest spring record for Alabama. A "Brewster's" Warbler was singing a Golden-winged song in Birmingham May 5 (AMi, HW). The judgment in the Memphis area that Tennessee Warblers were common this spring instead of very common (BC) is supported by data from Birmingham (TI), but in Arkansas they were reported to be especially common (CMI). A very late Cape May Warbler was in Florence, Ala., May 18 (P&LK). A Black-throated Gray Warbler at Ft Morgan May 7 (GJ, DJ) provided the eighth Alabama record. It was the third and latest in spring. A good illustration of the decreasing abundance of an e. migrant warbler is that of the Palm, common-to-abundant in Birmingham; 13 were counted in e Arkansas (Craighead and Crittenden counties) Apr. 29-May 6 (LC, BC, NL) and only one was found in Little Rock Apr. 24 (N&EH). Two interesting Connecticut Warblers were one Apr. 19 in Little Rock, only the second there since 1960 (H&EH), and one Apr. 21 in s Clarke County., Ala., providing the first record for the inland coastal plain. Two widely-scattered early Wilson's Warblers were seen Apr. 5, one at Wheeler Ref. (MB,DC) and one at Bellefontaine Beach, Miss. (JT, MHO). A very early Am. Redstart was in Hattiesburg Mar. 16 (TF).

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS—Yellow-headed Blackbirds were numerous, especially on the coast. Five reports were from Dauphin Apr. 14 (MG), total 29 birds; 25 were in one yard (D&CW), and remained four days at Ft. Pickens, Pensacola (MMA); two were at Gulf Shores Apr. 15 (D&VF); four males were on St Joseph Pen., Gulf Co., Fla., Apr. 17 (RD, LD, SD); a male was at Pascagoula Apr. 27 (JT, EL). Four other records involving seven birds from coastal Mississippi were reported without details (JT). Finally, one was seen at Holla Bend, Ark., May 3 (A.A.S.). A count of 1,000,000 Red-winged Blackbirds at Miller's L., Evangeline Par., Mar. 17 (BO) meant problems for local rice farmers. A good, early concentration of tanagers was the eight Scarlets and seven Summers at Hattiesburg again on Apr. 12 (LGa, TF).

FINCHES—Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings were reported in good numbers nearly everywhere. A Black-headed Grosbeak was in Birmingham Mar. 27-Apr. 16 (DF, AF, ph-CB, m.ob.), providing the third record n. of the fall line in Alabama. A male **Lazuli Bunting** appeared in Little Rock some time in January, but apparently went unrecognized for about two months when a perfect description was furnished (MS, MT) and identification verified Mar. 13 (H&EH, P.C.A.S., A.A.S.). The bird was last seen Mar. 29. This represented the first record for Arkansas. Unrecorded in the Tennessee Valley of Alabama, two Painted Buntings were seen and a bird was heard singing May 17 on the river bank just over the line in Tishomingo County, Miss. (TF, SP). Two Dickcissels were present in Petal Feb. 9-Mar. 8 (TF, LGa, DHa).

House Finches were in Florence, Ala., Mar. 2-Apr. 17, maximum eight on Apr. 3 (P&DK), at Decatur Mar. 21-May 31, maximum five on Apr. 8 (RL,LL), and in two

Birmingham localities through late March, maximum 22 (GA, MS, m.ob.). American Goldfinches were reported scarce in Alabama (MG, others) but more common in Mississippi (TF) and Arkansas (CMI). A very aggressive male **Lark Bunting** seen in Petal Mar. 2 & 4 (MHa, DHa, TF) was probably the first ever for Mississippi. An early singing male Lark Sparrow was at Wheeler Ref., Apr. 12 (MB, DC) and about the same time two were in Craighead County, Ark., Apr. 16-18 (NL). Singing Bachman's Sparrows in Hot Spring and Pulaski counties May 19 & Mar. 25 (MP, WS) indicated that the species is in no danger in c. Arkansas. A Late White-throated Sparrow was at Arkabutla L., Desoto Co., Miss., May 23 (R&BP). Two Lincoln's Sparrows banded at Gulf Breeze Apr. 16 were the first in April there (LD). Song Sparrows continue to increase as breeders in Alabama n. of Birmingham; for instance in Huntsville May 15 there was a pair feeding young with three other singing males nearby (MB). Two late Lapland Longspurs were in Greenwood, Jefferson Co., Ala., Mar. 13 (C&PB).

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PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION /Bernard Gollop

March temperatures and precipitation were well below normal in s. Saskatchewan, s. Manitoba and much of s. Alberta. Snow cover at the end of the month was negligible in central Alberta and southern Saskatchewan. In April, daily temperatures averaged 3 to 9°C above normal across the Region, with all-time high readings being recorded at many stations, including Churchill, whose 28° on April 29 broke the previous record by 14°. Precipitation was about 25% of normal. Snow was completely gone in all regions by the end of the month. In May southern Saskatchewan and Manitoba had 25-75% of normal precipitation and temperatures 3-5° above average, while s. Alberta had 100-200% of normal precipitation (due mainly to a May 23-28 storm) and temperatures 1-3° higher than usual (Environment Canada).

In the Red Deer-Edmonton area, ponds were 55% more numerous than in 1979; south of Calgary they were down by 3%. In the southern half of Saskatchewan and southwestern Manitoba, ponds were down about 65% from last year (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Canadian Wildlife Service).

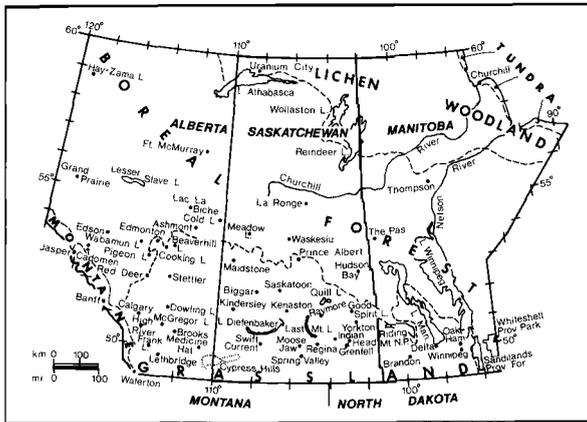
A comparison of arrival dates was made for the southeastern corner of Saskatchewan from Good Spirit Lake to the United States border and from Moose Jaw to Manitoba. Averages of the first three arrival dates for each species in 1980 and the unusually late 1979 showed the following differences: 17

species, arriving March 8-30, 1980, averaged 10 days earlier than in 1979; 24 arriving April 1-15 were 7 days earlier; 45 arriving April 16-30 and 42 arriving May 1-15 were 2 days earlier; for May 16-30, 17 species averaged less than one day earlier.

WADERS—Manitoba provided most of the rare waders: two Green Herons May 18 at Bog River (PT), one May 25-31 at Ft. Whyte (WN), two May 27-28 at Delta (JM, CC), one May 27 at Netley Marsh (BV) and one May 29 in the Sandilands Prov. Forest (MSi); single Cattle Egrets at Oak Hammock May 3+ and at Delta May 26 (m.ob.); ten Great Egrets, the earliest being one at Delta Apr. 24 (WC, CS), and the largest number being three at Oak Hammock May 27 (JZ); one Snowy Egret May 21+ at Oak Hammock (M.N.S.), and a Louisiana Heron there May 18-31 (GH). There was also a Great Egret at Airdrie, Alta., May 12 (HWP, JR) and single Snowy Egrets at Crow Indian L., Atla, in early May (BT) and at the n. end of Last Mountain, May 31 (CJ, GV, BD). Black-crowned Night Herons appeared to be down in s. Saskatchewan and c. Alberta. American Bitterns were also down in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

WATERFOWL—Five Trumpeter Swans were separated from nearby Whistling Swans by voice at Spring Valley Apr. 17-27 (FB) A Brant near Tregarva, Sask., Apr. 12 constituted Saskatchewan's first spring record (FL). In s. Manitoba Snow Geese arrived as early as Apr. 5 at Lyleton (JLM) and left early (RFK). On May 2, 17 Ross' Geese were at Portage La Prairie, Man. (CC).

Among the more numerous dabbling



ducks, the only significant changes (>20%) for the s. Prairie Provinces were declines in Gadwall, N. Shoveler and Pintail. Among divers, Redhead and Ring-necked were up significantly, while Lesser Scaup and Bufflehead were down. Canvasback and Com. Goldeneye were about the same as in 1979. Two Cinnamon Teal at Beaverhill L., Apr. 25 were early (ARS). There was a Wood Duck at Beaverhill May 3 (*vide* RE) and three near Waskesiu May 12 (*vide* MSY). A Greater Scaup was studied swimming and flying at Good Spirit L., Apr. 27 (RK) and six were seen near Moose Jaw May 7 (PK, SW); Lesser Scaup were present in both cases. Alberta had a pair of Greater Scaup near Calgary from mid-March into April and ten at Chestermere L., about mid-April (JS). A ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye was observed through a spotting scope with Com. Goldeneyes Apr. 5 & 6 near Eastend (J&JW).

HAWKS THROUGH COOTS—Goshawks were up in Saskatchewan (WH) and around Calgary (AW), but Sharp-shinned Hawks appeared to be down in Saskatchewan. The hawk migration was not notable. A Ferruginous Hawk near Wakaw Apr. 13 was n.e. of its usual range (WH) and one near Cochrane Apr. 19 was a rarity (JP). The first spring records of Prairie Falcons for Manitoba were provided by single birds Mar. 31 at Lockport and mid-April in Winnipeg (RFK, NC). One or two Peregrines were reported on 14 occasions Apr. 21-May 24 in s. Saskatchewan and s. Manitoba and on six dates at Churchill Apr. 29-May 19 (*vide* BG & RFK, BC). There were 16 pairs of Merlins nesting in Edmonton (ARS) and at least 12 in Saskatoon (JEP). Whooping Cranes were noted 19 times in flocks of 1-15, the earliest Apr. 2 in Alberta and the latest May 12 in Saskatchewan; Manitoba reported none (*vide* WDS). A Virginia Rail was a rarity at Shepard, Alta., May 31 (*vide* AW). Four Am Coots were seen May 19 at Churchill, far n. of their breeding range (BC).

SHOREBIRDS—There was a flock of >1000 Am. Golden Plover at Oak Hammock in late May (RFK).

A single Whimbrel was reported near Delisle, Sask., May 3 (ML). Greater Yellowlegs were down in much of s. Saskatchewan and around Calgary (BG, AW). The first **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers** for Saskatchewan (and the third recording for the Region) were studied for more than 25 min near Regina May 25

(RK, TR). A detailed description was recorded from ± 30 ft with a 60x scope as the birds fed among Pectoral Sandpipers. A **Western Sandpiper** among Semipalmateds s. of Moose Jaw May 18 was a rarity (JT). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were unusually common in Manitoba: up to 44 on May 23 at Oak Hammock and up to 31 on May 22 along the n. shore of L. Dauphin (RFK, BW). American Avocets were definitely up around Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon and Oak Hammock. Beaverhill L. again hosted a Black-necked Stilt (May 3—RE, JF, AS) and another was seen near Airdrie, Alta., May 11 (*vide* AW). A Red Phalarope with Northerns near Grunthal May 22 furnished possibly the sixth Manitoba record (DF).

S.A.

Highlight of the season was a 3-hr observation of an **Eskimo Curlew** May 21 at St. Ambrose, s.e. corner of L. Manitoba, by David Hatch. The bird was feeding like a chicken (at least partly on grasshoppers) along a ridge of mowed upland grasses with Am. Golden and Black-bellied Plovers. The finely streaked crown with no median line and the unbarred primaries were noted from as close as 45 paces with a 45-power scope; no camera. Details will be published elsewhere.

JAEGERS THROUGH OWLS—One Long-tailed Jaeger was observed near Winnipeg May 6, for possibly the fourth record for s. Manitoba (DRH). A Glaucous-winged Gull, still rarer, was reported near Calgary Apr. 5 (RB, DE). With fewer than ten Alberta records, a Glaucous Gull Apr. 22-23 at Clover Bar was a rarity (JF, AS, ARS, PA). The first s. Saskatchewan record of an Iceland Gull, s. of Saskatoon was from Katepawa L., Apr. 24 & 26 (FMB, EC, D&PH). Bonaparte's Gulls were down significantly around Calgary and Edmonton (AW, ARS). The second s. Manitoba record of an Arctic Tern was provided by a single bird May 10 at Winnipeg (GH, IW, DF, HL). A Band-tailed Pigeon appeared at Cochrane May 17 (PS). From Mar. 20 to May 10 a pair of Screech Owls was heard and seen near Lumsden, Sask. (BL, CA, FL); on May 29 another responded to a taping in Moose Jaw where a newly-fledged bird was seen last year (RK, FL). A concentration of 21 Snowy Owls along 6 mi of road through cultivated fields near Saskatoon Apr. 6 had begun to build up by Apr. 3 and on Apr. 9 was down to five birds (RG, BG). On Apr. 4-5 there was a Barred Owl at Sibbald, Alta., s. of its normal range (TM). Wayne Harris went looking for owls this spring in Saskatchewan's boreal forest and on Apr. 16 heard 16 Barred Owls in the vicinity of Squaw Rapids; elsewhere this season he located six pairs and found the territories of seven Great Gray Owls, 42 Saw-whets and six Boreal Owls. Short-eared Owls

decreased significantly from last spring around Calgary, Edmonton, five areas in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Three Boreals were heard Apr. 3 about 12 mi n.e. of Pointe du Bois, Man. (PT, RFK, RS) and a pair was nesting Apr. 17 at Churchill, n. of its published range (BC). Ten Saw-whets were heard Apr. 19 along 10 mi of road s.w. of Water Valley, Alta. (JP, SJ).

SWIFTS THROUGH SHRIKES—A Chimney Swift at Saskatoon May 25 provided the second Saskatchewan record s.w. of its breeding range in 20 years (NCa, JAS). At Lac des Arcs, Alta., there was a Lewis' Woodpecker May 3 (JB). On May 24 a W Kingbird was found n. of its breeding range at Beaverhill L. (JF, AS, PA). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen at Pinawa May 26-31 where there was one last year (SH, PT) Ravens were breeding s. of their normal range as far as Fish Creek, Sask. (WH). Empidonax flycatchers were late arriving at Calgary (AW) and swallows, especially Purple Martins, were late in s. Manitoba. The four wintering Chestnut-backed Chickadees at Waterton N.P. were still there Apr. 4-5 (AW). A White-breasted Nuthatch nest with 3 eggs May 15 near Armit was the first for Saskatchewan (WH). A Carolina Wren, Manitoba's first in 30 years, was heard and seen near Kleefeld May 20 (DF). In Saskatchewan and Manitoba it was generally agreed that the thrush migration was very poor (BG, HC). Last year Wood Thrushes were reported on four occasions in Manitoba and this year on three more: one bird May 19-22 at Winnipeg (CN), one May 20-27 at the same spot in Pinawa as in May 1979 (PT), and two May 30-31 at Beaudry Park (DG *et al.*). A Townsend's Solitaire was reported on seven dates Mar. 2-Apr. 1 in Regina (RK, BL, FL, GL). Most observers reported Loggerhead Shrikes down in Alberta and Saskatchewan

WARBLERS—There was one major warbler wave in Alberta; it occurred May 25-28 at Calgary and May 23-28 at Edmonton, in both areas associated with storms (AW, ARS). In Manitoba the only noticeable wave occurred May 17 (RFK). South of the Boreal Forest in Saskatchewan warblers were scarce, among the migrants, 13 species were down, with five not recorded at all. A N. Parula May 12 in Winnipeg (RFK) and a Black-throated Blue at Reston, Man., May 15 (DB) were rarities; two ♂ Chestnut-sideds at Edmonton May 28 (JF, PA, ARS), a Palm Warbler May 10 and a Mourning May 25 at the Wildlife Reserve of Western Canada (hereafter W.R.W.C.) near Bottrel, Alta., (SJ) were spring rarities.

ORIOLES THROUGH FINCHES—An imm. ♂ Orchard Oriole at Regina May 26 was unusual (DS). A ♂ Cardinal was seen May 23 at two localities, 20 mi apart, near Saskatoon, and a pair appeared in the city May 27 (BB, JAW, TP). On May 20 two were seen at Dauphin, Man. (JT). The second Regina record for an Indigo Bunting was of a male May 28 (I&JP). Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were reported on four occasions at W.R.W.C., the largest number being 75 \pm Mar. 25 (SJ, MSm). There were also several

other flocks reported in s. Alberta, the largest being 75 (of the *littoralis* race) at Cardston Apr. 5 and 200± near Cochrane Mar. 23 (PS); two birds at W.R.W.C. April 21 were also *littoralis* (SJ).

As through the winter, Evening Grosbeaks and Redpolls were down in s. Saskatchewan; no Pine Grosbeaks were reported. Goldfinches wintered in Saskatoon (JAW), Oxbow (HP), Wauchope (D&PH), Moose Mt. P.P. (RD) and probably elsewhere in Saskatchewan, producing record "early arrival" dates. In May the first nest of a Red Crossbill for Saskatchewan was found on the Saskatoon Campus; it fledged at least two young (RG, SS). Lark Buntings irrupted in s. Saskatchewan and Manitoba, being reported as far n. as Saskatoon and as far n.e. as Delta (S.N.H.S., SC, NF). The finch migration in

s. Saskatchewan and s. Manitoba was almost as poor as it was for thrushes and warblers. A Brewer's Sparrow was carefully identified May 24 n. of Saskatoon, almost 200 mi n.e. of its published breeding range (CE). A ♂ McCown's Longspur was at L. Dauphin, Man., May 22, almost 300 mi n.e. of its known breeding range (BW).

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NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS

/Esther M. Serr

All observers agreed it was the warmest and driest spring in years. High temperature and drought records were set at many places. One observer called it an interesting spring as nothing much happened as expected—yet the birds survived the heat and the scarcity of water.

Three new areas introduced into this report are a sizeable section of Blaine County in north central Montana; the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation along L. Sakakawea in west central North Dakota and north western Harding County, South Dakota.

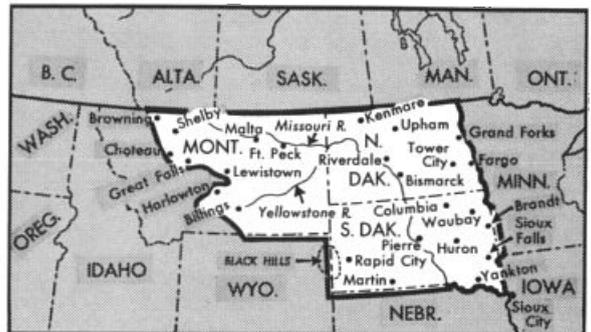
LOONS THROUGH WADERS—Only two Com. Loons out of a total of 21 sightings reported were found at the huge Ft. Peck Res., Mont., Apr. 20 (CMC). Most loons were found in brackish puddles caused by low water conditions. Four Com. Loons were courting May 2 at Enemy Swim L., Day Co., S.D. (KHH) and one was in full breeding plumage at Bear Butte L., S.D., May 3 (JLB). Another was a first sighting in five years at Arrowwood N.W.R., Pingree, N.D., May 20 (WJB). Red-necked Grebes were more frequent in North Dakota Apr. 27-May 21 but the greatest numbers were found in the sloughs of Grand Forks County, N.D. (DOL, GSL).

Waders were generally scarce, probably for the lack of water. A flight of 600 White Pelicans was noted over Yankton County, S.D., May 6 (WH). Upper Souris N.W.R., N.D., experienced a sharp decline in average population from 700 to 200 over the last few years (IOR). Nine Green Herons were listed in South Dakota Apr. 27-May 30 and three were in the Red R. Valley, N.D., May 6-26. Sand Lake N.W.R., Columbia, S.D., registered 24 sightings of Cattle Egrets Apr. 22-May 3 (TKK, WAS). A Snowy Egret was seen at Waubay N.W.R., Day Co., May 10 (LLW) and two were at Sand Lake N.W.R., May 27-30 (WAS, SJW). One was at Broadview, Mont., May 21 (HWC, BBF). American Bittern numbers were higher than usual with 17 counted in the Region.

WATERFOWL—A concentration of 750 Whistling Swans was an unusual sight on a 60-acre pond in Stewart's Slough Waterfowl Production Area, Grand Forks Co., N.D., Apr. 7 (SOL, DOL). One in a flock of Whistling Swans on Freezeout L., Mont., Apr. 18 had the yellow patch on the bill extending so far down the sides of the upper mandible that it could have been a Bewick's subspecies (PDS). Snow Geese had their usual good flight, best on a diagonal line from s.e. through c. North Dakota.

Pintail seemed to be the most numerous of the dabbling ducks, with 6000 counted at Belle Fourche Res., S.D., Mar. 23 (GGR, DLB) and they comprised 24.6% of the total ducks at New Town, N.D., during April (BCP). Cinnamon Teal continued to move E in North Dakota with a pair in McLean County Apr. 30 (DWT); two at Salyer N.W.R., May 12 (GAE) and one male e. of Bismarck (TAG). Canvasback numbers showed a marked increase. A flock of 75 stopped at Bowdoin N.W.R., Mont., May 12 (TWP). Red-breasted Mergansers moved through South Dakota Apr. 11-May 6; North Dakota, Apr. 23-May 13; e. Montana, Apr. 11-19 in better-than-usual numbers. A total of 16 Greater Scaup was seen in three separate places in Ward County, N.D., located between L. Sakakawea and the Souris R. They were carefully compared with Lesser Scaup (GBB).

HAWKS AND EAGLES—At an observation point along the Red R., Grand Forks, N.D., a total of 18 hours of hawk watching produced a report of 223 individuals of nine raptor species Mar. 28-May 6 (SOL). A Goshawk was observed in Powder River County, Mont., May 21 and was suspected of nesting (K. DuBois, *vide* PDS). This could be a range extension from the Black Hills, S.D., where the Goshawk is a regular nester (P. Bartelt, *vide* EMS). Thirteen sightings of



Cooper's Hawks were unusual Apr. 1-May 18. Broad-winged Hawk migration reached a peak of ten at Fargo (CWC) and seven at Grand Forks (SOL) Apr. 28. Singles were seen at Bismarck, N.D., May 5 (RLQ) and at Ft. Peck May 20 (CMC). Single Ferruginous Hawks were noted in Campbell Co., S.D. (TKK); at Jamestown, n. Burleigh Co., and Long Lake, N.D., Apr. 5-May 2 (KJJ, CAF, RNR). A late Gyrfalcon appeared in Stutsman County, N.D., Mar. 31 (CAF). Single Peregrine Falcons were listed in Stutsman County, Apr. 7; one female in Kidder County, May 6 (CAF) and another in Walsh County, N.D., May 4 (JFK). One was seen in Powder River County, Mont., May 5-12 (m.ob., *vide* PDS).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS—Only one Ruffed Grouse was reported in the forest area of w. Pennington County, S.D., Apr. 29 (JAH, RH). In North Dakota a nest was found at Rolla May 16 (PCH) and 11 males were drumming in Bottineau and Rollette counties, May 24 (CAF). Greater Prairie Chickens were booming in Sargent County, N.D., in April (TAG, MAJ, DWC). For the second year, Sharp-tailed Grouse encroached on Greater Prairie Chicken breeding grounds in Grand Forks County. This has also happened in Stanley County, S.D. Montana surveys showed that the Sharp-tailed Grouse have held a 38% population increase over the last four years in spite of the hard winter of 1977-1978 (MWA). A survey of Sage Grouse in s. Blaine and s.e. Choteau Cos., Mont.,

showed 23 leks with 250 birds (C.Hoff, SJG). A nest at Spring Creek mine site, Decker, Mont., was accidentally damaged by a scraper and the eggs were taken to be incubated by a domestic hen (MH,DS). Bobwhite and Gray Partridge were reported only in s. South Dakota (WH, KJH, GLS).

SHOREBIRDS—Low water conditions have been good for Piping Plover nesting and egg laying seemed to be complete by May 17 (CMC). A nest was found abandoned in Kidder County, N.D., May 18 (CAF). A Semipalmated Plover was seen feeding with nine White-rumped Sandpipers in Marshall County, S.D., May 18 (NRW). A concentration of 1000+ Am. Golden Plovers was at Stewart's and Kelly's sloughs, Grand Forks County May 18-22 (JFK). A complete nest record was kept on an Am. Woodcock from courtship display Apr. 18 to probable hatching date May 27 at Conservation Park, s. Brookings Co., S.D. (NJH). Forty Willets were unusual at Canyon L., Rapid City, Apr. 28 (JLB). Two Knots were seen at Fargo May 16 (EMW), seven were at Stewart's Slough May 18 (DOL *et al.*) and one was seen in Sheridan County, N.D., May 21 (CAF).

Long-billed Dowitchers moved through Belden, Mountrail Co., N.D., May 4-16 at a peak of 250 May 9 (BCP). The Short-billed (compared with Long-billed) went through Belden May 9 to peak at 70 May 28 (BCP). Two **Western Sandpipers** were unusual at Fargo Apr. 19 (EMW) as well as two in Sheridan County, N.D., May 21 (CAF). Single **Buff-breasted Sandpipers**, the first reported in five years, were seen in Kidder County May 6 and Grand Forks County, N.D., May 25 (DOL). Hudsonian Godwits commonly migrated through the Dakotas but one on the Missouri R., below Ft. Peck May 2 was unusual (†CMC). American Avocet were more numerous than in the last few years. However, in Kidder County, N.D., unfavorable habitat conditions were thought to be the reason several females collected May 13 had begun to reabsorb their ovaries (CAF). Eight Black-necked Stilt were noted at Broadview, Mont., Apr. 21 (HWC, BBF).

GULLS, TERNS—Fifteen Herring Gulls were late leaving Mountrail County, N.D., Apr. 29 (BCP). Bonaparte's Gulls migrated Apr. 22-May 17 with a peak of 106 at Grand Forks May 10 (GSL). Forster's Tern sightings in South Dakota were numerous May 1-20. A pair of Caspian Terns stayed around Ft. Peck without any indication of nesting May 9-25 (CMC). Five Caspian Terns were seen and heard at Yankton, S.D., May 15 (JEW). Least Terns were seen perched on logs between the sand bars on the Missouri R. dunes in s.e. South Dakota May 21-25 (KJH, WH).

CUCKOOS THROUGH SWIFTS—Both Black-billed and Yellow-billed cuckoos remained scarce.

A Chimney Swift furnished a new record for the Havre, Mont., latilong May 23 (SJG). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were sighted at Valley City May 19 (DLK) and at Bismarck May 21 (DMR). One was at Enemy Swim L., Day Co., S.D., May 24 (KHH).

S.A.

The U.S.F.&W.S. took an extended raptor survey of the Red River from Wahpeton to Pembina in May that included almost the entire eastern border of North Dakota. They found at least one breeding pair of Great Horned Owls per two river miles in a valley that endured the worst flood of the century April 1979 (*fide* DOL).

PICIDAE THROUGH CORVIDS—A nesting pair of Lewis' Woodpeckers was chased away by Starlings in Sturgis, S.D., in May (EEM). A Hairy Woodpecker that was banded Apr. 14, 1965 in s. Brookings County, S.D., was recaptured at the same station Apr. 7 (NJH).

In April 1979 the Purple Martins arrived in snow storms; this spring with temperatures in the 90s in April, the martins did not appear at Rolla, N.D., until May (PCH). Seventy nesting pairs were at Burke, S.D., May 31 (GLS).

Gray Jays averaged five daily at a feeder on Argyle Rd., Custer Co., S.D. (MJP). After a day of strong winds one Gray Jay was seen at Bowdoin N.W.R., Mar. 1, to provide the first record for the Malta, Mont., latilong (TWP). Black-billed Magpies are becoming scarce in w. South Dakota, but a nest was found in w. Grand Forks Co., N.D., May 24 (SOL, DOL). Young Pinon Jays were at a Rapid City feeder May 21 (NRW).

WRENS THROUGH VIREOS—Dippers reported totaled 11 from the Black Hills, S.D., Mar. 23-May 9 (DLB, MJP). Winter



Mockingbird, Grand Forks, N.D., May 6, 1980. Photo/David Lambeth.

Wrens, Mockingbirds and Wood Thrushes have been seen regularly in the spring season in the Dakotas. A Sage Thrasher was sighted on a railroad track at Broadview, Mont., Apr. 19 and another was seen in Harding County, S.D., near the Montana line (BR). An early Varied Thrush was observed in Brookings County, S.D., Mar. 12 (T. Spitzenberger, *fide* NJH). Only two Veery sightings were reported—one at Brookings, S.D., May 13 (CAT) and one at Minot, N.D. (GBB).

The major influx of Cedar Waxwings reported last winter continued into the spring. There were still hundreds in Fargo, N.D., May 24-31 (MBB, CWC) and several pairs were building nests at Ft. Peck May 31 (CMC). Bell's Vireo sightings totaled 11 in Yankton County, S.D., May 12-31. Two Yellow-throated Vireos were noted in Marshall County, S.D., May 17 (NJH, NRW) and one was at the w. edge of its range at Minot, N.D., May 21 (GBB). Philadelphia Vireos were seen migrating through North Dakota

May 14-24. They were also reported from their nesting territory in the Turtle Mts., Bottineau and Rolette counties, N.D., May 25 (CAF).

WARBLERS—A singing **Worm-eating Warbler** provided a first North Dakota record as it foraged in a blooming elm tree at Grand Forks Apr. 20 (†GSL, m.ob.). Black-



Worm-eating Warbler, Grand Forks, N.D., April 20, 1980. Photo/Greg Lambeth.

and-white Warblers were on territory in Mountrail County, N.D., May 13-16 (BCP). A N. Parula was singing at Grand Forks May 22 (SOL). A flight of Magnolia Warblers went through e. North and South Dakota May 6-21 (m.ob.). Single Magnolia males were also noted farther w. at Minot, N.D., May 17 and at Spring Creek Coal mine site, Decker, Mont., May 23 (†MH *fide* PDS). Cerulean Warblers, the first in three years, were reported from Jamestown May 3 (CAF) and at Valley City, N.D., May 14 (†DLK). Palm Warblers were reported in small numbers in c. South Dakota May 5-10 (WCT, JHH, GLS). A major wave of Palms then developed in c. North Dakota and the Red R. Valley area with a peak of 100+ daily at Grand Forks, rivaling the Yellow-rumped in number (DOL). A Pine Warbler was singing at Conservation Park, Brookings Co., S.D., May 20 (NJH). Mourning and Connecticut warblers were seen in the Red R. Valley May 14-29. A McGillivray's was in Phillips County, Mont., May 30 (DMP).

BOBOLINK THROUGH TOWHEE—The Bobolink, a moist area bird, was found in some of the drier areas of the Region with seven in the Killdeer Mts., Dunn Co., N.D., May 15 (BCP), one at Reliance, S.D., May 17 (WCT) and one at Camp Crook, S.D. (BR). A flock of 80 Brown-headed Cowbirds was in a cattleyard at Burke, S.D., Apr. 26 (GLS). Scarlet Tanagers were sighted at Grand Forks May 22-26 (SOL, GSL), Sheyenne R., Ransom Co. (CAF), Turtle River S.P. (DOL) and Fargo (ELD). One Scarlet Tanager was very unusual at Rapid City May 23 (EAS). A Summer Tanager constituted one of few records in South Dakota at Waubay N.W.R., May 17 (LLW, m.ob.). The only Blue Grosbeaks sighted were three in Yankton County May 27 (WH). Indigo Buntings were recorded in Highmore May 17 (JHH), Rapid City May 19 (NRW) and five in Yankton County, May 19-28 (WH). Lazuli Buntings have been low since 1977. One was seen in the Little Missouri River S.P., N.D., May 22 (BCP). An Indigo X Lazuli (no orange on the male) hybrid bunting was noted at Rapid City May 22 (JLB) and two Lazulis were at Camp Crook, S.D., May 24 (BR). Dickcissels were singing in Clay County, S.D., May 21 (KJH)

and they were numerous in Yankton County, where 30 were counted in a 16-mi linear count May 28 (WH). There seemed to be almost an influx of Red Crossbills this spring. Several observers noted their fondness for salt. A Green-tailed Towhee provided one of very few records in s. Blaine County, Mont., May 22 (C.Hoff, *vide* SJG).

SPARROWS—Baird's Sparrows were common in mid- to tall-grass prairie in n. Blaine County, Mont., May 29 (SJG). Le Conte's was sighted Apr. 26 at New Town, N.D. (BCP), and at Bismarck and Minot (RNR, GBB). In this same area, at Bismarck, Belden and Hazen, five Swamp Sparrows were seen Apr. 15-May 4 (BGI,DNS). A Gray-headed Junco was at a feeder on Rimrock Highway above Rapid City May 24 (NJE,NRW). The White-throated Sparrow

migration Apr. 30-May 16 through the Grand Forks area was almost as heavy as that of the White-crowned, but in Minot the White-crowned, as usual, was far more abundant (GBB). Forty-seven White-throated were banded at Bismarck May 4-16 (RNR).

Fifteen McCown's Longspurs were observed Apr. 19 in the s. Bearpaw Mts., Mont. (SJG). A flock of 100+ Lapland Longspurs in breeding plumage went through Minot Apr. 18 (GBB). Smith's Longspur, an uncommon migrant, was in Stutsman County, Apr. 22 (CAF) and six males were at Grandin, Cass Co., N.D., May 3 (PSH,MAB).

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SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS

/Frances Williams

Spring was dry in much of the Region, and cool everywhere. Migrants were generally a week to ten days late, and trickled through in average numbers. There were few fronts strong enough to ground numbers of birds, so few peak days were noted. But it was an extremely productive season for rarities, so productive that space limitations made it necessary to delineate many extra-limital records as widespread in the Region rather than cite individual locations.

Several contributors stated that local thunderstorms were responsible for grounding migrants. An excellent example of this was reported by Charles Easley, who was driving along U.S. 29 between Llano and Mason, Texas following a heavy downpour May 16. He estimated that he saw 3000 birds in a ten mile roadside count, including 650 Common Nighthawks, 1500 Barn Swallows, 375 Orchard Orioles, 75 *Empidonax* flycatchers, plus numbers of six other species. "Every group of flowers and every fence seemed to be loaded with birds," stated Easley.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS—Common Loons remained until mid-May at several localities and until June 1 at Lubbock, Tex. A Horned Grebe in Sarpy County, Neb., Apr. 17 was noteworthy. A W. Grebe visited White Rock L., at Dallas Apr. 19 (CW). A pair of Pied-billed Grebes in Bandera County, Tex., May 23 was possibly nesting. Although migrating White Pelicans had arrived at Oklahoma City Apr. 17, many remained in Texas until late May. About 50 lingered near Baldwin, Kans., into June. There were 25 pairs of Olivaceous Cormorants in the Henderson County, Tex., colony May 26 (WP, TG).

HERONS THROUGH IBISES—Little Blue Herons were observed at San Angelo, Tex., Apr. 26 and El Paso Apr. 21. Three Louisiana Herons resided in the heronry in Henderson County with the customary

numbers of Little Blue Herons, Cattle, Great and Snowy egrets. Three Louisiana Herons arrived at El Paso May 31. Two Cattle Egrets visited Crescent Lake N.W.R., Neb., May 28 (FZ). Black-crowned Night Herons were common along the Trinity R., Walker & Trinity counties, Tex., and at Tornillo L., near El Paso. One at Tulsa May 6-7 provided the only record there since 1978 (A&BR). Least Bitterns were discovered at Sequoyah N.W.R., Okla., May 23 (BZ), Oklahoma City May 16-17 (m.ob.) and Washington County, Oklahoma, May 18 & 25 (ED). White-faced Ibis were widespread in the Region from mid-April to May 31. The largest flock comprised 60 birds at El Paso Apr. 24.

WATERFOWL—Two Ross' Geese rested briefly at Lubbock Mar. 8 (GF, m.ob.) and one was at Crescent L., Mar. 18 (FZ). A Black-bellied Whistling Duck provided a new County record at Dallas May 10 (TG, WP), and four were sighted in Robertson County, Tex., May 25 (JY). Ten Black-bellied Whistling Ducks appeared in Burleson County, Tex., in mid-April and remained in the area ten days. Two birds stayed after the departure of the others and visited a nest box every day through May. In El Paso and Hudspeth counties, Tex., 27 Mexican Ducks were counted Apr. 13. In Nacogdoches County, Tex., at least 350 Blue-winged Teal fed in a flooded field Apr. 22 (DW, SL). Several Cinnamon Teal were reported in n.c. Texas, slightly e. of their normal range. Wood Ducks were more common in the Texas hill country than in recent years, and one strayed

as far w. as El Paso Mar. 1. Greater Scaups were present in Kingman and Reno counties, Kans. (DV), Tulsa (JH) and Nacogdoches (DW) in March. A Surf Scoter found in Lubbock Mar. 27 was possibly the same bird as one seen in Crosby County 12 miles away Apr. 6.

VULTURES THROUGH FALCONS—A Black Vulture which soared over the Arkansas R. near Tulsa May 6 provided the first county record since 1938 (m.ob.) A White-tailed Kite thrilled observers in Bosque County, Tex., May 30 (VC, CAS). Goshawks darted by Crescent L., Apr. 14 & May 12. The largest flock of Broad-winged Hawks reported comprised 1108 birds at Nacogdoches Apr. 1. About 300 were seen near Ingram, Tex., Apr. 16. Four contributors noted that the nesting population of Broad-winged



in their areas had increased. A flock of Swainson's Hawks comprising 41 birds fed in a plowed field near Oklahoma City Apr. 16. Elsewhere, only a few small groups of less than 20 birds were seen. A single Swainson's Hawk sailed over Nacogdoches Apr. 12. Both Zone-tailed and Black Hawks were observed by most birders visiting Big Bend N.P., Tex., and Zone-tailed Hawks were also present in Black Gap W.M.A., down river from the National Park. Reports of Bald and Golden eagles were few, but Ospreys were sighted in a dozen localities. An Osprey at Midland May 24 was very late and one in Runnels County, Tex., Apr. 4 provided a first county record (TM). A Caracara in Big Bend N.P., Apr. 22 was the first in many years (J&DF). Only six Peregrines were reported. One at Nacogdoches Apr. 14 provided a first spring record and one at Midland May 10 was the first since 1973. The only Merlin reported was at Bellevue, Neb., Apr. 2.

PRAIRIE CHICKENS THROUGH GALLINULES—There were approximately 85 Lesser Prairie Chickens on the booming grounds at Pratt Sandhills Wildlife area, Pratt Co., Kans., Apr. 13 (*vide* DV). Gambel's Quail are making a comeback in Brewster and Presidio counties, Tex., and are now present at Black Gap. On Apr. 17, in the late afternoon, five Whooping Cranes flew N. along the Missouri R. near Plattsmouth, Neb. (GW). The cranes were later sighted at DeSoto Bend Ref., farther n. along the Missouri (*vide* MW). Two King Rails were discovered at Tulsa Mar. 29 (A&BR). Several Virginia Rails heard in Burleson County Apr. 11 & 18 were the first since 1973. Elsewhere, both Virginia Rails and Soras were scarce. A Purple Gallinule in Chase County, Kans., May 9 was carefully described (SS).

SHOREBIRDS—In w. Texas, a drouth in fall and winter dried most playas, causing a very poor showing of shorebirds. But in other areas, low water levels in man-made lakes provided excellent habitat for waders. Semipalmated Plovers were observed in only four locations. A Piping Plover visited Waco, Tex., May 8. A Snowy Plover in Tulsa Apr. 14 was the first since 1951 (JH). Only two other reports of Snowy Plovers were received. In Lyon County, Kans. 32 Am. Golden Plovers fed in a burned pasture May 11 (E&JS). At Tulsa, 14 Black-bellied Plovers waded in a water-soaked field May 18. All plovers were scarce elsewhere.

Long-billed Curlews were present in good numbers at El Paso Apr. 13 and Crosby County, Tex. Mar. 30. Three Long-billed Curlews in Kerr County, Tex., Apr. 3 were unusual at that locality. Whimbrels appeared near Dryden, Tex., May 3 (J&WR) and at Waco May 8 (LMB). Two Upland Sandpipers in Big Bend N.P., May 1 provided one of the few spring records there (J&WR). The only Red Knot discovered was at Abilene, Tex. At Arlington, Tex., an amazing 135 Pectoral Sandpipers were counted May 5. An unheard of 300+ White-rumped Sandpipers stopped at Tulsa following an all night rain May 18. Baird's Sandpipers were present in good numbers in many areas. Dunlins were observed at Lubbock Apr. 19, Waco May 8, Arlington May 16 and Tulsa Apr. 20 & May 18.

Sanderlings were noted at Crescent L., Abilene and Midland in May. At Tulsa, an astonishing 75 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were counted in a wet field May 18. Other records of this species were Lyon County, Kans., May 13, Arlington May 3 & 12, Dallas Apr. 20 and Shelby, Neb., May 16. Both Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits were widespread but a flock of Hudsonian Godwits comprising 36 birds at Tulsa Apr. 17 was certainly unusual. American Avocets were seen in exceptional numbers at unwonted locations: 100 at Oklahoma City, 150 at Tulsa, 50 at El Paso, 40 at Ft. Worth. Black-necked Stilts in Burleson County Apr. 11 were the first since 1972, and two in Big Bend N.P. Mar. 25 & May 1 were unexpected. Only 1500 Wilson's Phalaropes swirled above the Midland sewage ponds where 10,000 are not unusual in the spring. But elsewhere there were large gatherings: 5000 at Lubbock, 5369 at Crescent L., 1000 at El Paso and 400 at Arlington. A Wilson's Phalarope in Big Bend N.P., May 3-5 provided one of the few records there (J&WR). Northern Phalaropes were newsworthy at Muleshoe N.W.R., Tex., May 10 (CSt, m.ob.) and El Paso May 3 (KZ).

GULLS AND TERNS—A Laughing Gull at Nacogdoches Mar. 20 provided a first spring record (DW). An assemblage of 30 Franklin's Gulls at Socorro, Tex., Apr. 13 was unusual so far west. The Heermann's Gull previously reported at Tulsa remained until Mar. 4. Small numbers of Forster's Terns were well distributed. Caspian Terns were noted at Tulsa May 17 (JST), Lyon County Kans. May 28 (MS), Cherokee County, Okla., May 23 (BZ) and Walker County, Tex., May 20 (KB). Least Terns were recorded at Cowley County, Kans., May 10, Tulsa May 4 & 9, Sequoyah N.W.R., May 23 and Sarpy County, Neb., May 18.

DOVES THROUGH GOATSUCKERS—A White-winged Dove provided a new record in Crosby County May 30 (M&RL) and a pair which remained in Midland May 14-31 was possibly nesting. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Crosby County Apr. 3 was a month earlier than any previous record. Black-billed Cuckoos were discovered at Crescent L., May 26, Dallas May 12 and Oklahoma City May 20. Groove-billed Anis visited Big Bend N.P.: two May 10 near the Rio Grande and one May 15 in the Chisos Mts. A pair of Screech Owls was found nesting in an old adobe house in Hudspeth County, Tex., May 17, providing a new county breeding record (JSP *et al.*). A Burrowing Owl was seen on the parking lot of a busy Dallas shopping center Apr. 8. Although Long-eared Owls were nesting in Reno County, Kans., by Mar. 9, late migrants were noted in Big Bend N.P., May 1 and Oklahoma City May 3. A Chuck-will's-widow at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Tex., May 4 provided a new record for the Texas Panhandle (KS). A Whip-poor-will was found dead at Dallas on the early date Apr. 7.

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS—Two Vaux's Swifts were closely compared with nearby Chimney Swifts at Kerrville, Tex., May 7 (RS). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was present in Big Bend N.P.,



Lucifer Hummingbird on nest, Big Bend N.P., April 30, 1980. Photo/Will Risser.

where it is rare in spring, Apr. 30-May 3. Lucifer Hummingbirds were easy to find in the park and a nest was located Apr. 30, but Blue-throated Hummingbirds were scarce. Both these species were present at Black Gap W.M.A., Mar. 31 (KB *et al.*). A Broad-billed Hummingbird visited a feeder in Presidio County, Tex., May 23-24 (JM). The Elegant Trogon found in Big Bend N.P., last winter remained until Apr. 15. By Mar. 13, Green Kingfishers were nesting in Llano County, Tex., at the crossing of Miller Creek two and a half miles from the entrance to Pedernales Falls S.P. The nest was in a bank behind cypress tree roots (E&KM). Green Kingfishers may also be found at Lost Maples Natural Area, Bandera Co., Tex.

In Texas, Pileated Woodpeckers were located at two locations in Burleson County and on the Tarrant-Denton county line. The nest of a Pileated Woodpecker was found in Cherokee County, Kans., May 4 (MS). An Acorn Woodpecker in Alpine, Tex. May 25 was presumed to have wandered from the nearby Davis Mts. (JSch). Williamson's Sapsuckers visited El Paso Mar. 13 (KZ), Big Spring Apr. 1 (GWA), Midland Mar. 14 (FW). A Hairy Woodpecker at Crescent L., Mar. 20 was unusual for the season.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS—A W. Kingbird at Nacogdoches May 11 provided a second county record, first for the spring season (MW *et al.*). At Midland 20 years ago, 120 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were tallied regularly during spring counts, but this year only six were counted. A similar decline has occurred at Amarillo. Say's Phoebe were e. of their normal range in Texas at Nacogdoches Mar. 6-8 (BL) and in Brazos County Mar. 29 (JY). In Kansas, Say's Phoebe wandered e. to Pratt Sandhill Wildlife Area Apr. 13, Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area Apr. 5 and Quivera N.W.R., Apr. 12 (*vide* DV). Of 21 *Empidonax* seen in the Chisos Mts., May 2-5, 19 were Dusky, one was Gray and one was Western (KG). A Gray Flycatcher was also reported at Black Gap Mar. 30. An unusual number of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers was observed in the e. portion of the Region. There was a deluge of W. Wood Pewees in w. Texas the last week of May. A field trip in Kerr and Real counties Mar. 18 was brightened by 12 Vermilion Flycatchers. The nest of a Tree Swallow found in Osage County, Kans., provided a third State record (MS). Now that birders have learned not to assume that all orange-rumped swallows nesting in Texas

road culverts are Cliff Swallows, new Cave Swallow colonies are discovered each spring.

CORVIDS THROUGH SHRIKES—A flock of Am. Crows comprising 120 birds was seen a few miles down river from El Paso Mar. 15 (KZ, JD). A White-breasted Nuthatch was a surprising visitor at Crescent L., Apr. 19 (FZ, MZ). A Bewick's Wren was carefully identified at Omaha, Neb., Apr. 7 (TB). Both Long-billed and Short-billed Marsh Wrens were unusually common in the c. & e. sections of the Region. A Rock Wren bobbed and trilled at Crescent L., May 4. Fledgling Am. Robins were found May 31 at El Paso, where robins rarely nest. A Swainson's Thrush found dead in San Angelo May 17 was the first at that location since 1975. A Veery sojourned in a Big Bend N.P. oasis May 9-21. Other sightings of this low density migrant were at Arkoma, Okla., May 23, Tulsa May 16, Sarpy County, Neb., May 15 and Johnson County, Kans., mid-May. Five Townsend's Solitaires in one area in Real County, Tex., Mar. 18 were four more solitaires than are usually seen in one place. Sprague's Pipits remained in Burleson County until Apr. 18. An estimated 100,000 Cedar Waxwings assembled at Possum Kingdom L., Palo Pinto Co., Tex., Mar. 15 (KN). Phainopeplas were discovered at Big Spring May 11 and Midland Mar. 11. A N. Shrike in Swisher County, Tex., Mar. 2 was unusual at that date.

VIREOS—Black-capped Vireos buzzed loudly in thickets in Big Bend N.P., Apr. 30 and Abilene S.P., Tex., May 3. If the increased number of reports of Black-capped Vireos is any criterion, the population of the species must be burgeoning. White-eyed Vireos were discovered in Cowley County, Kans., May 9 (DV) and Big Bend N.P., May 5-9 (KG *et al.*). A Hutton's Vireo near Alpine, Tex., May 3 was in suitable nesting habitat. Bell's Vireos were abundant on the Edwards Plateau of Texas and in Big Bend N.P. The rarely observed Philadelphia Vireo was noted at six localities.

WARBLERS—Warblers which breed in the forests of Canada were surprisingly common in the Region during migration. Those reported frequently included Tennessee, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Palm, N. Waterthrush and Mourning. The Cape May Warbler was found only at Waco May 11 (FG). Of the warblers which breed on the e. edge of the Region, the Black-and-white, Worm-eating, N. Parula, Yellow-throated, Ovenbird and Hooded appeared at several localities w. of their summer range. There were few extralimital records of other warblers from the e.: Prothonotary at San Angelo Apr. 26 (TM *et al.*), Swainson's in Crosby County Apr. 9 (M&RL) and in Johnson County, Kans., May 13 (MLM), Cerulean at Ft. Worth May 15 (L&AB) and Coffey County May 1 (LZ, VH), Pine at Wichita, Kans., May 17-19 (DV), Prairie in Sarpy County May 20 (JU) and Muleshoe N.W.R., May 11 (M&RL), Louisiana Waterthrush at Lubbock Apr. 6 (DS, m.ob.), Kentucky at Lubbock May 3 (KH, m.ob.), Davis Mts., Apr. 28 (PE), Big Bend N.P., Apr. 29, May 5, 7 & 11 (m.ob.).

Of the warblers which breed n.e. of this Region, migrant Golden-winged, Blackburnian and Chestnut-sided Warblers were discovered at six or more localities. The Blue-winged Warbler graced Cherokee County, Kans., May 4 (TS) and Waco Mar. 30-31 (AG, MB). The Black-throated Blue Warbler was observed in Sarpy County May 19 (MW) and Canada Warblers at four areas in the e. third of the Region.



Hermit Warbler, Muleshoe N.W.R., Texas. May 10, 1980. Photo/Cliff Stogner.

Except for MacGillivray's Warbler, w. warblers are seldom seen on the plains, but there were some amazing records this spring. A **Hermit Warbler** was photographed at Muleshoe N.W.R., May 10 (CSi, m.ob.). A Red-faced Warbler spent an hour bathing in a drainage ditch in Oldham County, Tex., Apr. 28 (RSc) and one was located in Big Bend N.P., May 12 (RD). A Painted Redstart at Lubbock Apr. 27 (HRB) was far from home, but one in Presidio County Apr. 6 (MLK) was not many miles from the usual residence of the species in Big Bend N.P. Townsend's Warblers visited El Paso, Lubbock and Amarillo. Black-throated Gray Warblers were observed in Roberts and Presidio counties, Tex. A Grace's Warbler in El Paso Apr. 27 was noteworthy (JD).

A **Tropical Parula** in Garner S.P., Uvalde Co., Tex., Apr. 19 may possibly represent the first record of this species n. of the Rio Grande valley (RAR).

ICTERIDS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS—Bobolinks moved through the e. half of the Region May 4-20, with peaks of 60 in Collin County, Tex., and 35 in Tulsa. Black-headed and Altamira Orioles were carefully identified at Brackettville, Tex., Apr. 13 (GOW *et al.*) and a Black-headed Oriole was reported in Big Bend N.P., May 25 (SW *et al.*). Bronzed Cowbirds have persisted at San Angelo since first discovered in 1972, but one at College Station Mar. 31 was the first since 1975. A W. Tanager at Wichita May 7 was unexpected (DV). Scarlet Tanagers were reported at seven localities w. of their usual range. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were common throughout the Region the last week of April and first two weeks of May. Black-headed Grosbeaks were observed in Harvey County, Kans., Apr. 24, Wichita May 7, Payne County, Okla., early May and Crescent L., May 11-25. Indigo Buntings were recorded at El Paso Apr. 30, May 4 & 22 and Alpine Apr. 7. Lazuli Buntings were present at an amazing 12 localities the first two weeks of May. Three Varied Buntings were observed in Kinney County, Tex., Apr. 17 (E&KM). A flock of buntings in Big Bend N.P., May 6 com-

prised six Indigo, six Lazuli, eight Varied and 20 Painted, plus 20 Blue Grosbeaks! (RAR).

A total of 14 Pine Siskins was seen in the Region. Red Crossbills remained at El Paso Mar. 24-May 7 with a peak of 12 birds. At Oklahoma City there were three Red Crossbills Mar. 8 and five Mar. 9. Green-tailed Towhees were abundant on the Texas s. plains where as many as 15 could be seen per day in late April and early May. A Green-tailed Towhee was discovered at Waco Mar. 21 (AG) and one remained at Midland until May 11. A Rufous-sided Towhee lingered at Lubbock until May 28. Flocks of Lark Buntings which had wintered at Elk City, Okla., remained until mid-April. A Grasshopper Sparrow in Bandera County, Tex., was carrying nesting material May 23, providing circumstantial evidence of a new breeding record there (E&KM). Baird's Sparrows were discovered in Crosby County Mar. 22 and Lubbock May 3. A Le Conte's Sparrow was located in Crosby County Apr. 15. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was banded at Lincoln Neb., May 15 (MBO). Two Cassin's Sparrows at Waco May 14 were the first there in many years. Even more unusual was one at Nacogdoches Apr. 16 (DW, SL). A Black-throated Sparrow at Waco Mar. 8 provided a new county record (MB, AG). Sage Sparrows were found in Crosby County Mar. 22 and Lubbock May 3. A **Gray-headed Junco** was banded in Johnson County, Kans., Mar. 6 (MLM, m.ob.). Clay-colored Sparrows were common throughout Texas; a few even reached the Nacogdoches area. The Black-chinned Sparrow first sighted in Big Spring in Feb., was seen again and photographed Mar. 30 (GWa).

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SOUTH TEXAS REGION

/Fred S. Webster, Jr.

The most severe Arctic cold front of a generally mild winter invaded South Texas on March 1, bringing such unprecedented temperature readings as 20°F at Corpus Christi and setting back vegetative growth throughout the Region. One long-range result was the absence, scarcity or tardiness of such wild food as the mulberry which is relished by many bird species migrating in April and May. Many trees lost early leaf and fruit buds and had not fully leafed out until mid-April or later. Drought was a partner to cold in ravishing of habitats. Water reserves were already low in the western half of the Region when rainfall dropped off to a mere trickle in mid-February. Rain-producing weather systems brought temporary relief in late March but it was late April before rainfall approached normal levels in northern and eastern sections, while those parched sections from the Coastal Bend (central coast) to the mouth of the Rio Grande and westward had two more weeks to wait. Precipitation was above average in most sections throughout much of May; this was sufficient to restore pond levels and to flood fields in eastern sections, but far South Texas soaked up its portion with little visible improvement in habitat.

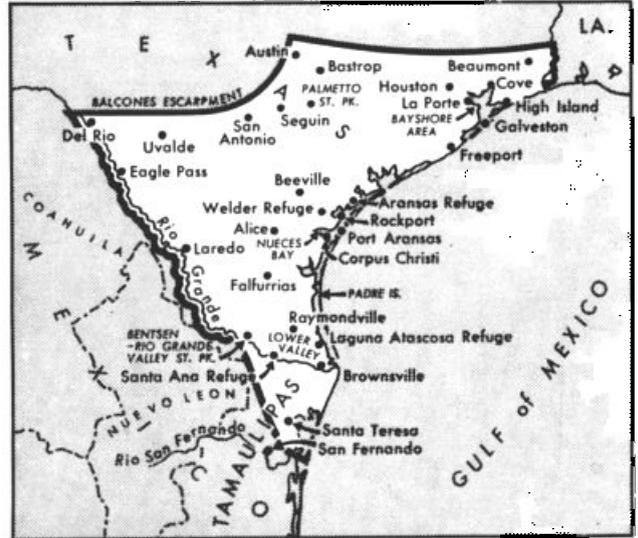
Reports from the upper coast give the most complete area coverage for the passerine migration and are featured in the following resume of major pushes or fallouts. Reports from other sections are fragmentary and not useful for numerical comparison. (Reports from the upper coast were summarized by Eubanks and Morgan with the latter responsible for passerines.) Observers found March on the upper coast very good for variety and numbers with the best early fallout in years witnessed at High Island on March 28 following two days of almost continuous rain. Morgan reported passerines "pouring in" off the Gulf in light rain that morning. After feeding feverishly, many birds in flocks of 25 to 50 would rise straight up from the trees to a height of nearly 100 feet and head north. The observers were swamped with Blue-gray Gnatcatchers (800), White-eyed Vireos (315), and 16 species of warblers (see high counts under paragraph headings).

Migrant-watching continued good on the upper coast through April 13 with a spectacular wave developing on April 12. Feltner, leading a small tour group, arrived at an open grove of live oaks near Sabine Pass, Jefferson Co., at 2:30 p.m. "The plot is about four acres and encompasses two small ponds surrounded, in part, by willows, as well as 10 or 12 live oaks about 40 feet high." Only 18 individual birds were found until, at 3:40 p.m., the first fallout occurred—some 20 warblers drifting down from the leaden sky into the oaks. By 4:00 p.m. at least 1500 birds were in the first four oak trees with no let-up apparent in the rate of arrival. Birds landed in the tree tops and immediately started feeding, appearing more hungry than weary, and moved rapidly to their normal foraging levels. Others crowded about rain puddles to bathe. Dusk fell prematurely, about 5:30 p.m. "I decided to walk through the two little patches of trees that comprise the grove,"

Feltner recalled. "As I stepped into the first stand, birds flew up in front of me like the sea parting in front of a boat." He estimated 4000 migrants in the grove. Conditions which precipitated this fallout were the arrival of a cold front on April 12, followed by strong northerly winds and rain overnight. Phenomenally high counts of some warbler species were made on April 13 at Sabine Pass and elsewhere in Jefferson County.

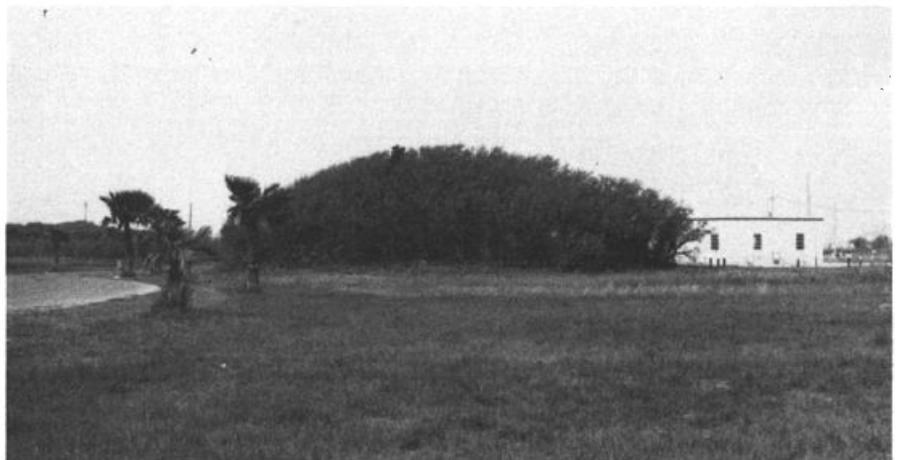
After April 13 an "extremely dull" period—quite uncharacteristic of the upper coast—set in and lasted through May 1. During this hiatus the action shifted westward. The Texas Ornithological Society's spring meeting was scheduled for April 24-26 on N. Padre Island. A weak cold front with light rain came in overnight, Lasley reported, just in time for the first round of field trips on April 25. Standing by a small grove of willows near the beach in early morning, observers watched for two hours or more as dozens of warblers and orioles dropped from 100 feet "straight down into the willows", to feed briefly and then continue northward along the beach.

May brought an increase in rainfall and a better showing of birds throughout the Region. The period May 2-17 was outstanding on the upper coast, with frequent pushes of thrushes, vireos and warblers. May 3 was a big warbler day at High Island, but it will be longer remembered for thrush numbers. This, the biggest push of thrushes observed in many years, continued through May 9, being renewed by intermittent thunderstorms. May 9 was outstanding also for storm kill, Eubanks and Morgan reported, with an average



of 100 beached carcasses per mile from Sabine Pass to High Island, about 30 miles. McCracken considered May 9 to be the best thrush day of the season at Corpus Christi, following a stormy night. May 7, ushered in by pre-dawn thunderstorms, was the big day of the season at Austin. There the grounds of the State Capitol Building hosted at least 19 species of warblers, according to Lasley, and the invasion could be traced northward through the city along a tree-lined creek which passes near the capitol grounds.

A final and highly noteworthy concentration of migrants was discovered at High Island and Galveston, May 17, following thunderstorms the preceding afternoon and overnight. Cuckoos, flycatchers, vireos and warblers were outstanding. This was the best late spring spectacle in many years on the upper coast and featured some species which are considered scarce by this date. Good late waves were noted at Austin May 15-16 and at Corpus Christi May 19, and significant numbers of warblers and *Empidonax* flycatchers were seen in the Rio Grande Delta as late as May 25.



Packery Channel, North Padre Island, Nueces County, Texas. Small groves of oaks such as this are excellent traps for tired migrant birds.



Salt cedar grove surrounded by salt marsh. High Island, Galveston County, Texas. Photos/Greg W. Lasley.

SHEARWATERS THROUGH WATER-FOWL—A bird identified as a **Greater Shearwater** was observed at length off the beach at High I., Apr. 20 (CE, J&BR *et al.*). This species' status in Texas is still unknown. An apparently exhausted imm. Masked Booby was encountered on the beach near Port Isabel, Cameron Co., Mar. 30 (EG *et al.*). A general migration of Anhingas was underway in late March; most impressive were an estimated 1643 in several flocks over Santa Ana N.W.R. in late afternoon, Mar. 30 (DEW *et al.*). An Am. Flamingo appeared on South Bird I., for the third consecutive year, about Apr. 17 (RW *et al.*). (See AB 32:1029). Fulvous Whistling Ducks moved up the coast in good numbers in April. Flocks of 40 or more were found in rice fields on the coastal prairies. Rare was a pair of Greater Scaup seen along the causeway at N. Padre I., Apr. 23 (JA, DF) and six at South Bird I., May 1 (RS *et al.*).

HAWKS, CRANES—An estimated 30,000 Broad-winged Hawks in many kettles were noted along U.S. 77 n. of Kingsville, Kleberg Co., Mar. 20 (BF, JH *et al.*). Around 10,000 were seen near Beeville Mar. 30, and another 1000 Apr. 7 (VG). The first sizeable movement reported from Santa Ana N.W.R. was of 2765 birds on the morning of Mar. 31 (DEW *et al.*), and about 2000 were spotted there Apr. 5 (RAR). Peregrine Falcons migrated along Padre I. in "encouraging" numbers this season (RW). Seventy ad. and six imm. Whooping Cranes left Aransas N.W.R. Apr. 2-23 (SL). Large flights of Sandhill Cranes were seen over Austin in mid-March.

SHOREBIRDS, GULLS, TERNS—The high count of Am. Golden Plovers was 750 on the upper coast, Apr. 26 (TE). An apparent Surf-bird was well described from Bolivar Flats at Galveston Apr. 12 (CD, JM, LS); there is one previous hypothetical sighting for Texas. The first Whimbrel in several years was seen at Austin, May 16 (GL). Excellent numbers of Upland Sandpipers were reported at New Braunfels, Com-

al Co., the latter part of April (SH). White-rumped Sandpipers were abundant at Rockport May 13 (CC). Thousands of Dunlins could be found on Bolivar Flats in April and May, and counts of 5000 W. Sandpipers and 3000 Short-billed Dowitchers there March 30 (TE) were exceptional. Counts of 70 Hudsonian Godwits on the upper coast May 9 (TE, JGM), and 100 on mud flats near Attwater Prairie Chicken N.W.R. (WAS) were high for this species. An individual was present at a rain pool in Wilson County May 26-27 (WS). Highest counts for Wilson's Phalaropes were 750 at Mitchell L., San Antonio area, May 4 (SH), and 500 at Austin's sewage ponds May 10. A first-year California Gull photographed at Port Aransas, Apr. 6 (GL) was only the second documented record for the central coast. An estimated 1300 Com. Terns were seen on Bolivar Pen., April 26 (BF, LR).

CUCKOOS THROUGH SWIFTS—Yellow-billed Cuckoos made a mediocre showing on the upper coast, but a count of 35 Black-billed Cuckoos at Galveston, May 9 (BF, LR) was outstanding. At least ten Chuck-will's-widows were found in a small willow grove off the beach on N. Padre I., Apr. 25 (GL *et al.*). A late push of Com. Nighthawks was noted at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., May 20 (JA). A swift found dead on the road at Rockport, May 5, 1979 (CC) has been certified as a **Vaux's Swift**.

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH SWALLOWS—A ♂ **Green Violet-ear** was present daily in Arvin's yard near McAllen, Hidalgo Co., May 6-June 13 (JA). A sub ad. ♂ **Calliope Hummingbird** was at Houston, Apr. 5-7 (MA *et al.*); this is a new species for the upper coast. An unusually large number of W. Kingbirds were found along the upper coast, Apr. 26 (*vide* JGM). A **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** was seen in riparian habitat at Bensten-Rio Grande Valley S.P., May 24 (JA). Good movements of **Empidonax** flycatchers were noted on the upper coast, May 17 (TE, JGM) and near McAllen, May 19, with

a late push of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., May 24 (JA). A **Dusky Flycatcher** was seen at the same locality, May 24. A specimen collected at McAllen last fall provides a first documented record for South Texas (JA). A composite count of Tree Swallows reported by all observers on the upper coast Apr. 13-14 totalled 23,000 birds. Thousands of Barn Swallows moved in a constant stream through the Corpus Christi area, Mar. 30-31 (GL) and "large numbers" were still moving up Padre I. N.S. in May (RW).

THRASHERS, THRUSHES—On Apr. 5, 65 mi out of Galveston, a nearly exhausted Brown Thrasher landed on the antenna of a fishing boat for a brief rest. Then it took off NW, attracting a Ring-billed Gull which had been following the boat. Within seconds the gull was dive-bombing the thrasher, attempting to drive it into the waves. The only other bird in sight, an imm. Laughing Gull, joined in the attack. The struggling thrasher maneuvered within inches of the waves until the gulls lost interest (RB). The Wood Thrush migration crested with 200 birds at Sabine Pass, Apr. 12 (BF). Swainson's Thrushes were abundant at High I., May 3 (KGM *et al.*), and a combined total of 550 was counted by several observers between Galveston and Sabine Pass, May 9. Gray-cheeked Thrushes and Veeries occurred in much smaller numbers, although 125 Veeries at Galveston, May 9 (BF, LR) was an excellent count.

VIREOS, WARBLERS—The highest count for Red-eyed Vireos was 230, mostly at High I., May 17 (TE, JGM)—very late for such a display. Good numbers of Warbling Vireos were migrating on N. Padre I., Apr. 25, as indicated by 14 birds netted and banded (*vide* GL). These common warblers were seen in uncommonly large numbers: 370 Black-and-white Warblers at High I., Mar. 28 (TE, JGM); 1500 Tennessee Warblers at Sabine Pass Apr. 12 (BF); 543 N. Parulas at High I., Mar. 28 (TE, JGM), 700 Magnolias at Galveston, May 9 (BF, LR); 380 Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) at High I., Mar. 28 (TE, JGM); 325 Bay-breasteds at High I., May 3 (JGM *et al.*) and 250 at Galveston May 9 (BF, LR); 700 Kentuckys in Jefferson County Apr. 13 (BF); 2500 Com. Yellowthroats in Jefferson County Apr. 13 (BF); and 1400 Hooded Warblers there Apr. 13 (BF). These common warblers were seen in unusually large numbers at High I. and Galveston on the very late date of May 17 (TE, JGM); 165 Magnolias, 41 Blackburnians, 200 Bay-breasteds, 85 Ovenbirds, and 225 Am. Redstarts. Thought to be "down" in number were: Prothonotary, Golden-winged, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Ovenbird, N. Waterthrush, Yellow-breasted Chat, Wilson's and Canada. Two Swainson's Warblers at Boca Chica Apr. 9 (JA) may be the first ever reported from Cameron County. Two **Virginia's Warblers** appeared at the Galveston Bay home of the Claytons, Apr. 27 (G&IC); one was seen Apr. 29 (MA *et al.*). This species had not previously been reported e. of the 96°W meridian in Texas. The impressive migration of Magnolia Warblers on the upper coast during the first half of May was reflected at Corpus

Christi, Beeville and Austin. A count of 150+ at Austin, May 7 (GL) must be an all-time high for the locality. A Cape May Warbler was at Boca Chica Apr. 25-26, and a Starr County "first" was found below the spillway at Falcon Dam May 2 (JA, DF). Two birds were banded on N. Padre I., Apr. 25 (KB, TG); they are rare this far west. Single Townsend's Warblers were seen at Anzalduas, near Santa Ana N.W.R., Mar. 19 (KA, LB, CC), at Boca Chica Apr. 25-26 (JA, DF), and at Austin, Apr. 5 (AB). Since Cerulean Warblers are rare inland in the Rio Grande Delta, five birds in one tree at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., Apr. 19 (JA) were noteworthy. Blackpoll Warblers had a mediocre season on the upper coast, but appeared unexpectedly w. of their usual range. A female at Rancho Santa Margarita, May 4 (RS *et al.*) was a first for Starr County. One was at Boca Chica, Apr. 14 (JA, SB). Several were on N. Padre I., including two banded (*fide* GL). A rare Prairie Warbler was seen at Rancho Santa Margarita Apr. 6 (RAR).

BLACKBIRD, ORIOLES, TANAGERS—A concentration of 600+ Yellow-headed Blackbirds was found e. of Austin Apr. 27 (MM). Northern (Baltimore) Orioles were abundant in the Coastal Bend, especial-

ly on Apr. 25 when small flocks streamed N along the barrier islands throughout the day (GL, RAR *et al.*). Tanagers made a sub-par showing in all areas. A W. Tanager at Austin May 3 was unusual (DL).

FRINGILLIDS—Grosbeak numbers were low. A pair of **Blue Buntings** (*Cyanocompsa parcellina*) was found in Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P. Inasmuch as photographs were obtained (JA), this represents the second documented record for North America. Arvin found the female Mar. 12. The male was found Mar. 16 (JA, CC), on which date both birds were seen by other observers (KA, LB, SB). Bunting counts were ordinary except for 5000 Indigo and 1300 Painted Buntings in Jefferson County Apr. 13 (BF). A Lazuli Bunting in Brownsville May 11 (J&BTW) was unusual; several turned up at Corpus Christi early in May (*fide* KM). Dickcissels flocked to wheat fields in Wilson County (WS); and a migrating flock of 500+ was working a wheat field at Port Lavaca, Calhoun Co., Apr. 24 (GL BW). A ♀-plumaged Red Crossbill was feeding on buds at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., Mar. 13 (JA). An out-of-range Black-throated Sparrow was seen in Colorado County Mar. 30

(W&JR). Clay-colored Sparrows were unusually numerous at San Antonio (SH, TH) and Austin (GL, FSW) in late April and early May. One very late Lincoln's Sparrow was at Rockport, May 21 (CC).

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NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION

/Helmut Grünberg

Spring arrived early this year. Rivers and lakes thawed early, and the melting snow cover was light. For these reasons, staging and flock formations of various species were not as pronounced as in previous years. March and April temperatures in Whitehorse were slightly above normal, May temperatures the same as the long-time average; precipitation in March and April (mostly as snow) was less than half of the normal amount; May precipitation (mostly as rain) was little more than one fourth of the long-term average for this month, thus giving the growing season in our Region a poor start.

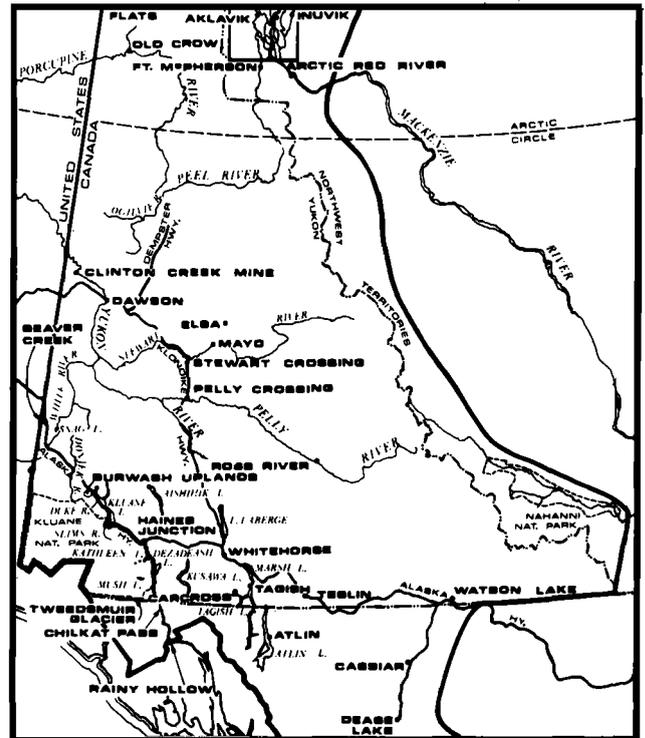
Observers reported 156 species from the Yukon and northern British Columbia. Species that "should" have been observed but were not reported were Merlin, Gray-cheeked Thrush and Pine Siskin.

LOONS THROUGH FALCONS — Arctic and Red-throated loon were seen near km 240, Dempster Hwy., May 26 (RH). Migration and staging times of Whistling and Trumpeter swans seemed to have overlapped this spring. Unusually early observations of swans were as follows: one swan on the ice of Sekulmun L. near Aishihik L., about Mar. 18 (CM, *fide* DMO), three Trumpeter Swans near Carcross Mar. 20 (DMO) and several smaller groups of Whistling Swans among a mixed flock of 70 swans at Marsh L., Apr. 14 (HG, MH, DMO *et al.*). In late April RH saw 1400 swans, presumably mostly Whistlers, in the same area at Marsh L.

Several "Black" Brant were observed w. of Whitehorse (hereafter, 'Whse.') during the

season (BDr, *fide* DN). Eight Snow Geese were seen at Kluane L., Apr. 15 (WH). Snow Geese were also noted at the s. end of L. Laberge Apr. 21 (RC & NW). Over fifty individuals were observed near Whse., Apr. 23 (DS). A flock of 15 birds was noted on an airstrip near km 120, Haines Rd., May 15 (AvF), and 15 were observed near km 173, Haines Rd. (KP). Northern Shoveler, Blue-winged Teal, Canvasback and Redhead were more common than usual during the spring season (m.ob.).

Three reports of the uncommon Swainson's Hawk were received this spring (WH, DMcK, KP). Observations of 1-2 Gyrfalcons came from the Yukon Game Farm near Whse. (DN & US), from the Dempster Hwy., in March (RH), Sheep Mt., Apr. 20 (HG), the Dempster Hwy., May 10 (DMO), and from the upper Sixty-Mile R. area May 18 (RF & JK). An ad. ♂ Peregrine Falcon was seen during migration at the Yukon Game Farm (DN & US). Three were noted by KP in the Haines Jct. area. One Peregrine observation was reported from the Whse. area Mar. 23 (RC & NW) and one from the Dempster Hwy., May 1 (DMO).



GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — A pair of Blue Grouse was observed near km 83, Haines Rd., May 23 (AvF). A Sharp-tailed Grouse was seen at Duke Meadows, Kluane L., Apr. 28 (WH). Three were observed near Sulphur L., Kluane L. area, in May (KP), and one was encountered near Gravel L., e. of Dawson, May 23 (DMO). Rock Ptarmigan were observed in the Eagle Plains, Dempster Hwy., in March (RH). They were

seen at km 100-150, Haines Rd., Apr. 17 (AvF). Six were noted along the Dempster Hwy., May 2 (DMo), and one was sighted near Kloo L., in May (KP). They were also observed at the upper Sixty-Mile R., May 17 (RF & JK) and in the Duke R. uplands May 26 (WH). An unspecified number of White-tailed Ptarmigan was seen at km 100-150, Haines Rd., Apr. 17 (AvF), and two were reported from Kloo L., in May (KP).

The observation of 36 Sandhill Cranes along the Dempster Hwy., May 1, was somewhat unusual (DMo). An Am. Coot was seen near Pelly Crossing May 27 (DS).

A Black-bellied Plover was seen at Kluane L., near Kluane R., May 21 (WH). A Surf-bird observation was reported from the upper Sixty-Mile R., May 17 (RF & JK). Whimbrels were noted in surprisingly large numbers: on May 12, WH observed two near Haines Jct., while RF noted one at the Dempster Hwy.. This species was also reported from the Dempster Hwy., May 20 (RH). WH saw one Whimbrel at Duke Meadows May 20-21 and at least 20 between Duke R. bridge and the uplands May 26. Upland Sandpipers were reported by WH as follows: at least 26 at Duke Meadows May 20, and 14 between Duke R. bridge and the uplands May 26. Two Wandering Tattlers were noted at Graham Inlet, n. British Columbia, May 18 (MB). One was seen along the Dempster Hwy., May 20 (RH). Two Dunlins were observed independently at Kluane L., near Kluane R., May 16-17 (MH) & May 21 (WH). Two Short-billed Dowitchers as well as three male and three female Wilson's Phalaropes were seen in their known breeding area at Swan L., 20 km n. of Whse., May 25 (HG, MH).

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — The unusual sighting of two Glaucous Gulls was reported from Whse., Apr. 29 (DMo). Almost every spring someone observes the uncommon Mourning Dove in the s. Yukon. This time one was seen along the Carcross-Tagish Rd., May 24 (MH).

A "suspected" Screech Owl, so far not proven to occur in our Region, was heard near Donjek R., Apr. 10 (RH, DMo). A Short-eared Owl was seen at the Yukon Game Farm May 8 (WK). Another one was noted at the upper Sixty-Mile R., May 17 (RF & JK). One was observed along the Dempster Hwy., May 20 (RH) and one at the upper Duke R., May 26 (WH). Two Barred Owls were reported near Haines Jct., and four Great Gray Owls were at Kluane L., during May (KP). A Great Gray Owl was identified near the Yukon Game Farm in late April (BDa, *vide* DN). A Gray Owl nest with two eggs and two Gray Owls incubating were reported from the n. Ogilvie Mts. May 25-29 (RH, DMo). Two Hawk Owls were seen near Marshal Cr., Haines Jct. area, Apr. 17 (C & LD). One was noted in the Whse. area Apr. 28 (DS) and one near Kluane L., May 5 (WH). A nesting bird was observed in the n. Ogilvie Mts., May 25-29 (RH, DMo). A Boreal Owl was heard at the Teslin R., May 23-27 (L & JB, JL & PW).

One ♂ Rufous Hummingbird appeared at Graham Inlet Apr. 26; four females and one male were counted May 9 (MB). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, *ruber* race, was seen near Telegraph Creek, n. British Columbia, May 14 (PM). A ♀ Downy Woodpecker was regularly observed at a feeder in the Whse. area

until Apr. 2 (DS). Six Downies were reported from Haines Jct. They are nesting in this area (KP).

PASSERIFORMES — A Red-breasted Nuthatch was observed near Graham Inlet May 23 (MB). An unusually large flock of 47 Am. Robins was reported from Teslin (D & PDe). A Hermit Thrush was seen at Duke R., May 6 (WH). This species was also observed at the s. part of the Dempster Hwy., May 13 (this is assumed to have been its arrival date, RF & JK) and as far n. as the n. Ogilvie Mts., May 25 (*vide*, GR to RH). Starling observations of 1-4 birds came from Kluane L. (WH), Haines Jct. (KP) and the Klondike R. area (RF & JK).

One to two Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen in Whse., May 16-30 (DS). At least ten Evening Grosbeaks, very rare in our Region, were observed at the Takhini Hotsprings Rd., near Whse., where they had appeared last spring as well. This year's observation was made in mid-May (JS-K). One to 15 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were regularly seen from early March throughout the season at the mine site of Cassiar, B.C. (PM). Ten in-

dividuals were observed along the Dempster Hwy., May 2 (DMo). Two "possible" Brewer's Sparrows were noted in the Duke R. uplands May 26 (WH). Estimated numbers of up to 20,000 Lapland Longspurs were reported from the Yukon Game Farm in May (DN & US).

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NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/ Thomas H. Rogers

Timing of the spring migration in most parts of the Region was markedly accelerated by abnormally warm weather in March, April, and the first three weeks of May, after which heavy rains and decidedly low temperatures took over. Southern Idaho, however, had a cool, wet spring; the Richland, Washington area seemed to have a normal timetable, and migration in northeastern Oregon was retarded. Space limitations preclude mention of more than a few of the record-breaking early arrivals.

The Mt. St. Helens eruption was the event of the season—and of the century. Total destruction of all life occurred within a radius of several miles of the peak and ashfall was reported as far away as Kimberley, British Columbia and Fortine, Helena, and Bozeman, Montana, but little or no effect on birds was noted at those localities. Impact upon bird life appeared directly related to depth of ash.

From central Washington Ron Friesz reported, "It would appear that any birds that nest on the ground or that eat insects will be affected." Ash depth there was up to three inches, with drifts up to one foot deep. At Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., Jim Rees reported that many birds deserted nests in laying stages, many aquatic insects were killed, and insect-feeding birds were affected. One observer in the Yakima, Wash., area commented that the forests in the mountains were very still, with few birds found. The accompanying cold, wet weather probably aggravated the destructive effects of the ash.



LOONS AND GREBES—Common Loons were observed on the Clark Fork R., near Noxon, Mont., nesting next to the reservoir (CW) and 43+ were found Apr. 19 from the c. portion of Banks L. to the s. end of L. Lenore, Grant Co., Wash. (JA). Red-necked Grebes were nesting along the e. shore of L. Kookanus, Lincoln Co., Mont. (CW) and at Jumpoff Joe L., s.e. Stevens Co., Wash. (SZ). The species was noted at Kootenai N.W.R., and in the Coeur d' Alene L. area in n. Idaho; at Spectacle L., Okanogan Co., Wash., and at Klamath Marsh, Klamath Co., Ore., for the only other reports. The largest assemblage of W. Grebes was a flock of 68 on the Chewelah, Wash., sewage ponds Apr. 30 (JN).

PELICANS AND CORMORANTS—A few White Pelicans were on the Columbia R. n. of Pasco, on the Frenchman Hills Wasteway w. of Potholes Res., Grant Co., Wash., and at Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, Ida. The Rupert, Ida. area had somewhat larger numbers. Double-crested Cormorants were nesting at Potholes Res., where up to 21 adults were seen (RF, THR & TT). Two at Salmon, Ida., Apr. 17 were the first for that area (HBR) and two flew over Stuart L. n.w. of Vanderhoof, B.C., May 17 (GR).

HERONS THROUGH IBISES—Great Blue Herons have established a heronry at Horseshoe L. near Happys Inn, Lincoln Co., Mont., and this species had seven occupied nests at Mica Bay on Coeur d' Alene Lake. Chuck Trost warned that people should stay away from heronries during nesting time, for several colonies in the Am. Falls and Blackfoot Res. areas of s.c. Idaho moved following visits last year. Single Cattle Egrets appeared in the Rupert and Pocatello areas (WHS, CHT) and at Moses L. and Potholes Res., Grant Co., Wash. (RB, RF). Deer Flat N.W.R. had a visit from a Great Egret Apr. 22. Five breeding pairs of Great Egrets and 400+ Black-crowned Night Herons were occupying the heronry at Potholes Res., Apr. 25. That area received at least 1.5 in. of ash from Mt. St. Helens, but no adverse effects upon the colony were noted (RF). The Black-crowned colony at Am. Falls Res., which had not reproduced since the Teton Dam disaster in 1977, appeared to be doing so once more. The birds have moved, perhaps because of banding activity. One or two of the species appeared at Swan Lake, Vernon, B.C., May 13-31. They are rare this far north (JG). Snowy Egrets have not nested at Am. Falls Res. since 1977. About 35 of the birds have been visiting the trout farm at Pocatello and apparently were nesting in the Fort Hall area (CHT). Noteworthy was a White-faced Ibis at Mann's L., Lewiston, Ida., May 9-10 (EMC & RG).

WATERFOWL—Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., had most of the Whistling Swans, with 8000 there and nearby, Mar. 11. Other concentrations were 2000 on Calispell L., Pend Oreille Co., Wash.; 1185 in the Coeur d' Alene R. drainage; 1000 at Ennis, Mont., and 500 at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida. Top number of Canada Geese were 8000 at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., and 4145 in the lower Coeur

d' Alene R. drainage. Fort Boise W.M.A., Ida. had 70 White-fronted Geese Apr. 12 (J&NH) and two stopped in mid-March at Kootenai N.W.R., where they are rare (LDN). Malheur N.W.R. had 23,000 Snow Geese Mar. 25 and up to 10,000 Ross' Geese were at Miller I., near Klamath Falls, Ore., in early April (J&JC & SS). The duck migration at Malheur was more protracted than last year because of the mild weather. Thus the peak of 175,000 Pintails, the principal species, may not have indicated an actual decline from last year, when the peak was 300,000. At Turnbull N.W.R. many Mallard ducklings died, apparently from the volcanic ash, and the great reduction in insect numbers was expected to continue its impact upon young birds. Few waterfowl broods were being found in the Ritzville, Wash., area, a region hit especially hard by ash fallout. A Eur. Green-winged Teal at Miller I., Klamath Falls, Apr. 5 & 16 produced only the second sighting for the Klamath Basin (J&JC & SS). The Region had a meager scattering of Eur. Wigeons, including the first ever at Kootenai N.W.R. (LDN). Two Greater Scaup were on Upper Klamath L., May 10 (SS). A ♂ Harlequin Duck, a species seldom reported from n.e. Oregon, appeared on the Wallowa R., near Minam Apr. 13 (JE) and a male was also seen at Stuart L., May 24 (GR). A pair seemed to be nesting at Kootenai Falls between Libby and Troy, Mont. (KB, CW). Eight Surf Scoters were on Swan L., Vernon, where they are rare, May 20 (MC). Two ♂ **Black Scoters** were sighted at Stuart L. for apparently the first record for c. interior British Columbia (GR). Three Red-breasted Mergansers were diving on the Columbia R. near Pateros, Wash., May 24 (GB & VM) and three were on Spencer Res., near Triangle, Ida., May 18 (J&NH).

VULTURES AND HAWKS—A very few Goshawks were reported in s. interior British Columbia, e. Washington, and e. Oregon. Nests of seven Goshawks and 15 Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were found in n. Lincoln County, Mont. (CW). Sixteen sightings of Ferruginous Hawks were reported, all from e. Oregon and Washington (W.D.G. *et al.*). A Bald Eagle nest along L. Kookanus, Lincoln Co., Mont., was doing well until the female got caught in a "varmint" trap and died (CW). In May at Stuart L., five ad. and one imm. Bald Eagles were found, numbers which apparently represent a decline from 1972 (GR). A heavy winter-kill of fish at Wasa Slough near Kimberley, B.C., in March attracted 20 Bald and two Golden Eagles, an unprecedented concentration there (MVW). Kootenai N.F. in n.w. Montana had about 120 Osprey nests (CW). At least two pairs of Bald Eagles were nesting along the S. Fork of the Snake R. near the site of the proposed Lynn Crandall Dam (CHT). The only Peregrine Falcon reports were of one in e. Washington and one in n.w. Montana. Merlin sightings were up, apparently because more field-time was logged by the W.D.G.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS—W.D.G. personnel were watching more than 20 Sharp-tailed Grouse leks in c. Washington (JHi & SZ, *vide* JN). Up to 45 were on a lek s. of Creston, Wash. (JA, BW). Three previously

overlooked leks were found in the extreme n. end of the Tobacco Valley n. of Eureka, Mont. (CW). The Sage Grouse lek s. of Creston had 36 males and 24 females, the highest count ever (JN & SZ) and the Yakima Firing Range had 60 males and 30 females Mar. 15 (Y.A.S.). Seventy+ were booming at Virtue Flats 12 mi. e. of Baker, Ore. (JE). Two Scaled Quail were observed at the Juniper Forest e. of Connell, Wash., May 3 (BW) and three Mountain Quail were found at Chief Joseph W.R.A., s. of Asotin, Wash., Mar. 22 (RG). Ring-necked Pheasant nesting in alfalfa fields checked by the W.D.G. in four areas of Grant and Franklin counties following the ashfall showed 67.7% nest desertion, compared to less than a 7% rate in 1973. The spring Turkey gobbler season in eight c. and e. Washington counties yielded nine ad. and 11 imm. birds as of Apr. 29 (W.D.G.). Boundary County, Ida., had one bird sighted May 25 (PS).

CRANES AND RAILS—St. Andrews, Wash., had 2000+ Sandhill Cranes Apr. 5 (PC) and 400 were near Fruitland, Ida., Apr. 12 (G.E.A.S.). A pair at Ladd Marsh, Union, Ore., was rearing two young (JE) and Conboy N.W.R., Yakima Co., Wash., had four adults, two of which were believed to have nested there for several years (RF). A Sora was flying over Stuart L., May 21 (GR) and two at Mann's L., near Lewiston, Ida., were noteworthy. This latter spot, a wildlife preserve, is being threatened by the leasing of part of it to a model airplane club!

SHOREBIRDS—One or two Semipalmated Plovers appeared only at Deer Flat N.W.R., in early May (LN, J&NH). The only Snowy Plovers observed were two at a probable nesting area at White L., near Klamath Falls May 5+ (SS), and six at Summer L., Lake Co., Ore., May 28 (RDP). W.D.G. reported 50 sightings of Long-billed Curlews. Single birds showed up in the Colville Valley, Stevens Co., Wash., and at Hells Gate Park near Lewiston, both unlikely places. Four pairs in the n. end of Tobacco Valley n. of Eureka were the first ever for Lincoln County (CW). Nine Upland Sandpipers, the highest number since 1956, were in their nesting area in the Spokane Valley May 18 (JA). The building slump may spare their habitat a few more years. A sighting of six Short-billed Dowitchers at Miller I., Klamath Falls Apr. 28 produced the third record for the area (SS) and two were observed at Malheur N.W.R. in mid-May (OS *et al.*). One was identified at Reardan, Wash., May 24-26 (JA, BW) and seven were at Mann's L., Lewiston May 17 (RG). Three Semipalmated Sandpipers near Othello, Wash., May 6 (JEr) were a rarity there. Swan L., Vernon, had two on May 20 (JG). Marbled Godwits showed up in unusual numbers in s. Idaho, the only area reporting them. Deer Flat N.W.R. had 70 on Apr. 25, Montour had 30 the same day, and C J Strike Res., Bruneau, had 25 on Apr. 27 (J&NH). A single Sanderling, rare in the spring in the Region, was at Central Park between Manhattan and Belgrade, Mont., May 10 (PDS). "Several" Black-necked Stilts were found s.e. of George and near Othello, Wash., Apr. 23 & 27 (JEr, EH) and up to four

were seen in the Potholes Res area Apr 19, 20 & 24 (RF,DH, Y.A.S.).

GULLS AND TERNS—Single second-year Glaucous Gulls appeared at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash., Apr. 12 (WS) and on the Snake R., near Pullman, Wash., Mar. 16 (RS). An ad. Glaucous-winged and a Mew gull were along the Link R. near Klamath Falls Mar. 7 (SS). Two colonies of Herring Gulls, examined the third week of May on islands in Stuart L., contained a total of 28 nests (GR). The species was noted at Ennis, Mont., Mar. 16 & Apr. 5 (PDS *et al.*). A Franklin's Gull at Stuart L., May 16 was apparently the first for that area (GR). Two on Thief Valley Res., Union Co., Ore., were the first for the county and probably also for n.e. Oregon (JJ). One of this species, rather rare in e. Washington in recent years, was at Reardan May 10 (JA) and six at Kootenai N.W.R., Apr. 30 & May 7 provided unusual sightings (LDN). Up to 60 Bonaparte's Gulls stopped at Minidoka N.W.R., Rupert, Ida. Apr. 30 & May 2 (WHS,CHT). They are unusual there in spring. Two Forster's Terns made a rare appearance at Kootenai N.W.R., May 30 (LDN). The species was reported nesting at Duck L., Creston W.M.A., near Creston, B.C. (*vide* LDN). Four Caspian Terns rested on Wallowa L., s. of Enterprise, Ore., and two were on Hot L. in the Grande Ronde Valley, Union Co., Ore. The species is very rare in n.e. Oregon away from the Columbia R. (JE). Trost found only one in the Pocatello area but they were nesting on an island in the Snake R. near Nyssa, Ida. (DJ).

DOVES AND OWLS—Little Sheep Creek e. of Enterprise, had a Band-tailed Pigeon May 20 (CC) and one that appeared at a backyard feeder at Spokane May 15 came through the ashfall satisfactorily (JA & WH). Vernon, B.C., had two May 6-7 (MH) and Clearwater, n. of Kamloops, B.C., had two Apr. 28 (DL). A Barn Owl was incubating in the Grande Ronde Valley by Apr. 3. One near Vernita, Wash., Mar. 22 was apparently the first for that locality (Y.A.S.). One was found dead Mar. 8 near Kamloops, where the species is very rare (JG). Two Flammulated Owls were near Pentiction where the species nested in 1979 (SRC). Burrowing Owl numbers were promising. Five pairs were found near the Idaho Nat. Engineering Lab, near Idaho Falls, where none had been noted before (EWC). A pair of Barred Owls was sighted at Moyie L., s. of Cranbrook, B.C., and one was found Mar. 20 in Pyle's Canyon near Union, Ore., in willow thickets in sagebrush-rimrock (JE). Two Spotted Owls were discovered n.e. of Plain, Wash., May 5 (TB&DS). The Fort Klamath area had at least 3 sightings of Great Gray Owls (SS,RDP,JC) and one was heard in late March in extreme n.w. Montana (CW). A female returned to the nesting site on Bridge Cr., Union Co., Ore., but no mate was seen (RR). Short-eared Owls seemed very abundant at Malheur N.W.R. Nesting by this species was observed there and near Eureka, Mont. A Boreal Owl was heard calling Mar. 16 at L. Abundance and Mar. 21 at Buffalo Fork, both sites just n. of Yellowstone N.P. (EV, *vide* PDS). The only Saw-whet report was of one at Malheur N.W.R., Apr. 3 (ST).

POOR-WILLS THROUGH HUMMING-BIRDS—Many Poor-wills had reached Wenas Cr., n.w. of Yakima by Apr. 26, the earliest date ever for e. Washington (EH). The species was also reported for Selah, Wash., and near Frenchglen and Rome, Ore. About a dozen Black Swifts appeared to be nesting about 1.5 mi. upriver from Libby, Mont. (CW) and three passed over Reardan L., May 26 (JA). White-throated Swifts returned to the cliffs they occupied last year just w. of Bowl and Pitcher S.P., Spokane (JA; BW). Small colonies of the birds were found at Roaring Springs Ranch s. of Frenchglen and at Ft. Rock, Ore. (J&JC).

A Ruby-throated Hummingbird appeared regularly the last half of May at Stuart L. (GR). Union, Ore., had two Black-chinned Hummingbirds May 15 and two Broad-tailed Hummingbirds May 25 (LP). Two of the latter species came regularly to a feeder at La Grande, Ore., May 12+ (JE) and a male visited a feeder at Klamath Falls May 25 (B&CY). The only Anna's Hummingbirds were a male at Wenas Creek n.w. of Yakima May 17 (PA) and an ad. male at Klamath Falls, May 25 (B&CY).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS—Four pairs of Lewis' Woodpeckers along the Fisher R., Lincoln Co., Mont., were encouraging because the species has shown serious decline in the Fortine area (CW). Six sightings of Williamson's Sapsuckers came in from n.e. Oregon, s.e. Washington and the Cascade Mts. of Washington. White-headed Woodpeckers were found at Wenas Cr., Cle Elum and Winthrop, Wash.; near Enterprise, Ore., and at Daggett Cr., 20 mi. n.e. of Boise. The only N. Three-toed Woodpeckers reported were three in the Salmon, Ida., area (HBR) and a pair with an immature near Elk L., Deschutes Co., Ore. (ME).

A very early Ash-throated Flycatcher was seen along Crab Cr., Columbia N.W.R., May 7, where the species is still surviving. One was sighted at Hart Mt., Lake Co., Ore., May 29 (RDP). A Yellow-bellied and an Alder flycatcher were heard between McBride and Prince George, B.C., May 16 (GR). The Least Flycatcher was heard at two places at Stuart L., for the first records for n. interior British Columbia (GR). A W. Flycatcher banded at Stuart L. was the first ever for n.c. British Columbia (GR). A "tremendous" number of flycatchers of several species was stranded by a snowstorm on Memorial Day weekend at Malheur N.W.R. (J&JC).

Dead swallows picked up after the ashfall at Turnbull N.W.R. presumably died of starvation. The abnormally cool weather may have been partly responsible for the lack of insects. A few swallows found dead after the ashfall at Coeur d'Alene, where hundreds of Violet-green and Cliff swallows were nesting, were also assumed to have starved. A pair of nesting Violet-greens at Spokane disappeared after the ashfall but later returned and resumed nesting activities. Dead Cliff Swallows were very evident at Malheur N.W.R. over the Memorial Day weekend when 65 were picked up at one colony. The snowstorm may have been the cause but swallow ectoparasites were not ruled out.

JAY THROUGH WRENTITS—Up to three Blue Jays which presumably wintered in Union, Ore., were last seen Mar. 17 (C&MCo,REW,JJ). One was sighted Mar. 18 at Ft. Boise W.M.A., Canyon Co., Ida (DT). Five Bushtits, very rare in n.e. Oregon, appeared in La Grande May 25 (JE). More ordinary were four between Oreana and Triangle, Ida., Apr. 28 (A&HL). The only Wrentits reported were in the Klamath Falls area. One was in that city Apr. 17 and one or two were singing on Chase Mt. near Keno, April 18 & May 7 (SS).

MIMIC THRUSHES AND THRUSHES—Roaring Springs Ranch s. of Frenchglen, Ore., had a Brown Thrasher May 28 (J&JC). What was apparently the first Wood Thrush record for Oregon was a sighting in the Mahogany Mts., about 8 mi. s.e. of L. Owyhee, Malheur Co., Ore., about May 20 (TF, *vide* J&JC) and the second May 27 at Pike Cr. e. of the Alvord Desert, Harney Co. (J&JC). At Pullman, Wash., a decrease of four pairs of Am. Robins to only one pair in the vicinity of John Weber's home was apparently caused by the ashfall. A Veery at Hart Mt., May 29 may have been the first ever recorded there (RDP). At the nestbox project w. of Spokane 36 clutches were recorded, 2/3 of which were W. Bluebirds', and the rest Tree Swallows, Mountain Chickadees, Pygmy Nuthatches and House Wrens. From all clutches an estimated 120 eggs and young disappeared without fledging and 36 were believed to have fledged by June 14. In 1979 when 42 clutches were observed, 29 eggs and young disappeared and 56 had fledged by June 10. The occurrence of both ashfall and cold weather complicated an analysis of the causes. However, two dead ♀ W. Bluebirds found in nest boxes had distended cloacal tissue and caked ash about the crissum and on the underside of the tail. A May 28 inspection in the area showed bluebirds extremely scarce (DP).

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS—The only Blue-gray Gnatcatcher report came from a juniper area near Pocatello Apr. 15 (CHT). A pair of Starlings was at a nest site in McBride, and furnished perhaps the first record there (GR). Malheur N.W.R. hosted a Hutton's Vireo May 17 (refuge staff) and Fields, Ore., had two single Bell's Vireo sightings May 22 & 24 (K&TF;SS). Single Black-and-white Warblers showed up just s. of Pocatello May 8 (CHT) and in La Grande May 17 (GS). The latter evidently furnished the first n.e. Oregon record. Two Tennessee Warblers dropped in at Boise May 25 for what appears to be s. Idaho's first and the state's second record (JB&LE). Malheur N.W.R. had three sightings, May 11-31 (MA). An extralimital singing ♂ Nashville Warbler was sighted in McBride May 16 (GR). A ♂ Townsend's Warbler visited Bozeman May 24 (SC&PDS). A ♂ Hermit Warbler was spotted e. of White Pass, Yakima Co., Wash., May 9 (WS). A singing ♂ Blackburnian Warbler at the Yakima R. delta was the first ever for e. Washington and the state's second (REW). A ♂ Blackpoll Warbler May 23 supplied Bozeman's second

record (PDS). Manhattan, Mont., had an early Ovenbird May 24 (PDS) and several were singing at Stuart L., May 18 (GR). Single N. Waterthrushes appeared May 26 at Boise (JB) and near Diamond, Ore. (P.A.S.). A pair of Am. Restarts was found at Tumwater campground near Winton, Wash., May 25 (ME); one was near Cle Elum, Wash., May 1 (B&PE), and a male was near White R. Falls campground n. of L. Wenatchee, Chelan Co., Wash., May 25 (WHO).

BLACKBIRDS AND TANAGERS—Development has apparently crowded out the little Bobolink colony at Chewelah but three males were contending for territory along the n. fork of Chewelah Cr. (JN). La Grande had 25+ Bobolinks May 28 (K&MK) and the species appeared at Alder Slope s.e. of Enterprise, Ore., the second week of May (VC). About 4000 Tricolored Blackbirds were around Lower Klamath L. Road in early April (SS). The rarity of the season was likely the **Great-tailed Grackle**. Probably two individuals were sighted at Malheur May 16, 24 & 26 (J&JC,SS,OS, m.ob.). Common Grackles were noted in Rexburg and St. Anthony, Ida., May 28. They probably nested at Rexburg last year (DH). An ad. ♂ **Scarlet Tanager** was found along Trout Cr. s.e. of Fields May 28 for apparently the third state record (J&JC).



Great-tailed Grackle, Malheur N.W.R., Hq., Oregon, May 16, 1980. Photo/Owen Schmidt.

FINCHES AND SPARROWS—Single ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen in Bozeman May 16, 29 & 30 (MB,SC,ETH, PDS) and one appeared in Colorado Gulch near Helena May 23 (G&NN). Evening Grosbeaks were extremely numerous in Helena, at Salmon, and in s.e. Idaho around Rexburg. A minutely described ♂ Purple Finch visited a Spokane feeder Dec. 22-Apr. 9 (JA). Six Purple and five Cassin's finches were sighted at Klamath Falls May 25 (B&CY) and two were singing in McBride May 16 (GR). At Yakima after the ashfall several dead Am. Goldfinches were picked up and others reported (Y.A.S.). Caldwell, Ida., had four Lesser Goldfinches Apr. 12-15 (LL) and a pair was seen at Nampa May 12-16 (JH). Pine Siskins and particularly Red Crossbills remained scarce in most localities. White-winged Crossbills were observed at Cody Lakes near Richards Mt., 12 mi e. of Libby, Mont., in late May (CW). A Lark Bunting appeared at Boise Mar. 10 (JCr). Grasshopper Sparrows were reported only in n. Franklin County, Wash., three birds Apr. 29 (RF&RK), and in

the Tobacco Valley n. of Eureka (CW). A Black-throated Sparrow, uncommon in s.w. Idaho, was sighted in the desert at Indian Cr. Res. near the Snake R., May 4 (J&NH). Savannah and Chipping sparrows decreased in the Pullman area after the ashfall (JWW). Vernon had a Clay-colored Sparrow May 20 (JG). Two or three Harris' Sparrows frequented a Hermiston, Ore., feeder in March and April and were last seen May 6 (CCo,REW) and one singing immature was with White-crowned Sparrows at Pocatello Apr. 5 (CHT). A White-throated Sparrow was sighted at McBride May 16 (GR) and one was at Malheur May 17 (OS). Three Lapland Longspurs near Kamloops, B.C., Mar. 30 & Apr. 13 (RH) and one with Horned Larks w. of Reardan Mar. 9 (JA) were the only ones reported. Two flocks of Snow Buntings, totaling 150 birds, were sighted near Hill City, Ida., Mar. 23 (J&WH).

OBSERVERS CITED—James Acton, Pete Arcese, Merle Archie, Sig Bakke, Jon Barnett, Mike Becker, Tom Beebe, George Brady, Robert Braunwart, Kay Burk, Steve R. Cannings, Chris Carey (CC), Jim & Judy Carlson (J&JC), Phil Cheney, Eddie W. Chew, V. Coggins, Mary Collins, Craig & Marion Corder (C&MCo), Sharon Cotterell, Jerry Cross (JCr), Larry Edwards, Mark Egger, Jim Erckman (JEr), Joe Evanich (JE),

Bob & Pat Evans, Kathy & Tad Finnell, Ron Friesz, Russell Gebhart, Golden Eagle Audubon Society (G.E.A.S.), James Grant, Warren Hall (WH), Eve T. Hays, James & Naomi Heckathorn (J&NH), Martha Hett, Jerry Hickman (JHI), Wendell Hoag (WHO), Rick Howie, Dick Hoyt (DHO), Eugene Hunn, Don Hunter (DH), Don Johnson, John Johnson, Kelly & Marianne Kaplan, Rick Knight, Al & Hilda Larson, Lucy Lewellen, Dave Low, Vern Marr, Ed McVicker, Larry D. Napier, Jack Nisbet, Gene & Norma Nixon, Lorraine Noble, Richard D. Palmer, Lloyd Paynter, Dave Plemons, Portland Audubon Society (P.A.S.), G. Rainer, James R. Rees, Hadley B. Roberts, Ron Rohweder, Thomas H. Rogers, Georgia Sanderson, Rusty Scalf, Owen Schmidt, Dick Shelhaas, W.H. Shillington, Paul Sieracki, P.D. Skaar, Shirley G. Sturts, Steve Summers, Wally Sumner, Dan Taylor, Steve Thompson, Terry Thompson, Charles H. Trost, Ernie Vyse, Washington Dept. of Game (W.D.G.), John W. Weber, Bart Whelton, Mildred V. White, Barbara and Tom Winters, Carl Wolf, Robert E. Woodley, Yakima Audubon Society (Y.A.S.), Bob & Carol Yutzy, Steven Zender.— **THOMAS H. ROGERS, E. 10820 Maxwell Ave., Spokane, WA 99206.**

MOUNTAIN WEST

/Hugh E. Kingery

Water birds moved through the Region in normal or better numbers, while most shorebird and landbird migrants seemed later and fewer. "A good many species seemed to have a single scout they sent ahead, and then the rest just filtered in," according to Helen Downing's professedly unscientific observation. At Lykins Gulch near Longmont, Colorado, Craig Williams banded only 60% of the birds he banded last year, and five fewer species.

A comparison of Spring Counts suggests that the migration peaked a week later than it did last year for six of eight indicator landbird species. Records from a Fort Collins, Colorado, yard showed a distinct influx May 13-14: 14 new species for the year on those two days (J&GF).

The Mountain West often reports snows in May, but not usually in Nevada. This year two major snowstorms hit that state, May 10-11 and 24-25. Janet Eyre reported from mid-state Eureka, "May 11 there were eight inches of wet snow on the ground. At breakfast I heard something that sounded like snow sliding off the roof. When I looked out the window it turned out to be a Great Blue Heron. (It spent the rest of the day perched atop a nearby telephone pole.) That day and those that immediately followed we saw four birds that we have never seen on this place before (Hermit Thrush, Townsend's Solitaire, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-breasted Chat) and one seen only once before

(MacGillivray's Warbler). [All common migrants in much of the Mountain West, but not in mid-Nevada—Ed.] Another eight inches of snow fell May 24, followed by some rain every day after that until the end of the period. We have had around the house a larger number of insect-eaters than we can ever remember before—Yellow Warblers, Wilson's Warblers, wood pewees...there are 68 species on this report as compared to 50 a year ago."

The Region reported 370 species of birds this spring, 329 from Colorado, 265 from Utah, 254 from Nevada, and 248 from Wyoming.

LOONS TO IBISES—Common Loon reports included large flocks at Provo, Utah, with 50 seen Apr. 5 and 12 still there May 15 (RJ), and 17 at Wildhorse Res. near Elko, Nev. Horned Grebe sightings increased; the count from the Longmont/Lyons/Berthoud/Loveland, Colo., area (hereafter, L.L.B.L.) increased substantially over last year—191 birds compared with 38 last year (IS). An early Horned Grebe reached Ouray N.W.R., Utah, Mar. 11 (LM). The Great Salt L. attracted huge flocks of Eared Grebes: 50-60,000 May 28 (MW). The Denver Spring Count found 298 Double-crested Cormorants May 10-11, and Delta, Colo., had 1-2 on May 25-28 for a rare W. Slope record (MJ). Three Little Blue Herons—one at Pueblo, Colo., May 15, and two at Timnath, Colo.,—were reported without details. Colorado reported a remarkable number of Green Herons, 20 on the E. Slope from Crook to Walsenburg, and one at Gunnison May 15-21, the first for that W. Slope latilong (KC). Wyoming had its



Great Egret, Ranchester, Wyo., Apr. 27, 1980. Photo/Jon Nelson.

third Cattle Egret, at Jackson May 17. In n. Nevada, Ruby Lake N.W.R. and Elko reported a total of 15 (SB, SS). Photographs documented a rare W. Slope wader, a Great Egret at Delta Mar. 21-23 (MJ). The Great Egret at Ranchester, Wyo., Apr. 27 apparently provided the second record for Wyoming (ph—JNe). A helicopter survey in n.c. Nevada May 28 counted 420 Snowy Egrets (SS). The same survey found 141 Black-crowned Night Herons and 105 White-faced Ibises, the latter number constituting a decline (SS). Ibis numbers impressed Colorado observers, with Apr. 7 producing $100 \pm$ at Pueblo and, in the mountains, 42 at Evergreen (PA, DK); there were 30-40 at Gunnison May 3 (KC), and even one at Sheep L. in Rocky Mt. N.P. May 19 (WR). At Ruby L., the 100-150 nesting pairs were fewer and arrived later than last year.

WATERFOWL—Utah's count of migratory ducks exceeded last year's numbers by about 50%, with 322,159 tallied Mar. 1-15, including 140,342 Pintails and 64,186 Green-winged Teals, along with 11,669 Whistling Swans. At Alamosa and Monte Vista N.W.R.s, Colo., the migration peaked at 28,000, two-thirds Mallards and Pintails. An oil pipeline break in April on the N. Platte R., in c. Wyoming killed about 800 ducks. Six likely Trumpeter Swans stayed at Buena Vista, Colo., Mar. 27-Apr. 11 (ph—JP). Trumpeters at Jackson, Wyo., did not start the season well: in the last eight months four were killed flying into power lines (BR). In n.e. Nevada they have increased, with 11 pairs nesting at Ruby L., and two seen on the Marys R. in Elko County May 28 (SS). A Brant visited Pawnee Nat'l Grassland, Colo., in April (†BPr). March 15 saw at least 6000 Snow Geese in n.e. Colorado (D.F.O., RGR). The most tantalizing observation of the season was of a pair of Garganeys at Watterton, near Denver, May 4. Well-described, they could not be found again, either there or on any of the other nearby ponds (FJ). Their origin—wild or otherwise—remains problematical. A White-winged Scoter visited Denver Mar. 24-25 (WC) and a ♂ Surf Scoter was at Goodrich, Colo., on the odd date of May 30, apparently not injured.

HAWKS, EAGLES—The first Turkey Vultures arrived at Muddy Gap, Wyo., Mar.

2 (DB), Grand L., Colo., Mar. 18 (DJ), and Pole Cr., near Elko, Nev., Mar. 31 (SS). The 14 Broad-winged Hawks reported from e. Colorado doubled the previous number ever reported in one spring. A Zone-tailed Hawk visited Pahrnagat N.W.R., Nev., Apr. 21 (†MP), for that state's second record. A late Rough-legged Hawk was seen at Laramie, Wyo., May 3 (DM). Nevada had another Black Hawk, its fifth,

Apr. 2, within 5 mi of the s. tip of the state, near Ft. Mohave (FR). At Sheridan, Wyo., Ospreys had begun feeding young by May 28 in a nest rebuilt by the local power company after winter winds blew it down (HD). In n.c. Colorado, Ospreys had seven nests at Grand L., and three at Walden—the greatest number yet (MM, *vide* DJ). Marsh Hawk reports were mixed—fewer in Colorado, normal to greater numbers in n. Nevada and Cedar City, Utah. After a scarcity last year, Merlins were reported in more normal numbers—there were about 30 observations.

CRANES—Gunnison, Colo., lies 80 mi n.w. of the Sandhill Cranes' migratory resting place in Colorado's San Luis Valley. Gunnison observers saw striking evidence of the migration in action this spring. As many as 200 Sandhills per day passed over Blue Mt. Res. for two weeks in early Apr. They began to appear in late morning and continued to fly NW into late afternoon; typical groups had 20-150 birds, occasionally more than 200. With them were six Whooping Cranes Apr. 4, and a total of four Apr. 10-14 (KC, DH, m.ob.).

SHOREBIRDS—Observers reported a poor shorebird migration, with the shorelines too high for stopovers because of high and early spring runoff. Spring Count numbers dropped; in most places observers found only the common species (and sometimes not even those). The largest flock in Denver had 49 Marbled Godwits, but Estes Park produced 360 Spotted Sandpipers on its Spring Count—a large number any year. Snowy Plovers arrived at Logan, Utah, Mar. 29, two weeks earlier than last year. At the Great Salt L., Webb found a nest with three eggs on May 28. A Killdeer nest at Eureka, Nev., did not survive the snowstorm of May 11 (JE). A locally respectable flock of 32 Black-bellied Plovers arrived at Eckert, Colo., May 11 (MJ). Denver and Loveland reported Am. Woodcocks May 15 & 17 respectively (†† SR, MJS). Whimbrels occurred in all four states; most notable were one May 3 at Flaming Gorge Res., Utah (DN) and one Apr. 15-19 at Las Vegas (VM). Three Knots were at Loveland May 18 (AM, CC). The Least Sandpiper that arrived at Gunnison Feb. 26 (AB 34:294) stayed into March at a hot spring (KC). On May 11 Eagle, Colo., became the third W. Slope latilong to record the Dunlin (JM). A Hudsonian Godwit May



5 near Denver furnished a rare Front Range record (HH). Among the diminished numbers of Wilson's Phalaropes in the Region (In L.L.B.L., 78 in 1980, 146 in 1979-IS) was one near Longmont May 2 which had a deformed bill, making it resemble a Curlew Sandpiper (CB). A noteworthy number of N. Phalaropes graced Estes Park's Spring Count—60 on May 17 (WR).

JAEGERS, GULLS—A closely-observed Pomarine Jaeger at Goldeneye Res., n. of Casper May 15-16 provided the first Wyoming record for that species (V&JH; OKS, *et al.*). Denver-area City Parks attracted three very rare gulls this year—first the Great Black-backed in January (AB 34:294) and then a possible Lesser Black-backed Mar. 7-8, found by Andrews. After extensive study in poor weather, no one would risk a positive identification. (Three years ago, another probable Lesser Black-backed Gull at a reclaimed gravel pit pond near Denver, was fairly definitely identified after gull specialists all over the country reviewed photographs.) Also in a Denver park, Andrews found an imm. Mew Gull, which stayed Mar. 7-19 and represented a first state record, seen by many (†, ph). A Least Tern at Eckert stayed May 7-20, providing the first Regional record w. of the Rockies in many years (†MJ). Three Least Terns were observed at Ordway, Colo., May 8-20 (D&CG). Sheridan had its fourth Caspian Tern record with three birds May 17 (HD). Black Terns turned up in numbers: 500 at Pueblo May 20, $100 \pm$ at Durango May 15, and 200-300 at Julesburg May 25-26 (C.F.O.).

DOVES TO SWIFTS—A White-winged Dove stopped in an Englewood, Colo., yard Mar. 29 (JR). The Yellow-billed Cuckoo May 31 at Sheridan furnished the thirteenth observation there in 15 years (ME, HD, JD). A Barn Owl found injured at the Casper airport recovered and was released in April (LL). The stand of cottonwoods which hosted nesting Elf Owls at Ft. Mohave, Nev., 1975-1978 is dying; no Elfs have been seen there since 1978 (VM). Spring reports of Short-eared Owls shot up—32 in Colorado, 13 in the other states, and nesting populations at Bear R. and Ruby L. Reports included a sighting of a bird at Cheyenne May 13 (JA) and four at Bonanza, Utah May 30 (LM).

Mounting evidence points to a nesting col-

ony of Boreal Owls w. of Ft. Collins. A concentrated effort to locate Boreals turned up one to four per night (but no nests) in the Cameron Pass area on nine trips Apr. 5-June 3 (RAR). A **Whip-poor-will** flushed from a rocky hillside at Zion N.P. Apr. 4 to provide Utah's first sight record. These birds have been heard in the vicinity before, but never seen (†MW). A flock of 20 Vaux's Swifts was near Las Vegas May 13 (CL), and two were found in s.e. Nevada in April (MP).

WOODPECKERS TO JAYS—The Red-bellied Woodpecker at the Boulder, Colo., feeder mentioned last winter stayed to Apr. 5 (NS). A **Tropical Kingbird**, the Region's first, fed near Davis Dam in sagebrush, greasewood, and mesquite habitat (†VM). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were at Eads, Colo., May 4 (J&MY) and Julesburg, Colo., May 25 (C.F.O.). Wied's Crested Flycatcher was observed five times in May in Beaver Dam Wash in the s.w. corner of Utah (SH, MW *et al.*). The banding nets at Lykins Gulch near Longmont caught five species of *Empidonax*: Willow, Least, Hammond's, Dusky, and Western (CW). Largest flocks of swallows were 10,000, primarily Trees, seen May 7 at Comins L., near Ely, Nev. (SS), 3000±, primarily Trees, flying low over Cottonwood Pass near Eagle May 25, and 2453 Cliffs on the L.L.B.L. Spring Count May 17. Although swallows were generally fewer and late-arriving, some Trees straggled in early: one was seen at Reno Mar. 14 (IH) and two at Grand L., Mar. 18 (DJ). A few Purple Martins, all females, appeared: one at Laramie May 12 (†DM), two at Browns Park N.W.R., Colo., May 22 (†LM), and one each at two different places in Las Vegas May 27 & 29. A Blue Jay crossed the mountains to Gunnison May 21 (DR).

DIPPERS TO THRASHERS—Along the Frying Pan R., near Basalt, Colo., Jasper found 11 Dipper nests during the first week of May, all with eggs. House Wrens arrived two weeks late in much of the Region. A Carolina Wren appeared in Colorado Springs Apr. 5-6 (†S&BS). A Bewick's Wren visited Boulder Apr. 28 (JH). One early Gray Catbird ventured into Dubois, Wyo., Apr. 12 for one day only (MB). A Brown Thrasher which wandered into the mountains May 20 hectorated robins at Silver Plume, Colo. (EC), and another reached Buena Vista, Colo., May 1 (HM).

THRUSHES TO VIREOS—American Robins probably qualify as the most conspicuously numerous denizen of diverse habitats of any Mountain West bird. Robins are hardy and nest early. Typically, their numbers burgeon in spring—466 and 481 on Sheridan and Estes Park S.C.s respectively, 100+ in one Boulder backyard Mar. 14, and 796 reported during the season in L.L.B.L., including 13 nesting pairs by Apr. 29. In Nevada, broods survived the May snowstorms with no apparent problems (SS). Laramie's Varied Thrush (*AB* 34:295) remained until Apr. 8 (DM). Hermit Thrushes survived the Nevada snowstorms, staying at Eureka May 11-26 through both storms (JE) and arriving at Jarbidge during the second one (EB). Two Colorado S.C.s May 10-11

recorded a drop in Swainson's Thrush numbers from 36 to seven, while two S.C.s the next weekend showed an increase, from two to 51; the numbers imply a late migration. The *only* thrushes reported from Las Vegas were of the rarest species—single Veeries seen May 25 & 27 (VM). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher feeding actively in a Laramie yard May 10 filled in a latilong gap in s. Wyoming (†DM). Bohemian Waxwings became characteristically numerous in March and early April. The only large numbers reported were 570 in Pueblo Mar. 29-30 (D.F.O.) and "thousands" in Colorado Springs, the last Apr. 18 (CLC). Most southerly were 125 at Provo Apr. 1 (MW). Nevada rarely reports Bohemians, but 25 visited Jarbidge Mar. 2 (EB). The latest reports originated from the s. part of the Region—from Apr. 12-20 modest flocks frequented c. Colorado, the last a group of 35 at Buena Vista Apr. 20 (HM). All four states reported Cedar Waxwings, mostly small flocks up to 70 except for 250 at Boulder Mar. 11 (CB). A bird identified as a Gray Vireo foraged in a juniper bush in a Ft. Collins yard Apr. 26 (†KB). A Gray Vireo in the Toiyabe Range near Round Mt., Nev., had set up territory in pinyon/juniper habitat with a 6-8 ft understory; this observation extends the known range of the species to c. Nevada (CL). Gray Vireos were common in Beaver Dam Wash in extreme s.w. Utah in May (MW, SH).

WARBLERS—In order to shorten the warbler discussion and to aid readers' understanding, this report departs from the *AB* Style Manual (A.O.U. Check-list order) by discussing migrant warblers in Common, Uncommon, and Rare categories.

Common migrants. The numbers of migrating Yellow-rumpeds seemed down. Early birds arrived in Provo Mar. 15 (MW) and on the nesting grounds at Silver Plume, Colo., Apr. 29 (EC). After our editorial discussions last year of hybrid Yellow-rumpeds, in came two reports—one May 4 from Denver and another May 14 at Sheridan (HEK, HD).

Uncommon migrants. Colorado reported 35 Tennessees, including ten on the Boulder S.C. May 17. Uncommon to rare in the spring, Townsend's provided five Colorado records and one each in the other states. Blackpolls made a splash, with 36 Front Range records May 10-21, and six May 13-17 at Cheyenne (PW, H.P.A.S.). Colorado had fewer than usual Magnolias (three), Chestnut-sideds (four), and Bay-breasteds (one), and average numbers of Black-and-whites (eight in Colorado, one in Wyoming and one in Nevada), Worm-eatings (two), N. Parulas (ten), Black-throated Greens (three), and Palms (five).

Rare migrants. A Golden-winged Warbler visited Red Rocks Park near Denver May 15 (†JK). Abbott described in detail Colorado's second Brewster's, at Fountain Apr. 30. The fourth Tennessee reported from Utah in eight years was at Provo May 12 (MW). Colorado reported two Hermits, one at Ridgway May 16 (†JRG) and one at Boulder May 16-17 (†DMn, CB *et al.*). Las Vegas also had one Apr. 21 (VM). A Grace's Warbler at Sandy in May provided the second record for c. Utah (†LM), and one or more returned to the apparent nesting site at Rye, Colo., with three

observations Apr. 27-May 13 (DS). After a December bird at Denver, another Pine Warbler was found at Colorado Springs Mar. 9 (†E&MC, MS). A Palm visited Simpson Springs near Laramie May 25 (PW). A ♀ *Oporornis* with a complete eye ring, stunned by a plate glass window and observed at five ft at Casper, Wyo., May 31, had the field marks of a Connecticut (LL). The identification of any *Oporornis* out of range, even a perfectly marked one, is probably dubious because of plumage variations exhibited by the genus. Reports of two Blue-wingeds, one Golden-winged, and a Prairie are not yet documented. No one reported Prothonotary, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, or Blackburnian.

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS—Nevada provided four reports of Bobolinks, including the only ones in eight years away from Las Vegas: 10-15 at Ruby L., May 29 (SB), one at Independence Valley in Elko Co., (SS), and a singing male at Dyer May 31 (JD). An Orchard Oriole strayed over the Continental Divide to Gunnison May 21-23, the third W. Slope record (DR). "The Great-tailed Grackle is really extending its range in s. Nevada...our party found an active nest in Beatty...in Mesquite we saw photos of males and females feeding on lawns...They were all over the place at Crystal Springs near Hiko." (FR) They are widespread in Clark County, Nev., as well (MP). At Washington, Utah, two to eight **Great-tailed Grackles** seen May 13-18 provided Utah with four days of observations (ph, †SH, MW). Apparently the first state record came last summer in St. George



Male Great-tailed Grackle, Washington, Utah, May 15, 1980. Photo/Steven P. Hedges.

(*vide* SH). Usual at Monte Vista, Colo., these grackles have begun to spread to other parts of the San Luis Valley (JK). One that wintered at Colorado City, Colo., was last seen May 2 (DS). As Great-tailed Grackles spread into our Region from the SW, Com. Grackles continue their tramontane spread w. mountain locations now report more birds more regularly, e.g., reports, this spring, from Colorado: Granby, Grand L., Kremmling, Hot Sulphur Springs, Gunnison, and Durango. Western Tanagers failed to produce numbers comparable to last year's spectacular showing. Numbers dropped throughout the Region, except at Salt Lake City and Jackson. Summer Tanagers probably nest in the St. George/Santa Clara section of s.w. Utah, which provided numerous observations in May. Colorado had three Summer Tanager records, and one was at Dyer, May 31 (JD), producing one of Nevada's few records away from Las Vegas (which had one May 2—VM).

FINCHES, SPARROWS—Rose-breasted Grosbeaks regained their impressive migration numbers in Colorado, with about 80 reported; the most surprising report was that of four in the mountain valley of Buena Vista May 11-24 (HM). Wyoming had nine at Cheyenne and Jackson (AG, MG, MR) and Nevada reported five, at Las Vegas, Dyer, and Jackson (VM, JD, MR). Indigo Buntings are regular now, and probably nesting in s. and e. parts of the Region. More unusual were those seen at Gunnison in mid-May, Silver Plume May 26, and Logan May 18 (DC, EC, KD). At Sheridan a hybrid Indigo X Lazuli arrived, very early, Apr. 5 (MHe). Evening Grosbeaks stayed in the valleys well into late May; Boulder's count of 361 on its S.C. May 17 and Cedar City's 300 ± May 20 were peaks. In April and May Cassin's Finches ranged widely throughout the Region. Every contributor reported them, except in the high plains, with daily observations of dozens in May. Every few years Pine Siskins invade the cities in numbers, as they did this year. Almost everyone reported them; most mentioned substantial numbers, particularly in May. L.L.B.L. reported 1069 for the season compared with 199 last year (IS.). The Colorado Springs S.C. had 538, Jackson counted thousands May 5, and in s.w. Utah counts of 50/day were common. Only Las

Vegas and Reno failed to mention them. Early Lark Buntings arrived at Ft. Morgan Mar. 15 (JCR) and Grand L. Mar. 26; but the bulk of the migrants came in late, like the 581 at Colorado Springs May 17 and 533 at Sheridan May 23, a couple of weeks after the flocks normally disperse. An alfalfa field at Dyer held several singing Grasshopper Sparrows, mated pairs apparently on territory. The species is not known to nest in any areas nearby in California (JD). Two Le Conte's Sparrows hopped out of tall grasses, among a flock of rosy finches, Lark Sparrows, and Lark Buntings, for a 15-min observation at Estes Park May 17 (†WR).

ABBREVIATIONS—L.L.B.L., Longmont/Lyons/Berthoud/Loveland area of Colorado; S.C., Spring Count.

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SOUTHWEST REGION

/Kenneth V. Rosenberg, John P. Hubbard and Gary H. Rosenberg

After the third consecutive winter of heavy rains, annuals in the deserts and grasslands of Arizona were again lush this spring. Cooler than normal temperatures, especially in May, provided relief (at least for birders) from the normally hot conditions.

Migrant "waves" of passerines are typically nonexistent here in spring, except rarely after a well-timed storm at the height of the season. This spring produced such storm activity in early May, grounding large numbers of migrants at least in central and southwest Arizona. Terrill noted more individual warblers concentrated on the Verde River east of Phoenix May 16 than in any previous spring since 1974. Flocks of warblers and tanagers were seen in the desert away from rivers as well. Apparently no such fallout occurred farther south and east; Stotz noted migration to be poor all season at Tucson.

Despite the large numbers of migrants seen in Arizona, fewer rarities were found than in recent years. In New Mexico a higher proportion of noteworthy birds was reported, including a first record of Louisiana Waterthrush. A trip into Northern Sonora in late May hinted at the potential for new discoveries in the southern parts of our region. It should be noted that virtually all of the mesquite previously reported killed by the freeze of 1978-79 has resprouted nicely and was partially green this spring. Bird populations are expected to recover, although unfortunately, no close monitoring of these communities has been undertaken.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

The only regional Com. Loon away from the lower Colorado River valley (hereafter LCV) was one in breeding plumage at Abiquiu L., N. Mex., Apr. 11 (JH, JT). An Arctic Loon was at an unusual location, on a small reservoir in the Sandia Mts., N. Mex., Apr. 5-19 (HS *et al*—ph.). A Horned Grebe was seen on L. Mojave, Ariz., Mar. 25 (RM) and a breeding-plumaged individual at Heron L., N. Mex., Apr. 11 (JH, JT). The status of the two "phases" of W. Grebe is being better documented in the Region. One of each was sighted at Conchas L., N. Mex., Mar. 3 (JH). In the LCV, Martin noted the dark phase birds forming tight flocks before departing in March. After Mar. 29, only light phase birds remained to breed.

Olivaceous Cormorants were reported from L. Patagonia, Ariz., where regular, and one bird was at San Simon Cienega, s.w. N. Mex., May 6 (R. Morse).

An ad. Little Blue Heron at Laguna Seca, Rio Arriba Co., May 15 (APN—ph) was well n. of the "normal" range in New Mexico and represented a local first. A Cattle Egret at Kayenta Apr. 30 (Chuck Sexton) furnished perhaps a second record for n.e. Arizona. This species is still irregular and has not bred in the state, so the presence of 50 birds in

breeding plumage in the Dome Valley e. of Yuma throughout the period is of special interest (RM). A new breeding colony of Snowy Egrets was located near Artesia, N. Mex., with 23 birds on nests May 24, along with ten Black-crowned Night Herons on nests (MA). Two Louisiana Herons were reported from Arizona; one at Sells May 16 (V. Mowbray) and one s. of Tucson May 30 (*vide* WD).

An Am. Bittern at Bill Williams Delta (hereafter, BWD) May 26 (RM) occurred much later than usual and adds to the suspicion of breeding in the LCV.

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS—Five Canada Geese near Albuquerque May 17 (DH *et al.*) may represent stragglers from farther east or south. Three Ross' Geese at Ute L., N. Mex., with 100+ Snow Geese Mar. 4-5 (*vide* JH) represented a first local sighting. Another Ross' near Douglas, Ariz., remained



until Mar. 30 (DD, R. Bailowitz).

A pair of Mexican Ducks at L. McMillan, Pecos Valley, N. Mex., May 15 (WH *et al.*) may represent the first specific report from that area. A ♀ Wood Duck was seen at Bitter L N W R. as late as May 8-14 (MA, WHO). More than 72 Red-breasted Mergansers at Loving Mar. 16 (MA, WHO) represented a very high count for New Mexico.

Arizona's borders were penetrated—barely—this spring by two different **White-tailed Kites**, for about the sixth and seventh state records. One was observed at Cibola N W R. in the LCV Mar. 22 (†BWO), and the other was near San Simon in the extreme s.e. Apr. 18 (WS). Since populations of this species are expanding in both s. California and w. Mexico, it is possible, if not likely, that these individuals represent wanderers from these two separate regions. A Mississippi Kite in the Gila Valley, N. Mex., May 3 (RF *et al.*) provided the third record for the general area.

A Goshawk at Portal until May 18 was at an unusually low elevation for this species on that date (WS). An ad. "Harlan's" Hawk e. of Tucumcari Mar. 4 (JH, JV) provided a first local sighting of a form rarely seen in New Mexico. Only two Broad-winged Hawks were reported, both in e. New Mexico near Artesia; an adult Apr. 26-27, and an immature May 1-15 (MA, WHO). A Harris' Hawk at Alamogordo Apr. 12 (LM) was west of this species normal range in New Mexico. An ad. Bald Eagle at Cliff, N. Mex., Apr. 23 (John Egbert) was rather late.

Two Marsh Hawk nests were found at Artesia May 18 (MA) and another at Rattlesnake Spring May 10 (WH); the species is rare as a breeder in New Mexico.

S.A.

In Arizona, Marsh Hawks are known to linger into May and even casually into summer. There have been no breeding records in this century, and such birds are generally considered to be transients or late wintering individuals. The discovery of a nest with three eggs in a desert grassland at Vicksburg on the early date of Apr. 23 (BM—ph) sheds new light on this species' status. Ironically, this nest was bulldozed, before any young fledged, by Central Arizona Project workers attempting to create a lake as mitigation for loss of wildlife habitat! Late spring birds should be watched more closely, as they may occasionally breed close at hand and then disperse.

CRANES THROUGH TERNS—A report was received of 13 extraordinarily late Sandhill Cranes in the Gila Valley, N. Mex., May 3 (RAF *et al.*); a first local record was provided by 50 birds e. of Farmington Apr. 1 (R. Sitka, Jr., *vide* APN). A late Black-bellied Plover was observed in full breeding plumage May 28 at Poston, Ariz. (MK). Two breeding-plumaged Piping Plovers at Puerto Pefiasco, Son., Apr. 4 (KK, ST, LT, EC), probably represented individuals from the local wintering population. A Whimbrel near Poston May 27 (MK) continues the pattern of regular spring occurrence in the LCV. New Mexico had its first spring **Short-billed**

Dowitcher at Bosque del Apache N.W.R., May 4 (DH, †SH).

A first-year Thayer's Gull and a first-year Glaucous-winged Gull at Puerto Pefiasco Apr. 4 furnished two of the few records of either species for Sonora (KK, ST, LT, EC). A California Gull at Morgan L., N. Mex., Apr. 13 (ph—DH *et al.*) and May 15 (AN *et al.*) represented a local first; six at Heron L., N. Mex., Apr. 11 (JH, JT) were the first recorded there in spring. Increased coverage of n. Arizona lakes is clarifying the status of gulls in that area; this spring two ad. Californians and an ad. Franklin's were at Ashurst L., Apr. 1, and two ad. Franklin's were at Peck's L., Apr. 15 (DP). Also of interest were two ad. Franklin's at Puerto Pefiasco, Son., Apr. 4 and one adult at Guaymas, Son., Apr. 6 (KK, ST, LT, EC). Five Bonaparte's Gulls were in the lower Pecos valley, N. Mex., Mar. 17-May 8, where rare in spring (WHO *et al.*).

A Common Tern was at L. McMillan, N. Mex., May 3 (MA, WHO); this species is very rare in the region in spring.

DOVES THROUGH NIGHTJARS—Doves occurred n. of their usual range in New Mexico with an Inca at Alamogordo Apr. 15-May 4 (LM *et al.*) and a White-winged at Tularosa Mar. 22 (*vide* LM). Extraordinary was an Elf Owl netted at Boone's Draw, N. Mex., May 13 (JH *et al.* * to Smithsonian); some 175 mi from the nearest population in w. Texas and 300 mi from areas of occurrence in s.w. New Mexico.

S.A.

Two Flammulated Owls were netted and banded at Boone's Draw May 12 (ph—JH *et al.*). The evidence continues to mount that occurrences of this species in spring in the e. plains of New Mexico are no coincidence. In the month of May in the years 1971, 1975, and 1980, mistnets have yielded six birds at Oasis S.P., Boone's Draw, and Bell L. These reports may indicate the existence of a regular migratory route through the area, but it is also possible that these birds could have been blown off a more w. route by strong SW winds. Our knowledge of this owl away from breeding areas is also increasing in Arizona aided by a previously unpublished report of a calling bird in lowland mesquite along the Santa Maria R., Jan. 22-24, 1980 (BM *et al.*); an individual that most likely wintered locally.

Unprecedented was the discovery of 12 active Long-eared Owl nests in desert washes of w.c. Arizona, where last winter's population was tallied at 275+ birds (BM). Nest sites varied from old Red-tailed nests in Saguaro cacti to stick nests built entirely by the owls in mesquites.

Two Whip-poor-wills were noted in the lowlands of New Mexico: at Alamogordo Apr. 17 (*vide* LM), and in Dona Ana County n. of El Paso May 4 (KZ).

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS—Single swifts likely to be Chimneys were at Albuquerque May 3 (†RT) and Percha Dam S.P., N. Mex., May 4 (DH, †SH).

Others reported as Chimneys were two at Ft Sumner, N. Mex., May 3 (WHO *et al.*). A well described Black Swift was seen near Alamo L., Ariz., May 11 by an observer experienced with this species (†JZ). There is still no documentation of this species in the state, although sight records are becoming more frequent.

Records of Costa's Hummingbirds in Guadalupe Canyon, N. Mex., continue to mount, with at least ten birds present Apr. 24-25 & May 5-7. On May 7 a female was observed building a nest there (William Baltosser). An Anna's Hummingbird was far east at Alamogordo, N. Mex., Apr. 11 (*vide* LM). A very late ♀ Calliope Hummingbird at Phoenix May 14 (ST, GR) provided one of few lowland sightings in spring.

Again, Rufous Hummingbird appeared at Portal Apr. 7, where it is rare in spring (SS) Violet-crowned Hummingbirds arrived very early, with one at Portal Apr. 6-10 (SS) and one at Sonoita Cr., Ariz., Apr. 12 (BH) Peripheral Broad-billed Hummingbirds were at Superior, Ariz., where probably regular, 4-6 birds were present there all spring. Incredible was a hatchling hummer, rescued from a Phoenix yard and raised by Kathy Ingram, that grew up to be a Broad-billed; this represents the northwesternmost breeding of this species.

A Coppery-tailed Trogon in Guadalupe Can., Ariz., May 18 represents about the third record in that locality for this species (Douglas Kraus, Arnold Moorehouse). Two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers of the e. race *S. v. varius* were identified in New Mexico: a female in Dona Ana County n. of El Paso Apr. 27 (KZ) and an immature at Roswell Mar. 11 (WHO).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS—Again the only Arizona report of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher came from the LCV, one at L. Havasu City May 25 (Phillip Pryde). Tucson's wintering Great Kiskadee was seen as late as early May (*vide* BMW). A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher on upper Eagle Cr., Ariz., May 21 (RD), was well n. of its usual range and was probably an over-shooting migrant. A Great Crested Flycatcher was seen and heard at Boone's Draw May 14 (JH). Peripheral Olivaceous Flycatchers were 3-4 on Bonita Cr., Ariz., May 12-13 (TC) and one in a Phoenix yard May 11-13 (ph—KR, ST, LT), for a first local record. The same yard also hosted a possible Least Flycatcher May 4-6 (ST *et al.*, ph—LST); three definite Least were netted at Boone's Draw May 11-14 (JH *et al.*). It is likely that few birds of this species regularly migrate through the region from their wintering grounds in w. Mexico. A well described Gray Flycatcher at L. McMillan Apr. 6 (†MA) provided the easternmost record for New Mexico. A Vermilion Flycatcher at Boone's Draw May 12-13 (JH) was north of its usual range.

Tucson's **Cave Swallow** returned to the U of A. campus Apr. 11 (DS), where it appeared last spring, furnishing a first state record. Lowland reports of Purple Martins in New Mexico included seven at Albuquerque May 15 (RT), several at Percha Dam S.P., May 4 (DH, SH) and one at Alamogordo Apr. 26 (*vide* LM).

JAYS THROUGH THRASHERS—Several Blue Jays at Ft. Sumner and one near Artesia through the spring (WH *et al.*) may indicate a new area of regular occurrence for New Mexico. Eighteen Com. Crows between Ute Cr. and Logan, N. Mex., Mar. 5 (JH, JV) follow a first record for that area last summer. Also notable were two at Farmington May 17 (AN *et al.*) and 19 in the Gila Valley, N. Mex.—along with two nests—May 3 (RAF *et al.*). Black-billed Magpie numbers continue to increase at Española, N. Mex., where May counts showed 300 vs. only 200 in 1977 (William Stone *et al.*).

An unusually low-elevation nest of Bush-tits was observed through the spring in Sonoran desert scrub at Roosevelt L, Ariz. (KR). A Dipper on the Sacramento R., N. Mex., Mar. 7 represented an unusual record for the s.e. highlands (L. Woltering, *vide* LM). Winter Wrens were seen in notable numbers and late into Spring in New Mexico, with five in the Roswell area May 8-9 and single birds at Artesia May 19 and Ft. Sumner May 26 (all sightings WHO *et al.*).

A Gray Catbird at Petrified Forest N.M. May 27 (George Johnson) provided one of the few records of this species away from its breeding range in Arizona. A probable Le Conte's Thrasher at Tuzigoot, Verde Valley, Ariz., May 15 would represent an unusual extralimital record for this normally sedentary species (†Joe and Kathy Zarki).

THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS—The observation of a breeding pair of Am. Robins in a Phoenix cemetery May 19 (SD, HL) adds to the list of this species' recent desert lowland nesting sites. A probable Rufous-backed Robin reported from Oak Cr., Ariz., Mar. 26 (Alma Greene) was considerably farther north than previously recorded. New Mexico's second verified **Varied Thrush** was a male photographed e. of Roswell Apr. 18 (Annie Williams). A sighting of two imm. E. Bluebirds at Ft. Sumner May 25 (Pierre Thomsin) suggests that they breed locally; otherwise breeding bluebirds are known to occur in New Mexico only at Rattlesnake Spr. A Swainson's Thrush reported from BWD Mar. 19 was extremely early (†RM, MK).

Two Water Pipits near Poston, Ariz., May 27 (BWo) were very late migrants. The only Sprague's Pipit report was of a bird heard at Loving N. Mex., Mar. 15 (WH). A ♂ Phainopepla near Rattlesnake Spr., Mar. 24 (WHO) and several pairs in Walnut Canyon and Sitting Bull Falls May 30 (J.N. Durrie) suggest that this species is becoming more regular in the Carlsbad, N. Mex., area.

A Hutton's Vireo e. of Yuma May 5 (RM) provided a first record of a spring migrant from the LCV. The second local report of a Gray Vireo came from Pleasanton, N. Mex., Apr. 22 (JH).

WOOD WARBLERS—Of the "rare but regular" warblers in Arizona only two Black-and-whites, two Am. Redstarts, two N. Parulas, four N. Waterthrushes, and no Tennessees were reported; all down from previous springs. Tennessee Warblers were reported more frequently than usual in New Mexico, with 14+ Apr. 20-May 19.

A Lucy's Warbler at Alamogordo May 3-4

(LM *et al.*) furnished the second report from the Tularosa Basin, N. Mex. Still of special interest in this region were: a ♂ Magnolia Warbler at Bonita Cr., Ariz., May 18 (†TC), a ♂ Chestnut-sided and a ♂ Bay-breasted on the Rio Sonora n.e. of Hermosillo, Son., May 28 (RD, GR, BW), another ♂ Bay-breasted on the Little Colo. R. near Springerville, Ariz., May 31 (BJo), a ♀ Blackpoll near Farmington, N. Mex., May 17 (†AN), a male banded at Boone's Draw May 13 (JH *et al.*), and a Palm Warbler in Albuquerque May 17 (DH *et al.*).

In addition, Tucson's wintering Cape May Warbler was seen until the end of March, when it was moulting into spring plumage (WDA). By far the rarest warbler of the season, which would represent a first state record if accepted, was an almost certain **Louisiana Waterthrush** at La Cienega, Sandia Mts., N. Mex., Apr. 6-14 (M.L. Arthur *et al.*, ph—DH).

Finally, of more local interest, singing Red-faced Warblers again this spring in the Hualapai Mts., Ariz., confirm more solidly a n.w. extension of this species' breeding range (RM, Bob Hall); and at least three different Painted Redstarts in lower Sonoran locations in Arizona Mar. 21-Apr. 10 were most unusual.

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS—A singing ♂ Bobolink n.e. of Roswell, N. Mex., May 17 (WHO) furnished the only regional report this spring. Common Grackles continued their spread in New Mexico with about four at Blackrock, Zuni Reservation Apr. 28-May 30 (A. Schmierer); this is tantalizingly close (25 mi) to Arizona where observers have still failed to record this species. A single Rusty Blackbird Mar. 24 at Rattlesnake Springs (WHO) represented the only spring report.

S.A.

Orioles made big news in the Region this spring. No fewer than **eight pairs** of Orchard Orioles were discovered along 2 mi of the Rio Sonora, n.e. of Hermosillo, Son. May 28 (GR, BW, WHO, RD, ph—KR). These included ad. and imm. singing males and females. Copulation was observed, suggesting that an established breeding colony may exist here, less than 150 mi due s. of Nogales, Ariz. The only other orioles present were Streak-backed. We discovered another singing ♂ Orchard May 30, just 12 mi s. of the border at Douglas. This species is at best considered a very rare transient in Arizona and w. New Mexico, has not been known to breed w. of the Mexican Plateau and e. New Mexico, and is rare in Sonora (although it winters commonly n. to s. Sinaloa). This discovery not only adds to our information about the poorly-known avifauna of n.w. Mexico, but raises questions as to the status of supposed "vagrant" Orchard Orioles sighted irregularly in late spring and summer along rivers in Arizona and s.w. New Mexico.

Also of note was a ♂ "Baltimore" Oriole that arrived on the Verde R. n.e. of Phoenix May 7 and remained to breed with a ♀ "Bullock's" (AH, VH, ph—AL, KR).

Another ♂ "Baltimore" was sighted n. of Ehrenberg, Ariz., Apr. 5 (RM).

A singing ♂ Hepatic Tanager in cottonwoods near Magdalena, Son., May 27 seemed out of place (GR *et al.*). Sightings of 13 Summer Tanagers at Ft. Sumner May 25-27 (MA, WHO) suggest that a substantial population exists there, n. of the known range. A bird banded at Boone's Draw May 15 (Greg Schmitt) was of the e. race *P.r. rubra*, and represented a first local record.

FRINGILLIDS—A ♂ Cardinal in Hidalgo County Mar. 19 (D. Campbell *et al.*) was east of its usual range in New Mexico. A count of 250+ Varied Buntings along 2 mi of the Rio Sonora, n.e. of Hermosillo, Son., May 28 (many of which were migrants) was intriguing, since this species is not very abundant anywhere to the n. in Arizona (RD *et al.*)

Two Painted Buntings at Sturgeon Ranch, lower Pecos valley, N. Mex., May 17 (MA, WHO) were n. of their usual range. Remnants of last winter's Cassin's Finch flight were about six birds e. of their usual range at Montoya, N. Mex., Mar. 6 (JH), and lingerers in the lowlands at Portal until Apr. 22 (SS)

The presence of an Arizona population of Lawrence's Goldfinches was not suspected before 1977. For the fourth consecutive spring, nesting was confirmed on the Verde R., near Phoenix, where a nest with eggs was found May 5 (AH). This species was also found along the Hassayampa and Santa Maria Rivers in w.c. Arizona in May (JZ), breeding birds typically arrive in March and appear separate from the wintering flocks that invade our Region from the west. A Red Crossbill was feeding a fledgling at Cedar Spr., Rio Arriba Co., N. Mex., May 18 (AN). There is still no unequivocal breeding record for the state.

Four White-throated Sparrows until May 21, and six Golden-crowned Sparrows until Apr. 26 were about normal for Arizona in numbers and dates. More unusual were single Golden-crowns at Kirtland, N. Mex., Apr. 20 (*vide* AN) and e. of Albuquerque Apr. 13 (HS). The only Harris' Sparrow was at a feeder n. of Yuma for a week until Apr. 22 (GRn *et al.*). A pair of Fox Sparrows at Hart Prairie, San Francisco Peaks, Ariz., May 26 (DP) was intriguing since this species does not breed in the Southwest.

CORRIGENDUM—AB 34:188. Broad-tailed Hummingbird should be Broad-billed Hummingbird.

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ALASKA REGION

/D.D. Gibson

Birds arrived early or at the early end of the normal period over much of Alaska in Spring 1980, as widespread good weather provided no obstacles to migration. Prolonged N winds kept areas n. of the Bering Strait and the Brooks Range under winter conditions until long after spring had arrived in areas immediately to the south.

GEESE, DUCKS—Single Bean Geese at Attu I., Aleutian Is., May 18 (TGT,LJO,GBR) and May 26-29 (m.ob.) and at St. Paul I., Pribilof Is., May 22 (ph-NS) provided the only records this spring. Fifty-60 Snow Geese at Kasilof Apr. 7 (MAM) appeared five days earlier than their previous record early arrival in Southcoastal Alaska, at Anchorage in 1976; the maximum was 4000 birds on the nearby Kenai R. flats Apr. 18 (MB, *vide* MAM).

Rare dabbling ducks included two pairs of Falcated Teal together at Attu May 27-31 (m.ob.) and a pair at St. Paul June 5 (FLC); three Garganeys at Attu May 20-31 (m.ob.); and a ♂ Cinnamon Teal at Juneau May 14 (FAG), with a pair there May 27-28 (DEM, *vide* RHA).

Since the winter range of Spectacled Eider is not known, it is especially interesting to document timing of this species' spring movements in Alaska from several locations in the same year. At least two birds arrived at Old Chevak, Yukon-Kuskokwim R. (hereafter Y-K) Delta, May 14 (CMB). On May 17 migrating flocks of many hundreds (5♀:1♂) were observed in the n. Bering Sea—from a U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker enroute from the Navarin Basin to the Punuk Islands—heading E toward the Y-K Delta, and on the 19th about 1500 eiders, half of them Spectacleds and half Kings, again primarily females, were seen at sea between St. Lawrence and Nunivak islands (RHD). A pair of Spectacleds at Wainwright May 21 were the first seen there this spring (BEL) and the only arrival date provided for spring 1980 from Alaska's Chukchi coast. The few pairs that breed at the Colville R. Delta, Beaufort Sea coast, near the e. limit of the breeding range, arrived there the first week of June (JWH).

EAGLES—As in recent years past, White-tailed Eagle was recorded at Attu, where at least two individuals were observed at irregular intervals in May—an adult May 9 (†TGT,LJO,GBR) and an immature May 27-29 (m.ob.). Astonishing was an imm. Steller's Sea Eagle carefully studied and described May 9 (†TGT *et al.*) as it soared in the same area as the ad. White-tailed!

PLOVERS, SAND-PIPERS—A Killdeer at Old Chevak May 27 (CMB) provided one of very few Y-K Delta records, and one observed at Gambell June 1-3 (JCP,RA *et al.*) was a first for St. Lawrence I. Mongolian Plovers arrived early at Attu, one bird May 11, and they were present through the 31st, with a maximum flock-size of 9 on May 15 (TGT *et al.*). Earliest Am. Golden Plovers arrived at Kodiak (RAM) and Juneau (RBW) Apr. 24, at Delta Jct. May 3 (JJ, DDG,PDM), and at Wainwright May 27 (BEL). A count of 325+ at Fairbanks May 11 (DDG,BEL,SMM) was right on schedule. One Black-bellied Plover was present at Gambell, where rare, for several days in early June (m.ob.) and Dotterels were recorded at Gambell at intervals in early June, maximum 4+ on the 7th (m.ob.).

Alaska's rarest godwits were both accounted for this season. Missing in 1979, single Black-tailed Godwits at Attu May 19 & 31, (m.ob.), provided records for a fourth year in five. The only report of Marbled Godwit was one at Kodiak May 8 & 10 (RAM). The first four Bristle-thighed Curlews arrived at Old Chevak May 5 (CMB & RAW), the earliest ever in Alaska by a day. An Upland Sandpiper at Delta Jct., May 8 (SOM) was record-early in the state; one bird was observed May 24 at Eagle R. flats, Juneau (RHA), where the species is an exceedingly rare migrant. A very few Greenshanks occurred at Attu May 20-26, but there was a substantial movement of Wood Sandpipers there this year from May 14 on, with a maximum of 40+ on May 15 (TGT,LJO,GBR). A few were seen later at Gambell, with a maximum of four May 31 (RWS *et al.*), and one was recorded as far n. as Barrow, where it provided a third local record, June 9 (BJM,GEH).

A flock of 21 Terek Sandpipers at Attu May 25 (m.ob.) was simply amazing! This species had been known in Alaska only as single sightings. There were no reports from other localities. Common Sandpipers did not arrive early, but they passed through the w. Aleutians in larger numbers than ever before, with a maximum of 11 on May 25 (m.ob.); one was seen June 11 at St. Paul (RWS *et al.*), where they are very rare. Following the first record of Black Turnstone e. of Barrow only last year (AB 33:798), there were three such reports this spring: singles at the Kuparuk R. Delta June 3 (RHM & GEK), at Pt. Gordon June 9 (SRJ), and at Franklin Bluffs the first days of June (DGR). The only two Wilson's Phalarope records this spring spanned the state—one at Juneau May 15 (RBW) and a pair on the Tutakoke R. flats, Y-K Delta, May 30 (REG). The latter provided the first



record of this species in w. Alaska.

A lone Great Knot at the Nome R. mouth June 9 (†RWS *et al.*) furnished the only record this spring. Red Knots arrived on the Y-K Delta May 8 (CMB)—the earliest on record locally—and on May 21 a flock of 125,000± was observed there (REG), a new high count for the state. At least 2000 birds were still present May 31 (CMB). The leap-frog spring route of this species across Alaska takes all but a few birds from concentration points in the Copper R. Delta-Prince William Sound area (which they reach via an overseas flight from the s.) to the Y-K Delta and thence n., presumably n. and w. beyond Alaska (to Wrangel I.?). It has been outlined by Kessel and Gibson 1978 (*Studies in Avian Biol.* 1). A Rufous-necked Sandpiper arrived on the record-early date of May 14 at Attu (TGT,LJP,GBR), where the species was present through the 31st in numbers not seen before in Alaska—maximum day-count 12+, including a flock of eight May 27 (m.ob.). A Rufous-necked at Anchorage May 15 (RA,EEB,CSB,JCP,DWS) also eclipsed by a week the previous arrival record in the state. I suspect that this was a bird returning N along the Pacific coast of North America instead of one that arrived from Asia. A Temminck's Stint at Gambell June 8 (TGT,BFK *et al.*) was the only one reported. Long-toed Stints occurred at Attu on schedule and in normal numbers, from May 15 on, maximum seven on May 18 (m.ob.). A Pectoral Sandpiper at Eyak R., Cordova, Apr. 23 (JWT) was the earliest ever in Alaska. A Sharp-tailed Sandpiper closely observed at Attu May 26 (TGT,BFK *et al.*) provided the first spring record for the Aleutians, one of the few such in the state. A Curlew Sandpiper at close range at St. Paul June 11 (†RWS,EBR,NS *et al.*) represented only the fifth Alaska spring record away from Barrow.

GULLS, ALCIDS—An ad. Black-tailed Gull (*Larus crassirostris*) observed briefly but

well at Attu May 29 (†DDG, †TSM, †ATD) provided the first record for Alaska of this native of e. Asia, where it occurs as far n. as the Kurile Islands. Slaty-backed Gulls were numerous in the c. Bering Sea in May. Maximum was 54+ (39+ adults and 15+ immatures) on May 5 in the Navarin Basin, w. of St. Matthew I. (ph—RHD). Black-headed Gulls arrived May 14 at Attu and up to six were present thereafter (m.ob.). East of there, one adult was seen at sea s. of St. Matthew I. May 27 (RHD) and another was noted at St. Paul June 11 (RWS). Four Kittlitz's Murrelets observed in a lead in the pack ice at Pt Hope Apr. 19 (†BEL) provided the first-ever spring arrival date at the n. end of this species' breeding range.

OWLS, HUMMINGBIRDS—Short-eared Owls were widely commented on. They were common Apr. 29-May 9 at Old Chevak, where there was no microtine high (CMB), and there was an influx after May 21 at Barrow, where there was neither a microtine high nor a concomitant number of Pomarine Jaegers or Snowy Owls (GEH). Short-eared Owls were recorded almost everywhere, at least in small numbers, from Attu to Prudhoe Bay to Cordova, including one at sea n.w. of Nunivak I., May 25 and two aboard ship between St. Matthew and Adak Is., May 28 (RHD). A ♂ Anna's Hummingbird that visited a Juneau feeder May 18-20 (ph—WW & MW, *vide* FAG) provided one of very few spring records in the Region. There are s.e. Alaska records of this visitant in every month but April.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRUSHES—The earliest flycatcher by weeks to arrive in Alaska each year is Hammond's. This year's earliest, at Ester Apr. 28 (SOM, DDG), tied the record arrival date in the state set in 1956 and tied previously in 1960, all in the Fairbanks area. Swallows were on time and numerous. Two Tree Swallows aboard ship n w. of Nunivak I. May 23 (GJD, *vide* RHD) and a Cliff Swallow seen in the c. Bering Sea, s w. of St. Matthew I., May 9 (RHD) were amazing, the latter for its early date, both for their locations. A Mountain Chickadee at Juneau Mar. 16 (RBW) was the first reported in several years. Nearctic thrushes (robin, Varied, Hermit, Swainson's, Gray-cheeked, Mountain Bluebird, solitaire) were early and most were numerous, and Palearctic thrushes (Eye-browed, Dusky, Bluethroat, Siberian Rubythroat) were recorded on time and were present in the usual small numbers.

WAGTAILS THROUGH WOOD WARBLERS—A Yellow Wagtail on Attu May 12 (TGT *et al.*) was remarkable. Given the expanse of ocean this species must traverse to reach the w. Aleutians, the fact that it has arrived there on May 12 or 13 in four of the last six years is impressive. A Warbling Vireo at Girdwood, near Anchorage, June 8 (†GJT & JCP) provided only the second Southcoastal record; the species is a fairly common breeder in Southeastern Alaska. A ♂ Cape May Warbler at Pt. Barrow in early June (BJM) furnished the second Alaska spring record, both at that location! A ♂ Yellow-rumped ("Audubon's") Warbler closely observed as

it fed at the wrack line on Attu May 26 (RB, †TGT, BFK *et al.*) is astounding—this form just barely reaches s.e. Alaska, over 3500 km to the east! It represented the second Aleutian record of a parulid w. of Unimak I. (see AB 32:245, 1978).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS—A ♂ N. ("Bullock's") Oriole observed closely at Petersburg hummingbird feeders May 22-25 (†JHH, †LJW, †RP, †MRV) provided the first Alaska record of any member of this genus. The likely form involved, *I. g. bullockii*, breeds as close as s. interior British Columbia. At or near the limit of breeding range, Red-winged Blackbirds were first seen at Fairbanks May 15 (one—DDG, SOM, JJ) and at Anchorage May 24 (two—DFD). They usually reach the Alaska-Yukon border, and they have reached Anchorage, by May 1. Bramblings arrived at Attu on time May 12 (TGT, LJO, GBR) and they were present through the 31st. The species occurred in unparalleled numbers May 17-22, when flocks of up to 48 were seen and the maximum day-count was a virtually incredible 156+ Bramblings May 20 (†TGT, †PWS, LP *et al.*)! A lone male observed at Gambell June 8-9 (WH *et al.* †BFB) provided only the second St. Lawrence I. record of this distinctive bird (see AB 27: 907, 1973). A ♂ Hawfinch May 18-19 (m.ob.) and a ♂ Oriental Greenfinch May 17-18 (TGT *et al.*) on Attu were on both casual visitants for which there are fewer than ten w. Aleutian records. White-winged Crossbills had ap-

parently been absent from the state for some months when found conspicuous and apparently breeding in the Arctic N.W.R in March (MAS). Subsequently, it was not until early June that the first birds returned to the Fairbanks area; by mid-June an estimated 1200 birds were seen at Cooper Landing, Kenai Peninsula (RWS). A subad. ♂ Gray Bunting closely studied at Attu May 29 (†TGT & MS *et al.*) furnished the second Alaska record of this e. Palearctic species (see Auk 95:428, 1978).

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NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Eugene S. Hunn and Philip W. Mattocks, Jr.

The event of the season here was the explosion of Mount St. Helens May 18. Within the immediate blast area all birdlife can be presumed absent. Of much wider effect was the ashfall from that blast. Several inches fell east of Morton, Washington, in the upper Cowlitz River valley, where R. Ryno was censusing birds during the spring. He found several birds with ash caked to their eyes and beaks, and noted a 90% drop in Tree and Violet-green Swallows, even after rain washed most of the ash from the vegetation. Elsewhere there were comments about nests covered with ash and being abandoned. Second broods were quickly restarted, however, and more precise effects of the ashfall are being investigated by numerous teams of scientists.

Weather at the Seattle, Portland, and Medford stations was slightly warmer than usual with about normal rainfall until the last half of May. The period May 20-27 was colder than usual and accounted for 76% of the month's rainfall. First broods of several intensively-studied species were just fledging and losses were high. Many species of flycatchers, swallows, vireos, and warblers were noted on very early or earliest-ever spring arrival dates. This is at least coincident with the

uniformly warmer March and April. There were more reports than usual of American Golden Plover, Pectoral Sandpiper, and Baird's Sandpiper. Each of these species winters in southern South America and normally migrates east of this Region.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS—Five Yellow-billed Loons were reported: at Vancouver, B.C., Mar. 23-24 (BK, DMA, *vide* WW), at Dungeness, Wash., Mar. 1 (†WS, D&SSm), at Clinton, Wash., Mar. 22 (EM), at Burien, Wash., Apr. 5 (DL), and in Netarts Bay, Oreg., Mar. 1-May 5 (†CF, OSC-ph, m.ob.). Common and Arctic Loons were conspicuous in migration May 4 at S.J.C.R. with an estimated 150 Commons and 2500 Arctics per hour moving N (JG1, DI, *vide* HN). No clear movements were noted in weekly censuses at Ocean Shores, Wash., however (DP *et al.*). At the usual Active Pass, V.I., concentration point, MS counted 700 Arctics May 6 (*vide* VG) All closely observed W. Grebes this spring in w Washington were dark phase birds.

TW encountered good numbers of the common tubenose species off Westport, Wash., May 11, with 82 Black-footed Albatross, 83 Pink-footed Shearwaters, 13,300 Sooty Shearwaters, and 87 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels counted. The only N. Fulmar was one found dead on the beach at Newport, Oreg., Mar. 19 (BL, *vide* HN). Three Short-tailed Shearwaters were found washed ashore



at Sunset Beach, Oreg., May 31 (HN). The imm. **Brown Pelican** Apr. 19 at Ocean Shores furnished the first spring record for Washington (DP, BR *et al.*). A colony of cormorants near Chemainus, V.I., hosted 59 Double-crested and 191 Pelagic Cormorants on nests (JC).

Several Great Blue Heron colonies were surveyed this spring. Fort Langley, e. of Vancouver, B.C., had 30 nests (DK, G&WA, *fide* WW), and Pitt Meadows 11 birds (APo, *fide* WW). On Quadra I., near Campbell R., V.I., eight nests were occupied (JC). Ssa *et al.* reported 237 nests on Fisher I., near Longview, Wash., and 190 on Karlson I., 12 mi e. of Astoria, Oregon. A colony of 15+ nests on Ross I., in downtown Portland, is reported threatened by dredging. Thirty-one young were counted there May 29 (DFi, DI, HN). A distinct spring influx of Green Herons in mid-April is apparent in this season's reports. Singles and pairs were reported on 17 occasions after late April, as far n. as Campbell R. (HT). A pair nested near Duncan, V.I., in early May (JC). All ten Great Egrets reported were in Oregon, on scattered dates throughout the period. This is but a small fraction of last spring's totals. Coos Bay's last Snowy Egret departed Apr. 6 (AMc). A lone Black-crowned Night Heron at Corvallis Apr. 25 provided our only report (FR, *fide* HN).

WATERFOWL—Most of the 300+ Trumpeter Swans at Barney L., Skagit Co., Wash., departed soon after Mar. 1 (KB *et al.*), with about 85 remaining until Mar. 9 (ES). None was reported for the Region past Mar. 23, when 1a and 2i were noted at Pitt Lake Marsh e. of Vancouver, B.C. (WW). The highest count of Brant received this year was only 750. This was on Apr. 1 at Dungeness (KG), and can be compared to last spring's peak there of 3000+. The Emperor Goose at Ridgefield N.W.R., Wash., was last

seen Apr. 7 (LP, MC, *fide* HN). Two were noted about 18 mi n. of Kelso, Wash., Apr. 13, one with a plastic six-pack holder about the throat (JMi-ph). A record 40,000 Wrangel I. Snow Geese wintered this year between the Fraser R. delta of British Columbia and the Skagit R. delta of Washington (*fide* Wash. Dept. of Game). An ad. **Ross's Goose** established a first Ocean Shores record May 4-10 (†B&GR, KB, †BH, †DP, †CB). All three records of Ross' Geese in w. Washington have been of spring migrants.

The "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal that wintered in Seattle was joined by a second, Mar. 21 only (EH), and was last seen Apr. 25 (ER). The Saanich bird lingered to at least

May 2 (RS, *fide* VG). Blue-winged Teal were unusually well represented throughout the Region. A pair at Ocean Shores Apr. 5 (EH) was about three weeks ahead of the main incursion. Numbers peaked at 36 at Seattle May 31 (EH), 37 at three sites in Saanich May 29 (*fide* VG), and 16 at Cowichan Bay, V.I. (JC) by May 30. Nearly 80% of the birds at Cowichan Bay and Seattle were males. Red-heads remained scarce. Only seven individuals at four locations were brought to our attention. The affinity of Lesser Scaup for sewage treatment ponds is again evident in this season's reports, with the majority of sightings from such facilities. **Tufted Duck** fever broke out again. A male Mar. 2-9 at Vancouver, B.C. (BK, DK, m.ob., *fide* WW) was followed by a female there Mar. 23 (BK, *fide* WW). A dark gray-backed male with a short tuft appeared again this year at Everett Mar. 16-25 (B&PE, EM, †PM-ph). The male at Hoquiam, Wash., Apr. 26-27 was in perfect plumage (†DP *et al.*). All were with scaup on sewage ponds. A young ♂ **King Eider** was at the Westport jetty May 11 (†CB, MGu *et al.*) for Washington's eighth record and latest spring date by more than a month.

KITES THROUGH TURKEYS—Oregon observers have noted that wintering White-tailed Kites frequently cannot be located during the subsequent nesting season (TL, DFi). Of the fifty reported from Oregon this winter, for instance, only six could be found after Mar. 1. Singles at Sauvies' I. Mar. 1 & 18 (m.ob., *fide* HN) and on the lower Columbia R., w. of Cathlamet Apr. 29-May 13 were the northernmost noted (U.S.F.W.S., *fide* HN & Ssa). Accipiter reports were up again from the previous spring, probably owing to increased reporting: six Goshawks, about 50 Sharp-shinneds, and 65 Cooper's Hawks. The V.N.H.S. March raptor survey of the Fraser R. delta region recorded 89 Red-tailed Hawks, 28 Rough-legged Hawks, 52 Bald

Eagles, and 95 Marsh Hawks (*fide* JGr). Red-tailed Hawk abundance in the Seattle area dropped off sharply after early April as wintering birds departed (EH). Only two Rough-legged Hawks were reported after early March, the latest May 10 at Duncan, V.I., where they are rare (JC). Golden Eagles were at breeding locales on s. V.I., San Juan I., Wash., and near Medford, Oreg., as usual. Marsh Hawks were considered common during March in the Seattle area (EH), on Sauvies' I. (KKr, *fide* HN), and on Leadbetter Pt., Wash. (JCa *et al.*). A pair at the Ocean Shores breeding site was courting Apr. 19-27 (DP, JCa), and five males and two females were seen in the vicinity Apr. 20 (DP). VG reported 6-7 active Osprey nests in the Victoria-Saanich area (m.ob.). DFi reported 6-8 nesting pairs in the Columbia R. gorge between Beacon Rock and White Salmon (m.ob.) and two at Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene (TL). One gray Gyrfalcon was repeatedly observed through Mar. 27 in C. Saanich (RS, AMa, *fide* VG). The 21 Peregrine sightings matched last spring's record total, while the 35 Merlins reported was nearly double previous highs. Peregrines roosted on bank buildings in Tacoma, Wash. (BGo), and Vancouver, B.C. (DJe, MP, *fide* WW). All but four Merlins sighted were near the shores of the "inland sea", i.e., Puget Sound and the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca.

Bobwhite populations persist s.e. of McKenna, Wash. (MiM), and on Sauvies' I. (JGi, TMO, *fide* HN). Mountain Quail were noted n. of the Columbia R., where they are scarce, near Tahuya on s. Hood Canal (NS, *fide* TB), near Nisqually (G&WHO), and 6 mi w. of Mt. St. Helens, where one was heard the day before the great eruption (DA). Wild Turkeys were readily located Apr. 19 at English Camp on San Juan I., Wash. (ME).

SHOREBIRDS—A Snowy Plover nest located at Ocean Shores held three eggs May 9 (WS) and had fledged two young by May 17 (BW, *fide* GHo). Six were seen May 24 at Leadbetter Pt. (MC, LP). These two locations mark the n. limits of this Blue-listed species' breeding range on the Pacific Coast. An early Am. Golden Plover at Coos Bay, Oreg., Mar. 18 (SG, *fide* HN) was near where the individual was sighted this winter. Two to four Am. Golden Plovers were at Ocean Shores Apr. 26-May 10 (DP, B&GR, BHT). One was at Tillamook Bay, Oreg., May 11 (JGi, DI), and another was noted at Sooke, s. V.I., May 19 (RS, *fide* VG), a slightly above-average showing for spring.

Some 30 Com. Snipe winnowing throughout the spring near Randle, Wash., indicated a sizable breeding population in the Cowlitz R. valley (RR). The wintering Long-billed Curlew at Newport remained throughout the spring (m.ob.). Three singles were also noted in migration, all after Apr. 19. Nine Solitary Sandpipers Apr. 27-May 17 were about normal. A Willet at Vancouver, Wash., May 10 (DJo) furnished a most unusual inland record. Another May 13 & 19 near Victoria (†VG, K&DSu) provided the first record on s. V.I. since 1964. Red Knots were scarce in this year's reports, with a high count of 45 May 2 at Newport (LP, *fide* HN). The Ocean Shores peak count was only 12 on May 10 (DP).

Hundreds have been the norm there in past years. The four summer-plumaged Semipalmated Sandpipers reported were all well described. The first was at S.J.C.R. Apr. 27 (†JGi, OSC, ML), then came one at Finley N.W.R., in the Willamette Valley May 5 (†CC), another at S.J.C.R. May 15 (†HN), and †DP's first Ocean Shores record June 1. These spring records are both more southerly and favor the outer coast, nearly opposite to this species' fall migration pattern. Comparable to last spring's late April concentration at Bowerman Basin, Grays Harbor, Wash., was the 100,000 W. Sandpipers recorded there Apr. 26-27 (DP *et al.*). Also present that weekend were 4000-5000 Dunlin and 10,000 Short-billed Dowitchers.

Baird's and Pectoral Sandpipers are rare here in spring. This year's ten sightings of Baird's and three of Pectoral were above normal. One Baird's Apr. 5 at Bowerman Basin was the earliest w. Washington record by 12 days (DP, JE *et al.*). The three May 24 at Leadbetter Pt. were the latest by 12 days (MC, LP). A breeding plumaged **Bar-tailed Godwit** was on Dungeness spit May 24 (†KKn). Two other Bar-tailed Godwit reports were unsubstantiated. A **Ruff** at Comox, V.I., May 23 ("present for two weeks") represented a first Regional spring record (m.ob., *fide* HT). An Am. Avocet in Seattle May 28 was a local first (TS *et al.*, PM-ph). Two and three Black-necked Stilts Apr. 26 & 28 at Finley N.W.R. were even more unusual (DC, R&JK, *fide* EE). A heavy and late migration of Red Phalaropes was estimated at 300 birds/hour at S.J.C.R. May 31 (HN), and brought 372 ashore at Ocean Shores June 1 (DP).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS—The spring's usual handful of jaegers was noted this May, including reports of four Pomarines and ten Parasitics. A light phase ad. Pomarine Jaeger was at Victoria May 31 (†RS, *fide* VG), for a rare "inland sea" record. Four Glaucous Gulls were reported, with singles May 11 at Nehalem Meadows (DI) and May 17 at Newport (TC, HN), the latest. An ad. gull at Newport May 4 (DFa, *fide* HN) was either a Laughing Gull or an aberrant Franklin's. It is an unusual time and place for either. A sub-ad. Franklin's Gull turned up at Clover Pt., V.I., May 26-27 (RS, M&VG). Seven Sabine's Gulls were off Westport May 11 (TW *et al.*). Four Forster's Terns passed through Portland May 20 (DFi, DI). Caspian Terns arrived Apr. 3-6 all along the Oregon and Washington outer coast, with two rounding Cape Flattery to Dungeness Bay May 28-29 (D&SSm). After heavy fall and winter numbers, just three Ancient Murrelets were noted. One was at Newport and the latest was off Victoria Mar. 27 (RS, *fide* VG). A wreck of puffins occurred on the n. Oregon beaches. Eleven dead Horned Puffins and 17 dead Tufted Puffins were found Mar. 15-Apr. 4 (HN, BL).

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS—Band-tailed Pigeon reports from V.I. indicated a marked drop in numbers there (*fide* VG). Elsewhere, particularly Puget Sound and the Medford area, the species was in normal numbers. Screech Owls were con-

sidered more abundant than usual this spring in the Duncan, V.I., area (JC) with several young birds found there during May. Single Barred Owls were located in Saanich Mar. 17-May 23 (T&MS, *fide* VG) and at the Wind River Ranger Station, Wash., Apr. 12 (DFi). At least two were near Carnation, Wash., Mar. 10-23 (AL, B&PE). Three Short-eared Owls were observed in courtship flights over the Ocean Shores Game Range Apr. 19 (DP).

Single Com. Nighthawks in Oakridge, Oreg., May 4 (TF, SG) and Eugene May 18 (TL) were both early. Elsewhere the species arrived on schedule. The first Black Swifts were also early, with singles May 12 in Toledo, Oreg., and Eugene (RSM, SG), and a group of eight in Seattle May 15 (JW). The Armory chimney at Ashland, Ore., has become noted as an important migratory way-station for Vaux's Swifts, both in spring and fall (OSw). This season the peak count was of 560 swifts entering at dusk May 14 (MaM, OSw). After May 19 only three remained through the month. Elsewhere Vaux's Swifts at Corvallis Apr. 13 (AS) and at the Wind River Ranger Station Apr. 16 (DFi) were on early dates. The Costa's Hummingbird in Florence stayed through March (DiS, *fide* CW). An imm. Anna's Hummingbird was seen Apr. 4 with the resident pair near Langford, s. V.I. (BHA, *fide* VG), and a ♀ Anna's was feeding a fledgling in Edmonds, Wash., Apr. 7 (SD, *fide* WH). The Rufous Hummingbird which wintered in Saanich stayed in the same area through May (JSO, *fide* VG). A ♂ Calliope Hummingbird was seen closely at Scenic Beach S.P. May 18 (†E&NH) for one of very few records for w. Washington. Five "Red-breasted" Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers drumming at once on a garbage can lid in Flaming Geyser S.P., Wash., March 21 (TB) must have been quite a show. A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker May 17 6 mi w. of Mt. St. Helens produced one of few westside records (DA).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GNAT-CATCHERS—Western Kingbirds arrived Apr. 14 & 16, somewhat earlier than usual, in Roseburg and Corvallis (FPA, EE). Farther n., there were singles on Protection I., May 5 (FK, AMn), in Saanich May 13 & 25 (E&AD, GH), near McKenna, Wash., May 15 (MiM), in Seattle May 16 (DH), and two were at Ocean Shores May 23 (EP). Another kingbird, of unknown species, was seen in Saanich May 6 (†RS, *fide* VG). A **Black Phoebe** visited Stanley Park, Vancouver, B.C., April 26 (WW, *fide* WW) for one of very few records for the Province. Six Say's Phoebes were found in w. Washington, scattered through the season. Single Hammond's Flycatchers in Saanich Apr. 20 (MS) and near Arlington, Wash., Apr. 23 (DP) were early. Also early was a W. Flycatcher in Seattle Apr. 3 (JW) and a Willow Flycatcher in N. Saanich, V.I., May 4 (B&MM). An extremely early Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen and heard in a steep wooded canyon in Seattle Mar. 1 (EP). One was in this same area in March 1976 also.

A Bank Swallow and a Barn Swallow were seen May 11 several mi at sea off Westport (TW *et al.*). Adding to the season's run of very early arrivals were four Cliff Swallows at Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene, Mar. 15 (DFi, TL), one at Seattle Mar. 30 (J&MW), a

Rough-winged Swallow Mar 20 at Dungeness, Wash. (WS), a Barn Swallow Mar 21 at Victoria (RS, *fide* VG), two ♂♂ and a ♀ Purple Martin at Fern Ridge Res. Apr. 5 (TL), and a pair of Purple Martins at the L. Sammamish, Wash., colony Apr. 20 (DFe, FE)

A Blue Jay was seen Mar. 9-16 at New Westminster near Vancouver, B.C. (DPi, *fide* WW), where one had been seen last fall. Single Black-billed Magpies were found Mar 26-Apr. 7, at Vancouver, B.C., at Seattle, and just s. of Campbell R., V.I. Both Chestnut-backed Chickadees and Bushtits had what was described as the most successful nesting season in recent years in the Duncan, V.I., area (JC). Many more Bushtits than last year were also noted on a study plot near McKenna, Wash. (MiM). An example of nest-helpers was noted, as *three* ad. Dippers were observed feeding nestlings at a nest near the Wind River Ranger Station during April (DFi). On Apr. 20 a ♂ Rock Wren was located on Wind Mt., 3 mi e. of Carson, Wash., along the Columbia R. (DFi, CDa). The Mockingbird found this winter at Port Orford, Oreg., stayed through the season, and two were present Apr. 20 (JR, DR). Another was seen May 8 at Sequim, Wash (DD, *fide* DS). A Sage Thrasher was found Apr. 26 on Badger Mt., w. of Eugene (TMi, *fide* HN). A Veery was seen May 27 s e of McKenna, Wash. (†MiM), and another heard near Carnation, Wash., June 1 (†EH). There are very few w. Washington records. This spring more W. Bluebirds were reported from more localities than has been the case in recent years. Evidence of nesting was obtained at Eugene, Oreg., near McKenna and Tenino, Wash., and in Saanich, V.I. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers nested as usual near Medford (OSw). Two on the North spit at Coos Bay Apr 26 (BGr, AMc) were vagrants.

WAGTAILS THROUGH ORIOLES—A wagtail of as yet undetermined species was seen May 19 at Whiffen spit, Sooke, V I (†J&RS, *fide* VG). Many more reports of Hutton's Vireos than usual were received this year from throughout the Region. The species was described as unusually abundant on s. V.I. (VG). Single Solitary Vireos in Langford, V.I. (GB), and Metchosin, V.I. (MG), both Mar. 30 were unusually early. The Warbling Vireo arrival was both early and uniformly widespread. First reports were Apr. 24 in Corvallis (E&EE), Apr. 26 in Highland Land District, V.I. (DaS, RC), and Apr. 27 at Sultan, Wash. (ME).

A Black-and-white Warbler found at Coos Bay Apr. 26 (BGr, *fide* AMc) furnished the fifth recent record from that area. The earliest report of a Nashville Warbler this season was Apr. 13 in Metchosin, V I (†M&VG). Migratory movements of Yellow-rumped Warblers were widely noted throughout April and into early May. Black-throated Gray Warbler arrival dates were early: Apr 2 in Corvallis (CC), Apr. 12 in Seattle (MiM), and Apr. 16 in Metchosin (MS). Migrant Palm Warblers, rare in spring, were noted in Corvallis Apr. 27 (CC) and at Ocean Shores S.P., Wash., Apr. 28 (HF). Two Wilson's Warblers Apr. 13 near Morton, Wash., were very early (RR).

Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported from 15 localities throughout the Region and

the season. Indications of nesting were obtained only from a traditional site in the Medford area (OSw). A N. Oriole in Roseburg, Oreg., Mar. 9-20 (F&APa, *vide* HN) could have been a wintering bird. The two Apr. 16 at Campbell R. (HT) and one May 4 near Carnation, Wash. (EH), were early for those locations. The ♂ Scott's Oriole at the feeder in Chehalis, Wash., this winter stayed to Apr. 13 (C&ND). The bird had begun singing regularly before it disappeared. The Hooded Oriole at the Coos Bay, Ore., feeder stayed to about Mar. 14 (JMc, *vide* AMc).

FINCHES AND SPARROWS—Lazuli Buntings at Corvallis May 1 (KM, *vide* E&EE) and near McKenna, Wash., May 5 (MiM) appeared on early dates. Only a few large flocks of Evening Grosbeaks were reported during March and April. The species became noisily abundant, although less so than usual, throughout the Region in early May and most stayed through the month. Flocks of 200+ Pine Siskins were found during March in Campbell R. and in Seattle. Elsewhere smaller numbers appeared during April and May. About 20 Red Crossbills were in Saanich May 23-28 (RS, MS, *vide* VG). Elsewhere very few were reported. The Clay-colored Sparrow found this winter at Nehalem meadows, near Mohler, Oreg., stayed through Mar. 9 (OH, *vide* JGi). A bird believed to have been a hybrid Clay-colored X Chipping Sparrow wintered in Eugene through Mar. 24 (†DFi, TL). Returning White-crowned Sparrows of the race *pugetensis* reached Seattle Apr. 3 (JW) and C. Saanich, V.I. Apr. 9 (M&VG). A migrant

Golden-crowned Sparrow still at Woodinville, Wash., May 28 was late (ME). Single White-throated Sparrows were found in Alsea and Eugene, Oreg., both Mar. 8 (DMA, SG) and on Sauvies' I. Apr. 26 (TC). The McKay's Bunting at the S.J.C.R. stayed through Mar. 9 (JO, *vide* HN).

CORRIGENDA—Please delete the records of King Eider from the S.J.C.R. May 8, 1977 (*Am. Birds* 31:1038, 1977), as the observer has withdrawn the report, and of Bar-tailed Godwit at Bandon, Oreg., Sept. 17, 1979 (*Am. Birds* 34:192, 1980), as that bird was actually the one seen at Newport.

CITED OBSERVERS and ABBREVIATIONS, with Sub-regional Editors in bold-face. David Anderson, Gerry & Wendy Ansell, Chuck Bergman, Thais Bock, Gwen Briggs, Ken Brown, Rob Cannings, Mike Carmody, Doug Carroll, Joan Carson (JCa), Chris Chappell, John Comer (JC), Tom Crabtree, Cliff Dalton (CDa), Eleanore & Albert Davidson, Daisy Dinsmore, Mrs. Stewart Douglas (SD), Cliff & Neva Dunn (C&ND), Garrett Eddy, Fran Edwards, Mark Egger, Elsie & Elzy Eltzroth, Jim Erckmann, Bob & Pat Evans, Craig Faanes, Darrell Faxson (DFa), Dave Fehling (DFe), Tad Finnell, **David Fix** (DFi), Hal Fray, Jeff Gilligan (JGi), Margaret & **Vic Goodwill** (M&VG), Bill Goodwin (BGo), Steve Gordon, Jude Grass (JGr), Barbara Griffin (BGr), Karl Gruebel, Mary Gustafson (MGu), Omar Halverson, **Bill Harrington-Tweit** (BHT), Bob Hay (BH), Wendell Hoag (WH), Glen & Wanda Hoge (G&W), G. Houston (GH), Nancy Hunn, David Hutchinson, David

Irons, Dale Jensen (DJe), Don Jole (DJo), Brian Kautesk, Ken Knittle (KKn), Doug Kragh, Fayette Krause, Kurt Kremers (KKR), Manuel Lerdan, Bob Loeffel, Aaron Loretsky, Dave Lucas, Tom Lund, Don MacDonald (DMA), Alan MacLeod (AMa), Ann Mahnke (AMn), Dave Mark (DMa), Joy McDowell (JMc), Alan McGie (AMc), Kathryn McNeeley, Barbara & Michael Meikeljohn, Tom Mickel (TMI), Ed Miller, Jim Miller (JMi), Marjorie Moore (MaM), Mike Moore (MiM), Terry Morgan (TMO), **Harry Nehls**, Jim Olson, Fred & Alice Parker (F&APa), Leonard Paul, **Dennis Paulson** (DP), Evelyn Peaslee, Donna Pike (DPi), Allen Poynter (APo), Mike Price, Bob & Georgia Ramsay (B&GR), Fred Ramsay, Ellen Ratoosh, Bill Reichert (BRE), Dennis Rogers, Jim Rogers, Ronnie Ryno, Joy & Ron Sattelfield (J&RS), Susan Saul (SSa), Owen Schmidt (OSc), Tom Schooley, Norma Schweikhaid, Teresa & Michael Shepard (T&MS), Aaron Skirvin, Eugene Smirnov, Dory & Stan Smith (D&SSm), Richard Smith (RSM), Mrs. J. Somerville (JSo), Diane Steward (DiS), Dave Stirling (DaS), Wally Sumner, Kaye & Dennis Sutill (K&DSu), Otis Swisher (OSw), Howard Telosky, **Terry Wahl**, Clarice Watson, **Wayne Weber**, Bart Whelton, John & Marilyn Wingfield, (†) = written description on file, S.J.C.R. = South jetty of the Columbia R., Oreg., V.I. = Vancouver I., B.C., V.N.H.S. = Vancouver Natural History Society—**EUGENE S. HUNN**, 1816 N. 57th St., Seattle, Wash. 98103, and **PHILIP W. MATTOCKS, JR.**, Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of Washington, Seattle, Wash. 98195.

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

/ Stephen A. Laymon and W. David Shuford

Usually cool and wet weather occurred this spring in the Region. Rainstorms moved through the area at regular intervals March 1-7, 14-18 & 25, April 5-6 & 20-23, and May 8-11 & 22-24. A gale-force windstorm also occurred March 30. Low nighttime temperatures in the foothills averaged in the high 40sF even in May, and very few days reached 80°, even at the warmest locations. One Bay Area observer reported this spring to have been the coldest in memory (LF).

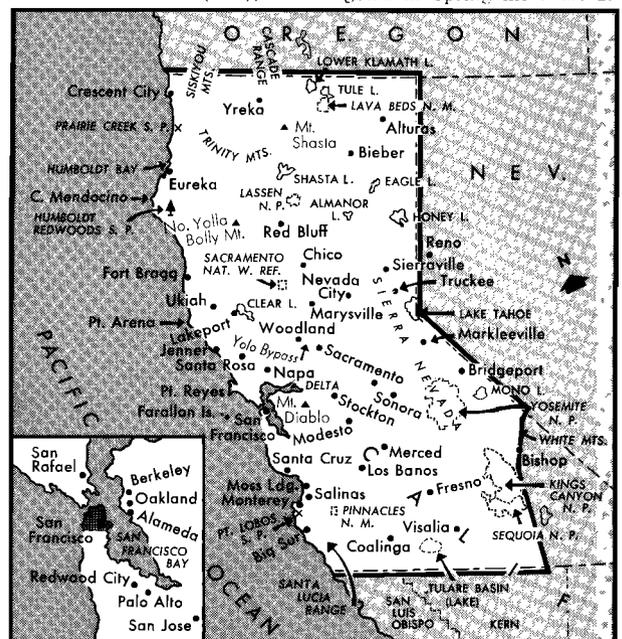
Waterfowl appeared to migrate on schedule. The major event was the fallout of shorebirds in the Great Basin after the May 8-11 storm. The total number of shorebirds at Lower Klamath N.W.R. increased by a factor of 14 in two weeks, and unprecedented numbers of Ruddy Turnstones and Red Knots and a Baird's Sandpiper were found there. A Wandering Tattler was seen at Mono Lake. The sparsely-birded inland portions of the Region can yield rich rewards following a storm of this type.

In the Central Valley (hereafter, C.V.) the Dog I. census data of SAL & KC documented a very late and slow landbird migration, a

phenomenon noted by other observers as well (CH, TBe). In the Klamath Basin and along the coast songbird migration was thought to be on time, but few impressive numbers were reported (m.ob). Minor migrant waves were recorded at S.E. Farallon I. (hereafter, F.I.), Apr. 12 & 27 and May 2 & 30-31.

Observer response to queries regarding arrival dates was impressive, and produced the following early dates (see text for exceptional dates for a few species). These dates should be used with caution in interpreting average arrivals since increased observer field-hours may increase early date records without reflecting accurately the arrival of the population as a whole. Also, what may be an "early" spring at one location may not be at another. Much work still needs to be done in our Region to unravel the relationship of migrant arrival to latitude, longitude, and elevation. *Early arrivals*: Com. Nighthawk at L. Shastina May 25

(MRO, *vide* SAL), Lesser Nighthawk at Sutter Buttes Apr. 16 (*vide* WA), Vaux's Swift in Humboldt County Apr. 14 (*vide* JGHe), Black-chinned Hummingbird in Springville Mar. 31 (MEM), Calliope Hummingbird in Siskiyou County Apr. 9 (CSi), W. Kingbird in Springville Mar. 29



(MEM), Ash-throated Flycatcher in Sacramento County Apr. 10 (*vide* BK), Dusky Flycatcher in Yolo County Apr. 20 (TBe), W. Flycatcher in Santa Cruz Mar. 13 (SG), W. Wood Pewee at Point Reyes National Seashore (hereafter, P.R.N.S.) Apr. 19 (JE), Olive-sided Flycatcher in Marin and Monterey counties Apr. 12 (DS, BGE), Bank Swallow at Sacramento N.W.R. Mar. 14 (SAL), Purple Martin at Bolinas Mar. 6 (DS), Swainson's Thrush at P.R.N.S. Apr. 19 (JE), Solitary Vireo in Oakland Mar. 22 (DM), Warbling Vireo at P.R.N.S. Mar. 19 (JE), Nashville Warbler in Lafayette Apr. 10 (LF), Yellow Warbler at Olema Marsh Apr. 8 (DS), Black-throated Gray Warbler in Yolo County Apr. 2 (DEI), Hermit Warbler in Yolo County Apr. 20 (TBe), MacGillivray's Warbler in Berkeley Apr. 8 (GH), Yellow-breasted Chat in Springville Apr. 20 (MEM), Wilson's Warbler in Oakland Mar. 20 (JM), Hooded Oriole in Alamo Mar. 17 (JRI), "Bullock's Oriole in Lafayette Mar. 10 (*vide* LF), W. Tanager in Humboldt County Apr. 14 (JGHe), Black-headed Grosbeak in Lafayette Apr. 7 (LF), Lazuli Bunting in Lafayette Apr. 17 (LF), Grasshopper Sparrow in Santa Cruz Apr. 7 (SG), Chipping Sparrow in Marin and Sacramento counties Apr. 12 (DS, BK).

All observations from F. Is. and Palomarín should be credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory. A dagger (†) means documentation is on file with the editors.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS—Common Loon migration was well monitored this spring. Peak migration occurred Apr. 15-May 5 at both coastal and inland locations, with 1131 at Pigeon Pt., Apr. 22 (PM), ten at L. Almanor, Plumas Co., Apr. 20-30 (DAA), and five at Iron Gate Res., Siskiyou Co., Apr. 16 (MHM). A Red-throated Loon, very rare inland in spring, was at Monticello Dam, Yolo Co., Mar. 21-Apr. 13 (DEI, CH, TBe). Forty-six Eared Grebes at Tulare L., Kings Co., May 31 (JiR) was a large number this late in the season.

Normal numbers of Black-footed Albatrosses were reported, the largest total being 50 over the Eel R. Canyon, Humboldt Co., May 4 (RLeV). A Laysan Albatross was found on the Cordell Banks, off Bodega Bay Mar. 13 (BL). Sooty Shearwaters were reported in greater-than-normal numbers; 3000 on Monterey Bay Mar. 31 (DRo) was high for that date, and many thousands were reported from all coastal locations by late April. Eight Fork-tailed and eight Ashy storm-petrels were seen near shore at Pt. Pinos, Monterey Co., Mar. 25 (DRo). These appeared during high winds as a storm system approached the coast.

The first post-breeding Brown Pelican was found on F.I. Apr. 3, an early date. Large numbers were being seen by mid-May, with flocks consisting of 40-50% immatures. Four Double-crested Cormorant nests were found at Corcoran Irrigation District Res., Kings Co., May 30 (JiR), an unusual location, and 150 Cormorants were at Iron Gate and Copco Res., May 29 (MHM), indicating probable nesting there. The Brandt's Cormorant nesting colony at Pt. Lobos State Reserve was found to have 793 nests, 10% more than in 1974 (HLC).

A Great Blue Heron rookery with 26 nests was found on Trinity L., Trinity Co., May 28 (PD), at a previously undiscovered location. Green Herons are extremely rare east of the Sierra, so one at Susanville May 14 (BS) was surprising. An ad. Little Blue Heron in breeding plumage was at the Alviso Heronry s. S.F. Bay April 18 (CSw). Great Egrets were found nesting at two heron rookeries in Tehama County, with four pairs at Moony I., May 11 (SAL, KC) and ten pairs at Bloody I., May 9 (PD). No Egrets were found at either location during the 1974 colonial bird survey. One-hundred-fifty pairs of Snowy Egrets were found at the Alviso heronry Apr. 18 (CSw) and a high total of 56 was seen at the Humboldt Bay Indian I. colony May 3 (RLeV). The Alviso heronry also had 150 pairs of nesting Black-crowned Night Herons Apr. 18 (CSw). The number nesting at this site continues to grow each year. The colony at Woodland Sugar Ponds had 30 nests Apr. 10 (TBe), a normal number. This colony is threatened by major habitat alteration. A Least Bittern at Lava Lakes Nature Center, Siskiyou Co., seen and heard Apr. 22-May 16 (MRo, RE, CSt) was the only one reported.

WATERFOWL—Two Whistling Swans were at Dales Pond in n.c. Tehama County, Apr. 11 (SAL, KC), much later than their usual mid-March departure date. Three at Lower Klamath N.W.R., May 26-31 (m.ob.) were probably summering. A Canada Goose at Bay Farm I., Alameda Co., Mar. 27 appeared to be nesting (*vide* ER). Five Black Brant were at Mono L., May 4 and another was there May 16 (Dean Taylor, *vide* DW). These were also the latest reported. Peak coastal migration occurred the last week in March (PM, JE), but major movement was noted Apr. 23 with 600 Brant moving N past Limantour, P.R.N.S. (JE). Significant flights of White-fronted Geese were seen, with 15,000 Apr. 13 near Davis, Yolo Co., (TBe) and 1050 at Red Bluff, Tehama Co., Apr. 16 (SAL, KC).

A "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal was found at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Mar. 9 (SS, MRo, RE). It provided the first spring record since 1973 and the first for the Klamath Basin. Blue-winged Teal were plentiful along the n. coast this spring with 14 reported Apr. 25-May 17 (m.ob.). European Wigeon were found on every visit to Lower Klamath N.W.R., Mar. 1-Apr. 19 (SSE, RE, MRo). The high count was eight Apr. 9.

Ring-necked Ducks appear to nest much more commonly than had been believed in the Shasta Valley and Klamath Basin region. Fifteen pairs were found during the last two weeks of May (SAL, BED, B&CY). There were none elsewhere after Apr. 29. Two pairs of Canvasbacks in the Tulare Basin, Kings Co., May 31 (JiR) were unusual. Greater Scaup lingered in high numbers with 2000 on San Pablo Bay near Novato Ck., May 14 (DEI). Numbers dropped to 200 by May 23 and to four a week later (DEI). The Abbott's Lagoon Tufted Duck was last seen Mar. 3 (JE, DS) but one was at Richardson's Bay Mar. 16 (DRo) & Apr. 15 (Holly Peake). A late ♀ Barrow's Goldeneye was at the Honey L. Wildlife Area Apr. 13 (SAL, KC). Five Oldsquaws were reported from coastal locations as late as May 3 (m.ob.). A White-

winged Scoter was at the Stockton Sewage Ponds Mar. 31 (TBe). The peak of Surf Scoter migration was noted along the coast Apr. 14-23 (PM, JE). A ♀ Red-breasted Merganser at Tule Lake N.W.R., Apr. 26 (SS, RE, MRo) was the only one reported inland.

HAWKS THROUGH COOTS—While the fall migration of large Turkey Vulture flocks has been well documented, 140 vultures migrating N near Reedley, Fresno Co., Mar. 9 (RGe) furnished one of the few spring records. A Sharp-shinned Hawk 15 mi w. of Red Bluff, Tehama Co., May 24 (SAL, KC) in Blue Oak woodland was unusual. A Ferruginous Hawk was seen on Pt. Reyes Apr. 18 (JE), as late as the species has occurred in the Region. Ospreys were found to be more numerous on L. Almanor, where 13 nests were located (DAA), than had previously been assumed. More migrant Ospreys than normal were seen in the San Joaquin Valley (hereafter, S.J.V.) with six reported (m.ob.).

A very late coastal Prairie Falcon was at Palomarín, P.R.N.S. Apr. 19 & 25. The last non-breeding Peregrine Falcon was seen along the coast at Bodega Bay May 3 (DS). A late Merlin was at Moffett Field May 8 (WB). There are few May records for the Region, the usual late date being mid-April.

Mountain Quail were found calling Apr. 27 in n.w. Yolo County (CH, TBe), an area where they were not previously known to occur. Ten Black Rails were heard calling over a period of several hours in Petaluma Marsh, Sonoma Co., May 17 (Pete Colosanti, *vide* DS). Is this species really more common than its "rare" status would indicate?

SHOREBIRDS—Eight pairs of Black-necked Stilts, including one with a nest and three eggs in a *Salicornia* marsh, were found near San Rafael May 6-10 (DS). This area has only recently been colonized. Semipalmated plovers were very poorly reported this spring with none of the usual concentrations. A pair of Killdeer nested for the fourth consecutive year on the roof of a school in Auburn. Three young hatched and were moved to the ground by the observer (MA). Seven Snowy Plover at the South Wilbur Flood Area, Kings Co., May 31 (JiR) were found again where they nested last year.

American Golden Plovers were found in exceptional numbers along the coast. A high count of 11 was seen at the Spilleta Ranch, P.R.N.S. Apr. 18 (JE). At least 12 others were reported in March and April. Very unusual was one at Pescadero Marsh, San Mateo Co., May 27-31 (PM, AE), a late date, and one inland at Lodi Sewage Ponds, San Joaquin Co., Mar. 31 (TBe). The first inland spring arrivals of Black-bellied Plover were noted Mar. 15 when seven were seen at Sacramento N.W.R. (SAL). The first ones were sighted in the Klamath Basin Apr. 7 (SS). A flock of 2000 feeding in a pasture in Capay District in s.c. Tehama Co., Apr. 16 (SAL, KC) was the largest flock ever reported inland in the Region. This concentration had dwindled to 25 a week later.

One to two Marbled Godwits were found at Lower Klamath N.W.R. Apr. 5-May 11 (MRo, RE, SS). This is one of the few spots inland in the Region where they are regular. Two at the Woodland Sugar Ponds Mar. 29

were slightly more unusual (SAL, KC). Spring Whimbrel migration through the C.V. has been well documented in recent years. Four hundred at Dinuba, Tulare Co., Mar. 28 (RGe) were both earlier and more numerous than normal. Four were at Mono L. May 9 (DW), an unusual location. Four Solitary Sandpipers were found Apr. 28-May 20 (m.ob.), a normal number for spring. A Willet at Orange Cove, Fresno Co., Apr. 21 (RGe) was notable. A Wandering Tattler was at Mono L., May 11 (DW) for the first inland spring record. Seven found along the coast at various locations during the last week in May were late.

A massive drop-in of 22 Ruddy Turnstones was found at Lower Klamath N.W.R. May 11 (MRo, RE) following a storm, and two were near Colusa, Colusa Co., May 15 (J.D. Garr, *fide* WA). This is a higher-than-usual number for an inland location. A flock of 600 Black Turnstones on Bolinas Lagoon Apr. 20 (SAL, KC) seemed unusual. Many greater-than-normal numbers of Red Phalaropes were found at coastal locations during May. The peak at Pigeon Pt. was 20,295 in five hours May 20 (PM). A Com. Snipe at Bolinas Sewage Ponds May 23-24 (DS, JE) provided a late observation in a non-breeding location. Four Surfbirds migrating past Pigeon Pt., May 27 (PM) were also very late. The largest flock of Red Knots reported consisted of 62 at Lower Klamath N.W.R., May 13 (MRo, RE, SS). Twenty-two had been found two days earlier by the same observers. This number is unprecedented inland in the region. Three Baird's Sandpipers were found; one at Lodi Sewage Pond Mar. 24 (†JM), one at Pescadero Marsh Apr. 1 (†PM) and one at Lower Klamath N.W.R., May 11 (MRo, RE). There has been some question as to the validity of March records for this species even though seven have been reported in the past four years. These well-described sightings should lay doubts to rest. This seems to be a rare, but regular occurrence. Rarer were single Pectoral Sandpipers just w. of Lower Klamath N.W.R. Apr. 26 (SS, MRo, RE), and at Bolinas Sewage Ponds May 17-18 (DDeS) and May 23-24 (DS, JE). Thirteen Rock Sandpipers, more than normal, were found along the coast at six locations until May 9 (m.ob.). The Region's first spring **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was at Arcata May 3-4 (†RLeV).

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS—A second-year Thayer's Gull was at Red Bluff Apr. 30 (SAL, KC) for an unusual date and location. The Black-headed Gull remained at the Stockton Sewage Ponds until Mar. 31+ (m.ob.). A Laughing Gull was at Bodega Bay Apr. 15 (JE, Gary Page, Lynn Stenzel). Three Franklin's Gulls were reported, two at Pigeon Pt., May 20 & 21 (PM), and one at the Hwy 43 Holding Ponds, Kings Co., May 28-31 (JiR), a more noteworthy location. The Little Gull also remained at the Stockton Sewage Ponds until Mar. 31+ (m.ob.). Since a few Heermann's Gulls winter along the coast, it is difficult to tell with certainty when the first birds arrive from their breeding grounds. One at Pigeon Pt., Apr. 16 (PM) was believed to be an early migrant as was one adult at Golden Gate Bridge, S.F., Apr.

20 (CSw). Only seven Sabine Gulls were reported. One on F.I., Mar. 26 (P.R.B.O.) and one on Monterey Bay Mar. 31 (DRo) are noteworthy since there is only one previous March record for the Region.

Common Terns were reported from seven locations along the coast Apr. 17-May 26. Nine at various points in Marin County, May 16-22 (DS, JE) are from an area where they are, oddly enough, rarely reported in spring. Only six Arctic Terns were reported, May 4-13 (m.ob.), many fewer than usual. An Elegant Tern was at Pajaro Dunes, Monterey Co., May 7 and two were there May 27 (J&RW). There are few May records for the Region.

One-hundred fifty Marbled Murrelets at Crescent City, Del Norte Co., May 13 (GS) was one of the largest concentrations ever reported in the state. A Xantus' Murrelet was at F.I. Mar. 26. An ad. Horned Puffin was found dead on Limantour Spit Mar. 17 (JE). Three to four others were found dead on beaches in February (P.R.B.O., *fide* JE) but were not previously reported. An ad. Tufted Puffin at Pt. Reyes Lighthouse May 29 and a pair at Sea Lion Overlook near there June 1 (JE, DS) indicate that they may be nesting there.

PIGEONS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

—Band-tailed Pigeons were widely reported (m.ob.), with a high count of 500 near Chico, Butte Co., Mar. 2 (SAL). Screech Owls in Siskiyou County, May 22 at Sawyers Bar and May 27 near Scotts Bar (SAL) provided notable extensions of known range in that area. A Flammulated Owl at Squaw Cr., Shasta L., Apr. 17 (PD) represents the earliest regional record for this migratory species. In Siskiyou County ten individuals May 20 near Oak Knoll Ranger Station (SAL, KC) and one May 27 at Mill Cr. (SAL) were from previously unreported locales but within the species' suspected range (Winter, J. 1974. *W. Birds* 5:25-44). A Spotted Owl in the Cascades 7 mi w. of Macdoel, Siskiyou Co., May 30 (SAL) was also from an area where they were previously unknown. Nineteen Long-eared Owls were reported from five locations (m.ob.). The last of 21 wintering Short-eared Owls was at Limantour Estero, P.R.N.S., Apr. 28 (DS). A Saw-whet Owl at 320ft, 5 mi w. of Red Bluff Mar. 9 (SAL, KC) was at a low elevation for the interior for that time of year. Single Poor-wills Apr. 8 at Arcata (JGHe) and May 11 in the S.J.V. near Stratford, Kings Co. (JiR) were in areas from which they are rarely reported.

A remarkably early Black Swift was seen Apr. 14 at Alamo, Contra Costa Co. (JiR), and 47 flying N 10-20 mi. w. of Red Bluff May 24 (SAL, KC) were notable migrants. An out-of-place Costa's Hummingbird was at Yreka May 27 (SAL, †BED *et al.*). Twenty Calliope Hummingbirds May 12 at Black Diamond Mines R.P., Contra Costa Co. represented a high count. The last reported non-breeding Lewis' Woodpecker in the lowlands was near Red Bluff May 12 (BED).

A Cassin's Kingbird was at Riverdale, Fresno Co., May 9 (Gary Potter, *fide* Mark Myers); this species is presently very rare in the S.J.V. The E. Phoebe that wintered in Santa Cruz remained until Apr. 7 (SG). Two

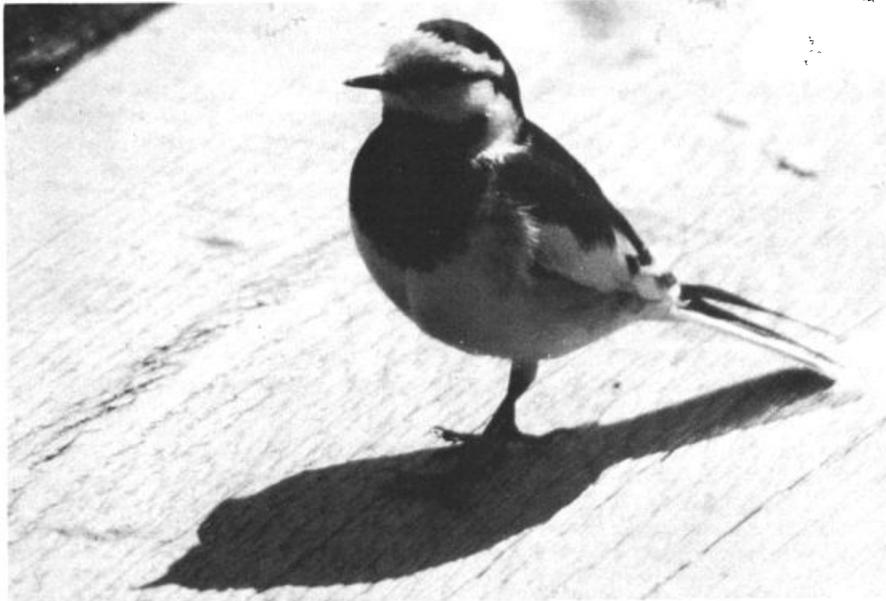
Say's Phoebes' nests were found May 9 s.w. of Byron, Contra Costa Co. (DE), near the limit of the species' breeding range in the interior coast range. Twenty-two Willow Flycatchers May 22 at Greenhorn Park, Yreka (SAL, KC) indicated a major migratory movement. Five Hammond's Flycatchers were *singing* in oak-Digger Pine woodland at 3400 ft w. of N. Yosemite June 1 (MM), though *Empidonax* flycatchers rarely sing away from breeding habitat, these individuals were presumably late migrants. Three Gray Flycatchers were reported from w. of the Sierran divide Apr. 26-29 (JiR, JH, DS); this is a smaller number than has been expected in recent years. A.W. Wood Pewee Mar. 19 at Dog I., Tehama Co. (†KC), was an unprecedentedly early arrival, especially for a C.V. location. More intriguing was a late May wave of this species with 41 on outer Pt. Reyes (DS, JE) and 30 at F.I., both on May 29, and 16 along 5 km of road near Crescent City May 30-June 4 (GS). Although a common breeder, this species had not arrived at 7800 ft e. of the Sierra at Lundy Canyon, Mono Co., June 12 (MM). A warm, early spring there was followed by a cold and snowy spell. Under such conditions, do migrants arrive on time and stage at lower elevations, moving upslope as conditions ameliorate, or do they actually arrive "late"? (MM).

SWALLOWS THROUGH SHRIKES

—May 10 at Bear Valley Hdqtrs., P.R.N.S. a colony of approximately 50 Cliff Swallows was hosed off a public building by the park maintenance crew for reasons of "sanitation and esthetics" (JE); but what could be more pleasing than the daily swirling of these joyous creatures through the air as they carry on the age old nesting rituals?? Wintering Steller's Jays were last seen in the Sierra foothills at Auburn Apr. 28 (MA). Most surprising was a Piñon Jay at the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse May 29 (†JE, †DS); the very few previous coastal records have occurred in fall and winter. Small numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches (1-7/locale) were widely reported away from breeding habitat through mid-May (m.ob.), with the last noted migrants at the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse May 27 (DS); such a pattern is to be expected after an influx to the lowlands in fall and winter. A Winter Wren at W. Pittsburg, Contra Costa Co., May 13 was a late migrant (DE).

A **Bendire's Thrasher** visited F.I., Apr. 17-18 (†BrB); this bird furnished only the fourth regional record, three of which have been at F.I. Notable Sage Thrashers were single birds Mar. 14 at Gridley, Butte Co. (†BED); Mar. 16-Apr. 16 at Bay Farm I, Alameda Co. (JM, m.ob.); May 7 & May 19-24 at F.I. A Hermit Thrush May 18 at W. Pittsburg, Contra Costa Co., was a late migrant (DE). A Townsend's Solitaire Apr. 18-22 at the Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes (†JE, Michael Ellis) was a rare and unseasonal coastal migrant. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet May 13 at the "New Willows", P.R.N.S. (DS) was a late migrant.

The landbird sensation of the season was a first year ♂ **White Wagtail** singing at Tiburon, Marin Co., May 22 (BL, Sue Smith *et al.*; photos †Leonard Compagno), and pro-



White Wagtail (Motacilla alba lugens), first-year male, discovered by Bill Lenarz and Sue Smith at Tiburon, Marin Co., Calif., May 22, 1980. Racial identification: Joe Morlan. Apparently the first of this race south of Alaska. Photo/Leonard Campagna.

viding the third regional record. The bird was identified as *M.a. lugens* (JM), the only race with a thin black line through the eye and a black back in breeding plumage. The appearance of this bird apparently represents the first record of the *lugens* race s. of Alaska; details will be published elsewhere (JM). A Water Pipit May 23 at the Bolinas Sewage Ponds (DS, JE) furnished a very late date for the lowlands. Cedar Waxwings were well reported (m.ob.) with a high count of 500 in junipers Apr. 26 near Cedar L., Siskiyou Co. (B&CY). The only N. Shrike away from the n. Great Basin was one Mar. 21 near Lomo, Butte Co. (BDP, JP).

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS—Five Black-and-white Warblers were seen near the coast Apr. 11-May 30 (m.ob.) and one was reported inland near Stratford, Kings Co., Apr. 26 (JiR). Five Tennessee Warblers were reported from the coast May 3-31 (m.ob.) and one was seen inland near Stratford, Kings Co., Apr. 26 (JiR *et al.*). Single Nashville Warblers at Bay Farm I., Alameda Co., Mar. 19 (DE) and at Golden Gate Park Mar. 8-21 (DM) were undoubtedly winter lingerers. The Yellow Warbler that wintered at Walton Square S.F., was seen almost daily through Apr. 28 (DE). Yellow Warblers were seen May 15 singing territorially from hard chaparral at 4600 ft on the s. shore of L. Almanor, Plumas Co.; "they appear to be colonizing this new successional brushfield habitat" (DAA). Though Yellow Warblers are known to use this habitat in other areas, the geographic range of such use is not well known.

A ♂ Magnolia Warbler was at F.I. May 31. The effect of weather on montane migrants (see W. Wood Pewee above) was demonstrated by the "large numbers" of "Audubon's" Warblers foraging on the n.e. shore of L. Almanor May 26, the day after a late season snowstorm (DAA). Were these birds late migrants or residents driven downslope by inclement weather? The peak movement

of Townsend's Warblers was noted May 17 & 25 in Novato, Marin Co. (DS) and 30-50 on Mt. Diablo (AE). A ♂ Yellow-throated Warbler was recorded and banded May 2-3 at F.I., providing the tenth regional record. Rare in spring, a ♂ Blackpoll Warbler was banded May 27 at F.I. Four wintering Palm Warblers remained at Neary's Lagoon, Santa Cruz through Apr. 10 (SG) and the last of three wintering Palms was at Beach Front Park, Crescent City May 12 (GS). In recent years these two spots have consistently harbored Palms through the winter. Single migrants were at F.I., May 3, 26, & 31. Three Ovenbirds were recorded May 30-31 at F.I., and one skulked around near the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse May 30 (DS *et al.*). A ♀ Hooded Warbler observed May 27 at 7900 ft above Big Pine, Inyo Co. (†Jon Dunn), represents the first Sierran record. A ♂ Am. Redstart was sighted May 2 at the Klamath R. mouth, Del Norte Co. (Gary Lester, *vide* GS).

Male Bobolinks were seen on Pt. Reyes at the Fish Docks May 27 (DS) and at the Lighthouse May 30 (BL); this species is rarer in spring than in fall. A rare Yellow-headed Blackbird was migrating along the coast near Watsonville, Santa Cruz Co., Apr. 13 (SG). A ♂ Orchard Oriole May 12 at Yreka (†MRo) was most unexpected and represented only the second inland and second regional spring record. A ♂ Hooded Oriole Apr. 26 at Lee Vining, Mono Co. (David Gaines, *vide* DW) produced the first regional record e. of the Sierra. A Scott's Oriole on Chimney Peak, s.e. Tulare Co., May 27 (Frank Baldrige, *vide* MEM) provided the eighth regional record. The ♂ & ♀ Great-tailed Grackles seem to have taken up residence in S.F.: the female was last seen at Walton Square Apr. 4 (DE) and the male at Fort Mason Apr. 26 (Sybel Kaplan, *vide* SFB). Of interest was the report of 24 Brown-headed Cowbirds distributed among five sites along the shores of L. Almanor May 4-15; all were found near roads, urban areas, and subdivisions (DAA). Although recent range expansion has been

documented for the Sierra (Rothstein *et al.* 1980. *Auk* 97:253-268) little data is available for the n. Sierra/s. Cascades. A migrant concentration of 100+ W. Tanagers was near L. Berryessa, Napa/Yolo Cos., Apr. 29 (D&S Jue, *vide* TBe).

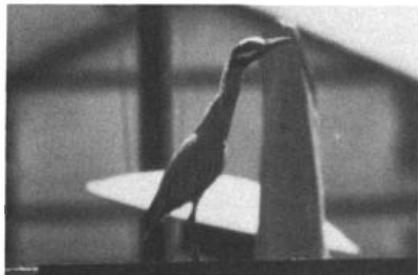
FRINGILLIDS—Male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were banded at F.I., May 30&31. Single ♂ Indigo Buntings were banded at Palomarin, P.R.N.S., May 27 and at F.I., May 30-31, while inland a ♂ was sighted May 4 at Lee Vining, Mono Co. (D.Gaines, *vide* DW). A ♀ Dickcissel was at F.I., May 18. This bird represented the seventh spring record; all but one have been at F.I.

Evening Grosbeaks were widely reported away from breeding haunts (m.ob.) with the last seen May 10 at Fremont Peak S.P., San Benito Co. (SG). Remarkable were evidently conservative estimates of 15,000 grosbeaks in a two-hour period flying W along the s. shore of Eagle L., Lassen Co., Mar. 16 in flocks of 15-75 (Dick Johnson *et al.*). A similar movement of 1000-1200 birds in two-and-a-half hours Apr. 13 was noted in the same area (DAA). The flocks were concentrated by the lakeshore, but the type of movement involved needs further study. As both observations occurred from mid-day through the afternoon, and both flights were moving E to W, the birds may have been returning from foraging areas to roost sites. A seasonal movement from berry-depleted juniper habitat back to breeding locales in coniferous forests cannot be ruled out (DAA), however, though movement of this magnitude over a month's time is hard to imagine.

Purple Finches appeared in greater-than-normal numbers in Lafayette through Apr. 24 (LF) and a major migration was noted at Dog. I., Tehama Co., Mar. 10-Apr. 16 with a peak of 29 on Apr. 16 being ten times the 5 year average (SAL, KC). A ♂ Cassin's Finch was found and banded Apr. 12-13 at F.I. There are very few well-documented coastal records of this species. An estimated 1500 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches appeared in one swirling flock n. of Conway Summit, Mono Co., Mar. 31 (GMcC); approximately 80% were the "gray-headed" form (presumably *L.t. littoralis*) and the remainder had more restricted gray on the head (presumably *L.t. tephrocotis* &/or *L.t. dawsoni*). This record-size flock of Gray-crowns also harbored one Black Rosy Finch (†GMcC), the only other regional record being one collected approximately 20 mi away at Bodie Jan. 15, 1904. April 2 would seem to have been the true arrival date of Am. Goldfinches in coastal Marin County this year as indicated by observers at Palomarin and Laguna Ranch (JE). There were more than the usual number of Lawrence's Goldfinch reports Apr. 1-May 30+ (m.ob.) and nesting was confirmed May 3 at Walnut Cr. (Winifred Orcutt). Single Lark Buntings occurred near Red Bluff Apr. 6 (SAL, KC) and more notable for the season, near the coast along the Estero Trail, P.R.N.S., Mar. 1 (†FBe). Two singing Grasshopper Sparrows May 28 at Orange Cove, Fresno Co. (RGe) were of note, as there have been no reports from the e. edge of the C.V. in recent years.

in California during the late summer and fall. Also out of season was an imm. Magnificent Frigatebird at Redondo Beach Mar. 25 (H&NS).

HERONS, STORKS, IBISES—An ad. Little Blue Heron was seen near Imperial Beach May 23 (CGE) and another appeared near Seeley in the Imperial Valley May 20 (JD); one or two are found each year during May, a pattern that suggests a regular movement of these birds into California in the late spring. Two of the wintering Louisiana Herons were still present around San Diego Apr. 5 (JO1).



Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Ventura, Calif., Apr. 20, 1980. Photo/Brad Shramm.

An ad. Yellow-crowned Night Heron in Ventura Apr. 20-26 (REW, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) was the eighth to be found in s. California. A Least Bittern at the Santa Clara R. estuary, Ventura Co. (hereafter, S.C.R.E.) Apr. 29 (REW) and two near Oceanside Mar. 16 (JC) were the only ones found along the coast. A Wood Stork at the n. end of the Salton Sea (hereafter, N.E.S.S.) Apr. 10+ (BW) was exceptionally early. A White-faced Ibis in Goleta, Santa Barbara Co., Apr. 19-20 (NC) was unexpected, the species being scarce this far n. at this time of the year.

GEESE, DUCKS—The presence of 211 Brant on L. Henshaw Mar. 4 (RH), along with two on L. Cuyamaca Mar. 16 (DPa) and 19 there Apr. 6 (DPa), suggests that numbers of these birds cross the mountains of San Diego County to the coast when migrating N from the Gulf of California in spring. Interesting were a White-fronted Goose on Chatsworth Res., Los Angeles Co., Mar. 2 (GSS) and another in San Diego Mar. 23 (DKe) as this species is now quite rare in coastal s. California. A healthy Snow Goose at N.E.S.S. May 21 (JD) was exceptionally late. A Fulvous Whistling Duck at the Santa Maria R. mouth May 18 (PL) and another at S.C.R.E. May 31+ (REW) could both have been genuine stragglers, but the presence of many free-flying "captives" in s. California leaves all records away from areas of normal occurrence open to question. A Eur. Wigeon at Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co., Mar. 23 (REW) was the latest reported for this past winter. A ♂ Wood Duck near Beaumont, Riverside Co., Apr. 13-May 1 (BW) appeared away from areas of normal occurrence. A Greater Scaup off Pt. Dume Apr. 24 (JD) and another off Pt. Mugu May 17 (REW) were both somewhat late. An Oldsquaw at the Santa Maria River mouth May 11 (LBev, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) was late. The ♂ Harlequin Duck found in Carlsbad in 1977 was still present May 31 (PU). Surf Scoters were found in the mountains of San Diego County, with up to 45 on L. Henshaw Mar. 4-23 (RH) and two



Oldsquaw, Santa Maria River mouth, San Luis Obispo Co., Calif., May 11, 1980. Photo/Paul Lehman.

on L. Cuyamaca Mar. 16 (DPa), indicating a movement of these birds from the Gulf of California to the coast at this time of the year. Late Black Scoters included one near Morro Bay May 5-8 (FRT), one at Pt. Mugu Apr. 6 (REW) and one on San Diego Bay Apr. 13 (PP). A ♂ Hooded Merganser at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley (hereafter, F.C.R.) Mar. 29 (MWB) was at an unusual locality. Three Red-breasted Mergansers at F.C.R., May 21 (REW) and another near Lancaster May 10 (GMcC) were the only ones found on the desert this spring.

HAWKS—A flock of 2000+ Turkey Vultures near Lancaster Mar. 2 (FH) was clearly composed of spring migrants and indicated how early the peak of the migration of this species can occur. The Broad-winged Hawk that wintered in the Rosemead district of Los Angeles remained to Mar. 19 (KG). Reports of migrant Swainson's Hawks included one near Desert Hot Springs Apr. 26 (BW), another near Beaumont May 15 (RLM), three in the Antelope Valley Apr. 16 (JD), one over Encino Apr. 1 (KG) and up to six around Oasis May 23-31 (REW).

GROUSE—A Sage Grouse at Schulman Grove in the White Mts., Inyo Co., May 4 (DPa) was at the extreme s. limit of the species' present range in California.

SHOREBIRDS—The Am. Oystercatcher first noted on Anacapa I. in 1964 was still present Apr. 27 (GSS). A Black Oystercatcher in Ventura Apr. 10 (JM), six on Pt. Fermin Mar. 2 (BSh), eight in San Pedro May 4 (FH) and two at Playa del Rey throughout the period (KG) were all found away from areas of normal occurrence. Three Semipalmated Plovers at Harper Dry L., San Bernardino Co. May 11 (EAC) and one at F.C.R., May 25 (JD) appeared in areas from which few have been reported; but small numbers were continuously present near Lancaster, and the species is common on the Salton Sea, indicating that it does move through the interior of s. California. Six wintering Am. Golden Plovers were still present near Santa Maria Apr. 20 (PL) and another remained at Playa del Rey to Mar. 22 (BMcI), but several were later seen migrating through: one near Morro Bay May 9-12 (FRT), six at the Santa Maria R. mouth May 15 (LBev), one at S.C.R.E. May 31-June 6 (JM), another at Pt. Mugu May 3 (REW) and single birds inland near Lancaster on Apr. 27 (JD), May 12 (LJ) & May 24 (KG). A **Hudsonian Godwit** near Lancaster May 9-19 (JD, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) was only the second to be found in s. Califor-



Hudsonian Godwit, Edwards A.F.B., Los Angeles County, Calif., May 11, 1980. Photo/Herbert Clarke.

nia. A maximum concentration of 1300+ Whimbrels was observed in the Antelope Valley Apr. 16 (JD) while one at Tecopa, Inyo Co., Apr. 9 (JT) was at an unusual locality. An Upland Sandpiper at F.C.R., May 23-24 (FB) was the eighth to be recorded in s. California. A Solitary Sandpiper, rare in spring, was in the Kern N.W.R., Apr. 25 (JRo), another was near the Santa Maria R. mouth Apr. 20 (LBev) and a third was in Encino Apr. 16-20 (JD). A Willet at F.C.R., May 1-28 (MWB) was unusual, few having been found in this area of California. Ruddy Turnstones were present on the Salton Sea Apr. 26 -May 12 with a high count of 47 at N.E.S.S., May 12 (RLM) and an exceptionally late bird there June 3 (BW). A Black Turnstone at N.E.S.S., June 3 (BW) was most unusual since the species is considered casual inland. Twenty-five Short-billed Dowitchers near Lancaster Apr. 7 (JD) were interesting as there are few interior spring records away from the Salton Sea.

Red Knots were numerous on the Salton Sea with birds present Apr. 5-May 21, and a high count of 225 at N.E.S.S., May 12 (RLM); three near Lancaster May 9 (H&NS) were the only ones reported from elsewhere inland and represent the second interior spring record away from the Salton Sea. Three Sanderlings at Harper Dry Lake May 11 (EAC) were unusual, few having been recorded inland away from the Salton Sea in s. California. A Semipalmated Sandpiper at Salton City Apr. 26 (GMcC) was the only one found on the Salton Sea, but one at S.C.R.E., May 6-8 (REW) was the second found along the coast of s. California in spring. Three Baird's Sandpipers, very rare in spring, were at S.C.R.E., Apr. 15 (REW). Equally rare were three Pectoral Sandpipers near Lancaster May 9 (JD). A Stilt Sandpiper at the Santa Maria R. mouth June 1 (PL) and another at S.C.R.E., May 17-21 (LS) were observed along the coast, one was at F.C.R., May 24-26 (DE) and four were at N.E.S.S., May 12 (RLM); normally, few are found away from the s. end of the Salton Sea. The three Ruffs wintering at Pt. Mugu all departed in March, with the last seen Mar. 30 (REW). Red Phalaropes passed close to the coast in late May, with many present along the shore. Counts of 30,000+ near Santa Cruz I., May 28 (JD) indicate how common this species was offshore, and sightings of 70 at the Santa Maria R. mouth May 26 (LRB) and 50 at S.C.R.E., May 27 (REW) illustrate its abundance along the shore. Four at N.E.S.S., May 10 (EAC) were the only ones found inland.

LARIDS—A first-winter-plumaged Glaucous Gull, rare in s. California, was at S.C.R.E., Mar. 6-16 (LBev). A first-winter Thayer's Gull at Salton City Apr. 5-13 (EC) occurred inland from its normal range. An ad. Mew Gull near Lakeview, Riverside Co., Mar. 8 (EAC) and another at N.E.S.S., Apr. 6 (RLM) were both seen far inland from their usual locations. After last winter's influx, Laughing Gulls were still to be found along the coast in spring, with one observed off La Jolla Mar. 10 (CGE) and another at the Santa Ynez R. mouth, Santa Barbara Co., May 18-19 (PL, ph. S.D.N.H.M.). One at N.E.S.S., May 21 (JD) was unexpected since the species is not normally encountered on the Salton Sea until July. Three Franklin's Gulls were found around the Salton Sea during May along with one near Lancaster May 16-19 (DM), another at S.C.R.E. May 27 (PL) and a third in Carlsbad Apr. 26-27 (CGE); small numbers pass through the Region each spring. An imm. Little Gull, a casual straggler to s. California, was at S.C.R.E., Mar. 1-5 (JM). A Gull-billed Tern at Salton City Mar. 16 (EC) was the earliest reported this year. An imm. Com. Tern at Redondo Beach Mar. 14 (H&NS) was probably wintering locally, since the first spring migrants are not expected before mid-April. Two ad. Arctic Terns near Palmdale in the Antelope Valley June 1-3 (KG) were observed farther inland than usual but careful checking of all terns seen inland at this time of year may show the species to be regular in limited numbers through the interior of s. California. Three ad. Least Terns were at N.E.S.S., May 21 (JD); this species is a casual straggler to the Salton Sea, but is unrecorded elsewhere in the interior of s. California. Elegant Terns were found to the n. of San Diego much earlier than expected, with up to seven at S.C.R.E., Apr. 24+ (REW) and three in Santa Barbara May 22 (LRB). Totally unexpected was an ad. **Sandwich Tern** presenting fish to Elegant Terns at the nesting colony on San Diego Bay May 11-15 (Fred Schaeffner); this is the first such tern to be recorded on the West Coast of the United States, but small numbers are known to winter in the Gulf of Panama, and we can speculate that this bird joined a migrant flock of Elegant Terns moving N from South America. A Black Skimmer in Carlsbad Apr. 16 (DDS), another near Oceanside Apr. 21 (LBel), two at Pt. Mugu Apr. 26 (REW) and two or three at S.C.R.E., May 9+ (JM) were all n. of the nesting colony on San Diego Bay.

ALCIDS—Common Murres appeared off the s. portion of the Region in larger numbers than expected as indicated by counts of 48 off Pt. Mugu Apr. 26 (REW), 60+ in the Catalina Channel May 4 (FH), 25 off San Onofre May 18 (FWH) and 30 off San Diego Apr. 20 (DPo). Point Mugu was an unusual location for a Pigeon Guillemot Mar. 29 (REW). An Ancient Murrelet at Santa Barbara June 1 (DBa) was very late. The sighting of a Horned Puffin at the Davidson Seamount Mar. 8 (GMcC) suggests that searching far offshore in winter may produce additional records of this far northern visitor. A Tufted Puffin near Santa Rosa I. June 1 (DBa) was the only one reported.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS—A Band-tailed Pigeon at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley May 31 (REW), another in Oceanside May 18-19 (MGa) and a third on Pt. Loma June 3 (EC) were observed away from areas of normal occurrence. A White-winged Dove near Imperial Beach May 7 (DBe) and another on Pt. Loma in San Diego May 19-20 (IMaCg) were both on the coast where they are rarely found in spring. A Ground Dove at Pacific Palisades, Los Angeles Co., May 8 (LK) was unusually far n. for a coastal locality. A Barn Owl at F.C.R., Mar. 1 (LN) and another there May 1 (MWB) were in an area of California from which few have been recorded. Two Elf Owls were found near Needles Apr. 12 (KC), but the future of this species as a breeding bird in California is in jeopardy because of habitat destruction. Whip-poor-wills were heard at two localities in the San Bernardino Mts. during May (SG, EAC), an indication that the species is breeding. Two Com. Nighthawks at Baldwin L. in the San Bernardino Mts. May 22 (JD) appear to be the earliest ever found in California. This was a banner spring for viewing migrant Black Swifts; overcast conditions during much of the period forced these birds to feed closer to the ground than usual and to remain for prolonged periods at one locality. The earliest were one in Goleta Apr. 20-23 (EG) and another in Santa Barbara Apr. 23 (LRB). The largest concentrations along the coast were 65 over Goleta May 25 (BSc), 25 over Santa Barbara May 10 (MP), 16 at S.C.R.E., May 21 (JM) and 40 at Carlsbad May 21-24 (PU). Three over L. Henshaw along the slopes of Mt. Palomar May 30 (RH) were s. of any known nesting locality. One e. of Lancaster in the Antelope Valley May 24 (KG) and ten over Desert Hot Springs May 22 (JD) were in the desert portions of the Region, where they are normally virtually unrecorded. Vaux's Swifts also occurred along the coast in remarkable numbers between mid-April and mid-May. A ♂ Hairy Woodpecker in W. Palm Springs Mar. 18 (RLM) was certainly at an unusual locality.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS—A Tropical Kingbird in Whittier Mar. 1-25 (KG) had probably wintered locally. A Wied's Crested Flycatcher was seen at N.E.S.S., Apr. 28 (BW) and territorial birds were first observed at Morongo Valley May 3 (R&MW). The E. Phoebe wintering at Morro Bay was last seen Mar. 16 (DE) and the one near Corona remained to at least Mar. 14 (EAC). The Willow Flycatcher that wintered in Arcadia was last seen Apr. 29 (BCoh). Single Gray Flycatchers, rare along the coast in spring, were at Pt. Mugu May 17 (REW), at Newport Beach May 24 (SJR) and on Pt. Loma Apr. 17 (JOI). The Coues' Flycatcher present at Leo Carillo State Beach during the winter was last seen Mar. 19 (B&TC). The wintering Olive-sided Flycatcher remained in Los Angeles to Mar. 29+ (KG). Purple Martins remained scarce, with only eight migrants reported.

CROWS THROUGH VIREOS—A Com. Crow was found in the unlikely location of Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley May 21-27

(REW). Two Wrentits frequenting a honey mesquite thicket near Palm Springs Apr. 1+ (RLM) were e. of the species' known range and out of normal habitat. A Gray Catbird at Northridge in the San Fernando Valley Mar. 27-Apr. 18 (CS) had probably wintered locally, and if so would establish the first winter record for the Region. The Brown Thrasher that wintered in Goleta was last seen Mar. 23 (PL). A Bendire's Thrasher at the mouth of Whitewater Canyon Apr. 16 (RLM) was at an unusual locality. Two Water Pipits at Baker May 27 (PL) were late. A Yellow-throated Vireo, a rare straggler to California, was found near Banning Apr. 29 (RLM).

WARBLERS—Of the 17 Black-and-white Warblers reported, half were found in the n.e. part of the Region, as expected. Twenty+ Tennessee Warblers during May is about a normal number. A Virginia's Warbler at Baker Dam in Joshua Tree N.M., May 24 (RLM) was in an area where small numbers could be anticipated, but one at Newport Beach Apr. 19 (SJR) was on the coast where few have been found in spring. As usual a few N. Parulas occurred: a male at Deep Springs May 25 (PL), another near Lancaster May 26 (KG), a third at Mojave Narrows Regional Park near Victorville May 29 (GNVanE) and a male and female together near Blythe May 22-26 (SC) in the interior, along with a male along the Santa Ynez R. in Santa Barbara Co., May 18 (DBa) and another in Long Beach June 3 (B&TC) along the coast. The Cape May Warbler found wintering in Goleta was last seen Apr. 13 (LRB); one female at Deep Springs May 26 (JD) was the only migrant reported. A Yellow-throated Warbler, a rare straggler to California, was on Pt. Loma Apr. 26 (CWS, ES) and another was at Oasis May 29-June 1 (REW, ph. S.D.N.H.M.), both of the race *abilora*. The **Grace's**



A Yellow-throated Warbler present at Oasis, Mono County, from May 29-June 1, 1980. Photo/Jeri M. Langham.

Warbler that wintered in Santa Barbara was last seen Apr. 2 (LRB) and the one in nearby Carpinteria remained through Apr. 11 (LBev). A ♂ Chestnut-sided Warbler at Deep Springs May 26 (JD) was the only one found this spring. A ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler, rare but regular in spring, was near Lancaster June 2 (JD). A ♂ Blackpoll Warbler was found at Oasis May 26 (REW). A Palm Warbler near Santa Maria Apr. 20 (LBev), another near Beaumont Apr. 9 (RLM) and a third near N.E.S.S. Apr. 28 (BW) are all believed to have wintered somewhere on the West Coast, the dates of the observations being too early for vagrants from the East, while one at Indian Ranch in the Panamint Valley May 28 (DPa) fits well into the pattern set by Eastern vagrants. The only Ovenbirds found this spring were one near Imperial Beach May 26 (EC), another at Scotty's Cas-

tle May 24-25 (SS) and a third at Deep Springs May 25-27 (JD). A wintering N. Waterthrush near Imperial Beach remained to Mar. 8 (DPa) and the other nearby was last seen May 4 (GMCC); 11 migrants were found in the n.e. portion of the Region May 14-31. A ♀ Hooded Warbler at F.C.R., May 29 (REW) was the only one found. A ♂ Canada Warbler at Oasis May 30 (BD) established the fourth regional spring record. As usual a few Am. Redstarts passed through the n.e. portion of the Region with 30 seen during the last half of May; one on Pt. Loma May 22 (BCor) and another there June 2 (EC) were the only ones reported from along the coast. A Painted Redstart in Del Mar, San Diego Co., Mar. 1-16 (DPa) has spent the past two winters in the neighborhood according to local residents; one at Scotty's Castle May 16 (SJ, JL) was n. of its usual range.

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, TANAGERS—Bobolinks were scarcer than usual in the n.e. portion of the Region with two or three seen at Oasis May 23-27 (REW) and only four at F.C.R. May 26-31 (REW). A ♀ Orchard Oriole was near Imperial Beach Mar. 22 (GMCC), a male was there May 22 (DPa) and a third was near Malibu Apr. 23-29 (B&TC). A Scott's Oriole in Santa Barbara Mar. 16 (LBev) and another on Pt. Loma May 16 (CGE) were both along the coast. Nine N. (Baltimore) Orioles were reported, an indication that small numbers reached California this spring, as usual. A ♀ Rusty Blackbird, rare in spring, was at Tecopa Apr. 10 (JT). A Great-tailed Grackle at Scotty's Castle May 14 (B&TC) was a little to the n. of its known range in e. California, and one at L. Cachuma near Santa Barbara May 6+ (LRB) was well to the w. of its established range. Two Com. Grackles were found in Inyo County with one at Deep Springs May 21 (REW) and the other at F.C.R. May 24-26 (REW); this species is now being recorded annually in California, particularly in late spring. A ♂ Hepatic Tanager in Blythe Apr. 2-5 (IA) had probably wintered in that area, since the date is too early for the appearance of a spring migrant. Breeding Summer Tanagers arrived at Morongo Valley Apr. 26 (R&MW), and territorial males were present at three other localities in that general area in May (BW) along with a male near Borrego Springs May 9-31 (AM) that may have been on territory. In the n.e. part of the Region single birds were found at F.C.R., May 14 (B&TC) & May 21 (REW) and another was near Oasis May 31-June 1 (EC); along the coast a male was found at Montana de Oro S.P., near Morro Bay June 1 (FRT) and another was near Piru May 8 (REW).

FINCHES, SPARROWS, LONG-SPURS—Three Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in Santa Barbara Mar. 17 (NC) had undoubtedly wintered locally, but 15 found scattered throughout the Region in May were all vagrants wandering a little to the w. of the species' normal migration route. About 20 Indigo Buntings were found during May including a male on territory at Morongo Valley May 15+ (EAC), an indication that some remain within the Region to nest. A flock of up to ten Red Crossbills was feeding on ornamental pines on the Yucca Valley golf

course Apr. 4-May 31; this species is rare in the desert. A ♂ Lark Bunting was in Agoura Apr. 21-May 3 (KC) and another was in San Bernardino May 11 (SG); the number of these birds varies from year to year. A "Pink-sided" Junco at Scotty's Castle May 31 (BD) was exceptionally late for a desert locality. A wintering Clay-colored Sparrow near Irvine remained to Apr. 12 (DW) and another near Imperial Beach was last seen Mar. 22 (DPa); one on Pt. Loma May 19 (EC) was a spring vagrant. Harris' Sparrows appeared in Yucca Valley Mar. 31 (RLM); at Montana de Oro S.P., Apr. 11-26 (EVJ); in Ventura Mar. 25-Apr. 29 (JOG); and at Pt. Mugu May 5 (REW). The wintering bird in Goleta remained to May 1 (PL) and the other in Santa Barbara was last seen Apr. 13 (PL). The latest White-throated Sparrow was one near Ventura Apr. 19-26 (FD). Two Swamp Sparrows near Oceanside Mar. 15 (EC) had undoubtedly wintered there. A Lapland Longspur at F.C.R., Mar. 26 (SJR) was very late.

CORRIGENDA—In *AB* 34:201 the Ferruginous Hawk near Santa Maria should have been reported as having been seen Sept. 18, not Sept. 10. The range of dates for the 12 coastal Black-throated Green Warblers noted in *AB* 34:203 should have been Sept. 7-Nov. 10 not Oct. 3-Nov. 10. A line was omitted from the comments concerning Lark Buntings in *AB* 34:203 and should read: Single coastal Lark Buntings were in Goleta Sept. 3-5 (PL) and Sept. 19 (LB), near Pt. Mugu Sept. 23 (TC) and near Imperial Beach Sept. 16 (EC)....

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

Spring weather was generally normal with precipitation amounts slightly below monthly means and temperatures averaging slightly warmer.

ABBREVIATIONS—H.(Hawaii I.), K.(Kauai I.), L.(Lanai I.), O.(Oahu I.).

ALBATROSSES THROUGH EGRETS—A Laysan Albatross found dead at Hauola Beach, L., Mar. 12 (PeC) represented probably the first known record ashore on any of the Hawaiian Is. s.e. of Oahu. At Kauai, a dozen or more ad. Laysans remained into April. At Lisianski I. in the Hawaiian Is. N.W.R., EK found 27 Bulwer Petrel nests and estimated about 40 nests probably present. Egg laying started in late May. Although Bulwers were known to have nested on Lisianski over a half century ago, no breeding activity had been observed there in recent decades.

A **Snowy Egret** at Nuupia Pond, O., Mar. 6-31 (RC) was seen by many observers and well photographed. The bird was in fine ad. plumage with well-developed head plumes and good color on bill and feet. As such, it provided the first confirmed record of the species for the state of Hawaii.



Snowy Egret, First record for Hawaii. Nuupia Pond, Oahu, Hawaii, mid-March, 1980. Photo/R.J. Shallenberger.

WATERFOWL—The two (Black) Brant wintering at Kii Pond, O., were seen repeatedly through at least May 24 (RC), and up to four Canada Geese were reported from the adjoining Lowe Aquafarm through February and March (*vide* RC, DP). Both are rare stragglers to the state. Northern Shovelers and Pintails, which comprise most of Hawaii's wintering ducks, remained in good numbers through March on Oahu, encouraged by late winter rains and favorable water levels at Waipio and at Kii Pond. Counts of shovelers at Waipio fell from 143 in early April to 50 by Apr 23 (RC). Two Garganeys wintering at Waipio, O., came into handsome breeding plumage in mid-March (PD) and were last reported Apr. 4 (MO). Two ♀-plumaged Gadwalls, a very rare species for Hawaii, wintered at Sand I., Midway Atoll, and were still there when GG departed Mar. 13. Buffleheads, another casual visitor to Hawaii, were seen on Midway (two—GG), Oahu (PD, *et al.*) and Hawaii (JH) for extended periods into mid-March. All were in ♀ plumage.

S.A.

"There are no gulls in Hawaii" has become a standard response when visitors inquire about why they see no gulls in this obviously maritime region. Although true seabirds nest here in large colonies, no gulls breed on these islands that are so far removed from continental influence. Nor is there a regular migratory influx of significant numbers during the non-breeding season. However, individual gulls do come every year as casual stragglers, mostly in winter. Most are immatures or sub-adults. How many are reported depends directly on the amount of competent birding effort, and varies greatly from year to year. This past season, for example, from January through May, observations of gulls were reported in this Region as follows: *Glaucous*: French Frigate Shoals, and a specimen from Lanai; *Glaucous-winged*: Kure, Midway, Kauai, Oahu (two, one ph.), Hawaii; *Herring*: Oahu (ph.), Maui; *California*: Oahu; *Ring-billed*: Oahu, Hawaii; *Laughing*: recovery on Kauai of an immature banded 5 months earlier in New Jersey (TT); *Franklin's*: two adults on Oahu; *Laughing/Franklin's type immature*: three together at Waipio, O., and concurrently two together at Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station, O. (at least one of each group had tail band pattern of Laughing), one each on Laysan, Kauai, Maui; *Bonaparte's*: Hawaii; *gull, sp.*: Kure, Midway, Oahu (two together), Hawaii. And then there was the fine ad. *Western Gull* resident at Paiko Lagoon, O., from December, 1978 to at least May, 1980.

The number and variety of gulls reported this year are greater than in recent years, but probably not excessive for a season with experienced active observers on many of the islands. Although no species can yet be considered a regular visitor, it is clear that gulls as a group are more than casual features of the winter/spring avifauna in Hawaii.

SHOREBIRDS—At the conclusion of a winter-long color-banding study of Am. Golden Plovers at Bellows Field, O., OJ reported that the wintering population of several hundred birds remained relatively stable through Apr. 24, then dwindled suddenly to not more than a dozen individuals on the 26th. This provides one of the very few, and perhaps the only, well-documented observation to date of just when and how some of the large numbers of wintering plovers depart the main Hawaiian Is. for the Arctic. Two Sharp-tailed Sandpipers in spring plumage were feeding with a flock of Ruddy Turnstones at Lisianski I., May 16-17 (EK). GG reported a Bar-tailed Godwit at Green I., Kure Atoll, Mar. 11, and two more still in winter plumage were on Lisianski I., May 21, 24 (EK). Up to three Ruffs were seen repeatedly at Waipio, O., until Apr. 4 (MO *et al.*), affirming the amazing regularity of this species as a winter visitor here beginning in 1977. Prior to then, only two occurrences (1963, 1971) had been reported in Hawaii. A **Red Phalarope** in winter plumage with a few breeding feathers coming in was picked up barely alive Mar. 24 on the B.Y.U.-Hawaii campus, Laie, O. (PB). It became a specimen in the B.Y.U. collection. Another one in winter plumage was seen a few mi away at Kii Pond Apr. 17-22 (RC, RP *et al.*). These, plus the one on the Maui CBC in December, constitute an unprecedented "invasion" of this species to the islands proper.

OWLS THROUGH CARDINALS—A Barn Owl observed Apr. 27 at Kahoolawe I. (FH) provided the first known record of the species on this barren, uninhabited 45 sq. mi. island that has been used for years as a military bombing target. Otherwise, the only landbirds found during a 3-day survey were common, introduced species, as expected. The island is very, very seldom visited by ornithologists. The Japanese Bush-Warbler, long established on Oahu and discovered only last year on Molakai I., was recorded for the first time on nearby Lanai I., Apr. 4-6 (PaC). The season's most exciting report was of the Endangered honeyeater, the 'O'o'a'a (or Kauai 'O'o), being observed again in the Alakai Swamp, K. One was seen in early May carrying what evidently was nesting material, and other observations during monthly survey trips this spring indicated that at least one other individual may also have been present (DB,MC). A nest of the 'Akiapola'ua, another Endangered species, was monitored in the Keahou Ranch on Hawaii I., until the young fledged successfully in late May (DB *et al.*). A pair of Yellow-billed Cardinals was feeding four fledged young Mar. 11-13 in a residential area 2 mi s. of Kailua-Kona, H. (PM), well south of the previously known nesting locality at Honokohau.

CORRIGENDUM—The Peregrine Falcon seen well Jan. 16 and again Feb. 5, 14 (AB 34:3:309) was at Sand I., Midway Atoll, not at French Frigate Shoals.

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With this issue we introduce our 26th regional report, which will extend our American coverage into the Caribbean, and include the entire West Indies from Bermuda to Trinidad (Bermuda's inclusion may be questionable geographically, but there is nowhere else to place it) Reports of field observations should be sent to the Regional Editor, Robert L. Norton, at the address listed below, at the regular seasonal deadlines. At present there are many islands with ornithologically-minded people, and many of the islands are subject to visits by tourists, or scientists with local research projects. Norton would welcome reports from all of them. At the moment we have reports from seven observers, and a total of 12 subscribers in the Region. We hope to see both these totals grow.—Ed

WEST INDIES REGION (The Puerto Rico Bank)

/Robert L. Norton

This initial report of avifauna in the West Indies intends to stimulate and encourage observers who, through residence in or long familiarity with the area, wish to contribute to the dynamics of bird study in a Region somewhat neglected as a source of continuing knowledge of tropical American birds.

The first two months of the migratory period had less than average rainfall, but above average rain in May in the eastern islands flooded many of the accessible shorebird and wader ponds. Temperature and wind parameters were consistent with their respective spring trends.

SHEARWATERS THROUGH FALCONS—Incubating Audubon's Shearwaters were observed Mar. 4 at Cockroach Cay, St. Thomas (hereafter, St. T) and Mar. 14 at Saba Cay, St. T, where four burrows checked Feb. 9 were found empty. Red-billed and White-tailed tropicbirds are fairly common in the n. Virgin Islands, yet notable were reports from St. Croix (hereafter, St. C) of a White-tailed Tropicbird in May (RP) where they have been considered very uncommon breeders in recent years, and of a Red-billed Tropicbird near Ponce, Puerto Rico (hereafter, P.R.) Mar. 25, flying from a presumed cliff nest-site (RP-R). Six Great Blue Herons were seen feeding in a small pond (St. T) Mar

11 and a single bird was seen as late as May 13, suggesting that some may breed on the island at Benner Bay, where nesting was reported in 1978. A flock of ten Blue-winged Teal lingered at St. C until the last week in April (RP, MH). A single Osprey remained at Benner Bay until Apr. 16 and a Peregrine was seen late in its migration Apr. 29 at Saba Cay. The occurrence of Peregrines at small off-shore islands in March and April coincides with the arrival of thousands of terns preparing to nest in the Region.

PLOVERS THROUGH TERNS—A single Semipalmated Plover was observed May 8 at St. C (RP). Twenty Ruddy Turnstones were also seen May 8 (RP) and a single bird was seen May 16 (RLN), suggesting that some may indeed over-summer as past records indicate. Several other late migrants or summer visitors were observed at St. C May 8, including four Semipalmated Sandpipers, one Spotted Sandpiper, and a Greater Yellowlegs (RP,SI,MH). The second, though not unexpected, **Herring Gull**, an adult, recorded in Charlotte Amalie Harbor, St.T., Mar. 14 may have been lured by one of the many cruise ships which stop here in the spring. The previous record of an immature occurred in Oct., 1976.

S.A.

Nesting larids, especially terns, represent a huge influx of species, commercially important to the local fishing industry. Continued poaching and "egging", of these protected birds will reduce their abundance and value in assisting the industry to locate fish. Among the ten species that nest or have nested in the area of the Puerto Rico Bank, none seem more vulnerable than the Roseate and Sandwich terns. On May 29, 1000+ Roseate Terns were observed on Leduck Cay, St. John (hereafter, St. J) (*fide* DWN) where several nests were seen. Forty Sandwich Terns were observed along the n. side of Grass and Mingo Cays, St. J May 14 and nesting is suspected in the vicinity. Sandwich Terns nested for the first time in the northern U.S. Virgin Islands last spring.

Another beleaguered species is the Least Tern, which was observed May 8 at St. C numbering 100+ (RP, SI, MH). The rarely seen 'portlandica' plumage of the Roseate Tern was observed in a single bird among a flock of 65, including four Sandwich and a Royal Tern on Mingo Cay (St.J) May 1.

PIGEONS THROUGH FINCHES—Most temperate zone passerines have departed this Region by mid- to late April, and resident species have commenced their breeding cycle. Many breeding species in the islands are also migratory, arriving on the Puerto Rico Bank as early as late February and early March. The White-crowned Pigeon, though present during the winter months in small numbers, begins to arrive at nesting sites in March. In the Virgin Islands White-crowns were carrying nesting material Mar. 3-Apr. 17 at St. T and St. J. Bridled Quail Dove, considered rare in the Virgin Islands, is ubiquitous at St. J and was observed in Cruz Bay Apr. 19. A

Collared Swift, a rare visitant from the e. Greater Antilles, was observed May 14 & 17 at Lake Guajataca, PR. (RP-R) providing the second record for that island. A single Belted Kingfisher remained at Saba Cay, St.T., until May 2. A surprising report of an E. Kingbird seen Apr. 26 from Lake Dos Bocas, P.R. (RP-R) appears to represent the second record for Puerto Rico. Single Louisiana Waterthrushes were observed feeding along steep, freshwater streams in Dorothea, St. T, Mar. 26 and in Fish Bay Apr. 17 (St.J).

ADDENDUM—David Wingate reports from Bermuda that his project for the reintroduction of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron has now proved successful with at least four nestings with young raised, and more suspected. Birds from Florida had been introduced in 1977 and 1978, in a project supported by the National Audubon Society.

DEDICATION—This report is dedicated to the memory of Alexander Wetmore whose work in the West Indies has been an inspiration to so many amateur and professional ornithologists.

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New and Recent Books

A Field Guide to the Birds East of the Rockies, 4th Edition.—Roger Tory Peterson. Houghton Mifflin, Boston 1980. 384 pp. Softbound, \$9.95, Hardbound \$15, limited leatherbound, boxed \$90 (sold out). No bird book in our memory has been introduced with such tremendous fanfare, with reviews more like adulatory feature articles than critiques. The long-awaited new edition is indeed almost all new: 137 species added since the third edition, 136 new color plates with almost 1700 individual paintings—the best Peterson yet—and 360 species range maps, six to a page, a handsome addition. A review seems almost superfluous: this is one you must have.—R.A.

A Field Guide to Western Birds' Nests, of 520 species found breeding in the United States west of the Mississippi River.—Hal H. Harrison. No 25. in the Houghton Mifflin Peterson field guide series. 1979. xxx + 279 pp. 400 photos, 256 in color. \$11.95 hardbound. A companion to Harrison's eastern birds' nest guide (1975), and equally useful. There is, herein, a wealth of information in field guide guise; for each species breeding range, identification of nest and eggs, nest habitat and construction, clutch size, and special notes. With more and more states planning breeding bird atlases, the value of this remarkable compilation is patent. Belongs next to No. 21 on your field guide shelf.—R.A.

A Garland of Nightingales.—Hockley Clarke. Gordon and Cremonesi Publishers, London and New York. 1979 (Distributed by Atheneum Publishers, New York.) Ill., drawings, photographs 122 pp. \$15.95 hardbound. Artistically printed and illustrated, this charming book is also informative, concise and well written. The British author is the editor of *Birds and Country* magazine. He knows wildlife and his enthusiasm for his subject is infectious. Clarke includes personal experiences, observations of other naturalists and poetry which the nightingale has inspired. This is the first volume devoted solely to nightingales and it certainly does justice to their seductive magic.—K.S.

A Guide to North American Waterfowl.—Paul A. Johnsgard. Indiana Univ. Press, Bloomington. 1979. viii + 274 pp. Ill., maps, drawings, 16 pp in color. \$15.95. The prolific and productive Dr. Johnsgard works another change on the waterfowl he knows so well, this one a shorter version of his *Waterfowl of North America*. Fifty-two species are treated, most with information on vernacular names, range, subspecies, if any, identification, and natural history. Good range maps are provided. An identification key and six pages of head profiles are interesting features.—R.A.